

Curriculum Vitae – Tony Charters AM



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Founder, Management Solutions (Qld) Pty Ltd

ACN: 73 072 601 560, Trading as:

Tony Charters and Associates

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Education

Bachelor of Science (Environmental Studies), Griffith University

Majors: land use planning, economics, government

Master of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Queensland

Majors: protected area planning, planning law, strategic planning and government Thesis topic: Planning for people and nature in protected areas.

AWARDS

Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to ecotourism, environmental education and recreation programs, awarded by the Governor-General of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Awards, 2014

University of Queensland Award - C V H Harding Prize best research thesis of the faculty, 1987

Tony Charters AM Medal, Inaugural Awardee, from Ecotourism Australia for sustained and significant contributions to ecotourism in Australia, 2016

Life Membership - awarded by Ecotourism Australia 2016

Career background

Principal – Tony Charters and Associates – 2004- to present

- Destination planning and management
- Tourism business operations and management
- Tourism business feasibility assessment
- Tourism research, strategic planning and development
- Tourism policy and business planning
- Fundraising and philanthropy
- Project management
- Conference convening and event management

Executive Director – Policy, Planning and Development, Tourism Queensland - 1999-2004

- Aviation, Cruise shipping, Drive tourism
- Destination management planning
- RTO partnerships and funding
- Queensland Ecotourism Plan
- Tourism investment facilitation
- Tourism policy and research
- Whole-of-Government initiative
- Tourism quality, training and capacity building

Manager – Environmental Tourism Department, Tourism Queensland - 1997-1999

- Queensland Ecotourism Plan
- Industry research, development of Queensland Tourism Strategy and business facilitation

Managing Director, Ecotourism Management Australia - 1996-1997

- Consultancy to industry and government feasibility assessment, business operations, marketing

Director, Environmental Management, Queensland Tourism Industries Limited - 1991-1996

- Development and management of Ranger-guided Tours & Whalewatch
- Environmental planning Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village
- Media management
- Government liaison and advocacy, Native Title negotiations

Acting Executive Director, Wet Tropics Management Authority - 1990-1991

- Establish new Authority and operating systems
- Development of Inter-governmental agreement and management policies
- Develop and manage \$62m capital and operational budge.
- Development of strategic partnerships
- Prepare Ministerial Council briefings

Manager (Recreation) Dept of Environment and Heritage - 1988-1990

- Establish state-wide park system under the RAM Act
- Develop commercial tourism activities on parks
- Manage legislation and amendments; State-wide management planning, tourism, recreation, interpretation and public affairs program

Director, Brisbane Forest Park Administration Authority - 1986-1988

- Resource management, recreation, tourism, planning and research, communication
- Develop commercial tourism operations (Walkabout Creek Freshwater Study Centre, Bushranger Tours, Aviary, Aquarium).
- Prepare Treasury submissions and manage and monitor budget (\$6.1m)
- Brief Minister and Chairman of the Advisory Planning Board

Senior Interpretive Officer, Brisbane Forest Park Administration Authority - 1982- 1986

- Recreation planning and development
- Public relations and media management
- Tourism commercial operations management

- Volunteer group development and management
- Grant submission preparation

Information Officer, Department of Forestry – 1980-1982

- Recreation publications
- Media management
- Editing Departmental publications
- Commonwealth Games Brisbane – Media Manager on secondment for the Brisbane Commonwealth Games

Research Officer, Dept of Administrative Services 1979-80

- Media management and speech writing
- Research on Environment and Heritage Standing Committee business

Tourism operational experience

- Kingfisher Bay Resort Ranger Guides Tours and Whale Watch **1991-1996**
- Owner and Operator "Woody's on the Coast Restaurant Bar and Café" Gold Coast Surfing Culture Themed Restaurant **1999-2001**
- Management Solutions (Qld) Pty Ltd event management – **1997- present**

Key Recent Clients

- National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World - **2014 - ongoing**
- US Aid – Philippines Ecotourism Marketing and Investment Strategy, Mindanao Ecotourism Strategy **2016-17**
- World Bank – Sri Lanka Strategic Tourism Action Plan - **2016**
- Sekisui House, Yaroomba development **2017 - to present**
- UN - FAO - Ecotourism Masterplanning for National Parks, Saudi Arabia - **2018**
- Spicers Group (Turner Family), Scenic Rim Trail **2012- ongoing**
- Rockfield Eco Lodge – **2015 - 2018**
- Australian National Maritime Museum – **2010-2015**
- Queensland Government – **2012-2014**

- Victorian Tourism Industry Council – **2011-2013**
- Ecotourism Australia – **2009 – ongoing**
- Philippines Department of Tourism – **2012-2017**
- Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia – **2005- ongoing**
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority – **2005-ongoing**
- Indigenous Business Australia - **2010-2014**

Property management and development

- Prime CBD commercial site acquisition and development, Nerang St Southport Gold Coast **1999-2001**
- Subdivision of residential land Killarney, south-east Queensland **2006-2010**
- Kingfisher Bay Resort Villas **1996-2007**
- Developer “Woody's on the Coast Restaurant Bar and Café” Gold Coast **1999-2001**
- Gold Coast commercially zoned properties, **2006- 2015**
- Flying Fish Point near Cairns, Queensland, **2006-present**
- The Head, future Eco-lodge site and working cattle property **2008-present**

Industry development

- Foundation Board member, Ecotourism Australia – **1991-2016**
- Chair, National Eco Certification Program Committee - **1994-1996, 2002-2008**
- Conception and drafting of Cairns Charter on Partnerships for Ecotourism - **2002**
- Development of third generation of Eco Certification and National Independent Audit Program Panel - **2003**
- Development of UNESCO/Ecotourism Australia World Heritage Tourism Program and Memorandum of Co-operation - **2003**
- Member national working group on tourism accreditation - **2003-2004, 2007-2009**
- Planning team member of Destination Management Planning, TQ - **2002-2004**
- Design and development of Climate Action Certification scheme - **2008**
- Member Reference Committee, National Landscapes Program - **2006-2009**

Board memberships

Current Board Member positions

GBRMPA, Tourism Reef Advisory Committee - **2007-ongoing**

Foundation Deputy Chair, Global Ecotourism Network **2015-** ongoing

Foundation Director, Asian Ecotourism Network – **2014-**ongoing

Previous Board appointments

Founding Director, Ecotourism Australia **1991-2016**

Director and Executive Member, The Int'l Ecotourism Society Board **2012 - 2015**

Cairns Charter on Partnerships for Ecotourism

International Steering Committee – **2002- 2012**

National Landscapes Reference Committee - **2007-2010**

Eco Certification Program Management National Committee - **2002-2009**

The International Ecotourism Society (Vice-Chair) - **2006-2009** Tourism Accreditation Australia Ltd - **2005-2008**

The International Ecotourism Society - **2000-2006**

Tourism Tropical North Queensland, Cairns - **2003-2004**

Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee - **2001-2004**

Wet Tropics Management Authority - **1997-2003**

Brisbane Forest Park Planning Advisory Board - **2001-2004**

Secretary, Ecotourism Australia - **2002-2004**

Fraser Island World Heritage Area Mgmt Committee - **2000-2004**

Chair, Tourism Industry Liaison Group, Wet Tropics - **1997-2003**

Wet Tropics Management Authority - **1997-2002**

Coastal Protection Advisory Council - **1997-2002**

President, Ecotourism Australia - **1994-1997**

Treasurer, Ecotourism Australia - **1991-1994**

International Tourism Awards and Quality

Judging panel

World Legacy Awards (Conservation International , ITB, National Geographic) - **2003-2004, 2014 - 2017**

Finalists Selection Panel

Tourism for Tomorrow Awards, WTTC - **2004- ongoing**

Assessor -National Geographic *Unique Lodges of the World*– **2014 - ongoing**

Conferences convened

International Conferences

Ecotourism Association of Australia, Cairns **2002**

Global Eco Asia Pacific Conference **2009-ongoing**

National Conferences

Parks and Protected Areas Management Congress **2006**

Ecotourism Association of Australia **1995-1996, 1998-2002**

Tourism Futures **2002-2010**

Tourism and Events Excellence **2011-2013**

DestinationQ Forum **2012-2014**

Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia - **2007**

Best Practice Ecotourism - **1996**

Private Sector Involvement in Park and Protected Area Management - **1994**

Books

"Green Growth and Travelism", Geoffrey Lipman et al Goodfellow Publishers Ltd, Oxford - **2012**

Saxon, E and Charters, T (2008) "Environment and Ecotourism in Sustainable Queensland" Vol. 3 (Information Paper 90), CEDA - **2008**

"Tourism in Parks", Buckley R, International Centre - **2004** for Ecotourism Research, Griffith University

"Ecotourism Best Practice" - **2000**

Charters.A, & Law.K, Tourism Queensland

"National Parks – private sector's role" - **1996** Charters.A, Gabriel.M, Prasser.S, USQ Press

"Towards Planning for Sustainable Development" - **1995** Kozlowski.J, & Hill.G, Avebury

"Sustainable Tourism – an Australian perspective" Harris.R, Butterworth-Heinemann - **1995**

Tourforce – Global Industry Newsletter

Editor and publisher of Tourforce – a highly respected monthly newsletter circulated to 10,000 tourism industry and heritage management professionals worldwide - **2006-ongoing**

Social media network

LinkedIn

Network of **3,500** global tourism professionals, travel writers and sustainability experts. **Facebook**

Network of **1300+** friends (industry colleagues) used primarily for business content. Consists of leading international travel writers, bloggers, sustainability experts and operators.