



# Riverland tops tourism awards

The Riverland took centre stage at the state's most prestigious tourism awards ceremony last week.

Local businesses Banrock Station Wine and Wetland Centre and the Big 4 Renmark Riverfront Holiday Park, along with Houseboat Hirers Association chief executive Peter Tucker were all honoured at the South Australian Tourism Awards.

Banrock Station secured a silver medal for its entry in the Tourism Wineries category and a bronze medal for its entry in the Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism.

Big 4 Renmark Riverfront Holiday Park



Peter Tucker

received a silver medal in the Tourism and Caravan Parks category, while Mr Tucker received the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual award.

Mr Tucker said the award was a "pleasant surprise" and recognised his 20 years of work in the houseboat industry.

"I've been on top of

the world," he said.

"It is a great honour and I am very chuffed."

Mr Tucker said he was just as excited about the "rosy" future of the local houseboat industry.

"The river is absolutely fantastic," he said, "It has been rejuvenated.

"The fish are jumping and the birds are singing."

Des Watts, of Big 4 Renmark Riverfront Holiday Park, told ABC local radio last week that the award process provided opportunities for recognition and self-examination.

"I think (the awards) are a great exercise for every person who has the opportunity to enter any of these awards," he said.

"It enables you to self-examine in detail your

performance and presentation of your property and your business, and it also helps you meet a wider number of people."

Over 180 nominations were received in this year's tourism awards.

"The standard of entries was extremely high, which underlines the commitment our operators have towards this important industry," South Australian Tourism Industry Council chief executive Ward Tilbrook said.

"It has been inspiring to see the commitment that tourism businesses have given to reviewing their goals and achievements through the awards process and showcasing their success to the industry."



Local South Australian Tourism Award winners Big 4 Renmark Riverfront Holiday Park and (INSET) Banrock Station Wine and Wetland Centre.