



Recognition ★ Celebration ★ Business Excellence

Congratulations on your decision to enter the 2025 Margaret River Region Business Excellence Awards. The application process is a valuable opportunity to step outside your business, reflect on your vision, showcase your achievements, and plan for the future. Being recognised as a finalist or winning an award provides significant promotional opportunities and a competitive advantage when applying for grants, forging new partnerships, or pitching to investors.

The gala event is also a fantastic opportunity to connect with industry peers and celebrate the diverse and unique businesses in our region.

To support you in the application process, we encourage you to attend the 'Award Ready' seminars at the Margaret River Business Hub. Starting early allows time for thoughtful responses, edits, and proofreading. The MRBN team is happy to assist where possible and can connect you with relevant business advisors. Please note that we do not participate in the judging process.

Award winners will receive trophies on stage at our gala event and will have the opportunity to say a few words about their business and the significance of receiving the award. All finalists will receive a finalist badge for promotional use and a Certificate of Excellence, with some awards also including generous prizes.

Key Dates

Submissions open 12 noon Wednesday April 9th 2025

Submissions close 5pm Wednesday July 3rd 2025

Finalists announced from Wednesday August 27th 2025

Finalist Tickets open for sale Thursday August 28th 2025

General Sales open Wednesday September 3rd 2025

Gala Celebration Event at The HEART Margaret River – Thursday October 16th

Eligibility Criteria

Entrants must be a registered business to be eligible for all categories except Local Legends Award which is also open to Not-for-Profit organisations.

Entrants must be operating for a minimum of 2 years at the time of entering to be eligible for all categories except the Arrived and Thrived Award (best new business) which is open to businesses that have been operating for up to 2 years.

All business entrants must be for-profit, non ASX listed companies for all categories except the Local Legends Category which is for NFP's only.

All business entrants must be operating in the Margaret River Region.
Margaret River Business Network Members can apply free of charge
Businesses who are not MRBN members, are also eligible to apply but a processing fee of \$100 will be charged.

Entry Process

Entry into the 2025 Business Awards requires only one submission, and based on the information you provide and the scores from the judging panel, you will be advised of your success as a finalist and in which category/ies you have been shortlisted. There are additional questions for specific categories.

All submissions are to be emailed to awards@mrcci.com.au by 9 PM Wednesday 3rd July, 2025 along with **six high-resolution photographs and a high-resolution business logo.**

All submissions will be scored by an independent judging panel of qualified business experts. It's important to understand that the majority of judges will be based outside the region so it's likely that they've not heard of your business before. Although you might have the best business in the region, your success will depend on the information you provide in your submission. The judges may also further research your business online and / or instore.

All finalists will be notified by Wednesday 27th August 2025 and the winners will be announced at a high-profile Gala Presentation Evening on Thursday October, 16th 2025. A business representative must be in attendance at the Gala to accept the finalist certificate or award.

Guidelines

- Entries must be submitted by email before 9pm 3rd July 2025.

MRBN Members receive FREE entry to the Awards and discounted tickets to the gala event.

Non- MRBN Members A \$100 submission-processing fee is required.

All applicants must operate in the Margaret River Region

Payable to: Margaret River CCI. BSB: 016-520 Account: 491580811

Reference: Your business name

Please contact admin@mrcci.com.au for membership enquiries. Standard memberships \$330 incl GST.

- Sponsors of the Awards are permitted to enter but are not eligible for their sponsored category. Sponsors who do not enter the Awards may sit on the judging panel, if they demonstrate the required credentials.
- The MRBN Executive Committee members are permitted to enter the Awards but they are not permitted to sit on the judging panel.

- **Entries must attach a business logo and six high-resolution business photographs (min 1MB) to be shown at the Gala evening. These photos are in addition to any photos you include in your entry submission and will not be seen by the judges. Finalists may also be asked to participate in a short video promotion.**
- Finalists for each category will be notified via email by 27 th August 2025 and will be awarded a Finalist Badge that may be used for promotional purposes.
- All finalists will be presented with a Certificate of Excellence at the Gala presentation evening on 16th October 2025. A representative from each business finalist must be in attendance.
- All winners will be announced at the Gala presentation evening on Thursday 16th October 2025, and a representative from the business must be in attendance to accept the winner’s trophy.
- All winners will be asked to participate in photographs with the category sponsor at the Gala, which will be available to the business, sponsor and MRBN for promotional use.
- All applications must be emailed to awards@mrcci.com.au and must not exceed 10MB in total, including the written submission, business logo, six business photographs and any other optional attachments.

Submission Writing Tips

- You are encouraged to use pictures within your submission but be sure they add to the story of your business and help paint an accurate picture for the judges.
- Please include any charts or graphs as well as any testimonials to support your answers which will not be included in your word count
- You are encouraged to use bullet points, graphs and tables to help clearly answer the questions and make your submission easy to read.

**Please Note: Words used in tables and graphs will not contribute to the word count.
Customer testimonials do not contribute to the word count.**

- You are encouraged to copy and paste the questions below to create an entry submission separate to this booklet.
- Applications should be in an easy to read font such as Arial or Calibri and a minimum of 11pt.
- 250 words is roughly half a page of A4 in 11pt font.
- Please be succinct with your answers and stay within the word count. You may use less than the allowance but please do not exceed the word count .
- Please be sure to check that you have answered every question required for your submission. Any unanswered questions will score zero. If you have any questions in relation to this point please contact staff anytime.

Please contact the Margaret River Business Network with any queries admin@mrcci.com.au

2025 Margaret River Region Business Awards Categories

- **Arrived and Thrived Award (Start up business)**
The business is a start up business trading for up to 2 years.
The business is a new business not a change of ownership of an existing business.
- **Sole Trader Award (zero direct employees)**
The business has 0 direct employees apart from themselves as an individual.
- **Micro Business Award (employs 1 to 5 staff)**
Recognising business excellence with 1 to 5 fulltime or equivalent staff.
- **Small Business Award Award (employs 6 to 10 staff)**
Recognising business The business must employ 6 to 10 staff members (full-time or equivalent) employees.
- **Medium Business Award (employs 11 to 20 staff)**
Recognising business excellence in a business with 11 to 20 staff members (full-time or equivalent) employees.
- **Large Business Award (minimum of 21 staff)**
Recognising superior customer service and satisfaction.The business must employ a minimum of 21 staff members (full-time or equivalent) employees.
- **Local Legends Award**
Recognising Not-for-Profit organisations that make significant contributions to the local community.
- **People's Choice Award**
Finalists who gets the most votes at the Gala event
- **Creative Industry Excellence Award**
Recognising exceptional business in the creative business industry; including photography, videography, marketing, branding, copywriting, web development, graphic design, music and music production.
- **Environmental Excellence Award**
Recognising leadership in environmental best practice in business and stewardship.
- **Leading with Innovation**
Recognising a business demonstrates the use and application of innovation in processes, production, operations or marketing that has tangibly improved their business operations and output.

- **Access and Inclusion Excellence Award**
Recognising a business that demonstrates outstanding commitment to creating an accessible and inclusive environment for all individuals.
- **Food and Beverage Producers Excellence Award**
Celebrating innovation and excellence in the Margaret River Region food and beverage Industry -
The business must value add raw materials, turning raw agricultural into products people can consume (beer, wine, preserves, cheese, olive oil, bread, crackers).
- **Tourism Industry Excellence Award**
Awarded to a business that delivers an outstanding visitor experience within the tourism industry.
- **2025 Business of the Year - Major Award** the business that performed the best across all categories