



Media Release

Friday, 29 November 2019

TENTERFIELD SAYS "BUGGER THE DROUGHT" IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 2019 BUSINESS & TOURISM EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Around 100 people filled the Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts on the evening of Thursday, 28 November to say "bugger the drought" and celebrate the achievements of Tenterfield's business and tourism industry at Tenterfield Shire Council's 2019 Business & Tourism Excellence Awards.

The Awards are held by Council biennially to recognise the businesses, events and individuals that make a significant contribution to the Tenterfield business and tourism community.

Congratulations to all nominees, highly commended and winners across the twelve award categories.

Business of the Year

Winner: The Commercial Boutique Hotel
Highly Commended: Go Vita Tenterfield Health

Event of the Year

Winner: Oracles of the Bush
Highly Commended: The Beat of the Bush Winter School Program

Apprentice/Trainee of the Year

Winner: Jake Smith - Ray White Rural Tenterfield

Employee of the Year

Winner: Kirsty Ware from KLAS Business & Accounting
Highly Commended (2): Libby Sharpe - Ray White Rural Tenterfield & Tim Dillon - The Commercial Boutique Hotel

Excellence in Micro Business

Winner: Little Magnolia Florist
Highly Commended (2): Go Vita Tenterfield Health and The Mobile Vet Team

Excellence in Small Business

Winner: Ray White Rural Tenterfield
Highly Commended: Wilshire & Co – Tenterfield (CRT)

Excellence in Business

Winner: The Commercial Boutique Hotel
Highly Commended (2): KLAS Business + Accounting and Our Place Wine & Espresso Bar

Excellence in Agriculture/Agribusiness

Winner: Moore Eggs
Highly Commended: Wilshire & Co – Tenterfield (CRT)

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Excellence in Tourism

Winner: The Commercial Boutique Hotel

The Commercial Boutique Hotel has been inducted into the Tenterfield Business & Tourism Awards Hall of Fame, as this is the third year in a row they have won this category.

Highly Commended: Make It Tenterfield

Excellence in Sustainability

Winner: Go Vita Tenterfield Health

Highly Commended: Moore Eggs

Excellence in Innovation

Winner: The Mobile Vet Team

Highly Commended: KLAS Business + Accounting

A special Recognition Award was also presented to Rouse Street icon, Maree Parker of Sherelle Fashions who started working in Tenterfield's main street in 1945. Maree was joined by family and friends and received 2 standing ovations from the audience while she was praised for her dedication to and involvement in the Tenterfield community, particularly over the past 34 years of running her successful retail fashion business.

Mayor Peter Petty praised the local business and tourism community for getting on board, not only through the awards nomination process but for coming together on the night to celebrate and support each other as a community, which is what Tenterfield does best.

"It's been a really tough year for this community and something that continues to shine through time and time again is the resilience of our people", Mayor Petty said.

"For many, business has been tough and tourism has certainly been a challenge, but having so many local industry representatives and sponsors here tonight showing their support for our region and each other is what makes it all worthwhile", he added.

Following the Awards, the audience was treated to a humorous and inspiring presentation by guest speaker, Lauren Bath - Australia's first professional Instagrammer. Lauren shared her journey of using the digital media platform since its inception, her successes along the way, and an insight into some of the high-profile clients she has worked with over the years, many of which are tourism related.

Lauren extended her stay in Tenterfield to host a Business Instagram Workshop the following morning, where she was joined by close to 50 attendees who were all keen to develop their understanding of the power of social media to connect with audiences and market their businesses.

Tenterfield Shire Council would like to thank its event sponsors and congratulate all winners, highly commended and nominees of the 2019 Tenterfield Business & Tourism Excellence Awards.

The overall feedback from this year's judging panel was that nominees showed an impressive degree of passion and love for their work and even more so for their local community.

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For more information, visit the website: www.tenterfieldbusinessawards.com.

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