



Media release



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REGIONAL PUBS BATTLE IT OUT FOR HOTEL OF THE YEAR

After three long years the state's top country pubs are once again battling it out for the title of Regional Hotel of the Year at the AHA NSW Awards for Excellence.

The 17 venues battling it out for the coveted title include well-known names like the Beachcomber Hotel and Resort in Toukley, The Camden Valley Inn, The Courthouse Hotel in Tamworth, Hotel Gosford and The Settlers Inn Hotel, Port Macquarie.

Three of Mudgee's finest establishments, The Oriental Hotel Mudgee, The Paragon Hotel and The Woolpack Hotel are in the running, along with Public House Albury and The Gem Hotel Griffith.

Venues north of Sydney include The Elanora Hotel in East Gosford, The Nags Hotel in Adamstown, The Prince of Merewether and The Windsor Castle Hotel in East Maitland.

And pubs to the south include The Illawarra Hotel, The Warilla Hotel and Towradgi Beach Hotel.

The independently judged awards will be held on Monday, 24 October 2022 at The Cutaway, Barangaroo.

AHA NSW CEO John Whelan said it was great to see a record number of finalists as an industry hard hit by COVID comes together to celebrate once more.

"The Awards for Excellence is the pinnacle of our events calendar and celebrates the hard work and achievements of those in our industry," Mr Whelan said.

"It's something we have not been able to do since 2019, so there has never been a better time to come together and recognise the resilience and innovation of our incredible industry."

“This stand-out list of finalists is proof that despite the adversity and impacts of COVID-19 our pubs are still the best in the world.”

This year’s awards will also see the inclusion of a new category - the People’s Choice Award. The new category will allow the community to vote for the chance to win a prize and elevate their local pub to award-winning status.

“We know communities are passionate about their local pub, and this new category gives patrons a chance to have their voice heard,” Mr Whelan said.

“We encourage people to take a few minutes to vote for their local and play a role in letting all of NSW know their pub is the best in the state.”

A full list of finalists for this year’s AHA NSW Awards for Excellence can be found at www.ahaawardsnsw.com.au

Voting for the People’s Choice Award will open on Friday, 9 September via <https://www.ahaawardsnsw.com.au/peoples-choice>

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