



MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday, 24 February 2018

Murray wins two gold for excellence at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards

Murray Regional Tourism (MRT) congratulates BIG4 Deniliquin and the Riverboats Music Festival for winning gold at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards in the categories of Caravan and Holiday Parks, plus Festivals and Events respectively, in Perth on Friday night.

Founded in 1985, the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards are the tourism industry's peak Awards bringing recognition to and celebrating businesses that have demonstrated a commitment to excellence.

MRT Chair, Wendy Greiner was delighted the region had four businesses reach the prestigious status of becoming a national finalist and congratulated the Murray region for taking home two gold and one silver award.

"We congratulate gold award winners BIG4 Deniliquin and Riverboats Music Festival for achieving best in their categories, Moama on Murray for silver and All Seasons Houseboats for being a finalist in Australia's tourism industry awards.

"This is an outstanding result for the Murray region and we are proud to see our tourism operators recognised for practicing excellence in tourism," Ms Greiner said.

BIG4 Deniliquin has won the Caravan and Holiday Parks' category for three consecutive years earning them a place in the prestigious Hall of Fame. Owners Frank & Lynda White are delighted with winning this award three times and for being the first business to achieve Hall of Fame status in this category.

"It is a tribute to our great team that we have entered the coveted Qantas Australian Tourism Awards Hall of Fame for the Caravan and Holiday Parks' category, an achievement we proudly add to being inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 2016 NSW Tourism Awards and winning the category in NSW again last year, making this our fourth consecutive win.

"To be recognised along with five such impressive caravan and holiday parks from around Australia - including four other BIG4 parks - has been so rewarding but to win and enter the Hall of Fame is just terrific," Ms White said.

Riverboats Music Festival, Festival Director David Frazer was humbled by winning the Festivals and Events category.

"When we established the Riverboats Music Festival seven years ago, never in our wildest dreams did we imagine winning at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.

"To receive national recognition for our event is incredibly humbling and is a credit not only to my production team but to the Echuca-Moama community who make Riverboats possible," Mr Frazer said.

"MRT is proud to be working with industry leading operators and will continue to support excellence in tourism through high quality, value for money and innovative tourism experiences. The Murray results at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards further cements our reputation as a premier holiday destination and will assist us to continue growing the tourism economy through increased visitation to the region," Ms Greiner added.

MRT works in partnership with Visit Victoria, Destination New South Wales, Regional Tourism Associations and 13 local government areas to grow the visitor economy across the Murray region.

For further information visit: www.visitthemurray.com.au.

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Murray region Qantas Australian Tourism Awards entrants, award and categories include:

Business	Award	Category	Location
BIG4 Deniliquin Holiday Park	Gold	Caravan & Holiday Parks	Deniliquin NSW
Riverboats Music Festival	Gold	Festivals and Events	Echuca VIC
Moama on Murray Resort	Silver	Standard Accommodation	Moama NSW
All Seasons Houseboats	Finalist	Unique Accommodation	Mildura VIC

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