

Strictly embargoed until Friday, 13 November 2015 at 10pm

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S TOP FIVE IN TOURISM

Five of South Australia's very best tourism experiences have been inducted into the State's **Tourism Hall of Fame** at the **2015 South Australian Tourism Awards**, winning their category three years in a row:

- 2015 Clipsal 500 Adelaide best Major Festival and Event
- **Aboriginal Cultural Tours South Australia** best Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism experience
- The Playford best Luxury Accommodation
- Udder Delights Cheese Cellar for Excellence in Food Tourism
- Adelaide Shores received the Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism

A gala dinner attended by the who's who of the State's tourism industry saw **30 awards** presented to businesses and individuals judged to be the most outstanding in their category (full list attached).

A **further 48 entrants** who achieved a high standard in their category were recognised with a gold, silver or bronze medal.

John Evans received the *Outstanding Contribution by an Individual* award. John is an avid historian, rail enthusiast and regional tourism advocate, his involvement and service on regional projects and committees has allowed him to make a tremendous contribution to tourism in this State.

University of SA student, **Julia Brunke** was chosen as *SA Tourism Student of the Year*, and will travel to Christchurch as part of the SKAL International Adelaide Student Exchange Program.

Haider Ali-Shah was named the *South Australian Taxi Driver of the Year* - an award that encourages the highest levels of service and customer satisfaction and celebrates the taxi industry's significant input towards the State's tourism experience.

South Australian Tourism Industry Council General Manager Shaun de Bruyn congratulated all winners and the five inductees to the Tourism Hall of Fame.

"South Australians should be very proud of their world class tourism experiences, and as a State we should honour excellence in an industry that is so important to the South Australian economy," Mr de Bruyn says.

"The South Australian Tourism Industry Council continually works with its members and industry to grow business profitability and increase recognition of South Australia's best tourism experiences.

For images of finalists or further information contact Bianca Borrett, Manager Communications, SA Tourism Industry Council on 0421 355 252 or email bianca@satic.com.au.

"The South Australian Tourism Awards celebrates creativity, professionalism and innovation within the tourism industry and encourages high standards and better business practices, by setting benchmarks that all tourism operators can aspire to.

"The Awards' standards are remarkably high and visitors can book one of these award-winning experiences with confidence when planning their next holiday."

The awards are judged in accordance with a strict set of rules and criteria, and winners will represent the State at the *Qantas Australian Tourism Awards* when **Melbourne** hosts the prestigious national event in February 2016.

2015 South Australian Tourism Award WINNERS

Major Tourist Attractions supported by South Australian Tourism Commission

Winner – Adelaide Oval Ph: (08) 8211 1100

Tourist Attractions supported by Woof Media

Winner – Adventure Bay Charters Ph: (08) 8682 2979

Major Festivals and Events supported by Big Screen Video

Hall of Fame and Winner **– 2015 Clipsal 500 Adelaide** Ph: (08) 8212 8500

Festivals and Events supported by Renniks Hire

Winner - Sounds By The River Ph: 041 485 7738

Ecotourism supported by the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources

Winner - Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Ph: (08) 8641 9108

Cultural Tourism supported by the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources

Winner – Adelaide Oval Tours Ph: (08) 8211 1100

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism supported by the Department of Environment,

Water & Natural Resources

Hall of Fame and Winner – Aboriginal Cultural Tours - South Australia Ph: 0429 367 121

Specialised Tourism Services supported by SA Tourism Industry Council

Winner – <u>Getaways SA</u> Ph: (08) 8355 1144

Visitor Information Services supported by Big Screen Video

Winner – Barossa Visitor Centre Ph: (08) 8563 0600

Business Event Venue supported by the Adelaide Casino

Winner – Mount Lofty House Ph: (08) 8339 6777

Tour and Transport Operators supported by South Australian Tourism Commission

Winner – Adelaide's Haunted Horizons Ghost Tours Ph: 0407 715 866

Adventure Tourism *supported by South Australian Tourism Commission*

Winner – Calypso Star Charters Ph: (08) 8682 3939

Destination Marketing supported by the Adelaide Casino

Winner – Peterborough Tourism Ph: (08) 8651 3355

For images of finalists or further information contact Bianca Borrett, Manager Communications, SA Tourism Industry Council on 0421 355 252 or email bianca@satic.com.au.

Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services supported by Restaurant & Catering

Winner – Leonards Mill Restaurant Ph: (08) 8598 4184

Tourism Wineries, Distilleries & Breweries supported by SA Tourism Industry Council

Winner – Seppeltsfield Estate Winery Ph: (08) 8568 6266

Caravan & Holiday Parks supported by South Australian Tourism Commission

Winner – Big4 Adelaide Shores Caravan Park Ph: (08) 8355 7351

Unique Accommodation supported by South Australian Tourism Commission

Winner – Griffens Marina Blanchetown Ph: (08) 8540 5250

Self Contained Accommodation supported by South Australian Tourism Commission

Winner - The Frames Ph: 0418 862 260

Standard Accommodation supported by South Australian Tourism Commission

Winner – Beach Huts Middleton Ph: (08) 8554 3933

Deluxe Accommodation supported by the Barossa Valley Brewing

Winner – Yondah Beach House Ph: 0417 829 010

Luxury Accommodation supported by the Adelaide Casino

Hall of Fame and Winner – The Playford Ph: (08) 8213 8804

New Tourism Business supported by SA Life TV Channel 7

Winner – <u>ibis Adelaide</u> Ph: (08) 8159 5588

Excellence in Food Tourism supported by Food SA

Hall of Fame and Winner – <u>Udder Delights Cheese Cellar</u> Ph: (08) 8388 1588

Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism *supported by Qantas Airways*

Hall of Fame and Winner – Adelaide Shores Ph: (08) 8355 7351

Outstanding Contribution by an Individual supported by Qantas Airways

Winner - John Evans

South Australian Tourism Student of the Year supported by Skal International Adelaide

Winner - Julia Brunke (University of South Australia) Ph: (08) 8302 7664

Tourism Education and Training supported by South Australian Tourism Commission

Winner - TAFE SA Ph: (08) 8348 4662

Local Government Award for Tourism supported by Local Government Association of SA

Winner – City of Holdfast Bay Ph: (08) 8179 9501

Backpacker Accommodation supported by SA Tourism Industry Council

Winner – Adelaide Central YHA Ph: (08) 8414 3006

South Australian Taxi Driver of the Year supported by Adelaide Airport Limited

Winner - Haider Ali-Shah Ph: 0411 196 661

For more information on each winner, please click here