



Destination
North Coast NSW

North Coast News & Views No. 132

North Coast Business Health Survey - January 2022

Destination North Coast (DNC) is keen to know and better understand the impacts the recent heightened COVID-19 activity has had on your business and ask that you please take a moment to fill out this quick [Business Health Survey](#).

If possible, we recommend using the latest version of your internet browser to access this survey as some access issues have been reported. Please complete the Survey by close of business, **Monday 17th January, 2022** to have your insights included.

This information, whilst anonymous and general, will be used by DNC and shared with other organisations and stakeholders as we advocate for relevant support for our industry.

Register A Positive Rapid Antigen Test Result

From 12 January 2022, people must register a COVID-19 positive result from a rapid antigen test and can do this through [Service NSW](#).

This helps people:

- quickly understand their relative level of risk
- access support from NSW Health

Testing and isolation has changed so it's important for individuals and business owners to keep up to date.

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment

Support of up to \$750 is available for individuals who are unable to earn an income because you or someone you are caring for has had to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19.

Find information about the [NSW Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment](#).

Free Tourism Training On Offer For Holiday Season

Critical skills shortages in the visitor economy are being addressed by the NSW Government, which is offering thousands of free training places across the state.

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education Geoff Lee has announced more than 2,700 fee-free training places will be available initially across 35 short courses at TAFE NSW and other registered training providers, with scope to increase with demand.

Free courses available under the program include:

- Outdoor Leadership (Basic Water Rescues, Snorkel, Lead Snorkeling, Paddle and Lead Stand Up Board on Inland Flatwater)
- Tourism Product Design and Promotion
- Hospitality (Interact with Customers, Safe Work Practices and Visitor Information, Housekeeping, Responsible Service of Alcohol, Social/Cultural Sensitivity)
- Outdoor Recreation (Vertical Rescues, Abseil, Establish Ropes and Lead Single Pitch Abseiling on Natural Surfaces)
- Bicycle Servicing
- Swimming and Water Safety Teacher
- Infection control

The announcement complements the nearly 250,000 free training places being funded under the joint state and federal JobTrainer program and adds to the NSW Government investment in free training recently announced for the retail and hospitality sectors.

Read [Media Release](#).

Applications For Land Tax Relief Extended Until February

Applications for land tax relief will be extended until 28 February to give eligible commercial and residential landowners more time to access the program.

NSW landowners may be eligible to receive a reduction of up to 100 per cent of their land tax payable for the 2021 land tax year if they provided a reduction in rent to a tenant between 1 July 2021 and 31 December 2021.

This package follows a similar program run for the 2020 land tax year, which saw more than 17,400 applications received and \$218.8 million of relief provided.

To be eligible for [land tax relief](#), a landowner must be leasing to a commercial tenant who has a turnover up to \$50 million and has been deemed eligible for NSW Government COVID-19 support grants or a residential tenant who has lost 25 per cent or more of household income due to COVID-19.

The landowner must have reduced rent for the affected tenant for any period between 1 July 2021 and 31 December 2021, without any requirement for it to be paid back.

Landlords can also access the [Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund](#), which provides small commercial or retail landlords with a monthly grant up to the value of any rental relief provided, to a maximum of \$3,000 per month per property. To be eligible, a landlord cannot claim land tax relief for rent reductions provided to tenants between 1 July 2021 and 31 December 2021. Applications for the Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund close 31 March 2022.

Read [Media Release](#).

Minyon Falls Lookout Reopens For Holiday Season

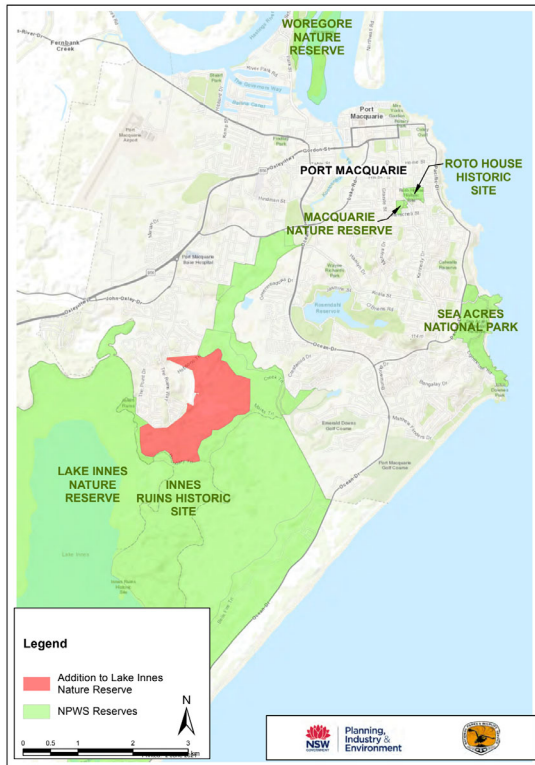
Minyon Falls in Heritage-Listed Nightcap National Park has a spectacular new lookout and viewing platform offering improved access for visitors to experience one of Australia's best waterfalls in the renowned biodiversity hotspot.

The redevelopment of the [Minyon Falls Visitor Precinct and Lookout](#) is the first completed stage of a \$7.5 million project to deliver a walking trails network through the hinterland.

Expanded parking, wheelchair accessible tracks and picnic areas, spectacular views and walking trails confirm Minyon Falls as a must-see destination for the region and an attraction that will draw visitors from the coast to the hinterland.

Upgrade works have now commenced at [Unicorn Falls in nearby Mount Jerusalem National Park](#), located approximately 15 kilometres south-east of the village of Uki. The [final master plan](#) for the upgrade of this precinct was released in October 2021, after two opportunities for public feedback.





The NSW Government recently announced the purchase of 194 hectares of prime koala habitat located adjacent to the Lake Innes Nature Reserve, south-west of Port Macquarie. This jointly-funded initiative was made possible through the generous contribution of \$3.5 million from Koala Conservation Australia (KCA) as well as from the NSW Government's landmark \$193 million dollar investment in koala conservation. The Koala (Guula) is a totem animal to the Birpai people and maintaining this population is of great cultural and spiritual importance to contemporary Birpai families.

As well as the koala, three additional threatened species (eastern coastal free-tailed bat, glossy black cockatoo and grey-headed flying-fox) have been recorded on the property.

Read [Media Release](#).

New Look Ballina Byron Gateway Airport

The Ballina Byron Gateway Airport has unveiled its fresh look for the future with the launch of new branding and a [modernised website](#).

As one of Australia's busiest regional airports with the majority of inbound passengers arriving for leisure purposes and most outbound passengers travel for business, the airport has developed fresh branding to reflect its dual purpose as a tourism destination and business travel hub.

The airport carpark is being upgraded to include an additional 100 car parking spaces, dedicated ground transport and rental car parking areas, and a new solar PV system to support the airport's energy needs. The airport terminal is also being expanded to accommodate new security screening equipment and improve access for passengers entering the departure lounge.

Read [Media Release](#).



REMINDER: North Coast Festival of Flavour - 26 & 27 March 2022

The North Coast Festival of Flavour activation weekend calls for all North Coast food, beverage and agri-tourism businesses to open their doors and offer events, unique experiences and special deals to attract visitors.

The event will be promoted on the new [North Coast Flavour Trails](#) online platform. Visitors will use the mapping technology to search for events and experiences and plan their own unique itinerary for the festival weekend.

Destination North Coast in partnership with Destination NSW will be launching a marketing campaign in early February to drive visitation to the festival weekend, create awareness about the trails platform and generate more exposure for North Coast operators.

To leverage this marketing campaign and maximise this opportunity, North Coast food and beverage operators need to either add an Event listing or a Special Deal listing to ATDW/Get Connected over the festival weekend, 26-27th March 2022 and complete this before the end of January.

Find [more details and tips and get involved](#). Don't miss out!

APPLY NOW - Northern Rivers Rail Trail Product & Experience Development & Mentoring Program

Tourism businesses in the Northern Rivers interested in gaining more support with developing new or existing Rail Trail-focused products or experiences can now apply for the Destination North Coast Mentoring Program. The FREE OF CHARGE program runs from February 2022 to April 2022 and offers an online Mentoring Guide and 3 hours mentoring support to kick start product and experience development ideas suitable for the Rail Trail.

Find [more information](#) or [apply now](#).

Byron Bay - Rail Trail Product & Experience Development Workshop

This workshop is for tourism businesses interested in learning how their business can become 'Rail Trail ' ready and explore opportunities for product and experience development.

[Registration Required](#) - 9am - 12pm, Wednesday 2nd February 2022, Byron Community Centre, 69 Jonson St.

Northern Rivers Rail Trail - Cooperative Marketing Workshop

This workshop will provide opportunities for interested businesses and local governments to explore how they can best work together to package and market products and experiences across the Northern Rivers Rail Trail. The workshop will explore participant ideas to co-create a vision and directions to guide cooperation for activating the Rail Trail as a hero experience in the Northern Rivers.

[Registration Required](#) - 2pm - 5pm, (followed by networking), Tuesday 22 February 2022, The Eltham Hotel, 441 Eltham Road.

SAVE THE DATE! North Coast Tourism Business Accelerator Workshops

Destination North Coast will deliver industry development workshops across the North Coast from mid-February. The workshops will be facilitated by [Sparrowly Group](#) as part of DNC's [Business Accelerator & Mentoring Program](#) and are available to all tourism businesses.

As well as being a great opportunity to connect with colleagues, the workshops will cover:

- navigating the tourism ecosystem
- your customer journey,
- developing your experience
- distribution
- cost structures and price setting

Save the date for your nearest workshop! Open to all tourism businesses.

- Ballina - 9am - 11am, Monday 14 February
- Port Macquarie - 9am - 11am, Wednesday 16 February
- Forster - 9am - 11am, Thursday 17 February
- Coffs Harbour - 9am - 11am, Thursday 24 February

Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters - Stakeholder Pack

The Australian Government has developed a suite of resources for the [Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters program \(STAND\)](#) to help raise awareness around simple steps people can take to be better prepared in the event of telecommunications going down in a natural disaster.

Funding & Other Opportunities

[REMINDER - Experience Development Fund](#)

The Experience Development Fund is available to businesses that are proposing to develop a new attraction or experience in NSW that directly aligns with the NSW strengths identified in the Visitor Economy Strategy 2030.

For more information please review the:

- [Program Guidelines](#)
- [Handy Hints](#) for completing your Experience Development application

Applications close on 16 January 2022.

[REMINDER: Culture, Heritage & Arts Regional Tourism Grant Program](#)

This program aims to support community cultural, heritage and arts organisations in regional Australia as they recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Applications close when the funding allocation has been expended or on 29 April 2022, whichever is sooner

[International Engagement Fund](#)

Supports the Australian arts, cultural and creative sectors to explore opportunities to engage internationally, in the wake of unprecedented global change and disruption. Opens 18 January and closes 22 March 2022.

[Create NSW Individual Project Funding](#)

Supports excellence, innovation and creativity within the NSW arts and cultural sector. Closes 31 January 2022.

[Strengthening Rural Communities - Small & Vital](#)

Aims to give the thousands of small rural, regional and remote communities across Australia an opportunity to access funding to support broad community needs. Closes 22 February 2022.

[Arts Projects - Individuals & Groups](#)

Funds a range of activities that deliver benefits to the arts sector and wider public, including national and international audiences. Closes 1 March 2022.

North Coast Product And Experience Development

Arts Mid North Coast

Suggested activities for families visiting the region over January;

- [Top Picks for Summer](#) - recommendations for creative and heritage experiences families can undertake through January
- [More than a Beach](#) - a What's On of activities, events, tours, workshops etc especially for younger family members

[Bar & Bites Walking Tour](#) is a new curated tour of local bars, brews and bites of the Coffs Coast from [Bite Food Tours](#).

[Oma](#) is hidden upstairs in the heart of Byron Bay and is the latest restaurant from the team at Three Blue Ducks and offers a locally sourced, seasonal menu and a specially curated natural wine list.

[Moo & Bean Café](#) is a laid-back waterfront restaurant with a coastal vibe overlooking the pristine waters of the Camden Haven.

[Alessandra Papazzo Flowers & Flavours](#) - Alessandra is an Italian sustainable floral designer, stylist and private chef who has recently re-established her private chef experiences offering authentic Italian food for groups of up to 10 in and around Port Macquarie.

[Mid Pacific Motel](#) in downtown Port Macquarie has recently been refurbished.

[Rubony's Cafe](#) At [The Grafton Regional Gallery](#) - Visitors to the Grafton Regional Gallery can now enjoy breakfast, lunch, and morning or afternoon tea at the newly opened Rubony's Café. It's also fully licensed and caters for group bookings, events or functions.

[The Beach Rooms Nambucca](#) - Is another terrific retro-motel renovation in Nambucca.

[Matilda's Nambucca](#) reopened in November and is looking fabulous after a renovation and serving amazing pizza.

[V Wall Nambucca](#) has also recently received an uplift and this bar/bistro presents as an ideal great spot for an afternoon drink and nibble.

[Wharf St. Distillery Restaurant](#) - Foster

[Last Rites Bar & Live Music Venue](#) - Yamba

[Two Mates Brewing](#) - Lismore's own brewing co and bar.

[Common People Brewing Co](#) in Bangalow officially opening today however, Common People Brewing have had a couple of not-so-dry runs showcasing their locally inspired brews to the region's locals.

North Coast Events

To aid in your planning, please note upcoming events (and event cancellations) across the region.



[River Sounds - Bellingen - Postponed](#)

River Sounds has been postponed due to heightened COVID-19 activity with new dates and line-up be announced in the coming weeks.

Read [Media Release](#).

[Kingscliff Triathlon](#) - 6.00am - 12.00pm, 30 January 2022.

[Coffs Coast Food and Wine Festival](#) - The Coffs Coast Food & Wine Festival will boast 10 days of decadence with Dining Experiences & Foodie Workshops hosted at the best restaurants in the region. The festival will highlight local ingredients and producers at their finest. Each Dining Experience will be paired with art installations, live music & more. 4-14 March 2022.

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.
