



Bellthorpe Cottage finalist in TakeABreak.com.au Best Places to Stay awards

Local accommodation supplier, Bellthorpe Cottage has been nominated as a finalist in the third annual TakeABreak.com.au Awards. The cottage is self contained and set up for couples on a 120 acre property not far from Woodford, nestled beside a National Park. Bellthorpe Cottage offers rainforest, wildlife, waterfalls, walking tracks and a rural farm stay experience in a quiet, traffic-free locality on the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

The awards run by Australia's only independent boutique accommodation travel site, TakeABreak.com.au, recognise outstanding service in specialist segment categories. Eighteen categories were judged in total with Bellthorpe Cottage being named a finalist in the Eco Holiday Accommodation category.

This year the judging was divided into two groups – “Best Places to Stay” and “Destination” categories. “Best Places to Stay” included: Self-contained/Self-catering, Budget, Hosted, Health/lifestyle, Hotels and Motels, Parks, Farm Stays and On the Move. “Destination” categories included: Pet-friendly, Family-friendly, Gay and lesbian-friendly, Accessible, Beach, Eco, Group accommodation (10+), Luxury, Tidy Towns and Romantic.

For the first time in 2009, travellers who had stayed at the properties were invited to vote in the destination categories via the TakeABreak Facebook site giving them the opportunity to provide personal feedback on the places they had stayed throughout the year.

In the “Best Places To Stay” category, all properties listed on TakeABreak.com.au with a rating of 4 or higher out of 5 by guests were shortlisted for the accommodation awards. Operators were then asked to complete a questionnaire to select the category that their property is most appropriate for and why. A TakeABreak judging team then selected finalists which ultimately go into selection for the state and national winners. For the first time this year TakeABreak also has some celebrity judges for a number of the criteria.

Judges look at relevance to the category, information provided to guests, service provided and personal guest feedback. The state winners will be announced at the end of September and the national winners in each category will be named in November.

Penny Parsons, joint CEO of TakeABreak.com.au explained “We hold these awards to showcase accommodation providers who consistently do an outstanding job in meeting and exceeding their guests’ expectations. We felt there was a huge gap in the market for recognition in these specialist categories of boutique accommodation by the travelling public. By holding these awards and nominating the “best of the best” it gives visitors to our site the confidence that they will find a range of truly outstanding accommodation in whatever category they are searching.”