

Gold Coast Bulletin News

Seven tourism gongs for Coast

Henry Tuttiett | November 20th, 2010

GOLD Coast tourism operators scored seven gongs at the annual Queensland Tourism Awards in Brisbane in a result hailed as a sign the industry is returning to pre-GFC levels.

The seven titles is three more than the Gold Coast won last year and included Griffith University's Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management achieving hall of fame status after taking out the Tourism Education and Training award for the third year in a row.

Other Gold Coast winners included Australian Outback Spectacular for best major tourist attraction, the 2009 Gold Coast Airport Marathon as best festival and event and Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre for best meeting and business tourism.

Mantra Group won the best tourism marketing category, O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards won best tourism wineries and **Witches Falls Cottages at Tamborine Mountain won best hosted accommodation.**

Gold Coast Tourism boss Martin Winter said the industry coped well with the financial downturn and was now going from strength to strength.

"The outstanding result is testament to each of the winners but also underlines the quality and resilience of the local tourism industry," he said.

"It is further confirmation of the strong results we achieved last year in the face of some of the most difficult financial conditions ever experienced."

Queensland Tourism Industry Council chief executive Daniel Gschwind said he was not surprised to see so many Gold Coast winners.

"Such quality tourism operations really boosts the industry outlook, giving us very good reason to be positive about the strength of our industry," he said.