

Sussex Inlet Chamber of Commerce October 2026 Update

July to September Update

The Drive Uptown Project- Our round 1 2025-2026 project was successfully completed and acquitted with the NSW Government Office of the 24 Hour Economy. This grant supported project and event coordination, musicians for a number of events, event logistic costs, community projects and marketing. Our round 2 2026-2027 project was successfully funded with \$110,000 awarded to support project and event coordination, musicians for a number of events, event logistic costs, community projects and marketing.

Winter@Sussex Program concluded at the end of September and there were a number of highlights including:

- The Christmas in July on the 11th of July was well attended with an estimate of over 1500 people enjoying the live music, great range of food options by our local cafes, kid's activities and market stalls.
- 2 Successful Music@ Cinema events were held with the Tall Shaun and the Tuck Shop Ladies events having excellent crowds with a total of 192 people attending. These two events provided funding of \$1920 to the Cinema as one of our Drive project partners.
- Bean2 Sussex and Tutanitas Street Food catered for the August and September Music events and provided delicious food options and it was a great opportunity for the music participants to
- Boats and Spokes once again attracted a number of pre-war motorcycle enthusiasts and steamboats who enjoyed visiting Sussex Inlet, sharing information and networking with each other. This event is based at south Sussex and benefits Sussex Palms, Riverside and Seacrest caravan parks who are used for accommodation. Dinner events were conducted at Swordfish and the Bowling Club and Pelican Shores café utilised for coffee lunch and breakfast options.

Community Markets were held on the 11 July 8th August and the 12th of September and attracted an average of 20 stall holders with many locals and visitors attending the markets. The attendees at the markets then visit our cafes and shops which helps to boost income opportunities for local businesses. Thanks to Steve Haldane for his help each month in the market stall set up and our regular stall holders with over 75% of our stall holders being a local Sussex resident.

The Bumby Road Guest Chef Event on Thursday 3rd September was well attended with 65 participants enjoying the high-quality delicious menu. Thanks to Jack and his team and our local hospitality helpers Aria and Tommy and our Chamber volunteers helping with the setup of the Ellmoos centre for the diner event.

The Ellmoos Centre continues to offer a great venue for the community to access a wide range of activities. There are now over 16 groups regularly using the Ellmoos Centre with over 200 people each week enjoying the great facilities available. These groups include the Sussex Inlet Art Group, Creative Women's Craft Group, Ballet School, Chris Edwards School of Dance for Silver Swans and Pilates, Michelle Cashman Yoga, Church Fellowship, Karate, Drum Circle, Chair Yoga and Family History. The Ellmoos Centre is also used regularly for meetings and has also been booked for 3 private dinner events. Building improvements conducted in this period included installation of 6klw of solar panels to help keep costs down and repairs to the deck between the Church and Hall. A new DA was lodged and approved for the community markets at the Ellmoos Centre.

The Wellness Experiences strategy continues to grow and support our local Wellness focused businesses. We are now working with 8 Wellness focused local businesses and 5 of our members as accommodation partners for Wellness Retreats. We welcomed Chloe from Ocean Spa as a new Chamber member in September and we look forward to supporting her as the business grows. Wellness Coordinator Sharon Marr commenced in late June and has continued to help build the relationships with our Wellness businesses and is also supporting new initiatives such as a cycling and wedding strategy.

Small Business Support for Retail and Hospitality- 200 x \$25 small business support vouchers were distributed by the Chamber to our large accommodation partners as a thank you to visitors for staying in Sussex Inlet in July August and September. These vouchers were designed to assist our cafes and small retail shops through the quieter winter months. Over \$4000 worth of these vouchers have now been redeemed and the Chamber has reimbursed the following local businesses the \$25 – Sussex Surf Shop, Coves, Sussex Butcher, Seafood shop, Tackle Shop, Treasure Box, Alexcy Fish and Chips, Inlet Eats, Ohana, Bean 2 Sussex, Anchor Café, Pelican Shores, Inlet Bakery, Dinh Bakery, Island Sushi and Cuddy Café. The Chamber was pleased that the vouchers were redeemed at so many of our local businesses. This strategy will be repeated in 2027 as it was very much appreciated by the businesses and supported them through the winter months.

Community Projects and Advocacy- The Chamber has continued to play a strong advocacy role with local and state government to highlight concerns about services with meetings conducted with the CEO of Shoalhaven Council to discuss priority projects for Sussex Inlet.

- The Chamber has lodged 9 community led project applications with Council to make improvements to our current resources in the community and to identify and enhance new future resources.
- The Chamber has meet with the developers of the Sussex Inlet Golf Village and the Badgee South Cove development to better understand the development details, identify concerns about the developments and to advocate for changes and highlight improvements.
- A Light Up the Street improvement project was finalised with a number of festoon lights installed in large trees in Jacob Drive, around the Ellmoos Centre, the Cinema and the Peace Park to make the street more inviting. Thanks to the Phil Beck Electrical team for their support.
- A new fence, pictorial banner and a garden was erected in Jacobs Drive on the vacant next to Alexcy Fish Chip as part of our commitment to beautify Jacobs Drive as part of the Drive project and utilising funds from our community projects.

Marketing - extensive marketing has occurred to promote Sussex Inlet, events and local with the assistance of Brett Whipp and Shire Talk team and Scott Morgan Muti Media- see details in the Marketing report

Volunteer Thanks- The Chamber Executive would like to thank the team of volunteers who assist with banner and signage setup, community projects and logistics support for events.

October to December Priorities

The Chamber team will continue to focus on a number of events and other projects in the October to December including:

- **Community markets** on 10th October, 14 November 28th November 12th December
- **Guest Chef Event** with Five Little Pigs and Monica Trapega Music event on Thursday 12 November
- **Step into Summer Street Party** on Saturday 28th November 4.30-8pm with live music, all cafes open and kids' activities
- **Sussex Santas Big Day Out**- Saturday 12th December 10-2.30pm with 3 events Santa paddle, Santa Bike and Santa Walk events
- **Summer@Sussex** -5 music events on 2nd , 9th , 16th , 23rd and 26th January at a range of locations on the Inlet and the lake to support our local cafes and businesses with a detailed Summer@Sussex program currently being finalised
- **Launch of the Wellness** small business support vouchers and partnerships with Sydney fitness businesses to enhance Wellness retreat opportunities
- **A Sussex Inlet Cycling Event strategy** developed and launched at Sussex Santas Big Day Out
- **Community Led Projects** will commence in partnership with Shoalhaven Council and our Chamber volunteers and local contractors
- **Cudmirrah Hall** community consultation meeting on Friday 27th November 10-12 pm to discuss future ideas for improved utilisation of the hall
- **Advocacy with the NSW Government** for review of commercial fishing in Swan Lake
- **South Cove** development submission prepared and lodged

For information about any projects or events email Sussexinletchamberofcommerce@gmail.com