



2018
CANBERRA
REGION
TOURISM
AWARDS

MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday 24 November 2018

Canberra Region's best in tourism celebrated at 2018 Gala Awards

Leaders of the Canberra Region tourism industry gathered last night, Friday 23 November 2018, to celebrate another year of success and excellence in tourism at the annual [Canberra Region Tourism Awards](#).

The [National Capital Attractions Association](#) together with supporting partner, [Visit Canberra](#), hosted the awards, the most prestigious event in the Canberra region tourism calendar, and were joined by ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, as guests enjoyed the Masquerade themed ball at Hotel Realm's newly renovated ballroom.

Amongst the major winners were the [National Gallery of Australia](#) which won the award for Major Tourist Attraction, making it the second year in a row they have scooped the award in this highly desired category. [Questacon - the National Science and Technology Centre](#) won the Tourist Attraction category, having also claimed this prize in 2017.

Other major awards were collected by the [Royal Australian Mint](#) which won the Cultural Tourism category (also taking out the Visitor Experience Award), the Australian Institute of Sport's [Experience AIS](#) which won the Specialised Tourism Services category, and the [Canberra and Region Visitors Centre](#) which won the Visitor Information Services category.

"We are all so proud of the hard work of our industry partners and the high calibre of experiences available in the capital as a result of those efforts, the visitor economy is going from strength to strength. Canberra and region tourist attractions and tourism businesses really do punch above their weight when it comes to the programs and services on offer here," said Dr. Naomi Dale, President of the National Capital Attractions Association.

Dr. Dale acknowledged the contribution of Stephen Byron to the Canberra region tourism industry. Mr Byron, Managing Director of the Canberra Airport, this year won the award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual.

Dr. Dale was also quick to point out the high calibre of accommodation properties in the Canberra region recognised last night, with [Jamala Wildlife Lodge](#), [Leumeah Lodge](#), [Little National Hotel](#) and [Hyatt Hotel Canberra](#) all winning their respective categories. And she

congratulated [Destination Southern Highlands](#) which won the Destination Marketing category for Pie Time for the second year running.

All Canberra Region category winners are now off to compete at a national level at the [2018 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards](#) to be held in Launceston in March 2019.

“We know the fabulous pride, determination and commitment held by our tourism industry here in Canberra, and we wish all of our winners the very best when they compete at the Australian Tourism Awards in early 2019,” concluded Dr. Dale.

The full list of award winners can be viewed below. For more information on the awards, visit <http://canberratourismawards.com.au/> For more information on the National Capital Attractions Association, visit <http://www.nationalattractions.com.au/>

For more information, images or to arrange an interview, please contact Lauren Griffiths at Threesides on 0417 409 264 or lauren.griffiths@threesides.com.au

List of Award Winners

Category	Winner	Commendation
Major Tourist Attractions	National Gallery of Australia	
Tourist Attractions	Questacon – the National Science and Technology Centre	
Major Festivals and Events		Summernats
Festivals and Events		Canberra Craft Beer and Cider Festival
Cultural Tourism	Royal Australian Mint	
Specialised Tourism Services	Experience AIS	
Specialised Tourism Services		Canberra Centre
Visitor Information Services	Canberra and Region Visitors Centre	
Tour and Transport Operators		Dave’s Travel and Events Group
Destination Marketing	Destination Southern Highlands - Pie Time	
Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services	Broadbean Catering and Events	
Unique Accommodation	Jamala Wildlife Lodge	
Standard Accommodation	Leumeah Lodge	
Deluxe Accommodation	Little National Hotel	
Luxury Accommodation	Hyatt Hotel Canberra – A Park Hyatt Hotel	
Outstanding Contribution by an Individual	Stephen Byron – Canberra Airport	

Markus Gibson-Huck Young Achiever Award	Cassie Dunchue, Visit Canberra	
Markus Gibson-Huck Young Achiever Award		Gabrielle Dinn, Broadbean Catering and Events
Visitor Experience Award	Royal Australian Mint	