

Wednesday, 28 May 2025

Excellence Takes Centre Stage at Hospitality NT's Night of Nights

The Northern Territory's finest hospitality talent was celebrated in style last night at the 2025 Hospitality NT Awards for Excellence, held at the iconic Darwin Ski Club. Over 500 industry leaders, award nominees, and guests gathered under the stars for a night of recognition and entertainment—including a fantastic performance by The Lunar Society.

Hospitality NT's Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Simmonds praised the Territory's thriving hospitality scene, saying, *'The Awards for Excellence are about honouring what makes our industry extraordinary – the venues, the teams, and the individuals working to make someone else's day better.'*

"From our beloved outback pubs and iconic roadhouses to our vibrant CBD bars, community clubs and world-class resorts—every venue in our industry plays a crucial role in shaping the Northern Territory's unique hospitality story and lifestyle and that's what we celebrated last night," said Ms Simmonds.

Hilton Darwin dominated the awards, achieving an impressive five-win sweep with **Best Overall Accommodation Hotel, Best Redeveloped Accommodation Hotel, Best Superior Accommodation, Outstanding Accommodation Hotel Community Service and Achievement** and **Outstanding Achievement in Training**. Their success highlighted both their exceptional guest offerings and commitment to staff development and community impact.

Making a huge impact on the hospitality scene this year is newcomer **The Cinema Collective**, winning gongs for **Best Overall Pub/Tavern, Best Pub Gaming** and **Best New Venue** – and the dueling pianos have proved a hit with **Sweethearts @ The Cinema Collective** taking home **Best Late Night Venue**.

Palmerston Golf and Country Club proved the complete package, winning **Best Overall Club, Best Club Bar Presentation and Service** and **Best TAB Licensed Venue**.

Regional excellence shone through with **Dundee Beach Tavern** earning **Best Overall Regional Pub** as well as the **Best Draught Beer Quality – Regional**, while Alice Springs' **Gillen Club** secured **Best Overall Regional Club** and **Best Family Friendly Venue**.

This year's Awards for Excellence saw an extraordinary display of talent and dedication, with 290 outstanding nominations submitted across all categories—including more than 40 nominations in our highly competitive Employee Awards.

Every single staff member nominated for awards in 2025 is an individual representing the very heart of our industry, consistently going above and beyond their roles to deliver exceptional service and take their venues to new heights. Their passion and

commitment don't just benefit their businesses, but also elevate the true Territory experience for visitors and locals alike.

- Apprentice/Trainee of the Year – **Amelia Love**, Berry Springs Tavern
- Marketing/Sales/Events Employee of the Year – **Felicity Lolas**, Mindil Beach Casino Resort
- Service Excellence – Front of House – **Todd Clarke**, Hilton Garden Inn
- Hospitality Industry Rising Star Award, **Joe Lynch**, Novotel, Mercure & Ibis Darwin Airport.

Below is a list of all of the 2025 Awards for Excellence Winners, with eligible categories now in the running for the National AHA Awards for Excellence to be held in November in Brisbane.



Award Category	Winner
Outstanding Club Community Service & Achievement	Cazalys Palmerston Club
Outstanding Accommodation Hotel Community Service & Achievement	Hilton Darwin
Outstanding Pub/Tavern Community Service & Achievement	Noonamah Tavern
Best Tourism Initiative	Berry Springs Tavern
Service Excellence Front of House	Todd Clarke - Hilton Garden Inn
Best Marketing/Sales/Events Employee	Felicity Lolas – Mindil Beach Casino Resort
Apprentice/Trainee of the Year	Amelia Love – Berry Springs Tavern
Hospitality Industry Rising Star Award	Joe Lynch – Novotel, Mercure & Ibis Darwin Airport
Sales Representative of the Year - Beverage	Jason Freeman - LION
Sales Representative of the Year – Industry	Gerard Sheldon – NT Keno
Outstanding Achievement in Training	Hilton Hotels

Best Pub Gaming Venue	The Cinema Collective
Best Club Gaming Venue	Cazalys Palmerston Club
Best TAB Licensed Venue	Palmerston Golf and Country Club
Best NT Keno Venue	Walkabout Tavern
Best Draught Beer Quality – Regional	Dundee Beach Tavern
Best Draught Beer Quality – Metro	Tap on Mitchell
Best Public Bar Presentation & Service	Dundee Beach Tavern
Best Club Bar Presentation & Service	Palmerston Golf & Country Club
Best All Abilities Venue	Rydges Palmerston
Best Pub Style Accommodation	Litchfield Outback Resort
Best Mid Range Accommodation	Hilton Garden Inn
Best Superior Accommodation	Hilton Darwin
Best Late Night Venue	Sweethearts @ The Cinema Collective
Best Outdoor Area	Novotel, Mercure & Ibis Darwin Airport
Best Live Music Venue	Landmark @ Gateway
Best Family Friendly Venue	Gillen Club
Best Sporting Entertainment Venue	Silks Darwin
Best Redeveloped Accommodation Hotel	Hilton Darwin
Best Marketed Pub	Monsoons
Best Marketed Club	Darwin Ski Club
Best Marketed Accommodation Hotel	Novotel, Mercure & Ibis Darwin Airport
Best Retail Liquor Outlet	Katherine Hotel
Best New Venue	The Cinema Collective
Best Local Producer	Alice Springs Brewing Co
Best Small Bar	Dock One Bar
Best Wayside Inn/Outback Pub	Corroboree Park Tavern
Best Overall Accommodation Hotel	Hilton Darwin
Best Overall Regional Club	Gillen Club
Best Overall Regional Pub/Tavern	Dundee Beach Tavern
Best Overall Club	Palmerston Golf & Country Club
Best Overall Pub/Tavern	The Cinema Collective