

MEDIA RELEASE

01 March 2019

Capricorn Caves recognised at the Australian Tourism Awards

Local favourite, Capricorn Caves has been recognised nationally at the [Qantas Australian Tourism Awards](#) in Launceston, beating out interstate rivals and taking home Silver in the hotly contested Tourist Attraction Category.

Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) Chief Executive and Australian Tourism Awards Chair Daniel Gschwind said Capricorn Caves were deserving recipients, cementing themselves as one of the best in the country.

“Locals and visitors alike have been delighted by the experience of Capricorn Caves and to see them recognised on a national scale is fantastic for Capricorn region and for Queensland,” Mr Gschwind said.

In addition, Queensland locals, the Irwin family, was awarded the prestigious title of *Australian Tourism Legends* – recognising their continued contribution to Australian tourism through the promotion of Australia as a destination of choice, and their tireless work in protecting the environment and ensuring the quality of our destinations are maintained for future generations.

Queensland continues to reinforce its reputation as a world-class destination taking home six Gold, eight Silver and three Bronze across the 25 categories, including the induction of the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers into the National Hall of Fame – the State’s first inductee in a decade.

Mr Gschwind said it was fantastic to see the awards shared across the State with 17 operators from Tropical North Queensland to the Gold Coast getting a piece of the action – one of Queensland’s best results yet.

“To reach the finalists stage of the Australian Tourism Awards is a great honour in itself and all finalists should be immensely proud of their achievements.

“These winners are truly the best of the best, with strong competition across all categories this year,” Mr Gschwind said.

Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said the results highlighted the strength of Queensland’s world-class tourism industry.

“Queensland’s \$25 billion tourism industry has boomed over the last 12 months. With a \$14 billion pipeline for tourism infrastructure pipeline, an \$800 million major events calendar and great trends in domestic and international visitor numbers, we know this sector will continue to grow in the future,” Ms Jones said.

“I’m so proud of all the Queensland winners and nominees recognised at the Australian Tourism Awards tonight and I congratulate them for their outstanding contributions to our industry.

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“Our Government, in partnership with QTIC, will continue to be strong advocates for advancing Queensland’s tourism industry to ensure we achieve ongoing growth and success.”

More information is available at www.australianaward.com.au or www.qtic.com.au.

– ENDS –

Note for Media:

- Media are asked to refrain from contacting award recipients until after **10.30pm on Friday 1 March 2019**.
- Images from the winning entries and operators are available upon request.
- A full list of Queensland finalists can be provided upon request.

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2018 Australian Tourism Award Winners – Queensland

Individual		
The Irwin family	Australian Tourism Legend	Sunshine Coast, Queensland
GOLD		
BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort	Caravan and Holiday Parks	Whitsundays
Fun Over Fifty	Ecotourism	Brisbane
Bundaberg Rum Visitor Experience	Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries	Bundaberg
Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers	Major Festivals and Events – Hall of Fame	Southern Queensland Country
Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo	Festivals and Events	Outback
Red Cat Adventures	Major Tour and Transport Operators	Whitsundays
SILVER		

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Capricorn Caves	Tourist Attractions	Capricorn
Grand Hotel and Apartments Townsville	Standard Accommodation	Townsville
Small World Journeys	Specialised Tourism Services	Tropical North Queensland
Sarina Sugar Shed	Excellence in Food Tourism	Mackay
Paronella Park	Cultural Tourism	Tropical North Queensland
Ocean Safari	Tour and Transport Operators	Tropical North Queensland
Cobbold Village	Hosted Accommodation	Outback/Tropical North Queensland
Whitsunday Escape	Unique Accommodation	Whitsundays
BRONZE		
Novotel Twin Waters Resort	Business Event Venues	Sunshine Coast
RACV Royal Pines Resort	Luxury Accommodation	Gold Coast
Mossman Gorge Centre	Qantas Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism	Tropical North Queensland