



# IMMEDIATE RELEASE 24 October 2024



## Finalists announced for NSW Tourism Awards 2024

### Submissions double in NSW Tourism Association's first year

The <u>NSW Tourism Association</u> is thrilled to announce the finalists for the <u>NSW Tourism Awards</u> <u>2024</u>, marking the first time they have hosted these prestigious awards. This year's award program celebrates the businesses and operators delivering exceptional visitor experiences across NSW, while highlighting the strength, pride and passion that drives the state's vibrant visitor economy.

Two hundred award nominations were received this year, double that of previous years. The judging panel, featuring over 50 leading tourism experts, noted the increase in the quality of submissions, reflecting the growth in commitment to excellence across the state.

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 were required to be assessed in line with the Quality Tourism Framework Sustainable Business Standards.

**Natalie Godward, CEO, NSW Tourism Association**, highlighted the award categories showcase the diverse range of businesses within the visitor economy. She also noted this year's awards hold special significance as they were designed to unite and celebrate the achievements of the tourism sector.

"NSW Tourism Association is delighted to be hosting the awards for the first time and to lead the charge in recognising the amazing operators across NSW who are making great contributions to the visitor economy across our state. These awards recognise the exceptional standards in visitor experience and aim to unite the tourism community.

"This year, we've engaged more industry experts in the judging process to ensure every entrant meets the highest levels of quality through accreditation. It's a reflection of our commitment to supporting the long-term success of tourism businesses across the state and to inspire continued growth," said Godward.

**Destination NSW CEO Steve Cox** said: "Destination NSW is proud to be a major sponsor of the NSW Tourism Awards, which highlight the remarkable achievements of visitor economy businesses and destinations across the state.

"Our nation-leading \$52.9 billion visitor economy is a testament to the work of these exceptional operators. Their passion for providing world-class experiences will ensure NSW continues to be the number one visitor destination in Australia."





#### The 2024 finalists

#### **Attractions & Experiences**

4WD Tours R Us

**Activity Tours Australia** 

**Aquamarine Adventures** 

Balloon Aloft Australia

Barooga Sports Club

**Beyond The Blacktop Adventure Tours** 

Blue Mountains Climbing School

**Bundyi Cultural Tours** 

Captain Cook Cruises

Chapman Tours Pty Ltd

Dive Lord Howe

Dubbo Regional Council - Old Dubbo Gaol

Hay Shire Council

Let's Go Surfing

**Local Sauce Tours** 

Moonshadow - TQC Cruises

Northern Rivers Rail Trail

Oz Jet Boating

Port Macquarie Museum

Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary

Sandhills Artefacts

Symbio Wildlife Park

The Big Banana Pty Ltd

Tom's Outdoors

**ULTIMATE** Travel

#### **Festivals & Events**

Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail Bathurst Winter Festival

Bluesfest Byron Bay

Broken Hill Mundi Mundi Bash

Crank It Up Batemans Bay

Deni Ute Muster

Strawberry Fields Festival

Tumbafest Inc

Walcha Motorcycle Rally

#### Accommodation

Amaroo Valley Springs

Black Sheep Inn

**Cedars Mount View** 

**Evamor Valley** 

Holiday Haven Lake Conjola

Kalinya Estate

Mt Hay Retreat

Myall River Camp





Nyngan Riverside Tourist Park Sierra Escape Tasman Holiday Parks Racecourse Beach Tathra Beach Eco Camp The Oriana Orange - Retro Hotel & Resort Waukivory Estate Wilga Station Pty Ltd

#### **Food Tourism**

Calabria Family Wines
Cape Byron Distillery
Cupitt
Firescreek Winery
Food I Am
Frankies Restaurant and Bar
Husk Farm Distillery
Ladbroken Distillery Brewhouse
Love Lord Howe
McWilliam's Wines
Pipit
Potager - A Kitchen Garden
Tocumwal Chocolate School

#### **Sustainable Tourism**

Cruise Eden Kestrel Nest EcoHut Navigate Expeditions Sydney By Kayak

#### **Tourism Services**

**Albury Visitor Information Centre** Ask Roz Blue Mountains Barrington Coast: Whatever It Takes **Bathurst Regional Council Bathurst Visitor Information Centre Central Coast Council** City of Newcastle **Cowra Tourism Corporation Destination Central Coast Destination Sydney Surrounds South Dubbo Regional Council** Hipscotch Hirehood MidCoast Council: Destination Barrington Coast Narrabri Region Visitor Information Centre Orange360 'Enjoy the Now' Brand Campaign Outback Jess Pty Ltd





Sparrowly Group
The Tweed Tourism Company
TRC Tourism
Visit Albury Wodonga. Always in Season

#### **New Tourism Businesses**

Beneath The Bay Showtime Kayaking The Brooklet W Sydney

The winners will be announced on Thursday 28 November 2024 at the NSW Tourism Gala event at The Star Sydney incorporating the NSW Tourism Awards.

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

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

#NSWTourismAwards2024

#### -ENDS-

#### **Notes to Editor:**

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

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

#### Images:

Images of the finalist are available upon request.

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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.





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#### **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/