

Rare five feat

Annie's Provedore & Produce Store achieved a rare feat when it was named a finalist in five categories at the 2018 Geelong Business Excellence Awards.

The store's excellence was acknowledged with placings in the Best First Year Entry, Regional Business, Tourism and Hospitality, Small Business and Retail Business categories.

Annie's describes itself as "a unique cafe and deli store" at Barwon Heads.

The store serves breakfast, lunch and dinner along with pantry staples ranging from local oils and jams through to cheeses and prosciutto.

Established in 2004, Annie's has become a renowned and highly respected brand due to the high level of customer service and extensive gourmet food lines on offer.

"Annie's is the go-to cafe for locals, visitors and foodies ... looking for that complete dining and entertaining experience," writes owner Andrea Orchard in the store's awards entry.

"Serving authentic Italian coffee and French pastries, along with our unique ambiance, is what makes Annie's stand out from the rest."

The business now expanded into other ventures including Annie's Kitchen, Catering and Events, in 2014 and Annie's Italy Venetian Food and Wine Tours, in 2016.



Staff amid the captivating range at Annie's Provedore and Produce Store.



Barwon Heads very own unique café, deli and food store

- Come in and see us for breakfast, lunch and dinner plus a huge array of pantry staples from local oils and jams through to some of the world's best cheeses and everything in between.
- With an Italian background, our desire is to bring the taste, style and passion of Italy to the Bellarine creating an authentic Italian dining and shopping experience.
- Also serving authentic, fresh Italian pizzas



Annie's also specialises in catering & events plus now offers exclusive Food & Wine Tours through Italy



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Great Ocean Stays' Christine Smith has a vision for increased accessibility in the tourism sector.

Stays winner

Great Ocean Stays was established in 2007 as a holiday booking, property management and accommodation business on the Bellarine Peninsula.

The business is distinguished by its industry-leading accommodation, Accessible Stays, which owner Christine Smith says provides "exceptional facilities and service" for clients at all levels of mobility and ability.

"The business is not disability-specific but operates as mainstream tourism service that's fully inclusive," she explains.

Christine says the initial impetus for the business was her experience of living with permanent hearing loss and facial paralysis, an acquired disability.

Christine launched her business in a market of increasing competition among emerging booking services.

She noted a deficiency in disability services, turning it into a market opportunity through the creation of "innovative, well-designed,

Category: Home Based & Micro Business
 Winner: Great Ocean Stays

purpose-built, accessible accommodation and a booking service linking accessible tourism products".

Christine has a vision to "create a region inclusive of all people" while inspiring accessibility among tourism businesses and raising awareness of the "social and economic benefits of increasing access".

Her success has earned praise from prominent Geelong businessman and holiday homeowner Keith Fagg.

"Chris approaches her business in very creative and strategic way," he says.

"She is the epitome of an astute and caring business person and is developing a particular niche in the market, which will only grow. This has significant social and business benefits."

Best designs

D and C Studio was a finalist in the Emerging Business and Home Based and Micro Business categories at the 2018 Geelong Business Excellence Awards.

D and C Studio is an agency "born from a passion to create exceptional brands through leading edge graphic design", writes director and founder Kate Dewey in her awards entry.

"We are dedicated to a single purpose: helping business owners to achieve their dreams in business," Kate says.

"Through gaining a deep understanding of our clients business and uncovering their unique personality and values, we design a brand so it authentically captures their essence and greater purpose, designing the brands of tomorrow for the businesses of today."

Kate has long had a "burning passion" to help others achieve their business dreams.

She has relied on her understanding of the key lessons for business success and how to identify structural deficiencies to develop D and Co Studio into an operation worthy of its place as a dual finalist in the business awards.

"Our vision is to be the design agency of choice based on our values of creativity, integrity, commitment and communication," Kate says.

"We're focused on developing enduring partnerships with our clients, understanding their businesses, dreams and objectives to deliver vibrant and engaging design/branding solutions that deliver exceptional results."



D and C Studio's driving force, Kate Dewey.



SIMPLY EXCEPTIONAL BRANDING

CREATING TOMORROW'S BRANDS FOR THE BUSINESSES OF TODAY.

WE ARE PROUD TO BE NAMED AS FINALISTS IN THE 2018 GEELONG BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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