



# REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT & COMMUNITY AWARDS

*Celebrating 15 Years*

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## **KRISTY SPARROW WINS MAJOR AWARD**

Kristy Sparrow has won the prestigious ATEC Rail Group (ARG) Innovation and Leadership Award at the 2016 Regional Achievement and Community Awards and was presented by Elizabeth McClymont-Mortensen, General Manager – Communications, ATEC Rail Group.

She won the Award from a strong field of finalists and nominees and was one of eight category winners announced on Friday night 21<sup>st</sup> October at the Royal on the Park, Brisbane. The Awards were hosted by 7 NEWS Presenter, Kendall Gilding.

270 guests gathered from across the State including The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP, Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, to celebrate regional Queensland's high achievers and community contributors.

**Kristy Sparrow of Alpha** has dedicated the past two years to BIRRR, Better Internet for Rural, Regional and Remote Australia, as a result experiencing problems with internet connection, speed and cost. Kristy was instrumental in successfully lobbying Telstra to provide unmetered internet service for education sites and conduct a nationwide survey on bush internet access. The BIRRR Facebook has 7,000 members, and the website provides troubleshooting for internet issues. Kristy contributes over 50 voluntary hours each week and has personally assisted 1,000 members with troubleshooting.

The eight 2016 category winners are:

- Prime Super Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award – Killarney Memorial Aged Care
- ATEC Rail Group (ARG) Innovation and Leadership Award – Kristy Sparrow of Alpha
- MOA Benchmarking Community Service in Aged Care Award – Rebecca Heitzman of Goondiwindi
- Gladstone Printing Services Trade and Career Achievement Award – Hive Haven of Beerburrum
- Prime Super Community Group of the Year Award – PCYC Dalby Braking the Cycle
- Access Community Services Cultural Diversity Award – Zita Stark of Chinchilla
- University of Southern Queensland Educational Innovation Award – Emerging Entrepreneurs of Cairns
- Australia Pacific LNG Regional Service Award – Drought Angels of Chinchilla

Winners each received \$2,500 from Commonwealth Bank.

Drought Angels was also announced as the People's Choice Award winner presented by MOA Benchmarking and received a \$200 Accor hotels gift card courtesy of MOA Benchmarking.

The Awards night culminated a tremendously successful year with over 200 nominations received from across regional Queensland.

End

The Queensland Regional Achievement and Community Awards began in 2002, and since then have been encouraging, acknowledging and rewarding the valuable contributions that individuals, communities and businesses are making throughout regional Queensland. These awards recognise those that work tirelessly to improve their communities by promoting the social, economic and environmental prosperity.

For further information, please contact the Awards office on 1300 055 096 or 0414 018 185, [gldraca@awardsaustralia.com](mailto:gldraca@awardsaustralia.com) or visit [www.awardsaustralia.com](http://www.awardsaustralia.com)