



Destination
North Coast NSW

North Coast News & Views No. 34

Welcome to 2019

DNC would like to wish our industry colleagues a happy new year and we look forward to working together throughout 2019. With a host of dynamic and innovative projects either launching or coming to fruition over 2019 we are excited about what lays ahead over the next 12 months.

Our Business Events initiative has already hit the ground running this year as we ramp up our efforts and plan our calendar of activity. We have made significant progress with our Nature-based Tourism Investment Activation Plan having completed extensive engagement and analysis of potential opportunities and we are about to launch into the next phase that will lead to the activation of selected projects.

Bringing together our industry for the North Coast Symposium and travel awards will undoubtedly be a highlight and a launch pad to replicate the amazing success that our region experienced at the 2018 NSW tourism awards. In the pipeline we have a series of research, accommodation and experience initiatives that will also launch in 2019.

As always, we look forward to engaging with and hearing from as many industry colleagues as possible throughout 2019.



REMINDER – Regional Flagship Event Funding Closes Soon

Applications for Round Two of the Incubator Event Fund and the Flagship Event Fund for events to be held in July to December 2019 close this Sunday, 13th January. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.

For more information and to complete an online application form for either the Incubator Event Fund or the Flagship Event Fund, visit the [Regional Flagship Events Program](#) page on the Destination NSW website. Full eligibility conditions and the funding criteria for both the Incubator Event Fund and the Flagship Event Fund can be found in the Terms and Conditions.

New North Coast Product

Coffs Coast Surf (and scenic) Tours

Small group day tour operator and surf school, [Coffs Coast Surf Tours](#), is owned and operated by local 'returner' Joe Rattray and business partners Chelsea and Annelies. As experienced tour guides passionate about the great outdoors, the team at Coffs Coast Surf Tours strive to provide the best experience possible whilst respecting the nature, culture and beauty of our region. They offer scenic and adventurous options to Dorrigo and the hinterland as well as surf lessons for kids and adults looking to enjoy some local surf breaks.

Joe, Chelsea and Annelies are keen to meet local tourism industry peers and are interested in opportunities to collaborate.

Cubby Bakehouse - Chinderah

[Cubby Bakehouse](#) recently opened its doors in Chinderah and the DNC team have already had a chance to sample their delicious lunchtime fare.

Cubby Bakehouse has been brought to life by a proud young husband and wife team in Ben (carpenter by trade) and Ursula (interior designer by trade) who share a combined passion to just eat good ol' food!

They are bringing a little bit of Paris to the Tweed!

Big Banana adds 4D Ride Simulator

The Big Banana Fun Park is very excited to announce the opening of an experience like no other in regional NSW, a new 4D Ride Simulator! Please find attached a media release with information about the exciting new attraction. View a trailer on this XD Theatre attraction [here](#).

And for the summer holiday period Steve McEwan's Reptile World will also come to the Big Banana to showcase some of the world's deadliest snakes, including the Inland Taipan, Tiger Snake, Death Adder and Red-Belly Black Snake, along with some cool Australian Pythons in a purpose-built facility. Full Media Release attached.



Table Under A Tree

This new business is both an online food/meal delivery service and agri/local produce tour/tourism offering in the Northern Rivers. Table Under a Tree is a family owned and operated business built from an innate curiosity and sense of adventure and a love off food and local produce.

Visitors to the region can take delivery of hand-curated gourmet meal pods to taste the finest premium ingredients from the region thus sampling new flavours, quality local produce and products often unique to the region. Delivered directly to accommodation/properties in the region, the pods contain all the ingredients and instructions needed to prepare an amazing meal that will be seasonal and authentically Northern Rivers.

[Table Under A Tree](#) also offer personal small 'foodie' tours for 2-4 people exploring the villages, road side stalls, farm gates and foodie hot-spots of the region.

New Boat for Lord Howe Island

Just in time for summer, Reef n Beyond has launched a new, expedition-style aluminium boat that seats up to 20 passengers and will be able to go out in a range of weather and swell. It's also fast, travelling up to 30 knots and able to reach elusive landmarks like Ball's Pyramid in about 25 minutes.

Reef n Beyond joins a raft of boat operators on Lord Howe who together offer guests an incredible experience of the reef, ocean and marine life around the island.

More information can be [found online](#).

Bago Corn Maze

[Bago's Vineyard & Maze](#) has a new corn maze to add to its list of attractions. It will only be open until the end of January before its baled up and fed to the cows!

It's just as big and even trickier than their current maze with over 2000m of pathways.



North Coast infrastructure Upgrades and Funding WINS

Ballina Byron Gateway Airport Upgrade

The terminal expansion project is on schedule with a new café, bar and extra toilet facilities in the arrival hall. Soon, the expanded departures and arrivals concourse will also open (although, expect some limited access whilst works continue).

At this stage, things are on track to complete the upgraded terminal by mid-2019. The expansion of the airport and subsequent growth in passenger numbers is critical to increasing tourism, employment and business opportunities within the Northern Rivers. The Ballina Byron gateway Airport is now the third busiest airport in NSW after Sydney and Newcastle with 536,000 passengers per annum (as at Oct 2018).

The Airport upgrade has been part funded by the NSW Government's Regional Tourism Infrastructure Program and loan funding from Ballina Shire Council.

\$1.5 m For Cultural Haven At Nambucca Library

Young people in Nambucca Heads will soon have a vibrant creative space in which to read, sketch and perform, with Nambucca Heads Library to establish a cultural precinct following a \$1.5 million grant from the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro was joined by Minister for Arts Don Harwin and Member for Oxley Melinda Pavey in December to announce the grant to transform disused space between the library, Nambucca Community Hall and Stringer Gallery into a cultural hub.

Brunswick Picture House Earns Refurb Grant

The young but already iconic Brunswick Picture House received a huge \$627,000 boost from the Regional Arts NSW and other state government agencies for its long planned capital works program.

The 200-seat capacity not-for-profit performance space in Brunswick Heads had received strong support from the community for its grant application and is heralded as a stand-out venue providing international standard performances across live music, cabaret, comedy, and circus to the region.

Changes to the Working Holiday Maker visa program

In line with recent announcements, changes have been made to the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program to support regional and rural communities.

The eligible age for Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa applicants from Canada and Ireland has been lifted to 35 as part of changes to the WHM visa program. Other changes include expanded regional areas where 462-visa holders can work in agriculture to qualify for a second year of stay in Australia and an increased length of time in which subclass 417 and 462 visa holders can stay with the same agricultural employer.

Also added, the option of a third-year for WHM visa holders who (after 1 July 2019) undertake six months of specified work in a specified regional area during their second year.

There's also been an increase in the cap on visas for some countries with more likely ahead. Back in December, it was announced that the number of places available to Spanish nationals under the WHM (visa subclass 462) has increased from 1,500 per year to 3,400. Similarly, the number of places available to Peruvians increased from 100 to 1,500 from 2nd January 2019

whilst the cap for Israelis on the 462 visa will increase from 500 per year to 2,500.

Helpful Resources:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-417>

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-462>

<https://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/immigration-and-visas/work-visas>

<https://www.australia.com/en/facts-and-planning/working-holiday-visa-faq.html>

Upcoming Events

The [LGNSW Tourism Conference 2019](#) will be held from Sunday 17 March – Tuesday 19 March 2019 in Terrigal. Co-hosted by Central Coast Council, the conference theme is 'Experience Changes Perception'. The conference is presented in conjunction with Destination NSW, industry partners and sponsors and will feature high profile industry speakers.

Program Highlights

- Half-day session and workshop for staff in accredited visitor information centres. Our program explores the value perception of visitor information centres and how to build council support upwards and outwards
- Welcome address from The Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Tourism and Major Events (invited)
- Keynote presentation by Destination NSW
- Presentation on The Visitor Economy Action Plan
- Case studies on cultural heritage, innovation and activation and experience development

This conference is ideal for anyone working in or with Local Government, whose role involves tourism promotion and development, economic development, marketing, special events, media, community strategic planning, town planning and cultural services, and infrastructure provision.

Full details of the event and latest program updates can be found at [LGNSW Tourism Conference 2019](#)

[Register online](#) before the early bird discount closes on 28 January 2019. Register yourself and your colleagues to receive a group discount and ensure everyone benefits from the information shared at the event.

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