



Destination
North Coast NSW

North Coast News & Views No. 58

Bushfire Recovery Information & Support

Destination North Coast (DNC) is acutely aware of the devastating impacts the bushfires have had and continue to have on many of our industry and other stakeholders across the region at a personal and professional level.

We would like to express our gratitude for the frontline services working tirelessly to save and protect lives, property and our natural environment.

With conditions constantly changing, it remains a challenging time for all in NSW. Whilst we await the stabilisation of conditions, DNC, Destination NSW and other government and non-government agencies focus on supporting communities while they recover and we anticipate tourism will play a very important social and economic role in that recovery.

Below please find links to information and resources pertinent to the bushfire crisis and recovery;

- The NSW Small Business Commission (on behalf of the Fire Recovery Committees) fire impact [Survey](#). This survey is the primary data sources that the NSW government is using to assess the impacts of the fires so if relevant, please complete.
- Message from [Destination NSW](#).
- Travel alerts from [Tourism Australia](#). Please note in particular the Interactive Bushfire Impact Map at the bottom of this page which aims to correct misinformation and is a visual representation that Australia is Open for Business.
- [NSW Business Chamber](#) have collated this information available to all businesses affected by bushfires.

- [NSW Disaster Recovery Grants](#) - now available to primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations in LGAs affected by the NSW bushfires.
- Australian Government [Disaster Recovery Payment](#).
- [Wildlife Heroes](#) Bushfire Emergency Fund.
- [Volunteer Firefighters'](#) Financial Support Program.
- [Red Cross](#) Emergency Grants and [Recovery Resources](#).
- [Salvation Army](#) - offering a range of services and assistance.
- [CommBank Bushfire](#) Recovery Grant to assist the longer term recovery of organisations directly affected by the bushfires.
- 2020 Bushfire Emergency Response Grant to [Assist Indigenous Australians](#).
- [Indigenous Business Australia](#) Bushfire Crisis Fund.

Great Koala National Park Visitor Centre

The Great Koala National Park Visitor Centre officially opened in Urunga just ahead of the Christmas break. Over 130 people attended (including DNC's Michael Thurston) with Bellingen Shire Mayor, Dominic King cutting the ribbon and officially opened the Centre.

The event attracted strong community support with Centre stock selling well and loads of people signing up to volunteer.

Pop in to the Visitor Centre at Giinagay Way, Urunga or find information about the [Great Koala National Park Project](#).



Labour Market Intelligence – Mature-aged Job Seekers

Mark Almond, Australian Government Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business who spoke at the Destination North Coast Tourism Symposium last year, has provided the summary findings of the Department's Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences relating specifically to employers' experiences and attitudes to hiring mature age workers.

[Find more information](#) here or by contacting [Mark directly](#).

The Department has finalised the annual update of its five year employment projections by detailed occupation and skill level, for the five years to May 2024. These projections have been published on the Labour Market Information Portal on Wednesday 11 December.

[Click here](#) to access a variety of information framed in multiple slices (e.g. by industry, region, occupation, skill level, etc.).

Industry Development & Other Opportunities

Save the Date: Australian Festival Industry Conference 2020

The [Australian Festival Industry Conference \(AFIC\)](#) - Australia's only conference for festival management personnel - is set to return again across Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 September 2020, following the success of its inaugural event. See [Media Release](#) here.

In response to overwhelming demand, the event has been expanded to span across three days. Whilst the program is being finalised, the recent bushfire emergency and forced cancellation of a number of signature local festivals and subsequent economic impacts is sure to inform key topics of this year's conference.

Fermented Food/Beverages Industry Event

[Destination Tweed](#) invite chefs, retailers, distributors and local food industry folk to save the date for their first industry networking and tasting event of the year in the Tweed ... a Fermentors Pop-up Industry Event on Wednesday 5th February (3pm – 5pm), to be held at Tropical Fruit World. Contact [Amy Colli](#) for more details.

Northern Rivers Creative – Online Directory

[Arts Northern Rivers](#) have devised this online directory to support local creatives to reach and connect with local and global markets.

With the highest concentration of creatives outside of metropolitan areas, the Northern Rivers is home to some of the most diverse, vibrant arts communities in Australia. [Northern Rivers Creative](#) celebrates the regions thriving creative diversity, featuring a range of categories including creative services, visual arts, design, Indigenous arts, literature, music, performance and screen.

[Arts Mid North Coast](#) is delighted to do a soft launch of their exciting new website with many new additions including:

- Enhanced and clearer navigation
- In built mapping functions for key activities
- Stunning new images for every entry and feature
- A live Twitter feed to share the latest arts news, grants and opportunities etc.
- A more friendly backend, so much easier for anyone submitting news or events
- A user-friendly guide "More than a Beach" for parents and families on summer activities
- The Creative Coast Booklet to be distributed widely over the region in the next few weeks.

Fancy A Brew

The North Coast craft brewing and distillery sector continues to develop and thrive throughout

the region. Below is a summary of new operators who have opened and some key achievements for existing businesses;

[Sanctus Brewing Co.](#) is now open to the public and doing a roaring trade, in Townsend, Clarence Valley, which is within easy reach of Yamba or a perfect break on any North Coast road trip. Craft beers aptly named Valley Pale Ale, Pacific Coast Lager, Big River XPA after the mighty Clarence share the stage with a new flavour sensation; Blueberry Crush which pays homage to the local farmers who toil in the ancient floodplains of the Northern Rivers and is a light and refreshing beer with hues of blueberries, raspberries and blackberries!

[Red Earth Brewery](#) is a new kid on the block for the Tweed and has recently opened at Cudgen. Check out their Facebook page for upcoming events and entertainment.

[Ballina RSL](#) is getting in on the action and has launched a new craft beer bar and lounge and serve an extensive range of craft beers and ciders.

[Lord Howe Island Distilling Co](#) has released the first batches of its Wild Lemon and Hibiscus Gin, a fresh and summery blend distilled with local lemons and botanicals from the tiny island off the coast of New South Wales and won silver in the prestigious Australian Gin Awards 2019 in the process.

The company's sister company, [Lord Howe Island Brewing Co.](#) has meanwhile named its Phasmid Pale Ale for the endemic Lord Howe Island stick-insect which makes for some interesting branding.

[The Coastal Brewing Company](#) is a family-owned microbrewery based in Forster on the Barrington Coast. The brewery has a Tasting Room where it offers brewery tours, a beer tasting experience and fills 'growlers' and 'squealers' for take-away consumption. Until January 27th, they'll be open every day for tastings.

The [Farmers Wife Distillery](#) also on the Barrington Coast has been awarded the title of 2nd best Gin in Australia and has made the top 10 list of Best Spirits in Australia, in [Drink Easy's 2019 Awards](#). Congratulations!



Funding And Other Opportunities

[Spend With Them by Turia Pitt & Grace McBride](#)

Helping rebuild towns and businesses affected by fire through an Instagram #spendwiththem campaign. Request to be [listed as a supplier](#) to this campaign.

[Roadtrip for Good](#) is a new website which aims to drive visitors to bushfire-affected areas in need of tourist dollars. The site allows tourists to see which local businesses are open, including places to eat, drink, shop and stay the night, and plan their trips to regional areas accordingly. Using mapping technology, businesses will be able to register themselves on the website for free, making them landmarks ready for visitors.

[Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation \(ATMAC\) Program 2020](#)

Funds projects that help to open, improve and maintain access to markets for Australian agricultural products by building stronger relationships with trading partners, neighbouring countries and international organisations. Closes 31 January 2020.

[Aboriginal Languages Community Investments Grants Program](#)

Aims to progress the functions of the Aboriginal Languages Act 2017 (NSW) by supporting the reawakening, growth, nurturing, promotion and raising awareness of Aboriginal languages in communities across NSW. Closes 31 January 2020.

[Career Development Grants for Individuals and Groups](#)

Provides support to further develop skills or improve the capacity of an individual artist, arts worker or group of artists, to build an enduring career in the arts. Closes 4 February 2020.

[Australia-China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement \(ACACA\) Program](#)

Helps farming, fishing and forestry industries unlock the new opportunities afforded through the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA).

There are two streams of activities:

Stream 1—funding to undertake an eligible project in Australia and/or China.

Stream 2—funding to cover travel costs for trade missions to China.

Closes 12 February 2020.

[Community Conservation Grants](#)

Assists in the protection of our native species, habitats, landscapes and cultural heritage.

Grants are available for both field projects and education programs that have a direct outcome for nature conservation in Australia. Closes 14 February 2020.

[Community Languages Multicultural Grants Stream One](#)

Supports the administration of community language schools through the provision of funding based on student enrolment numbers to help cover school operating costs. Closes 17 February 2020.

[Art Music Fund](#)

Exists to commission new work that is innovative, displays professional compositional craft and represents a benchmark of excellence in its field. Closes 24 February 2020.

[Tackling Tough Times Together](#)

Helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through the ongoing effects of the drought. Closes 25 February 2020.

[Package Assisting Small Exporters](#)

Provides grants to organisations and individuals for projects that support small exporters in the dairy, fish, eggs, grain, plant, horticulture, meat and animal products industries to overcome

barriers to market access. Closes 28 February 2020.

Our Marine Parks

Funds those whom have an interest in how Australian Marine Parks are managed and the capability and capacity to assist the Director of National Parks with this important task.

The objectives of this grants round are two-fold:

- to support interested and capable organisations and community groups to engage in marine park management;
- to improve knowledge and understanding of Australian Marine Parks.

Closes 28 February 2020.

New On The North Coast

Three Blue Ducks – Source Water Project

Three Blue Ducks have recently teamed up with The Farm and Zero Waste Water to install hydro-panels on their restaurants roof to create SOURCE water. The panels will offset 330,000 plastic water bottles which is pretty amazing.

Lets Go Surfing – Lets Go SUP

Award Winning **Lets Go Surfing** (LGS) leaders in surfing tourism launched a new product in Byron Bay just in time for Christmas. LGS Stand Up Paddleboarding experiences and tours showcases the sport and the Brunswick River in all its natural beauty. With daily adult lessons, groups, corporates, kids and family lessons, everyone is covered.

Tweed Visitors Guide

From locals giving tips to inspiration for a great day out; this guide covers the coast to the river and the gorgeous Tweed valley. The Guide will be distributed from Brisbane Airport to Coffs Harbour.

The **Evans Head Visitor Information Centre**, housed in a refurbished 1920's school building, opened just in time for the holiday rush and as well as providing visitor info, the mostly volunteer staff also sell local and hand-made products and produce. Neighbouring the Visitor Centre, the **Evans Head Living Museum** focuses on seven major themes including World War II, Aboriginal history, agriculture, fishing, mining, sport and the natural environment.

Murwillumbah Arts Trail, is a three day event from Friday 1 - Sunday 3 May 2020. **Artist Applications** to exhibit are now open. For the fifth year running, this annual local art showcase, will feature art from the Tweed Valley and surrounds and offers the community a chance to see artists at work, participate in art activities and purchase art from local artists.

If you are a local artist, register to exhibit now and otherwise, pop this cultural event in your diary and help champion the talented artists of the region.

New dining options in the Port Macquarie Hastings area include **Chow Haus Street Kitchen** with epic flavours using traditions and cuisines from around the world (think burgers inspired by the USA, Tacos from Mexico and Fried Chicken thanks to Korea), **Little Shack Cafe** in a prime position next to the start of the breakwall and serving up breakfast tacos and healthy salad bowls among other treats, **Brooklyn's Burger Bar Espresso** in the new Sovereign Hills complex, **Antidote Kitchen**, a small and funky cafe in Wauchope's town centre and **Rockin' Oysters** have opened their shucking shed on the Camden Haven River. Also in the Camden Haven is **Brew Haven Cafe** for a relaxing specialty coffee or tea and great views.

Upcoming Events

To aid in your planning, please note upcoming events across the region.

The [National Cartoon Gallery](#) in Coffs Harbour has compiled an exhibition featuring their Aussie Legends. Exhibition runs until the end of January 2020.

[Street Eats @ The Jetty](#) - 25 January, Coffs Harbour

[Farm Feast Macleay Valley Coast](#)

Celebrating the fantastic local produce and food of the Macleay Valley, this 2 day event will appeal to lovers of good food and local food producers alike. Celebrity Chef Lyndey Milan has been announced as the special guest at Farm Feast Macleay Valley Coast and will share her experience as Chef, entrepreneur, TV personality and travel expert over two days from 11-12 February.

[NSW Touch Football Junior State Cup](#), 14 - 16 February, Port Macquarie.

[Mothernest Great Lakes Pro](#) featuring 170 professional surfers for this QS 1000 rated event lands on the Barrington Coast, 19 - 24 February, Boomerang Beach.

The [Port Macquarie Beer and Cider Festival](#) is designed to celebrate all the good things in life; beer, cider, food, games and music. February 22, Port Macquarie.

[Australian Ladies Classic - Bonville](#) where some of the world's best female athletes compete in Australia's newest professional golf tournament for women - 23 February, Bonville.

[Northern Exposure Six](#) - Northern Exposure is a biennial exhibition open to all artists based on the Mid North Coast. Artists are invited to submit work which explores themes and subjects relevant to their current arts practice. Exhibition dates from 29 February - 19 April 2020, Glasshouse, Port Macquarie.

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