

5 June 2018

Media Release

NZ Hotel Industry Awards - finalists announced

The finalists have been announced for the 2018 New Zealand Hotel Industry Awards, with a new focus on the regions bringing out some strong competition from previously un-nominated areas.

36 finalists are competing for this year's Hotel Industry Awards across 12 categories. They range from Administration Employee of the Year to Senior Hotel Executive of the Year.

"The 12 Award categories recognise the many key roles that are vital to operating a successful hotel," says Horwath HTL Ltd Director Stephen Hamilton.

A new award for 2018 will recognise the Regional Employee of the Year. The award will go to the best operational employee working in a hotel not located in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch or Queenstown.

"It's been great to see such high-calibre individuals in our growing industry," says TIA Hotel Sector Manager Sally Attfield.

"Our judges are industry experts, and they had to make some tough decisions on which nominations should go forward to the finals."

Ms Attfield reports a 35% increase in the number of entries on 2017.

Mr Hamilton says hotels are a very valuable part of New Zealand's \$36 billion tourism industry.

"Hotels support thousands of jobs and inject millions of dollars into regions across the country, and also give back to their local communities in many ways."

The New Zealand Hotel Industry Awards are the hotel sector's premier awards, and will be presented at a dinner on 5 July as part of the Hotel Industry Conference at the Cordis Hotel, Auckland.

The Hotel Industry Conference is the largest and most important annual event dedicated to New Zealand's hotel sector.

Hotel Industry Administration Employee of the Year

- Jonathon Brown, Edgewater Lake Wanaka
- Chang Liu, Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport
- Eugenia Marquez, Cordis Hotel, Auckland

TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

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Hotel Industry Concierge of the Year

- Ingmar Becker, Bolton Hotel, Wellington
- Phil Shearer, Rydges Hotel Wellington
- David Tabor, Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport

Hotel Industry Environmental Initiative of the Year

- Hilton Queenstown Resort & Spa & DoubleTree
- SKYCITY Grand, Auckland
- Sudima Auckland Airport

Hotel Industry Food and Beverage Employee of the Year

- Silvy McNaughton, Rydges Hotel Auckland
- Bonn Tucker, Scenic Hotel Southern Cross, Dunedin
- Mick Yuan, Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

Hotel Industry Front Office Services Employee of the Year

- Peti Hudson, Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua
- Neil Hemraj, CityLife Hotel Auckland
- Carla Zacarelli, Ramada Remarkables Park, Queenstown

Hotel Industry General Manager of the Year

- Jo Finnigan, Hotel St Moritz, Queenstown
- Iftikhar Hussain, Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport
- Richard Bungeroth, Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Hotel Industry Housekeeper Employee of the Year

- Kailash Rana, Jet Park Airport Hotel
- Annalise Stewart, InterContinental Hotel Wellington,
- Yoko Schofield, Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport

Hotel Industry Outstanding Young Hotel Executive of the Year

- Jenna Abramowitz, InterContinental Hotel Wellington
- Hayley Carrington, Novotel Queenstown Lakeside
- Danielle Davies, SKYCITY Hotel and SKYCITY Grand Hotel, Auckland

Hotel Industry Regional Hotel Employee of the Year

- Chanelle Durand, Rutherford Hotel, Nelson
- Sanjesh Naidu, Scenic Hotel Southern Cross, Dunedin
- Rohan Thakur, Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Hotel Industry Revenue Manager of the Year

- Greg Campbell, Hotel St Moritz, Queenstown
- Tracey Higgins, Rydges & QT Hotels Queenstown
- Roma Patel, Sudima Hotels & Resorts

Hotel Industry Sales, Marketing & Distribution Employee of the Year

- Sarwan Singh, Cordis Hotel, Auckland

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- Jessica Taylor, James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor
- Leigh Higgins, Sudima Hotels & Resorts

Hotel Industry Senior Hotel Executive of the Year

- Philip Hilton, Accor Hotels, Wellington
- Les Morgan, Sudima Hotels & Resorts
- Hazel Rigler, Grand Chancellor Hotels

About the co-hosts

Tourism Industry Aotearoa Hotel Sector

TIA's hotel sector represents the interests of nearly 170 members throughout New Zealand, including international chains, large independent and privately owned hotels. TIA hotel sector members employ over 11,000 staff nationally, with annual revenues of more than \$1.4 billion. TIA's hotel members contribute to a monthly performance survey conducted by the Fresh Information Company.

<http://www.tia.org.nz>

Horwath HTL Ltd

Horwath HTL Ltd is a consulting firm specialising in the hotel, tourism, and leisure industries, providing specialist consulting services to a wide range of private sector clients and public sector stakeholders, including developers, investors, funders, owners, and operators. Horwath HTL is affiliated with Crowe Horwath International, a network of more than 140 independent accounting and advisory services firms with 560 offices in more than 100 countries.

Platinum Sponsor

The conference Platinum Sponsor is Scenic Hotel Group.

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KEY FACTS

- Tourism in New Zealand is a \$99 million per day industry. Tourism delivers around \$40 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributes another \$59 million in economic activity every day.
- Tourism is New Zealand's biggest export earner, contributing \$14.5 billion or 20.7% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2017).
- 14.5% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 399,150 people are working in the visitor economy.
- The [Tourism 2025](#) growth framework has a goal of growing total tourism revenue to \$41 billion a year by 2025.

Visit www.tia.org.nz for more information

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