



22 September 2021

2020 MEA AWARD WINNERS LIST

Meetings & Events Australia is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 MEA State & Territory and National Awards at the 2020 MEA Awards Night held at Scene Change Studios tonight.

Reflecting on a particularly challenging year, these Awards recognise the innovation and exceptional work done by organisations and individuals in the events sector throughout 2020. This was the second time that the state and national awards were concurrently presented and the second year the ceremony was broadcast to a virtual audience across Australia.

Peter McDonald, MEA CEO, celebrated all finalists who were up for an award, *“I’d like to acknowledge the effort made by anyone who contributed a submission for consideration, to congratulate those who became worthy finalists, and to celebrate those deemed to ultimately be category winners. They’ve been determined to be the best of the best by their peers. They’ve established new benchmarks for the industry to emulate. Well done.”*

Chair of Judges, Ian Stuart, commented, *“The greatest impact on the business events sector in the past 18 months has of course been COVID.*

“The whole industry has faced cancellations, confusion and concern about when it will all end. But, resourceful as ever, our sector has responded creatively and with optimism. We’ve learned how to replace and to complement the traditional face to face experience by including hybrid and virtual alternatives. We’ve worked out how to keep our audiences’ attention, how to engage with them and the event’s stakeholders. There is great evidence of this in the 2020 MEA National Awards.”

Destination NSW, EventsAIR, ICC Sydney, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Touchpoint and Ungerboeck partnered with MEA to confer these awards, and we thank them very much. A special thank you to the Scene Change Sydney team who stepped up and answered our call for help when the event was forced virtual. MEA is always grateful to all our sponsors and urges the sector to support those that support it. Without the generous assistance of all these organisations, MEA’s capacity to deliver its programs – including our awards – is very diminished.

Further thanks to our PCO Janette Beedell and the TPM team and our MC, Nigel Collin, for making the event possible.



MEA congratulates all winners of the 2020 MEA National Awards, as well as all State and Territory winners. Kate Smith of WALDRONSMITH Management was awarded the 2020 Outstanding Contribution Award for her contribution and dedication to the sector. Kate has been an enormous support and mentor for the industry, including as immediate past Chair of MEA, all while dealing with the same challenges COVID presented her own business. MEA heartily congratulates Kate on her recognition.

The 2020 Celebration of Excellence publication is available from the MEA website, featuring all winners' names and their achievement stories.

The winners are:

NATIONAL WINNERS

Excellence in Industry Awards	
Destination Marketing Organisation or Bureau	Destination North Coast
Innovation Award	Harry the hirer (NSW & VIC)
Event Products & Services Awards	Sponsored by Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Audio Visual Services	Novatech Creative Event Technology
Banqueting & Catering	Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Event Marketing	Milestone Creative Australia
Event Technology	EventsAIR
Exhibition Services	Harry the hirer
Speakers, Entertainers and Team Builders	SongDivision
Specialist Services and Suppliers	Congress Rental Australia
Event Legacy Award	
Event Legacy Award	World of Drones & Robotics Congress 2020, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Event Professional Awards	Sponsored by Ungerboeck
Event Manager of the Year - Agency	Alison Jack – Admire Events
In-House Event Manager of the Year - Association, Corporate or Government	Victoria Dillon – La Trobe University
MEA Future Leader	Joshua Clark – Formerly ICC Sydney
Operations Person of the Year	Chantal Trimboli – Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Sales, Marketing or Business Development Person of the Year	Christine Kotsis – Harry the hirer



Event Management Awards	Sponsored by Scene Change
Event Agency	Alive Events Agency
Event Management Team - Association	ASHM Conference & Events
Event Management Team - Corporate	La Trobe University
Professional Conference Organisation	Arinex
Venue Awards	
Event Hotel of the Year	Hyatt Regency Sydney
Event Venue - Capacity less than 500	Fed Square
Event Venue - Capacity more than 1,500	Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Events of the Year Awards	Sponsored by Destination New South Wales
Association Event of the Year	<i>The University of Melbourne MD Student Conference 2020, ICMS Australasia</i>
Cause Related Event of the Year	<i>NSW Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA), Admire Events</i>
Corporate Event of the Year	<i>GradsFest2020, La Trobe University</i>
Government Event of the Year	<i>Creative Generation – The Show Goes on 2020 TV Broadcast, Department of Education</i>
Major Event or Festival of the Year	<i>New Year's Eve Featuring Tones & I and Sheppard at Darwin Waterfront, Agentur & Darwin Waterfront Corporation</i>
Regional Event of the Year	<i>ASBAQ 2020 State Conference, ICMS Australasia</i>
Special Event of the Year	<i>Fed Square's Dining In Turned Inside Out & Sky Castle, Fed Square</i>
Platinum Awards	Sponsored by ICC Sydney
Event Company of the Year	Harry the hirer
Event Professional of the Year	Christine Kotsis – Harry the hirer
Event Company of the Year	<i>New Year's Eve Featuring Tones & I and Sheppard at Darwin Waterfront, Agentur & Darwin Waterfront Corporation</i>
Outstanding Contribution Award	
Outstanding Contribution Recipient	Kate Smith - WALDRONSMITH Management



STATE AND TERRITORY WINNERS

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE WINNERS

Excellence in Industry	
Destination Marketing Organisation or Bureau	Destination North Coast
Innovation Award	Harry the hirer (NSW)
Event Products & Services	Sponsored by Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Audio Visual Services	ICC Sydney
Event Marketing	Milestone Creative Australia
Speakers, Entertainers and Team Builders	SongDivision
Specialist Services and Suppliers	Congress Rental Australia
Event Legacy Award	
Event Legacy Award	<i>NSW Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA), Admire Events</i>
Event Professional Awards	Sponsored by Ungerboeck
Event Manager of the Year – Agency	Alison Jack – Admire Events
MEA Future Leader of the Year	Joshua Clark – Formerly ICC Sydney
Sales, Marketing or Business Development Person of the Year	Christine Kotsis – Harry the hirer
Event Management Awards	Sponsored by Ungerboeck
Event Agency	Forum Group Events & Marketing
In-House Event Management Team – Association	ASHM Conference and Events
Professional Conference Organisation	Arinex
Venue Awards	
Event Hotel of the Year	Hyatt Regency Sydney
Event Venue – Capacity less than 500	Aerial Function Centre
Event Venue – Capacity more than 1,500	Australian Turf Club
Event of the Year Awards	Sponsored by Destination New South Wales
Association Event of the Year	<i>ICOMOS GA2020 Marker Event, Arinex</i>
Cause Related Event of the Year	<i>NSW Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA), Admire Events</i>
Corporate Event of the Year	<i>Dell Tech Virtual Event, Forum Group Events & Marketing</i>



Government Event of the Year	<i>NSW Training Awards, Forum Group Events & Marketing</i>
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NORTHERN TERRITORY STATE WINNERS

Event of the Year Awards	Sponsored by Destination New South Wales
Government Event of the Year	<i>2020 Northern Territory Training Awards, AA&P Events</i>
Major Event or Festival of the Year	<i>New Year's Eve Featuring Tones & I and Sheppard at Darwin Waterfront, Agentur & Darwin Waterfront Corporation</i>

QUEENSLAND STATE WINNERS

Event Products & Services	Sponsored by Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Audio Visual Services	NW Group
Banqueting & Catering	Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Event Technology	EventsAIR
Event Legacy Award	
Event Legacy Award	<i>World of Drones & Robotics Congress 2020, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre</i>
Venue Awards	
Event Venue – Capacity more than 1,500	Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Event of the Year Awards	Sponsored by Destination New South Wales
Association Event of the Year	<i>World of Drones & Robotics Congress 2020, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre</i>
Corporate Event of the Year	<i>UQ Open Day Online, The University of Queensland</i>
Government Event of the Year	<i>Creative Generation – The Show Goes On 2020 TV broadcast, Department of Education</i>
Major Event or Festival of the Year	<i>UQ Open Day Online, The University of Queensland</i>
Regional Event of the Year	<i>Association of School Business Administrators Queensland or ASBAQ 2020, ICMS Australasia</i>



SOUTH AUSTRALIA STATE WINNERS

Event Products & Services	Sponsored by Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Audio Visual Services	Novatech Creative Event Technology
Event Professional Awards	Sponsored by Ungerboeck
MEA Future Leader of the Year	Tina Troptsidis – National Wine Centre of Australia
Venue Awards	
Event Venue – Capacity less than 500	National Wine Centre of Australia

TASMANIA STATE WINNERS

Venue Awards	
Event Hotel of the Year	Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

VICTORIA STATE WINNERS

Excellence in Industry	
Innovation Award	Harry the hirer (VIC)
Event Products & Services	Sponsored by Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Exhibition Services	Harry the hirer
Speakers, Entertainers and Team Builders	Saxton
Event Professional Awards	Sponsored by Ungerboeck
In-House Event Manager of the Year – Association, Corporate or Government	Victoria Dillon – La Trobe University
MEA Future Leader of the Year	Amrita Dip – Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Operations Person of the Year	Chantal Trimboli – Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Event Management Awards	Sponsored by Ungerboeck
Event Agency	Alive Events Agency
In-House Event Management Team – Corporate	La Trobe University
Professional Conference Organisation	Wise Connections



Venue Awards	
Event Venue – Capacity less than 500	Fed Square
Event Venue – Capacity more than 1,500	Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Event of the Year Awards	
Sponsored by Destination New South Wales	
Association Event of the Year	<i>The University of Melbourne MD Student Conference, ICMS Australasia</i>
Corporate Event of the Year	<i>GradsFest2020, La Trobe University</i>
Government Event of the Year	<i>Get Around Warrnambool Presents LoungeFest, Warrnambool City Council</i>
Regional Event of the Year	<i>Solstice Searching, Warrnambool City Council</i>
Special Event of the Year	<i>Fed Square's Dining In Turned Inside Out & Sky Castle, Fed Square</i>

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For further comments, please contact:

Claire Watson
Meetings & Events Australia
cwatson@mea.org.au