

## Tourism operators shine at Qld awards

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A tree-top tour operator and local information centre are among five businesses inducted into the Queensland Tourism Awards Hall of Fame over the weekend.

Held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday night (November 19), the Queensland Tourism Awards reward tourism businesses for their efforts in enhancing the visitor experience.

Riverlife Mirrabooka, Brisbane Visitor Information and Booking Centre, The Discovery Group, Griffith University Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel & Sport Management and Skyrail Rainforest Cableway each received Hall of Fame status after taking out their award categories for the third year in a row.

The awards mark the 26th anniversary of the largest and most highly regarded tourism awards, run for the first time in 2010 by the state's peak industry body the [Queensland Tourism Industry Council](#) (QTIC).

Other Queensland Tourism Awards recipients include: Australian Outback Spectacular (Major Tourist Attractions); Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours (Tourist Attractions and Adventure Tourism); and Daintree Discovery Centre (The Steve Irwin Ecotourism Award).

Mantra Group won the Tourism Marketing category, while O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards on the Gold Coast won the award for Tourism Wineries.

Cairns Coconut Holiday resort won best Tourist & Caravan Parks; Brisbane City YHA was declared best Backpacker Accommodation; and **Witches Falls Cottages on the Gold Coast won the Hosted Accommodation category.**

QTIC Chief Executive Daniel Gschwind says it is great to see so many businesses demonstrating their commitment to the industry's future, by participating in the hotly contended awards.

"Tourism operators are seeing the benefit of entering the Queensland Tourism Awards, as it not only provides them with a program to take an in-depth look at their business, but gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their contribution to the state's tourism industry," he says.

"Seeing such quality tourism operations really boosts the industry outlook, giving us very good reason to be positive about the strength of our industry, with more outstanding businesses than ever entering the awards this year."

QTIC produces the awards with the support of the naming rights sponsor Queensland Airports Limited and in partnership with Tourism Queensland and the Queensland Government.