

AWARDS A visitor centre which goes above and beyond picks up gong

NW tourism operators recognised

Helen Kempton

A KING Island accommodation business, a tour operator who provides visitor experiences across the North-West and a luxury resort overlooking Bass Strait have all been recognised in this year's Tasmanian Tourism Awards.

Red Rock Hut, a tiny house nestled on the coast at Bungaree on King Island's west coast, collected the new tourism business award at the 2024 awards and has now claimed its first gold in the self-contained accommodation category.

Tour company eGuide also secured its first gold at the awards held in Hobart on Friday night, taking out the Tour and Transport Operators category in recognition of its innovative and sustainable approach to guided experiences across the North-West.

Another first-time winner, the Smithton Visitor Information Centre, was awarded gold for visitor information services, acknowledging its work to welcome and assist travellers exploring the Circular Head region.

The Cove Tasmania continued its impressive streak, taking home gold for excellence in accessible tourism for the second consecutive year.

A team of 26 independent judges decides the winners based on 7500-word written submissions, a business verification review, digital presence and consumer ratings across a 12-month period.

All the gold winners at the Tasmanian Tourism Awards 2025:

■ Chair of Judges' Award for Positive Impact Tourism - Party in the Paddock; Tasmanian Tourism

■ Champion - Séverine 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 Best 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 and 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; Ecotourism 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



Red Rock Hut on King Island. Picture Tourism Tasmania



Guests at The Cove near Devonport. Picture Tourism Tasmania.

■ 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

'Diplomat Dan' hits out as appeal dismissed

Annika Rhoades

A SOVEREIGN citizen who refers to himself as "Diplomat Dan" has accused a Supreme Court judge of conspiring against him with his former psychologist.

The accusations came after Justice Robert Pearce dismissed an application made by Daniel Victor Gandini, or Diplomat Dan, who took his former psychologist, Michael John Marriott, to court in civil proceedings for taking out an interim restraint order against him.

During Dan's previous court appearance on October 15, he accused Mr Marriott of intentionally trying to cause mental harm and a magistrate of being biased in granting the interim restraint order against him.

Dan made his latest appearance in the Supreme Court of Launceston on Friday via video link from jail, with Mr Marriott's lawyer also appearing over the phone.

Justice Pearce handed down his decision on the matter, telling the parties that he dismissed Dan's application to review whether the restraining order should have been made.

"So, you've dismissed the restraint order?" Dan, who represents himself in court, asked Justice Pearce.

"No, I haven't. I've dismissed your appeal," the judge replied.

"So, you've conspired with Mr Marriott today," Dan said, before saying that he would have to appeal the judge's decision.

Justice Brett said Dan was entitled to appeal his decision and would receive documentation of the decision later that day.