



Media Release

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NATIONAL AWARD FINALIST BEECHWORTH DOUBLE

TWO Beechworth properties were named as finalists in the Hotel Motel Association Australia (HMAA) national awards which were presented in Queensland on Friday night – and both were the only Victorian finalists in their respective categories.

Freeman on Ford and Lakeside Chalet owners, Heidi Freeman and Jim Didolis said they were pleased to showcase Beechworth at the HMAA's National Accommodation Industry Awards for Excellence.

"These awards differ from others in that the judging is shared equally between the written submission and an assessment by a mystery guest," Ms Freeman said.

"We are delighted that Freeman on Ford was one of only two finalists named in the 5 Star Hosted Accommodation category nationally and that we represented not only Beechworth, but the whole state," she said.

There were 11 nominations in the category.

"This is especially pleasing when we have just finished our renovation. Freeman on Ford Bed and Breakfast has four Victorian era rooms upstairs and our new renovation features two 1930s classic rooms overlooking the new swimming pool and spa in our landscaped private garden. We also extended the formal dining room and put in a commercial kitchen so it's been a busy time and it was nice to be recognized at a national event such as this."

The Lakeside Chalet, in Kraus Lane, Beechworth was one of 9 finalists in the 3.5 Star Self Contained Accommodation category.

"Through these Awards, HMAA recognises the professionalism of accommodation operators and their contribution to the industry. Operators play a vital role in creating, inspiring and promoting tourism accommodation by providing the highest standards of service for their guests," said Lorraine Duffy, HMAA's Chief Executive.

Finalists from across Australia were selected from all sectors of the industry according to category and star rating – 84 in total.

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Picture caption: Freeman on Ford Bed and Breakfast and Lakeside Chalet owners, Jim Didolis and Heidi Freeman collect their certificates at the HMAA National Accommodation Industry Awards for Excellence on Friday.