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**CANBERRA
REGION
TOURISM
AWARDS**

CANBERRA REGION TOURISM AWARDS FINALISTS GET READY TO BE RECOGNISED ON THE NATIONAL STAGE IN CANBERRA

The Qantas Australian Tourism Awards (QATA) is the tourism industry's most prestigious national event. On March 6th, over 800 people from the Australian tourism industry will come together in Canberra for a gala evening to celebrate the best of the best in Tourism.

Sixteen Canberra Region finalists, who have gone through a rigorous awards process with judges assessing their submission locally, will discover on the night the results of the judging which determines national placings from local winners in each state and territory.

The awards offer entrants a program to benchmark, document their innovation, commitment to excellence and achievements over a 12-month period. The local program, owned and run by the National Capital Attractions Association with the supporting partner VisitCanberra, provides mentoring, entrants workshops and judges feedback to help build their capacity in order to strengthen their operations as a result of entering.

Canberra Region Chair of Judges, Phillip Jones says, "The Canberra Region is very well represented following a record number of entries in the local awards, leading to a record number of finalists to compete against their peers in the national awards. You have to be a very strong contender to make it through to the nationals.

"With entrants ranging from small family run operations to major attractions and hotels, all finalists can all take pride with their result. Whilst everyone would love to come away with a Gold, Silver or Bronze, to be in the mix at the national level is an achievement to be proud of, and this year's entrants demonstrate the depth and diversity of the Canberra Regions fantastic tourism offerings." Mr. Jones said.

"With recent bushfires and drought, the importance of the tourism industry to our economy has never been more vital and the awards play a part in drawing national attention to the many world class experiences on offer in the Canberra Region," Mr. Jones concluded.

The Canberra Region finalists in the 2019 Australian Tourism Awards are:

CATEGORY	BUSINESS NAME
1. Major Tourist Attractions	National Gallery of Australia
2. Tourist Attractions	National Arboretum Canberra
3. Major Festivals and Events	National Museum of Australia
4. Festivals and Events	Canberra Balloon Spectacular (Events ACT)
6. Cultural Tourism	Royal Australian Mint
8. Specialised Tourism Services	GetAboutAble
9. Visitor Information Services	Canberra and Region Visitors Centre
10. Business Event Venues	National Convention Centre Canberra
13. Adventure Tourism	Dynamic Motivation/Stromlo Shuttle Bus
14. Destination Marketing	Destination Southern Highlands 'Pie Time'
16. Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries	Shaw Wines
19. Unique Accommodation	Jamala Wildlife Lodge
21. Standard Accommodation	Leumeah Lodge
22. Deluxe Accommodation	Little National Hotel
23. Luxury Accommodation	Hyatt Hotel Canberra - A Park Hyatt Hotel
24. New Tourism Business	Book Canberra Excursions

CONTACT FOR COMMENT

Dr Naomi Dale
President
National Capital Attractions Association
0400 967 860
naomi.dale@canberra.edu.au

Phillip Jones
Chair of Judges
0414 78 86 81
phillip@twodegreesgroup.com.au