



Media release



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Sydney's Best Pubs Celebrated at AHA NSW Awards for Excellence

Relative newcomer, the two-year-old **Duke of Dural** in Sydney's Hills District has been named the best hotel in Sydney, taking out the top gong - Metropolitan 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.

At the event, Sydney pubs took home awards in a range of categories including Best Metropolitan Local won by **Harbord Hotel**, Individual Hotel Operator of the Year for **Woollahra Hotel's Simon Barbato**, and Best Steak shared by **Royal Hotel Randwick** and **The Nelson Hotel Bondi Junction**.

NSW hotel matriarch and beloved hotelier at **Royal Oak Balmain**, Maureen Thornett was recognised as this year's Hall of Fame recipient.

Hills District venue, **Sarino's, Mullane's Hotel** was the only metropolitan pub to take home awards in two categories, claiming the top spots for Best Wine List and Best Unique Bar Experience.

The **Longueville Hotel** won Best Innovative Refurbishment, while Penrith's latest watering hole **The Log Cabin Hotel** was named Best Metropolitan Re-development.

Newtown's **Marlborough Hotel** took the win for Best Late Night Venue.

Heart of the Community was this year shared by two Sydney winners, **Red Cape Hotel Group** based in Cremorne and the **Coogee Bay Hotel**.

And in the hotly contested food categories, **Nicholas Liglet** of the **Harbour View Hotel** was named Metropolitan Chef of the Year, while **Menzies Bar & Bistro** at **Shell House** was named Best Restaurant.

Sydney hotel staff also shone brightly with **The Buena Vista Hotel's Jon Trouillet**

winning Employee Excellence in Service and **Verandah Bar Sydney's Sharni Aird** taking home the title of Industry Rising Star.

The winner of Individual Hotel of the Year Operator was **Simon Barbato** from The Woollahra Hotel and **Flower Hotels** won the hotly contested Group Hotel Operator of the Year.

"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 was never been a better time to come together, celebrate and recognise the resilience 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 - I congratulate them all."

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

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