



Destination
North Coast NSW

Visitor Economy News



NSW Tourism Awards

The winners of the NSW Tourism Awards 2024 will be announced on 28 November at a gala event in Sydney. The Awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of businesses and operators in the tourism sector across New South Wales. Best of luck to our North Coast finalists:

Attractions & Experiences

Dive Lord Howe
Lets Go Surfing
Balloons Aloft
Northern Rivers Rail Trail
Port Macquarie Museum
The Big Banana P/L

Festivals & Events

Bluesfest Byron Bay

Accommodation

Food Tourism

Cape Byron Distillery
Husk Farm Distillery
Love Lord Howe
Pipit
Potager - A Kitchen Garden

Tourism Services

Barrington Coast: Whatever It Takes
Hirehood
MidCoast Council: Destination Barrington Coast
The Tweed Tourism Company



Refreshed 24-Hour Economy Strategy Released

A refreshed NSW 24-Hour Economy Strategy, 'A New State of Night', has been released. It outlines the work and programs of the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner as it expands its remit to support night-time economies across the state.

[Find Out More](#)



DNC Industry Networking - Yamba 4 December 2024

The Destination North Coast Board traditionally rotates around the region for our bi-monthly Board meetings, and we have pleasure in planning our December meeting to be in Yamba.

After the Board meeting, we invite members of the Tourism Industry to a casual get-together and an opportunity to meet and network with the Board, the DNC team and industry peers.

- What: Afternoon Industry Networking
- When: Wednesday 4 December 2024
- Time: 5.30-7.00pm
- Where: Angourie Resort, 166 Angourie Rd, Yamba

RSVP is required by Thursday 28 November 2024 and for catering purposes, please include any dietary restrictions.

We look forward to connecting with industry in region and meeting in Yamba.

[RSVP Here](#)





Pat Cummins And Ruby Invite Indian Cricket Fans To Come And Say G'day

Tourism Australia's Come and Say G'day campaign to run on TV screens across India throughout the upcoming five Test series between Australia and India, which begins in Perth on Friday, 22 November.

With up to 50 million Indian cricket fans expected to tune in to watch the action on the pitch Cummins will feature alongside brand ambassador Ruby the Kangaroo between overs in Howzat for a holiday? to show Indian travellers the world-class tourism destinations and experiences Australia has to offer outside of its stadiums.

[Find More Here](#)

Industry Engagement Manager Role

As we've previously shared, Jac Burnside is taking up new adventures in the New Year leaving an opening at Destination North Coast for a fulltime Industry Engagement Manager who is a passionate advocate of the North Coast visitor economy.

If this is you and you are keen to work with a small but mighty team, please [apply here](#). Applications close at 9am Monday 9th December.



River Myall Holiday Resort



North Star Holiday Park

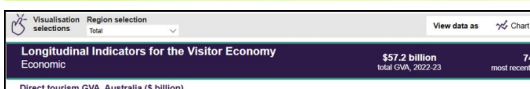
2024 CCIA NSW Award Winners Announced

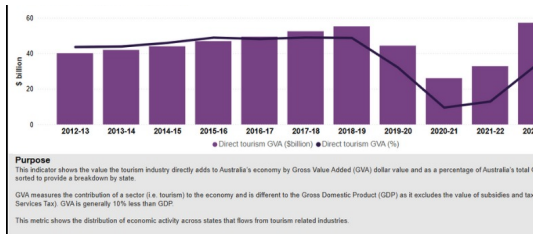
The 2024 Caravan & Camping Industry Association NSW Awards of Excellence winners have been announced. Congratulations to the following North Coast winners:

- NSW Holiday Park of the Year (Less than 100 sites): BIG4 River Myall Holiday Resort
- NSW Holiday Park of the Year (More than 100 sites): Tasman Holiday Parks - North Star

[Find Winners Here](#)

Industry Insights





Introducing The LIVE Framework

Tourism Research Australia (TRA) has launched the Longitudinal Indicators for the Visitor Economy (LIVE) Framework, now available in an interactive dashboard.

Don't miss the LIVE dashboard walkthrough at 10am, 10 December 2024 - [register here](#). Learn how to unlock data and insights that shape the future of Australian tourism.

[Find Out More](#)

CommBank IQ Cost Of Living Insights Report

The latest CommBank iQ Cost of Living Insights Report (July to September 2024) has revealed a surge in travel spending by Australians aged 60-69 (up 8 per cent) and those over 70 (up 12 per cent).

However, travel spending by 18- to 29-year-olds during the period was down 5 per cent.

[Find Out More](#)

Industry Development And Other Opportunities

Cyber Security Training

To help protect you and your small business, Destination North Coast is partnering with **Cyber Wardens**, a **free online learning program** designed to simplify cyber security for your small tourism business. Funded by the Australian government, the program is quick and self-paced. By taking the course, you will be taking the first step towards making your business cyber-safe.

[Register Here](#)



TA's Final 2024 Industry Webinar

This Friday, 29 November at 11am, Tourism Australia conclude their Industry Webinar series for 2024. Along with an update from Tourism Australia's Managing Director Phillipa Harrison, you'll hear from Keely Cat-Wells, who is an Entrepreneur and Disability Rights Advocate committed to driving social, systemic, and economic change.

[Register Here](#)

Changes to Food Standards From 8th December 2024

Recent changes to the Food Standards Code have introduced new requirements for all businesses that prepare and serve food in NSW. The changes

Visitor Economy Microskill Course TAFE NSW - Self Paced Learning Modules

TAFE NSW has teamed up with Destination NSW to offer the Visitor Economy 'Choose Your Own Adventure' Microskill Course. The [online course](#)

will take effect from 8th December 2024. The changes affect most retail and hospitality food businesses, charities and not-for-profits that regularly sell food, delis, supermarkets, coffee vendors and correctional centres. [Take a quick quiz](#) to determine what needs to be implemented in your business.

Perfect Your Grant Writing Online Courses

Finding the perfect grant is just one piece of the puzzle. Writing it well is the key to success! [GrantGuru's courses](#), tailored for all skill levels and backed by years of experience, will help you master the art of grant writing and boost your chances of winning.

Destination NSW North American Trade Mission 2025

Destination NSW will host a trade mission to North America in March 2025 to promote NSW to key travel buyers.

Seller applications to join the North America Roadshow 2025 have opened and include a subsidised New Market Product Pathway to enable first-time participation in the targeted trade event.

[Find more information](#) including dates, costs and eligibility criteria with applications **closing 12 December 2024**.

is for individuals who would like to explore the diverse roles and opportunities the visitor economy has to offer.

Free Short Courses In Artificial Intelligence TAFE NSW

1. [Introduction to Artificial Intelligence](#) which covers the basics like common terms, and how AI operates.
2. [Generative AI and its Business Applications](#) where you'll learn how to use and discover the potential of tools like ChatGPT to support you in streamlining your processes.

Around The Region



Mandala Hotels and Resorts to Manage The Cubana Nambucca Heads

Mandala Hotels and Resorts has announced its management of The Cubana Resort Nambucca Heads. The Cubana, renowned for its distinctive colour scheme and retro vibe, will now benefit from Mandala's proven expertise in hotel operations and commercial services. This collaboration promises to elevate the guest experience while preserving the property's authentic character.

As the sole 4-star, full-resort accommodation in Nambucca Heads, the property is pet-friendly, warmly welcoming furry companions to the vibrant atmosphere. The Cubana's picturesque outdoor tropical garden serves as a captivating backdrop for celebrations, including weddings and special events for up

to 110 guests.

The Cubana Resort Nambucca Heads is part of the Cubana Group with a sister property, The Cubana Ballina.

Find Out More

Rydges Port Macquarie Reopens

[Rydges Port Macquarie](#) has reopened following an extensive refurbishment across its guestrooms and hotel lobby. Located along the banks of the Hastings River, the property boasts nine transformed room types, as well as seven versatile conference and event spaces, including a waterfront ballroom. Guests can savour modern Italian dishes at Zebu Bar & Restaurant, relax in a heated pool and spa, and enjoy easy access to Town Beach and retailers.

Plunge Into Arts & Culture In 2025

Clarence Valley creatives, cultural businesses, and organisations are invited to submit events for inclusion in the [2025 Plunge Festival](#).

Art exhibitions, music, dance and theatre performances, open studios, artist trails or creative workshops for all ages are encouraged to register before 6 January 2025.

The 2025 festival will run from 29 March through to 30 April 2025 and promotion is free for organisations based in the Clarence Valley.

Lismore Legends Of Cricket Golf Day - Partnership Opportunities

The [Legends of Cricket Golf Day](#) will be held in Lismore on 14 February 2025. Lismore City Council have developed a partnership prospectus, offering a range of opportunities to be involved in this event.

Lismore Section Of Northern Rivers Rail Trail Opening Soon

The official launch of the newest section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail is Saturday 14 December 2024. The Lismore section will provide an additional 16.3km of trail from Lismore to Bentley, connecting through to the Casino 13.4km section that was opened in March 2024.

Mulga: Heading North - Until 2 Feb 2025

[A new exhibition](#) at Yarrila Arts & Museum (YAM). Known for his unique Australian creations and signature style of intricate line work and bright colours, Mulga's art imagines a tropical world where tigers wear diamond sunglasses and gorillas' rule, like some kind of funky planet of the apes.

Good Food Guide Awards

The [Sydney Morning Herald Good Food Guide 2025](#) has launched, featuring the best restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs across NSW and ACT. The cream of NSW and ACT's dining scenes gathered at Sydney Opera House on November 11 for the glittering Good Food Guide Awards. Congratulations to the Regional Restaurant of the Year: [You Beauty, Bangalow](#).

Conde Nast Award for Halcyon House

Halcyon House has proudly ranked 3rd in the [2024 Conde Nast Traveller Readers Choice Award](#) for Australasia, a testament to the dedication of the outstanding team.

Funding And Other Opportunities

Government agencies and organisations offer grants and funding programs, designed to assist with improving your business or product offering. Review the latest opportunities for [grants in NSW](#) and [nationally via Austrade](#).

Destination North Coast may be able to provide a Letter of Support (LOS) for your project if it aligns with the [Destination North Coast Destination Management Plan \(DMP\)](#). Letters of Support requests can be made [via the online form](#) found on our website.

NSW Heritage Grants

This program aims to support the better management, maintenance, conservation and activation of declared Aboriginal Places under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. **Closes 30 January 2025.**

Sustainability & Eco-Tourism

[EV Destination Charging Grants](#)

Round three of the NSW Government's destination charging grants program is now live, offering a further \$12 million in funding to fill EV charging gaps along established regional NSW road trip routes. Closes 31 January 2025.

If you have questions about this document or its contents, email the [EV destination charging team](#).

[New Planning Framework To Support NSW's Clean Energy Future](#)

The NSW Government has developed a framework to promote faster planning decisions, provide investment certainty for industry and boost economic benefits.

North Coast Product Development

[First Light Ballooning - Clarence Valley](#)

First Light Ballooning is all about sharing the magical experience of lighter than air flight over the spectacular Clarence Valley.

[Collombatti Cottage](#)

With a country soul and an eco-heart, Collombatti Cottage is nestled on a 100-acre property in the sprawling pastures of the Macleay Valley Coast

[La Ramona - Ballina](#)

La Romana in Ballina brings a touch of Italy with its warm, inviting ambiance and authentic Italian flavours and serves traditional treats like cannoli, maritozzi, focaccia, and Roman-style supplí-a variation of arancini.

[The Edible Garden Café & Restaurant - Wollongbar](#)

The Edible Garden Café has joined forces with Hanging Rock Flowers and not only offers great coffee and bespoke country style farmhouse cooking using fresh local produce, with visitors also able to experience Hanging Rock Flowers' Aussie-themed Florist and Gift Shop!

[Stone & Wood - Murwillumbah](#)

Stone & Wood unveils designs for new tasting room in Murwillumbah! The highly anticipated tasting room at its Murwillumbah brewery is slated to open before Christmas 2025. The new tasting room is the centrepiece of a \$30million upgrade to the brewery.

[Akubra Store - Kempsey](#)

Back by popular demand, the iconic Kempsey Akubra Store on South Street, where the factory is located, has re-opened its doors.

[Donovan's Link Eatery & Grounds - Toormina](#)

New café at the Links, Toormina.

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 DNSW's website](#).

[Cheers to Beers Northern Rivers Micro-Brewery Tasting](#) - Frida's Field Nashua, 7 December 2024.

[Mono Couture Exhibition](#) - Port Macquarie Regional Museum, runs to 31 December 2024.

[Tropical Fruits New Year Festival](#) - Lismore, 30 December 2024 - 1 January 2025.

[BBL Sixers vs Heat](#) - Coffs Harbour, 3 January 2025.

[A Monet in Murwillumbah: Sharing the National Collection](#) - Tweed Regional Gallery, from November 2024.

Stay Up To Date And Follow DNC On Social Media

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. Don't forget between our e-newsletters, you'll find us on the socials - head over to follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#). You can find training and other content on our [YouTube channel](#). We also encourage you to share our updates with your networks, simply forward this email and they can [register here](#).

