



QUEENSLAND
TOURISM INDUSTRY
COUNCIL

Media Release

Yeppoon Student Awarded Salute to Excellence Winner in Tourism

28/07/2020

Each year students and teachers are saluted at the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's (QTIC's) Salute to Excellence Awards, recognising the best in the tourism, food and beverage and cookery industry through VETiS and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

This year saw a change to the delivery of the program, going completely online due to the impact of COVID-19, but the talent did not disappoint.

QTIC Chief Executive, Daniel Gschwind said despite the challenges the industry is facing it was great to be able to reward such talented students and teachers.

"It was fantastic that we could still continue with our Salute to Excellence Awards as it fosters the next generation of leaders in the tourism and hospitality industry and is a stepping-stone for students to progress in their career.

"Supporting emerging professionals and equipping them with the skills to face a challenging economic environment is now more important than ever. Not only their future depends on it but the future of our industry.

"We had 18 impressive finalists this year which shone a spotlight on the importance of vocational education and training in secondary schools across the state and we are pleased to be able to announce the winners of this year's Awards," Mr Gschwind said.

Eden Oldham from St Ursula's College Yeppoon was the winner of the Salute to Excellence Awards-Tourism Student category.

-Eden Quote.

A special thanks to our judges for this year; David Holmes (The Star Gold Coast), Rahul Raj (Mercure), Karen Thorburn (Gateway to Industry), Karen Hellsten (Mountain Wine Tours), Adrienne Putelli (Hilton Hotel Brisbane), Michelle Christoe (NightQuarter and Malt Shovel Taphouse), Abbey Blanchfield (Airtrain), Arwen McGregor (Devon Pixies), Helen Shouldbridge (Aabon Apartments and Motel) and Douglas Innes-will (Queensland art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art).

An event like this wouldn't be possible without supportive industry sponsor; Tafe Queensland, Hostplus, The Hotel School, Spirits of the Red Sand, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Riverlife, Surf Connect, Village Roadshow, The Star Culinary Group.

There will be an official dinner in 2021 to celebrate all of the winners of the Salute to Excellence



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Awards.

Full list of winners:

Cookery Category

WINNER: Samantha Boyd – Brisbane State High School (Prize: Village Roadshow – 2 x Tickets to Australian Outback Spectacular, Job Skills Queensland – Employment Mentoring, Work Experience at Star, Institute of Culinary Excellence – Chef Uniform & 1 x Knife kits)

RUNNER UP: Mackenzie Treloar – Helensvale State High School (Prize: Surf Connect – 2 x Stand-up Paddle boarding Lessons (Value \$100), Institute of Culinary Excellence – 1 x Knife kit, Work Experience at Star)

FINALIST: Jennifer Tyson - Brisbane Bayside State College

FINALIST: Julia Alon - Calamvale Community College

FINALIST: Tiarna Weston - Kirwan State High School

Food & Beverage Category

WINNER: Ella-Louise Merrigan – Calamvale Community College (Prize: Village Roadshow - 2 x Four Park Annual Pass, Work Experience at Star, Job Skills Queensland – Employment Mentoring, TAFE Diploma of Hospitality Management)

RUNNER UP: Rochelle Ballard – AXIAL Training / Longreach State High School (Prize: Voucher from Australian Age of Dinosaurs, Work Experience at Star)

FINALIST: Hannah Getawan - Calamvale Community College

FINALIST: Centuary Hardy - Maroochydore State High School

Tourism Category

WINNER: Eden Oldham – St Ursula’s College Yeppoon (Prize: Voucher from Capricorn Caves, Work Experience at Star, Job Skills Queensland – Employment Mentoring, Work Experience at Riverlife, TAFE Diploma of Travel & Tourism Management)

RUNNER UP: Charli Berger – Albany Creek State High School (Prize: Surf Connect – 2 x Stand-up Paddle boarding Lessons (Value \$100), Work Experience at Star, Work Experience at Riverlife)

FINALIST: Chloe Dower - Albany Creek State High School

FINALIST: Lili Robinson - Maroochydore State High School

Teacher/Trainer of the Year

WINNER: Julie Lewis – Albany Creek State High School (Prize: Aussie World – 1 Family Pass, Work Experience at Star, Riverlife - 1 x Abseiling)

RUNNER UP: Stephanie Wright – Helensvale State High School (Prize: Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary – 1 Family Pass, Work Experience at Star)

FINALIST: Frank Guarnaccia - Envirotech Education

FINALIST: Christian Beattie - Kirwan State High School

FINALIST: Dylan Campbell - Training Unlimited Pty Ltd