



# MEDIA RELEASE



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## Batemans Bay Beach Resort paves the way to save the environment



*Danny Whitter, Batemans Bay Beach Resort, presented with a Bronze Gumnut Award by the Minister for Tourism, Matt Brown.*

Park owners and managers at **Batemans Bay Beach Resort** in Batemans Bay, NSW, are setting their sights on a creating a strong and environmentally sustainable caravan and camping business. Batemans Bay Beach Resort was presented with a **Bronze Gumnut Award** by the Minister for Tourism, Matt Brown, at the Official Opening Breakfast of the NSW Caravan, Camping, 4WD & Holiday Supershow on 31 March 2008 for progressive environmental developments within and surrounding the park.

The **Gumnut Awards** are an initiative of the Caravan and Camping Industry Association of NSW (CCIA) and are designed to recognise CCIA's member parks for commitment to environmental sustainability and socially responsible management.

"The Gumnut Awards program involves park operators demonstrating that everyone – the park, community and environment – are winners. The CCIA developed the Gumnut Awards in 2002 to make member parks realise the importance of protecting the environment to develop and grow an environmentally sustainable touring industry," said Mr Barry Baillie, CEO, CCIA.

Owners and managers of Batemans Bay Beach Resort have undergone a stringent assessment of the business to identify ways in which to improve environmental management and develop the park. The Bronze Gumnut Award involves a comprehensive assessment of all environmental facets of the park including landscaping, water and wastewater, solid waste, energy efficiency, air and noise pollution, biodiversity conservation, economics, staff, local community and safety and emergency response planning. The objective is to provide information to the business on its past and present environmental performance and to identify future opportunities for improvements.

Batemans Bay Beach Resort is committed to various environmental activities including:

- **Working with the local conservation groups** to restore and protect the surrounding waterways.
- **Collecting rain water** for use in irrigation.
- **Promoting the use of bikes** for guests to encourage them to explore the area without using their cars.
- Increasing their use and **purchasing of environmentally friendly products.**

"Congratulations to Batemans Bay Beach Resort for developing comprehensive environmental plans to positively impact on the park and surrounding community. The Bronze Gumnut Award level is the first stage of becoming more environmentally aware in order to preserve and develop tourism in New South Wales," Mr Baillie commented.

The CCIA is the only industry association in NSW to commit to a pro-active approach on environmental issues. The CCIA is working closely with the University of Western Sydney's Environmental Management and Tourism Group to ensure that all elements of the Awards program are 'best practice'. CCIA member parks now enrolled in the Gumnut Award program total 169. Five have now achieved gold status, 29 have been awarded silver, and 135 parks are bronze award recipients. For more information, visit [www.gumnutawards.com.au](http://www.gumnutawards.com.au).

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Editors Note: Images of the Gumnut Award presentation are available