



# Destination North Coast NSW

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## North Coast News & Views No. 137

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### **Support Rolled Out For Flood Recovery, Clean-Up, Housing & Finance**

In the 12 days since the first disaster declarations were made for this devastating flood event, around \$1.5 billion of support has been committed to the recovery from the NSW Government in partnership with the Commonwealth.

In addition to the financial response, on-the-ground support from NSW emergency services and the Australian Defence Force today reached 8,000 active personnel across the state, who are ensuring supplies reach communities that are still cut off by floodwaters, as well as supporting communities with the huge clean-up operation.

The Commonwealth and NSW Governments have also started the process of transitioning people from evacuation centres, hotels and motels, into longer-term accommodation as part of a \$285 million Temporary Housing Support Package (find more information below).

Read [Media Release](#).

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### **Accommodation Support For Flood Victims**

A new \$285 million Temporary Housing Support Package will provide accommodation support to flood victims who have lost their homes to ensure people can access more immediate and medium-term accommodation support.

The housing support package will have the capacity to assist around 25,000 households and will be focused on allowing people to move out of their emergency accommodation and find a more permanent place to call home. They will also have access to up to 16 weeks rental support, by the end of March.

The package will also fund on-site pods in rural areas to allow people to stay on their properties while they rebuild, and motorhomes and cabin accommodation to ensure there is flexible accommodation to meet peoples' varying needs.

The housing package is part of the Commonwealth and NSW Governments' latest assistance package, which is providing more than \$551.7 million for flood-affected communities, including support to small businesses, primary producers, councils, individuals, and families hard hit by the devastating floods.

The **\$551.7 million package** includes:

- **\$285 million** Temporary Housing Support package (including 16 weeks rental support, extensions of the temporary housing program, the supply of temporary accommodation, support for the Housing Flood Recovery Service etc.)
- **\$90 million** to assist with the clean-up and removal of flood and storm related damage, debris and green waste for the additional 28 disaster declared LGAs enabling them to work with Resilience NSW and NSW Government agencies to coordinate clean-up activities in their communities
- **\$75,000** primary producer grants extended to all disaster declared LGAs
- **\$50,000** small business and not-for-profit grants extended to all disaster declared LGAs
- **\$1 million** grants to additional 28 impacted councils to assist with their immediate social, built, economic and environmental needs.

Find a full list of currently open [Recovery Centres](#).

Contact [nsw.gov.au/floods](https://nsw.gov.au/floods) for other flood disaster support and information.

Read full [Media Release](#).

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## **Motorhomes To Temporarily House Flood-Affected Families**

The first of a 120-strong convoy of motorhomes have left Sydney and will provide medium-term accommodation to flood-affected communities in Northern NSW.

Volunteers from the NSW Rural Fire Service drove the motorhomes to Northern NSW, which are part of a \$10 million package to supply and maintain temporary accommodation for families who were displaced during the floods.

More than 1,200 people have so far received emergency accommodation support.

The NSW Government is also working to secure longer-term housing solutions for people who will not be able to return to their homes for several months or more, and for those who need to rebuild.

Anyone who is homeless due to floods can [request emergency accommodation](#) or by calling Service NSW on 13 77 88.

Read [Media Release](#).

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## **Mental Wellbeing Package For Flood-Impacted Communities**

The NSW Government will fast-track access to essential trauma and recovery services to communities hardest hit by the recent flooding in NSW as part of a \$25 million investment.

The NSW Government's initial \$25 million in mental health support will also be complimented by the Commonwealth Government's mental health support package announced earlier this week.

Further mental health and well-being support will be provided to flood-affected communities across NSW as part of the recovery process.

If you, or someone you know, is thinking about suicide or experiencing a personal crisis or distress, please seek help immediately by calling 000 or one of these services:

- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467
- NSW Mental Health Line 1800 011 511

Find [information and read Media Release.](#)

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## **Councils & Community Groups Encouraged To Apply For Holiday Break Activities**

Regional councils and eligible not-for-profit organisations are encouraged to apply for funding to deliver events and activities during the upcoming Autumn school holidays, thanks to the NSW Government's expanded [Holiday Break Program](#).

The program has been upscaled to deliver a wider range of activities to engage regional youth thanks to \$10 million from the NSW Government's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy.

Read [Media Release.](#)

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## **NORTHERN RIVERS BUSINESS HUB**

### **Business NSW & SCU: Critical Response Business Hub**

The Northern Rivers Business Hub is a critical response from Business NSW, in partnership with Southern Cross University (SCU), to support displaced and disconnected businesses in their time of need, accelerate their recovery and get them back trading.

The Hub provides a back-office environment that is a safe space to regather and regroup and sits within the SCU Enterprise Lab (Block A). Open 8am to 6pm with no booking necessary - just drop in!

What's in the Northern Rivers Business Hub:

- A Hub coordinator onsite to assist with questions and guide to services

- Hot desks with laptops set up for use including internet access (helping you to reconnect with suppliers, staff and customers)
- Hot desks for use with your own equipment and internet available
- Stationery equipment, white boards and printer access
- Meeting spaces for staff meetings, supplier meetings, customer meetings and group presentations
- Access to AV equipment for zoom meetings and presentations
- Administrative support: volunteers to help rebuild databases, update websites and social media channels.
- Tea and coffee making facilities
- Business lounge to connect with others and support ongoing collaboration
- Access to business advisors: Strengthening Business Advisors and Business Connect Advisors
- Access to Government agencies and services: Rural Financial Counselling Services, Services NSW
- Visiting services: banks, telecommunications.
- Seminar session on needs identified by business - e.g. property/leasing.

For more information call - 13 26 96 or [email](#).

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## **NZ Reopens To Australian Tourists From 12 April 2022**

Quarantine-free New Zealand entry for vaccinated Australians reopens from 12 April 2022, with visitors from other countries to be added from 1 May 2022 in a decision welcomed by the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan.

The reopening had previously been flagged for some time in July, but the New Zealand Prime Minister said that after evaluating the country's response to the Omicron wave of COVID-19 "we are ready to welcome the world back".

The revised reopening will allow Australians to cross the Tasman for the upcoming school holiday period, with the move also set to provide a major boost for the NZ ski sector.

Read [Media Release](#).

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## **National Parks & Wildlife Service 2022 Flood Update**

Like communities across the Northern Rivers region, national parks of the North Coast have not gone unscathed by the recent record rainfall and floods.

The majority of parks and reserves in the Northern Rivers region are closed due to flood impacts such as landslides and road damage, particularly in the coastal hinterland areas.

Heavy rainfall and flash flooding have caused extensive damage to park roads, bridges, walking tracks and campgrounds, presenting public safety risks to staff and visitors.

Please encourage visitors to check [NPWS Alerts](#) before setting out to visit a National Park.

Read [Media Release](#).

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## Industry Insights

### Domestic Tourism Forecasts To 2025-26

[Tourism Research Australia \(TRA\)](#) has released their [Domestic Tourism Forecasts to 2025-26](#) that combine quantitative modelling and expert analysis.

They summarise the outlook for domestic tourism and how the industry is expected to recover from the downturn of the past 2 years. They outline domestic visitor nights, trips and spend, purpose of travel, and state and territory domestic tourism nights.

### Tourism Investment Monitor 2020-21

TRA's annual Tourism Investment Monitor 2020-21 has been published. This report compiles all known major tourism investment projects (planned and under construction) in Australia and reveals a tourism investment pipeline of 225 projects with a value of \$42.3 billion. It discusses both the stock, and the progress, of projects at each stage of development.

Find [more information and download the report](#).

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## Around The Region

### Small Business & Beyond Festival - Coffs Coast

Designed for small business leaders and big thinkers this event will bring together 16 speakers and over 100 local professionals across three days for inspiring sessions and networking. March 30 - April 1 2022, Jetty Beach House.

Find [out more, check the Program and book your tickets now](#).



### [Business Building Through Resilience & Wellbeing - Byron](#)

This is a community and business support event as part of Small Business Month. Registration required. The event is being held at 5.30pm - 8.30pm, 31 March 2022, Bowerbird at the Byron Bay Golf Club

### [Community And Events Grant Applications - Greater Port Macquarie Region](#)

Local not-for-profits, event organisers, community groups and sporting associations in the Port Macquarie Hastings Shire are invited to share in a pool of \$120,000 in grant funding for projects that support a connected, inclusive and engaged region. Closes 20 March 2022.

## **Taste of the Macleay**

Macleay Valley Coast is about to pilot its very first Food Trail for the region and are calling for all cafes, restaurants and other hospitality venues involved.

'Taste of the Macleay' will showcase locally grown produce on menus in cafes and restaurants across the shire, encouraging locals and visitors alike to celebrate the extensive range of local produce and the vast menu choices on offer. Contact [Ali Briggs](#), Agricultural Development Officer, Kempsey Shire Council to find out more and to get involved.

## **[Free Marketing Workshop - Barrington Coast](#)**

If there's ever a time to have a marketing strategy that takes you from invisible to seen, that brings you quality leads and creates a community rather than just followers, it's right now! Jenn Donovan is a marketing and social media strategist, momentum creator, international speaker, best selling author and coach to savvy business owners who is passionate about making business simple, so participants will love her 5 simple steps.

Places are limited with registration required.

- When: Friday 8 April 2022
- Where: Council Chambers at Yalawanyi Ganya, Taree
- Time: 9.45am - 1.00pm followed by lunch and networking.

## **[ArtWalk 2022 - Port Macquarie](#)**

Find out how to be a part of ArtWalk 2022.

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## **Industry Development & Other Opportunities**

### **North Coast Destination Management Plan Review - The Future Of The Region's Visitor Economy**

Destination North Coast wants to hear from local tourism operators, event organisers and industry stakeholders to gather input and plan for the future of tourism and the visitor economy in our region to 2030 as we review the North Coast Destination Management Plan (DMP).

As part of the DMP review project, you're invited to an in-person consultation session to share information about the strengths in your local region, areas of challenge or barriers to overcome and priority project opportunities for the future.

Your input will contribute to your Local Government Area's dedicated section in the plan, which will identify key activity going forward as a means to improving the visitor experience and maximising the local visitor economy.

This Destination Management Plan also has a significant influence on funding priorities at a regional, state and national level going forward.

Save the Date for a DMP stakeholder consultation session near you with workshop details coming soon.



| Time & Date                          | Location   | Venue  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------|
| 9.30 am – 11.30 am – Tuesday 3 May   | Tweed  | TBC    |
| 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm – Tuesday 3 May    | Ballina  | TBC    |
| 9.30 am – 11.30 am – Wednesday 4 May | Maclean  | TBC    |
| 3.00 am – 5.00pm – Wednesday 4 May   | Coffs Harbour  | TBC    |
| 9.30 am – 11.30 am – Thursday 5 May  | Port Macquarie   | TBC    |
| 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm – Thursday 5 May   | MidCoast   | TBC    |
| 10am – 11.30am – Thursday 12 May     | For Lord Howe Island and all who cannot attend in-person | Online |

### 2022 Horizons Leadership Program

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in partnership with the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) are seeking applicants from Australian regional and rural shire councils, chambers of commerce and economic development organisations to participate in a leadership program designed to better inform participants about the benefits of regional Australia from international trade, foreign direct investment (FDI) and international tourism. The program consists of six interactive webinars designed to generate ideas on how regions may develop their own international strategies as part of their COVID-19 recovery efforts.

The workshops will run from 29 April to 15 July 2022 with the final presentation comprising of short-listed video presentations from participants on their International Engagement proposal for their region. A mentorship platform will guide the learning process and inform the proposal. The program is open to early to mid-career applicants who are working in economic/growth roles within regional and rural organisations. Participants will have access to industry experts and senior government officers, as well as mentoring and networking opportunities.

Find [more information](#).

### Professional Development Training Program Launches

Australian Regional Tourism has unveiled an [Local Government Professional Development Training Program](#) for local government and tourism professionals. Tailored specifically for regional destinations, the initiative will help tourism providers stimulate visitation to regional areas that have been impacted by two years of COVID-19-related travel restrictions. The program is sponsored by Tourism Australia.

### Tourism Australia Updates

Tourism Australia has recently announced it is adopting a [dual naming policy](#) for capital cities and other specific locations around Australia by using the known Aboriginal name alongside the English name. This not only acknowledges the traditional owners of the land we live, work and travel on, but seeks to incorporate Indigenous language and knowledge into the mainstream consciousness.

Tourism Australia's next [Industry Webinar is tomorrow at 11am with registration required](#).

### rEVENTS ACADEMY's - Regional Event Management Training Programs

rEVENTS ACADEMY's signature [Regional Event Management Training](#) is a robust support program that provides event committees with the knowledge, tools, and resources to assist in delivering a high-quality, successful and sustainable event.

The team work with regional event committees and Councils that are looking to support their regional event committees. They will:

- reduce the stress of event management

- save you time with your event planning
- give you confidence to deliver a successful event.

**7 WEEK REGIONAL EVENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM**

Session 1  
7 March – 22 April REGISTRATIONS CLOSED

Session 2  
18 July – 2 September

**REGISTER TODAY**

**PREMIUM ACCELERATOR PROGRAM (PAP)**

Session 1  
3 April – 25 June

Session 2  
28 Aug – 19 November

**REGISTER TODAY**

**SELF PACED REGIONAL EVENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM**

Ongoing, anytime and tailored to run in alignment with your event roll-out

**REGISTER TODAY**

Check out our other regional event management resources

[DIY TOOLS](#) [MASTERCLASS RECORDINGS](#) [WHITE LABEL TOOLKIT](#) [INDIVIDUAL MODULES](#)

**rEVENTS™ ACADEMY** **2022 PROGRAM CALENDAR**  
reventsacademy.com

[Find out](#)

## Funding & Other Opportunities

### [Reminder: Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism Grant Program](#)

The Cultural Tourism and Heritage Arts Regional Tourism Grant program aims to support community cultural, heritage and arts organisations in regional Australia as they recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Artists, musicians, theatres, venues, festivals and cultural organisations in NSW will be supported with \$86 million in funding from the NSW Government to reopen with confidence and welcome back audiences. Applications close when the funding allocation has been expended or on 29 April 2022, whichever is sooner.

### [QBE Foundation Local Grants](#)

Provides meaningful support for community initiatives addressing one of the following specific areas of need: climate resilience or inclusion. Closes 25 March 2022

### [James Frizelle Charitable Foundation Grants](#)

Aims to make a lasting change to the lives of people in need in the Gold Coast and Northern NSW regions. Closes 31 March 2022.

### [CommBank Flood Relief Grants](#)

Aims to assist the relief, recovery and longer term resilience efforts of communities affected by the recent floods across the east coast of Australia. Closes 30 June 2022.

## North Coast Product Development

**The Business Bug Can Start At Any Age**





80 businesses across the North Coast region are currently participating in the [Destination North Coast Business Accelerator and Mentoring Program](#). The Program has seen an amazing variety of businesses who work in the visitor economy participate and work on their business and visitor experience.

One thing is for sure, the business bug can start at any age as seen here in this photo of our youngest mentee, Miah, 14 years old. Miah is working on product development of her high protein, healthy ice cream which she sells as part of the farm tours on her parent's regenerative property Grazed and Grown in the Port Macquarie region.

You will be able to taste Miah's incredible ice cream at the [Know Your Producer Event](#) this Sunday (20 March) which will be held at Cassegrain Winery. Also featured at this event will be [Grazed and Grown](#), [Cassegrain Wines](#), [Maria River Distillery](#) and [Homegrown Organics](#). Get along to [Twotriplefour by Bills at Cassegrain Winery](#) and support your local producer.

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## North Coast Events

To aid in your planning, please note these upcoming events (and event cancellations) on the North Coast.

### **2022 Lismore Italian Film Festival POSTPONED**

Sadly the organisers of the Lismore Italian Film Festival have had to postpone the event as Cinema Lismore is closed due to substantial flood inundation. The organising committee look forward to welcoming lovers of classic and contemporary Italian films when the new date for screening is determined.

### [Kingscliff Triathlon](#)

The Kingy Tri has been postponed until the weekend of 27-28 May 2022. Registrations will be transferred to the new date.

### [Barrington Coast Long Table Dinner](#) (26 March)

Well-known chef Clayton Donovan, has designed and will curate the Barrington Coast Long Table dinner which is a major event of the [Barrington Coast bEATS Festival](#). This month-long festival celebrating the local community and culture through local food, music and art.

### [117th Maclean Highland Gathering](#) - 15-16 April 2022 (Easter Weekend)

Annual event typically see piping competitions, drumming events and various street concerts with dancers, pipers and singers performing culminating in traditional highland games and dance and pipe performances.

### [Clarence Valley Plunge Festival](#) - Throughout April

Month-long event in the Clarence Valley that promotes art and culture of the region and includes various workshops, exhibitions and microevents.

### [Screenwave International Film Festival 2022](#) (SWIFF) - Coffs Coast - 21 April-6 May 2022

For 16 days and nights each year, Coffs Harbour comes alive for SWIFF. Audiences travel from all corners of Australia to dive deep into the world of cinema and performing arts.

**[Casino Cow Country Music Muster](#)** - 30 April-1 May 2022

The inaugural Casino Cow Country Music Muster is a two-day country music muster and kicks off Saturday April 30 at Casino RSM Club (12pm-10pm) and continues on Sunday 1 May at the Casino Drill Hall and Amphitheatre for a day of outdoor music, markets and food stalls.

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**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.

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