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## North Coast News & Views No. 148

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### North Coast Tourism Symposium Post-Event Survey Feedback

The results are in confirming the overwhelming success of the recent North Coast Tourism Symposium and Awards Gala Dinner.

Of the post-event survey responses received, the Symposium Program was rated excellent (66%) or good (34%), whilst the Saraton Theatre as the conference venue for the day was rated excellent by 71% of respondents with 28% rating it good. The catering was similarly well-received with nearly 85% rating it excellent.

No surprises that our conference keynote speaker, Steve Sammartino, was deemed the most valuable speaker/session by 74% of respondents. Stewart Moore of Earthcheck came in a close second and Michael Thurston, Destination North Coast and Catriona Wallace were also considered highly valuable speakers/sessions. The 'Battle of the Future' Facilitated Panel Session, National Parks and Wildlife and in fact, all other sessions, hit the mark according to the survey results.

The Local Tourism Awards Program and Ceremony was deemed excellent or good by over 80% of survey respondents. The catering was super well-received with nearly 80% of respondents rating it excellent (and the rest rated it good). Our MC for the night, Desan Padayachee and our entertainment, Ryan Martin Trio both rated either excellent or good by nearly 90% of respondents.

Perhaps most pleasing was that **100% of respondents rated Symposium and/or the Awards good value for money and 100% plan to attend Symposium and/or the Awards in 2023.**

Thanks to everyone who provided their feedback which we appreciate and which assists our planning for next year's events.





## \$68 Million Arts And Cultural Funding Program Now Open

New South Wales audiences and visitors will have access to more outstanding arts and cultural events thanks to the NSW Government's \$68 million Arts and Cultural Funding Program (ACFP). The ACFP is part of the NSW Government's commitment to ensuring arts and culture is accessible to everyone, no matter which corner of the State they live.

[Applications for Round One of the Arts and Cultural Funding Program](#) are now open and close on 29 August 2022.

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## India To Be Australia's Largest Visitor Market By 2030

The NSW Government's trade mission to India has coincided with a prediction by Tourism Australia that the country will be Australia's largest tourist market by 2030.

Tourism Australia, Regional General Manager for Southeast Asia Brent Anderson said India was currently the second biggest source market for Australia after New Zealand. It is expected that around 400,000 Indian visitors will arrive on our shores by June next year.

The [latest data](#) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows the three leading source countries for visitors to NSW in May 2022 were New Zealand (14,490 trips), India (9,190) and the United States (9,140).

Read [Media Release](#).

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## Australia's 50 Best Towns - Have Your Say

Leading travel publication, Australian Traveller is on the hunt for Australia's best town. From towns with unique attractions and bursting foodie scenes, to those brimming with visual beauty and personable charm, when planning a domestic getaway, our country is overwhelmed for choice. As well as crowning the Best Town in Australia, the publication will be publishing the publicly voted list of the 50 Top Towns in the Nov-Jan 2022/23 issue of the magazine.

Travel lovers have until Friday 19 August [to complete the survey](#).

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## Industry Insights

### National Visitor Survey Monthly Snapshot May 2022

Tourism Research Australia (TRA) has published the [National Visitor Survey \(NVS\)](#) snapshot for the month of May 2022. It provides statistics on how Australian residents travelled in each state or territory and nationally during this period.

Domestic tourism continued to recover in May. Overall Australian residents took 9.2 million overnight trips, staying for 31 million nights and spent \$7.7 billion in May 2022.

### International Visitor Arrivals Data - June 2022

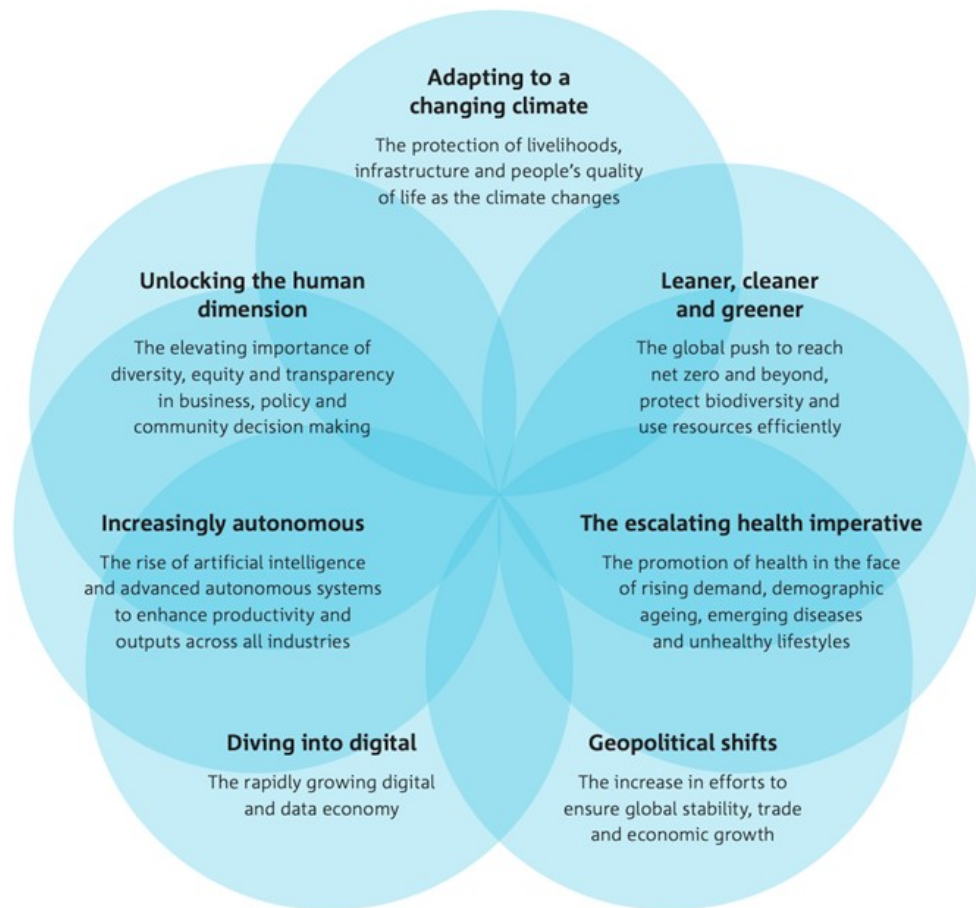
The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released data on [international travel arriving in and departing](#) from Australia for the month of June 2022.

### CSIRO Releases Megatrends Report 'Our Future World'

Megatrends are trajectories of change that typically unfold over years or decades and have the potential for substantial and transformative impact.

The themes of autonomous, digital, biodiversity, sustainability, human health and geopolitical shifts all have huge implications for the business of agriculture and food.

This report presents an update on [CSIRO's global megatrends](#) out to 2042 with the view to guide long-term investment, strategic and policy directions across government, industry, the not-for-profit sector and the broader Australian community.



### **Tourism Australia - Consumer Demand Project**

Tourism Australia's Consumer Demand Project (CDP) is regular research undertaken to understand how consumers view Australia as a holiday destination, and what most motivates them to travel to and around Australia.

See latest [June 2022 Report](#).

### **Q2 Traveler Insights Report**

Expedia has released its [traveller insights report](#) for Quarter 2, 2022.

### **Hospitality Spending Continues To Rise**

New [Australian Bureau of Statistics data](#) shows hospitality spending rose 9.2 per cent in NSW in June 2022. Head of macroeconomic statistics at the ABS Jacqui Vitas said: "Spending categories most impacted from COVID-19 responses - transport, hotels, cafes and restaurants, and clothing and footwear - have now returned to pre-pandemic levels." Overall, household spending in NSW rose 7.7 per cent compared to the same time last year.

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## Industry Development And Other Opportunities

### Working With Tourism Australia

It's always good to review the resources available at Tourism Australia and how industry can work with our national agency.

Review the [Working with TA Guide](#).

### Business Connect - Small business support

Business Connect supports NSW businesses as they navigate the challenges in starting up, running, adapting and growing their business. Get independent business advice, practical insights and business skills training on a range of topics for your small business.

Eligible NSW businesses can access up to four hours of advice free of charge. For businesses impacted by COVID-19, Business Connect services, including advisory sessions, are free - see [Eligibility for Business Connect](#) for more detail.

To find out more information on how Business Connect can support you or for information on events, webinars, workshops and on demand webinars and resources for practical tips and insights visit: [NSW Government](#).

Upcoming webinars and events include:

[Systems and processes to scale your business](#) - Friday, 19 August at 4pm

[Time management and planning](#) - Tuesday, 23 August at 1pm

[Mitigating risks in the supply chain](#) - Tuesday, 23 August at 5pm

[Measuring your marketing](#) - Wednesday, 31 August at 10am

### Lismore Jobs Fair

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, together with the Local Jobs Program will be hosting a Jobs Fair in the Lismore region on the 29 August 2022, 9:30am - 6:00pm.

This event is aiming to provide support to the many local businesses in this unique environment of workforce/labour shortages, and who are in the operational and recovery phases from the recent flood events. We are looking forward to enabling the linkage to a pool of job-ready and skilled employees, inclusive of the displaced workers seeking new opportunities with business operators.

The Lismore Jobs Fair aims to provide several support agencies and workshops that will provide advice to individuals who find themselves in challenging circumstances and displaced from their previous roles. The Lismore Jobs Fair will also provide a central hub for these people to connect to local employers from a range of industries offering many and varied vacancies.

Find [more information here](#).



### Get Connected

[Get Connected](#) is Destination NSW's website membership program that connects into the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW). Simple and easy to use Get Connected membership is free and is open to all tourism operators within New South Wales. With Get Connected, Destination NSW gives you the opportunity to showcase your tourism products on the State's consumer websites FREE of charge and tap into over 1.5 million potential customers a month, both domestic and international - that's over 18.5 million people a year who are looking for tourism products.

Follow the prompts online to take advantage of this service, and register with [ATDW](#) which is the national digital tourism platform that powers the Get Connected Program. If you already have an ATDW profile, check it is up-to-date and add fresh images and video as it becomes available. [Operator Guidelines](#) are available to ensure your business or event is correctly (and fully) profiled for best impact.

### Tourism Access & Inclusion Resources

Tourism businesses can now access a variety of resources produced by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Tourism Working Group, through their Tourism Access and Inclusion project. The suite of online resources is designed to enable tourism businesses to learn how to successfully adapt their business and work practices to make them more accessible and inclusive for their customers. Access the resources on the [APEC Accessible Tourism hub](#).

### Meet the Tweed

This event from the Tweed Tourism Co. is designed to showcase tours and attraction operators and provide a product update to local accommodation operators. The marketing, front desk and concierge teams are invited to "Meet the Tweed" to learn more, form stronger connections and partnerships and be well informed to sell these tours and experiences to guests.

**4.00pm - 6.30pm, 13 September 2022.**



# Meet The Tweed

**TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER**  
4PM - 6:30PM

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**PEPPERS SALT RESORT & SPA**  
BELLS BOULEVARD, KINGSCLIFF

**OPERATOR REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN**

## Funding And Other Opportunities

### [Stronger Country Communities Fund](#)

The Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) Round 5 aims to boost the wellbeing of communities in regional areas by providing new or upgraded social and sporting infrastructure, or community programs that have strong local support. **Closes 23 September 2022.**

### [Volunteer And Museum Small Grants](#)

Volunteer & Museum Small Grants aim to meet the short-term, collection-based requirements of community museums and Aboriginal cultural spaces. Small Grants are open to museums and Aboriginal cultural spaces (with object collections and displays) with up to two full time paid staff members (no more than 70 hours of paid staffing per week) as well as museum networks such as AMaGA Chapters. Grants up to \$2,000 are available with priority given to museums impacted by flooding and flood related applications. **Closes 11 September 2022.**

### [Strengthening Business](#)

Strengthening Business is a service under the AusIndustry Entrepreneurs' Programme that connects you with experts to make your business stronger, more resilient and better prepared for the future. This program is targeted at small businesses located in regions impacted by the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires and recent flood emergencies. You'll be paired with an independent facilitator. Your facilitator will recommend ways to strengthen your business systems, operations and strategies to help you get back on your feet and identify opportunities to improve your business. **Closes 30 June 2023.**

### [EV Charging Grants Webinar](#)

The Office of Energy and Climate Change is holding a webinar on applying for Drive Electric NSW EV destination charging grants. An expert panel will provide an introduction to round one of the grants; plus explain how to own and operate an EV charger and how to use them to promote your business and attract EV drivers to your site. [Register here](#) for the webinar on 24 August 2022. **Closes 23 September 2022.**

### [Coastal and Estuary Grants Program](#)

The NSW Government's Coastal and Estuary Grants Program provides technical and financial support to local government to help manage the coastal zone. The main aim of the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program is to manage risks from coastal hazards, restore and maintain coastal habitats and improve the health of estuaries, wetlands and coastal rainforests in New South Wales.

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## Around The Region

### **Streets As Shared Spaces - Laurieton**

Port Macquarie Hastings Council has secured funding through the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces Program to deliver a pilot trial of the Laurieton Town Centre Master Plan within one block of Seymour Street. The project - [Switch on Seymour](#) - will activate the corridor connecting the town centre with the Camden Haven River enticing locals and visitors to discover and connect with the space differently both day and night and to enjoy a pedestrian friendly new destination within their town centre.

### **Business Community Resilience Toolkit**





The Business Community Resilience Toolkit is available for Lismore businesses now, FREE until September 2022. Don't miss out on the 26-module online program where you can learn to incorporate resilience practices into your day-to-day operations AND prepare for future disasters at the same time.

[Find out more, or register here.](#)

#### **Forum Puts Focus On Tweed Live Music Scene**

What does a thriving live music scene in the Tweed look like? That's the focus of a free music industry forum planned for Friday 19 August at the Murwillumbah Auditorium from 10 am to 3:15 pm. The forum will be facilitated by the Live Music Office and include presentations on the Live and Local program, an overview of the regulatory framework for live music and cultural activity in NSW, and a series of facilitated discussions on the Tweed music scene - as well as live music performances. [Register here.](#)

#### **North Coast In The News**

##### **Yamba Features in Australian Traveller**

14 fabulous things to do in Yamba was a feature in the July issue of [Australian Traveller](#).

##### **Best City & Regional Restaurants In NSW**

The 2022 [delicious.100](#) for NSW list has been released, featuring the best restaurants across the state. At number one was Pellegrino 2000 in Surry Hills, created by the team behind famed Bistrot 916. The top regional restaurant, coming in at number 18, was [Beach Byron Bay](#). [Harvest Newrybar](#) also made the list. delicious Editorial Director Kerrie McCallum said: "It's no secret that the last two years have been tough on producers and restaurants. But the hospitality industry has not been discouraged and we are on a mission to find and share the most delicious restaurants in 2022."

##### **Port Macquarie on Taste of Australia**

The Port Macquarie region will feature in an upcoming episode of [Taste of Australia with Hayden Quinn](#), which will air on Channel 10 on 28 August! It'll also be available on Ten Play, with cross promos on Wotif.com and socials.



## North Coast Product Development

### [The Sherwood Estate - Macleay Valley](#)

The Sherwood Estate has been transformed and reopened with a new restaurant, bar and function venue and offering a range of events, quality dining and entertainment.

### **Blue River Apartments Offering Yuraygir Coastal Walk Experiences**

There are several options to manage this walk:

- Self-guided, accommodation [Blue River Apartments](#)
- Self-guided, accommodation on route. Walkers should refer to [Yuraygir Coastal Walk NSW National Parks](#) for further information
- Fully-guided, contact the team at [Yuraygir Walking Experiences](#)
- Or a combination of the above to suit conditions and walkers fitness level and interest.

Note: Angourie to Lake Arragan Part of the walk is closed until 20 Sep 2022.

### [The Collective Studio - Casino](#)

The studio showcases a talented group of people, local artists and small businesses from the local community and surrounds. Upcoming [workshops](#) include macrame jewellery making, sound healing, felt making and more.

### [Gypsy's Café - Coraki](#)

Sweet eats and treats and pizza and now offering delivery.

### [Lundberg Gallery - Murwillumbah](#)

The Lundberg Gallery, owned by artist Clive Sheridan, opened in May 2022 and is a contemporary industrial-style space featuring a selection of thoughtfully curated group and solo exhibitions.

### [Boat Harbour Farmers & Artisan Market](#)

Presenting the best of the Tweed region producers at the Jack Evans Boat Harbour Farmers & Artisan Market, where all products are 100% sourced and made locally. Markets will be held 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month.

### [Apex Dining - Tweed Regional Gallery](#)

Apex Dining at the Tweed Regional Gallery is the brainchild of the operators behind 'Baked at Ancora' and will feature a combination of rustic French patisserie, modern café plates with a fresh and playful pan-Asian twist, all driven by the abundant local product that surrounds.

### [Pipit Restaurant Monday Night Pop-up](#)

Award-winning Pipit has introduced a Monday Night Bistro pop up, presenting their exceptional fare in a casual a la carte style format. The casual 'Wine Bar' is available every Sunday in the courtyard. Upcoming collaboration with Amaru Restaurant 28/29 August.



### [Zig Zag Path Upgrade - Yamba](#)

The zig zag path upgrade at Flinders Park included the construction of a new board walk style walkway, slope stabilisation and rehabilitation officially opens. This has improved pedestrian access by removing steps and having a continuous ramp for all.

### Artists wanted

Northern Rivers Community Gallery (NRCG) is seeking applications from artists, designers, curators, community, and cultural groups to exhibit as part of their July 2023 - February 2024 Exhibition Program.

### Out of the Blue Adventures - Ballina

Out of the Blue Adventures have recently launched their new boat just in time for whale watching season and summer months. The new boat has 25 seats (original boat has 20) therefore the capacity for tours can be up to 45 people per time slot of tours. Operating 4 tours daily for whale watching (7:30am, 10.00am, 12:30 pm and 3.00pm).

### Pop Denison Park - East Ballina

Pop Denison Park upgrades including the junior playground are nearing completion, expected to be finished in August weather permitting. Upgrades include adventure pathways and new play equipment.

### Bar One Three Five

Bar One Three Five is where the vineyard meets the city in Coffs Harbour's very first wine bar. Each weekend evening there'll be good food, great atmosphere and better company! Bar One Three Five provides an opportunity to experience the culinary delights of the regions - why leave the city when you can experience a hand-picked selection of the best food and beverages on offer?

### Accessible Accommodation qualification

Riverside Resort, Urunga has qualified as an independent wheelchair user friendly resort through the Accessible Accommodation qualification program and can display this accreditation and be a part of such a wonderful initiative.



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## North Coast Events

To aid your planning and to support local events, please note these upcoming events on the North Coast or find [all events on our website](#).

### White Lightning Events - Woopi Mountain Bike Festival

The Woolgoolga MTB Festival Wedding Bells XC Race course is 6km long and takes in some of the trails that Wedding Bells is famous for. This course will suit XC veterans and new comers wanting to test themselves. 8.30 start from upper trailhead on Stuarts Road. Presentation will take place from 6pm at the Woopi Brewery. **26-28 August 2022.**

### Travelling Film Festival comes to Murwillumbah

The Travelling Film Festival will be screening at the Regent Cinemas in Murwillumbah. The program includes feature films, documentaries and shorts from Australia and across the globe. **9 to 11 September 2022.**

### Woodburn Riverside Festival 2022

A family fun afternoon of activities and entertainment. **17 September 2022.**

### Slim Dusty Centre

Currently on display in the Centre Gallery are some of the Sculptures from Sculptures in the Gaol South West Rocks 2022. Closes **24 September 2022.** Uncle John Kelly Dunghutti elder from Kempsey, artwork will be displayed from **September to November 2022.**

### Kinship Festival Promotes Community Healing.

The Kinship Festival is a celebration of Aboriginal art, dance, community and culture for the whole community to enjoy at Knox Park, Murwillumbah. The free community event, supported by Tweed Shire Council, will promote the theme of Healing - After the Floods and provides an opportunity for people from all walks of life to see and appreciate local indigenous culture that's alive and thriving. The Aboriginal artisan markets will feature more than 30 Aboriginal artists and craftspeople from across the region. **24 September 2022.**



### Tyalgum Music Festival

The Tyalgum Music Festival is celebrating 30 years in the Caldera with 8 concerts over 3 days. Join in for a weekend of sublime music, Husk gin and tonic, coffee and afternoon tea. Due to a major landslip on the Tyalgum Road, please access Tyalgum village via Chillingham. **16 -18 September 2022.**

### Cape Byron Distillery Open Day

Cape Byron Distillery, the home of Brookie's Byron Gin will open its doors to the community to mark the occasion of its highly anticipated whisky release. Experience behind-the-scenes whisky tours and tastings. Sip signature Brookie's cocktails on the deck overlooking the rainforest, soak up live music and satiate your appetite with a burger pop-up food truck. The Co-founders, Master Distiller Jim McEwan (Islay, Scotland) & Distiller Eddie Brook (Byron Bay based) will be on site for the day sharing their knowledge and whisky wisdom and of course tasting a few wee drams with the lucky guests. The event is free to attend, walk-ins are welcome and charity donations are encouraged. **27 August 2022.**

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## COVID-19 Resource Centre

The DNC [COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) makes it easy to access relevant information and find links to appropriate Government and other resources.

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