



Hello industry friends,

This month's newsletter is bursting with new products and experiences launched across the region, showcased via the **Local News** section.

The **Destination Southern NSW News** section provides an update on the Southern Tablelands Signage Strategy project and information on upcoming consultation sessions. There is also information on some exciting Indigenous Connections families being hosted by the South Coast Centre of Excellence.

News in the **Industry Updates** section highlights recent international visitation data, the value of Aboriginal Tourism to NSW and links to various new industry-related guides.

The **Grants | Funding | Awards** section has new funding opportunities and the **Workshops | Webinars | Training** section provides links to free agritourism and culinary webinars hosted by Destination NSW and information on free events being offered as part of Small Business Month.

Before we go, we would like to express our heartfelt wishes to our friends, industry partners and community members on the NSW Coast who are once again threatened by fires and nearby inland residents bracing for floods. We are thinking of you all and hoping for positive outcomes.

Until next month - stay safe,

The DSNSW Team

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Destination Southern NSW

Local News

Discover what's been happening across the tourism industry within the Destination Southern NSW network. To share news of your new product, experience or event, please email Tash via comms@dsnsw.com.au



Murrah Dream Retreat

Congratulations to Vanessa Forbes and Steve Mazabow on the launch of the Murrah Dream Retreat, located on the Sapphire Coast, NSW.

This retreat centre is set in the Australian bush, situated between the sacred mountains Gulaga and Mumbulla. It features a secluded beach and lagoon, freshwater swimming in the lotus/lily pond, an ionised infinity pool, spectacular views and a state-of-the-art Geodesic Dome.

Murrah Dream Retreat is available as a 5-star, 23-bed retreat venue to any facilitators who would like to run and facilitate their own retreats, with a focus on connection to nature, healing, transformation and wellness.

More information is available [here](#).



Tarago Classic Car and Bike Show

Tarago Classic Car and Bike Show will host their first annual show on 29th October 2023, at the Tarago Recreation Area. The event will showcase live music, a coffee and an ice cream van, an all-day BBQ, and a monster raffle bursting with car-related goods and services. The Tarago Markets will also be onsite offering local produce and products.

Trophies will be awarded for a number of categories, including Best Car of the Show, Best Holden, Best Ford, Best Bike and Best Restored Car/Bike.

Local businesses in Tarago are excited to welcome visitors, with the Loaded Dog Hotel, Corang Estate Cellar Door & Pantry, The Antique Shop and The Café all open for business.

More information is available [here](#).

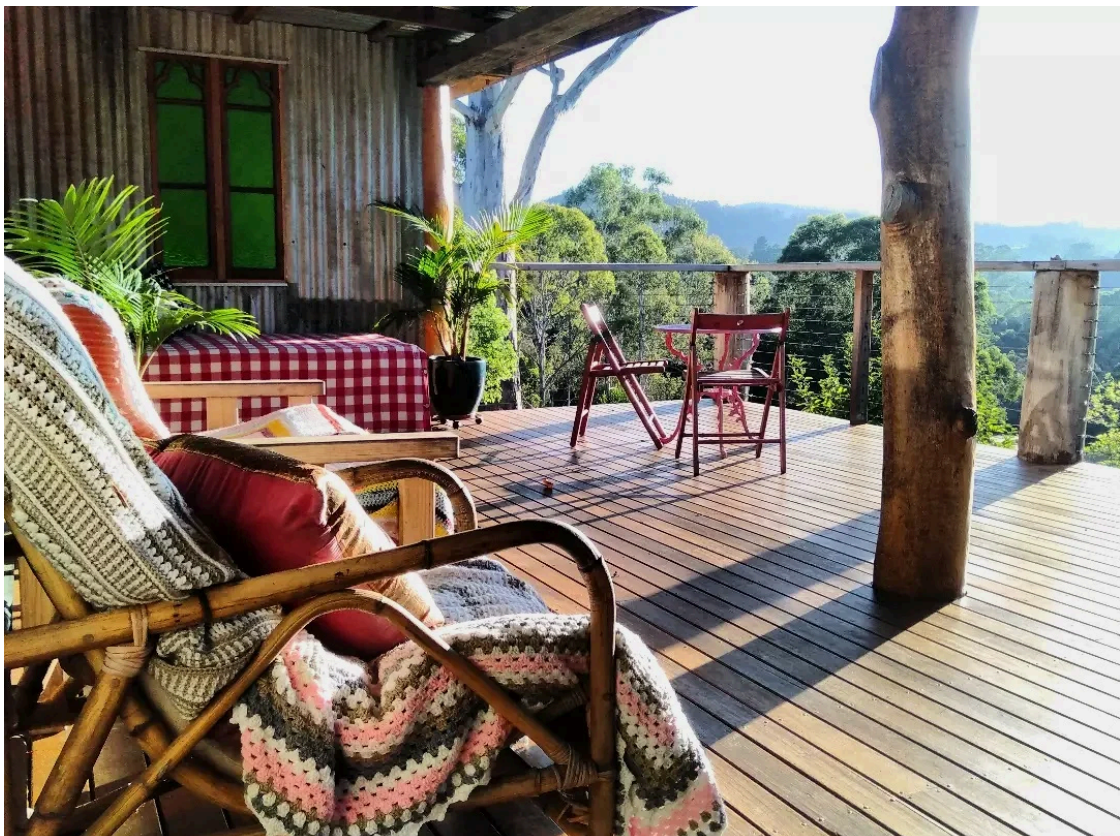


New Birdwatching Tours at the Tiny Zoo

Congratulations to Steve Sass and the team at Tiny Zoo, located at Tathra, who have launched three new birdwatching tours, which showcase many of the Sapphire Coast's 200 bird species:

- Birdwatching for Beginners - tailored to beginner and intermediate birdwatchers.
- Birdwatching and Beers - signature tour offering the best of the Sapphire Coast – nature and food.
- Private Birdwatching tours - half or full-day private tours.

More information is available [here](#).



Whispering Creek Cabin

Congratulations to Jodie and the team behind the launch of Whispering Creek Cabin, nestled in the rolling hills on Yuin Country in the Bega Valley.

The cabin has been created using pre-loved old slab timbers and iron on 100 acres of unspoilt wilderness. The surrounding mountain views offer refuge for a diversity of wildlife and the birdsong can be enjoyed whilst enjoying the afternoon sun from the deck.

Find out more [here](#).



The River at Kiah

The newly launched River at Kiah, located on the Sapphire Coast, overlooking Towamba River estuary and out to Twofold Bay, offers a peaceful getaway for a maximum of 8 guests across 3 lodges.

The 50-acre property has ocean views, river frontage and no neighbours in sight. It's conveniently located 10 minutes from Eden, with limited reception, providing the perfect chance to disconnect and recharge. Each self-contained lodge offers a blend of nature and conscious ritualistic living, with fully equipped kitchens, 100% Flax Linen bedding, organic wool and latex mattresses, and chemical-free cleaning and toiletry products.

The property provides opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors, take walks, swim, kayak and relax by firepits under the stars.

More information is available [here](#).



Southern Tablelands Steering Committee - Famil

The Southern Tablelands Steering Committee visited Goulburn as part of a regular industry famil program designed so participating LGA representatives can strengthen their regional tourism product knowledge and work together to grow visitation across the whole of the Southern Tablelands region.

The itinerary included:

- [Pheasant Wood Circuit Tour](#) - Morning Tea provided by [The Midge, Tallong](#)
 - [Goulburn Performing Arts Centre](#)
 - [Clonsilla Accommodation Tour](#)
 - [Lunch at Noi, Vietnamese Restaurant](#)
 - [The Big Merino](#)
 - [Corang Estate Cellar Door & Pantry for a Tasting and Afternoon Tea](#)
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MEA's Graduate - Sara from QPRC

Congratulations to Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council's [Sara Wightman](#) on receiving her Diploma of Event Management from [Meetings & Events Australia](#) (MEA).

Sara was the recipient of a Destination NSW-funded MEA scholarship designed specifically to enable distance-learning-based study by people living in regional NSW who are already working in events roles in those locations.

Read more about Sara's experience [here](#).

Destination Southern NSW News



Signage Strategy Community Consultation

As part of the develop the Southern Tablelands Signage Strategy development project, a number of community and stakeholder consultation sessions are being held across the region.

Session details and free registration via the links below:

[Upper Lachlan Shire Council](#) - Online or in person
Emily Chalker Building (Crookwell Memorial Oval) Robertson St, Crookwell,
October 10 @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am

[Goulburn Mulwaree Council](#) - Online or in person
Goulburn Mulwaree Council Chambers 184 Bourke Street, Goulburn
October 10 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

[Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council](#) - Online
October 16 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

[Hilltops Council](#) - Online
October 24 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Please visit the [Southern Tablelands Signage Strategy project page](#) on the Destination Southern NSW website for more information on the project.

In addition to consultation sessions, a questionnaire is available to capture stakeholder feedback to inform the development of the Strategy.
Please click the button below to provide your feedback.

[Provide feedback](#)



CoE - Indigenous Connections Families

[The Centre of Excellence](#) has partnered with the Department of Regional NSW to present a series of three Indigenous Connections families in the Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley regions in October and November.

These families are designed to educate tourism and hospitality operators and workers on what Indigenous tourism product is available in their region, to enable them to share this knowledge with visitors who want to learn about the local Indigenous culture and have an authentic on-country experience.

Details and links to how to get involved are as follows:

[Bega Valley | Wednesday, 25 October](#)

This full-day program includes a Welcome to Country, exploration of Lake Pambula and waterways, information about the Indigenous culture, and a "Walking on Country" experience to learn about the significance of Aboriginal lands, plants and animals, rich history and local ancient traditions. After a session on the future plans of Jigamy Farm, the day will conclude with an Indigenous Cultural event including a Corroboree.

Attendance is strictly limited. Please [click here](#) for more information.

[Shoalhaven | Tuesday, 31 October](#)

This full-day experience will start with a Welcome to Country, and then various opportunities to experience local Indigenous tourism products. The family will conclude with an Indigenous cultural event including a sneak peak of the "Miwati Yolnu - Sunrise People Indigenous Art Exhibition followed by a Corroboree.

Attendance is strictly limited. Please [click here](#) for more information.

[Eurobodalla | Wednesday, 15 November](#)

This full-day family will start with a Welcome to Country, followed by the opportunity to experience two local Indigenous tourism products. The family will conclude with an Indigenous cultural event including a Corroboree featuring many of the Eurobodalla's Indigenous performers.

Attendance is strictly limited. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Industry Updates

International Visitor Recovery

The NSW visitor economy is leading Australia's recovery from the pandemic, with new data showing NSW recorded the largest absolute increase nationally for international visitors, nights and expenditure in the year ending June 2023.

According to [Tourism Research Australia](#), NSW received a total of 38.9 million domestic and international overnight visitors (up 53.3 per cent on the year ending June 2022), who stayed 182.7 million nights (up 71.6 per cent) and spent \$38.9 billion (up 98.8 per cent).

The Value of Aboriginal Tourism to NSW

From the year ending June 2019 to 2023, the volume of domestic overnight visitors who engaged in an Aboriginal activity in NSW increased by 18.3 per cent.

According to [Tourism Research Australia's](#) National Visitor Survey, a total of 190,600 domestic overnight visitors participated in an Aboriginal cultural tourism experience in NSW in the 12 months to June 2023.

These visitors stayed 0.7 million nights, contributing \$329.8 million in visitor expenditure to the state.

Agritourism Business Guide

The Department of Planning and Environment has released a new guide to help NSW farmers set up agritourism businesses on their land. It explains what planning approvals are needed and how landowners can meet the requirements. It also includes practical advice on issues such as location and design.

Download the guide [here](#).

Sustainable Tourism Pathway

[Accommodation Australia](#) (AA) and [Ecotourism Australia](#) have joined forces to forge a pathway toward sustainable tourism for the accommodation sector.

AA will encourage its thousands of member hotels, motels and caravan parks to begin their sustainability journey with Ecotourism Australia's pre-certification benchmarking tool the Strive 4 Sustainability Scorecard.

Find out more [here](#).

Quick Tips for Tourism Resilience Guides

Destination NSW has collaborated with RFS to update the three Quick Tips for Tourism Resilience guides with refreshed information and resources.

The [Quick Tips for Tourism Resilience](#) guides are designed to assist visitor economy businesses before, during and after bushfires and other natural disasters.

Read the guides:

- [Quick tips for preparing for bushfires and natural disasters | Destination NSW](#)
- [How to respond during a bushfire or natural disaster | Destination NSW](#)
- [Quick tips for recovery after bushfires and natural disasters | Destination NSW](#)

The Quick Tips for Tourism Resilience guides are part of the NSW First Program, designed to assist NSW visitor economy businesses to develop, promote and sell world-class visitor experiences.

Grants | Funding | Awards

Community Building Partnership 2023 Round

This program awards grants for community infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes while also promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion.

Applications close at 5 pm (AEST), 27th October 2023

Find out more [here](#).

Community and Place Grants Program

Expressions of interest (EOI) are now open for Aboriginal organisations to apply for the next round of Community and Place Grants.

The Aboriginal Affairs NSW Community and Place Grants Program aims to deliver tangible local benefit and impact to Aboriginal communities against the Closing the Gap socio-economic outcome targets, recognising that Aboriginal communities have the solutions to problems or issues in their community.

EOI close at 10 am, 30th October 2023

Find out more [here](#).

[Grant Search](#)

Workshops | Webinars | Training

Free webinar series

Join Destination NSW and a panel of industry experts for two free webinars to explore opportunities to develop world-class culinary and agritourism experiences.

Creating world-class agritourism experiences

Wednesday 18 October 2023, 10.30 – 11.30

Find out how to create world-class agritourism experiences that exceed expectations and are practical for your farming business.

Register [here](#).

Elevate your culinary experience

Wednesday 25 October 2023, 10.30 – 11.30

Discover how you can enrich the visitor experience by delivering world-class tour, attraction or accommodation experiences that showcase the culinary

offering of your destination.

Register [here](#).

The webinars are part of the NSW First Program, delivered by Destination NSW to assist businesses to develop, promote and sell world-class visitor experiences.

Small Business Month

In October, small business owners can attend a range of events as part of the NSW Small Business Month.

Connect with experts from large businesses, industry associations, chambers of commerce and all levels of government, to learn about branding, cyber security, health, resilience, online trading and more.

[Find events via the NSW Small Business website.](#)

My Business

My Business is an online platform that provides resources to support small businesses.

To take advantage of guides, videos, templates and more, small business owners can sign up for a free membership.

Find out more [here](#).



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