

MEDIA STATEMENT
November 22nd 2009

Tourism Awards Make a Splash

Tourism industry representatives and guests from around the state gathered last night at the Burswood Entertainment Complex Grand Ballroom for the prestigious Western Australian Tourism Awards – the State's highest honours in tourism excellence.

The Gala Dinner, attended by over 820 guests, saw the coming together of the top tourism businesses throughout Western Australia.

The evening, hosted by Channel 10's Narelda Jacobs and 94.5fm's Dean Clairs, featured a spectacular "Under the Sea" theme complemented by dazzling entertainment.

The tradition of the Brand family's long standing involvement in the tourism industry in Western Australia continued last night with Lady Brand being accompanied by Dr. Jennie Bickmore-Brand to present the prestigious Sir David Brand Awards.

The Sir David Brand Award for Tourism, recognising the outstanding achievement by an organisation in promoting or servicing the Western Australian tourism industry, was won by the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association for the second year in a row. Chris Pye, a stalwart of the tourism industry in Western Australia, won the Sir David Brand Medal for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual and Jasmine Meagher won the Sir David Brand Young Achiever Medal.

"This year's Awards drew over 50 new entrants from a wide range of tourism businesses, from all parts of Western Australia which is an indication of the strength of the tourism industry in these difficult economic times" said Graham Moss, CEO of Tourism Council WA and Chair of Judges for the Awards. "The quality of the submissions was outstanding and a testimony to the calibre of tourism facilities, services and operations in Western Australia."

The winner of each category will go on to participate in the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards to be announced in February 2010. Mr. Moss said that "with the quality of the winning submissions, I am confident that Western Australian entries will once again fare well in the National Awards".

END

A full list of winners and finalists for the 2009 Western Australian Tourism Awards is attached.

For further information please contact Tourism Council WA CEO Graham Moss on (08) 9416 0700 or 0419 851 140