



Tony Charters AM

Founder, Management Solutions (Qld) Pty Ltd | Trading as: Tony Charters and Associates

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Curriculum Vitae – Tony Charters AM

tony@tonycharters.com

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ACN: 73 072 601 560, Trading as:

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PO Box 4261 St Lucia South 4067, Brisbane, Australia

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Education

Bachelor of Science (Aust. 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

- Senior Advisor – Ecotourism, United Nations Development Program, Saudi Arabia 2023-2025
- Destination planning and management
- Tourism in Protected Areas
- Masterplanning ecotourism projects on protected areas
- Tourism business operations and management
- Indigenous Tourism enterprise
- Ecotourism site and business assessment
- Tourism research, strategic planning and development
- Tourism policy and business planning
- Fundraising and philanthropy
- 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 1982

Research Officer, Hon John Hodges MP, Commonwealth Parliament 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 clients

- UNDP, Saudi Arabia under a contract – 2023- 2025
- King Salman bin Abdulaziz Royal Reserve Development Authority - Saudi Arabia -2023
- Royal Commission for Riyadh City – Ecotourism inputs to Wadi Hanifa Masterplan Saudi Arabia – 2023
- UN - FAO – Senior Ecotourism Expert, Ecotourism Masterplanning for National Parks, Saudi Arabia - 2018 – 2023
- World Bank – Cardamom Ranges Ecotourism Masterplanning – Cambodia - 2022
- World Bank – Ecotourism plan – Fiji - 2022
- UN-FAO – Ecotourism Masterplan Withaylan NP Saudi Arabia – 2022-23
- UN-FAO – Ecotourism Masterplanning – Al Madinah National Parks, Asir National Park, Saudi Arabia – 2018-19
- National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World - 2014 - 2021
- 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 - 2022

- Al Ula Royal Commission, Saudi Arabia, Tourism Management Plan RFP - 2018
- Spicers Group (Turner Family), Scenic Rim Trail 2012- 2020
- Rockfield Eco Lodge, Kangaroo Valley – 2015 - 2018
- Australian National Maritime Museum – 2010-2015
- Queensland Government, Convenor, Destination Q – 2012-2014
- Victorian Tourism Industry Council, Tourism & Events Excellence Conference 2011-2013
- Ecotourism Australia – 2009 – 2023
- Philippines Department of Tourism – 2012-2017
- Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia – 2005-2021
- 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
- Beachfront accommodation, Flying Fish Point near Cairns, Queensland, 2006-2021
- The Head, Five Peaks Lodge NatureSpace 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
Emeritus Director, Asian Ecotourism Network – 2022-ongoing
Foundation Deputy Chair, Global Ecotourism Network 2015- ongoing
Director – Middle East Ecotourism Network

Previous Board appointments:

Director, Asian Ecotourism Network – 2014-2022
Founding Director, Ecotourism Australia 1991-2016
Director and Executive Member, The Int'l Ecotourism Society Board 2012 - 2015
Cairns Charter on Partnerships for Ecotourism Int'l 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
Coastal Protection Advisory Council - 1997-2002
President, Ecotourism Australia - 1994-1997
Treasurer, Ecotourism Australia - 1991-1994

International Tourism Awards and Quality

Judge

Blue Climate Initiative, Ocean Innovation Prize Finalist Judge (a flagship program of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development) - 2021

Judging panel

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

Finalists Selection Panel

Tourism for Tomorrow Awards, WTTC - 2004-2019
Assessor - National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World- 2014-2020

Conferences Convened

Tony Charters has organised and convened over 45 major State, National and International tourism conferences from 1994 to the present.

International Conferences

Ecotourism Association of Australia, Cairns 2002

Ecotourism Australia, Global Eco Asia Pacific Conference 2009-2022

National Conferences

Parks and Protected Areas Management Congress 2006

Ecotourism Association of Australia 1995-1996, 1998-2007

Tourism Futures 2002-2010

Tourism and Events Excellence 2011-2013

DestinationQ Forum 2012-2014

Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia – 2007,2008

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 4500 global tourism professionals, travel writers and sustainability experts.

Facebook

Network of 1900+ followers (industry colleagues) used primarily for business content.