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SOUTH COAST AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE FINALISTS

A short-list of the South Coast's best pubs and hospitality operators for 2022 has been released ahead of this year's prestigious AHA NSW Awards for Excellence.

The list of South Coast finalists includes nominees in 16 categories including Regional Hotel of the Year, Individual Hotel Operator of the Year, Best Sporting Entertainment Venue, Best Late Night Venue and Heart of the Community.

Three South Coast pubs will battle it out as finalists for the top country gong - Regional Hotel of the Year, including the Illawarra Hotel Wollongong, the Warilla Hotel and Towradgi Beach Hotel.

The Illawarra Hotel is also up for a host of other nominations including the highly sort after title of Individual Hotel Operator of the Year for Ryan Aitchison, Best Marketing Activity, Best Late Night Venue, Heart of the Community, Best Regional Local and Best Regional Casual Dining (Southern).

Towradgi Beach Hotel is shortlisted for Best Deluxe Accommodation (\$130 and over), Best Regional Re-development, Best Regional Casual Dining (Southern), and Best Marketing Activity. While the Warilla Hotel is also a finalist for Best Family Friendly.

This year's awards will be the first since 2019 and will be held on Monday, 24 October at The Cutaway, Barangaroo in Sydney.

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

"After missing this event for the past few years due to the pandemic, 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 South Coast 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 which will allow the community to vote for the chance to win a prize and elevate their local pub to award-winning status.

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

Voting for the People’s Choice Award are NOW OPEN via
<https://www.ahaawardsnsw.com.au/peoples-choice>

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

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