



One Month To Go North Coast Tourism Symposium & Awards Gala Dinner

With just one month to go before the North Coast Tourism Symposium is upon us, we wanted to share more information about the [Symposium Program](#) and the amazing line-up of Speakers.

The theme, **Creating World Class Experiences**, will be woven into stimulating presentations throughout the day and we have no doubt attendees will gain many gems of information to utilise in their own business.

John O'Neill, Chair of Destination North Coast (and ex-journalist) will start the day In Conversation with [Darrell Wade](#), Co-founder and Chair of Intrepid Travel and a highly regarded entrepreneur and sustainability advocate. There's not much Darrell doesn't know about Creating World Class Experiences so buckle up for this opening session.

We're delighted to have [Nick Baker](#), CEO Reflections Holidays lined up to deliver a mid-morning 'WIIILD AT HEART' keynote. Nick is a highly regarded tourism and visitor experience executive and has at the helm of Reflections since 2021 leading a rebrand and bringing nature alive for the company's many NSW guests.

[Libby Lincoln](#), Executive Director, Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA) will draw on her extensive career to explore the intersection of the Arts and the Creative sector and tourism.

These three industry leaders along with the wonderful [Ann Walton](#), Team Leader Visitor Experiences, North Coast Branch for National Parks & Wildlife Service, will return for a Panel Session to discuss creating world class experiences to thrive in an evolving market. You don't want to miss this one!

We're thrilled to provide a spotlight on [Lord Howe Island](#) where world class experiences abound and to highlight the strong links between Port Macquarie and the island both as an access gateway and commercial partner.

You'll hear updates throughout the day from [Michael Thurston](#), General Manager Destination North Coast; [Steve Cox](#), CEO Destination NSW and [Bede Fennell](#), Executive General Manager of Corporate Affairs, Government and Industry for Tourism Australia, and gain insights into evolving trends that will shape our future visitor economy.

Capping off the day will be the draw of our amazing Lord Howe Island door prize being return flights for two people to the Island including 8 nights accommodation (1 night in Port Mac before departure) and a plethora of included world class experiences provided courtesy of the Island's tourism operators. You need to be in the room to [WIN this extraordinary prize](#).

BOOK YOU TICKETS NOW - 8.30am - 4.15pm, Thursday 1 August, Glasshouse, Port Macquarie.



North Coast Tourism Awards

Our industry's best and brightest will shine at the [North Coast Tourism Awards](#) and we look forward to celebrating their achievements. The Awards present an opportunity to publicly recognise and applaud success and those who go above and beyond as leaders in their tourism category.

The Award Ceremony and Gala Dinner at Sails By Rydges, also presents a terrific opportunity to join friends and colleagues for a great night of celebration and entertainment. Our MC for the evening is [Jane Goldsmith](#), NBN News journalist, newsreader and producer, born and raised in Port Macquarie with strong connections to the region. And local band [Alter Ego](#) will whip up some tunes to have your hips swinging and toes tapping. Plan to *Dress to Impress* and we'll see you at the North Coast Tourism



NORTH COAST TOURISM AWARDS

Event Sponsors

The North Coast Tourism Symposium would not be possible without the generous support from key partners.

We give special thanks to Port Macquarie Hastings Council, our destination co-host and also, our Major Sponsor, [Reflections Holidays](#).

In recognition of the role the North Coast Tourism Symposium plays in Industry Development, [Tourism Australia](#) are a sponsoring partner of our event. Sincere appreciation also to [National Parks & Wildlife Service](#), North Coast Branch and [Ingenia Holiday Parks](#) for their ongoing support of our event.

[NBN News](#) are our Media Sponsor for both the North Coast Tourism Symposium and North Coast Tourism Awards and [Earthcheck](#) support Destination North Coast in our endeavours to deliver sustainable events.

We also sincerely thank Reflections Holidays for extending their sponsorship to the North Coast Tourism Awards.



Book Accommodation

We have negotiated some special [Event Accommodation Rates](#) with Port Macquarie providers so take advantage, use the special discount codes and book your accommodation now.

Post-event Site Inspection - Guulabaa Place of Koala

For those stakeholders extending their stay in Port Macquarie, we invite you to join us at [Guulabaa Place of Koala](#), to view and experience this soon-to-be completed new attraction and cluster of products that looks set to be a benchmark for industry collaboration and partnership.

Join the Destination North Coast Team and Board and the five partners that make up the Guulabaa precinct: Forestry Corporation NSW, Wildnets, Bunyah Local Aboriginal Land Council, Koala Conservation Australia and their Koala Wild Breeding Centre and the Big Koala, part of the Hello Koala Sculpture Trail, on a site inspection of this collaborative project.

Where: Guulabaa Place of Koala
When: Friday 2 August
Time: 10.00am - 11.30am (no RSVP necessary)
