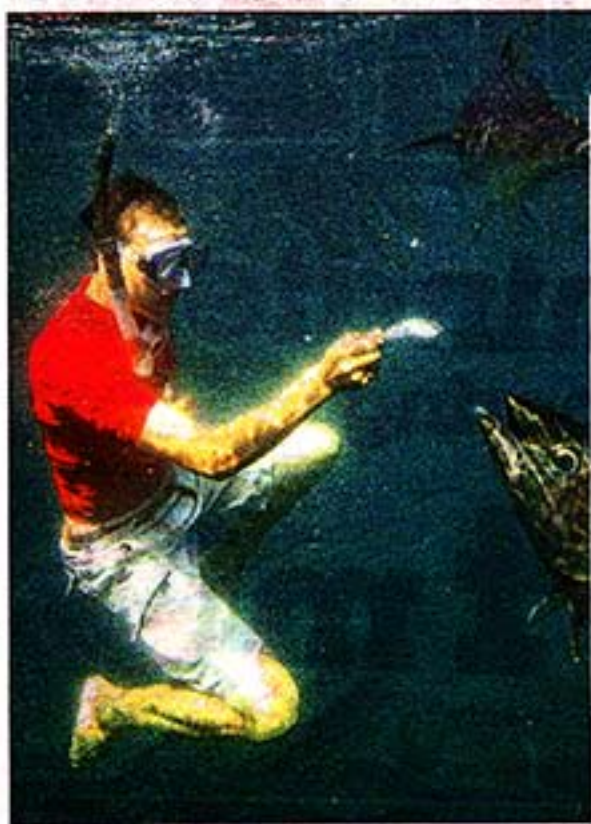


# Big night for best of tourism



**SA ACHIEVERS:** A man feeding a Southern Bluefin Tuna with Adventure Bay Charters. Picture: SAM WUNDOKE

## BRAD CROUCH

A RECORD six-pack of the State's best tourism operators enter the Hall of Fame this year after winning categories in the South Australian Tourism Awards for the third consecutive year.

The achievements were announced last night at the Adelaide Convention Centre when awards were presented in 29 categories to honour the best of the state's tourism industry.

The Hall of Famers included: Aboriginal Cultural Tours - Adajadura Land, Yorke Peninsula, for Indigenous Tourism; Port Lincoln-based marine wildlife encounters Adventure Bay Charters for Adventure Tourism; Adelaide Convention Bureau for Tourism Marketing; Jacob's Restaurant @ Jacob's Creek Visitor Centre, for Tourism Restaurant and Catering Services; BIG4 Adelaide Shores Caravan Park, for Tourist and Caravan Parks; and Adelaide Hills cellar door Sinclair's Gully, for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism.

Adventure Bay Charters won two other categories - Major Tourist Attraction, and New Tourism Development, and Sinclair's Gully also won the Ecotourism category.

Other category winners ranged from the well known, such as Adelaide Fringe for Major Festival and Events, and Hilton Adelaide for Business Tourism, through to lesser-known champions such as Hahndorf Farm Barn in the Tourist Attraction category.

Rodney Fox, who survived a shark attack and went on to become a world renowned shark expert with expeditions, cage dives, documentaries and films, was honoured with

the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual award.

West Terrace Cemetery, the Cellar Door Wine Festival, Harbourtown and Outback Spirit Tours were among the other winners in a diverse range of categories.

Among accommodation providers, Narnu Farm, Rawnsley Park Eco-villas, Shakespeare Backpackers International Hostel, Adelaide Hills Country Cottages, Emaroo Port Hughes and The Australasian Circa 1858 won various levels of categories.

The Barossa featured heavily - as well as Jacob's Restaurant, award winners included Pindarie Cellar Door for Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries, Barossa Valley Cheese Company in the new category Excellence in Food Tourism, Barossa Visitor Centre in the Visitor Information and Services category, Tour Barossa for Tour and/or Transport Operator, and Barossa Council for Excellence in Tourism by Local Government.

Tourism Minister Gail Gago said the awards showcased the best in South Australian tourism.

"Not only is the diversity astounding, but the fact that our best come from all parts of South Australia - from the Outback to the coast - is cause for celebration," she said.

South Australian Tourism Industry Council Chief Executive Ward Tilbrook says a record 166 entries were received this year.

"Why look elsewhere when South Australia's tourism experiences are some of the best in this country and the world?" he said. "Our standards are exceptionally high."

Winners will represent the state at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards in Hobart in February 2013.

FULL LIST OF WINNERS IN

Escape

Tomorrow in the Sunday Mail