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Media Release

NZ Hotel Awards – finalists announced

Top performing individuals in hotels around the country have been announced as finalists in the 2016 New Zealand Hotel Industry Awards.

Twenty-three finalists will compete for awards across seven individual categories, from the Housekeeper Employee of the Year to the Senior Hotel Executive, plus an award for a hotel showing real innovation to help neutralise its impact on the environment.

“These are the New Zealand hotel sector’s premier awards. Both the calibre and high number of entries reflects the optimism and record results the hotel sector is achieving,” says Sally Attfield, Hotel Sector Manager at Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA), which co-hosts the Awards with Horwath HTL.

“This year’s expanded Awards programme recognises the key roles that go into running a successful hotel.”

Stephen Hamilton, Director, Horwath HTL, says: “The awards set a benchmark of excellence that others can aspire to, and they celebrate the individuals and hotels delivering an outstanding visitor experience. More visitors stay in hotels than any other forms of commercial accommodation.”

The finalists:

Administration Employee of the Year

- Kamlesh Kumar, Financial Controller, James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington
- Alison Sheedy, Human Resources Advisor, The Langham Auckland
- Joanne Thomas, Executive Assistant, The George, Christchurch

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Environmental Initiative of the Year

- Hilton Lake Taupo
- The Langham, Auckland

Front Office Services Employee of the Year

- Jenna Abramowitz, Front Office Manager, InterContinental Wellington
- Carmel Bishop, Reservations Manager, The Langham Auckland
- Alison Borland, Guest Relations Executive, SKYCITY Grand Hotel, Auckland

Housekeeper Employee of the Year

- Denise Thornton, Executive Housekeeper / Environmental Manager, James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington
- Heide Holtz, Executive Housekeeper, Novotel Queenstown Lakeside
- Meripa Aiono, Executive Housekeeper, Novotel & Ibis Auckland Ellerslie

Outstanding Young Hotel Executive, sponsored by ServiceIQ

- Sarah Croskery, Executive Assistant Manager, James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington
- Brad Garnett, Revenue and Contact Centre Manager, SKYCITY Hotels Auckland
- Zak Muysken, Rooms Division Manager, InterContinental Wellington

Revenue Manager of the Year

- Stephanie Bickers, Revenue Manager, James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington
- Brad Garnett, Revenue and Contact Centre Manager, SKYCITY Hotels Auckland
- Deborah Kennedy, Revenue Manager, Crowne Plaza Auckland

Sales & Marketing Employee of the Year

- Elizabeth Burrett, Marketing Manager, SKYCITY Hotels Auckland
- Julie Pine, Sales and Group Reservations Manager, Hotel St Moritz Queenstown
- Sarwan Singh, Sales Director, The Langham Auckland

Senior Hotel Executive, sponsored by AHS Hospitality

- Bradley Burnett, General Manager Hotels, Tower & Car Parking, SKYCITY Hotels Auckland
- Bruce Garrett, Managing Director, The George, Christchurch
- Olivier Lacoua, General Manager, CQ Hotels Wellington

The New Zealand Hotel Industry Awards winners will be announced at a gala dinner at The Langham, Auckland on 2 June 2016, the finale of the 2016 New Zealand Hotel Industry Conference. Visit the Awards and Conference website www.nzhotelconference.com

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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 for more information

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