



MEDIA RELEASE

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Skal offers young tourism leader opportunity for career advancement

Professional travel organisation Skal International has partnered up with Tourism Whitsundays to sponsor the Young Achievers Category in the upcoming 2018 Whitsunday Tourism Awards.

This is the first time this award category has received support from an organisation of this calibre and will see Skal provide a customised offering to the successful young adult.

As part of the sponsorship, the award winner will receive a 12-month Tourism Whitsundays individual membership, a year-long Skal membership and undertake a Professional Development Certificate with Skal eCampus and eHotelier's Career Track. The Career Track certification is academically endorsed by The Institute of Hospitality and is a globally recognised certification.

Skal Whitsundays President Carolyn Upton said she looked forward to welcoming the winner of the award into Skal.

"Skal Whitsundays is excited about the opportunity to sponsor The Young Achievers Award as we believe encouraging and supporting young people in the tourism sector is vital to our industry's future," she said.

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer Natassia Wheeler said the support of Skal was valuable in helping young and ambitious individuals upskill, an important factor when it came to retaining talent in the Whitsundays.

"Thanks to Skal's support, the winner of the Young Achievers Award will have the ability to equip themselves with the right skills and knowledge to further advance their careers in tourism," she said.

"The Career Track Certification will no doubt open many doors and opportunities for the young individual and Tourism Whitsundays would like to again thank Skal for sponsoring the Young Achievers Award."

The Young Achievers Award category recognises an individual, less than 32 years of age, working in the tourism industry and their contribution to the development of a vibrant and professional tourism industry.

The successful winner of the award is judged on several factors, with the judges taking into account the candidates' personal involvement and career to date in the tourism industry, demonstrated leadership capabilities, outcomes resulting from the individual's performance and the long-term benefits to the industry.



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Other categories set to be announced on the night include an award for the Best Non-Tourism Business, Excellence in Sustainable Tourism, People’s Choice Award and the coveted Bon Porter Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Individual.

This year, the awards ceremony – considered to be the industry’s “Night of Nights” - is due to take place under the stars, on Saturday, October 20, at Discovery Parks Airlie Beach.

Up to 350 guests are expected to attend the awards, which will be attended by Tourism and Events Queensland CEO Leanne Coddington and Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones.

About SKAL: *Skål is a professional organisation of tourism leaders around the world, promoting global tourism and friendship. It is the only international group uniting all branches of the travel and tourism industry. Skål’s vision statement is to be a trusted voice in travel and tourism. Skål International today has approximately 15,000 members in 400 Clubs throughout over 90 countries.*

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