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THE VOICE OF TASMANIA

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

# MERCURY

HOBBART 21C



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We're for Australia

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## 96 per cent profit hit to Hydro Tas

David Killick

Low rainfall and the cost of running gas generation have contributed to a 96 per cent profit slump for Hydro Tasmania, the company's latest annual report reveals.

After profits of \$195m in 2023-2024 and \$168m in 2022-2023, the power generator posted a profit of just \$7.5m in 2024-25.

It means the company will return a dividend of just \$4.7m to the cash-strapped Rockliff government's budget, instead of the \$122m it handed over last financial year.

A series of adverse weather events also hit the bottom lines of state-owned energy businesses TasNetworks and Aurora.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Funds, new clinic for women

David Killick

The state and federal government have announced increased resources for women's well being, with construction to begin on a new clinic for breast screening and more funding for reproductive health.

The state government has revealed works will now begin to deliver the new \$15m Public Diagnostic Breast Care Centre at the Royal Hobart Hospital's Liverpool Clinics.

The service was a 2024 election pledge by local MP Madeleine Ogilvie.

Health Minister Bridget Archer said yesterday the centre would be a comprehensive hub for public breast imaging services, offering both diagnostic breast imaging and screening under one roof.

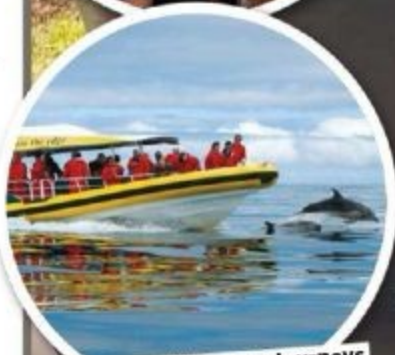
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## 2025 TASMANIAN TOURISM AWARDS

### Showcasing the best our state has to offer



Party in the Paddock



Pennicott Wilderness Journeys



Aquila Eco Retreat, based in the Coal River Valley, was awarded gold in both Ecotourism and Unique Accommodation categories

# Taking it all in

Duncan Abey

The decades-long contribution of Tasmanian agritourism pioneers Séverine Demanet and Rodney Dunn has been officially recognised by the industry at a gala dinner in Hobart.

The Agrarian Kitchen founders received a prestigious Tourism Champion award on Friday.

Perennial high-performers Pennicott Wilderness Journeys, the Port Arthur Historic Site and The Tasman were again honoured for their tourism products. New operators also scored wins, including Margate's Kuuma Nature Sauna and Aquila Eco Retreat in the Coal River Valley.

FULL STORY, PAGES 8-9

## CHOIR IN FINE VOICE

STORY, PAGE 3



## MOVEMBER MILESTONE

STORY, PAGES 16-17



## ROYAL COAT OF ARMS

STORY, PAGE 7







Major Festivals and Events, and People's Choice awards - Australian Wooden Boat Festival.



Self-Contained Accommodation award - Red Rock Hut, King Island.

Our tourism champions celebrated at industry's gala night

# WINNERS MAKE US A MUST-VISIT DESTINATION

Duncan Abey

The decades-long contribution of Tasmanian agritourism pioneers Séverine Demanet and Rodney Dunn has been officially recognised by the industry during a gala dinner in Hobart.

The Agrarian Kitchen founders were presented with a prestigious Tourism Champion award on Friday night.

Perennial high-performers Pennicott Wilderness Journeys, the Port Arthur Historic Site and The Tasman hotel were again honoured for their blue-chip tourism offerings.

But the 2025 winners' list also included a new generation of operators.

In a sign of Tasmania's growing appeal as a wellness destination, Margate's Kuuma Nature Sauna scored gold in Tourism Attractions.

Aquila Eco Retreat in the Coal River won the top award in both the Ecotourism and Unique Accommodation cate-

**This year's awards recipients show the sheer diversity of products and experiences which combine to make Tasmania's tourism industry one of the best in the world**

Amy Hills

Tourism Industry Council Tasmania CEO

gories. The Port Arthur Historic Site again snared the Major Tourist Attraction award, while Pennicott Wilderness Journeys won gold for Major Tour and Transport Operators section, and the inaugural New Tourism Product award for its Cape Raoul Cruises.

Australia's Wooden Boat Festival also took home two

major honours – claiming the Major Festivals and Events gold medal, and the coveted People's Choice award - while music festival Party In The Paddock scored the Chair of Judges' Award for Positive Impact Tourism.

Meanwhile, the emerging leadership talent of Eudaimonia Tasmanian Cycling Tours' Sofia Tsamassiros was recog-

nised with the Tourism Minister's Young Achiever award.

The sell-out Wrest Point event was attended by more than 500 operators and supporters from across the state.

Speaking afterwards, Tourism Industry Council Tasmania CEO Amy Hills said the number of new businesses and first-time entrants recognised in this year's award spoke to

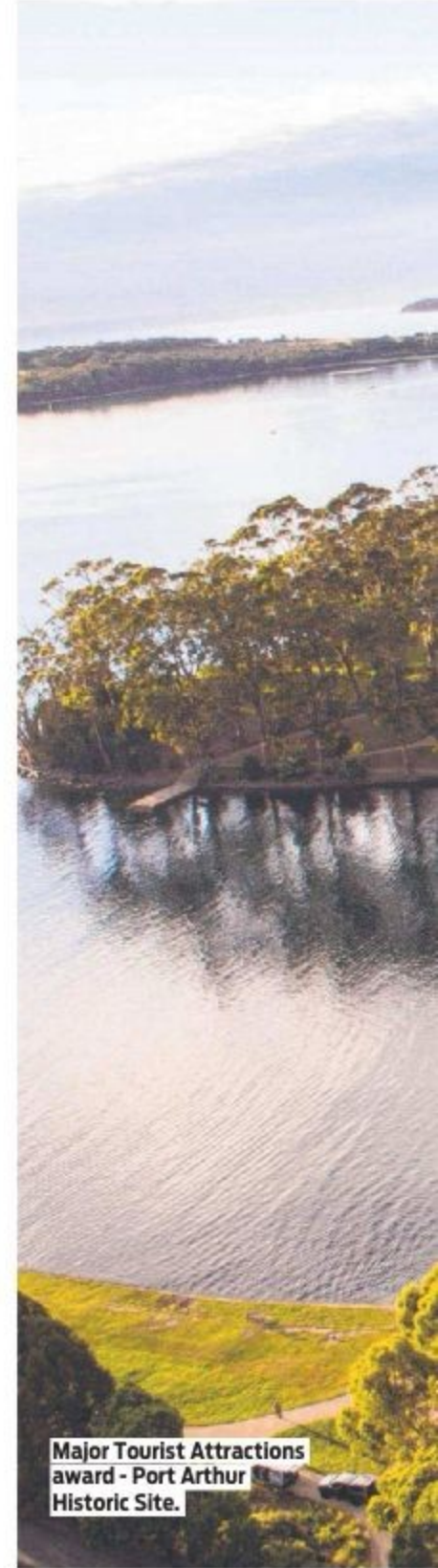
the sector's overall good health.

"This year we've seen more than 90 finalists representing the diversity of our industry including accommodation, experiences, food and beverage, tour and transport operators, as well as festivals and events," Ms Hills said.

"This year's awards recipients show the sheer diversity of products and experiences which combine to make Tasmania's tourism industry one of the best in the world. Importantly, we have operators recognised from across the entire state, showing the strength of our offering."

Other businesses to share in the 30 gold medals on offer included Bicheno Beams in the Festivals and Events category, Killara Distillery for Tourism Distilleries and Breweries, and The Cove Tasmania for Accessible Tourism.

Tasmanian winners in the 26 national categories become finalists in the Qantas Australia-



Major Tourist Attractions award - Port Arthur Historic Site.

lian Tourism Awards. That ceremony will be held in Fremantle in March.







Tourism Wineries award - Holm Oak Vineyards



Unique Accommodation Award and Ecotourism award - Aquila Eco Retreat



Unique Accommodation and Ecotourism awards- Aquila Eco Retreat.  
Picture: Dearn Bond

## FULL LIST OF GOLD WINNERS

**Chair of Judges' Award for Positive Impact Tourism** – Party in the Paddock  
**Tasmanian Tourism Champion** – Severine Demanet and Rodney Dunn  
**Tourism Minister's Young Achiever Award** – Sofia Tsamassiros  
**People's Choice Award** – Australian Wooden Boat Festival  
**New Tourism Product Award** – Cape Raoul Cruises (Pennicott Wilderness Journeys)  
**Gustav Weindorfer Award for New Tourism Business** – Evry Drive  
**Local Government Award for Excellence in Tourism** – West Tamar Council  
**Major Tour and Transport Operators Award** – Pennicott Wilderness Journeys  
**Major Tourist Attractions Award** – Port Arthur Historic Site  
**Visitor Information Services Award** – Smithton Visitor Information Centre  
**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism Experience Award** – Wukalina Walk  
**Excellence in Accessible Tourism Award** – The Cove Tasmania  
**Tourism Wineries Award** – Holm Oak Vineyards  
**Tourism Distilleries and Breweries Award** – Killara Distillery  
**Tourist Attractions Award** –

Kuuma Nature Sauna  
**Major Festivals and Events Award** – Australian Wooden Boat Festival  
**Festivals and Events Award** – Bicheno Beams  
**Eco-tourism Award** – Aquila Eco Retreat  
**Cultural Tourism Award** – Cascades Female Factory Historic Site  
**Tourism Retail, Hire and Services Award** – Younique Stays  
**Business Event Venues Award** – Peppers Silo Hotel  
**Tour and Transport Operators Award** – eGuide  
**Adventure Tourism Award** – Blue Derby Pods Ride  
**Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services Award** – Grain of the Silos  
**Caravan and Holiday Parks Award** – BIG4 Launceston Holiday Park  
**Hosted Accommodation** – The Dragonfly Inn  
**Unique Accommodation Award** – Aquila Eco Retreat  
**Self Contained Accommodation** – Red Rock Hut, King Island  
**3–3.5 Star Accommodation Award** – Freycinet Resort  
**4–4.5 Star Deluxe Accommodation Award** – Peppers Silo Hotel  
**5 Star Luxury Accommodation Award** – The Tasman, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Hobart  
**Excellence in Food Tourism Award** – The Truffle Farm



Tourism Champion award – Rodney Dunn and Séverine Demanet of The Agrarian Kitchen.



Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services award - Grain Of The Silos



Tourism Retail, Hire and Services award – Younique Stays.