



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### NOMINATIONS SET TO OPEN FOR OUTBACK BUSINESS AWARDS

A date has been set for the 2017 Northern Outback Business Awards, with this year's event set to be bigger and better than ever!

Making a move back to the newly upgraded Mount Isa Mines Entertainment Centre at Buchanan Park to accommodate greater numbers; Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> is "the date to save" says Event Manager, Katie Schroder of Commerce North West.

Recognising and rewarding the efforts and achievements of individuals and businesses throughout the region; nominations for the Northern Outback Business Awards are set to open on Tuesday August 1st, with businesses and individuals from the local Government areas of Boulia, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Croydon, Doomadgee, Etheridge, Flinders, McKinlay, Mornington, Mount Isa and Richmond eligible to apply.

Also offering up one of the region's most prestigious social night of nights, the annual Awards are an opportunity to recognise innovative business processes, product development, sustainability and overall business success.

With 27 categories plus the Hall of Fame awards organisers Commerce North West are expecting big numbers for nominations and even bigger numbers on the night.

"Last year we were overwhelmed with nomination numbers (up 40% on 2015) and our dinner tickets were also a sell-out. With the general vibe amongst the regional business community one of optimism and improvement we are very excited to see how nominations for this year fare" said Commerce North West President Travis Crowther.





“Moving to the Entertainment Centre at Buchanan Park will allow us to accommodate for 400 guests on the Awards night; and with an exciting theme, some great entertainment and a delicious 3 course meal already on the cards we have no doubts the night will once again be a sell-out”.

The Service Excellence award categories in 2017 will include:

- Professional Services Sector
- Health & Beauty Sector
- Hospitality & Tourism Sector
- Trades & Services Sector
- Retail Sector
- Employment, Education & Training Sector
- Social & Community Sector

Also recognising the important contributions made by individuals within a business place, the public is also encouraged to nominate individuals who convey excellence in service, commitment to their customers and ethical behaviour with 3 customer service hero award categories up for grabs including:

- Customer Service Hero – Services Sector Award
- Customer Service Hero – Skilled Sector Award
- Customer Service Hero – Community Sector Award

Further details on all award categories and links to nominations are available from the events tab on the Commerce North West website through until September 15 with businesses also encouraged to self-nominate their achievements.

**ENDS**





**Image-** 2016 Northern Outback “Business of the Year” award recipients Mount Isa Isuzu Ute with Ian Ahern (centre right) of 2016 naming rights sponsor EMO Trans.



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