



Media Release:

Ecotourism Australia Members Take Home Over a Quarter of all National Tourism Awards

Ecotourism Australia certified operators have once again cleaned up at this year's 2018 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, taking home over a quarter of all awards including six gold, nine silver and six bronze.

With 21 awards won overall, Ecotourism Australia would have come first in the awards tally if it were a State.

CEO Rod Hillman says that he is proud, but not surprised: "Our certified operators run amazing businesses. They're not just focused on sustainability – they're out there delivering exceptionally high-quality experiences that their visitors can't stop talking about.

"On top of that, they're passionate operators who pass on their love of what they do, and of the environment, to their guests. It's no surprise that these operators get rewarded."

Thirty-four Ecotourism Australia members were nominated for 38 awards across 15 categories, with Gold Awards won in the categories of Major Tour and Transport Operators, Tour and Transport Operators, Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services, Luxury Accommodation, Self-Contained Accommodation and of course, Ecotourism, the category which Ecotourism Australia sponsors.

"Ecotourism Australia has been sponsoring the Ecotourism category of the national tourism awards for the past three years," explains Dr. Claire Ellis, Ecotourism Australia's Chair, "and it's great to see that every finalist was ECO Certified.

"Operators certified through our ECO Certification program deliver best practice ecotourism experiences in this country and by sponsoring this category of the awards, we ensure that this high quality is recognised and maintained."

Ecotourism Australia's ECO Certification program is one of only six certification programs worldwide which hold the international stamp of quality assurance, as they are accredited through the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and independently audited. With hundreds of sustainability certification programs now available worldwide, having this international accreditation helps both tourism operators and consumers to understand the difference between genuine, rigorous certification programs and those which are not backed by genuine sustainability efforts.

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For more information about Ecotourism Australia and its certification programs, please visit the Ecotourism Australia website: www.ecotourism.org.au.

For more information about the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, please visit the awards website: <https://qualitytourismaustralia.com/australian-tourism-awards/>.

For questions / comments, please contact Rod Hillman, CEO: 0427 279 414



Ecotourism Australia's Australian Tourism Award Winners 2019

Award	Operator	Certification	State/ Territory
Ecotourism (Gold)	Fun Over Fifty	Ecotourism	QLD
Luxury Accommodation (Gold)	Cicada Lodge at Nitmiluk Gorge	Ecotourism & ROC	NT
Major Tour and Transport Operators (Gold)	Red Cat Adventures	Advanced Ecotourism	QLD
Self-Contained Accommodation (Gold)	The Frames Luxury Accommodation	Ecotourism	SA
Tour and Transport Operators (Gold)	Kimberley Quest	Advanced Ecotourism	WA
Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services (Gold)	Cicada Lodge Restaurant at Nitmiluk Gorge	Ecotourism & ROC	NT
Adventure Tourism (Silver)	Roaring 40's Kayaking	Advanced Ecotourism	TAS
Cultural Tourism (Silver)	Paronella Park	Advanced Ecotourism & Climate Action Business	QLD
Ecotourism (Silver)	Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park	Ecotourism	VIC
Hosted Accommodation (Silver)	Cobbold Village	Advanced Ecotourism	QLD
Major Tour and Transport Operators (Silver)	Pennicott Wilderness Journeys	Advanced Ecotourism	TAS
Qantas Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism (Silver)	Nitmiluk Tours and Cicada Lodge	Ecotourism & Respecting our Culture (ROC)	NT
Tour and Transport Operators (Silver)	Ocean Safari	Advanced Ecotourism & Climate Action Innovator	QLD
Tourist Attractions (Silver)	Capricorn Caves	Advanced Ecotourism	QLD
Unique Accommodation (Silver)	Whitsunday Escape	Ecotourism	QLD
Adventure Tourism (Bronze)	Calypso Star Charters	Advanced Ecotourism	SA
Ecotourism (Bronze)	Three Capes Track	Protected Area Manager (PAM)	TAS
Major Tourist Attractions (Bronze)	Busselton Jetty	Ecotourism	WA
Qantas Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism (Bronze)	Mossman Gorge Centre	Ecotourism & Respecting our Culture (ROC)	QLD
Specialised Tourism Services (Bronze)	Willie Creek Pearls at Elizabeth Quay	Ecotourism	WA
Visitor Information Services (Bronze)	Tourism Central Australia	Climate Action Business	NT