

New Zealand  
**HOTEL  
INDUSTRY  
CONFERENCE**  
2016



**3 June 2016**  
**Media Release**

## **Hotel Award winners outstanding performers**

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Individuals working in hotels across the country were winners in the 2016 New Zealand Hotel Industry Awards, announced at a gala dinner in Auckland last evening (Thursday 2 June).

Seven individual awards were presented, ranging from Housekeeper of the Year to Outstanding Young Executive, plus an award for a hotel showing innovation to help neutralise its impact on the environment.

"This year we expanded the awards to recognise many of the key roles that go into the running of a successful hotel. Our award winners are outstanding performers who reflect the depth of talent in New Zealand's hotel sector," says Sally Attfield, Hotel Sector Manager, Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) which co-hosts the Awards with Horwath HTL.

"These are New Zealand's premier hotel sector awards and competition was fierce. We are delighted to see the Awards shared between several regions – Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown."

For the fourth time only, this year also saw the presentation of a prestigious Hotel Industry Achievement Award. The sector's highest honour went to Penny Clark, General Manager of the Goldridge Resort Queenstown.

Ms Clark has made a significant impact at every hotel she has managed over a career spanning more than three decades, says Stephen Hamilton, Director, Horwath HTL.

"Penny has worked in the hotel sector for more than 35 years, over 30 of those as a General Manager. She is consistently referred to as an inspirational and influential leader, empowering colleagues while maintaining a strong focus on bottom line performance."

### **TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA**

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The Awards were presented at a gala dinner at The Langham, Auckland, attended by around 300 guests. The dinner was the finale of the 2016 New Zealand Hotel Industry Conference which was sold out.

## **Award Winners**

### **Hotel Industry Achievement Award**

Penny Clark, General Manager, Goldridge Resort, Queenstown

### **Administration Employee of the Year**

Kamlesh Kumar, Financial Controller, James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington

### **Environmental Initiative of the Year**

The Langham, Auckland

### **Front Office Services Employee of the Year**

Jenna Abramowitz, Front Office Manager, InterContinental Wellington

### **Housekeeper Employee of the Year**

Meripa Aiono, Executive Housekeeper, Novotel & Ibis Auckland Ellerslie

### **Outstanding Young Hotel Executive, sponsored by ServiceIQ**

Brad Garnett, Revenue and Contact Centre Manager, SKYCITY Hotels Auckland

### **Revenue Manager of the Year**

Deborah Kennedy, Revenue Manager, Crowne Plaza Auckland

### **Sales & Marketing Employee of the Year**

Elizabeth Burrett, Marketing Manager, SKYCITY Hotels Auckland

### **Senior Hotel Executive, sponsored by AHS Hospitality**

Bruce Garrett, Managing Director, The George, Christchurch

## **TIA Hotel Sector**

TIA's Hotel Sector represents the interests of almost 140 members throughout New Zealand, including international chain, large independent and privately owned hotels. TIA hotel sector members employ 10,800 staff nationally, with annual revenues of more than \$1.17 billion.

## **Horwath HTL**

Horwath HTL is part of the global Horwath HTL hotel and tourism consulting group network comprising 45 offices in 38 countries. Horwath HTL is part of Crowe Horwath International, one of the 10 largest global networks of independent accounting and advisory firms with over 560 offices in over 100 countries worldwide.

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**Key Facts**

- Tourism in New Zealand is an \$81.6 million per day industry. Tourism delivers around \$32 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributes another \$49 million in economic activity every day
- Tourism is one of New Zealand's biggest export industries, earning \$11.8 billion or 17.4% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2015)
- 12.1% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 295,908 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](http://www.tia.org.nz)** for more information

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