



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival Unveils Expanded 2026 Program

12–27 September 2026

The Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival is encouraging visitors to slow down, stay longer and discover more, with an expanded 2026 program that transforms a day trip into a memorable multi-day escape.

Returning from **12–27 September 2026**, the Festival builds on its reputation as NSW's longest-running and largest-scale regional sculpture festival, with an enhanced calendar of events and activities designed to immerse visitors in the extraordinary combination of contemporary sculpture, spectacular landscapes, and authentic country hospitality.

The Festival opens with a free Opening Night Celebration on Saturday 12 September, 4:30–6pm, at the Wollombi Tennis Club, where the Festival's sculpture prizes will be awarded. The trail begins at the Festival Hub at Grays Inn, Wollombi, with guided tours departing daily at 11am.

Alongside the sculpture trail featuring more than 180 works across Wollombi, Undercliff Winery and Laguna, visitors can enjoy artist talks, guided walks, creative workshops, live music, local food events and community activities throughout the festival's sixteen-day program.

Festival Executive Director Sheena Duncan said the expanded program reflects a natural evolution of the festival, founded in 2002, to encourage visitors to experience the Wollombi Valley as more than a daytrip.

"In 2026, we've created even more reasons for visitors to linger longer and immerse themselves in the Wollombi Valley. The combination of world-class sculpture, historic villages, heritage buildings and an enhanced program of activities create a complete experience that makes this festival unique."

The Festival's 'Linger Longer' initiative also supports the broader visitor economy, encouraging guests to stay for multiple nights, enjoy regional dining experiences and uncover the hidden gems that make the Wollombi Valley one of regional NSW's most distinctive cultural destinations.

Less than two hours from Sydney and 90 minutes from Newcastle, the Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival offers an ideal spring escape where art, nature and country hospitality come together in one unforgettable journey. Further program announcements will follow in the coming weeks.

Media enquiries

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Festival Highlights

- More than 180 sculptures by leading and emerging sculptors.
- Exhibitions in natural landscapes, historic villages and galleries in historic buildings full of charm.
- Free opening night celebration on Saturday 12 September where 12 prizes valued at over \$80,000 will be announced.
- Expanded midweek program of artist talks, guided tours and workshops.
- Live music, community events and creative experiences throughout the Festival, including activities for children.
- Boutique wineries, local food, accommodation and country hospitality.
- Festival dates: **12–27 September 2026.**
- Award-winning Winmark Wines in Broke is also offering a program of activities during the festival.

For the full program and information visit <https://sculptureinthevineyards.com.au>

About the Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival

The biennial Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival is regional NSW's largest and longest-running sculpture event, established in 2002. Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW, serves as Patron. The 2026 festival offers a prize pool of more than \$80,000 across 12 non-acquisitive prizes, the most significant of any regional NSW festival. The festival is entirely volunteer run, supported by a team of more than 100 volunteers.

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