

**Under embargo until
7:00am AEDT, Friday, 29 November 2024**

Winners announced for NSW Tourism Awards 2024

From Bathurst to Broken Hill, Wagga Wagga to Sydney and Batemans Bay to Byron Bay, the best of NSW's attractions, tours, festivals, accommodation and food tourism shone bright

Last night, the [NSW Tourism Association](#) announced the winners of the [NSW Tourism Awards 2024](#) during a gala event at The Star Sydney. The evening celebrated the tourism and hospitality sectors in NSW, which are delivering world-class visitor experiences that are growing the NSW visitor economy.

Winners were recognised with gold, silver and bronze awards for their commitment to tourism excellence. Category winners from the NSW Tourism Awards will now represent the state at the Australian Tourism Awards.

The NSW Tourism Awards are the exclusive pathway for NSW visitor economy businesses to qualify for the national competition.

NSW Tourism Association CEO Natalie Godward congratulated all the winners and finalists on their awards.

"The benchmark for the NSW Tourism Awards this year was high, so to be recognised as a finalist or one of our winners is a huge achievement.

"The tourism industry can at times be incredibly tough so well done to everyone who has gone above and beyond to deliver whether that be experiences, food, or amazing venues.

"We're lucky in NSW to have such diversity with our tourism from unique country events to immersive ocean adventures, and hero Sydney experiences. These awards are a chance to celebrate the strength, pride and passion of our industry, as well as the small to large businesses who offer these unique opportunities to have memorable experiences.

"Thank you to all who joined us last night to celebrate our industry and the great people in it," Ms Godward said.

The NSW Tourism Awards 2024 were supported proudly by the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, **Destination NSW**.

NSW Minister for Jobs and Tourism John Graham said: "Congratulations to all the finalists and winners for their outstanding contribution to the visitor economy.

"Tourism in NSW is set for incredible growth over the next decade, but its success rests on the hard work and hospitality of the people working across the industry. These awards are about recognising those people."

The 2024 category winners include:

4-4.5 Star Deluxe Accommodation

GOLD: Oriana Retro Hotel & Resort, Orange

5 Star Luxury Accommodation

GOLD: Mt Hay Retreat, Berry

SILVER: Kalinya Estate, Bargo

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism Experiences

GOLD: Bundyi Cultural Tours, Wagga Wagga

Adventure Tourism

GOLD: Balloon Aloft, Hunter Valley, Camden Valley, Mudgee and Byron Bay

SILVER: Let's Go Surfing, Sydney, Byron Bay

BRONZE: Oz Jet Boating, Sydney

Caravan & Holiday Parks

GOLD: Holiday Haven Lake Conjola

SILVER: Tathra Beach Eco Camp

BRONZE: Tasman Holiday Parks Racecourse Beach, Bawley Point

Cultural Tourism

GOLD: Port Macquarie Museum

SILVER: Local Sauce Tours, Sydney

BRONZE: Dubbo Regional Council - Old Dubbo Gaol

Ecotourism

GOLD: Kestrel Nest EcoHut, Mount Adrah

SILVER: Sydney By Kayak, Lavender Bay

BRONZE: Navigate Expeditions, Far South Coast

Excellence in Accessible Tourism

GOLD: Balloon Aloft Australia, Hunter Valley, Camden Valley, Mudgee and Byron Bay

SILVER: Blue Mountains Climbing School

BRONZE: Sails Holiday Park, Belmont

Excellence in Food Tourism

GOLD: Love Lord Howe

SILVER: Food I Am, Wagga Wagga

BRONZE: Tocumwal Chocolate School

Festivals & Events

GOLD: Broken Hill Mundi Mundi Bash

SILVER: Tumbafest Inc, Tumbarumba

BRONZE: Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail

Hosted Accommodation

GOLD: Black Sheep Inn, Borenore

SILVER: Amaroo Valley Springs, Kangaroo Valley

Local Government Award for Tourism

GOLD: Bathurst Regional Council

SILVER: City of Newcastle

Major Festivals & Events

GOLD: Bluesfest Byron Bay

SILVER: Strawberry Fields Festival, Tocomwal

Major Tour & Transport Operators

GOLD: Captain Cook Cruises - Sydney

SILVER: Moonshadow - TQC Cruises, Nelson Bay

Major Tourist Attractions

GOLD: Symbio Wildlife Park, Helenburgh

SILVER: 4WD Tours R Us, Anna Bay

BRONZE: The Big Banana Fun Park, Coffs Harbour

New Tourism Business

GOLD: Beneath The Bay, Batemans Bay

SILVER: Showtime Kayaking, Lake Macquarie

BRONZE: The Brooklet, Brooklet

Self Contained Accommodation

GOLD: Cedars Mount View, Hunter Valley

Service to Tourism Industry

GOLD: TRC Tourism

SILVER: Sparrowly Group

BRONZE: Hipscotch

Take 3 For The Sea Award For Visitor Litter Prevention

GOLD: Sydney By Kayak, Lavender Bay

SILVER: Cruise Eden, Eden

Tour & Transport Operators

GOLD: Blue Mountains Day Tours by Chapman Tours

SILVER: 4WD Tours R Us, Anna Bay

BRONZE: Activity Tours Australia, Sydney

Tourism Marketing & Campaigns

GOLD: Tweed Tourism Company

SILVER: Barrington Coast: Whatever It Takes

BRONZE: City of Newcastle

Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services

GOLD: Potager, Carool

SILVER: Pipit Restaurant, Pottsville

BRONZE: Frankie's Restaurant and Bar, Lithgow

Tourism Retail, Hire & Services

GOLD: Ask Roz Blue Mountains
SILVER: Hirehood, Northern Rivers
BRONZE: Outback Jess - Spotto Books

Tourism Wineries, Distilleries & Breweries

GOLD: Cupitt's Estate, Ulladulla
SILVER: Husk Distillers, North Tumbulgum
BRONZE: Cape Byron Distillery, McLeods Shoot

Tourist Attractions

GOLD: Northern Rivers Rail Trail
SILVER: Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary
BRONZE: Barooga Sporties Group, Barooga

Unique Accommodation

GOLD: Sierra Escape, Mudgee
SILVER: Wilga Station, Bathurst
BRONZE: Myall River Camp, Hawks Nest

Visitor Information Services

GOLD: Bathurst Visitor Information Centre
SILVER: MidCoast Council: Barrington Coast
BRONZE: Albury Visitor Information Centre

Additional to the category awards, NSW Tourism Awards recognised and honoured a person who has gone above and beyond their own commercial focus to contribute to the broader NSW tourism industry. The **Outstanding Contribution by an Individual** accolade was awarded to **Lyndel Gray, CEO of Caravan and Camping Industry Association NSW (CCIA)**.

Ms Godward acknowledged: "With 37 years of tourism experience, including senior roles at Destination NSW and Tourism Australia, Lyndel has driven significant sector growth, led major initiatives like Oprah Winfrey's Sydney visit, and is active in multiple tourism leadership roles. We're thrilled to provide Lyndel with this recognition, as a much-respected mentor and role model in the industry."

The **Tourism Stars**, also known as Judges Choice Awards, go to organisations who have showed a special edge, and really connected with the judges because of their commitment, innovative approach and resilience. The 2024 Tourism Stars are **Bathurst Winter Festival, Tom's Outdoors and Destination Sydney Surrounds South - South Coast Centre of Excellence**

NSW Tourism Association also proudly recognised two **Hall of Fame** entrants that have won the same category in 2022, 2023 and 2024, congratulations to **Potager** and **Balloon Aloft Australia**.

Find out more information about the awards and the winners here:

<https://nswtourismassociation.com.au/nsw-tourism-awards>

#NSWTourismAwards2024

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Notes to Editor:

Interviews are available with Natalie Godward, CEO of NSW Tourism Association about the awards. Please contact Oakley Grioli (oakley@zadroagency.com.au).

If you would like to interview the finalists, please also contact Oakley Grioli.

Images and videos:

Images of the operators available upon request. Photos from the gala event and video vox pops will be available from Friday, 29 November 2024.

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About NSW Tourism Awards:

The NSW Tourism Awards represent the pinnacle of recognition for New South Wales' tourism industry. With categories spanning attractions, tours, festivals, food, wine, and accommodation, the awards champion excellence across the diverse visitor economy, showcasing the brilliance of businesses both small and large.

Through the NSW Tourism Awards, we continue to build pride, strengthen communities, and celebrate the passion that makes NSW a truly exceptional destination.

The NSW Tourism Awards serves as the only pathway for NSW visitor economy businesses to compete at the Australian Tourism Awards. As such, all entries are required to be assessed in line with the Quality Tourism Framework Sustainable Business Standards.

<https://nswtourismassociation.com.au/nsw-tourism-awards>

About NSW Tourism Association:

NSW Tourism Association is the peak body representing the visitor economy in New South Wales.

Comprising of tourism business members and associations, NSW Tourism Association is dedicated to advancing the interests of the tourism industry in government policy, supporting the industry, promoting excellence, and driving economic growth through tourism.

<https://nswtourismassociation.com.au/>