



Contact: Jessica Eckford Aguilera
Phone: 02 9427 7100
Email: info@weoa.com.au

For Immediate Release

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE WINNERS OF THE 2013 WEDDINGS AND EVENTS OF AUSTRALIA 'AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE'

The inaugural Weddings and Events of Australia 'Awards for Excellence' took place on Sunday night at the stylish Sofitel Wentworth Sydney. The event brought together the wedding industries elite from both Sydney and Newcastle/Hunter Region along with celebrities and high profile guests which included Kerri-Anne Kennerley, Steven Khalil, Joh Bailey and Lauren Eagle.

Guests looked stunning in their glamorous Oscar inspired outfits, and really demonstrated how important the night was to them in being able to celebrate the wedding industry. Celebrity presenters Laura Csortan and Adam Williams presented the night before a special WEOA News Bulletin was read by Channel Ten news reader, Ron Wilson. The crowd were entertained and danced the night away to the spectacular live band provided by Evan Powis Entertainment.

Weddings and Events of Australia also took the opportunity to announce what is in the pipeline for this savvy industry organisation, which included their expansion into Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Perth, Tasmania, Northern Territory and Adelaide, going gay friendly, as well as announcing the new judging panel for the 2014 Weddings and Events of Australia 'Awards for Excellence'.

2013 WEOA 'Awards for Excellence' SYDNEY WINNERS

Florist of the Year – Susan Avery
Accessory Designer of the Year – Philadelphia Philpot & Viktoria Novak
Best New Talent of the Year – La Belle Mariee
Stationery Designer of the Year – Weddings by Diane Khoury
Best New Concept of the Year – Matrimoney

Wedding Planner of the Year – Nightingales
Bridesmaid Couture Designer of the Year – White Runway
Couture Designer of the Year – RosayInn Win
Celebrant of the Year – Engage Celebrants
Cake Designer of the Year – Sweet Art
Caterer of the Year - ARIA Catering & Gastronomy
Furniture Decor Hire of the Year – Hollywood for Hire
Hair Stylist of the Year – Lizzie Liros Hair
Makeup Artist of the Year – Melissa Sassine
Hair and Makeup Artist of the Year – Sydney Mobile Makeup and Hair
Wedding Stylist of the Year – Nightingales
Photographer of the Year – Society Photography
Videographer of the Year – Untitled Film Works
Wedding Publication of the Year – Luxury Weddings
DJ of the Year – Evan Powis Entertainment
Live Entertainment of the Year – Party Bands
MC of the Year – Robert Galati
Luxury Transportation of the Year – Roll up in Rolls
Travel Agent of the Year – Pure Travel
Marquee and Tent Hire of the Year – Katalene Tents
Boutique Venue of the Year – Jonah’s Restaurant and Boutique Hotel
Waterview Venue of the Year – Aqua Dining
Wedding Charter of the Year – Starship Sydney
Hotel Reception Venue of the Year – Pullman Quay Grand
Restaurant Venue of the Year – Catalina Rose Bay
Reception Venue +100 of the Year– L’Aqua
People’s Choice Award Sydney (online voting via WEOA website) – Navarra Venues Curzon Hall
Diamond Award Sydney (Best overall submission) – Society Photography

2013 WEOA ‘Awards for Excellence’ NEWCASTLE HUNTER REGION WINNERS

Florist of the Year – Valley Fresh Flowers
Cake Designer of the Year – The Sweetest Things
Shoe Designer of the Year – Harvey Patrick Bridal Shoes
Stationery Designer of the Year – Sajaro Invitations
Specialty Service of the Year – Exquisite Jewels for Hire
Photographer of the Year – MMG Photo + Cinema
Luxury Transportation of the Year – Cars of the Stars
Boutique Venue of the Year – Wandin Hunter Valley
Waterview Venue of the Year – Mercure - Lake Macquarie, Raffery’s Resort
Hotel Reception Venue of the Year – The Sebel - Kirkton Park, Hunter Valley
Reception Venue +100 of the Year - Quay West Resort, Magenta Shores
People’s Choice Award Newcastle (online voting via WEOA website) – Sajaro Invitations
Diamond Award Newcastle (Best overall submission) – Quay West Resort, Magenta Shores

THE 2014 JUDGING PANEL

We would like to introduce our judging panel for the 2014 WEOA Awards for Excellence Australia wide.



Steven Khalil

Steven Khalil is recognised as one of Australia's leading couture designers that is appreciated for his sculptured detailing. Khalil has dedicated his entire career to the art of wedding gown design and has clients flying in from all over Australia and abroad seeking the custom fit and quality that comes with his creations.



Philip Carr

As one of Australia's leading event architects and stylists, Philip Carr's name has become synonymous not only with exceptional style but with the ability to completely transform ordinary spaces into multi layered theatrical environments and turning his clients fantasies into breathtaking realities.



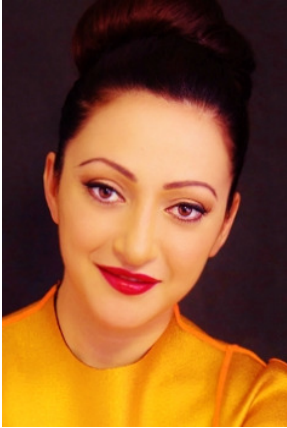
Susan Avery

Susan is recognised as Australia's leading florist, her customers include Queen Elizabeth, the Dalai Lama, Paul McCartney, Cher, Mick Jagger and much of Australia's and Sydney's society, television and media personalities.



Simon Hancock

Simon started hosting and coordinating premiere events for high profile clients and venues around the city. Over the past 6 years he has executed stellar events and pioneered marketing initiatives for brands including *Beach Haus*, *Marquee Sydney*, *Pacha Sydney*, *The X Factor*, *Sony* and *Mercedes Benz Fashion Week*. His meticulously nurtured professional and celebrity network ensures that his events and projects are always the talk of the town.



Wendy Daoud El-Khoury

Founder of Wedded Wonderland Wendy has a background in Adult Education, Project Management, Fashion Styling, Business Consulting and Wedding Planning bringing a very personal and different view to Wedding Businesses and Brides alike.



Joh Bailey

As one of Australia's most respected and dedicated hair talents, Joh Bailey's name has become synonymous with not only beautiful hair but with glamour and style.



Jessica Eckford-Aguilera

Jessica is the founder of Weddings and Events of Australia. She is an entrepreneur and has spent the last decade establishing her own successful planning and styling company, Angelic Events and Design. Jessica's passion for the industry has inspired her to create an industry body for wedding professionals where she continues to inspire and help small business to reach their full potential.

WEDDINGS AND EVENTS OF AUSTRALIA HAS GONE GAY FRIENDLY



What does this mean?

With same-sex marriage laws being legalised in New Zealand and US states, it is only fitting Australia should follow soon.

WEOA is giving their members the opportunity to capture a new audience, by jumping on board and receiving a gay friendly WEOA icon which will be displayed on their WEOA vendor page. This will make their business easily recognisable to the gay and lesbian community.

We would like to introduce one of our coveted judges for 2014, Simon Hancock as our male blogger for our Gay Wedding segment on facebook, WEOA TV and our website. WEOA will also be partnering with some of Australia's high-end gay publications to ensure our brand is marketed into another lucrative avenue.

For further information regarding Weddings and Events of Australia, please contact the WEOA team on;
P: 02 9427 7100
E: info@weoa.com.au
W: www.weoa.com.au