



2008 South Australian Tourism winners and medallists Cleland Wildlife Park business manager Danielle Garvey, left, manager Geoff Underwood, Rich and Lingering operator Jason Miller, Chocolate @ No 5 operator Sophie Zervas, Woodhouse Activity Centre manager Mark Percy, and Sinclair's Gully Wines operators Sue and Sean Delaney at the Norton Summit cellar door.

# Tourism treasures

By Genevieve Cooper

These are the faces behind some of the "hidden treasures" of the Hills.

They represent tourism enterprises that offer visitors everything from koala cuddling to indulgent chocolates and they've all collected honors from the 2008 South Australian Tourism Awards.

Sinclair's Gully Wines at Norton Summit picked up two awards - Ecotourism and the Qantas award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism - in only its first foray into the awards.

Cleland Wildlife Park won best tourism attraction for the second year in a row and personalised wine and food tour operator Rich and Lingering won the best tour and/or transport operators category.

Bronze medals went to Woodhouse Activity Centre at Piccadilly in the standard accommodation category and Chocolate @ No 5 at Hahndorf for

new tourism development. Woodhouse Activity Centre manager Mark Percy has picked up four regional tourism awards for accommodation since the business took over the commercial side of the Scout property.

Chocolate @ No 5 is Sophie Zervas' first business and she was thrilled to win a medal.

## Hills 'rediscovered'

Adelaide Hills Tourism regional manager Dean Bagley said each enterprise collected its honor based on the strength of the business and the submission to State judges but collectively the Hills was being rediscovered by Adelaide and inter-State visitors as a tourism destination.

"It's got good attractions, good food, good wine and its the combination of these things, and other experiences, as well as being so close to Adelaide," he said.

Mr Bagley collected Sinclair Gully's awards on behalf of owners Sue and

Sean Delaney and said the honors for the Landcare award winning, eco-certified cellar door created a "buzz" at the State presentation.

"People were coming up to me throughout the evening and asking exactly where Sinclair's Gully was so that they could visit the cellar door," he said. "This is fantastic exposure for Sinclair's Gully and the Adelaide Hills region."

Mrs Delaney said the Hills was full of "hidden treasures", like her business, set among 11ha of native vegetation.

"You could be anywhere ... but you could easily go for a day or a half day," she said.

Jason Miller from Rich and Lingering said the Hills offered a diverse range of products while being "approachable, accessible and more personalised".

Sinclair's Gully, Cleland Wildlife Park and Rich and Lingering will compete at a national level at the Australian Tourism Awards to be held in Melbourne in February next year.