



Tasman Island Cruises

Port Arthur – Eaglehawk Neck



MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM BRUNY ISLAND CHARTERS AND TASMAN ISLAND CRUISES

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NEW SUCCESSES FOR THE PENNICOTT FAMILY TASMANIAN TOURISM AWARDS 2008

Rob and Michaye Pennicott's widely-acclaimed eco-cruises continued their string of award successes in the 2008 Tasmanian Tourism Awards, with Bruny Island Charters named Tasmania's Best Tourist Attraction and Tasman Island Cruises winning the award for Best New Tourism Development.

Both cruises explore sections of south-east Tasmania's remote and dramatic coastline, where the highest sea-cliffs in the southern hemisphere rise up 300 metres from the water. Rob Pennicott custom-designed his company's fast, comfortable and sea-kindly craft specifically for this type of eco-cruising.

Bruny Island Charters operates from Adventure Bay, cruising south as far as the Friars, where Storm Bay meets the Southern Ocean. Tasman Island Cruises runs between Eaglehawk Bay and Port Arthur, giving guests a close encounter with Tasman Island on the way.

Intimate and varied observations of wildlife are key elements of both cruises. The boats drift quietly close to fur seal haul-outs; large pods of dolphins are very common; migrating whales are often sighted; and the variety of birdlife can include sea eagles, albatrosses, shearwaters, Australasian gannets and nesting cormorants.

Rob Pennicott says that 2008 has been a remarkable year for his family business, which recently won the Telstra MYOB Small Business Award and the Sensis Social Responsibility Award in Telstra's prestigious national business awards.

"On Bruny, we are proud to have helped drive a big increase in visitor numbers to the island, generating business for other local tourism operators," Rob says. "We also employ

a significant number of Bruny Island residents, further boosting the local economy.”

For the all-year-round Tasman Island Cruises operation, Rob purchased high-tech all-weather adventure suits to ensure the comfort and safety of guests.

“We run all year round from Eaglehawk Neck, giving people the opportunity to combine a cruise with a visit to the Port Arthur Historic Site,” Rob says. “We will run a cruise with only one passenger if necessary, a commitment we made from the start.”

While Rob and Michaye Pennicott have made a major financial investment in their two cruises, they are also strongly committed to investing in the environmental future of the regions they explore.

“We’ve based our operations on sound environmental principles, so we established the Tasmanian Coast Conservation Fund to help conserve and protect the coastal environment,” Rob says. “To date, we have donated a total of \$40,000 to the fund. One of the first positive outcomes will be support for Parks and Wildlife to eradicate feral cats on Tasman Island.”

Rob Pennicott has a clear vision about the style of eco-adventure he wants to deliver.

“We aim to provide an authentic experience of the environment, so our cruises are not luxury jaunts or thrill-seeking trips,” he says. “We make sure there is time for guests to stop, look and listen, instead of speeding along the coast with no chance to find out what makes the place unique.”

In their integrity, authenticity and sustainability, the eco-adventures offered by Rob Pennicott and his dedicated local team represent an outstanding example of a high-quality Tasmanian tourism initiative.

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