

# BUSINESS & INDUSTRY



## Register now for Small Business Month events

October is NSW Small Business Month, offering a range of events to support and upskill your business.

NORTEC, in partnership with the Macleay Valley Business Chamber and Kempsey Shire Council, is hosting a key event: “Practical AI Strategies for Small Business.”

Join us for this interactive workshop designed for small business owners new to AI. You’ll gain valuable knowledge and confidence in using AI to streamline daily operations and improve customer interactions. This session will provide practical insights to help you integrate AI effectively into your business.

### Event Details:

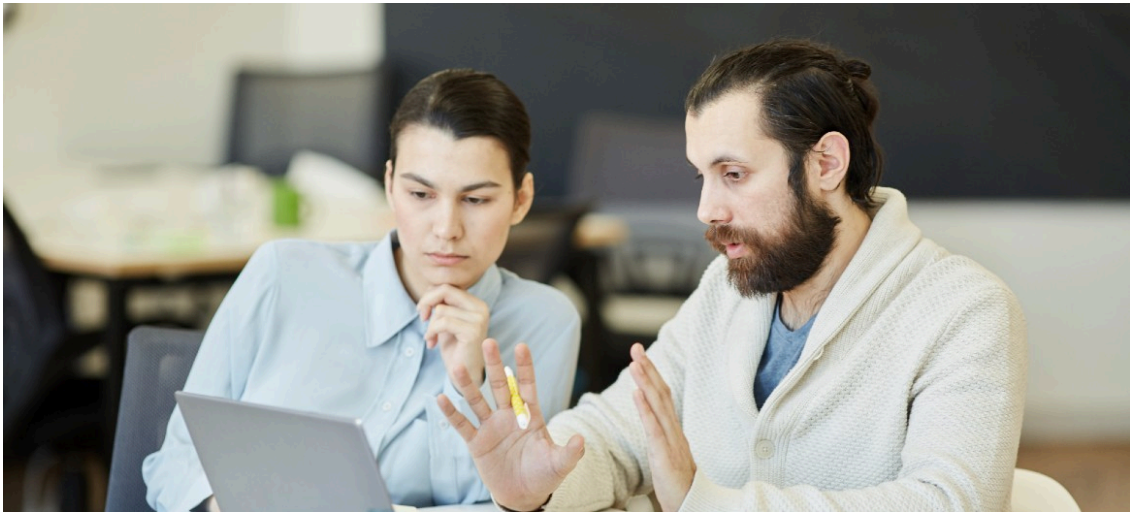
**Date:** Wednesday 23rd October

**Time:** 5:45pm – 8:45pm

**Location:** Kempsey-Macleay RSL Club

Don’t miss this opportunity to enhance your business with cutting-edge AI strategies.

[Register now to secure your spot!](#)



## More business support events coming up

Check out additional in-person business support events happening soon.

### Events in South West Rocks

Wednesday 18 September

9:30am - 12:30pm

Exploring social media for small business

Seabreeze Beach Hotel

Booking link - [Business Connect](#) | [Service NSW](#)

Wednesday 23 October

9:30am – 12:30pm

Practical AI strategies for small business

Seabreeze Beach Hotel

Booking link - [Business Connect](#) | [Service NSW](#)

### Events in Kempsey

Wednesday 6 November

9:30am – 12:30pm

Digital tools for small business

Country University Centre, Macleay Valley

Booking link - [Business Connect](#) | [Service NSW](#)

Wednesday 27 November

9:30am – 12:30pm

Exploring social media for small business

Slim Dusty Centre

Booking link – [Business Connect](#) | [Service NSW](#)

[Find out more or register for an online workshop](#)



## Smith Street footpath upgrade

The upgrade of the western footpath on Smith Street is nearing completion, with final honing expected to be finished in September. As Phase 1 wraps up, Council is already planning Phase 2, which will focus on upgrading the eastern side of the footpath. Phase 2 will follow a similar schedule to Phase 1, with work taking place on weekends to minimise disruption to businesses, starting after the Spring School Holidays in late October.

The work will be carried out in sections according to the following schedule:

- On Saturdays, the existing pavers will be removed, with temporary ramps in place to ensure customers can still access the shops.
- The following Sunday, concrete will be poured in that section, allowing it to set in time for pedestrian use on Monday.
- Each section will be honed approximately two weeks after the concrete is poured.

This upgrade aims to address tripping hazards caused by uneven pavers. The project will start at the Belgrave Street end of Smith Street and is expected to take around 11 weekends, weather permitting.

Council will take the Christmas period into account when scheduling. If weather or other factors cause delays that extend into Christmas, work will pause for the holiday period and resume in the new year, likely after Australia Day.

Council apologises for any inconvenience this project may cause. The upgrade is fully grant-funded.

[Find out more](#)





## Want to be part of our Small Business Month videos?

We're shining a spotlight on the incredible businesses in the Kempsey Shire this October.

As part of Small Business Month, we're creating a series of videos showcasing why you love doing business here.

These videos will be shared throughout the month to celebrate our local business community. If you're interested in being featured, we'd love to hear from you.

[Email us](#)



### Prepare your business for an emergency

Is your business prepared to keep operating in an emergency?

There are resources to help you create an emergency management plan and prepare all aspects of your



### Is your business on the best energy plan?

With Energy Made Easy, you can compare various energy providers and find the perfect plan for your needs.

business so that you're ready for an emergency situation – before it happens.

[Find out more](#)

This free, independent government service makes it simple to choose the best option for your business.

[Compare your energy plan](#)

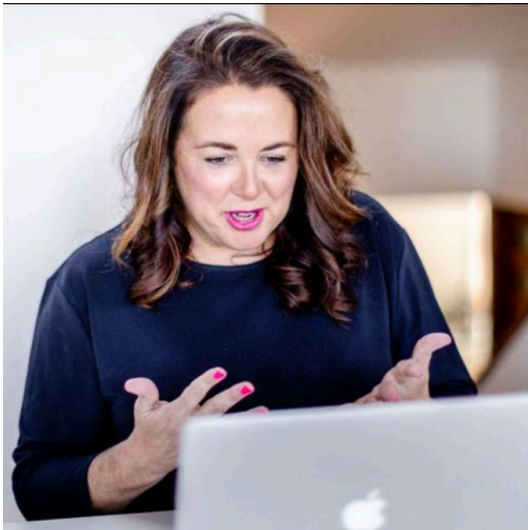


## Connect with your local business chamber

[Macleay Valley Business Chamber](#)

[South West Rocks Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Macleay Valley Business Women's Network](#)



## Webinar: changes to workplace laws

Several changes to workplace laws have started as part of the Closing Loopholes reforms, including changes to casual employment and the new right to disconnect. The Fair Work Ombudsman is holding a webinar on 12 September to answer questions about the changes.

[Register for the webinar](#)



## Spring clean your business

Spring cleaning is a big focus this time of year, so why not take some time to give your business a once-over?

There are lots of ways you can refresh your business and ensure you're running as efficiently as possible.

[Learn more](#)

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## Opportunities update

## Macleay Grant Hub

Macleay Grant Hub is a free resource available to all local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits, and individuals. This site provides a comprehensive list of grant and funding opportunities available to you.

Register to receive email alerts for new grants, save your favourites and access tips to help you apply for grants. [Sign up here](#)

### \$1,000 SafeWork small business rebate

If you are a small business owner in NSW, this \$1,000 rebate will help you purchase safety items to improve work health and safety for you and your workers. [Learn more](#)

If you have any questions, please contact our Economic Development Team at [business@kempsey.nsw.gov.au](mailto:business@kempsey.nsw.gov.au)



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