



# Destination North Coast NSW

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## North Coast News & Views Issue 23

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### **2018 North Coast Regional Tourism Awards**

Brought back to the region by the NSW Business Chamber and Regional Tourism Awards Inc., and co-hosted by Destination North Coast and Destination Coffs Coast, Wednesday evening saw leading tourism businesses, events and visitor experience providers don their finest threads to come together to celebrate local success.

Winners in 13 categories were announced at the gala awards ceremony from finalists including local councils, tourism businesses, events, restaurants and accommodation providers. More than 200 industry representatives were in attendance to see who would take home the coveted awards and witness the induction of nine businesses into the Hall of Fame.

#### **Tourist Attractions**

Gold: Forestry Corporation of NSW, Coffs Harbour

Silver: Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail, Port Macquarie

Bronze: The Big Banana Pty Ltd, Coffs Harbour

Finalist: Koala Preservation Society, Port Macquarie

#### **Festivals and Events**

Gold: Lismore City Council, "Eat the Street"

Silver: Woolgoolga Curryfest

Finalist: Bonville Golf Resort

#### **Ecotourism**

Gold: Byron Bay Eco Cruises & Kayaks

Silver: Jetty Dive Centre

#### **Cultural Tourism**

Gold: Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail

Silver: Port Macquarie Museum

Encouragement Award: Bunker Cartoon Gallery

#### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism**

Gold: Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation, Coffs Harbour

Silver: Wajaana Yaam Gumbaynggirr Adventure Tours, Coffs Harbour

### **Specialised Tourism Services**

Gold: Arts Mid North Coast Inc

### **Destination Marketing**

Gold: Coffs Harbour City Council, Coffs Harbour

Finalist: Clarence Valley Council, Clarence Valley

### **Caravan and Holiday Parks**

Gold: BIG4 Great Lakes at Foster-Tuncurry

Silver: Reflections Holiday Parks Seal Rocks, Seal Rocks

### **Self-Contained Accommodation**

Gold: Riverside Holiday Resort Urunga, Urunga

Silver: Macquarie Waters Boutique Apartments, Port Macquarie

### **Standard Accommodation**

Gold: Heritage Hotel Motel, Dorrigo

Finalist: Vacation Village Resort, Port Macquarie

### **New Tourism Business**

Gold: Open Air Picnics

### **Excellence in Food Tourism**

Gold: The Cheesemaking Workshop, Coffs Harbour

### **Tourism Education and Training**

Gold: TEACH at TAFE NSW Wollongbar, Wollongbar

### **Hall of Fame Inductees**

The Big Banana Fun Park, Coffs Harbour (Major Tourist Attractions)

Byron Bay Bluesfest, Byron Bay (Major Festivals and Events)

Port Macquarie Museum, Port Macquarie (Cultural Tourism)

Arakwal Dolphin Dreaming, Byron Bay (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism)

State Forests of the Coffs Coast, Coffs Harbour (Specialised Tourism Services)

Lismore and Nimbin Visitor Information Centres, Lismore (Visitor Information Services)

TEACH at Wollongbar TAFE, Wollongbar (Tourism Education & Training)

Bent on Food, Wingham (Excellence in Food Tourism)

Park Beach Holiday Park, Coffs Harbour (Caravan and Holiday Parks)

Category winners from the Regional Tourism Awards will now gain finalist status upon entering the NSW Tourism Awards to be held in Sydney later this year.

A big North Coast CONGRATULATIONS to all winners, all finalists, all entrants and all Hall of Famers!



Gold - Caravan and Holiday Parks  
Big4 Great Lakes at Forster-Tuncurry



Welcome to Country  
Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation



Gold - Destination Marketing  
Coffs Harbour City Council

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## **North Coast Tourism Symposium**

The North Coast Tourism Symposium held concurrently with the Regional Tourism Awards started off with a warm welcome to country in Gumbaynggirr language from Clark Webb, Bularri

Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation.

With a Ready Set Go sporting theme, guest speaker Ironwoman Courtney Hancock led off a series of inspirational and informative speakers who held a cracking pace right through the day. Tourism Australia's Industry Relations Manager, Dominic Mehling, provided the bigger picture tourism outlook whilst Emma McDonald from Austrade gave insight into investment attraction in regional tourism.

Stewart Moore, CEO of EarthCheck, and consultant for the North Coast Nature-based Tourism Investment Activation Project joined Julie Bishop, National Parks & Wildlife and Louise Faulkner, Forestry Corporation NSW as experts on Destination Nature and on partnerships and collaboration. Three entrepreneurial operators joined the panel and shared their experience in launching and expanding their businesses by seeking funding and working in partnership with landholders.

The importance of Inclusive Tourism was brought to attendees by Melissa James, CEO and Founder, [Inclusive Tourism Pty Ltd](#) who also outlined areas we can all improve to enhance the overall North Coast guest experience.

Delegates were given an insight into the importance of Business Events and Conferencing to our Visitor Economy by TA's Dominic Mehling and Brad Daymond, General Manager of Bonville Golf Resort and Pacific bay Resort (where the Symposium was held), with this panel moderated by the Chair of Destination North Coast, Cameron Arnold.

The growing importance of the Food and Agri-tourism sector ties in nicely with nature-based tourism and was broken down by Rose Wright, Destination Tweed and Regionality, in an entertaining panel session that featured Craig Milburn, General Manager, Kempsey Shire Council on the evolution of the Macleay Valley Food Bowl initiative and other local food and agri-tourism operator success-stories in Synchronicity Farm and Cedar Bar & Kitchen, a member of the Coffs Coast Food Collective.

Bringing it all together at the end of the Symposium was Lilly and Trevor Lee from TravConsult with a pep talk on how to "Be Remarkable" to deliver a stand out guest experience that ensures guests return time and time again to our beautiful region.

Any presentations that have been approved for distribution by the speakers will be shared via a DropBox link in our next industry e-newsletter.

Thank you to all speakers who helped ensure the success of the day and to all who took time out of their busy schedule to attend the North Coast Tourism Symposium.



Nature Based Tourism  
Investment Activation Panel



Tourism Outlook feat.  
AusTrade, Tourism Australia, EarthCheck



Nature Based Tourism  
Investment Activation Panel

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