

ABOUT THE DORSET PEOPLE & BUSINESS AWARDS

The Dorset People & Business Awards are dedicated to celebrating the individuals, businesses, and organisations that make our region a vibrant and dynamic place to live and work. We recognise excellence across various industries, shining a spotlight on the talent, innovation, and commitment that drives Dorset forward.

Backed by local industry leaders and community partners, our awards not only acknowledge achievement but also foster connection and inspire growth.

This initiative is proudly presented by:

Dorset Employment Connect.

SUPPORTED BY

Tasmanian Government JOBS TASMANIA

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INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR *

This award recognises an apprentice that has shown exceptional work ethic, teamwork, professionalism, commitment, skill development, and contribution to the workplace or program. Moreover, it celebrates their achievements, growth, and potential as a future leader in their industry. *(Nominees must live in the Dorset region, but their workplace can be outside the region).*

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

This award honours an individual who consistently delivers exceptional customer service, going above and beyond to meet customer needs and to provide a positive experience. The recipient demonstrates excellent communication skills, professionalism, and a genuine commitment to customer satisfaction. This award recognises their dedication to creating lasting, positive impressions and building strong customer relationships.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR*

This award recognises a rising star who has shown outstanding promise, professionalism, and impact early in their career. The recipient demonstrates strong leadership potential, innovation, and a commitment to personal and professional growth. This award celebrates their achievements to date and their ongoing contribution to their industry or organisation. *(Nominees must be 30 years or under at 31 December 2026, and live in the Dorset region. Their workplace can be outside the region).*

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE*

This special award recognises an individual who truly stands out in the workplace. Whether through their dedication, positive attitude, resilience, or personal growth, this person has made a lasting impression. The award is an opportunity for **employers** to formally recognise the employee's unique journey, the impact they've had on others, and the values they bring to their work every day.

INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRY AWARDS

HEALTH WORKER OF THE YEAR

This award is dedicated to an outstanding healthcare professional who delivers exceptional care within the Dorset community. This category includes doctors, nurses, midwives, emergency medical personnel, pharmacists, podiatrists, osteopaths, chiropractors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dentists and psychologists. The recipient upholds a high level of professionalism, offering high-quality healthcare to their patients/clients.

SUPPORT/ DISABILITY WORKER OF THE YEAR

This award recognises a dedicated support worker who has made an exceptional difference in the lives of people with disability. The recipient demonstrates compassion, reliability, and a person-centred approach that empowers individuals to live with dignity, independence, and inclusion. This award celebrates their commitment, professionalism, and the positive impact they make every day in their community.

AGED CARE WORKER OF THE YEAR

This award celebrates an aged care worker who consistently provides high-quality care to elderly residents in the North-East. Acting with professionalism, kindness and empathy, the recipient shows dedication to assisting older Dorset residents live with dignity, maintaining independence (wherever possible) and quality of life.

TRADESPERSON OF THE YEAR

This award recognises an exceptional tradesperson who has demonstrated outstanding skill, reliability, and dedication to their craft. The recipient consistently delivers high-quality work, shows a strong work ethic, and upholds the highest standards of professionalism. This award celebrates their contribution to the industry and their commitment to excellence in every project they undertake.

INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRY AWARDS

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

This award celebrates an educator – within the early childhood educational and care, primary, secondary or Vocational Educational and Training setting – who goes above and beyond to facilitate a welcoming and dynamic learning environment. The recipient demonstrates a passion for teaching, fostering positive relationships with students and fellow staff. This award celebrates their dedication to teaching and vital role in inspiring the next generation of Dorset residents to reach their potential.

LOCAL TOURISM LEADER

This award recognises an individual who has made a significant impact within the local tourism industry. Whether a local business owner, tourism career professional or a dedicated volunteer, the recipient lives and breathes all things North-East and is committed to putting the region on the map. This award celebrates the individual's positive influence and invaluable contributions they have made within the tourism sector.

AGRICULTURE CHAMPION

This award is presented to an individual who makes a significant contribution to Dorset's agricultural industry. Enduring unpredictable conditions, day in day out, the recipient displays a strong work ethic, perseverance, business acumen and a commitment to their chosen field. Whether they've shown decades or tireless dedication to their field, or they are an up-and-coming farmer embracing innovative practices, this award celebrates someone who consistently makes an invaluable contribution to agriculture in the North-East.

EXCELLENCE IN BEAUTY & WELLBEING

This award celebrates a skilled individual working in hair, beauty and/or wellbeing industry. Eligible professions include hair stylists, barbers, beauty therapists, personal trainers, massage therapists, and gym, yoga or Pilates instructors. The recipient consistently strives for excellence, providing a nurturing and welcoming environment, and client satisfaction. The individual also shows a commitment to their field, continually developing their professional skills and staying abreast of the latest trends and product.

INDUSTRY AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN HOSPITALITY

This award recognises a cafe, restaurant or bistro who consistently delivers excellent hospitality. From exceptional customer service to high quality food, the recipient goes above and beyond to deliver a memorable dining experience.

EXCELLENCE IN RETAIL

This award is dedicated to a business that consistently provides high-quality customer service and experience. The recipient shows adaptability in improving the retail offering, fosters a positive and effective team culture, and consistently represents the brand with professionalism and integrity. Be it stocking quality items or ordering specific items in response to customer requests, the business repeatedly strives for and achieves excellence.

EXCELLENCE IN TOURISM

This award celebrates a business or organisation that makes an outstanding contribution to the local tourism industry, prioritising exceptional visitor experiences, high service and operational standards. The recipient demonstrates strong business performance, innovation in products or services, and sustainable and responsible tourism practices. Overall, the recipient makes an invaluable contribution to the North-East tourism industry, putting the region on the map and in turn supports the local community.



OVERALL AWARDS

EXCEPTIONAL WORKPLACE*

This award is presented to a business that consistently creates opportunities for local jobseekers, fosters positive workplace culture and encourages career development initiatives. The recipient is committed to supporting the growth and retainment of a skilled local workforce. This award is an opportunity for **employees** to celebrate their workplace and the positive impact it has in the community.

MOST INNOVATIVE BUSINESS*

This award celebrates a business that prioritises innovation. From the delivery of a specific visionary project, product or service, through to widespread use of innovative technologies and practices, the recipient displays a commitment to exploring new methods for the benefit of the business and/or wider community.

EMERGING BUSINESS*

This award recognises a new business in the North-East that has been open for five years or less. Establishing and running a business, especially in the early years, requires considerable vision, investment, challenges, and risks. The Emerging Business Award celebrates the efforts and contributions of a newcomer to the vibrant Dorset business community. (Nominees must have been established five or less years ago at December 2026, and located in the Dorset region).

Awards marked with an * will be judged by an external panel. Other award winners will be judged and selected fairly by representatives of Dorset Employment Connect. The awards are intended to be a celebration of local community members and no correspondence will be entered into.