



Media release



Tuesday, 25 October 2022

Best Regional Pubs Celebrated at AHA NSW Awards for Excellence

A jewel in the crown of Griffith's hospitality industry, **The Gem Hotel**, has been named Regional Hotel of the Year at the AHA NSW Awards for Excellence held last night.

The venue accepted the top accolade before an audience of 1500 hospitality industry, community and political leaders.

Held for the first time since 2019, the prestigious event took place at The Cutaway, Barangaroo and celebrated professional excellence across a record 46 categories.

In addition to the main regional title, **The Gem Hotel** also won Regional Chef of the Year for **Anthony Fullerton** and Best Regional Gaming Venue.

At the event, regional pubs took home silverware in a range of categories including Best Regional Local won by **The Illawarra** at Wollongong, Group Hotel Operator of the year awarded to Port Macquarie-based **Flower Hotels** and Best Bush Pub - the **Peel Inn** at Nundle.

Camden Valley Inn was awarded Best Family Friendly and Best Regional Casual Dining (Southern) while **Hotel Gosford** was named Best Regional Re-development.

The inaugural People's Choice Category saw more than 20,000 votes lodged and was awarded to beloved country pub **The Collie Hotel**.

Best Live Music Venue was awarded to dual regional winners **Huntlee Tavern** Branxton and **Beach Hotel Byron Bay**.

In the ever-popular food categories, **The Nags Head** Adamstown won Best Steak Sandwich, **Settlers Inn Port Macquarie** took out Best Parmi, and **The Prince of Merewether** took the coveted title for Best Burger as well as Best Retail Liquor Outlet.

Hotel Brunswick at Brunswick Heads was also among the regional winners taking the award for Best Outdoor Experience (including rooftop bars), while South Coast hotel **Waterfront Tavern** won Best Sporting Entertainment Venue.

The beer and cocktail categories also went to regional contenders with Mudgee's

Oriental Hotel winning Best Draught Beer Quality and **Public House Albury** taking the win for Best Cocktail List.

Overnight stays were also popular in regional areas with the award for Best Traditional Pub Accommodation going to the **Grand Hotel Wyong** and South Coast pub **Bermagui Beach Hotel** winning Best Deluxe Pub Accommodation.

The award for Best Marketing Activity also headed down south, won by **Towradgi Beach Hotel**.

“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, celebrate and recognise the resilience and of our incredible industry.”

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

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

For images or comments please contact Nikki Taylor on 0447 956 170 or by email at Nikki.taylor@ahansw.com.au