

Friday, 23 September 2022

NORTH COAST HOTEL AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

A short-list of the state's best pubs and hospitality operators has been released ahead of this year's prestigious AHA NSW Awards for Excellence – the first in three years.

The list of North Coast finalists includes nominees in 14 categories including Regional Hotel of the Year, Regional Chef of the Year, Best Burger, Best Steak and Best Family Friendly.

Port Macquarie pubs are up for a host of awards including the Settlers Inn Hotel nominated for Regional Hotel of the Year, Best Retail Liquor Outlet, Best Regional Local, Best Parmi, Best Steak Sandwich, Heart of the Community and Best Regional Casual Dining (Northern).

Other Port pubs in the running for an award are Finnians Irish Tavern for Best Regional Local and Tacking Point Tavern for Best Steak.

Two top North Coast chefs will also battle it out for the title of Regional Chef of the Year including the Ivory Waterside Tavern and Marina Tweed Head's Anton Ram-Bawn and Ocean View Hotel Uranga's - Chris Kershaw.

Nominated for Best Burger is the Tattersalls Hotel at Inverell, Beach Hotel Byron Bay for Best Live Music Venue, Lake Cathie Tavern for Best Regional Local and the Royal Hotel Taree for Best Cheap Eat Meal (under \$15), while Ivory Waterside Tavern and Marina also made the list of finalists for Best Regional Re-development and 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.

"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 two 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 North Coast finalists is proof that despite the adversity and impacts of COVID-19 our pubs are still some of the best in the world."

This year's awards will also see the inclusion of a new category, the People's Choice Award.
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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 in regional areas like the North Coast 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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