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## North Coast News & Views No. 151

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### Businesses Urged To Enhance Cyber Security

Cyber security incidents have the potential to be devastating for all businesses, big and small. In response to the heightened cyber threat environment, the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) is urging all Australian businesses to enhance their cyber security to mitigate and reduce the impact of cyber threats.

Find [more information](#).

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### New Warning System For Floods And Tsunamis

The NSW SES is transitioning to the Australian Warning System (AWS) from 30 September 2022. Flood and tsunami warnings will include a warning level - Advice, Watch and Act or Emergency Warning. Each warning will be accompanied by a clear action statement so you know what to do when disaster strikes

Read [media release](#).

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### Vivid Sydney Wins 14 Medals At 2022 IFEA Pinnacle Awards

Vivid Sydney, Australia's largest event and the Southern Hemisphere's largest festival of Light, Music and Ideas, has won 14 medals at the 2022 International Festival & Events Association (IFEA) Pinnacle Awards.

Regarded as the Academy Awards of the festivals and events industry, the Pinnacle Awards recognise excellence in festival and event promotions and operations globally.

Vivid Sydney 2022, which is owned, managed and produced by Destination NSW, won a Silver Grand Pinnacle Award. The Grand Pinnacle is the highest award given by the IFEA. It recognises festivals that have excelled at all elements necessary to ensure a successful event.

Read [media release](#) to see the additional Awards won by Vivid Sydney 2022.



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## Connect To Country Issue 2

The second edition of [Connect to Country](#), a digital publication presented by Tourism Australia and Discover Aboriginal Experiences, has been released. The latest edition explores the stories behind the art, festivals, islands and romantic stays, plus provides a first-hand perspective from the storytellers who guide us when we walk on Country.

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## \$17 Million Upgrades To Crown Land Holiday Parks

Regional tourism spending is set for a boost leading into summer with more than \$17 million invested in upgrades to holiday parks on Crown land.

Reflections Holiday Parks has invested \$13.3 million in new accommodation at North Coast parks. Reflections are driving an ambitious program of park developments in 2023 and 2024 which will see premium and luxury cabins, innovative tiny homes and glamping opportunities installed across their parks. This will significantly grow visitor spending in the regions of the parks from \$98 million in Financial Year 2020/21 to \$128 million after planned investment and delivery of strategic initiatives over the next two years.

This is part of the Reflections Strategic Plan to boost investment in 36 parks across the State, enhance the guest experience to showcase regional NSW and increase visitation to local townships.

Read [media release](#).

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## Congratulations Margaret Shannon - Myall Lakes Woman Of The Year 2022

Destination North Coast Board Member and Barrington Coast businesswoman Margaret Shannon has won Local Woman Of The Year 2022.

A passionate advocate for tourism and General Manager of Tiona Holiday Park, Margaret has been recognised for her commitment, enthusiasm and initiative. These NSW Government awards celebrate the support women give to their local communities across NSW. Award-winning [Tiona Holiday Park](#) showcases the best of our coastal region and Margaret has been a passionate member of the Forster-Tuncurry Business Chamber and the Great Lakes Tourism Industry Association.

Congratulations Margaret!



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## Tourism Industry Insights

### NSW Leads Visitor Arrivals

New data from the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) shows NSW was the number one destination for international travellers in July, with 107,570 short-term visitor arrivals, an increase of 101,410 year on year.

The three leading source countries for visitors to NSW were: New Zealand (20,860 trips) United States (12,870) and the United Kingdom (8500). For visitors arriving in NSW for long-term trips (one year or more) there were 20,540 arrivals, an increase of 18,920 compared with the corresponding month of the previous year.

### National Visitor Survey Results - Year Ending June 2022

Tourism Research Australia has released the [National Visitor Survey \(NVS\)](#) results for year ending June 2022.

Domestic tourism continues to recover from pre-pandemic levels and whilst annualised spending is still down on 2019 levels, the June 2022 Quarter saw domestic overnight spending up 29% compared to the same quarter in 2019. Regional areas continued to fare better than capital cities over the year.

### Aussies Prioritise Travel Plans

The [Intrepid Travel Index for 2022](#) has revealed that while COVID-19 remains top of mind, Australian appetite for travel is stronger. The annual report is based on a combination of Intrepid's owned insights and externally commissioned research of more than 1000 Australians.

Intrepid Managing Director for ANZ Sarah Clark said 79 per cent of Australians were planning to book a trip next year, and more than half (55 per cent) said the current financial situation hasn't impacted their travel plans. Domestic travel is also top of mind. "For the first time in 33 years, we have seen Australia take the top prize as the most popular destination for booking at the moment," Ms Clark said.

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## Around The Region

### Best NSW Restaurants & Catering

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) has announced the winners of the [2022 NSW Restaurant & Catering HOSTPLUS Awards for Excellence](#).

North Coast winners included;

- Forest, Byron Bay - Contemporary Australian Restaurant - Formal
- Mavis' Kitchen, Uki - Tourism Restaurant
- The Garden Eatery, Tea Gardens - Consumer Vote Award

### Laura Black Awarded Champion of Change Award

Clarence Valley Council's recently appointed General Manager Laura Black was jointly awarded the [Champion of Change Award - Regional/Rural](#) at the 2021 Minister's Awards for Women in Local Government held at NSW Parliament House last week.

Ms Black was nominated for the award in her previous role as Director, Corporate and Governance at Clarence Valley Council before taking over the mantle of General Manager.

Congratulations Laura!

### Sea Horse Diamond Beach Wins Tourism Awards

Mid North Coast holiday accommodation business, [Sea Horse Diamond Beach](#), recently shone the spotlight on the excellence in tourism accommodation by winning not one but two major Hospitality and Tourism awards in the internationally recognised '[Stevie Awards](#)'.

Now in its 19th year, the Stevie Awards, hailed as the world's premier business awards, honour organizations of all types and sizes and the people behind them, recognizing outstanding performances worldwide.

Congratulations to owners Dianne and Chris Denton.

Read [media release](#).

### Ballina Shire Festival and Event Funding - 2023/24

Ballina Shire Council is pleased to announce the [Festival and Event Sponsorship Program for 2023/24](#) is now open.

### Byron Shire Council Mayoral Fund

Each year Council allocates funding to support individuals and community groups as part of the [Mayoral Fund](#). Community groups, schools and not-for-profits are encouraged to apply for a slice of this year's Mayoral Fund which is open until 7 October 2022.

### North Coast Businesses Join The Ecotourism Australia Community!

Two North Coast businesses have become certified with Eco Tourism Australia.

- [Byron Bay Dive Centre](#) - Ecotourism certified
- [Mount Browne Cottage](#) - Nature Tourism certified

### Tweed Escapes Win APAC Business Award

Congratulations to Tweed Escapes on being awarded Best River Cruise Experience Provider at the 2022 APAC Business Awards. To find out more about their award-winning experiences, [visit their website](#).

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## Industry Development And Other Opportunities

### 2023 Women Of The Year Awards Nominations Open

The NSW Women of the Year Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding contribution made by women across NSW.

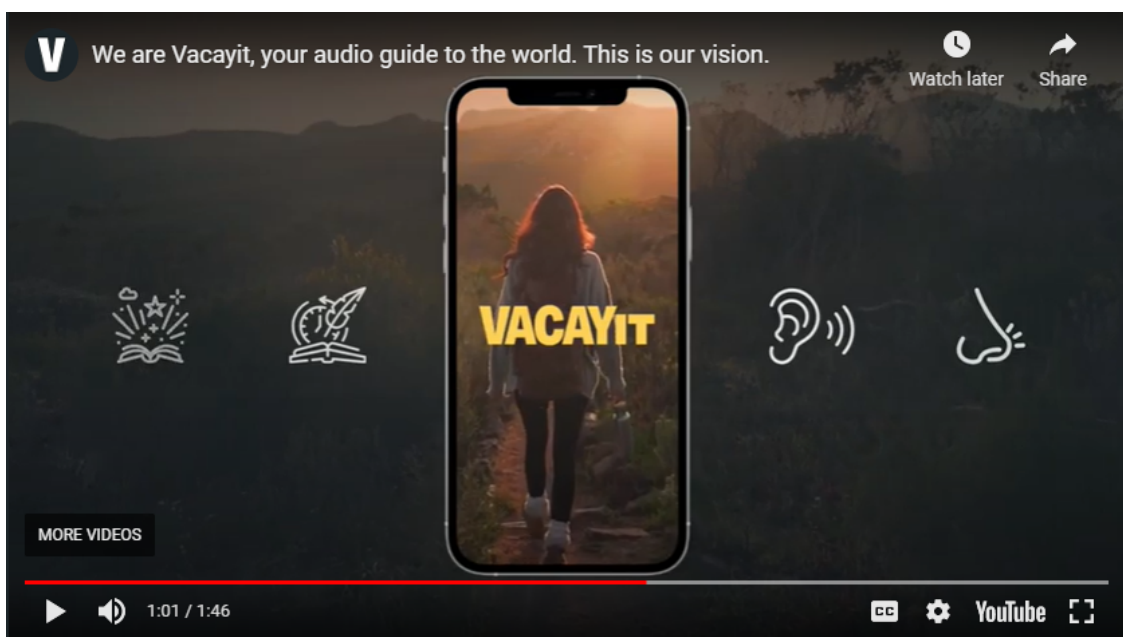
There are six award categories:

- Woman of Excellence
- Aboriginal Woman of the Year
- Community Hero of the Year
- Young Woman of the Year
- Regional Woman of the Year
- One to Watch

[Nominations close 30 September 2022.](#)

### Vacayit Audio Story-Telling App Launches

[Vacayit](#), an audio story-telling app providing accessible travel content, launched in Australia last week. The destination marketing tool is designed to facilitate independent decision-making for blind and low vision tourists. The audio app is a one-stop platform that can be used during the planning stages of a holiday or as an audio tour guide at attractions. Each featured destination combines history and stories to enhance users' sensory experiences. The stories range from distilleries and prison tours, to thrilling race car experiences.



### Creative And Commercially Sound?

Keen to turn your creativity into a business? Are you an artist, filmmaker, designer, or creator at the beginning of your career, or at the crossroads of making your creative ideas a sustainable, commercially sound reality?

These two workshops at the **Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery on Saturday 22 October** are aimed at supporting creative ideas become sustainable business ideas.

[9:30-11:30am - What it's worth](#) is a practical workshop that covers the basics of figuring out the price point for creative work, including calculating costs and understanding what the market can bear. What's It Worth is vital for anyone struggling to understand the value of their own work, and how to share that value with others.

[1:00 - 3:00pm - Diversify your creative income](#) is an interactive workshop that discusses the various general ways that creatives can make money (including services, goods and passive income), and includes practical exercises to help brainstorm those ideas.

### Business Bites Podcasts





Northern Rivers Food and Southern Cross University present Business Bites, the podcast series that discusses, evaluates and explores all the factors that contribute to making a successful business. Each episode provides wisdom and insights from forward-thinking academics and leading industry experts about what really helps a business stay relevant and thrive.

The Business Bites podcast is hosted by well-known Australian media personality and ABC North Coast radio host Angela Catterns and is designed to help the local food and beverage industry adapt and respond to recent challenges, from COVID-19 to natural disasters.

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## Funding And Other Opportunities

### [Deadline Extended For EV Charger Funding](#)

The Office of Energy and Climate Change has extended the deadline to 11 November 2022 for eligible locations in regional NSW to apply for electric vehicle (EV) charger funding. The number of EV drivers has tripled in the past 12 months.

### [NSW Boating Infrastructure Fund](#)

Round 5 of the NSW Government Boating Infrastructure Fund has been announced. The \$2 million fund can be used to fund boating assets used by the general public. **Applications close 30 September 2022.**

### [Leg Up Grants](#)

Museums and Galleries of NSW Leg Up Grants are quick response skill development grants for workers in volunteer managed museums and Aboriginal cultural spaces throughout NSW. These grants fund various skill development projects including hosting or attending workshops, conferences or seminars in NSW, in addition to networking activities. **Closes 30 October 2022.**

### [Skills Development Grants](#)

Museums and Galleries of NSW Skills Development Grants provide funding to volunteer museums and museum networks for regional or

Museums and Galleries of NSW Skills Development Grants provide funding to volunteer museums and museum networks for regional or state focused skill development training and networking events. **Closes 30 October 2022.**

#### **Community Local Infrastructure Recovery Package - Arts and Culture Priority Needs Program**

The Community Local Infrastructure Recovery Package - Arts and Culture Priority Needs Program is designed to complement existing support measures in place and longer-term community infrastructure recovery programs. The funding is designed to help the arts and cultural sector rebuild and recover and while at the same time provide arts and cultural experiences that are crucial to community wellbeing. **Closes 30 November 2022.**

#### **Strategic Opportunities Program**

Create NSW's Strategic Opportunities Program supports individual initiatives and events that demonstrate long-term benefits to the NSW screen industry.

The objectives of the Program are:

- to build capacity within the industry and organisations and businesses within the sector
- to support new and sustainable partnerships in particular between organisations of State significance and practitioners
- to support audience access strategies for projects and practitioners.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis at any time during the year, subject to available funds. To be considered for funding, project ideas need to be discussed with Screen NSW prior to submission. Please contact [Amelia Carew-Reid](#) to make a time.

#### **Regional Filming Fund**

The Regional Filming Fund (RFF) offsets costs associated with shooting in regional areas of NSW. Open all year round.

#### **NSW Heritage Grants**

**Community heritage grants** support innovative ideas to engage people in our heritage stories, boost public access to state's most significant heritage places and stimulate local economies across NSW.

**Aboriginal cultural heritage grants** support the better management, maintenance, conservation and activation of Aboriginal Places.

**Local government heritage grants** support local government to identify, conserve and promote heritage, improving local heritage outcomes. It combines and replaces the funding available at the previous funding rounds which offered individual grants for Local Heritage Advisors, Small Heritage Grants and Local Government Heritage Studies funding categories.

Visit the [Heritage NSW Grants](#) page. **Closes 2 December 2022.**

#### **Creative Koori Projects**

Creative Koori Projects funding is open to Aboriginal artists, arts and cultural workers, groups, and organisations.

It aims to support a strong, resilient, and creative Aboriginal arts and cultural sector for NSW. This will be done by embracing the principles of Aboriginal self-determination and putting Aboriginal artists, arts and cultural workers, organisations, and communities at the centre of funded activity. **Closes 6 February 2023.**

#### **Create NSW - Annual Program Funding**

Create NSW's Annual Program funding is provided on an annual basis to support arts and cultural organisations (including Local Government Authorities and service organisations) to deliver multiple arts and cultural activities.

It aims to:

- increase access by and engagement of diverse audiences and artists
- improve the quality and excellence of arts and culture in NSW
- ensure the best practice and sustainability of arts and cultural organisations.

**Closes 6 February 2023.**

Across ten episodes, the podcasts explore everything from business finance to collaboration: from building culture to the importance of business communications. Angela even takes a deep dive into the future, exploring how global trends might impact regional business over coming years. Episodes one and two are [available to download](#).

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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](#).

### Clarence Valley Camp Oven Festival back on track

This year's Clarence Valley Camp Oven Festival is set to spring back into action at Nymboida Camping and Canoeing Centre. For tickets, the revised festival program and competition entry forms, head to the festival website **30 September to 3 October 2022**.

### National Circus Festival

The biennial National Circus Festival is a three-day all-ages circus and multi-arts festival based in the beautiful parklands of the Mullumbimby Showgrounds. On offer is a world class arts program including contemporary circus, physical theatre, music, comedy, dance, cabaret and a unique program of art-making spaces and inspiring workshops that the whole family can join in and enjoy. **30 September to 2 October 2022**.

### Old Bar Beach Festival

The Old Bar Beach Festival is an annual community event held on the October Long Weekend.

From the humblest of beginnings in 2005, the festival has grown to attract more than 30,000 people each year. **30 September to 2 October 2022**.





### [Evans Head Malibu Classic](#)

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this classic longboard surfing competition. **30 September to 3 October 2022.**

### [Eat Street Yamba](#)

Eat Street Yamba is an afternoon/evening food market being held 4pm to 8pm, **2 October 2022**, in Coldstream Street Yamba.

### [The Great Lakes Food Trail](#)

The Great Lakes Food trail is a self-drive tour through the Great Lakes from Bulahdelah to Wootton, Bungwahl to Forster. Farms, vineyards and The Coastal Brewing Co. are open to the public as part of the trail twice a year in Autumn and Spring. Next trail is **2 October 2022.**

### [Australian Goanna Pulling Championships](#)

Running since 1985 this is an all-ages, fun event with Goanna Pulling and a range of other events such as tug-o-war, North Coast axemen event, brick carrying races, sprint age races, market stalls, food and beverage stalls, carnival rides and live music. **2 October 2022.**

### [Nimbin Roots Festival](#)

Nimbin Roots Festival is a 2-day celebration of roots music, old blues, folk, old timey, folk rock and traditional music set in venues around the colourful town of Nimbin. **15 and 16 October 2022.**

### [Jacaranda Festival](#)

The annual Jacaranda Festival gets bigger and better each year. Grafton shines (purple of course) with visitors coming from far and wide to capture the glow of the Jacaranda trees that line the streets.

This year's event includes '[Illuminate Jacarandas](#)' which will see Grafton's See Park Illuminated during Jacaranda Season with lights bringing the trees to life. The [Jacaranda Dragon Boat Regatta](#) which will be the largest dragon boat race in NSW with 30 teams due to compete. **20 October to 6 November 2022.**





#### [Transmoto 8-hour Endurance Event](#)

This all-new Transmoto 8-Hour team-based enduro event is to be held at Upper Fine Flower, Clarence Valley, NSW. Located west of Maclean, approximately two hours from Coffs Harbour and three-and-a-half hours from the Gold Coast, the venue is right in the heart of prime riding territory. **29 to 30 October 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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