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## Local Guide Takes Silver at State Tourism Awards

Coastal Rag, Agnes Water

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While two of our towns shone brightly at the QTIC Top Tourism Town Awards, another local name was making waves in the Top Tour Guide category — and we couldn't be prouder.

Mike Oliver, from Travellers Rest 1770, entered his very first submission into the Top Tour Guide Awards and was in Brisbane earlier this month to attend the official announcements at 1 William Street. We're thrilled to share that Mike took home Silver, a fantastic recognition of the work he does guiding visitors through the unique landscapes and stories of our region.

Mike is the face behind Bush Tracks 1770, a down-to-earth and immersive tour experience that gives travellers a rare and authentic perspective on our natural environment. Whether he's pointing out native flora, sharing bush survival knowledge, or recounting cultural insights, his passion for place is unmistakable — especially when he's in his element, wearing his signature khakis and Akubra.

Over the past month, Mike has stepped out of the bush and into the boardroom, taking on three engagements with city-based tourism businesses to help promote the region and connect with industry. But make no mistake — as much as he supports the broader tourism network, his heart lies in the wild. And that's exactly where he shines. We're also incredibly proud of both Mike and his wife Michi, who together have made the most of every opportunity presented to them through their Regional Tourism Organisation membership with Gladstone Area

Promotion and Development Limited (GAPDL). Their energy, professionalism, and openness to collaborate make them a brilliant example of how regional tourism can be done right.

If you haven't experienced one of Mike's tours for yourself, you're missing out on something truly special. Bush Tracks 1770 is a genuine, grassroots experience that's both educational and deeply connected to the land.

To learn more or book a tour, visit: [travellersrest1770.com.au/bush-tracks-1770](http://travellersrest1770.com.au/bush-tracks-1770)

Let's continue to support and celebrate our locals who go above and beyond to showcase this incredible part of the world we call home.

**Melissa Smith**  
*Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited*



Photo: From left to right, Mike Oliver, Melissa Smith and Tash Hobbs