



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**9pm AEDT Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

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## **Tourism's best awarded at first ever virtual tourism awards – Canberra Region Tourism Awards 'On Tour'**

Canberra's best of the tourism industry were tonight awarded in what was the first ever virtual [Canberra Region Tourism Awards](#), the Canberra Region Tourism Awards 'On Tour'. The planned 2021 awards ceremony to celebrate the Canberra region's best of the best in tourism was last month announced as a virtual event due to the Covid Omicron outbreak.

"Whilst we could not all be together to celebrate in person, we still absolutely wanted to recognise our entrants and winners. This is the first time we have made the event virtual," said Dr Naomi Dale, Chief Executive Officer of the Canberra Region Tourism Industry Council.

"All stakeholders, entrants and their colleagues, families and friends were invited to our virtual celebration of the local tourism industry's efforts. The flexibility that online offers allowed many people to attend virtually which is wonderful, proving even against the backdrop of covid cancellations the industry is finding ways to connect and work together.

'On Tour' was hosted by Mix 106.3's Wilko who visited some of Canberra's popular tourism spots to reveal the winners including the Canberra Region Visitor Centre, Go Boat on Lake Burley Griffin, a stop at the National Zoo and Aquarium and Australian Parliament House.

"We want to congratulate all our winners from around the region. On staying open in whatever capacity they could, delivering world class tourism experiences, hosting events - and virtual events of course - keeping accommodation open and even starting up new tourism ventures in what has been the second of two very challenging years for our industry," Dr Dale continued.

Major award winners included Australian Parliament House which was awarded winner in the Major Tourist Attractions category; National Arboretum Canberra which won the award for Tourist Attraction; National Gallery of Australia which took out the Major Festivals and Events category; and the Royal Australian Mint which won the Cultural Tourism category.

Other notable wins included Shaw Wineries in the category of Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries; Jamala Wildlife Lodge in the category of Unique Accommodation; and Van Du Vin which won for New Tourism Business. All winners in the national categories will go on to compete against their peers from around the country at the Australian Tourism Awards to be held on the Sunshine Coast in March this year.

VisitCanberra were the awards' major sponsor, with the National Capital Attractions Association as program owner. President Russell Jackson was quick to throw his support behind the virtual awards.

"Congratulations again to our very valued and award-winning members of our tourism industry and we look forward to a return to in-person celebrations in 2022," said Russell



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The full list of award categories, winners and commendation can be viewed below. For more information on the awards visit [www.canberratourismawards.com.au](http://www.canberratourismawards.com.au)

***MEDIA CONTACT: For more information, interviews or images, please contact Naomi Dale, Canberra Region Tourism Industry Council on 0400 967 860 or [ceo@crtic.com.au](mailto:ceo@crtic.com.au)***

### Canberra Region Tourism Awards 2021 - Results

CATEGORY	BUSINESS NAME	RESULT
1. Major Tourist Attractions	Australian Parliament House	Winner
2. Tourist Attractions	National Arboretum Canberra	Winner
2. Tourist Attractions	National Dinosaur Museum	Commendation
3. Major Festivals and Events	National Gallery of Australia	Winner
6. Cultural Tourism	Royal Australian Mint	Winner
8. Tourism Retail & Hire Services	Gallery of Small Things	Commendation
13. Adventure Tourism	Dynamic Motivation	Winner
14. Tourism Marketing & Campaigns	GetAboutAble	Commendation
14. Tourism Marketing & Campaigns	National Capital Education Tourism Project	Winner
16. Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries	Shaw Wineries	Winner
16. Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries	Contentious Character	Commendation
17. Caravan and Holiday Parks	Alivio Tourist Park	Winner
19. Unique Accommodation	Jamala Wildlife Lodge	Winner
22. 3-3.5 Star Accommodation	Mercure Canberra	Winner
24. New Tourism Business	A by Adina	Commendation
24. New Tourism Business	Van Du Vin	Winner
26. Outstanding Contribution by an Individual	Patrick Lonergan	Winner
27. Markus Gibson-Huck Young Achiever Award	Jelena Bojanic	Winner
28. Canberra Region Innovation & Resilience Award	Handmade Markets Canberra	Winner
28. Canberra Region Innovation & Resilience Award	National Capital Education Tourism Project	Commendation
Canberra Region Tourism Service Award	Michael Salmon	Winner