



THE LAKES FESTIVAL

7-16 November
2025

Celebrating 10 Years

MAJOR EVENT

**Light
up the
Lake**

Memorial Park, The Entrance
Sat Nov 8, 4-9PM

10 DAYS
of entertainment
20+ FREE EVENTS
around the coast



For more information
scan QR code or visit
[lovecentralcoast.com/
lakesfestival](https://lovecentralcoast.com/lakesfestival)

Central
Coast
Council

centralcoast
LOVECENTRALCOAST.COM

ECO
CERTIFIED
DESTINATION
ecotourism

PRESENTED BY



PROFIT FOR PURPOSE

**IMPROVING LIVES
IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

**OVER \$29.5 MILLION
PROVIDED IN COMMUNITY
SUPPORT IN THE LAST YEAR.**



PROUD MOUNTIES GROUP VENUES

PROUD MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE LAKES FESTIVAL 2025

Not a member? **SIGN UP ONLINE NOW FOR FREE**

www.mountiesgroup.com.au



The Lakes Festival turns 10

A celebration of waterways and community

Join us for a vibrant 10-day program of family fun, cultural experiences, and local creativity across the Central Coast's stunning lakes and coastal towns.

The Lakes Festival returns for its 10th year, bringing a splash of colour and celebration across the Central Coast. This milestone event showcases the beauty of our lakes and coastal towns through a vibrant program of activities.

Over 10 days, locals and visitors can enjoy family-friendly entertainment, cultural experiences, and educational programs hosted by passionate local organisations and businesses. It's a chance to connect, learn, and celebrate together.

Whether you're rediscovering hidden gems on your doorstep or exploring new places, The Lakes Festival invites everyone to embrace the region's diverse waterways and enjoy the spirit of community and creativity.



For more information visit
lovecentralcoast.com/lakesfestival

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION ON THE CENTRAL COAST



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO THE CENTRAL COAST FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS.

Construction of the University of Newcastle's new \$67.3 million Central Coast Campus at 305 Mann Street in Gosford will be completed by the end of 2025, with the first student intake scheduled for the first semester of 2026.

The new facility in Gosford is funded by the University of Newcastle, the Australian Government, and the NSW Government. The campus will provide a safe and inspiring place for students to study locally and build their skills close to home.

Around 1,000 people are expected to study at the new Mann Street location in 2026. Programs to be offered include Business, Education, Social Sciences, and Pathway programs.



LEARN MORE

FROM HEADLAND TO HINTERLAND

What's On

Scan to find events that add colour to your calendar on the NSW Central Coast



The Lakes Festival

7 - 16 November 2025
6 - 15 November 2026
[LoveCentralCoast.com](#)
[/LakesFestival](#)



Harvest Festival

6 - 7 June 2026
12 - 13 June 2027
[LoveCentralCoast.com](#)
[/HarvestFestival](#)



Love Lanes Festival

14 February 2026
13 February 2027
[LoveCentralCoast.com](#)
[/LoveLanes](#)



ChromeFest

23 - 25 October 2026
22 - 24 October 2027
[LoveCentralCoast.com](#)
[/ChromeFest](#)

centralcoast
[LOVECENTRALCOAST.COM](#)

What you need to know

Book and plan ahead

Be sure to check out each event's dedicated event page on our website to make sure you don't miss out on some of our exciting events and secure your spot for any that require a booking! lovecentralcoast.com/lakesfestival

Take a train or catch a bus

We recommend you take advantage of public transport when travelling to the festival, so you can spend more time enjoying the events, and less time exploring car parks.



Catch a bus – For detailed bus services please visit [Busways](#) or [Red Bus](#) website



Ride your bike – utilising many of the [shared cycle pathways](#) around the event locations



Catch a taxi or Uber, or carpool with friends.



Walk from your home.

Drive safely

Some key roads around event hubs may be affected on event days - stick to speed limits and expect some delays with increased traffic. Car parking is available at each location.

Whatever the weather

In the event of wet weather, check our [Facebook page](#) or stay tuned to Triple M or Hit FM for updates.

Stay connected

Stay up to date with all things The Lakes Festival including sneak peaks, event information and much more! Like us on Facebook [@thelakesfestival](#) and follow us using #lakesfestival





Light up the Lake

8 November 2025

Saturday 4pm-9pm

Memorial Park, The Entrance

FEATURING

Ruby Fields

Dear Sunday | Dizzy Days | Chloe Parché | Elaskia

PART OF

THE
**LAKES
FESTIVAL**
7-16 November
2025

Learn, play, and celebrate our waterways
with live music, activities, fireworks and more!



For more information
scan QR code or visit
[lovecentralcoast.com/
lakesfestival](https://lovecentralcoast.com/lakesfestival)

PRESENTED BY



centralcoast
LOVECENTRALCOAST.COM



MAJOR PARTNER
mounties
group

EVENT PARTNER
**UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE**

MEDIA PARTNER
TRIP 107.7

MEDIA PARTNER
HIT 106

IN-KIND PARTNER
COASTIES
MAGAZINE

Experience the magic of Light Up The Lake, The Lakes Festival's flagship event, which will feature dazzling fireworks, live music, and vibrant entertainment by the water.

What's On

Head to the Main Stage for live music from
4.05pm – Elaskia
4.50pm – Chloe Parché
5.50pm – Dizzy Days
7.00pm – Dear Sunday
8.10pm – Ruby Fields
9.00pm – Fireworks

Dive into a world of fun activities, roving performers, and mouth-watering eats that'll keep you buzzing all evening.

And when the stars come out, the sky will explode with colour in a spectacular fireworks show that will literally Light Up The Lake, proudly brought to you by Halekulani Bowling Club.



Get prepared for the Light Up the Lake event and head across to Spotify to check out our playlist that features songs from the artists that will be taking stage at the event.



Activities

There are plenty of activities for the kids at this year's Light Up the Lake!

From crafty fun like painting nature-themed pebbles and building colourful windmills, to face painting and messy play, there's something for every little adventurer.

Let them burn off energy at the Mega Play Climbing Centre, and if they're feeling overwhelmed, they can take a break with some sensory play, or for our special needs guests they can access the exclusive mobile sensory room perfect for resetting nervous systems after all the excitement!

Visit the website for the latest updates on all the exciting activities as they're announced!



Education



Make a splash at the **Water & Sewer Education** tent. Test your knowledge with fun activities and learn all about the water systems that keep our community flowing.



Splash into learning at the **Waterways Education** Stall. Enjoy hands-on activities and meet Parker the Platypus, our adorable mascot making waves for waterway awareness.



Explore the wild side of the Central Coast with the **Natural Assets and Biodiversity** Team. Discover top spots to see whales, birds, echidnas, even platypuses! Learn about our region's rich biodiversity and sign up for the Environmental Volunteering Program to help protect it.



Join the crew making waves for ocean conservation. Visit **Sea Shepherd's** powerful display to discover how you can take action to protect our oceans, one step at a time.



Meet the heroes behind the hose. Firefighters from **Fire NSW** will be on-site to share essential home fire safety tips and answer all your burning questions. Climb aboard a real fire truck, snap a photo in firefighter gear, and experience the excitement of fire safety up close.



Dive into safety with our local surf lifesavers. Volunteers from **Surf Life Saving Central Coast** will be showcasing their rescue gear and sharing expert tips to help you stay safe in the water as the weather heats up.



Eat & Drink



Dinner sorted

Feast your way through delicious meals and sweet treats from some of the region's favourite food trucks, plus all the tasty options from the waterfront restaurants at The Entrance. Whether you're craving something savoury or sweet, we've got your taste buds covered. For more options visit **[The Entrance Neighbourhood Guide](#)**.



Cheers to good times

Adults can kick back with a refreshing selection of alcoholic beverages. It's the perfect spot to relax, soak up the vibes, and enjoy the night, just note, capacity is limited and is strictly 18+.

Shuttle Bus Service

To help ease parking stress, we're offering two free shuttle bus routes throughout the event:

Route A: Tuggerah Railway Station

Route B: Lakes Beach Surf Life Saving Club

Let the shuttle take the hassle out of your journey so you can focus on enjoying the lights, entertainment, and festivities!

For full details and schedules, visit the event listing on our website:

lovecentralcoast.com/events/light-up-the-lake-the-lakes-festival



Waterfront Plaza Precinct

Explore the buzz at the Waterfront Plaza Precinct

This vibrant hub is packed with activity. From sensory-friendly fun at Rocking the Senses, to the live broadcast and interactive activation by Triple M. Browse through local market stalls, and don't miss the debut of the Busking Stage, proudly presented by the University of Newcastle, showcasing raw local talent in an intimate, street-style setting.

Don't miss the on-site sponsor activations at Light Up The Lake

Catch the Triple M crew broadcasting live and bringing the fun with their interactive activation. Plus, keep an eye out for exciting experiences from our Major Partner Mounties Group, and our Event Partner University of Newcastle, you might even catch their mascot Hunter around the event!

MAJOR PARTNER



EVENT PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER



Event Map

Discover what's on at Lakes Festival this year.

The dynamic 10-day celebration showcases our coastal towns and waterways, and features a wide range of family-friendly activities alongside enriching cultural and educational experiences.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Avoca Beach | 10. Norah Head |
| 2. Brooklyn | 11. Ourimbah |
| 3. Davistown | 12. Spencer |
| 4. The Entrance | 13. Terrigal |
| 5. Erina | 14. Toukley |
| 6. Ettalong Beach | 15. Woy Woy |
| 7. Gosford | 16. Wyong |
| 8. Gwandalan | |
| 9. Killcare | |



MAJOR EVENT

Light up the Lake



1 Avoca Beach

Swell Times

Experience coastal fun at Avoca Beach with Swell Times! Enjoy beach sports, surf lessons, creative workshops, local stalls, tasty eats, and live music. Join a community cleanup and learn about beach safety. Whether you're a wave rider or beach lover, this family-friendly event has something for everyone. Dive in!

Date: Sunday 9 November

Time: 10am – 2pm

Location: Avoca Beach and Avoca Beach Surf Club,
Vine St, Avoca Beach NSW 2251

Cost: Free

More Info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/swell-times-the-lakes-festival

The Wonders of Water

Discover the magic of water at Avoca Lake with The Wonders of Water – Third Edition. Enjoy dance, music, storytelling, visual arts, cultural insights, hands-on workshops, and a sustainable pop-up stage. Celebrate creativity, connection, and community in this free, family-friendly Lakes Festival event by Heartdancers.

Date: Saturday 15 November

Time: 2pm - 8pm

Location: Avoca Scout Hall, 229 Avoca Drive,
Avoca Beach NSW 2251

Cost: Free

More Info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/the-wonders-of-water-the-lakes-festival

Ink & Water Community Poems and Family Fun Day

Ink & Water is a free, family-friendly poetry event celebrating the Central Coast's people and nature. Add your voice to a community poem, explore arts and crafts, and enjoy word-inspired fun. Type, paint, or relax outdoors. Let your imagination flow in this creative, collaborative celebration.

Date: Sunday 16 November

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Heazlett Park, Avoca Drive, Avoca Beach NSW 2251

Cost: Free

More Info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/ink-water-community-poems-and-family-fun-day-avoca-beach-the-lakes-festival



2 Brooklyn

Nautical Country

Nautical Country sets sail on the Hawkesbury River with live performances by Andrew Swift and Bryce Sainty. Enjoy scenic river views, smooth tunes, drinks, and cheeky banter aboard the Zarapito. Hosted by Ronnie Tee & Jaq, it's a golden hour cruise for country fans and good-vibe seekers alike.

Date: Saturday 15 November

Time: 2pm – 5pm

Location: Along the Hawkesbury River. Meeting point will be provided with booking confirmation.

Cost: \$70 per person

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/nautical-country-the-lakes-festival



3 Davistown

Ink & Water Community poems

Ink & Water is a community poetry project honouring the Central Coast's people and nature. Relax outdoors and contribute a word, phrase, or story to a shared poem. Tap on a typewriter, take in the surroundings, and let your imagination roam. Every voice and creative spark is welcome.

Date: Sunday 9 November

Time: 10am – 2pm

Location: Davistown Foreshore, off Illoura Reserve, Mirreen Ave, Davistown NSW 2251

Cost: Free



The Lighthouse Keepers – Sea Shanty Pop Up

Date: Sunday 9 November

Time: 12pm–1.45pm

Location: Davistown Foreshore, off Illoura Reserve, Mirreen Ave, Davistown NSW 2251

Cost: Free

More Info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/ink-water-community-poems-and-the-lighthouse-keepers-the-lakes-festival



4 The Entrance

Light Up The Lake

Experience epic music, vibrant vibes, and fireworks that Light Up the Lake! Headlined by Ruby Fields and a stellar lineup of Aussie artists, enjoy fun activities, delicious food, and a lively atmosphere. Thanks to Halekulani Bowling Club, the night ends with a dazzling fireworks display over the water.

Check out the full event description on page 7.

Date: Saturday 8 November

Time: 4pm – 9pm

Location: Memorial Park, 46 Marine Parade, The Entrance NSW 2261

Cost: FREE

More Info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/light-up-the-lake-the-lakes-festival



Beneath the Waves

Explore Tuggerah Lake with Associate Professor Troy Gaston and the University of Newcastle team. Operate an underwater drone (ROV) and view live footage of aquatic habitats. This hands-on activity offers insights into estuaries and coasts, plus the chance to engage with marine science experts and ask questions.

Date: Saturday 8 November

Time: 9am – 11am

Location: North Entrance Car Park and Wharf,
5 Wilfred Barrett Dr, The Entrance North NSW 2261

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/beneath-the-waves-the-lakes-festival



Wildflower Creations

Create something beautiful with Ruth and Peter Donnelly from Coachwood Nursery at a full day of Wildflower & Garden Workshops. Choose from eight creative sessions including posies, vase arrangements, and wall art. Enjoy free tips, giveaways, and inspiration! This is perfect for nature lovers, DIY fans, and gift seekers.

Date: Sunday 9 November

Time: 8am – 4pm

Location: Memorial Park, 46 Marine Parade, The Entrance NSW 2261

Cost: Bookings required. From \$0 - \$39

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/wildflower-creations-the-lakes-festival



The Entrance Markets

The Entrance Markets return to Memorial Park with farm-fresh produce, handmade goods, delicious food, and live entertainment. Set along the picturesque foreshore, this vibrant showcase of local creativity and community spirit offers the perfect Sunday outing for families and friends.

Date: Sunday 9 with Wildflower Creations and 16 November with Painting by the Lake

Time: 8am – 1pm

Location: Memorial Park, 46 Marine Parade, The Entrance NSW 2261

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/the-entrance-market-the-lakes-festival



Ink & Water Community Poems

Ink & Water is a community poetry project honouring the Central Coast's people and nature. Relax outdoors and contribute a word, phrase, or story to a shared poem. Tap on a typewriter, take in the surroundings, and let your imagination roam. Every voice and creative spark is welcome.

Date: Wednesday 12 November

Time: 10am – 12pm

Location: Memorial Park, 46 Marine Parade, The Entrance NSW 2261

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/ink-water-community-poems-the-entrance-the-lakes-festival



Sustainable Future Festival

Celebrate sustainability at the free, family-friendly Sustainable Future Festival! Enjoy workshops, demos, speakers, and performances that inspire eco-living on the Central Coast. Discover practical ways to reduce waste, protect resources, and connect with your community. A vibrant day of learning and fun for all ages.

Date: Saturday 15 November

Time: 10am – 3pm

Location: Memorial Park, 46 Marine Parade, The Entrance NSW 2261

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/sustainable-future-festival-the-lakes-festival



Reflections at the Lake Exhibition

'Reflections at the Lake' is an amazing Exhibition of The Central Coast Watercolour Society, as part of their 40th Anniversary. Members embrace a wide variety of painting styles from representational through many forms of expressionism to abstract. Entry to the exhibition is free and there will be both framed and unframed original artworks for sale and cards.

Date: Daily Friday 7 – Sunday 16 November

Time: 9.30am – 4pm

Location: The Entrance Gallery, Norberta St, The Entrance NSW 2261

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/reflections-at-the-lake-exhibition-the-lakes-festival



Artisan Markets

Discover a vibrant showcase of artistic creations, unique jewellery, and handmade treasures—perfect for Christmas gifting. Enjoy delicious scones from the IRIS Foundation and coffee or lunch at the IRIS Café. Plus, explore the Central Coast Watercolour Society's Lakes Exhibition, open to the public for a delightful cultural experience.

Date: Saturday 8 November

Time: 10am – 3.30pm

Location: The Entrance Community Centre, Battley Ave,
The Entrance NSW 2261

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/artisan-market-the-lakes-festival



Painting by the Lake

Join the Central Coast Watercolour Society for a free lakeside painting day! Explore watercolour, contribute to a mural, or enter the live Plein Air Art Competition. Whether you're an artist or observer, celebrate creativity and community in a stunning natural setting as part of The Lakes Festival.

Date: Sunday 16 November

Time: 9am – 3pm

Location: Memorial Park, 46 Marine Parade, The Entrance NSW 2261

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/painting-by-the-lake-the-lakes-festival



5 Erina

Salt & Pepperberry

Embark on a culinary adventure celebrating native Australian flavours of pepperberry, lemon myrtle, and saltbush expertly crafted to honour the rich heritage of bush foods. Enjoy these vibrant tastes paired with botanical brews in an immersive experience led by Corey Grech, with support from Six Strings Brewing Co. One magical week only. Pre-booking essential.

Date: Daily Friday 7 to Saturday 15 November

Time: Session 1: 2pm – 4pm, Session 2: 6pm – 8pm

Location: 90 The Entrance Rd, Erina NSW 2250

Cost: \$100. Bookings recommended to avoid disappointment.

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/salt-pepperberry-the-lakes-festival



6 Ettalong Beach

Bombora SUP Festival

Bombora SUP Festival is back! Join us at Ettalong Beach for a weekend of SUP fun, with SUP Yoga, Sunrise Paddles, SUPball, SUP Races [beginner & Pro], free kids races and a 10k Challenge! Beginners are welcome, plus there are awesome prizes and giveaways thanks to our amazing local sponsors! Gear provided or BYO board.

Date: Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 November

Time: Various session times

Location: Ettalong Beach (near Lance Webb Reserve)
42 The Esplanade, Ettalong Beach NSW 2257

Cost: Bookings required. Free – \$26.50

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/bombora-sup-festival-the-lakes-festival



7 Gosford

Clambake: In My Waters

Clambake: In My Waters is a bold cabaret by Glitta Supernova, blending mythology, ecology, and magic. Featuring local and national performers as water spirits and sea creatures, this immersive waterfront show celebrates our lakes and estuaries through circus, music, and transformation, activating Gosford with cultural and environmental storytelling.

Date: Friday 14 November

Time: 6pm – 10pm

Location: Gosford Arts Centre, 141 Mann Street, Gosford NSW 2250

Cost: Bookings required. \$30 - \$40

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/clambake-in-my-waters-the-lakes-festival



Spiral Coast

This relaxed, jam-style event includes circus and flow props, guided workshops, and space to move, connect, and play. It's open to all ages and experience levels, with a warm, community-first energy that makes it easy to join in or simply enjoy the atmosphere. Come for the fun, stay for the flow!

Date: Sunday 9 November

Time: 2pm – 6pm

Location: Sensory Park, 162 Showground Road, Narara NSW 2250

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/spiral-coast-the-lakes-festival



Splashabout Showcase “A Deep Dive”

Roundabout Circus’s Splashabout Showcase dives into circus magic with water-themed acts featuring mermaids, pirates, penguins, and even fire-spitting squids! Inspired by local waterways, the family-friendly afternoon show delights all ages, while the evening show adds spectacular fire performances. Celebrate creativity, community, and the Lakes Festival spirit through movement and imagination.

Date: Saturday 15 November

Time: 2pm – 3.30pm and 6pm – 8pm

Location: Roundabout Circus, 96 Showground Road, Gosford NSW 2250

Cost: Bookings required. \$18 – \$25

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/splashabout-showcase-a-deep-dive-the-lakes-festival



Zumba Kids

Zumba Kids brings high-energy dance to lakeside suburbs with radio hits and global rhythms. Families enjoy interactive fun, exploring cultures through movement, from traditional dances to unifying beats. This vibrant show blends education, celebration, and fitness, making it the perfect way to dance, learn, and connect during the Lakes Festival.

Date: Saturday 8 November

Time: 9.30am – 10am

Location: Kibble Park, 118 Donnison Street, Gosford NSW 2250

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/zumba-kids-gosford-the-lakes-festival



Water Polo by the Waterfront

Gosford Water Polo Club hosts a Junior Tournament during the Lakes Festival! Over two exciting days, junior teams from across NSW compete in open-water matches on Brisbane Water. Enjoy thrilling games, vibrant energy, food stalls, a club BBQ, and a carnival atmosphere celebrating youth sport and community spirit.

Date: Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November

Time: Saturday 9.30 - 3.30pm, Sunday 9.30 - 2pm

Location: 42 Masons Parade, Gosford NSW 2250

Cost: Free to spectate

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/waterpolo-by-the-waterfront-the-lakes-festival



8 Gwandalan

Cinema Under the Stars

Cinema Under the Stars at Gwandalan Lioness Park offers a magical night of family fun. Enjoy a free movie by the foreshore, plus food vans, jumping castles, and live entertainment before sundown. Bring your picnic blanket, gather your loved ones, and settle in for a cosy evening under the stars.

Date: Friday 14 November

Time: 5pm – 9.30pm

Location: Lioness Park, Koowong Street, Gwandalan NSW 2259

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/cinema-under-the-stars-the-lakes-festival



9 Killcare

Bouddi Coastal Run

Bouddi Coastal Run offers breathtaking trail views across Bouddi National Park. Choose from 14km or 21km runs, plus a 1km kids' beach dash. Explore Putty Beach, Maitland Bay, Bombi Point and more. With limited entries, this popular summer event promises scenic trails, community spirit, and unforgettable coastal adventure. Book now!

Date: Saturday 8 November

Time: 7am – 3pm

Location: Bouddi National Park, 81 Beach Dr, Killcare NSW 2257

Cost: Bookings required. \$15 – \$145

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/bouddi-coastal-run-the-lakes-festival



10 Norah Head

Soundscapes Youth Writing Workshop

A writing workshop for ages 12–18, inspired by the rich landscape and history of Norah Head. Explore the area, then craft stories using your senses and surroundings. Led by Merran Winchester, this creative session invites imagination, from shipwrecks to mermaids, anything is possible.

Date: Saturday 8 November

Time: 2pm - 3.30pm

Location: Norah Head Lighthouse and surrounds,
40 Bush Street, Norah Head NSW 2263

Cost: Bookings required. \$15

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/soundscapes-youth-writing-workshop-the-lakes-festival

If you like the sound of this event, check out the Soundscapes Story Trail on the back page.



11 Ourimbah

Tuggerah Lakes Cooking Class

Cooking with the Coast explores sustainable, healthy, and tasty local marine foods. Join chef Phil Davy and University of Newcastle experts for simple, delicious recipes using local ingredients. Learn, cook, and enjoy your creation! All ages welcome—children must be accompanied by an adult.

Date: Wednesday 12 and Saturday 15 November

Time: 4pm – 6pm Wednesday and 12pm – 2pm Saturday

Location: University of Newcastle, Ourimbah Campus,
10 Chittaway Rd, Ourimbah NSW 2258

Cost: Free. Bookings required.

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/tuggerah-lakes-seafood-cooking-class-the-lakes-festival



12 Spencer

Acoustic Life on the River

Acoustic Life on the River invites you to explore the stories of the Lower Hawkesbury River. Enjoy floating storytellers, haiku happenings, shanty singers, Irish harp, and pop-up performances. Choose one of two unique voyages, or both, for a magical journey through music, history, and community along sandstone cliffs and river bends.

Date: Sunday 16 November

Time: First Voyage 10.00am-11.30am, Second Voyage 12pm-1.30pm

Location: The Hawkesbury Duck, 4685 Wisemans Ferry Road, Spencer NSW 2775

Cost: Bookings required. \$35 – \$150

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/acoustic-life-of-the-river-the-lakes-festival



13 Terrigal

Marine Discovery Centre – Free Sessions

Visit the CCMDC for free during The Lakes Festival! Enjoy weekday access to explore the centre at your own pace, discovering its exhibits and displays. On weekends, book a free guided tour (limited spots available) for a deeper dive into the centre's offerings. A perfect outing for all ages!

Date: Daily Friday 7 – Sunday 16 November (closed on Monday 10 November)

Time: Weekdays: 10am – 2pm, weekends: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Location: Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre, 11 Terrigal Drive, Terrigal NSW 2260

Cost: Free.
Bookings required for weekend tours

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/ccmdc-open-days-the-lakes-festival



Marine Discovery Family Fun Day

Marine Discovery Family Fun Day invites families to Terrigal Rotary Park and the Marine Discovery Centre for a free, ocean-themed celebration. Enjoy guided tours, kids' workshops, crafts, face painting, story time, a scavenger hunt, disco, market stalls, live entertainment, and tasty eats. Bookings essential for tours.

Date: Sunday 9 November

Time: 9am – 3pm

Location: Terrigal Rotary Park & Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre, 11 Terrigal Drive, Terrigal NSW 2260

Cost: Free. Bookings required for tours

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/marine-discovery-family-fun-day-the-lakes-festival



Ink & Water Community Poems

Ink & Water is a community poetry project honouring the Central Coast's people and nature. Relax outdoors and contribute a word, phrase, or story to a shared poem. Tap on a typewriter, take in the surroundings, and let your imagination roam. Every voice and creative spark is welcome.

Date: Thursday 13 November

Time: 10am – 12pm

Location: Terrigal Haven, 2 Scenic Highway, Terrigal NSW 2260

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/ink-water-community-poems-terrigal-the-lakes-festival



Marine Magic Outdoor Cinema

Marine Magic Outdoor Cinema transforms Terrigal Rotary Park into a vibrant festival space. Enjoy markets, food stalls, entertainment, and a movie under the stars. Bring a picnic rug or low chairs, grab dinner, and soak up the community vibes. Arrive early for the best spot and pre-movie fun!

Date: Saturday 15 November

Time: 4pm – 9pm

Location: Terrigal Rotary Park, 11 Terrigal Drive, Terrigal NSW 2260

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/marine-magic-outdoor-cinema-and-fair-the-lakes-festival



14 Toukley

Toukley Arts and Craft Fair by the Lake

Toukley Arts and Craft Fair by the Lake is a vibrant, family-friendly day celebrating local creativity. Discover handmade arts and crafts, unique artworks, and bargain art tables, all set against the scenic lakeside backdrop. Enjoy browsing, meeting local makers, and soaking up the relaxed community atmosphere. A perfect day out!

Date: Saturday 15 November

Time: 9am – 3pm

Location: Wallarah Point Peace Park and Toukley Art Gallery,
1 Wallarah Rd, Gorokan NSW 2263

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/art-craft-fair-by-the-lake-the-lakes-festival

Zumba Kids

Zumba Kids brings high-energy dance fun to lakeside suburbs with popular hits and global rhythms. This interactive show blends movement, culture, and education - featuring traditional dances and music from around the world. It's a joyful, family-friendly celebration of unity through dance, perfect for exploring, learning, and moving together.

Date: Saturday 15 November

Time: 4pm – 4.30pm

Location: Toukley Village Green, Yaralla Road, Toukley NSW 2263

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/zumba-kids-toukley-the-lakes-festival

Sea Food Fest

Sea Food Fest debuts at Canton Beach with fresh seafood, global flavours, market stalls, and lakeside fun. Enjoy cooking demos, kids' activities, and a guided paddleboard tour of Tuggerah Lake. Bring your floatie or kayak for the colourful parade. An unforgettable day of food, music, and marine discovery for all!

Date: Sunday 16 November

Time: 12pm – 4pm

Location: Canton Beach, 23A Beach Parade, Canton Beach NSW 2263

Cost: Free. Some sessions require bookings

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/sea-food-fest-the-lakes-festival



15 Woy Woy

Ink & Water Community Poems

Ink & Water is a community poetry project honouring the Central Coast's people and nature. Relax outdoors and contribute a word, phrase, or story to a shared poem. Tap on a typewriter, take in the surroundings, and let your imagination roam. Every voice and creative spark is welcome.

Date: Tuesday 11 November

Time: 10am – 12pm

Location: Lions Park, 2 N Burge Road, Woy Woy NSW 2256

Cost: Free

More info: lovecentralcoast.com/events/ink-water-community-poems-woy-woy-the-lakes-festival



16 Wyong

Catchment Crawl

Join Central Coast Waterwatch as we embark on an exciting bus tour of Wyong River and learn about the health and history of our waterways. As part of the tour, participants will visit four sites within the catchment and hear from various experts working on the waterways. Go dip netting for water bugs, collect water samples to test the health of our waterways, learn about the plants and animals that call Wyong River home, including the iconic platypus, and discover the many ways you can get involved to keep our waterways healthy! Delicious morning tea and lunch included.

Date: Saturday 15 November

Time: 8.30am – 3pm

Location: Wyong River Catchment. Departure location shared upon successful booking

Cost: Free. Bookings required

Bookings: lovecentralcoast.com/events/wyong-river-catchment-crawl-the-lakes-festival



Sustainability

The Lakes Festival has officially completed the national **Strive 4 Sustainability Scorecard** with Ecotourism Australia!

We're on a journey to create a more sustainable event for the Central Coast. This Scorecard has helped us to measure where The Lakes Festival sits on its sustainability journey, aligned to the four pillars of sustainability impacts: environmental, socio-economic, cultural, and sustainable management.

This is a HUGE learning milestone for us, as we continue to educate our community and guests about the Central Coast's waterways.

We ask respectfully for all those who tread from headland to hinterland, to explore responsibly by observing some simple 'house' rules. Take the sustainability pledge: lovecentralcoast.com/sustainability-pledge

How are we being more sustainable?

This year we're taking even more steps to improve our sustainability.

We've switched the paper used for printing - The PEFC Certified uncoated paper is recyclable and compostable and does not receive any coating during the manufacturing process.

Our merchandise promotes re-use! You can pick up some merchandise at Light Up the Lake, or at surprise locations throughout the festival, so keep your eye on the Facebook page.



Eco friendly cotton tote bags



Bottles made from 98% sugar cane with a natural cork lid, making them 100% ecofriendly, plant based, CO2 negative and they're BPA free!



Sunglasses with frames made from 50/50 rice husk fibre and BPA-free polypropylene

Award-Winning Innovation

We're proud The Lakes Festival won the 2025 RH Dougherty Award for Innovation, recognising our 2024 program's success which included 40 events, 24,000 attendees, and \$8.2M impact. The award celebrates our unique partnership model, engaging the community and visitors with the Central Coast's waterways. We're excited to return in 2025.





THE LAKES FESTIVAL

6-15 November
2026

Save the date

Join our Facebook
community
@TheLakesFestival

PRESENTED BY

Central
Coast
Council

centralcoast
LOVECENTRALCOAST.COM



ECO
CERTIFIED
DESTINATION
ecotourism

A Decade on the Water:

Celebrating 10 Years of The Lakes Festival

Every November, as the sun warms the waterways of the Central Coast, a familiar buzz returns. It's not just the paddleboards slicing through the lake, or music drifting on the breeze, it's the heartbeat of a community coming together. It's The Lakes Festival.

Where It All Began

The story begins in 2014, with a handful of passionate locals and Council staff, gathered around a simple idea: to celebrate the Tuggerah Lakes, not just as a place, but as a source of connection, creativity and culture. What began as a humble brainstorm soon blossomed into something much bigger.

By 2015, the first Lakes Festival came to life. Families laid out picnic rugs by the water's edge, artists painted in the open air, and children raced through scavenger hunts. The lakes weren't just a backdrop, they were the soul of the celebration.

A Festival That Grew With Its Community

As the years passed, The Lakes Festival grew, not just in size, but in spirit. It stretched across more towns, welcomed new voices, and embraced new ideas. From SUP yoga at sunrise to acapella flash mobs on the beach, the program became a reflection of the Central Coast itself - diverse, creative, and deeply connected to nature.

There were unforgettable moments, like the record-breaking Light Up the Lake in 2024, when 15,000 people gathered under a sky of fireworks and festoon lights. And there were years of challenge, like the resilience shown in 2020, when the pandemic paused everything but couldn't dim the festival's spirit. It waited patiently to return.

Over the past decade, the Festival has become a vibrant tapestry of music, food, art, sport, and sustainability, woven together by the shared love of our lakes and the communities that surround them. We've welcomed new traditions like Cinema Under the Stars and the Wonders of Water, while staying true to our roots of environmental stewardship and community pride.



More Than Just Events

The Lakes Festival has never been just about activities, it's about stories. It's the artist who taught weaving by the water and watched strangers become friends. It's the child who learned about marine life and decided to become a scientist. It's the local café that stayed open late and saw its busiest night of the year.

It's the feeling of standing by the lake at dusk, music floating on the breeze, surrounded by people who love this place as much as you do. It's about belonging.

A Sustainable Future

In 2024, The Lakes Festival took a bold step forward, completing the Strive 4 Sustainability Scorecard with Ecotourism Australia. From compostable merchandise to eco-education pop-ups, the festival is now a leader in sustainable celebration, proving that joy and responsibility can go hand in hand.

This commitment goes beyond the festival itself, embracing a deeper purpose: to protect and preserve our waterways for generations to come. By championing low-impact practices and fostering community awareness, The Lakes Festival is helping ensure that the lakes, rivers, and coastal ecosystems we celebrate today remain vibrant and healthy tomorrow.

Looking Ahead

As we mark 10 years of The Lakes Festival, we honour the thousands of volunteers, artists, educators, and attendees who have shaped this journey. We celebrate the waterways that inspire us, the stories that connect us, and the future we're building - together.

Because The Lakes Festival isn't just an event. It's a tradition. It's a reflection of everything that makes the Central Coast special, and it's a reminder that when we come together by the water, we create something truly magical.

Here's to ten years of activating, educating, and celebrating - and to many more to come.



Soundscapes Story Trail

Re-Wild your Imagination with Soundscapes Story Trail: a self-guided, site-specific creative audio adventure.

Soundscapes invites you on a unique journey across the Central Coast where local writers and creators have developed stories inspired by natural locations. Travel to these breathtaking sites and listen to stories that come alive in the very places that inspired them.

Visit **Soundscapes.audio** to choose your story or location and begin your adventure.

(For the best experience, we recommend headphones, but you can listen on any device or speaker.)



Thanks to our sponsors

MAJOR PARTNER



EVENT PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER



IN-KIND PARTNER



PRESENTED BY



For more information
scan QR code or visit
[lovecentralcoast.com/
lakesfestival](http://lovecentralcoast.com/lakesfestival)

