



Destination
North Coast NSW

North Coast News & Views No. 69

COVIDSafe App

The [COVIDSafe app](#) is part of the Australian Government's work to slow the spread of COVID-19. It helps find close contacts of COVID-19 cases and speeds up contacting people exposed to the virus. This helps health officials support and protect you, your friends and family.

The new COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary however, the more Australians connect to the COVIDSafe app, the more quickly contact tracing occurs which reduces the chance of the infection being inadvertently passed on. For more details see the [COVIDSafe app FAQs](#).

The Tourism and Events industry supports the COVIDSafe App encouraging even more Australians to download and use it as the next step in the containment of COVID 19 and would help to hasten the easing of current restrictions and social distancing measures, the industry's peak bodies said in a recent [joint media release](#).

Jobkeeper Payment Extension To Help Business Cashflow

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is extending the time available for businesses to pay their employees, and still be able to claim back the first JobKeeper payments. Businesses suffering from a significant reduction in turnover due to COVID-19 will have until 8 May 2020 to ensure all eligible employees have received a minimum of \$3,000 in gross wages for the first two fortnights of the JobKeeper support period. This extension allows businesses further time to consider their circumstances and remove any cashflow pressures arising from financing arrangements that have not been finalised. Businesses have until 31 May 2020 to formally enrol to claim JobKeeper payments.

Find more information [at the ATO](#).

Support For Regional & Indigenous Artists & Organisations

To help the [Arts sector](#) deal with the devastating impact of the Coronavirus, the Government has committed \$27 million in targeted support across three particularly vulnerable areas of specific need:

- The Government is providing \$10 million to help regional artists and organisations develop new work and explore new delivery models. Funding will be delivered through Regional Arts Australia's Regional Arts Fund.
 - To support Indigenous artists and arts centres, the Government is providing \$7 million in additional funding. The funding will be delivered under the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program.
 - The Government is providing \$10million to Support Act, to enable it to extend its work.
-

Funding Lifeline For Australia's Zoos And Aquariums

Australia's zoos and aquariums will receive a much-needed funding lifeline, with the Federal Government today unveiling a \$94.6 million support package to help them get through the COVID-19 crisis.

This funding will assist exhibiting zoos and aquariums with the fixed operational costs associated with the caring of their animals, while also helping to ensure Australian zoos and aquariums can remain viable and ready to welcome visitors when restrictions are eased.

Find more [information here](#).

DNSW Westpac Tourism Expenditure Monitor

The latest [Westpac Tourism Expenditure Monitor](#) report from Destination NSW for the period October 2019 to February 2020 is now available to provide greater understanding of tourism expenditure throughout NSW.

Casual Job Vacancies

[ISS have vacancies](#) across the North Coast (specifically in Lismore, Ballina, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie) for casual school cleaners which may be an opportunity for people who are not eligible for JobKeeper or JobSeeker.

Industry Development & Other Opportunities

Business Online Workshops & Webinars

Visit [Business Connect events](#) for a range of free business online workshops and webinars

funded by the NSW Government, such as:

- developing a customised recovery strategy
- managing your cashflow
- rethinking your business model
- building your online presence to reach new customers.

Tourism Australia Weekly Webinars

Don't miss [Tourism Australia's weekly webinar series](#). 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.

This week's call includes;

- Federal Update – Minister Birmingham will be joining to provide an update.
- TA Update & Announcement – An announcement from TA about an exciting new activation about to be launched, in addition to an update on ongoing work.
- South East Asia Update – A deep dive into India and South East Asia with Brent Anderson, TA's Regional General Manager, South/South East Asia Gulf.

Adapt Your Business By Adopting The 5% Rule

Sparrowly Group's Managing Director, Giovanna Lever shares how she has continued to apply the [5% rule to the business and in life](#), and how it has helped maintain focus as the world adapts to a new normal.

Developing A Business Case To Support Post-COVID Grant Applications

Once social distancing restrictions lift, tourism and events will likely become a target of government investment via grant funding to revitalise domestic visitation into regional Australia.

Now is the time to prepare your projects for grant applications. rEVENTS Academy recommends developing a compelling [Business Case](#) as part of your preparation.

Funding And Other Opportunities

[NBN Co Announces \\$150 Million Financial Relief Package](#)

NBN Co has announced it will establish a \$150 million financial relief and assistance fund to help internet providers to support their residential and small and medium business customers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$150 million package has been divided into three areas, with \$50 million each allocated to; small to medium business, connecting low-income families to NBN for homeschooling and supporting residential customers experiencing financial hardship.



Business Events Fund

Tourism Australia has opened applications for a restructured [Business Events "Advance Program"](#) with new requirements which expand access to the scheme aiming to support the attraction of new business events to Australia.

New for FY20/21:

- Minimum matched-funding reduced to AUD10,000
- Streamlined application process
- Two application intakes in June 2020 and December 2020

News Corp Bushfire Fund Grants

Support for local not-for-profit organisations and community groups that are delivering locally-led projects and activities to assist people in their recovery as a result of the 2019/2020 bushfires. Closes 5 May 2020.

Regional & Small Publishers Innovation Fund

Provides grants to eligible publishers and online content providers for initiatives that support the continuation, development, growth and innovation of Australian public interest journalism. Closes 22 May 2020.

Project Sponsorships

Australian Geographic supports Australian scientists, community organisations and individuals in developing projects across the key areas of science, environment, adventure and community. Closes 30 Nov 2020.

Australian Ethical Community Grants

Provides support to grassroots organisations, including not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises, who contribute to humanitarian, environmental and animal welfare efforts in Australia and abroad. Closes 22 May 2020.

COVID-19 Quick Response Grants – Closing Soon

This grant is the first in a series of measures to help support community radio stations manage the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a one-off opportunity for stations to access funds to help maintain operations under COVID-19 social distancing requirements. Closes 4 May 2020.

NSW COVID-19 Small Business Support Grant - Reminder

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.

Regenerate Regional Event Initiative

Supports organisations to commission the creation and development of a community/cultural event featuring local artists with a focus on music and performance. It is open to arts and cultural organisations in regional NSW. Regional organisations in areas affected by the recent bushfires are encouraged to apply. Closes 19 May 2020.



North Coast News & Product Innovation

Primex Field Day Goes Virtual

With the public health order in place around social distancing Primex Field Days have revised their Expo dates to 10th-12th September in addition to offering 2020 exhibitors access to Australia's first virtual field days event, the **PRIMEX Online Business Hub** that is currently being prepared and will launch 11th May 2020. Over 300 exhibitors will have the opportunity to take advantage of this new and exciting platform best described as a virtual expo that is designed to support all our stakeholders.

See recent [Rural Weekly article](#).

The Big Banana Celebrates National Banana Day

The Big Banana Fun Park is going back to its roots for National Banana Day, this Friday the 1st of May with a [good old-fashioned banana road side stall](#), right out the front of The Big Banana. See what delish banana goodies will be available...empty your stomach in preparation!

Young Farmer Program

Check out [Syncronicity Farm's](#) new Young Farmer Agribusiness Incubation Program that will provide an opportunity for motivated individuals to learn how to build a profitable Agribusiness on very small acreage in a way that has been de-risked, sponsored, supported and designed to help those young farmers to succeed from their very first year.

[Express Your Interest](#) as a 'Young Farmer'.

Piecing Together Dreamy Tweed Holidays

The Tweed team are getting creative to keep their industry stakeholders engaged and so as to bring some light and fun into what has been a fairly dark few months. Their new [Tweed digital jigsaw puzzle](#) series initiative is to inspire some dreaming now for future holidays. Featuring iconic Tweed Landscapes including the majestic Wollumbin Mount Warning and Cabarita Beach and the much loved visitor attractions of the Margaret Olley Art Centre at Tweed Regional Galley, the digital design ensures a light footprint to celebrate the jigsaw puzzle revival.

Lennox Community Centre Improvements Underway

The Lennox Community Centre is currently getting some much needed TLC. Improvements to upgrade the Centre to make it a comfortable year-round venue including air conditioning for Park Lane Theatre and a new solar power system to help run said air conditioning, are progressing well. Once finished, the improvements will boost seating capacity in the Park Lane Theatre from 480 to 580 people up to 800 people for standing room performances and activities and the [Communities Spaces team](#) at Ballina can't wait to share it in a post-COVID-19 environment.

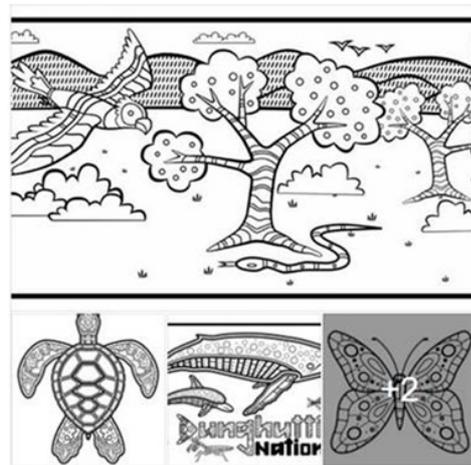
And spotted on [Arts Mid North Coast Isolation Creation](#) page is the [Made With Love Virtual Market](#) that began last Sunday and finishes at 9pm Sunday 3rd May. Each 'stall' will have an online shop front which can be clicked on to see what products are on offer, then simply click again to shop directly from the stall-holder.

[South West Rocks Figtree Group](#)

Here's a couple of lovely community initiatives...

Check out this [beautiful acknowledgement to country](#) for people to practice at home from the South West Rocks Figtree Group.

They have also utilised a graphic designer to prepare some colouring pages to print out for kids stuck at home to colour in. Get [online and support local artists](#) if you can.



North Coast In The News

[Australian Traveller](#) recently featured the best virtual trips around Australia with plenty of our North Coast favourites getting a mention on the [Road Trip Plans through NSW](#). Check out Tweed Heads to Eden and Sydney to Byron Bay.

On the back of the 2018 Regional Growth Fund, the [National Cartoon Gallery](#) rebuild to double existing exhibition space and public amenity, is underway as was recently seen on [NBN News](#).

[Out And About With Kids Magazine](#)

The Barrington Coast recently featured in a bushfire recovery story in the Autumn issue nicely preparing the way for when Australian families can travel again.



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.

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

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

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

[Toolkit For Destination Managers](#) with very relevant and useful list of resources/toolkits and approaches being adopted around the world.

Destination North Coast
PO Box 146
LISMORE NSW 2480
P: 02 6622 7429
E: admin@dncnsw.com
W: www.dncnsw.com
