



## **2008 Canberra and Capital Region Tourism Awards**

### **Development update**

#### **2008 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards**

The 2008 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards (QATA) will be held in Melbourne in February 2009.

Canberra and the Capital Region has continually performed extremely well at the QATA. The region boasts two Hall of Fame members - Australian War Memorial and Old Bus Depot Markets. (Hall of Fame is awarded for 3 successive wins).

In addition, the region boasts three current QATA Winners:

- Questacon - The National Science and Technology Centre – winner of Tourist Attractions
- Canberra Institute of Technology, Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management – winner of Tourism Education & Training
- Grazing – winner of Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services.

#### **Online submission process – not featured in the 2008 awards process**

In 2007, two categories were judged through an online submission process; Category 1 – Major Tourist Attraction and Category 15 – Tourism Education and Training.

**No** categories will be judged through the online medium in 2008 and therefore all categories should lodge a hardcopy submission to Australian Capital Tourism in accordance with the rules for entry.

Further development of the online submission process is underway to give greater benefit and functionality to the submission and judging process for future awards.

#### **New category: 26. QANTAS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

This category is open to tourism operators that exemplify a strong commitment to sustainable and innovative business practices. The award will recognise and showcase successful tourism businesses that set out to minimise their environmental impact, conserve natural resources, respect local cultures and benefit local communities.

Qantas is also providing a prize of \$2,000 to the winner of this category at the 2008 Canberra and Capital Region Tourism Awards towards environmental initiative OR Tickets to attend National Awards. At the national level, Qantas will award a prize of \$25,000 to the winner of this category at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards in February 2009. The value of the prize is to be used for a sustainability project in line with philosophy of the award, for instance solar panels, a community project and educational initiatives.

#### **Overall 2008 Canberra and Capital Region awards process**

The overall assessment will be the same as 2007 with awards being assessed with consideration to 3 key elements;

1. Submission
2. Judges site visit (for relevant categories)
3. 2 x visitor experience appraisals (for relevant categories)

### **Tourism Awards Committee**

To ensure the awards continue to remain relevant to industry and are able to develop appropriately, an industry based tourism awards committee is in place to work with Australian Capital Tourism to manage the awards process.

### **More information**

All tourism awards information can be accessed via Australian Capital Tourism's corporate website;

[www.tams.act.gov.au/play/tourism/tourism\\_awards](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/tourism/tourism_awards)

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