

[Media Release]

TOURISM AUSTRALIA SPONSORS PRESTIGIOUS MEA OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Meetings & Events Australia (MEA) is thrilled to announce Tourism Australia will sponsor the Outstanding Contribution Award category of the 2023 MEA Awards.

With a rich history of recognising excellence in the events industry, the MEA Awards have celebrated the achievements of the Australian events sector since 1983. Each year, MEA honours the remarkable achievements of an outstanding contributor to the Australian events industry.

The Outstanding Contribution Award category was introduced in 2002. This Award recognises the value of an individual who has contributed significantly to the advancement of the Australian events industry. It pays tribute to an exceptional individual who is highly respected and who leads discussion, supports change, and nurtures the industry leaders of tomorrow.

Just eighteen people are listed on this Award's honour roll; eighteen people who have inspired the sector through their contributions to create the dynamic and professional industry that we witness today. These include the 2023 Chair of Judges, Simon Baggs, Ruth Lilian OAM, Peter Jones, and Roslyn McLeod OAM. The most recent recipients have been stalwarts Anne Jamieson, Kate Smith, and Trevor Gardiner. Suffice it to say that this year's recipient will be deserving of such esteemed company.

MEA CEO Peter McDonald said, *"I'm both delighted and appreciative that Tourism Australia has seen fit to continue their sponsorship of MEA's most prestigious award. That the federal government's agency for the business events sector chooses to partner with MEA and attach its brand to our Outstanding Contribution award is humbling for us, but also conveys to the recipient the national significance and value of the recognition and honour bestowed upon them."*

Robin Mack, Tourism Australia's Executive General Manager of Commercial and Business Events Australia, said, *"Tourism Australia is proud to be once again supporting the MEA Outstanding Contribution Award this year to recognise an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of the events industry in Australia."*

Submissions for the awards will close **Monday 12 February 2024 at 11.59 pm [AEDT]**. Late submissions unfortunately will not be accepted due to judging timelines. Further information about the program milestones can be found on MEA's website [here](#). Awards criteria can be viewed, and submissions made via: <https://bit.ly/23MEAawards>

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About MEA Meetings & Events Australia is the collective voice of the events industry in Australia. With the largest network of event professionals in Australia, MEA has been supporting the careers of our members and advancing the interests of the event industry since 1975. MEA's membership represents the largest community of businesses and individuals across the Australian events industry that employs more than 229,000 professionals who stage, produce, manage, support, and supply the 480,000+ events held in Australia annually. These events include major events, festivals, conferences, meetings, exhibitions, launches, seminars, special events, community events and much more for associations, corporations, government, and the general public.

About the Awards MEA's Awards Program has been recognising and celebrating the achievements of the Australian events industry since 1983. The Awards acknowledge those who demonstrate excellence in the organisation, planning and delivery of business events, major events and festivals, special events, cause-related events, conferences, and exhibitions. They reward individuals who excel in the planning, operation, marketing, and delivery of events; and suppliers, destinations and agencies who attract events, push the boundaries, create, and innovate. They identify excellence in venues and national events that demonstrate leadership and exceptional delegate or visitor experience; they reinforce the value of the events industry and promote greater recognition for the sector within the wider business community.

Media Contact

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