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The inaugural Great Barista Competition

IT'S time to wake up and smell the coffee as Wagga is set to host the Great Barista Competition.

Riverina rivalry will be heating up as the competition is looking for entrants interested in competing to see who makes the best specialty coffee.

On Sunday ACT Barista champion Sasa Sestic and Australasia Specialty Coffee Association Bill Maloney will demonstrate the requirements of the competition at the Thrifty Crow to baristas from Wagga and Albury who are keen to compete in the September competition.

The Great Barista Competition is seeking expressions of interest for members, judges, stewards and volunteers. The association aims to put on an annual event for the region allowing for a positive and social industry collaboration that is open to the public.

Mr Sestic, owner of Ona Coffee, will be travelling to the Riverina to assist in the set-up of The Great Barista competition. "I had no hesitation in helping out the Great Barista competition, I am passionate about coffee and am happy to help," Mr Sestic said.

Specialty coffee is a term used to describe beans of the best flavour which are produced in special microclimates. The competition aims to promote the explorations of coffee making techniques through our regions baristas. More than 8 baristas have registered their interest already.

"It is great to see the level of interest in the Great Barista Competition, it is an event we hope to grow to showcase specialty coffee in our great region," Brett Lanyon from Wagga's Moto Coffee said.

For more information contact Simone Eyles from 365cups on 0466 55 55 22 all details and updates on the blog <http://thegreatbaristacompetition.blogspot.com/>

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Contact details: Simone Eyles M: 0466 55 55 22

Contact details: Brett Lanyon M: 0429 649 812

Photo opportunities are available

The Great Barista Competition Incorporated  
PO BOX 1047 WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650