

## **STARHOUSE PROGRAM**

The Port Stephens Visitor Economy Start House is a new program which aims to support the growth of existing business and the development of new business across Port Stephens, with a focus on the tourism industry. We're hosting information sessions on 10<sup>th</sup> March at [Nelson Bay](#) and 18<sup>th</sup> March at [Medowie](#) - these sessions are a great opportunity for people to come along and network with like-minded people and find out more about the program.

Beginning in May and in partnership with the Newcastle Business Centre, the program provides professional support to individuals looking to start a new business or expand an existing business within the visitor economy sector. This program has been tailored to individuals and existing operators within the Port Stephens Visitor Economy who have a great idea. This can be an existing business where there is opportunity to scale up or a new business looking for help to start up. Participants will learn how to innovate and test the viability of the idea. The participants will have opportunities to connect to the growing network of industry experts and by the end of the program will feel more confident around the practical and financial viability of their idea and have a clear view of what to do next.

It would be great if you could help us promote this program and the information sessions across your networks. To help, we've put together a short paragraph for your regular newsletter, a PDF with more content, and a suggested post for your social media pages. Feel free to edit to suit. We also have printed brochures available, please let us know if you'd like some - we can easily get them to you.

If you need any more information, please don't hesitate to contact either myself or Janelle Gardner.

### **Newsletter Copy**

#### **Applications Opened for the new Port Stephens Visitor Economy Start House**

Do you know someone who has a great idea for creating a new or expanding an existing tourism-related product or service they'd like to explore? Maybe it's you?

The Port Stephens Start House program will explore, innovate and test your idea's viability, and connect you with a growing network of industry experts. By the end of the program, you will feel more confident about the practical and financial aspects of your idea, and have a clear view of what to do next. You'll have a good understanding about what support is required, from whom and how to ask for it. This program is valued at \$4,000 and is available to a limited number of participants for only \$99.

Applications for the program are now open and you can find out more [here](#), or register to attend a free information session at either [Nelson Bay](#) or [Medowie](#).