



BALLINA LOCAL SCORES THE TOP GONG

Ballina local Amber Kolo has a few reasons to smile today with yesterday's win of *Young Employee of the Year* at the 2015 CCIA (Caravan & Camping Industry Association) / MHIA (Manufactured, Housing Industry Association) Awards of Excellence.

Amber has had a stellar few months as she also won the highly-coveted Michael (Mick) Crawley Memorial Award for *Young Achiever of the Year* at the North Coast Tourism Awards in August.

Ms Kolo is a communications and marketing professional at the NSW Crown Holiday Parks Trust and was presented with the honour in front of a crowd of industry professionals at Sydney Harbour yesterday afternoon.

North Coast Holiday Parks (NCHP), South Coast Holiday Parks (SCHP) and Inland Waters Holiday Parks (IWHP) are managed by the NSW Crown Holiday Parks Trust (NSWCHPT), which was formed to consolidate the operations of 26 coastal and nine inland holiday parks and reserves located on Crown Land throughout NSW in some of the State's most iconic locations.

NSWCHPT CEO, Steve Edmonds said the highly competitive award recognised Amber's initiative and outstanding personal performance in her role at the Trust and North Coast Holiday Parks (NCHP).

"Amber is part of our talented Marketing team who all do impressive work and are dedicated to the promotion of our 26 coastal and nine inland holiday parks and reserves," Mr Edmonds said.

Ms Kolo was born in Ballina and has lived, studied and worked in the Northern Rivers area for most of her life. Tourism has always been Amber's passion and her studies, professional career, interest in travel and volunteering activities reflect this.

An active member of local event committees such as the Love Lennox Festival, The Tourism Symposium and the Brunswick Head Bowls Festival, Ms Kolo is also active with the local Business Chambers and voluntarily attends business networking functions and workshops.

Ms Kolo said winning the two awards in such quick succession was an unexpected honour. "I am so fortunate to work in an industry that I am incredibly passionate about, live in this amazing location and still love what I do," Ms Kolo said. "I am also very lucky to have a great support network; my family and friends are my rock and my colleagues are very supportive of my success."

“The two awards represent a lot of dedicated team work with my colleagues at the Trust so I thank them for helping me to achieve this honour.”

NCHP North Beach also took out the top award in the *Best Holiday Park North Coast (Less than 100 sites)*, while SCHP Bermagui received a special commendation for the *Best Holiday Park South Coast (More than 100 sites)*.

Bermagui team member Sara Wilson, who beat some tough competition to win the distinguished ‘Young Achiever’ Award at the South Coast Tourism Awards in August, was also a finalist at yesterday’s CCIA Awards. IWHP Copeton Waters was also a finalist in the *Best Holiday Park Inland (more than 100 sites)*.

Mr Edmonds said the awards and recognition were fantastic achievements and acknowledged the hard work of the dedicated teams at the Trust’s parks.

“The industry recognition we are receiving also reflects our Mission to transform our parks into the most desirable destinations that meet the recreational and accommodation needs of all families in NSW,” Mr Edmonds said.

For more information about the coastal or inland holiday parks managed by the Trust visit southcoastparks.com.au, inlandwaters.com.au and northcoastholidayparks.com.au. A summary of all coastal and inland parks managed by the Trust is also listed on the [NSW CHPT web site](#).

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***Full biography and photos available upon request.**