



Destination
North Coast NSW

North Coast News & Views No. 125

Roadmap To Freedom Unveiled For The Fully Vaccinated

Stay-at-home orders for adults who have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be lifted after NSW passes the 70 per cent double vaccination target, under the roadmap to freedom released today.

Only fully vaccinated people and those with medical exemptions will have access to the freedoms allowed under the Reopening NSW roadmap.

The roadmap is subject to further fine-tuning and health advice if circumstances change drastically or if cases within a designated area remain too high.

Read [Media Release](#). Find the latest information on the [COVID-19 pages of the NSW Government's website](#).

Destination North Coast WINS MEA Awards



Last night at the MEALIVE2021 ceremony, Destination North Coast were delighted to be awarded the state and national award for "Destination Marketing Organisation or Bureau". The award acknowledges the recognition and renewed commitment to the Business Events community made by Destination North Coast whilst also reinforcing the benefit to delegates of conferencing in regional destinations.

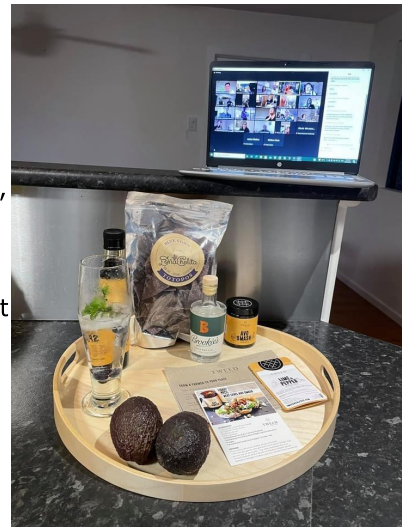
Read [Media Release](#).

In the lead up to virtually attending the Awards celebration, the DNC team and many of our valued Business Events stakeholders across the region, shared a private celebration (via Zoom of course) which included a 'gin and tonic' master class courtesy of Eddie Brook, [Cape](#)

[Byron Distillery](#), and making appetisers thanks to Julia from [Tweed Real Food](#).

The award for best attire goes to Tim Jack Adams who donned bib and braces and the award for best kitchen hand goes to Dennis Christensen, MidCoast Council (pictured).

His colleague Robyn commented 'Thank you to the DNC team, last night was great. The supplies provided were amazing and truly appreciated. Congratulations on the awards, well deserved and we look forward to continuing our work with DNC.'



NSW To Run Home Quarantine Pilot Program

The NSW and Commonwealth Governments will launch a home quarantine pilot in Greater Sydney, as NSW transitions towards opening up international borders.

The pilot, to be operated and monitored by NSW Health and NSW Police, will trial a seven day home quarantine program for around 175 people. The isolation period will be reduced from 14 to seven days.

Read [Media Release](#).

COVID Support Payments Expanded For Workers And Vulnerable Communities

The NSW Government has announced an additional \$287.5 million in COVID-19 financial support to assist workers and vulnerable communities in metropolitan, regional and rural NSW. The additional funding will see the COVID-19 emergency hardship payments, test and isolate support payments and community empowerment grants expanded across all of NSW.

Read [Media Release](#) and find details of all [support available to individuals and businesses](#).

Important Update To JobSaver Eligibility

The guidelines for [JobSaver](#) have changed. Previous guidelines indicated that once you qualified for the JobSaver payments (based on a 30% drop in turnover during the relevant test period) you remained eligible until the end of the lockdown period.

The NSW Government have announced that from 10 September all businesses who are receiving JobSaver will need to [confirm their ongoing eligibility](#) each fortnight via their online Service NSW account. You'll receive fortnightly reminders to confirm your eligibility via email from Service NSW.

COVID-19 Vaccinations And The Workplace - Employer Guide

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry have produced a very [useful tool to guide employers](#) support the workforce get vaccinated recognising the vital role businesses play in supporting the vaccine roll-out to protect the health and wellbeing of people in Australia.

Free Help To Encourage Shoppers To Buy Locally

The Commonwealth Government-funded [GO LOCAL FIRST](#) campaign is offering small businesses practical support to encourage consumers to buy in their local area and support local businesses and jobs as the economy emerges from COVID-19. The campaign is supported by the NSW Small Business Commission. GO LOCAL FIRST offers business groups free marketing material and other collateral, which can be customised for a particular group of local businesses, including advice on setting up a local campaign, social media tiles, ideas for local events and access to well-designed stickers and posters.



NSW Fast Charging Network To Be Number One In The Nation

Drivers across the state will have access to the best fast-charging network in the nation under the [NSW Government's Electric Vehicle Charging Masterplan](#), released last week.

The Masterplan is an interactive online resource for EV charging providers and planners to explore the potential of the network and invest in its expansion. It is a fully open-access map that will help investors identify optimal locations for electric vehicle fast charging infrastructure and will help to assess applications for EV charging grants.

The Masterplan is the latest step in the state's nation leading half-a-billion-dollar Electric Vehicle Strategy, released as part of the 2021-22 NSW Budget.

Read [Media Release](#).

Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital Has A New Permanent Home

From 1 October 2021, Australia's largest Mobile Wildlife Hospital has a permanent new home at the [Macadamia Castle](#) in Byron Bay's hinterland, which has been bought by conservation group Wildlife Recovery Australia.

A joint venture of [Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital \(BBWH\)](#) and Odonata Foundation, Wildlife Recovery Australia (WRA) runs mobile wildlife hospitals and builds predator-proof sanctuaries. It is led by a team of veterinarians, threatened species specialists and environmental entrepreneurs who work together to rescue injured animals and revitalise threatened species.

Easily accessible, and situated in the heart of a biodiversity hotspot, the Macadamia Castle is an ideal location for a wildlife hospital. The site provides suitable natural environments to rehabilitate and care for wildlife patients on-site. The Macadamia Castle's solar energy system and electric vehicle charging station will provide immediate, clean renewable energy sources for WRA's operations. The Macadamia Castle will also be the departure point for deployment of the Mobile Wildlife Hospital to respond to injured, diseased, traumatised or stranded native animals during a crisis, anywhere in Australia.

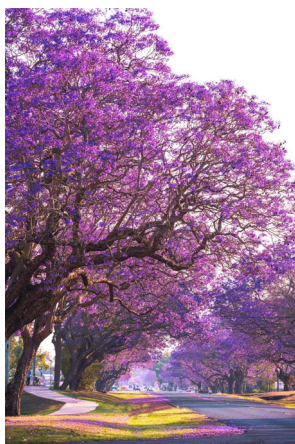
Read [Media Release](#).

There is also a [job opportunity for a General Manager](#) to lead all strategic and operational elements of the site, managing staff and liaising with a variety of stakeholder groups.

Around Our Region

Kempsey And The Slim Dusty Centre

With Kempsey Council taking on ownership of the [Slim Dusty Centre](#), an exciting opportunity exists for a highly motivated, high performing [Operations Supervisor](#) to manage this award-winning, multi-faceted tourism and events business.



Clarence Valley Airport Survey

Clarence Valley Council is conducting a survey to get a better understanding of local travel needs and wants for the [Clarence Valley Airport](#).

Clarence Valley Council are preparing for the highly anticipated night-time illumination of approximately 25 Jacarandas in Grafton's iconic See Park from 21 October through to 8th November 2021 for the [Jacaranda Season](#). There will also be a special event on the evening of 23 October incorporating a performance from Grafton's Conservatorium of Music, a laser lightshow, food and beverage sales etc.

MidCoast Council

Four NSW councils have received a share of \$1.49 million in funding under the [2020-2021 Coastal and Estuary Grants Program](#) to assist with increasing the resilience and health of coastal communities and their coastlines. Well done MidCoast Council on securing funding to support your work to improve the resilience and health of our coastline.

The program aims to understand the complex coastal and estuarine environment, increase coastal communities' resilience and improve the health of NSW estuaries through well-planned action.

The Tweed

Tweed Shire Council has launched an exciting new project - [Live and Local Tweed](#) - which aims to support the growth of the local live music sector.

It is designed in response to needs identified by the music industry for more performance spaces, a strong sense of business knowledge and best practice and a more supportive and coherent regulatory environment at the local level.

The Tweed Shire Council is [seeking community input](#) into the masterplan for Norries Headland. The community's vision would help refine the draft masterplan drawings which in turn would inform the final Norries Headland Masterplan.

Ballina

Ballina Shire Council is pleased to announce the [2022/2023 Festival and Event Sponsorship Program](#) will open tomorrow, 24 September 2021.

Ballina Shire Council has received \$3.6 million in funding as part of an election commitment from The Hon. Ben Franklin and the NSW Office of Sport to upgrade some facilities at Kingsford Smith Park to meet the requirements of a regional sporting facility. [Learn more and have your say.](#)

Byron

The Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce is seeking input to a [September Check-in Survey](#) from the local business community with the lifting of lockdown and in order to best represent Byron Shire businesses to key decision makers.

Coffs Harbour Disability Inclusion Access Plan

Coffs Council is reviewing their [Disability Inclusion Access Plan](#) and wants to hear your feedback so as to make the local area better for people with a disability.

Bellingen And Barrington Coast

Bellingen and Barrington Coast have started their journey towards [ECO Destination Certification](#). This is an initiative by [Ecotourism Australia](#) supporting bushfire affected councils with certification assuring travellers that destinations are backed by a strong, well-managed commitment to sustainable practices and provides high quality nature-based tourism experiences.

We congratulate Barrington Coast and Bellingen who join Port Macquarie-Hastings, Coffs Harbour and Lord Howe Island in this highly regarded certification process.

Industry Insights

Tourism Research Australia resources

The events of 2020 and their unprecedented impacts on Australia's visitor economy are complex. Austrade's Tourism Research Australia (TRA) offers resources to help Australia's tourism businesses operate in this difficult environment and better understand the impacts and challenges ahead. With the tourism recovery anticipated to be led by domestic travellers, [TRA's Domestic Visitor Profiles](#) can help operators target their offerings to home-grown visitors.

Industry Development & Other Opportunities

DNC - Unpacking COVID Funding & Government Support Industry Webinar

In response to our recent COVID Impacts & Support Survey, you indicated the best support DNC could provide at this current time of lockdowns and travel restrictions was to help unpack [COVID Funding & Government Support Industry](#) available for businesses which we did by way of a webinar this morning.

The webinar was well attended and broadly covered the main grants and tax relief available for small to medium businesses. Please do keep in mind that the information provided is general in nature and is frequently changing and being updated so business owners are encouraged to stay informed and consult their own accountant for information specific to their circumstances.

Thanks go to Chartered Accountant Jack Dixon, of [Back Beach Accounting](#) on the Mid North Coast for breaking things down for us and providing practical information and case studies to aid everyone's understanding.

New Guides To Bolster Natural Disaster Resilience In The Tourism Industry

The NSW Government recently launched a set of new guides to bolster tourism businesses resilience to bush fires and other natural disasters.

The three guides provide information on how to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters. They have been developed by Destination NSW, in collaboration with Resilience NSW and the NSW Rural Fire Service, in response to recommendations from the NSW Bushfire Inquiry.

- [Tourism Resilience - Prepare for bushfires and natural disasters](#)
- [Tourism Resilience - Respond during a bushfire or natural disasters](#)
- [Tourism Resilience - Recovery after bushfires and natural disasters](#)

These guides are being delivered by the Destination NSW [NSW First Program](#).

Read [Media Release](#).



Cyber Threats Affecting Australian Systems And Networks

Did you know over 67,500 cybercrimes were reported to the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) during the 2020-21 financial year? That is an increase of nearly 13% per cent from the previous financial year.

Stay informed and find all the latest cyber threat data in the [ACSC Annual Cyber Threat Report 2020-21](#).

Tourism Businesses And Potential Staff Shortages

Training NSW has co-developed a new program called '[The New Gap Year](#)' to help farming and hospitality businesses connect with young job seekers. Until international borders are back to 'normal', there's an opportunity to appeal to the 54,000+ school leavers that usually go overseas each year on a Gap year/working holiday. 'The new Gap year' is a targeted campaign to attract these 16-24 year olds to take a Gap year working and travelling around Australia. [Find information for employers and list your job offers](#). Find [Employee Onboarding Pack](#) here.

Blue Plaque Nominations To Celebrate Our State's Heritage

Communities across the state can now nominate heritage places linked to notable personalities and events for recognition as part of the NSW Blue Plaques Program.

The [NSW Blue Plaques program](#) is delivered through Heritage NSW.

Read [Media Release](#).

Tourism Australia - It's Our Best Shot For Travel

Last week Tourism Australia launched the latest iteration of the industry vaccination initiative - 'It's our best shot for travel' - with a new video which features tourism operators from across the country. It aims to build on the efforts of the other social media tools launched last month which encourage the community to support the tourism industry by getting the COVID-19 vaccination so we can all get closer to travelling again. A copy of the video is available on [TA's corporate website](#) as well as the updated toolkit.

There is also a [business events specific video](#) available.



Tourism Australia COVID Webinar Series

Tourism Australia's next [industry webinar](#) will be held at 11am, Friday 8 October 2021 and will include an update on TA's activities in the business events space as well as details about our upcoming domestic gifting campaign that will run in the lead up to the summer holidays.

Funding And Other Opportunities

REMINDER: Destination North Coast Digital Refresh Grant Program

The [Destination North Coast Digital Refresh Grants Program](#) offers financial support to tourism businesses on the North Coast to either refresh an existing website, build a new one or enhance digital capacity.

The program is funded through Destination North Coast and the Australian Government as part of the Recovery for Regional Tourism Grant.

All applicants need to meet eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered with applications closing 1 October 2021.

Grants And Support For Tourism Businesses

Visit the [Austrade tourism grants portal](#), your one-stop shop for available Federal and State Government grants to help your tourism businesses succeed.

\$20 Million To Revive Arts And Entertainment

Australia's creative and entertainment sector has received another major boost, with the Commonwealth Government announcing that \$20 million would be shared by 63 leading organisations across the country. This amount represents the fifth batch of grants from the \$200 million [Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand \(RISE\) Fund](#).

New Test And Isolate Support Payment

If you need to self-isolate and are unable to work while waiting for your COVID-19 test result, you may be eligible for the [COVID-19 Test and Isolate support payment](#).

North Coast Product And Experience Development

Port Adventure Cruises Adds Iconic Rhythmbot To Fleet

Since 1984, the **Rocks Rhythmbot** on Sydney Harbour has been as **Iconic** as the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House!

This 2-storey catamaran is now in Port Macquarie having been refitted for a new life specialising in live entertainment, functions and of course, daily scenic river cruises.

This great boat has many features including, a large stage, full production and lighting, comfortable seating for up to 130 guests and a grand staircase that leads upstairs to a beautiful Island theme outdoor setting and cocktail bar. Another feature is that guests can enjoy the entertainment from the top deck via the balcony looking down to the stage.

[Port Adventure Cruises](#) daily dolphin spotting and scenic river cruises (morning and sunset) will continue as well as special events and regular live music performances. This new vessel is an excellent option for weddings, special occasions and celebrations and corporate events. The décor inside the vessel oozes atmosphere with a retro vibe and is perfect for any occasion.

Read [Media Release](#).

Rappville Commercial Hotel

Centrally located in the heart of the village of Rappville, the [Rappville Commercial Hotel](#) has recently undergone a stunning refurbishment and reopened on 11 September 2021.

Toys Change Lives Program

[Toys Change Lives](#) (TCL) is a workshop and community re-entry program staffed by Indigenous youth and mentors for Indigenous youth post-release from juvenile detention. This program is dedicated to breaking the cycle of recidivism by creating employment opportunities within their workshop and provides the opportunity for the inmates to gain training and skills in carpentry and traditional art as the components are assembled and painted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates.

The TLC program currently produces between 40 and 55 toys a month, with the proceeds of all purchases going to education and employment opportunities for Indigenous youth.

North Coast In The News

The release of [Australian Traveller's annual 100 editions '100 Unique Stays'](#), see Cabarita's Halcyon House and the Eltham Hotel, also in the Northern Rivers, named in Australia's Top 100 Unique Stays in the luxury stays category. A hearty congratulations to both properties.

[Vision Walks](#) owner Wendy Blithall, speaks up in an article in the [Byron Echo](#) about the current situation for tour operators across the region. Her multi-award winning, advanced eco-tourism accredited business, conducts sustainable, ethical eco tours which have had a major repositioning since the advent of the COVID pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions and tourism downturn.

Vison Walks along with most other tour and activity providers accept Discovery Vouchers.

Tiona Holiday Park

Jimeoin is travelling around Australia for his new TV show Waltzing Jimeoin that premiered recently. In case you missed his performance at [Tiona Holiday Park](#), you can catch up with this first episode at [10play](#).

Northern NSW Gems

[We Are Explorers](#) recently partnered with [JUCY Group](#) to document a couple iconic Aussie road trips, including this one in our own backyard on the [Far North Coast of NSW](#).

These road trips showcase more than just the usual suspects and go to show that with just a little bit more research and a couple extra hours on the road you can really level up your holidays and have a more memorable experience.

Stone & Wood To Become Part Of Lion

Local Northern Rivers brewers [Stone & Wood](#) announced last week that their Fermentum Family of Businesses, which is led by Stone & Wood will be sold to Lion.

The Fermentum Group is comprised of leading brands, including the flagship Stone & Wood, Two Birds, Fixation, Little Dragon and Sunly Seltzer. The deal is subject to regulatory approvals, the process for which has commenced.

The deal will see a new brewery built in Murwillumbah that will create local jobs a donation of \$5 million to the inGrained Foundation for long term positive impact and another \$1 million to Big Scrub Landcare Inc.

Read [news article](#).

COVID-19 Resource Centre

The [DNC COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) makes it easy to access relevant information and find links to appropriate Government and other resources.
