



Destination
North Coast NSW

North Coast News & Views No. 68

Tourism Grants Funding Webinar

Destination North Coast invites you to join a **FREE Webinar at 3pm, Thursday 23rd April** as we endeavour to help you better prepare to access future grant funding during and after the COVID-19 Crisis.

Keith Whelan, [The Grants Guy](#), who works sourcing grants and funding for both the public and private sector across Australia, will facilitate the hour-long Tourism Grants Webinar. He'll shed light on why and how to adapt your Business Plan for a Grant Application as well as outline what is involved in developing a Grants Project Plan, a Grants Budget and provide Grant Writing Do's and Don'ts and practical writing tips among other important Grant Funding essentials.

Time permitting, there'll be a Question and Answer session where participants will have the opportunity to ask specific questions of Keith.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#) with spaces strictly limited. A recording will be available after the session for those who miss out on the live Webinar.

The recording of last week's [Covid-19 Economic Stimulus Unpacked Webinar](#) is now available. Over 70 North Coast stakeholders logged-in to the live session with feedback received very positive.

\$14 Million Boost To Continue To Assist Small NSW's Businesses

Businesses across the state doing it tough during the COVID19 pandemic are encouraged to register for the NSW Government's Small Business Advisory Program. Minister for Finance and Small Business Damien Tudehope said the NSW Government was injecting more than \$14 million into Business Connect to help small and medium businesses navigate this challenging time with part of this funding going to the addition of 30 advisors to support businesses.

The Business Connect tool has seen advisors assist more than 28,000 businesses over the past three years, providing advice and skills training for small businesses. And now more than ever, Business Connect will be here to assist small businesses during this tough time with the support and information they need. Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the funding would support Business Connect until June 2021, giving NSW businesses the tools they need to stay in business, rethink their model and boost their digital presence.

As a result of COVID-19, more than 60 webinars are available through Business Connect to support businesses in developing a road map for success and managing cash flow amid challenging conditions. In addition, a series of COVID-19 Business Information Session webinars with representatives from various government agencies will be rolled out soon, to provide information about stimulus and support initiatives.

Read [Media Release](#) and businesses can access support by visiting [Business Connect](#) or by calling 1300 134 359.

A Boost For Regional NSW Amid COVID-19

Vital infrastructure projects will be fast-tracked in regional NSW to help local industries, councils and communities rebuild and recover from the impacts of drought, bushfire and COVID-19.

This [NSW Government funding boost](#) includes an equity injection into Forestry Corporation to repair bushfire damaged infrastructure, increased funding to local councils to rebuild and refresh showground infrastructure, financing to improve and maintain Aboriginal Housing projects and finance to support regional health and stronger communities.

JobKeeper Funding Preparation – Get Ready Now

The new JobKeeper Payment has passed through Parliament and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is working to assist businesses to access the scheme, helping them to retain their employees. The program will be administered by the ATO and will involve employers checking that they are eligible and then enrolling with the ATO to be paid the JobKeeper Payments.

Employers will receive a monthly payment for each eligible employee who was paid by the business during the previous month. Employers need to take steps now to be eligible for the first round of JobKeeper Payments which will be paid from the first week of May 2020. Visit the [ATO website](#) for more information.

Federal Government Backs Regional Domestic Flights

Qantas and Virgin Australia Groups will operate a minimum domestic network servicing the most critical metropolitan and regional routes in Australia thanks to a [significant investment from the Federal Government](#) of up to an initial \$165 million. Underwriting the cost of the network, which includes all state and territory capital cities and major regional centres, comes in addition to the more than \$1 billion of Federal Government support for Australia's aviation industry in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Start Dreaming! Start Planning!

Last week, Minister Simon Birmingham encouraged isolation-weary Australians to [start planning holidays at home](#), indicating domestic travel will likely resume before international travel bans are lifted. Whilst holidays are not permitted at this time given the current health and travel advice that is in place, he said Australians should use this time to find holiday inspiration and get planning.

Opinion Piece – Accommodation Providers & Overnight Visitor Economy Pundits

David Jones, President of Destination Byron and Sales & Marketing Manager at Elements of Byron, penned an [interesting article](#) last week including some of the obvious impacts of COVID-19, a 'best guess' at what the recovery will look like (bold step, but someone had to go there) and who will recover first (his hint: BYRON will).

Professor Bob McKercher provides a [Tourism Recovery Checklist](#) to ensure we all come out the other end in the best possible shape. The report also details the traditional phases of crisis providing some insights on what lies ahead.

Industry Development & Other Opportunities

Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast - Regional Business Connect

RDA Mid North Coast have set up a [Facebook Group](#) for business advice and support during COVID-19. Join to connect with over 80 advisors willing to provide support.

Friday Chat For Regional Events

Event coordinators and committees can join regional event expert Linda Tillman of online event management training program [rEVENTS Academy](#) and regional tourism consultancy Tilma Group any Friday morning over the coming weeks for a free chat about how events can bounce back from COVID-19.

Join by [Zoom video conferencing](#) at 10:00am (EST), Fridays

Meeting ID: 391 291 9340

Password: rEVENTS

Free Live Webinar On How To Reinvent Your Business

NSW Business Connect partner NetStripes is offering a FREE webinar (on April 30, 9:30am to 12:30pm) titled [Reinvent Your Business In Troubled Times](#) for businesses to keep productive and spend meaningful time on their business now. It will cover topics that will address two main concerns business owners are grappling with at this point - managing cash flow and delivering services during these challenging times.

Road to Recovery Tourism Tutorial Series

The Australian Tourism Export Council ([ATEC](#)) has developed the '[Road to Recovery](#)' Tourism Tutorial Series, a 36-week program designed to provide our industry with all the necessary tools in order to be ready for the bounce back. The Road to Recovery Tourism Tutorials are just 45 mins, are free of charge and will be hosted every Thursday at 2:00pm.

Trek Soft Resources For Tour And Activity Operators

[Trek Soft](#) has created a [COVID-19 Guide](#) on a range of things to help tourism operators

navigate the uncertainty.

- How to manage cancellations & refunds
- Strategies to survive a global crisis
- Marketing through a crisis
- Long term strategies
- Remote working tips
- Staying connected and updated

Business Events/Conferencing Sector – Quick Tips

A recent article in [micenet](#) provides some recommendations for business and teams and encourages being proactive and building skills, improving work processes and boosting team morale during this time. Read [five events house-keeping tasks to maximise during this time](#) article by Lara Burnes, General Manager of premier events & experiences at Melbourne & Olympic Parks.

Tourism Australia Weekly Webinars

Don't miss [Tourism Australia's Weekly Webinar](#). Held every Friday, the Tourism Australia team discuss the current situation in Australia regarding COVID-19, plus bring in guest speakers to break things down.

Funding And Other Opportunities

[NSW COVID-19 Small Business Support Grant](#)

Supporting small businesses in NSW impacted by the current Coronavirus outbreak, the NSW COVID-19 Small Business Support Grant of \$10,000 will be available to eligible NSW small business owners. Closes 1 Jun 2020.

[Westpac Foundation Rural Community Grants](#)

Partnering with FRRR, the Westpac Foundation is offering Community Grants to rural and regional communities. These grants provide support for community organisations creating opportunities through education, training and employment. Closes 13 May 2020.

[Community Building Partnerships Program](#)

Funds community infrastructure projects that: promote community participation, inclusion and cohesion; deliver positive social, environmental, and recreational outcomes. Closes 12 Jun 2020.

[Free Energy Coaching](#)

The NSW Government is offering businesses a free virtual site check with an energy expert. For many businesses energy is a significant expense. The NSW Government is funding two hours free virtual one-on-one advice to help you understand how your business can save energy and money. Open to any size or type of business. All you need is a business location in NSW and an ABN.

North Coast In The News

Marie Claire recently ran an article on [Indigenous-owned businesses to get behind](#) which featured three North Coast rising stars.

Nancy Pattinson, based in South West

Rocks and her [Indii Swimwear](#) label made the cut as did Marley Morgan's [Barefoot Wandering Photography](#). Coffs Harbour is Marley's home where she strives to capture authentic connections, intimacy, honesty and those unforgettable memories that hit you right in the feels. Rhiannon Mitchell runs mentoring business, [New Moon](#), for Indigenous girls on the Mid North Coast which was also featured on this list.

Congratulations to these three entrepreneurial women!



North Coast News & Product Innovation

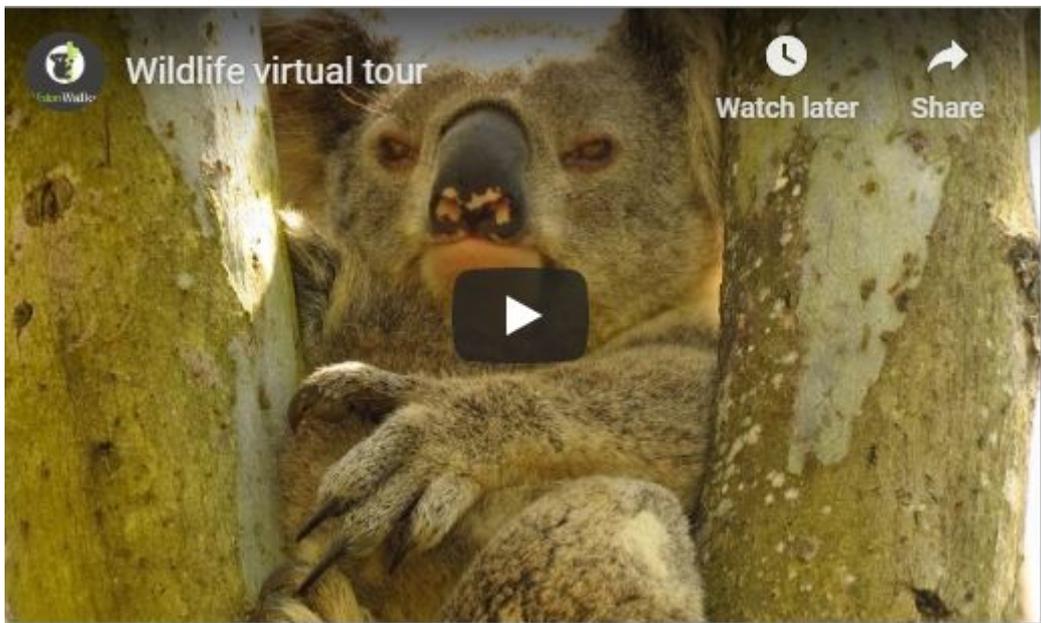
[Vision Walks](#)

COVID-19 has tour operator Vision Walks thinking of ways to continue to share nature by way of a new weekly series on [YouTube called Virtual Nature](#).

With over 500 views already, the Koala has slightly pipped the Platypus at this stage. There's also a Nocturnal Wildlife and Protesters Falls Rainforest Walk Virtual Nature Walk.

[Zoom Walks](#) are for those of us stuck in our house and not able to get out to exercise or perhaps in a city with nowhere nice to walk. Try these local Zoom Walks with eco-tour guide Wendy who will take you on walks via Zoom enabling you to join in at home, or perhaps from your treadmill or exercise bike to join in. [Zoom Walks](#) are held 4:00pm (EST) on Wednesday's, Friday's and Sunday's) with Meeting ID: 851 468 047 and Password: 838144.

[Local Carbon Collective](#) is another initiative from Vision Walks to help businesses and households and people who travel to calculate their carbon footprint and then offset it by planting trees themselves (the public tree plantings have been suspended), or paying for trees to be planted (this is still going on), or pay for the conservation of trees. The user can choose either to support koala food trees or rainforest trees.



Other COVID-19 Resource & Information Sources

[Health advice](#) on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Australian Government [official app](#) includes all things Coronavirus-related

[Australian Government](#) website for information and support.

[Australian Treasury](#) includes the economic response to Coronavirus with support for individuals, households and businesses.

[Australian Tourism Export Council](#) provides QUICK Links to relevant information and resources.

[Tourism Australia](#) is maintaining information specific to COVID-19 and the impacts for travellers.

[Destination NSW](#) provides information for industry.

[Business Australia](#) provides many helpful articles and information for businesses.

NSW Government Coronavirus Hotline For Business. **Phone - 13 77 88.**

The Federal Government has established an advice hotline for small and medium-sized businesses. **Phone - 13 28 46.**

[New Job Hub](#) to help Australians find work during the Coronavirus pandemic.

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