

25 January 2008

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO WORLD TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS**

Congratulations to Tropical North Queensland eco-tourism attraction, Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa, voted the World's Leading Eco-Lodge at the 14<sup>th</sup> World Travel Awards (WTA) in the newly introduced "World Green" category.

Hailed by Wall Street Journal as the "Travel industry's "Oscars", the Lodge was the only Australian nomination to take out a World Award. The Lodge was in the newly introduced "World Green" category.

Over 167,000 travel industry agencies, tour and transport companies and tourism organisations in over 160 countries across the globe voted in the WTA.

WTA founder and president, Graham Cooke recognised the Lodge as a pioneer of Australian ecotourism, commending it for its dedication to nature and a sustainable future.

"With the world's oldest living rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef at its doorstep, the Daintree Eco Lodge and Spa aims to protect, preserve and promote the natural environment, biodiversity and ecosystem as well as the Aboriginal cultural heritage," he said.

"This year our voters widely agreed that the Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa deserved to come top in the category World's Leading Eco-Lodge."

Having been in the business of experiential travel for over a decade, Mr Maloney said, "The Lodge promotes strong beliefs and philosophies that keep in harmony with nature, in the essence of nurture, and in respect of culture."

Congratulations also to winners in the Australasia and Australia sections including:

Australasia's Leading Airline – Qantas  
Australasia's Leading Airline Website – Qantas  
Australasia and Australia's Leading Boutique Resort – Bedarra Island Resort  
Australasia's Leading Business Class Airline – Air New Zealand