



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 14, 2023**

## **Tourism Training Australia Announces Nominees for the 2023 Awards of Excellence**

Sydney – Tourism Training Australia is delighted to announce the nominees for the prestigious 2023 Awards of Excellence in Vocational Education and Training (VET). These awards honour the exceptional achievements and dedication of individuals across various categories in the tourism and hospitality training sector.

### **Exciting New Category Announcement**

This year, we are thrilled to introduce a new category, **'Teacher of Choice'**, which is uniquely nominated by both peers and students. This addition celebrates educators who have made a significant impact on their colleagues and learners, emphasising the importance of community and collaboration in our industry.

The nominees for the 2023 Awards, across all categories, showcase a diverse array of talents and commitments within the Australian tourism and hospitality training industry. Each nominee has demonstrated exceptional skill, innovation, and dedication, contributing significantly to the advancement of vocational education and training.

### **A Word from Our Chairman**

John Hart OAM, Chairman of Tourism Training Australia, expressed his enthusiasm for this year's nominations: "We are incredibly proud of the high calibre of nominees for the 2023 Awards of Excellence. This year's nominations reflect the resilience and innovation that are hallmarks of our industry. The introduction of the 'Teacher of Choice' category adds a special dimension to our awards, recognising those who have earned the admiration and respect of their peers and students alike. Congratulations to all nominees – you represent the best of what Australian vocational education and training has to offer."

The winners will be celebrated at the prestigious President's Dinner, an event that brings together the best in the industry to honour excellence in training. Early Bird tickets for this gala event are now available and can be purchased via the Tourism Training Australia website [www.tourismtraining.com.au](http://www.tourismtraining.com.au).

Tourism Training Australia extends heartfelt congratulations to all the nominees and eagerly anticipates recognising their outstanding contributions at the upcoming awards ceremony.



For more information about the awards and the upcoming event, please visit [www.tourismtraining.com.au](http://www.tourismtraining.com.au) or contact Venessa Barnes [vbarnes@tourismtraining.com.au](mailto:vbarnes@tourismtraining.com.au)

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Tourism Training Australia



Award Nominees

**AWARD GROUP 1 CATEGORY 1-6**

**Best Commercial Cookery Trainer**

Greg Watkins Quality College Australia (SA)  
Bernadette Ryan TAFE NSW, Grafton  
Damien Beard TAFE NSW, West Region  
Kasper Christensen TAFE NSW, Northern Beaches  
Richard Bisset - The Sydney Business and Travel Academy (SBTA)  
Sonya Moulang – TAFE NSW, Campbelltown Campus  
Grant Farrant – TAFE NSW, Wetherill Park / Wentworth Falls  
Timothy Gatt – TAFE NSW, Campbelltown Campus

**Best Patisserie Trainer**

Andrew Pike – TAFE NSW, Nepean  
Che Tam Nguyen - North Metro TAFE (WA)  
Stephen Peel – TAFE NSW, Campbelltown

**Best Hospitality Management Trainer**

Alison Trapnell – TAFE NSW, Ultimo  
Susan McGregor – Quality College Australia  
Hassan Abdel Sater - The Sydney Business and Travel Academy (SBTA)  
Mauro Perricone - The Sydney Business and Travel Academy (SBTA)  
Parvinder Singh – Global Hospitality

**Best Food & Beverage Trainer**

Miodrag, Damjanac – TAFE NSW – Ultimo  
Brendan Dugan - North Metropolitan TAFE Joondalup (WA)  
Glenn Foster – TAFE NSW, Hamilton  
Monica Pasvolsky – Global Institute  
Nicola Fonti – TAFE NSW, Western Sydney  
Rachel Farrant – TAFE NSW, Wetherill Park



### **Best Event Management Trainer**

Brendan Dugan - North Metropolitan TAFE Joondalup (WA)  
Katherine Brinks – TAFE NSW Glenmore Park  
Monica Pasvolsky – Global Institute  
Nicci Gow – TAFE NSW, Blacktown

### **Best Travel & Tourism Trainer**

Melanie Sherry – TAFE NSW, Hamilton  
Fiona Cox – TAFE NSW, Ultimo  
Bettina Graham – TAFE NSW, Ultimo  
Melissa Howarth - The Sydney Business and Travel Academy (SBTA)  
Melanie Berenger - Flight Centre Travel Group (VIC)

## **AWARD GROUP 2**

### **Best Trainer/Teacher in Foodservice Venue**

Global Institute - Jamies Kitchen  
Le Culinaire Hospitality – Events and Functions  
TAFE NSW - Hamilton - The Clydesdale Restaurant

## **AWARD GROUP 3**

### **Exciting new category for students to endorse their teacher (s) Trainer (s) and Mentor (s)**

Amanda Rottenby – TAFE NSW, Hamilton  
Susan McGregor – Quality College Australia  
Andrew Morabito – TAFE NSW, Granville  
Luke Stack, Le Culinaire Hospitality  
Fiona Cox – TAFE NSW  
Sue Andrikidis – TAFE NSW  
Bettina Graham – TAFE NSW, Ultimo  
Timothy Arnold - The Sydney Business and Travel Academy (SBTA)  
Melanie Berenger – Flight Centre Travel Group  
Bishal Dawadi – Southern Academy



Mauro Perricone - The Sydney Business and Travel Academy (SBTA)

Sandhy Massie – Global Institute

Ianthe Smithe – TAFE NSW, Ryde

Nicci Gow – TAFE NSW, Blacktown

Belinda Clements – William Angliss, Armadale

Brett Stewart – Trinity Grammar

#### **AWARD GROUP 4**

##### **Best Innovation Training Initiative**

Industry Placement Solutions - Maz Islam

TAFE NSW Loftus Campus - Fiona McLean | Sheridan Marz