



30

YEARS

The Rhinos

**DUBBO'S OUTSTANDING
BUSINESS AWARDS**

2026 SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL



2026 Rhino Business Awards

SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL

Now in its 30th year, the Dubbo Business Chamber's Rhino Business Awards recognises and celebrates business excellence across our region. These awards provide a platform for local businesses to showcase their achievements, inspire future leaders and set a benchmark for best practice.

Hosted by the Dubbo Business Chamber, the Rhino Business Awards are one of Dubbo's most prestigious annual events, supported by a high-impact campaign period that gives sponsors multiple ways to connect with businesses across the region.

When you sponsor the Rhino Business Awards, you're supporting local businesses in a practical, visible way. It's a chance to build relationships with potential customers and partners, raise your profile and join us in saying "well done" to businesses across our region.

Over 5,000 businesses are eligible to enter across four award categories: Roll of Honour, Business Categories, Individual Categories, and People's Choice. Winners in select categories automatically progress to the 2027 Western NSW Business Awards. Many past recipients have also gone on to earn national recognition through the Telstra Best of Business Awards, Tourism NSW Awards and Australia Post Small Business Awards.

For more information, please reach out to our team via:
executiveofficer@dubbochamber.com.au or call 0457 844 883. We'd love to have you as part of the 2026 Rhino Business Awards!

Mark Mudford
President
Dubbo Business Chamber

Zoo naturally wins prized Rhino

When people think of Dubbo the Western Plains Zoo usually springs to mind.

And visitors to the world-class open range zoo are rarely disappointed by this magnificent tourist attraction which draws more than 300,000 Australian and overseas visitors each year.

Going above and beyond the call of duty in exceeding visitor expectations has become second nature to staff at the zoo.

But last night their efforts were rewarded when Western Plains Zoo was honored with a Silver Rhino for The Most Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Dubbo.

As the largest tourist attraction west of the Blue Mountains, the zoo has played a pivotal role in the promotion and development of tourism growth in Dubbo.

As well as thrilling visitors with fascinating exhibits the zoo plays a vital part in world efforts to save endangered species.

Current programs include Mala, Bilby, Parma Wallaby, Mallee Fowl, Przewalski's Horse

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DUBBO



◻ RHINO FAN: Western Plains Zoo's Ian Denney has a special affiliation with Rhinos, especially in Silver.

and cheetah. But not content to rest on their laurels, zoo managers are continuously striving for ways to improve the zoo's facilities and services. This has seen the introduction of innovative tours such as the popular 'Early Morning Zoo

Walk' conducted by zoo volunteers and the summer 'Sunset Safari'.

Another success story is the Zoofari Lodge officially opened in 1995. It is Australia's first and only zoo-based accommodation and in its first full year of trading this year attained an average occupancy rate of 93.7 per cent.

The zoo continues to attract more and more visitors to Dubbo but also plays a key role in the local community, employing 62 full-time and 72 part-time and casual employees.

As Dubbo's largest tourist attraction the zoo serves to sustain the viability of surrounding smaller attractions.

In addition the zoo spends \$145,000 annually on promotion and advertising which helps attract more visitors to the region.

A recent study found Western Plains Zoo is responsible for injecting \$30 million into the local economy.

The study also revealed each zoo visitor contributes \$100 to the community within a 100 kilometre radius.

◻ OTHER FINALISTS: Carling Constructions, Fletcher's International Exports, Hazelton Air Services.

DUBBO RHINO AWARDS

The Rhinos Awards raise much interest

DUBBO'S OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AWARDS '96

Clinic Moderne
 DI and staff would like to thank their valued clients for their support.
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 74 Macquarie Street, Dubbo 84 4644

PAYLESS SHOES
 All of our staff at Payless Shoes maintain a high standard of customer service and would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce and all our valued customers for the acknowledgement of our efforts.
 184 Macquarie Street
 Phone 82 1237

To Chris and the team at RSL MOTEL
 Congratulations... on your nomination and good luck for the "OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AWARDS" from the... Board of Directors and Team at Dubbo RSL Memorial Club
 RSL MOTEL
 Conveniently located opposite the premier Club Superior accommodation and fine dining... In the heart of Dubbo City!!
 Information for Members & Guests

This year's awards have received recognition beyond the region. As the president of Dubbo's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Denney said he had been thrilled with the award shown in the awards by local businesses this year. "The business community obviously believe it's an important and worthwhile award. The system was a high level in Dubbo. The list of nominations for this year's awards highlights the breadth of business ventures in Dubbo. The optimism for future growth by the businesses nominated has particularly impressed Mr Denney. "I've also noticed a lot of new business entered in a variety of categories," he said. "These awards will give businesses definite marketing advantages. The awards highlight the variety and quality of business performances in this city. The winners will be named on Wednesday November 13 at the Dubbo RSL Memorial Club.

"The quality of this year's nominations is tops and the level of business performance is something Dubbo should be proud of."



◻ Dr Ian Denney is looking forward to the Outstanding Awards on November 13.

MITCHELL KING CAMPING & DISPOSALS
 Your One-Stop Outdoor Shop:
 We stock tents, camping equipment, back packs, boots, knives, mozzie nets, new and used army clothing, fishing gear, sleeping bags, maglight torches, as well as Leatherman tools, swords, security equipment, jerry cans and ammo boxes
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 "Service with a Smile"
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Since opening for business on 19th August this year, our Dubbo branch has proven to be the most successful of our 9 branches.
 Thank you to all our customers for their support, and for the nomination in the awards.
Rose-Marce
 LADIES ONLY HEALTH & DISHCE SALOON
 66 Wiggewarra Street
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WOOLWORTHS ORANA MALL and RIVERDALE SUPERMARKETS
 Sincerely thank their loyal customers for their much appreciated support.
 'The Fresh Food People'
WOOLWORTHS

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The winners of Dubbo's Outstanding Business Awards will be named on Wednesday November 13.

Seven Silver Rhinos will be presented to the winners of the following categories

- Most outstanding contribution to Dubbo business
- Professional service to business
- Outstanding business presentation
- Outstanding service
- Service with a Smile
- New business
- Quiet achiever in business

The Gold Rhino will be awarded to Dubbo's most outstanding business.

This is the night of nights for Dubbo's business community. Numbers are limited so to avoid disappointment you should book early.

The night features a pre-dinner cocktail party, two-course dinner with wines, coffee and petit-fours. Entertainment will be presented during the awards ceremony.

Dubbo RSL Memorial Club 7 for 7.30pm

THE AWARDS ARE SUPPORTED BY
Liberal **CAPITAL** **EASTERN AUSTRALIAN**
HAZELTON **FRANKLINS** **AUSTRALIAN AIRWAYS**

Dubbo Chamber of Commerce & Industry
 Moby Lamont
 Dubbo Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.
 Phone: 84 4883
 Fax: 84 7399



Award Categories

DUBBO RHINO AWARDS

The 2026 Rhino Business Award categories are grouped into four areas – the Roll of Honour Award, Business Award Categories, Individual Categories & People’s Choice Categories. Award categories can be sponsored by businesses that choose to invest in the Platinum Tier.

Roll of Honour Award

Jean Emile Serisier Roll of Honour Award – Sponsored by The Dubbo Business Chamber and co-presented with the Council(Mayor).



Business Award Categories

- Gold Rhino Award for Business of the Year
- Excellence in Micro Business [less than 5 employees] *
- Excellence in Small Business [5 -20 employees]*
- Excellence in Large Business[21+ employees] *
- Outstanding Community Organisation *
- Outstanding New Business *
- Excellence in Innovation *
- Excellence in Sustainability *
- Outstanding Employer of Choice *
- Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion *
- Outstanding Visitor Experience *
- Excellence in Agribusiness

Individual Categories

- Outstanding Employee *
- Outstanding Young Business Leader*
- Outstanding BusinessLeader *
- Apprentice and Trainee of the Year



People’s Choice Categories

- People’s Choice Award -Dubbo’s Favourite Business
- People’s Choice Award -Dubbo’s Favourite Tradie
- People’s Choice Award -Service with a Smile

* The business that wins this category will receive automatic entry into the 2027 BusinessNSW Western NSW Business Awards.

Roll of Honour Award

<p>The Jean Emile Serisier Roll of Honour</p>	<p>Best suited a business that has a long history within the region. Sponsored by The Dubbo Business Chamber.</p>	<p>Recognises those who demonstrate outstanding entrepreneurial spirit, strategic business direction and innovative ideas, whilst providing inspiration to a new generation of upcoming business leaders.</p>
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Business Award Categories

<p>Gold Rhino Award</p>	<p>This award is presented by the Chamber in partnership with our naming rights sponsor</p>	<p>Awarded to Dubbo's most outstanding business (and selected from the winner/finalists in the categories below. The award recognises a business that has attained significant growth and is able to demonstrate the specific strategies and processes implemented to achieve sustainable growth over the previous 12-24 months.</p>
<p>Excellence in Micro Business</p>	<p>The Excellence in Micro Business Award recognises a business with less than 5 employees that has effectively driven growth and can demonstrate the specific strategies implemented to achieve business success and/or resilience in the previous year.</p>	
<p>Excellence in Small Business</p>	<p>The Excellence in Small Business Award recognises a business over 2 years old with 5-20 employees that has effectively driven growth and can demonstrate the strategies implemented to achieve business success and/or resilience.</p>	
<p>Excellence in Large Business</p>	<p>Recognises a business (employing 21 or more employees at the time of entry) that has attained significant growth and is able to demonstrate the specific strategies and processes implemented to achieve sustainable growth over the previous 24 months.</p>	
<p>Outstanding Community Organisation</p>	<p>Best suited to a sponsor that has social purpose goals for their business</p>	<p>The Outstanding Community Organisation Award recognises an organisation that works to improve the social, cultural, or environmental wellbeing of the community. This category is open to social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations that have been trading for a period of over 24 months at the time of entry.</p>
<p>Outstanding New Business</p>	<p>Best suited to a business that has a long history within the region.</p>	<p>This category recognises a business that has been operating for less than 2 years that delivers a product/service/idea/invention with credible potential. This award recognises early-stage start-ups that have a solid chance of market success, and strongly displays the entrepreneurial spirit.</p>
<p>Excellence in Innovation</p>	<p>Best suited to a sponsor who is known for their innovative approach to business.</p>	<p>The Excellence in Innovation Award recognises a business that has implemented innovative solutions for new and existing needs through the introduction or improvement of a product, technology, or application that impacts the wider community.</p>

<p>Excellence in Sustainability - Green Rhino</p>	<p>Best suited to a sponsor who demonstrates their own environmental responsibility.</p>	<p>Recognises businesses that are working to reduce the impact of their operations on the environment and/or provide products and services that have positive environmental outcomes. Please note: where sustainability is your core business, you must enter this category based on sustainable initiatives and projects within your business, not related to your core offering.</p>
<p>Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion</p>	<p>This award is presented by the Chamber in partnership with our naming rights sponsor</p>	<p>The Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award recognises businesses that address the needs of a diverse community, including seniors, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and people with disability. An inclusive business facilitates the needs of all its employees and customers.</p>
<p>Outstanding Visitor Experience</p>	<p>The Outstanding Visitor Experience award recognises a business that understands the importance of visitor engagement for a region's economy* and reputation.</p>	
<p>Excellence in Agribusiness</p>	<p>Best suited to a sponsor with strong ties to the agricultural sector or a commitment to supporting regional agribusiness and innovation.</p>	<p>The Excellence in Agribusiness award recognises a business or individual that operates within or services the agribusiness sector and demonstrates outstanding performance, innovation, and contribution to the industry.</p>

Business Award Categories

<p>Outstanding Employee</p>	<p>Best suited to a sponsor that has social purpose goals for their business</p>	<p>The Outstanding Employee Award recognises an inspirational employee who has demonstrated a passion for their role and a commitment to their workplace and the community.</p>
<p>Outstanding Young Business Leader 18-35 Years</p>	<p>Best suited to a sponsor who recognises the regional benefits of supporting our young creative minds.</p>	<p>The Outstanding Young Business Leader Award recognises an inspirational business leader, aged 35 or under at the time of entry, who has demonstrated a commitment to their workplace, industry, and the community through leadership.</p>
<p>Outstanding Business Leader 36+ Years Old</p>	<p>Best suited to a sponsor who understands the value of strong leadership in business.</p>	<p>The Outstanding Business Leader Award recognises an inspirational business leader, aged 36 years or over at the time of entry, who has demonstrated a commitment to their workplace, industry, and the community through leadership, while also providing mentorship to others.</p>
<p>Apprentice and Trainee of the Year</p>	<p>Best suited to sponsor who sees value in recognising and rewarding the star employees of tomorrow.</p>	<p>Awarded to an apprentice or trainee who has gone above and beyond the call of duty and made a valuable contribution to the success of the business they work for.</p>

People's Choice Categories

DUBBO'S FAVOURITE BUSINESS	Best suited to a business with a strong public profile	Awarded to Dubbo's most popular business, as voted by the public.
DUBBO'S FAVOURITE TRADIE	Best suited a business that works in or supports the trade industry	Awarded to Dubbo's most popular trade-based business (i.e. electrician, plumber, builder, painter) as voted by the public
SERVICE WITH A SMILE	Best suited to a business with a strong frontline customer focus and public presence.	Awarded to Dubbo's most popular employee, as voted by the public.

Roll of Honour Award



Business Award Categories



Individual Categories



People's Choice Categories





□ GOLD RHINO WINNER: Robert, Bill and John Stevenson, from the Village Hot Bake Bakery Cafe, collected the Gold Rhino trophy last night for Dubbo's most outstanding business of 1998.

Bakery gold

Rhino icing on the cake for Village people

The Village Hot Bake Bakery Café was named Dubbo's most outstanding business of 1998 last night.

Mayor Anthony McGrane presented the Gold Rhino to the Stevenson family before a sell-out audience of nearly 600 at the Dubbo Civic Centre.

The award capped a great year for the business: the Stevenson family completed a million-dollar refurbishment of their Darling Street premises to create one of the country's great bakeries.

Village Hot Bake was a finalists in two Silver Rhino categories last night, outstand-

ing retail presentation (winner) and innovation and the Green Rhino for aesthetic appeal.

The Gold Rhino win was a feature of the annual event organised by the Dubbo Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. The other highlight was the induction of popular Dubbo businessman Frank Brennan to the chamber's Roll of Honour (see story back page).

The win for Village Hot Bake was a tribute to the ingenuity of Bill, Robert and John Stevenson and their families.

The refurbishment expanded their entire

business operations to occupy five times the space of the former bakery.

While the bakery is now conveniently split into three separate production areas, the retail section has been given a fabulous makeover into a stylish cafe/bakery equipped with an upstairs, downstairs and outside eating area, a European style fountain courtyard and modern rest room facilities.

The Stevenson families have seen the business grow from a small-scale operation employing 12 people to one which employs 83 today.

continued next page

□ RIGHT: Tanya Howarth, Nan Boa, Amba Fitzalan and Angela Knight dressed magnificently at last year's Rhinos awards night at the Dubbo Civic Centre.



Rhino Sponsorship Opportunities

Investment (price GST exclusive)

Naming Rights \$20,000 Packages available 1	Venue Sponsor \$7,000 Packages available 1	Platinum AWARD CATEGORIES \$5,000 Packages available 18	Gold \$2,000 Packages available UNLIMITED	Silver \$880 Packages available UNLIMITED
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VIP ACCESS & NETWORKING					
Secure additional tickets before the public release	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gala & Cocktail event tickets	8 Gala / 4 Cocktail	4 Gala / 2 Cocktail	4 Gala / 2 Cocktail	2 Gala / 2 Cocktail	1 Gala / 1 Cocktail
Connect in the VIP area	✓ + invite clients	✓	✓		

BRAND VISIBILITY					
Your logo on all event signage and materials	Naming rights + Event title	Category recognition + VIP Area Sign	Category recognition	Group logo	Group logo
- On screens during events	Prominent naming rights recognition	Prominent category recognition	Prominent category recognition	Sponsor loop	Sponsor loop
- Pull-up banner placement	Featured position	Group logo	Group logo	Group logo	Group logo
- Printed Gala programme	Featured	✓	✓	✓	✓
- On winner announcement videos	Featured	Category recognition	Category recognition		
- Certificates and public announcements for finalists and winners	Featured	Category recognition	Category recognition		
- Window stickers and digital badges for finalists and winners	Featured	Category recognition	Category recognition		
Present awards on stage with photo ops	Gold Rhino Award	Award Category	Award Category		
Key address to 300+ local business guests	✓				

NEWSLETTER					
Featured in Chamber newsletter with 700+ local business subscribers	Full feature + website link	Promoted when you sign	Promoted when you sign	Promoted when you sign	Promoted when you sign
Promote special offers to attendees after event	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3 additional newsletter mentions during the year (e.g. promotions, milestones, events)	✓	✓	✓	✓	Add-on available
Brand promotion in newsletter footer	12 months	6 months	6 months		

Naming Rights \$20,000 Packages available 1	Venue Sponsor \$7,000 Packages available 1	Platinum AWARD CATEGORIES \$5,000 Packages available 18	Gold \$2,000 Packages available UNLIMITED	Silver \$880 Packages available UNLIMITED
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WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Sponsor thank-you posts when you sign up (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn)	✓	✓	✓	✓	Social share
Featured on Chamber website with SEO link	Full article with interview	Venue spotlight article	Business profile with logo	Logo + link	Logo
Write a blog post for Chamber website	✓	✓	✓	✓	Add-on available
Website and email badge graphics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social media post templates ready to share	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15-30 second video of your team at the gala (social media reel format)	✓	✓	✓	Add-on available	Add-on available
Professional photos of your team from the Gala (5+ images) for use in your business marketing	✓	✓	✓	Add-on available	Add-on available
Tagged in winner and finalist announcement posts	✓	✓ + Location tag	✓		

EXTENDED VISIBILITY

Offer additional prizes to category winners	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunity to join judging panels in other regions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12-month Chamber membership (cash sponsors)	✓	✓	✓		
Host your own networking event (\$550 value)	✓	✓	✓		
Media coverage in print and radio	✓	✓	✓		
Featured in winner announcement press release	✓	✓	✓		

Sponsorship Agreement

The Dubbo Business Chamber is only able to service these benefits with the full cooperation of the sponsoring businesses. If logos and other requested promotional materials are not provided in a timely matter, we may not be able to provide these benefits.

Details

Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Number: _____

Contact E-mail: _____

Sponsorship Level Applying for: _____

If seeking Platinum sponsorship, please indicate which award category you would like to sponsor:

First Preference: _____ Second Preference: _____

Incumbent sponsors will be offered the option to re-sponsor their category first. New sponsors will be able to register their interest in the categories that best align with their business.

PAYMENT TERMS

Cash excluding GST (invoiced to contact email): _____

I (full name) _____ agree that I am authorised on behalf of (Business name) _____ to pay \$ _____ for _____ sponsorship level. I understand that by signing this agreement, I / the business will be bound and committed to pay the sponsorship amount.

I understand that that Dubbo Business Chamber will issue me with an Invoice and that I /the business agree to pay such invoice within 7 business days of such invoice being issued.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Invoice to be paid by: _____

Event Timeline for Sponsors

RHINO AWARDS - IMPORTANT DATES

Launch, announcement and nominations OPEN	Monday 27h July 2026
Award nominations OPEN	Monday 27th July 2026
Awards nominee entries CLOSE	Monday 24 th August 2026 11:59pm
People's Choice voting OPEN	Monday 31st August 2026
Start of judging	Friday 4th September 2026
End of judging	Monday 28th September 2026
People's Choice nomination entries CLOSE	Monday 28th September 2026
Finalist Cocktail night event	Thursday 23 rd October 2026
GALA NIGHT event	Friday 20th November 2026



DUBBO
BUSINESS
CHAMBER

**20
26 Rhino
Awards**

For more information about any of the details contained in this proposal, please contact:

M: 0457 844 883

Email: executiveofficer@dubbochamber.com.au

We are proud to partner with local businesses like yours to help make these awards happen.

DUBBO RHINO AWARDS



DUBBO RHINO AWARDS

