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## North Coast News & Views No. 153

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### Positive Announcements for Visitor Economy in Federal Budget

The visitor economy was the recipient of \$48 million of dedicated funding from this week's Federal Budget as part of the Australian Government's commitment to support tourism sector recovery, upskill workers, support quality tourism products and deliver infrastructure upgrades. The funding announcements included the following;

- **Caravan parks** - Funding over two years from 2022 to 2024 to assist caravan parks swiftly to upgrade or create new infrastructure and visitor facilities to enhance visitor experience, including improvements to accessibility. This program is expected to open in November 2022.
- **The Hub** - Provision of funding to the Accommodation Association of Australia from 2022 to 2026 to expand their online hospitality skills and training platform - 'The Hub'. This will strengthen the workforce and promote the hospitality and tourism industries as a career of choice.
- **Quality Tourism Framework** - The Australian Tourism Industry Council will be funded to enhance and improve the capability of the Quality Tourism Framework, an online platform that supports the ongoing growth and development of the nation's tourism industry.
- **Reviving international travel** - Funding will be provided through an industry-led targeted grant program to assist tourism business with activities that attract and drive visitors from key international markets to Australia, including regional areas.

An additional positive announcement for the Visitor Economy was the provision of \$22million in funding from 2022-23 to establish a Live Performance Support Fund to support eligible live event organisers affected by COVID-19.

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## New "One-Stop-Shop" To Support Hospitality Businesses

The NSW Government has launched a "one-stop-shop" concierge service, with a dedicated team to help start or grow hospitality businesses across the State.

Minister for Hospitality and Racing Kevin Anderson said Hospitality Concierge will streamline application processes, and assist businesses and local councils to navigate the liquor licensing, planning and regulatory changes introduced through the 24-Hour Economy reforms.

The Hospitality Concierge will:

- Help councils establish special entertainment precincts to encourage and support more live music and entertainment.
- Help local councils, businesses and the community understand the options and initiatives available to support the 24-Hour Economy.
- Ensure venues get necessary approvals they need quickly to start up new offerings or expand their existing offerings to patrons.
- Help licensees navigate the various regulatory approval pathways in relation to new applications and expanded or varied business offerings.
- Facilitate referrals to the appropriate agency or local councils, to ensure coordinated and timely approvals.

[Find out more](#) and [read media release](#).

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## Two NSW Cities In 2022 Green Destinations Top 100

The [Green Destinations Top 100 Stories](#) competition has revealed its 2022 winners, including two accolades for NSW, with the stories of Coffs Harbour and Central Coast making the list.

Now in its eighth year, the Global Green Destinations Top 100 List acts as a showcase of inspiring 'good practice' stories from destinations around the world to be shared among destination managers, tour operators and visitors.



Coffs Coast's story entry - 'Two Path Strong' - celebrated Aboriginal tourism on the Coffs Coast and the rich culture that has supported the establishment of the first bilingual Indigenous language school in NSW.

Known as the 'sharing people', the Gumbaynggirr in Coffs Harbour are celebrated widely for giving their abundant food, waterways and knowledge to others, so it is fitting that they received international recognition for their success in sustainable tourism and Indigenous education.

Coffs Harbour's [Wajaana Yaam Gumbaynggirr Adventure Tours](#) and [Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation](#) are also finalists in the 2022 NSW Tourism Awards.

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## NSW Supercharges EV Rollout

More than 500 new fast and ultra-fast charging bays are set to be built across NSW to recharge electric vehicles (EVs) in just 15 minutes. Treasurer and Minister for Energy Matt Kean announced the NSW Government is investing \$39.4 million in the first round of Fast Charging Grants to co-fund 86 new fast and ultra-fast EV charging stations, each with four to 15 bays.

The successful applicants from this round are Ampol, BP, Evie Networks, Tesla, the NRMA and Zeus Renewables. All stations will be built over the next 24 months with a mix of highway and inner-city sites.

The NSW Government has a target to add approximately 250 fast and ultra-fast charging stations in total across NSW, ensuring chargers are no more than 5km apart in metropolitan areas and no more than 100km apart on major roads and highways across NSW. The second round of co-funding is expected to open towards the end of this year.

Maps of the charging stations [are available here](#).

Read [media release](#).

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## ATEC To 'Pink Up Tourism' For Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Recognising the huge contribution of women to Australia's tourism industry success and the prevalence of breast cancer in the community, the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) is getting behind Breast Cancer Awareness month with its 'Pink up Tourism' campaign. In support of the work of the McGrath Foundation, ATEC helping to raise funds for Breast Care Nurses across the country who help individuals and their families affected by breast cancer in providing physical, psychological, and emotional support from the time of diagnosis and throughout treatment. Funding is needed to meet the McGrath Foundation goal of 250 McGrath Breast Care Nurses by 2025.

ATEC is asking people across the tourism industry to 'Pink up Tourism' by dressing in pink, taking a photo and uploading it to LinkedIn to encourage people to get involved by making a small donation. People are encouraged to use the hashtag #pinkuptourism when they post their photos.

Read [media release](#).

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## Real Time Traffic Info Arrives In The Regions

Real time traffic information is now available to motorists using local roads across 22 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in regional NSW.

Called *OneRoad*, a backend portal into Live Traffic NSW allows councils to feed their data in so road impacts across local and state roads are in the one place. The technology is a response to feedback from communities and recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements Report. The initial 22 LGAs were chosen in consultation with the NSW Police, Rural Fire Service and NSW State Emergency Service.

The North Coast councils onboarded in this first phase are: Ballina, Bellingen, Byron, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lismore, MidCoast, Nambucca Valley, Port Macquarie Hastings and Richmond Valley.

Read [media release](#).

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## Future Management Of Wollumbin (Mount Warning) National Park

The Minister for Environment and Heritage, the Hon James Griffin MP, and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Tourism, the Hon Benjamin Franklin MP, have today announced that the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) will develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Wollumbin Consultative Group. This is the first step towards joint management between NPWS and the Aboriginal custodians of Wollumbin National Park.

The MoU recognises the highly significant Aboriginal cultural values of the Wollumbin Aboriginal Place and will provide a framework for Aboriginal decision-making on future management of Wollumbin National Park.

Pending the development of the MoU and future joint management arrangements, Wollumbin Summit Walking Track, will remain closed, with any future management decisions about the park to be guided by Aboriginal custodians.

The remainder of Wollumbin National Park including the Lyrebird Track is also closed until further notice due to visitor infrastructure being significantly impacted by recent flooding events. More information on national park flood recovery on the north coast is [available on the NPWS website](#).

Read [media release](#).

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## Tourism Inquiry Commences

The Commonwealth Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, has launched an inquiry into Australia's tourism and international education sectors, with a focus on the operation of both sectors in the post COVID-19 world. Senator Deborah O'Neill said: "We encourage a broad range of stakeholders in the tourism and international education sectors from across the country to share experiences." Submissions close 12 December 2022.

Follow the [inquiry here](#).

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## Tourism Industry Insights

### Qantas Reports Strong Travel Demand

Strong travel demand has accelerated Qantas Group's recovery from COVID-19. The Group said it expects half-year 2023 underlying profit before tax of between \$1.2 billion and \$1.3 billion. Qantas Domestic's on-time performance in October has so far averaged 75 per cent despite a four per cent impact from continued extreme weather conditions.

Find [more information here](#).

### Cycling in NSW national parks

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has released an updated [Cycling Policy](#), a new [Cycling strategy](#) and [Guidelines for implementation](#).

The demand for cycling opportunities in national parks has increased, as more people are realising the physical and mental health benefits of cycling and connecting with nature. Cycling can raise awareness, appreciation and understanding of the natural environment.

The new Cycling Strategy will help to realise these opportunities by guiding the establishment of cycling track networks in suitable park locations. The new Guidelines for Implementation outline processes for establishing these cycling experiences.

### Download The Agritourism Stakeholder Toolkit

The NSW Government is making it easier for farmers to use their land for agritourism to complement their existing businesses. Simplifying the planning rules will help farmers make income and add value to their existing businesses and encourage the next generation to farm the land.

The Department of Planning and Environment have put together an [Information Sheet](#), [Case Studies](#), [FAQs](#) and a [Stakeholder Toolkit](#).

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## Around The Region

### The Farmer's Wife Distillery Wins at the Australian Gin Awards 2022

Gin from [The Farmer's Wife Distillery](#) at Allworth continues to attract more awards, four more to be precise. These recent wins from the Australian Gin Awards 2022 provide more evidence of the quality of the food and beverage products across the region:

- Warm Winter Gin - Gold (matured gin class)
- Sweet Spring Gin - Silver (matured gin class)
- Summer Spritz Gin - Silver (flavoured gin class)
- Autumn Dry Gin - Silver (contemporary style gin class)

This means each of their four gins is award-winning. Competition is fierce in these awards following the huge growth of craft gin distillers across Australia, making these wins even sweeter.



### Ian J Cooper Awards

Nominations are NOW open for the **Ian J. Cooper Awards for Access and Inclusion**. Held every two years these awards are made to local services, groups, businesses, or individuals in acknowledgment of their efforts to improve access to their service or premises or groups who are inclusive of people with different abilities.

Nomination forms can be completed and submitted by any member of the Bellingen Shire community on behalf of a group, organization, business or service or an organisation can self-nominate. Paper copies are available at local libraries: Bellingen, Urunga, Dorrigo and Councils Admin Building or you can [access it online here](#). **Forms must be submitted by Friday 4 November 2022**

### SWIFF Announces 2023 Sponsorship Opportunities

The Coffs Coast's beloved premier arts festival, the Screenwave International Film Festival (SWIFF), has announced its 2023 festival dates (Apr 20 - May 5), and is welcoming the community to come and be part of its largest annual arts celebration of 130+ film screenings, live music, festival guest Q&As, and special events over 16 days and nights next Autumn.

The Festival has opened its sponsorship opportunities for local Bellingen businesses to be part of the 2023 celebrations, to connect with festivalgoers, and advertise their businesses at the region's homegrown signature arts festival - on cinema screens, in print, and online.

Find [more information here](#).

### The Coastal Brewing Co. Wins At The Independent Beer Awards 2022

Forster brewery [The Coastal Brewing Co](#) continues to make its national presence felt, picking up eight awards at *The Indies* presented by the Independent Brewers Association.

These craft beer awards in the Independent Beer Awards (The Indies) 2022 are further evidence of the quality of our region's food and beverage products:

- Palms Pale Pacific Ale - Gold
- Hearts Point NEPA - Gold
- Dara Dank DIPA - two Silvers
- One bronze award each for these: Black Head Milk Stout, Diamond Beach Pilsener, Treachery XPA and Very Charlotte New England IPA.

They came from a record number of entries in this year's awards totalling 1458 beers from 207 breweries.



### **Connecting Your Business with Council Networking Event - Kempsey Shire Council**

Your Council, Your Business networking event will be a night to support small businesses looking to connect with Council.

Kempsey Shire has a GDP of over \$1 billion per annum, but how can business get its share? This event is the chance to find out how your business can be involved.

Hear a series of short presentations on Council's key projects and initiatives to support business and economic growth **9 November 2022**

RSVP: [Eventbrite](#) or Kristy on 0434 164 357

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## Industry Development And Other Opportunities

### Destination NSW Stakeholder Survey

Destination NSW is the lead agency, champion and voice of the visitor economy in the NSW Government, with responsibility for leading the delivery of the NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030.

They rely upon the support of stakeholders to deliver on the strategy's ambitions and to realise their vision for NSW to be the premier visitor economy of the Asia Pacific.

Collaboration is key to success as an organisation and to growing the visitor economy in partnership with stakeholders.

In this context, DNSW are keen to hear about your experience and expectations of working with Destination NSW. The survey is completely anonymous and confidential, so please be honest about your views. It should only take around five minutes to complete. The survey will be open until COB on **Friday, 4 November 2022**.

Complete [the survey 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. Review the [Operator Guidelines](#).

### Community Conversation on Northern Rivers Rail Trail

Tweed residents are invited to attend a Community Conversation to get a sneak peek of what the Tweed leg of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail will look like when it opens in early 2023, to learn what will be delivered prior to the trail opening and contribute their thoughts about potential future works to consider, by attending a Community Conversation on **7 November in Murwillumbah**,

The trail will travel from Murwillumbah through Stokers Siding, Burringbar, Mooball and Crabbes Creek before terminating at the Tweed Shire's southern-most boundary at Wooyung. It will provide a safe, off-road active transport route for residents and visitors. Eventually, it is envisaged the new shared user path will connect the Tweed Valley with Byron Shire, Lismore and Casino. To be delivered in 4 stages, the 132 km trail is expected to draw thousands of visitors each year to explore and discover the natural beauty and history of the Northern Rivers.

[Register to attend here](#).

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

### Storm And Flood Support Toolkit

An updated toolkit to help communicate important information to communities and networks impacted by severe weather and floods has been created by the NSW Government.

Download [the toolkit here](#).

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## Funding And Other Opportunities

### [NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts Fund](#)

Provides funds for recreational fishing education, access and facilities, research, and habitat rehabilitation and protection. **Ongoing**

### [NSW Aviation Attraction Fund](#)

Builds aviation capacity to NSW through securing routes that will drive significant economic and social benefits. The fund is open to all domestic and international airlines servicing the state or planning to service the state. **Closes 30 June 2023**

### [Location Scouts and Inbounds Program](#)

Provides location and production support to encourage screen projects to film in Sydney and NSW. The program offers long-form footloose productions scouting assistance for location surveys for eligible projects and may include covering some of the costs associated with on-ground travel including accommodation, domestic flights, vehicle hire and location manager services. Eligible projects are feature films, tele-movies, mini-series, TV series or reality programs. **Ongoing**

### [Support For Live Australian Music Festivals](#)

Applications are now open for the Australian Government's \$20 million Live Music Australia program, with \$2.5 million in targeted funding available to assist with the rising costs of organising and hosting music festivals in 2023. To be eligible for funding under the fifth round of the Live Music Australia program, applicants will need to demonstrate their commitment to hosting music focused festivals and presenting original Australian live music acts. **Closes 17 November 2022.**

### [Regional Skills Relocation Grant](#)

Aims to increase the availability of skilled and experienced workers for businesses setting up in, relocating to, or existing in regional New South Wales.

Grants will be available for businesses operating in NSW regional eligible industries. The funding is available to assist with the relocation costs of eligible skilled workers they employ that move from metropolitan areas to regional NSW. **Ongoing**

### [Contemporary Music Touring Program](#)

The Contemporary Music Touring Program provides organisations, musicians, managers, agents and music networks involved in the performance of original Australian contemporary music with funding to tour and perform around Australia.

Tours that include regional and remote destinations, or which assist performers residing in regional and remote areas to tour, are a priority for funding. **Closes 7 March 2023.**

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## North Coast Product Development

### [Byron Bay Motorcycle Hire](#)

Byron Bay Motorcycle Hire offer scenic rides, guided tours and even bike hire for visitors with a licence but couldn't bring their own bike with them. Visitors can be picked up from their accommodation (or even the airport) which is convenient for those that don't have a car and want a day exploring the hinterland. A scenic tour also makes a great Christmas present if you are looking for something a little unique and gifting a loved one with an experience.

### [Dinner Is Served - Ballina](#)

Dinner is Served has built a strong following for its chef prepared meals that are ready to heat and serve - convenient for visitors flying into the region. Located in the airport industrial estate, visitors and locals flying in can drop by after arriving and have a fresh, quality meal ready to go.

Following the success of this aspect of the business, Dinner is Served has recently opened its doors as an onsite cafe as well, with a different menu each week depending on seasonal produce and while you are there, you can stock up on some regional produce.

### **Woodburn VIC Accreditation**

The Woodburn Visitor Information Centre within the Richmond Valley Council has recently become an Accredited Visitor Information Centre within Destination North Coast. The centre will be managed by the Richmond Valley Council.

An interactive map showcasing all visitor centres NSW wide [can be accessed here](#).

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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](#).

### [BCU RetroFest](#)

Wander into a simpler time of hula hoops, Brylcreem and Rock and Roll.

As part of Jacaranda Festival and celebrating all things vintage, from classic cars, Rock and Roll dancing and music of days gone by, RetroFest is all about fun without a mobile device! Live entertainment throughout the day. **30 October 2022.**



### [Primex Field Days](#)

This year Primex are celebrating the connection between farmers and foodies through its paddock-to-plate program. They are offering a full foodie experience centred around the fully licensed Nourish Food & Drink Marquee and the Paddock to Plate Pavilion, which offers a great range of local producers to browse, along with a full three-day program on the cooking stage. They will be bringing together the best of the region's food and beverage experiences to showcase how farmers grow world-class food and fibre from our region's food bowl. **10-12 November 2022.**

### [Caper Byron Bay](#)

Caper Byron Bay is a celebration of this colourful community, the melting pot of individuals who have made this popular holiday town a hometown.

The 4-day event will showcase the creative viability and artisanal produce of the Northern Rivers region and beyond. The festival program features a string of curated food and beverage highlights with venues such as The Farm, Three Blue Ducks, Stone & Wood and Raes on Wategos uniting to hold various events and pop ups showcasing the spoils of the region. The festival is also a foray through the region's music, wellness, art, community, and entertainment, through a cluster of ticketed and free community events and exhibitions and has a focus on profiling the local Bundjalung Nation's Indigenous culture, with bush tucker tours, walks on Country and more. **10-13 November 2022.**

### [Yamba Rod Run](#)

Every year, the small coastal town of Yamba at the mouth of the Clarence River plays host to hot rod enthusiasts from up and down the Australian east coast.

Some splendidly restored modern and vintage rods can be seen tootling around Yamba streets, adding an extra layer of colour to the sun and surf.

Come along and have a closer look, when on Saturday morning these spectacular vehicles are lined up on Yamba Street (partly closed to traffic) for you to mingle with the cars and owners. **12 November 2022.**



### [Nexus Quartet Play Gloucester](#)

Music in the Regions presents the acclaimed saxophone group, Nexus Quartet, performing a French-themed classical music program from North West NSW to the Mid North Coast.

The Quartet's 'The French Saxophone' program will feature pieces by famous French composers Claude Debussy and Alfred Desenclos, Australian composer Lyle Chan, and even a jazz-influenced orchestral piece by American composer George Gershwin.

Nexus Quartet will also take part in a number of community engagement events at local primary schools and music conservatoriums during the tour. **12 November 2022.**

### [#LoveLocal Festival Is Coming To Wauchope!](#)

An exciting new festival is coming to Wauchope that will celebrate and promote amazing local businesses!

Bain Park in the Wauchope CBD is the place for a fun filled afternoon of food, drinks, trade stalls, music, demonstrations and so much more!

There are so many local businesses selling, creating and promoting amazing things that are ready to be discovered at #LoveLocal Festival! **19 November 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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