



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Summertime: Swansea Belmont Surf Life Saving Club President Brad Fox, Surf Life Saving NSW Chief Operating Officer Phil Ayres and Lake Macquarie Mayor Adam Shultz.

Summer sets the perfect scene in Lake Macquarie. As the weather warms, visitors flock to our city and locals head outdoors to soak up our stunning coastline, lakeside parks and a vibrant summer atmosphere.

Our beaches are among the best in Australia, with more than one million visitors expected at patrolled locations this season. We're proud to work closely with our surf life saving clubs to keep everyone safe in and around the water. Alongside Council's professional lifeguards, these dedicated volunteers play a vital role in protecting lives and I encourage you to thank them when you see them on patrol.

Learning to swim is one of life's most important skills and when you call Lake Macquarie home, it's essential. Our swim centres offer programs for all ages and abilities, and I'm excited to see the completed upgrade of the West Wallsend Swim Centre, including a new learn to swim pool, later this year. We're also prioritising new all year round learn to swim pools at Swansea and Morisset in the years

ahead. Whether you're brushing up on your skills or introducing your children to the water, there's no better time to dive in.

Back at the beach, this February we're thrilled to welcome the first of three years of NSW Surf Life Saving Championships to Blacksmiths Beach. This spectacular event will attract about 17,000 competitors and spectators to our city annually. The championships are an incredible showcase of athleticism and teamwork, and a great way for life savers to hone their skills. Make sure you head down to Blacksmiths to catch the action across February and March. It's the perfect opportunity to cheer on competitors and celebrate the vital role surf life saving plays in keeping our beaches safe.

Enjoy the sunshine, stay safe in the water, and let's make this summer one to remember.

**Lake Macquarie Mayor
Cr Adam Shultz**



YOUR CITY ONLINE

Sign up to our e-newsletter to stay in the loop with what's happening in Lake Mac.

lakemac.com.au/your-city

WHAT'S ON IN 2026

LAKE MAC FESTIVAL 23-26 January

Enjoy a vibrant mix of live music, family-friendly festivals, artisan markets and community celebrations taking place across the long weekend.

LAKE MACQUARIE TRIATHLON FESTIVAL 8 March

Swim, cycle and run in beautiful Lake Macquarie at the hottest new multi-sport festival in Australia.

DOBELL FESTIVAL 1-30 June

Inspired by the life and work of esteemed artist Sir William Dobell, this month-long festival features a range of events around the lake.

FLOAT YOUR BOAT 19-20 June

Lake Macquarie's iconic fluorescent flotilla brightens up the shoreline in a rainbow of colour with live sites at Toronto, Belmont and Warners Bay.

LAKE MAC POP BAM 25 July

Celebrate all things popular culture at Lake Macquarie's annual pop culture extravaganza.

LIVING SMART FESTIVAL 19 September

A day of free workshops, demonstrations and presentations from Australia's leading sustainability and eco-living festival.

LET'S FISH LAKE MAC 21-22 November

Cast a line in one of Australia's largest and best catch-and-release fishing competitions.

LAKE MAC CAROLS 13 December

Enjoy a spectacular evening of live entertainment and Christmas cheer under the stars at Speers Point Park.

lakemac.com.au/events

AWABA HOUSE BACK ON THE MENU



Bold local flavours are set to tantalise tastebuds when The Catering Group opens the doors to Awaba House later this year.

Council awarded the lease to the highly regarded food business late last year following a competitive tender process to operate the historic Booragul dining destination.

The 19th century gem is rising from the ashes after it was badly damaged by fire in 2019, with a brand-new modern interior to complement the rustic facade.

The Catering Group director Greg Barclay said Awaba House would offer modern Australian fine dining featuring high-quality local produce at an affordable price.

“Our vision is to showcase the best of regional NSW, with menus built around local growers, artisans, and native Australian ingredients that are created by the landscape around us,” he said.

“Inside, the venue will be flexible and full of life, hosting everything from corporate retreats and creative workshops to weddings, milestone celebrations and live music evenings.”

Awaba House is expected to open to the public in April 2026.

lakemac.com.au/awaba-house

BECOME A LAKE MAC ARTS MEMBER

Join the Lake Mac Arts membership program and enjoy exclusive cultural perks across Lake Macquarie, including complimentary event tickets, discounts at arts venues, and special offers at partner businesses like Shop MAC, Harry and Lola’s Café and Ernest Hill Wines.

arts.lakemac.com.au



SELF-ACCESS NOW AVAILABLE AT CHARLESTOWN LIBRARY

Lake Mac Libraries self-access service is now available at Charlestown Library, marking the seventh local branch to offer this convenience.

Self-access allows inducted library members to access the library between 6am and 9pm seven days a week. Self-access is available at Belmont, Cardiff, Charlestown, Speers Point, Cameron Park, Wangi Wangi and Toronto libraries.

TO BECOME A SELF-ACCESS MEMBER IS QUICK AND EASY:

1. Complete an online induction
2. Visit the branch during staffed hours to finish your induction with a staff member

To learn more visit library.lakemac.com.au/Visit/Self-access or speak to one of our friendly staff in branch to register for free.

NEVER BIN A BATTERY



Just one battery can spark a fire

Find a safe battery drop-off near you

[battery.epa](https://battery.epa.gov.au)

Proudly funded by the NSW Government.



Household batteries should never be placed in your kerbside bins.

Batteries pollute our environment and can spark fires in waste trucks and facilities, putting lives at risk.

Take batteries to a designated drop off point or recycling station.

Supermarkets, hardware stores, Lake Mac Libraries, Council’s works depot, Landcare, and community recycling centres offer collection options.

epa.nsw.gov.au