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MEDIA RELEASE

TALENT REWARDED AT ACCOMMODATION INDUSTRY 'NIGHT OF NIGHTS'

The talent of the many hardworking men and women in the state's hospitality industry was recognised last night at the Tourism Accommodation Australia (NSW) 2014 Awards for Excellence.

More than 600 people gathered at The Westin, Sydney for the glittering gala, which showcased the best of the tourism and accommodation industry.

It featured a series of awards honouring the achievements of venue personnel.

It was a memorable night for **Atura Blacktown** with Michelle Paul winning the coveted *employee excellence in service* award, while colleague Jessica Harford was a joint winner of the *hotel industry rising star* award – along with Matthew Guy of **Rydges Parramatta**.

TAA (NSW) chairperson Nigel Greenaway said all three were exceptional winners.

"The judges said Michelle was an outstanding young lady with loads of personality and enthusiasm for the industry," he said.

"Jessica, according to management, also has a flair for delivering memorable guest experiences while Matthew is described as an outstanding young man with the personality skills and attributes to ensure he has an outstanding career.

"These three epitomise the spirit of the tourism accommodation industry – they are devoted to ensuring guests at their venues truly do have a memorable stay.

"I congratulate all the winners in this important 'people' section of last night's awards."

Other 2014 TAA (NSW) Award winners in the "people" category include:

- Concierge of the year: David Patt (**Intercontinental Sydney**)
- Chef of the year: Jason Alcock (**The Star**)
- House keeper of the year: Lalini De Silva (**The Star**)
- Front of house employee of the year: Christian Schomann (**Sheraton on the Park**)
- Public relations, sales, marketing employee of the year: Morag Ritchie (**Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa**)
- Human resources employee of the year: Courtney Visser (**Novotel Sydney Central**) and Ainslie Quilty (**Crowne Plaza Terrigal**) (joint winners)



- Engineer employee of the year: Cyrus Tolentino (**Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel**)
- Finance officer of the year: Jeffrey Wong (**Radisson Blu Hotel Sydney**)
- Revenue/yield employee of the year: Jeremy Samuels (**Sofitel Sydney Wentworth**)
- Food/Beverage employee of the year: Tal Thorne (**Shangri-La Hotel Sydney**)
- Meeting/events employee of the year: Sutari Vongkeneta (**Novotel Sydney Central**)

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