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Our purpose

To be the voice of tourism for Queensland and empower the state's tourism industry to thrive.

Our vision

To be the trusted tourism industry body that delivers outcomes for Queensland's tourism sector.

Our objectives and functions

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) is the peak industry body and leading advocate for the tourism, hospitality, and events sectors in Queensland, committed to the growth and sustainability of the state visitor economy. Our efforts focus on powerful lobbying, policy development, and collaboration with key industry stakeholders to create a favourable business environment for operators.

As a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation, we take pride in ensuring that the concerns and needs of our members and the broader tourism industry inform all relevant policy debates, and that businesses have strong representation in decision-making processes. By promoting the value and importance of tourism in government forums and to the wider community, we help to create a vibrant, diverse industry that benefits all.

Through delivery of workforce and skilling programs, advocating for attraction and infrastructure investment, and working with the private sector to develop innovative solutions to tourism priorities, QTIC continues to serve members and industry. We also provide expert advice and support, including workforce and business development opportunities and access to vital industry insights.





Domestic overnight visitor expenditure \$28.5 billion (-1.1%)*



International overnight visitor expenditure \$6.2 billion (+41%)*



Total overnight visitor expenditure \$34.7 billion (+4.4%)*



Total overnight visitor expenditure per day \$95 million (+4.5%)*

^{*} Data from June 2024. Percentage difference from June 2023 compared to June 2024.

^{**} Data from June 2023. Percentage difference from June 2022 compared to June 2023.





Average trip spend per domestic visitor \$1,114 (-2.36%)*



Average trip spend per international visitor **\$2,898** (+4.35%)*



Tourism related businesses **64,432** (+0.76%)***



Employed in the tourism industry (directly and indirectly) **259,700** (+26%)**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Elsa D'Alessio Chair, Aviation Australia Chair, QTIC

Elsa D'Alessio is an experienced Board Chair, Board Director, and senior leader. She has held roles such as Regional General Manager QLD/NT Qantas, Executive General Manager Commercial Qantas Regional Airlines, and CEO Sunstate Airlines.

Elsa's extensive board experience includes positions with South Bank Corp, Better Brisbane Alliance, Children's Hospital Foundation Legacy Advisory, Premier of Queensland Business Advisory Council, Queensland Futures Institute, Lord Mayor of Brisbane Business Advisory Council, Olympic Games QLD Fundraising Advisory Committee and Qantas Founders Museum.



Nick Ellis Chief Operating Officer, The Shores Motel Group Deputy Chair, QTIC

Nick Ellis, a leader in tourism innovation, has over 25 years of experience with Australia's top brands and hotels. As the inaugural COO of Shores Motels Group, he and tech-entrepreneur Chris Strode, are transforming distressed motels into luxury boutique locations.

Previously, Nick launched
Accor's TRIBE Hotels globally
and introduced Ovolo Hotels to
Queensland. Nick was the first
'Director of Innovation' in hospitality
and was recognised as a Young
Tourism Leader by the Queensland
Government in 2018. Nick also
judges for both the Queensland and
Australian Tourism Awards and is
Deputy Chair of the Queensland
Tourism Industry Council.



Cameron Costello Director, Costello Consultancy



Mark Evans Owner, Paronella Park



Abbey Filko Chief Marketing and Sales Officer, Airtrain

Cameron Costello is a Quandamooka man from Moreton Bay, with ties to the Githabul People in New South Wales. Cameron is on both the University of Queensland Law and Tourism Advisory Boards, and has worked extensively over 25 years in sports, arts, environment and tourism sectors. Cameron is Director of his own business and is a First Nations Ambassador for ASM Global. His clients include Trade and Investment Queensland and Screen Oueensland.

Cameron is on various boards and committees, including the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Legacy Committee and is Chair of the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation.

Mark Evans has been in the tourism industry for 30 years. In that time, he and his family brought Paronella Park from a forgotten attraction on a back road into one of Oueensland's most iconic and award-winning tourism attractions. The business has now broadened to include the Mena Creek Hotel and Mamu Tropical Skywalk, creating a tourism hub south of Cairns.

Mark currently serves on the Townsville Enterprise Limited Strategic Advisory Committee and has previously served as a Board Member for Tourism Tropical North Queensland.

Abbey Filko has been a dynamic force in Queensland's tourism industry for 20 years. She has become recognised as a collaborator, ambassador, leader and educator, dedicated to the tourism industry's growth. Her journey is marked by a diversity of roles, including being a Young Tourism Leader, managing resort accommodation, mentoring small businesses, an advisory council member, leading Gympie Cooloola Tourism, and educating.

Currently, she is the Chief Marketing and Sales Officer at Airtrain and has navigated the industry's highs and lows, from the Commonwealth Games to the challenges of COVID-19.





Mark Olsen
Chief Executive Officer,
Tourism Tropical North
Oueensland

Mark Olsen is the CEO of Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ), the Destination Management Organisation for the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics rainforests.

Prior to joining TTNQ, Mark was the CEO and founder of EarthCheck Consulting, and co-owner of the EarthCheck global benchmarking and certification program that operates in over 70 countries.

The author of over one hundred destination management and ecotourism plans, Mark has worked with communities, investors, developers and managers of tourism experiences to deliver world-leading, sustainable tourism outcomes.



Alison Smith
Chief Executive Officer, Local
Government Association of
Queensland

As CEO, Alison Smith is responsible for leading a diverse team of professionals at the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) - the peak body for local government across Queensland.

Previously, Alison worked with ASX-100 companies, heading their corporate affairs functions. Alison was Group Executive External Affairs at The Star Entertainment Group, and previously held media and corporate affairs roles at Rio Tinto's coal and uranium businesses in Australia, Africa and Canada.

Alison is currently a director on the Peak Services and CS Energy boards, and her past board roles have included Chair of the Brisbane Festival.



Michelle Weston Chief Executive Officer, Caravan Parks Association of Queensland

With over thirteen years' experience in national and state caravanning industry associations, most recently as Chief Executive Officer of Caravan Parks Association of Queensland (CPAQ), Michelle Weston has a strong knowledge of the issues that face industry associations. Supporting a highly engaged membership base, consisting primarily of small and regional operators, Michelle can clearly articulate the issues facing industry businesses, and supports operators by actively advocating for whole-of-tourism programs.

Michelle chairs QTIC's Association Council, a body bringing together sector specific tourism associations for the benefit of the whole tourism industry.





Natassia Wheeler Chief Executive Officer, Moreton Bay Region Industry and Tourism

With over 18 years' experience in Queensland's tourism industry, Tash Wheeler has worked with several Regional Tourism Organisations, Tourism Queensland, and delivered project-based consulting for tourism and events.

As the former CEO of Tourism Whitsundays, Tash navigated the region through crises such as cyclones, marine incidents, and the pandemic, leading to one of the region's most prosperous periods.

Now the CEO of Moreton Bay Region Industry and Tourism, Tash focuses on tourism marketing, industry development, and organising over 52 events annually, while fostering the region's entrepreneurial spirit.



Peter WoodwardManaging Director, CaPTA
Group

Peter Woodward is the Managing Director of the CaPTA Group which is owned by the Woodward family, and operates several major tours and attractions in the Cairns and Port Douglas region.

As part-owner and Managing Director of RespaxTour Software, Peter has worked with tourism organisations of all sizes, and appreciates the various operational challenges that different businesses experience.

Peter has previously been a director of Tourism Tropical North Queensland.



Chair's report

The return of international travellers in increasing numbers has defined the past year, marking a major milestone in our industry's growing success. With visitor numbers steadily approaching 2019 levels, this progress is welcome news for tourism operators and industry throughout Queensland.

This success has been underpinned by significant efforts to rebuild airline capacity, launch new routes and enhance global marketing campaigns. QTIC worked closely with industry partners and the State Government throughout the year to support the achievement of these results, reaffirming the power of collaboration in driving our success.

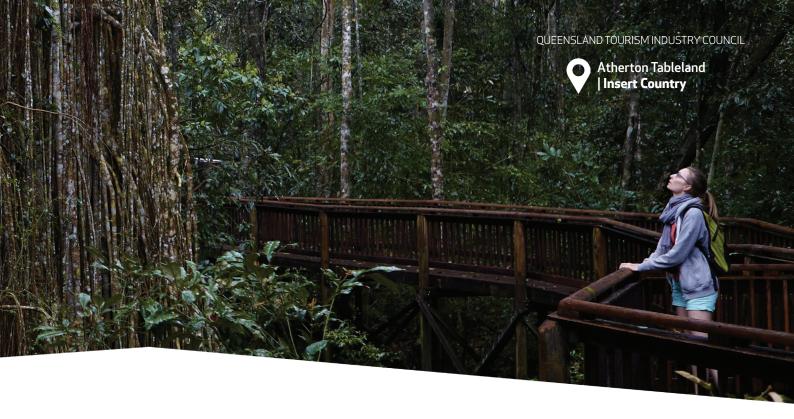
During the year, we also strengthened our commitment to helping tourism operators achieve excellence and improve brand recognition. Our continued delivery of the national Quality Tourism Accreditation program throughout Queensland led to remarkable growth, with a 95 per cent increase in new tourism businesses joining the program. Through this initiative, operators have embraced operational improvements that are driving measurable results.

One standout achievement was the launch of a

new Risk Management program under the accreditation framework. In response to the looming threat of Cyclone Jasper in late 2023, QTIC partnered with the Queensland Government to provide this program free of charge to tourism businesses. A total of 94 operators participated, equipping themselves with robust contingency plans and enhancing their resilience.

Another key strategic focus for us this year was advancing of First Nations tourism and embedding Indigenous knowledge and culture into our workforce initiatives, advocacy and industry engagement. We are particularly proud of the release of the Understanding First Nations cultural protocols in Australia online resource in 2023. The short online course, developed by our QTIC Indigenous and Micro-Credential teams, helps to ensure that the lands, cultural practices and stories of Indigenous peoples are respected by businesses and visitors alike. The online course will assist operators in engaging more confidently with First Nations culture and Country.

As the year progressed, we also undertook significant efforts to reshape QTIC membership to better align our benefits, priorities and services with the issues that matter most to our members. As part of this process, we launched



an annual QTIC Member survey, inviting feedback on where we can do better to meet industry and business needs. The survey highlighted the importance of advocacy and improved access to industry data and insights for our members. These findings will guide QTIC's efforts in the year ahead as we strive to keep members better informed and supported.

Throughout the year, the QTIC Board engaged directly with members by hosting events across the state, from the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane to Toowoomba and the Capricorn Coast. These gatherings allowed us to hear firsthand the concerns of our members, understand their challenges and identify the support they need. This regional focus ensures that QTIC remains closely connected to the heartbeat of Queensland's tourism industry.

As we anticipate the year ahead, there is much to be optimistic about. Opportunities for Queensland tourism continue to grow through increased investment in education and training, infrastructure and aviation capacity. However, we remain mindful of emerging uncertainties; including shifting economic conditions and intensifying global competition.

QTIC remains steadfast in its commitment to

empowering Queensland's tourism industry to thrive. With a focus on resilience, innovation and collaboration, we are ready to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead.

I would like to express my gratitude to the QTIC Board members, whose dedication and vision have been instrumental in guiding our efforts. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to our CEO, Brett Fraser and the entire QTIC team for their tireless work in securing both the immediate and long-term success of our industry.

Finally, I want to thank our members for your continued support and trust in QTIC. Together, we are building a brighter future for Queensland tourism.

Elsa D'Alessio

Ela Alena



Chief Executive Officer's report

Following consecutive years of tourism recovery driven primarily by domestic travellers, this year has been defined by the resurgence of global visitors. International overnight visitor expenditure soared by an impressive 41 per cent compared to the previous financial year, reaching \$6.2 billion.

While domestic visitor spending saw a modest decline of 1.1 per cent, totalling \$28.5 billion, this was an anticipated adjustment as Australian guests shifted their travel patterns. In response, QTIC focused efforts on revitalising international markets: collaborating with aviation partners, marketing bodies and industry stakeholders to entice global visitors back to Queensland. By highlighting our distinctive First Nations cultural experiences and diverse landscapes, we fortified our recovery strategy.

The steady return of international visitors is a positive milestone, but we recognise the need to improve this growth. Given the critical role of the lucrative international market, throughout the year QTIC prioritised restoring aviation capacity, supporting new flight paths into Queensland and advocating for increased funding for destination marketing bodies in collaboration with the Australian Tourism Industry Council and our state and territory counterparts.

To support industry during this time of renewal and to ensure operators have the capacity to

meet evolving global visitor demands, our priorities also focused on addressing the labour shortages impacting industry. From June 2022 to June 2023, employment within Queensland tourism rose by 26 per cent, with over 259,000 people now working directly or indirectly within industry. Despite this impressive progress, workforce gaps remain with growing job vacancies requiring an influx of skilled workers to support expanding tourism ventures.

As we face an operating environment defined by growing labour challenges, our activities throughout the year prioritised the attraction and retention of a skilled workforce. With funding from the Australian Government, we worked closely with the State Government to launch a new campaign in early 2024 – Choose Tourism. The \$1.4 million campaign rolled out across Queensland, reaching over 400,000 viewers, highlighting the exciting and rewarding nature of a career in tourism.

In tandem with the campaign, we also worked closely with the Queensland Government and our members to launch a new Tourism Careers website, showcasing diverse job opportunities and the educational and training pathways to those roles. By featuring the real-life success stories of QTIC Members, from tour guides and stage managers to wildlife attendants and business development managers, the online platform aims to inspire career interest among



future professionals.

The campaign results yielded promising results, with surveyed high school students reporting that they were far more likely to investigate training, career or study options in tourism or hospitality. The campaign also achieved a major shift in public perception of industry careers, with 60 per cent of student respondents having a positive view of industry jobs and careers – up from 48 per cent in 2023.

Our strategic focus of attracting and retaining a skilled workforce extended beyond awareness campaigns this year. We expanded our Young Professionals Mentoring Program and Regional Tourism Careers Roadshow, connecting school leavers with industry leaders, and creating opportunities for work experience and employment. These programs not only addressed labour shortages, but also helped foster the next generation of tourism professionals.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, our Industry Workforce Advisor and Industry Skills Advisor programs continued to work closely with operators and industry. Each program saw QTIC providing operators with personalised, one-on-one support to tackle unique labour challenges, and saw us working closely with all levels of government to improve vocational education and training systems. These efforts influenced policy development and increased access to workforce

funding, ensuring that industry needs are met as tourism evolves.

To support industry with their growth and resurgence, we took the opportunity to connect with more of our regional members. We hosted several of our major networking events in regional Queensland, allowing us to better connect and hear the priorities and perspectives of our members and wider industry.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain encouraged by the steady return of international travellers and the ongoing collaboration between QTIC and all levels of government. Stronger investment in education, training, workforce initiatives and programs and career campaigns will be pivotal in continuing the growing success of Queensland tourism.

Queensland's unrivaled landscapes and exceptional attractions, coupled with the global drive to travel, position our industry for continued growth. I remain optimistic about the road ahead, and confident in our state's ability to thrive as a world-class destination.

Brett Fraser

MEMBERSHIP

In 2023 and 2024, we prioritised empowering our members by addressing workforce challenges and boosting business capabilities. We delivered online skilling solutions for staff, offered one-on-one workforce support for operators, and created regional networking opportunities to connect and grow our industry together.

The new financial year brought distinct challenges for Queensland's tourism industry. Workforce shortages, rising operating costs, and severe weather events combined to create a difficult environment for some businesses. These pressures significantly affected many of our members, and required an agile response from QTIC.

In this dynamic context, our mission has never been more essential. QTIC is dedicated to empowering Queensland's tourism industry to thrive and achieve meaningful outcomes for our members. In response to the urgent needs of operators this year, we acted swiftly and strategically.

Our efforts centred on investing in programs and initiatives designed to build a resilient and forward-thinking industry. We provided our members with a suite of services, including workforce resources, staff training programs, professional development courses and business capability support.



Explore QTIC Membership

We ensured that our members' interests were front and centre in conversations with government, advocating for greater investment in tourism-supporting initiatives. Our advocacy work included a significant partnership with the Queensland Government, enabling us to offer our Risk Management program free of charge to 94 Tropical North Queensland businesses facing the threat of Cyclone Jasper in late 2023.

The end of 2023 and early 2024 were marked by intense advocacy, as operators across the state contended with severe flooding and cyclones. Through collaboration with industry and government, QTIC helped roll out support packages, including marketing campaigns to bring visitors back to affected regions, assistance with insurance claims and funding for rebuilding efforts.



Exclusive membership benefits were leveraged by operators through networking and industry events hosted by QTIC, many of which were held in regional areas like Capricorn and the Sunshine Coast. These engagements allowed us to connect with local communities, gain insights and support regional growth, and allowed our members to play a pivotal role in shaping Queensland's visitor economy.

"QTIC membership has been a great investment for us. They help us put a voice forward when we need advocacy."

| Maleny Botanic Gardens & Bird World

Membership grew by 13 percent over the financial year, reflecting our members' trust and engagement. We launched a new membership survey in 2024, and the results underscored the need for better access to industry data and insights, as well as clearer communication about our advocacy efforts on behalf of members and the broader tourism industry. QTIC is committed to addressing these priorities in the coming year.

By fostering local connections and continuously enhancing our services, we are building a more engaged and resilient membership. As we look ahead, QTIC remains focused on being a trusted partner for our members, providing effective solutions to industry challenges, and seizing new opportunities to shape the future of Queensland tourism.





World Tourism Day networking eventSeptember 2023

The first QTIC networking event of the year brought together an energised crowd of over 200 industry colleagues at the scenic Rivershed, alongside the Brisbane River.

Guests enjoyed an engaging panel discussion led by prominent sustainability advocates, exploring the connection between tourism and green investment. The conversation offered insights on how businesses can drive prosperity by prioritising people and the planet, embracing innovation and leveraging technology for a sustainable future.

Adding to the evening, the 2023 QTIC Young Professionals Mentoring Program proudly honored 81 new graduates, now part of the growing program community, setting an inspiring tone for the event.



World Environment Day breakfastMay 2024

This year's QTIC World Environment Day Breakfast came to life at the beautiful Novotel Resort on the Sunshine Coast, surrounded by bushland and pristine coastline. The venue captured Queensland's stunning natural heritage - a reminder of what makes the state's tourism brand so unique.

Over 120 guests joined for a motivating morning dedicated to driving sustainability across industry. Leaders in conservation and ecotourism led thought-provoking discussions, sparking new ideas and a renewed passion for elevating Queensland's reputation as a world leading sustainable destination. The event provided fresh insights and a shared commitment to protecting the unique landscapes that draw visitors from across the world to Queensland.



603

guests attended QTIC networking events in 2023 and 2024



5

boardroom luncheons held



5

webinar series held

"Being a member of QTIC has meant that we can engage with the wider tourism community through networking events and functions."

| Riverlife and Event Centre





In 2023 and 2024, QTIC offered five niche accreditation programs – allowing businesses to further heighten their knowledge and reputation through accreditation.



Accessible Tourism program

An online tool that identifies current accessible features, suggests improvements and generates a personalised report for businesses to showcase their accessibility to customers.



Camp and Adventure Accreditation program

The Camp and Adventure Accreditation program ensures that camping and adventure activities such as snorkeling and abseiling meet the highest industry standards with a focus on safety.



Star Ratings program

An internationally recognised program, Star Ratings accreditation signifies properties that hold themselves up to the independent standards of the Australian Star Ratings program.

Risk Assessment Tool

Risk Management program

The Risk Management program evaluates risks unique to a business and outlines preventative measures, providing businesses with a personalised risk assessment and risk management plan.



Tourism Emissions Reduction program

The Tourism Emissions Reduction program supports businesses in developing a carbon emissions report and an emissions reduction plan.



To further expand operators' expertise, QTIC offered five specialised accreditation modules, including Star Ratings, Camp and Adventure, Accessible Tourism, Risk Management and the Tourism Emissions Reduction program. Notably, 60 businesses embraced the Accessible Tourism program, reinforcing their commitment to inclusive tourism.

One of the standout achievements this year was the introduction of the Risk Management program. With the looming threat of Cyclone Jasper in 2023, we partnered with the Queensland Government to provide this program free of charge to tourism operators, helping them develop strong contingency and recovery plans. An impressive 94 businesses participated, demonstrating a proactive approach to safeguarding their operations.

As QTIC continues to drive excellence through accreditation, businesses are not only improving their performance but also contributing to a sustainable and resilient tourism industry in Queensland.

"Being a QTIC accredited business, particularly being a First Nations operator, provides leverage for our small business. People are looking for quality and authenticity and this is what QTIC accreditation provides."

| Dreamtime Kullilla-Art



QTIC prioritises powerful lobbying, stakeholder collaboration and policy development to foster a supportive business environment for operators. We take pride in ensuring that the concerns of members and the broader tourism industry are strongly represented in decision-making processes, enabling businesses to capitalise on opportunities for growth.

Research publications and engagement

We prioritise strategic research collaborations and forward-thinking leadership, drawing on our members' expertise. Through partnerships with universities and researchers, we generate valuable insights and share knowledge to benefit the visitor economy.

- Contributed to the methodology, release and reporting of the inaugural Outdoors Queensland census, via the census project reference group.
- Served as an industry advisor for the 'Enhancing service inclusion for travellers with a disability: attribute-aware travel accessibility profiling' project led by Dr Jie Wang (University of Queensland).
- Speaking to Higher Degree by Research students in the Griffith Institute for Tourism and Tourism, Hotel and Sport Management cohorts on communicating academic research to industry at the annual 2023 Excellence in Professional Industry Communications (EPIC) retreat.
- Speaking to University of Queensland TOUR7000 (Industry Research & Consultancy) students about research partnerships and consultation on industry policy issues.

- Research interview participant in the 'Infodemic Management: Building Resilience to Online Crisis Communication' project led by Dr Yawei Jiang (Griffith University).
- Research interview participant in the 'A framework for emerging global urban destinations: Lessons from Southeast Queensland, Australia' project led by Andrey Pchelkin (Griffith University).
- Presentation to key stakeholders and bid partners of the Future Tourism CRC in the 'Thriving Workforce' webinar.



Committees and working groups

QTIC serves on over 40 boards, committees and roundtables, actively contributing and mediating between government and industry. Throughout 2023 and 2024, we have played a pivotal role in ensuring Queensland tourism maintains a strong voice across all relevant forums.

- Accessible Tourism Project Reference Group
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Data, Digital and Cyber Forum
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Employment and Skills Committee
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Future of Tourism and Sustainability Working Group
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Small Business Committee
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Tourism Committee
- Australian Tourism Industry Council
- Culinary Industry Reference Group
- DESBT Back to Work program group
- DESBT Regional Hospitality and Accommodation Services Group
- Economic Roads and Transport Functional Recovery and Resilience Group
- Gateway Schools Reference Group
- Gold Coast Light Rail Project Group
- Hospitality and Accommodation Reference Group
- Industry Advisory Board Member Griffith University of Tourism, Sport and Hotel Management
- Industry Reference Groups for TT2032
- Industry Skills Advisor Working Group
- Industry Workforce Advisor Working Group
- K'gari Transition Industry Reference Group
- Marine Tourism Incident Response Group

- NESP Marine and Coastal Hub Steering Committee
- Q2032 (Olympic & Paralympic Games) Industry Advisory Group
- Queensland Government Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training: Back to Work Program and Regional Hospitality and Accommodation Services Group
- Queensland Tourism and Conservation Alliance
- QTIC Associations Council
- Queensland Indigenous Tourism Government and Industry Reference Group
- Queensland Leaders' Forum
- Queensland Museum Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee
- Queensland Rail Travel First Nations Steering Group
- Queensland Tourism and Conservation Alliance
- Queensland Vocational Education and Training (QVET) Strategy Reference Group
- Regional Jobs Committees
- Regional Local Jobs Program (DEWR)
- STIC Disaster Management Innovation for Fire Season
- The Future of Tourism CRC
- TNQ Indigenous Experiences Cluster Group
- Tourism Climate Action Steering Committee
- Tourism, Travel and Hospitality Reference Group
- TT2032 Industry Advisory Group
- TT2032 Steering Committee
- TTSSS Intensive Cookery pilot project Governance Committee



Business support

What we provided feedback on

- SME financial incentives and subsidies, including sustainability
- Digital transformation for small businesses

Where our voice has contributed

- Digital ID Bill 2023 passed for personal use private sector guidance forthcoming
- Additional funding for SME cybersecurity infrastructure
- Instant asset write-off extension and new small business energy incentive

Industry development and planning

What we provided feedback on

- 2024-25 Queensland and Federal Budgets
- Brisbane 2032 independent delivery authority and arrangements
- State and Federal tourism strategies

Where our voice has contributed

- Additional funding towards new tourism infrastructure, regional products and First Nations tourism experiences
- Funding allocated towards a Brisbane 2032 legacy program

Sustainability, environment and climate resilience

What we provided feedback on

- Great Barrier Reef water quality
- Electric vehicle charging in remote and rural areas
- Expanding protected area estate

Where our voice has contributed

- Queensland emissions reductions targets legislated (75% of 2005 levels by 2035)
- 4% increase to proportion of QLD land secured as protected areas and 500k+ hectare to private protected areas*
- World Heritage Committee keeping the Great Barrier Reef off UNESCO'in danger' list

Transport and connectivity

What we provided feedback on

- Aviation White Paper
- Aircraft noise
- · Active transport and micromobility

Where our voice has contributed

- Commitments to improve aviation accessibility, and better-connected public and active transport
- Productivity commission review to enhance regional aviation services
- Sustainable Aviation Fuel production commitment
- Support for separated micromobility infrastructure
- Targeted plan for communicating micromobility legislation change to visitors

^{*30} June 2024 compared to 30 September 2022.

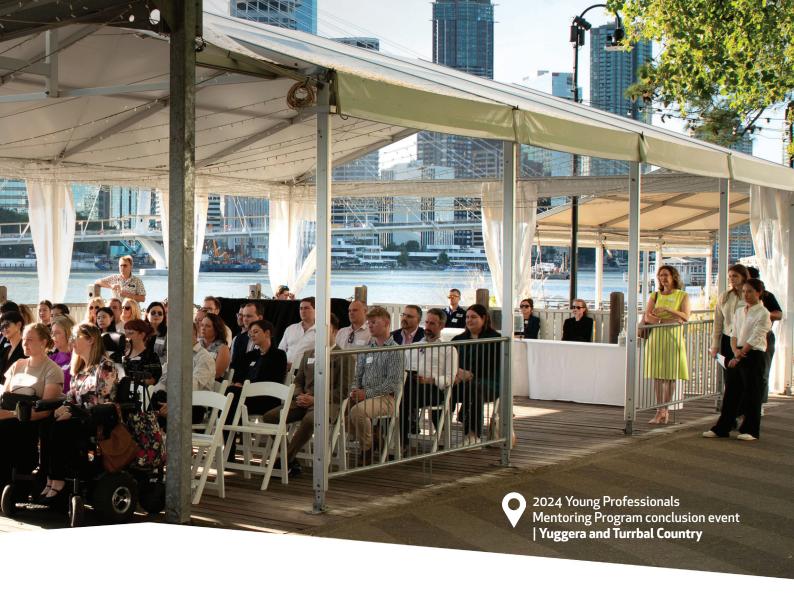


YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MENTORING PROGRAM

The QTIC Young Professionals Mentoring Program offers the next generation of tourism leaders a unique chance to accelerate their personal and professional development by learning directly from seasoned industry experts.

The QTIC Young Professionals Mentoring Program, presented in partnership with the University of Queensland, provides an opportunity for the next generation of tourism professionals to grow personally and professionally. They can utilise the guidance of industry leaders, equipping them with tools needed to navigate the complexities of a dynamic industry.

In 2024, this journey has come full circle with several former mentees returning as mentors, demonstrating the program's transformative and long-term impact. This year, mentees have made remarkable strides in their careers, attributing successes to the invaluable insights and advice received from their mentors. Some highlights include speaking engagements at conferences, leading new projects and events, transitioning from operational roles to strategic management, enhancing communication skills and expanding personal networks.



With such enthusiastic mentees and generous mentors, we are confident that the future of Queensland tourism is in capable hands. QTIC remains committed to supporting the career growth of the emerging visitor economy workforce, and fostering lifelong learning for industry leaders by facilitating strong networks and meaningful collaboration.

"It's been mentioned by higher management that they've seen a dramatic shift in how I operate which was all thanks to getting advice and feedback from my mentor."

| Abigail Farrawell, 2024 Young Professionals Mentoring Program mentee



103

participants accepted into the program



12

tourism regions involved



19

different industry sectors represented



Secondary Student of the Year Award - Cookery

Winner

Connor Johnson

Runner Up Caleb Talbot

Secondary Student of the Year Award - Food & Beverage

Winner Runner Up

Gracie Jenner Jessica Pauli

Secondary Student of the Year Award - Tourism

Winner

Tasmin Masters-Humphreys

Runner Up

Elly Street

Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award

Winner Runner Up Julie Lewis Liz Braid

Employer of the Year Award

Winner

Arthur Clive's Bakery Cafe



Watch the Salute to **Excellence Awards Skills Test** Day

SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE AWARDS

QTIC has proudly celebrated exceptional secondary students, employers, teachers and trainers in the tourism and hospitality industry for 26 years with our annual Salute to Excellence Awards. This initiative recognises the extraordinary contributions of individuals who are shaping the future of our industry.

For over twenty years, the Salute to Excellence Awards have been shining a spotlight on outstanding secondary students, employers, schools and registered training organisations that contribute to skill development in Queensland's vibrant tourism and hospitality industry.

This annual awards program is one of QTIC's most inspiring events, celebrating talented students eager to embark on careers in tourism while recognising the dedication of employers and trainers who nurture their growth.

In 2023, the competition was fierce, with 33 finalists showcasing their skills across five award categories during a skills test day, impressing industry judges with their talent. The Salute to Excellence Awards not only honors the most skilled and committed individuals in our industry, but also bridges the gap between aspiring talent and employers, connecting students with industry leaders. Many participants walk away from the awards process with invaluable career advancement opportunities and unique skill development experiences.

The finalists and winners of the 2023 Salute to Excellence Awards were celebrated at a spectacular gala ceremony on the Gold Coast, surrounded by proud parents, friends, and colleagues. It was an inspiring evening that united our industry in support of the future of Queensland tourism.



Secondary Student of the Year From left to right: Tasmin Masters-Humphreys, Gracie Jenner, Connor Johnson



Employer of the Year Arthur Clive's Bakery Cafe



REGIONAL TOURISM CAREERS ROADSHOW

Inspiring excitement among secondary students, the QTIC Regional Tourism Careers Roadshow engages with Queensland communities, local tourism businesses and schools to showcase the dynamic opportunities a career in tourism, hospitality and events offers to school leavers.

Facing unprecedented labour shortages in the tourism industry, the QTIC Regional Tourism Careers Roadshow has become a vital component of our strategy to cultivate a skilled and robust workforce. With the support of the Queensland Government, this initiative reached seven regional communities across Queensland – from Logan and Toowoomba to Hervey Bay and Rockhampton – sparking interest in tourism, hospitality and events careers among school leavers.

In collaboration with QTIC members and local tourism operators, we hosted dynamic panel sessions featuring industry professionals, giving secondary students an in-depth look at a variety of career options and pathways. Participants also gained practical experience through guided tours of local businesses and interactive activities. School leavers discovered the full process of running an event, from the initial idea to the final curtain call, while also getting hands-on with



exciting mixology classes and interactive cookery lessons.

During the financial year, industry participation in the Regional Tourism Careers Roadshow surged by 57 per cent compared to 2023, significantly increasing the program's reach and impact. Coupled with this success, more than 400 secondary students joined the Roadshow with

"Great day loved talking to the guest speakers and the people at the panel ... I will be pursuing a career in the hospitality/tourism industry."

| Regional Tourism Careers Roadshow student attendee

many securing employment by connecting directly with local businesses, while others pursued further tourism training.

The collaboration between QTIC, training organisations, industry and schools marks a major milestone and a proud achievement for our Roadshow team. Since the program's launch in 2021, we have showcased careers in tourism, hospitality, and events to thousands of Queensland secondary students, opening doors to future opportunities and motivating the next generation of industry leaders.



Explore our Regional Tourism Careers Roadshow

This Tourism Training and Skills Support Strategy project is proudly supported and funded by the Queensland Government.



INDUSTRY WORKFORCE ADVISOR PROGRAM

Specifically designed for the tourism industry, our Industry Workforce Advisor program offers customised support to businesses, helping to transform how they engage, recruit and retain a skilled tourism workforce.

To support small businesses with their unique workforce challenges, QTIC's Industry Workforce Advisor program* served as a vital consultant for Queensland's tourism industry throughout the financial year.

From the Scenic Rim to Thursday Island, our Industry Workforce Advisor visited Queensland communities, providing personalised assistance to business operators, helping them identify specific workforce issues and develop customised workforce plans. These plans enabled businesses to attract new talent, explore untapped labour markets and connect with government programs and workforce grants.

A notable highlight was the program's pivotal role in post-Cyclone Jasper recovery efforts in

Tropical North Queensland, where QTIC assisted businesses with workforce planning and recruitment strategies, significantly enhancing regional capacity and resilience.

Our efforts have fostered strategic collaborations with key stakeholders and improved workforce development across Queensland. By linking tourism operators with government support initiatives, the IWA program has facilitated seamless access to government-funded programs, paving the way for business success and growth.



117

businesses directly supported by the program



55

successful HR Support Grant applications totaling \$270,000

The Industry Workforce Advisor program is funded by the Queensland Government as part of the *Good people*. *Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy* 2022–2032.



INDUSTRY SKILLS ADVISOR PROGRAM

QTIC worked with tourism industry leaders and employers throughout the year to advise the Queensland Government on emerging trends and regional skill needs. Through the Industry Skills Advisor program, this input shaped key decisions on training priorities and investments.

QTIC's Industry Skills Advisor (ISA) program has played a vital role in addressing workforce and skill shortages by providing targeted, evidence-based recommendations to government and industry. Over the past year, QTIC engaged deeply with stakeholders through surveys, consultations and industry reference groups, pinpointing workforce priorities and improving vocational education and training (VET) systems to meet the evolving needs of Queensland's tourism industry.

Key accomplishments include contributions to the 2024 National Priority Skills List and the VET Workforce Blueprint - both initiatives designed to strengthen Queensland's tourism, hospitality, and events sectors by expanding migration pathways and supporting a sustainable VET workforce to train future professionals. QTIC also had a significant hand in reviewing Australian apprenticeship programs, participating in national consultations on occupation classifications, and supporting sector-specific initiatives such as maritime qualifications and the reclassification of events traineeships.

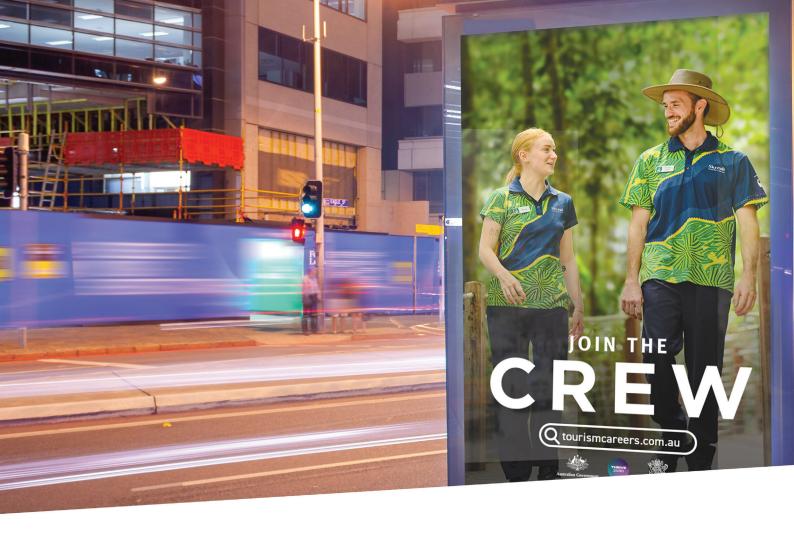


163

Industry Skills Advisor consultations held with industry

By driving these initiatives, QTIC successfully influenced policy development, increased access to workforce funding and strengthened workforce planning throughout the year. These efforts have not only supported tourism businesses across the state, but have also laid the groundwork for sustainable growth and resilience in Queensland's tourism workforce.

This initiative is proudly funded by the Queensland Government through its Industry Skills Advisory Program 2020 - 2023.



CHOOSE TOURISM CAMPAIGN

A statewide campaign was launched by the Queensland Government and QTIC in 2024, encouraging high school students, school leavers and mature-aged workers to 'join the crew' and discover a career in the Queensland tourism industry.

The \$1.4 million Choose Tourism campaign, funded by the Australian Government, highlighted the exciting and rewarding nature of a job in tourism, as well as the unique travel, friendship and flexibility benefits of the industry.

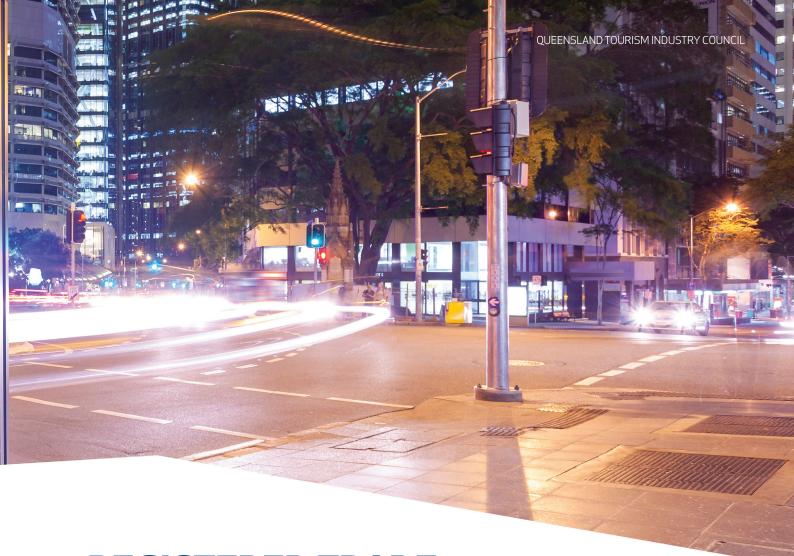
Launched across social media channels, television and bus stop advertising as well as high-impact online editorials, the campaign showcased a day in the life of tourism workers set against the backdrop of some of Queensland's most iconic landscapes. From tour guides in the verdant rainforests of Tropical North Queensland to deckhands cruising the

Whitsundays' pristine reef and apprentice chefs honing their skills on the Gold Coast's glitter strips, the campaign showcased the vibrant diversity of the industry.

Campaign results were encouraging, with market research revealing that high school students were far more likely than in 2023 to have investigated training, career or study options in tourism or hospitality. The campaign also achieved a major shift in perception, with 60 per cent of student respondents having a positive view of tourism or hospitality jobs and careers – up from 48 per cent in 2023.



Explore the campaign's Tourism Careers website



REGISTERED TRADE SKILLS PATHWAY PROGRAM

Chefs play a crucial role in the success of any kitchen, and with hospitality workers - particularly chefs - experiencing the highest number of job vacancies in Queensland over the past year, securing skilled culinary professionals has become a top priority. To meet this growing demand, QTIC continues to offer the Registered Trade Skills Pathway program, providing casual cooks a flexible and accessible path to becoming fully qualified chefs.

This innovative program breaks down the traditional barriers often associated with trade pathways. Recognising existing skills, QTIC's program credits the talents casual cooks already possess. The flexibility of the program is an industry game-changer, enabling cooks to continue their training without interruptions even if they are between jobs, change employers, take a short break, or move to different locations within Queensland.

By empowering aspiring chefs to build on their skills and advance their careers, the Registered Trade Skills Pathway program is helping to strengthen and future-proof Queensland's hospitality sector. This initiative is a crucial part of ensuring kitchens across the state are staffed with talented, qualified professionals who can contribute to the ongoing success and resilience of the industry.



30

students participated in the training program



13

students successfully gained the trade qualification

This initiative is proudly funded by the Queensland Government through its Registered Trade Skills Pathway program.



In 2023 – 2024, we consistently integrated First Nations knowledge and culture into our events, workforce initiatives, advocacy efforts and industry engagements. Our commitment remains focused on improving outcomes for First Nations tourism while fostering a deeper appreciation of the world's oldest living cultures for both visitors on Country and the broader industry.

Throughout the year, our Indigenous programs team organised community events, supported the growth of new First Nations businesses and artists and promoted culturally respectful business practices within industry. The team also provided guidance to QTIC members and workplaces on their cultural journeys, offering support for Reconciliation Action Plans.

In 2023, to strengthen the relationship between Indigenous Australia and Queensland's tourism industry, the Indigenous programs team collaborated with producers, industry professionals and educators to develop a free online course for operators, *Understanding First Nations Cultural Protocols in Australia*.

The course, created after consultations with Indigenous groups, industry organisations and operators across Queensland, aims to strengthen ties between Indigenous communities and the tourism sector. It provides a framework for recognising people and place, protecting intellectual property and honoring cultural protocols. Packed with valuable resources, this course is essential for anyone looking to engage with First Nations communities and culture in a respectful and meaningful way.

Indigenous Champions Network

Established in 2008, the QTIC Tourism Indigenous Champions Network convenes regularly to address key issues surrounding First Nations tourism across Queensland. The Network brings together both Indigenous and non-Indigenous operators who are dedicated to advancing First Nations tourism outcomes. Over the years, the Network has steadily expanded to now include 34 Champions.



2023 and 2024 Indigenous Champions Network

Adam Jones | Experience Co

Alan Smith | Outback Aussie Tours

Birrunga Wiradyuri | Birrunga Gallery

Brian Hennessy | Sunlover Reef Crusies

Cameron Costello | Costello Consultancy

Cassy Saunders | Blackcard Cultural Tours

Chern'ee Sutton | Chern'ee Sutton Art

Craig Quartermaine | NICI

David Hudson | Didgeralia

David Williams | Gilimbaa

Eddie Ruska | Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Company

Emily Tanna | Compass Group

Greg Yong | Dreamworld

Hailey Brown | Vacayit

Joe Sproats | Platypus Wealth

Johnny Murison | Jarramali Enterprises

Josh Hanley | Accor

Justine Dillon | Ngarang-Wal Gold Coast Aboriginal Association

Karen Hanna-Miller | Isa Rodeo

Katie Lord | SeaLink

Kedea Atherton | Accor

Kylie-lee Bradford | Kakadu Tiny Totts

Lauren Horner | Village Roadshow Theme Parks

Leanne Ruska | Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Company

Lindsay Davies | National Trust Australia (Qld)

Mark Greaves | The Tourism Group

Matt Adams | The Star Entertainment Group

Michaella Harrison | Queensland Music Festival

Olivia Evans | Sandstone Park

Oriana Wyrozebska | Queensland Music Festival

Paul Morton | Accor

Petina Tieman | Complete Business Solutions

Russell Boswell | Savannah Guides

Ryan Hanly | Travello

Serrin Carter | Outback Aussie Tours

Shannon Ruska | Tribal Experiences

Stephanie Parker | Southern Queensland Country Tourism

Tarragh Cunningham | QAGOMA

Tracy Kearney | Prestige Service Training

Violet Geesu | Sarina Russo

FIRST NATIONS TOURISM EVENTS

At the heart of QTIC's First Nations tourism events in 2023 and 2024 were robust conversations and cultural exchange. By embracing truth-telling and hosting insightful discussions led by national experts, we explored industry trends and the latest ideas, drawing interest from people across various sectors and backgrounds. Over 770 delegates attended our annual Destination IQ conference and NAIDOC Corporate Breakfast events in Cairns and Brisbane.





290+

guests attended Destination IQ 2023



480+

guests attended 2024 NAIDOC Corporate Breakfast

Destination IQ 2023

QTIC hosted Queensland's premier annual First Nations tourism conference, Destination IQ 2023. Held in Gimuy, Cairns, the event showcased exhibiting artists, local storytellers and insightful discussions led by First Nations tourism leaders.

The conference inspired, challenged and united participants from diverse backgrounds as speakers and panelists explored topics such as accessible tourism, the impacts of climate change on remote communities and strategies for enhancing trade and investment.

A highlight of the event was the introduction of the inaugural Destination Indigenous Queensland Young Achiever Award, recognising an exceptional Indigenous leader for their contributions to tourism. The award offers

state-wide recognition and expert mentorship to support both professional and personal development. The first-ever recipient of this honor was Kruze Summers - a passionate Indigenous mentor dedicated to bringing people together for the good of Country.

Continuing to evolve, Destination IQ grows each year as a must-attend event, amplifying the voices of First Nations peoples and addressing key trends, challenges and embracing opportunities.



Watch the 2023 Destination IQ conference







2024 NAIDOC Corporate Breakfast

Quickly sold out to an enthusiastic crowd, our 2024 NAIDOC Corporate Breakfast saw over 480 delegates join us in Meeanjin, Brisbane in celebration of National NAIDOC Week and in recognition of the powerful contributions of First Nations peoples.

"The QTIC NAIDOC Corporate Breakfast has become the go to event in the Brisbane NAIDOC Week calendar ... always a great event!"

2024 NAIDOC Corporate Breakfast attendee

Centered around the national NAIDOC theme for 2024, Keep the Fire Burning. Blak, Loud & Proud, the event explored the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander priorities of today and led a dialogue on truth-telling and healing.

Guests heard from Waanyi and Kalkadoon man, Joshua Creamer, a barrister at the helm of the newly established Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry in Queensland, who led an inspirational conversation on the powerful impact of confronting past hurts and transgressions.

The then Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP, echoed the sentiments of Joshua in urging guests to unite in addressing uncomfortable pasts to deliver a better tomorrow for all Australians.

QUEENSLAND TOURISM AWARDS

The Queensland Tourism Awards, the most prestigious event on Queensland's tourism calendar, are delivered by QTIC to honour the achievements of exceptional individuals and industry businesses.

After another ground-breaking year for Queensland tourism operators, the Queensland Tourism Awards were back in November 2023 for a night of glamour in the beautiful tropical city of Cairns in North Queensland.

There were 31 award categories ranging from attractions, events, tour and transport operators, accommodation, restaurants, culture and marketing. Across the 31 categories, 81 operators were awarded including 31 Gold, 26 Silver and 24 Bronze.

From the many awards presented on this night, there were four new businesses entered into the Queensland Tourism Awards Hall of Fame – Fun Over 50 Holidays - Immersive Tours and Adventures, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Paronella Park and Bundaberg Rum Visitor Experience.

For a first in 2023, the awards introduced the new category called 'Excellence in Accessible Tourism'. The award recognises businesses that are providing services that go above and beyond to accommodate for people with disabilities or specific needs.

Striking Gold for Excellence in Accessible Tourism was the BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort with its acclaimed reputation for being one of Queensland's leading resorts when it comes to accessible holiday accommodation.

Among these higher achievers was a Brisbane local, Hailey Brown who was awarded the Stephen Gregg Award for Young Achiever of the Year. A Queensland entrepreneur, Hailey has become a catalyst for change in the tourism industry by creating a fully audio tour guide app, allowing people with vision impairment to have an audio guide to the world.

Select category winners gained automatic entry into the Australian Tourism Awards, which were held in March 2024 in Darwin.

At this year's national awards, Queensland celebrated an astonishing evening by accepting 14 accolades across 26 award categories, with five gold, seven silver and two bronze presented to exceptional sunshine state operators.





2023 Queensland Tourism Awards

Recipients

MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Gold Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

Silver Sea World Bronze GC Aqua Park

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Gold Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience

Silver Historic Village Herberton Bronze Daintree Discovery Centre



MAJOR FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Gold Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

Silver Isa Rodeo Limited - 2022 Mount Isa Mines Rodeo

Bronze Rare Spares Rockynats 03

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Gold Isa Rodeo Limited - 2022 Mount Isa Mines Indigenous

Rodeo Championships

Silver Outback Queensland Masters

Bronze Crankworx Cairns

THE STEVE IRWIN AWARD FOR ECOTOURISM

Gold Fun Over 50 Holidays - Immersive Tours and

Adventures

Silver Barefoot Tours

Bronze Daintree Discovery Centre

CULTURAL TOURISM

Gold Fun Over 50 Holidays – Immersive Tours and

Adventures

Silver Paronella Park

Bronze Qld Music Trails - The Outback Trail

AWARD FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER TOURISM

Gold Cape York Peninsula Lodge
Silver Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre
Bronze Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre

TOURISM RETAIL AND HIRE SERVICES

Gold Whitsunday Coast Airport

Silver Shute Harbour Marine Terminal

Bronze Pelican Boat Hire

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES

Gold Ipswich Visitor Information Centre
Silver Hervey Bay Visitor Information Centre
Bronze Bowen Visitor Information Centre

BUSINESS EVENT VENUES

Gold Sofitel Brisbane Central

Silver Empire Apartment Hotel Conference Centre Bronze Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

MAJOR TOUR AND TRANSPORT OPERATORS

Gold Ocean Rafting

Silver Tropic Wings Cairns Tours & Charters

Bronze Cruise Whitsundays

TOUR AND TRANSPORT OPERATORS

Gold Creative Tours
Silver 1770 LARC! Tours
Bronze SeaLink Whitsundays

ADVENTURE TOURISM

Gold Ocean Rafting

Silver Aquascene Magnetic Island
Bronze Cape York Motorcycle Adventures



THE RICHARD POWER AWARD FOR TOURISM MARKETING AND CAMPAIGNS

Gold Rockhampton Regional Council - Explore Rockhampton
Silver Visit Sunshine Coast - Australia's Craft Beer Capital
Bronze Tourism Noosa - Find Your Inner Noosa - Winter

Campaign

TOURISM RESTAURANTS AND CATERING SERVICES

Gold Sea World Cruises - Sightseeing and Dining

Silver The FLACKYARD

TOURISM WINERIES, DISTILLERIES AND BREWERIES

Gold Tamborine Mountain Distillery

CARAVAN AND HOLIDAY PARKS

Gold BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort

Silver Esk Caravan Park & Brisbane Valley Rail Trail Motel

Bronze Cape York Camping Punsand Bay

HOSTED ACCOMMODATION

Gold Narrows Escape Rainforest Retreat
Silver Bli Bli House Riverside Retreat
Glass on Glasshouse

UNIQUE ACCOMMODATION

Gold Mitchell Grass Retreat
Silver Lady Musgrave Experience
Bronze Cruise Whitsundays - Reefstays

SELF CONTAINED ACCOMMODATION

Gold Pinnacles, Airlie Beach
Silver RACV Noosa Resort
Bronze Mirage Whitsundays

3 - 3.5 STAR ACCOMMODATION

Gold Magnums Accommodation Airlie Beach

Silver Great Keppel Island Hideaway

4 - 4.5 STAR ACCOMMODATION

Gold Cape York Peninsula Lodge
Silver Empire Apartment Hotel
Bronze Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort

5 STAR ACCOMMODATION

Gold The Reef House Boutique Hotel and Spa Silver InterContinental Hayman Island Resort

Bronze Emporium Hotel South Bank

NEW TOURISM BUSINESS

Gold Kokomo Cruises Silver qtQT Gold Coast

Bronze ULTIQA Signature at Broadbeach

EXCELLENCE IN FOOD TOURISM

Gold Creative Tours
Silver Sarina Sugar Shed

Bronze Scenic Rim Regional Council - Scenic Rim Eat Local

Movement

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY A VOLUNTEER OR VOLUNTEER GROUP

Gold Moreton Bay Region Volunteer Program
Silver Townsville Enterprise Tourism Ambassadors
Bronze Capricorn Enterprise – Beverly "Gillo" Gilligan

THE STEPHEN GREGG AWARD FOR YOUNG ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR

Winner Hailey Brown



THE MARIE WATSON-BLAKE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY AN INDIVIDUAL

Winner Michael L. Hackett

RACQ PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD - EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Winner Paronella Park

RACQ PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD - ACCOMMODATION

Winner Esk Caravan Park & Brisbane Valley Rail Trail Motel

EXCELLENCE IN ACCESSIBLE TOURISM

Gold BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort

Silver Hopo Gold Coast Ferry
Bronze Aquascene Magnetic Island

Thank you to our generous 2023 Awards Sponsors





































































QUEENSLAND TOP TOURISM TOWN AWARDS

Now in its fourth iteration, the QTIC Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards celebrate the state's diverse and outstanding regional destinations. Honouring towns that work together with their tourism operators and local community to make their destination the best it can be.

The state's best holiday hotspots and local treasures have been revealed at the 2024 Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards Ceremony in Brisbane, with Roma, Airlie Beach and Winton claiming the top gong.

After an extensive judging process by tourism experts and a public vote that attracted more than 16,000 votes, Queensland's top holiday destinations were announced from a shortlist of 16 finalists.

Opening the vote to the public through a statewide campaign, allowed us to showcase the wide range of extraordinary regional destinations on offer to holidaymakers and weekend warriors.

Across three hotly contested award categories, regional destinations were crowned the best in Queensland based on population size.

With a population over 5,000, the outback icon of Roma was named the 2024 Queensland Top Tourism Town.

For a third consecutive year, Airlie Beach took out the top honours for Queensland Top Small Tourism Town with a population between 1,500 and 5,000.



Adam Hinks | Top Tour Guide Aquascene Magnetic Island



Roma | Top Tourism Town Population over 5,000



Airlie Beach | Top Small Tourism Town Population between 1,500 and 5,000



Winton | Top Tiny Tourism Town Population under 1,500





They may be small, with a population under 1,500, but Winton is mighty in exceeding visitor expectations, and took out Queensland Top Tiny Tourism Town for a third year in a row

Magnetic Island's Adam Hinks from Aquascene was announced Queensland's best tour guide for 2024. The accolade recognises a tour guide who goes above and beyond in providing guests with an outstanding visitor experience.

State winners from the Top Tourism Town and Top Tour Guide Awards go on to represent Queensland at the national awards where they have the chance to be crowned the best in the country.

Having won on a state level in 2023, the bustling coastal community of Caloundra was awarded bronze for the highly coveted Australia's Top Tourism Town Award. The home of stunning waterways, Airlie Beach, was crowned Australia's second-best Small Tourism Town.

Silver for the inaugural Australia's Top Tour Guide Award was presented to the Sunshine Coast's own, Joel McPherson from Joel's Journeys.

> QUEENSLAND TOURISM INDUSTRY COUNCIL





1770 Sandcastles Resort Pty Ltd 1EIGHT 8 Seconds A Abacus Motel Mt Isa Above & Below Gallery Accom Whitsunday ACCOR Hospitality Active Tropics Explorer Adit Shah Adrenalin Snorkel & Dive Adventure Core Pty Ltd Adventure Day Trips Agnes Water Beach Club Airbnb Australia Pty Ltd Airqua Water From Air Airtrain Alamanda Palm Cove by Lancemore Alani Whitsundays Alara Motor Inn Aldesta Hotel Australia Pty Ltd Alexandria Apartments Amamoor Lodge Amaroo at Trinity Amaze World Amy Harris Anita Clark Tourism Services Apollo Motorhome Holidays Aquascene Magnetic Island ARAMA National Ltd Araucaria Ecotours Arcadium Adventures Artefact Group Ashleigh Barnes Ashleigh Kindred Ashmore Palms Holiday Village Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators at Hotel Group Atomiq Design Aurora Training Institute

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Birrunga Gallery and Dining

Bli Bli House Luxury Bed and

Blue Adventures South Pacific

Blue Dolphin Marine Tours

Booringa Action Group Inc.

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Bowen Tourism and Business

Breeze Management Group

Brisbane Airport Corporation

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition

Brisbane Economic Devt Agency

Bright & Young Pty Ltd

Centre

Brett's Outback Tasting Adventures

Bongaree Caravan Park

Boobook Eco Tours

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Boulia Shire Council

Breakfast

Blue Bus Tours

Conference Bundaberg Regional Council Bundaberg Rum Visitor Experience **Bundaberg Tourism** Burdekin Shire Council Burleigh Beach Tourist Park Business Chamber Queensland Busstop espresso **BUSY Ability BUSY At Work BUSY Health BUSY Schools BUSY Skills** By The Sea Port Douglas C C Bargara Resort Cairns Adventure Group Cairns Aquarium Cairns Convention Centre

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Camp Island Lodge

Australia

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Dig IT Tamborine Mountain

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Great Barrier Reef Festival
Great Keppel Island Hideaway

Griffith University
GTR Events

Habitat Noosa

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Hamilton Island Enterprises Limited
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Harbour Town Premium Outlets
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Heart of Reef Shuttles
Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia

Hedlow Retreat
Help Enterprises
Hemingway's Brewery
Heritage 4WD Tours
Herrmann House

Hertz Mount Isa Hidden Valley Cabins and Tours

Hides Hotel Cairns

Hides Hotel Cairns

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Hinkler Hall of Aviation Hip Hops Brewers Pty Ltd

Historic Australia

Historic Village Herberton

Holiday Holiday Hook-A-Barra Hopo Gold Coast Ferry Hospitality & Business Solutions

Hotel X Fortitude Valley Howard Smith Wharves HSY Travel Tour Pty Ltd

Hyatt Regency Brisbane

Humble on Duke

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Independent Aviation Indexe Pty Ltd

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Kenilworth Country Cabins

Keppel Bay Marina Kernow Charters Towers K'gari Fraser Island Adventures

Kiana Sail and Dive Kiff & Culture Kim Grierson Kindred Tourism

Kingfisher Bay Resort Operations Kipara Tropical Rainforest Retreat

Koola Beach Apartments Bargara

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Lizard Island (Delaware North)

Local Government Association of

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Longreach Tourist Park

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M

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Magnums Accommodation Airlie Beach

Maiala Park Lodge

Maleny Botanic Gardens & Bird World

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Mary Valley Rattler MatchWorks

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Media Mortar Mena Creek Hotel Mercure Brisbane City Garden Mercure Brisbane King George Mercure Gold Coast Resort Mercure Sunshine Coast Lake Kawana Hotel Mercure Townsville Meridian Port Douglas Meriton Property Services Pty Ltd Meriton Suites Adelaide Street, Brisbane Meriton Suites Broadbeach Meriton Suites Herschel Street, Brishane Meriton Suites Southport Meriton Suites Surfers Paradise Mermaid Waters Hotel by Nightcap Mike Ball Dive Expeditions Mingo Crossing Caravan & Recreation Park Mini Car Rentals Minjerribah Camping Mirage Whitsundays Mirimar Cruises Mission Beach Resort Mitchell Grass Retreat Montville Misty View Cottages Moreton Bay Region Industry & **Tourism** Moreton Bay Regional Council Mornington Island Art Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre Mount Isa City Council Mountain View Caravan Park Mountain Wine Tours Mountview Alpaca Farm Mr Percival's Mt Barney Lodge Country Retreat Mt Cotton Rainforest Gardens Mt Larcom Tourist Park Mt Quincan Crater Retreat Mungalla Aboriginal Tours Murdering Point Winery Murweh Shire Council MyGui Mystery Craters

Nambour Christian College Narrows Escape Rainforest Retreat National Rugby League National Trust Australia (Queensland) Native Oz Bushfood Nautilus Aviation Next Level - High Ropes Adventure Ngarang-Wal Gold Coast Aboriginal Niramaya Villas and Spa No Limit Adventures Pty Ltd NOOSA alive! Noosa Blue Resort Noosa Boathouse Noosa Community Training Centre Inc Noosa Ferry & Cruise Company Noosa Festival of Surfing North Burnett Regional Council North West Tours Novotel Brisbane South Bank Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort Novotel Surfers Paradise NRMA NRMA Palm Cove Holiday Park Nuvho Hotel Services & Management Company Nyanda Cultural Tours

Oasis Motor Inn Blackall Ocean Breeze Resort Ocean Free & Ocean Freedom Ocean Rafting Ocean View Estates OCEANIA TOUR & TRAVEL PTY LTD Oceans Mooloolaba Ochre Restaurant and Catering Off Camber Oh Deere Farm Stay and Tours Olivia Robinson On the Beach Noosa Opera Queensland

O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat

Original Eumundi Markets LTD Outback at Isa Outback Aussie Tours Outback Festival Outback Motel Outback Pioneers Outback Queensland Masters Outback Queensland Tourism Association Overlander Homestead Ovolo Inchcolm Brisbane

Oz Paragliding and Hang Gliding Ozdream Tours Pty Ltd Oztix powering Localtix

Pacific Whale Foundation Eco Adventures Palm Court Noosa Paradise Country Paradise Jet Boating Paradise Links Resort Paradise Resort Gold Coast Parkside Motel Ayr **ParkTours** Paronella Park Paroo Shire Council Passions of Paradise Patrick Jones Pelican Boat Hire Peninsula Airlie Beach Phoenix One

Picnic Point Toowoomba Pilgrim Sailing Pineapple Tours Pinnacle Tourism Marketing Pinnacles Resort Pioneer Adventures Planet Marketing Port Douglas Connections Port Douglas Peninsula Boutique

Hotel Port of Brisbane Portland Roads Sailing the Whitsundays

Ports North

Prestige Residential t/a Tingirana Noosa Prestige Service Training Promotion Products Pty Ltd Providence Sailing Pullman Brisbane King George Square Pullman Cairns International Pullman Palm Cove Sea Temple Resort Spa Pullman Port Douglas Sea Temple Resort and Spa Pullman Reef Hotel Casino

Q

Qantas Founders Outback Museum Qld Garden Expo QMF QT Gold Coast

Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Co

Queens Beach Tourist Village Queensland Airports Limited Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art Queensland Bus Industry Council

Queensland College of Wine Tourism Queensland Distillers' Assocation Inc. Queensland Hotels Association

Oueensland Information Centres Association

Queensland Performing Arts Centre Queensland Rail Limited

Queensland Symphony Orchestra Quest Robina

Quicksilver Group Quilpie Motor Inn Quilpie Shire Council

R Ally's Transfers PTY LTD Rachel Lane **RACQ** RACV Noosa Resort RACV Royal Pines Resort Raging Thunder Adventures Rainforestation Nature Park Rangelands Outback Camp

Mystic Mountain Tours

Ravensbourne Escape Red Cat Adventures Red Lock Escape Rooms Redland City Council Reef and Rainforest Research Centre Reef House Boutique Resort and Spa

Reef Magic Cruises Reef Runner Charters Reforest Australia Pty Ltd Regal Port Douglas Resly Solutions Ricks Garage Ricky Hume Ride2Go.com.au Ridenorth

Ridgemill Estate River City Cruises River to Bay RM Williams Australian Bush

Learning Centre Rockhampton Palms Motor Inn

Rockhampton Regional Council Roma Explorers Inn

Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat

Rubyvale Gem Gallery

Rui Zhang

Rumba Beach Resort Rydges Gold Coast Airport

S

Sail Inn

Sailaway Port Douglas Sailing Whitsundays Saks on Hastings Salt House Saltbush Retreat

Salter Brothers Hospitality Saltwater Eco Tours

Salty Dog Sea Kayaking Santo Didgeridoo Santorini Twin Waters Sarina Sugar Shed Savannah Guides Scandi at Maleny

Scarborough Harbour Brewing Co.

Scenic Rim Regional Council

Scenic Rim Trail Sea World Sea World Cruises

Sea World Cruises Dining Cruises

Sea World Resort

SeaLink North Queensland SeaLink South East Queensland

Sealink Whitsundays See Moreton Servir Group Pty Ltd

Shambala Estate Shantara Resort Port Douglas

Sharlynn by the River

Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort Port Douglas

Shiift Pty Ltd

Shiralee Clydesdales & Farm Stay

Shortbreak Central Shubham Sharma Skedaddle Cairns

Skypark Cairns by AJ Hackett Skyrail Rainforest Cableway Small World Journeys Sofitel Brisbane Central Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach Sofitel Noosa Resort and Spa Somerset Regional Council

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Southern Cross Atrium Apartments

Southern Cross University Southern Downs Regional Council Southern Queensland Country Tourism

Southport Sharks

Specialised Transport Australia

Spencer College Spicers Balfour Hotel Spicers Hidden Vale Spicers Peak Lodge Spicers Tamarind Retreat Spinal Life Australia Splitters Farm St Judes Estate

State Library of Queensland

Stephanies Luxury Spas

The Mysa Motel The Pressure Project Pty Ltd The Project Crew The Sebel Brisbane The Sebel Noosa

Story Bridge Adventure Climb Straddie Kingfisher Tours Student Horizons

Success Matrix

Sugar Country Motor Inn Summer Land Camels

Sunlover Reef Cruises Sunset Tourist Park

Sunshine Coast Airport

Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Sunshine Glamping Co Surf Lakes Holdings Ltd Surf Life Saving Queensland

Surfers Chalet Swaggie

SWAT PARTY BUS

T

Tactical Training Group (Allara)

TAFE Queensland

Take-A-Break Bush Camp

Talaroo Hot Springs

Tallebudgera Creek Tourist Park Tamborine Mountain Distillery

Tasman Holiday Parks Airlie Beach

Tasman Venture Taylor Trost

The Abbey Museum of Art and

Archaeology

The Boathouse Apartments

The BUSY Group The Calile Hotel The Cassidy Group

The Country House at Hunchy

The FLACKYARD The Full Moon Hotel The Langham Gold Coast The Llama Farm Pty Ltd The Mouses House Rainforest

Retreat

The Shakespeare Group

The Shores Motel Group

The Star Entertainment Group

The Tour Collective The Tourism Group The Ville Resort-Casino The Windmill Cafe Thing Adventures Tilma Group Pty Ltd

Tin Can Bay Houseboats

Tina Watkins

Tony Charters and Associates

Toorbul Caravan Park

Toowoomba Regional Council

Top Shelf International

Topgolf Torian Pro

Toscana Village Resort Tourism Leisure Corporation

Tourism Noosa

Tourism Port Douglas & Daintree

Tourism Services Pty Ltd

Tourism Tap Tourism Tribe

Tourism Tropical North Queensland Tourism Whitsundays Limited

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Towri Sheep Cheeses Training Direct Australia Tranquil Park Maleny

TravConsult

Traveller's Rest 1770

Travello

TreeTop Challenge

Trinity Islands Holiday Park

Tropic Tours

Tropic Towers Apartments Tropic Wings Cairns Tours Tropical North Car Rentals

ULTIQA Signature at Broadbeach Umi Arts Limited University of Queensland University of the Sunshine Coast





Vacayit

 $Valdal\,Property\,Group\,Pty\,Ltd$

VeloRoo - Live, Laugh, Ride

Victor Prieto Fernandez

Victoria Park

View Brisbane

Villa Mirasol Motor Inn

Villa San Michele

Village Roadshow Theme Parks

Viscount on the Beach

Vision Splendid Outback Film

Festival

Visit Gympie Region

Visit Rural Pty Ltd

Visit Sunshine Coast

Vue Apartments - Trinity Beach

W

Walkabout Cultural Adventures
Wallaroo Outback Retreat
Waltzing Matilda Centre
Wander
Warner Bros Movie World
Warwick Show and Rodeo Society

Watermark Resort Caloundra

Welcome to Country

 $We stern\, Downs\, Regional\, Council$

Western Queensland Spirit

Wet'n' Wild

Wet Tropics Management Authority

Whales In Paradise

Whalesong Cruises

Whispering Valley Cottage Retreat

White Ridge Farm

White Shells Luxury Apartments

Whitsunday Apartments Hamilton Island

Whitsunday Charter Boat Industry Assn

Whitsunday Crocodile Safari

Whitsunday Escape

Whitsunday Island Camping Connection

Connection

Whitsunday Jetski Tours

Whitsunday Paradise Explorer

Whitsunday Segway Tours

Wicked Event Management

Wild Hinchinbrook Adventures

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Winton Movies Inc.

Winton Shire Council

Winton Truck and Machinery Museum

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Woodgate Beach First National

Woof Media

Woolshed Chargrill & Saloon

Woolshed Eco Lodge

Worklinks QLD LTD

WW Souvenirs Gifts and Homewares

WWII Secret Base & Tour



XXXX Lion Australia



Yagurli Tours

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Zebrahood

Zenith Hospitality Staffing Solutions

Zero Latency Gold Coast

Zigzag Whitsundays

Zoe Jennings



In 2023 and 2024, QTIC proudly partnered with a team of leading brands and organisations across the private sector, government and academia who, together, are helping to drive Queensland tourism forward.

















































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