



MEDIA RELEASE
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Cruise Industry Celebrates Successful Year with Glittering Gala Night

More than 500 industry members from across Australia and New Zealand joined Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia in celebrating a massive year of cruising at the 15th Annual Cruise Industry Awards at The Star Event Centre in Sydney on Saturday.

The sell-out gala featured a show-stopping performance by one of Australia's leading performers, Tina Arena, on a night which saw a total of 19 winners announced across nine categories.

Leading the pack was Western Australia's Bicton Travel which won the Gold Agency of the Year award for the fifth time.

In accepting the agency's fifth top gong in six years, Bicton founder Carole Smethurst thanked the agency's cruise line partners for their "fantastic support" as well as her team of 24 staff.

"It's an absolute honour to win this, but to win it five times is absolutely incredible," Ms Smethurst said.

King William Travel took out the Silver Award while Travelrite International won Bronze.

Meanwhile Scenic Founder Glen Moroney was welcomed into the CLIA Hall of Fame for his pioneering work in the rapidly growing river cruise sector. Accepting the award on Mr Moroney's behalf, Scenic General Manager of Product Aleisha Fittler said Mr Moroney was known for his innovation.

"He is constantly driven to create the next big thing," Ms Fittler said.

CLIA Australasia Chairman Gavin Smith said the 2015 awards dinner had been the best yet, with finalists and winners being recognised from right around Australia and New Zealand.

"Every year cruising in the Australasian region continues to evolve and it's due to the tireless efforts of many in the industry. These awards are all about celebrating and applauding the hard work, passion and dedication of some of the most important players in the cruise industry – the travel agents who sell our cruises," Mr Smith said.

The annual cruising night of nights was hosted again by Channel 7 sportscaster and host of AFL Game Day Hamish McLachlan.

About Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) – One Industry, One Voice

Celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2015, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is the unified voice and leading authority of the global cruise community. As the largest cruise industry trade association with 15 offices globally, CLIA has representation in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australasia. CLIA's mission is to support policies and practices that foster a safe, secure, healthy and sustainable cruise ship environment for the more than 23 million passengers who cruise annually, as well as promote the cruise travel experience. Members are committed to the sustained success of the cruise industry and are comprised of the world's most prestigious ocean, river and specialty cruise lines; a highly trained and certified travel agent community; and other cruise industry partners, including ports, destinations, ship developers, suppliers, business services and travel operators.

2015 CRUISE INDUSTRY AWARD WINNERS

Cruise Agency of the Year - Australia

Gold: Bicton Travel, Perth WA

Silver: King William Travel SA

Bronze: Travelrite International VIC

Home Based/Mobile Agent of the Year - Australia

Tracey Flower, MTA – Mobile Travel Agent

Cruise Consultant of the Year - Australia

Kara Lane

Rising Star Award -

Australia Emma Dunn

Agency Promotion of the Year - Australia

My Travel Expert Nowra, "Girls Day Out – 2015"

CLIA Hall of Fame

Scenic Founder, Glen Moroney

Media Award

Sue Wallace, "Vikings Were Here" – The Australian

Cruise Agency of the Year - New Zealand

Gold: House of Travel Orewa

Silver: United Travel Bethlehem

Bronze: Bon Voyage Cruises

Online Agency of the Year – New Zealand

Cruise Republic

Broker of the Year – New Zealand

Denise Fowler, The Travel Brokers

Cruise Consultant of the Year - New Zealand

Kylie Gutierrez, Cruiseabout Pukekohe

Rising Star Award - New Zealand

Rosie Scates, Cruiseabout Takapuna

Agency Promotion of the Year - New Zealand

House of Travel "Grabacruise", "Art Deco Weekend"

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