Brolga tourism awards

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Yellow Water Cruises received the Brolga Award for Major Tourism Attraction this year, for its consistently inspirational product that effectively combines the spectacular natural and cultural aspects of the Northern Territory to deliver a truly unique, adventurous and spiritual travel experience for visitors.

Another first this year was the presentation of joint winners for the Outstanding Interpretative Guide category. A division could not be made between the dedication, commitment and excellence demonstrated by Paula Moloney from Gecko Canoeing and Hamish Clark from Lords Kakadu & Arnhemland Safaris.

Paula takes international and Australian visitors on guided canoe tours along the Katherine River, introducing them to the natural biodiversity of the region and its importance to the local indigenous people. While Hamish, who began working with Lords in 2003, has become renowned for his enthusiastic approach to guiding which enhances the visitors’ experience of the wonders of this ancient cultural landscape.

At the start of this year, Tourism Top End laid down the gauntlet and challenged Tourism Central Australia to try to win back the Visitor Information and Services category. After a difficult year of supporting its regions and the hundreds of thousands of tourists who travel through them, Tourism Top End again triumphed, winning this prestigious award for 2009.

“The most hotly contested category this year was the Young Achiever Award category,” Ms Tetlow said. “Liz is also a writer and freelance journalist who makes a significant contribution through community service. She is currently a council alderman on the Alice Springs Town Council and serves as the director of Transport Women Australia Ltd, the NT Rest Areas representative for the Campervan and Motor Home Club of Australia, the NT representative for the Australasian Motor Museums Association. And, for 10 years she has been public officer of Holyoake Alice Springs Inc.

“She is truly deserving of this prestigious award.”

— Copy provided by Tourism NT

And the winners are ...

Unique Accommodation: Voyages
Longitude 131 Resort
Deluxe Accommodation: Lasseters Hotel Casino
Luxury Accommodation: SkyCity Darwin
Meetings and Business Tourism: Alice Springs Convention Centre
Heritage and Cultural Tourism: Lords Kakadu & Arnhemland Safaris
Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services: SkyCity Darwin
Visitor Information and Services: Tourism Top End
New Tourism Development: Crocieraus Cove
Tourist and Caravan Parks: MacDonnell Range Holiday Park
Backpacker Accommodation: Molleau on Mitchell
Hosted Accommodation: Kings Canyon Wilderness Lodge
Tourism Marketing: Great Southern Rail
Specialised Tourism Services: AAT Kings, NT Language Tours
Tourism Education and Training: SkyCity Darwin
Ecotourism: Alice Springs Desert Park
Adventure Tourism: Cannon Charters

Indigenous Tourism: Arnhem Land Eco-Cultural Tours
Tourist Attractions: Alice Springs School of the Air Visitor Centre
Major Tourism Attractions: Yellow Water Cruises
Tour and/or Transport Operators: Airborne Solutions
Tour and/or Transport Operators: Connections Safaris
Outstanding Interpretive Guide (joint winners): Paula Moloney - Gecko Canoeing, Hamish Clark - Lords Kakadu & Arnhemland Safaris
Young Achiever: Steven Noble - Darwin Walking Tours & Darwin Holiday Shop
Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism: Crowne Plaza Alice Springs
Outstanding Contribution by an Individual: Tony Mayell
Chairman’s Choice Award: Alice Springs School of the Air Visitor Centre
Tourism NT Business Growth Award: Arnhem Land Eco-Cultural Tours
Tourism Minister’s Perpetual Trophy: Liz Martin OAM

SOLO EFFORT: Winner of the Outstanding Interpretive Guide category and Arnhemland Safaris, Tony Mayell celebrates with his wife, Debra.

SHOWING THE WAY: Paula Moloney from Gecko Canoeing with her Brolga for the Outstanding Interpretive Guide category.

GREAT VENUE: Guests arrive at the National Road Transport Hall of Fame in Alice Springs

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL: Melaleuca on Mitchell general manager Sheena Matthews accepts the Tourism Minister’s Perpetual Trophy.

TOP HONOUR: Minister for Tourism Dr Chris Burns presents the Tourism Minister’s Perpetual Trophy to Ms Liz Martin OAM.

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SPINNING A YARN: Anthony Cleary, Grant Hunt and Bernie Boller celebrate at the 2009 Brolga Awards.