

## TOURISM TRAINING AUSTRALIA

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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### **2024 PRESIDENT'S DINNER & TRAINING AWARDS: CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN TOURISM, HOSPITALITY, AND EDUCATION**

Sydney, Australia – The Tourism Training Australia President's Dinner & Training Awards, held at the prestigious Crown Sydney on November 26, was an evening dedicated to celebrating the exceptional individuals and organisations shaping the future of the tourism and hospitality sectors. This annual event recognises the achievements of educators, innovators, and industry leaders, showcasing their dedication to excellence and innovation. The Tourism Training Australia President's Dinner & Training Awards, now in its 15th Year, is a cornerstone event celebrating excellence in tourism and hospitality.

#### **Teacher Trainer Awards**

The Teacher Trainer Awards celebrated outstanding educators who have inspired future professionals and advanced training standards in the industry.

This year's winners included:

- **Best Commercial Cookery Trainer:** Ianthe Smith – TAFE NSW, Ryde
- **Best Patisserie Trainer:** Louis Bioteau – Le Culinaire Hospitality Institute
- **Best Hospitality Management Trainer:** Miodrag Damjanac – TAFE NSW, Ultimo
- **Best Food and Beverage Trainer:** Lars Fock – Black Market Coffee
- **Best Event Management Trainer:** Janene Wardrop – College of Management Sydney
- **Travel and Tourism Trainer Award:** Erin Buscombe – Flight Centre Travel Group (with iTFE)
- **Foodservice Outlet Award:** Victoria University TAFE Charity Dinner Series – Shawn Vlaeminck
- **Teacher of Choice Award:** Fiona Cox

John Hart OAM, President of Tourism Training Australia, said:

*"The Teacher Trainer Awards celebrate the educators who inspire and equip our workforce. Their dedication ensures the continued growth and innovation of our industry."*

#### **Innovation Training Initiative Award**

The Innovation Training Initiative Award recognises organisations that drive creative and impactful programs in the industry.

2024 Winners

- Sisterworks – Wendy Wy Wong Hospitality Program
- Motels SOS.com X BWH Hotels Partnership
- Sydney Business and Travel Academy (SBTA) – State of the Art Kitchens and Courses
- TAFE NSW – Autism Advisory and Support

All nominees were awarded for their extraordinary contributions to advancing innovation in training programs.

## Recognised Awards

The evening also honoured individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the industry through the Recognised Awards:

- **Perpetual Award:** Karen Doyle
- **Mentor Award:** Bernadette Ryan
- **Board Award:** Brendan Dugan
- **Recognition for Service:** Brad Bennett
- **President's Award:** Ultimo TAFE Apprentice Restaurant

John Hart OAM remarked:

*"These Recognised Awards celebrate those who go above and beyond, making significant and lasting contributions to our sector. Their achievements inspire us all to strive for excellence."*

## Galvin Foundation Awards

The Galvin Foundation Awards, a cornerstone of the evening, honoured individuals demonstrating exceptional leadership and innovation in tourism and hospitality. The 2024 scholarship recipients are:

- Scott Wright – Hunter Valley
- Mia Barclay – Hunter Valley

The Galvin Foundation, established in memory of William (Bill) Galvin OAM, celebrates excellence and leadership while supporting initiatives that drive the industry forward.

John Hart OAM added:

*"The Galvin Foundation Awards highlight the importance of recognising and nurturing talent in our industry. Scott and Mia exemplify the passion, creativity, and commitment that define the future of tourism and hospitality."*

## About the Event

The President's Dinner & Training Awards is a flagship event for Tourism Training Australia, marking 15 years of bringing together industry leaders to honour the achievements of educators, trainers, and organisations dedicated to advancing the tourism and hospitality sectors.

This milestone event was made possible with the generous support of our industry partners. A special thanks to Paul Nicolau, whose exceptional humour and organisational skills as the event's MC added to the evening's success.

Tourism Training Australia encourages educators, organisations, and innovators to continue striving for excellence. Nominations for the 2025 awards will open mid-2025.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who attended, contributed raffle prizes, and helped make the night unforgettable.

For more information about the awards and this year's winners, visit the Tourism Training Australia website.



Pearl Ballroom Crown Sydney



Perpetual Award recipient Karen Doyle



Galvin Foundation Award recipients  
Scott Wright - Hunter Valley  
Mia Barclay - Hunter Valley



Galvin Foundation Award recipients with Elizabeth Galvin  
Scott Wright - Hunter Valley  
Mia Barclay - Hunter Valley