



Tourism  
Accommodation  
Australia (VIC)

A division of the AHA

# TAA (Vic) Media Release

June 2013

## Victoria's Best Hotels Honoured

Victoria's top hotels have been recognised at the 2013 Tourism Accommodation Australia (Vic) State Awards for Excellence, with the winners announced at a gala dinner at the Grand Hyatt on Thursday 13 June, 2013.

Ann Peacock, General Manager - Public Relations, Crown Limited, was the MC at the dinner which was attended by more than 400 hoteliers and hospitality industry leaders including Tourism Victoria, City of Melbourne, Grand Prix Corporation, Melbourne Airport, Melbourne Convention Bureau, Destination Melbourne, Destination Docklands, Melbourne Food & Wine Festival and TAA (National).

The Honourable Louise Asher, Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Employment & Trade, presented the "Outstanding Contribution to the Industry" and also inducted the Crown Towers and Royal Mail Hotel Dunkeld into the prestigious TAA (Vic) Hall of Fame.

The "Outstanding Contribution to the Industry" recognises a significant contribution by a hotelier or industry colleague who, through their efforts over a sustained period of time, has made a significant impact on the industry and has contributed directly or indirectly to the success of hotels in Victoria.

Past winners include:

- Doctor Sam Birman for servicing the medical needs of hotel guests;
- David Marriner for his contribution to the theatre, hotels and tourism;
- Leigh Harry for his great contribution to developing conventions, meetings and exhibition success;
- Dr Les Erdi as an owner, investor, developer and operator for 45 years, and
- John Dickson as a hotelier who made a great contribution to the betterment of hotels in Victoria, particularly through AHA/TAA in Melbourne

In 2013, TAA (Vic) recognised Chris Barlow whose industry experience has pioneered for the betterment of tourism and hotels and in particular the aviation sector. Chris was a key catalyst for driving tourism success in Victoria over the past two decades by playing a proactive role as the Melbourne Airport CEO, in cooperation with the State Government and Tourism Victoria in attracting new airlines and increasing capacity and additional direct services to Melbourne.



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Since retiring from his role at Melbourne Airport, Chris has continued to make a significant contribution to tourism through his numerous board roles in aviation, airports and in particular as the Chairman of the Melbourne Convention Bureau.

## **Winners Honoured**

### **Accommodation Category - Winners:**

Deluxe Accommodation Hotel of the Year – InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto  
Apartment/Suite Accommodation of the Year - Stamford Plaza Melbourne  
Superior Accommodation Hotel of the Year - The Blackman - Art Series Hotels  
Mid-Range Accommodation Hotel of the Year - Hotel Grand Chancellor Melbourne  
Boutique Style Accommodation of the Year - The Cullen - Art Series Hotels  
Resort Style Accommodation of the Year - Peppers Mineral Springs Retreat  
Regional Accommodation of the Year - Balgownie Estate Vineyard Retreat and Spa

### **Specialty Category - Winners:**

Regional Hotel Restaurant of the Year - The Argus Dining Room, Peppers Mineral Springs Retreat  
Hotel Restaurant of the Year (all day dining) – Windows Restaurant, The Pullman & Mercure Melbourne Albert Park  
Deluxe Restaurant of the Year - radii Restaurant & Bar, Park Hyatt Melbourne  
Hotel Bar of the Year - RU-CO, Grand Hyatt Melbourne

### **Individual Excellence - Winners:**

Administration Employee of The Year - Ainsley Budge, Ascott International Management  
Food & Beverage Services Employee of The Year - Chris Pavlidis, Pullman & Mercure Melbourne Albert Park  
Front Office Services Employee of The Year – Nick McLennan - The Windsor Melbourne  
Hotel Industry Rising Star - Sophie Lloyd, Jasper Hotel  
Outstanding Contribution to the Industry – Chris Barlow  
Hall of Fame (Regional) - Royal Mail Hotel Dunkeld  
Hall of Fame (Metropolitan) - Crown Towers, Melbourne



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## Property Performance - Winners:

Best Environmental & Energy Efficiency Practice - Crowne Plaza Hotel Melbourne  
Best Redeveloped Accommodation Hotel - Royal Mail Hotel Dunkeld  
Outstanding Achievement in Training - Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens

Darryl Washington, General Manager of TAA (Vic) praised finalists, award winners and individuals who were honoured and said, "Melbourne and Victoria's hotels provide a world class and very diverse selection of properties that cater well for our many visitors. The industry constantly strives to raise the bar and again this year, the properties nominated and in particular those that have been honoured at the 2013 TAA (Vic) State Awards for Excellence Awards, emphasise this point. Congratulations to all finalists and in particular all winning hotels."

*For further comment contact Darryl Washington 0419 313 640*