



North Coast News & Views No. 142

North Coast Festival Of Food - It's Nearly Here!

The [North Coast Festival of Flavour](#) kicks off in just 8 days!

The weekend of 3-5 June will see the region come alive with special foodie events, tastings, long lunches, night-time delights and more!

Help spread the word about the festival. If you haven't shared the news far and wide, jump on board and tell your friends, family and share across your networks.



Nominations Open For NSW Tourism Awards

Businesses operating in the NSW visitor economy have been encouraged to enter the [2022 NSW Tourism Awards](#), which are managed by the NSW Tourism Industry Council in partnership with Destination NSW.

The NSW Tourism Awards recognise winners in 27 business categories, two individual excellence categories and the Judges' Tourism Star Awards to honour outstanding resilience and innovation.

Destination North Coast strongly encourage our North Coast industry stakeholders to consider applying for the 2022 NSW Tourism Awards.

Read [Media Release](#).

Regional Tourism Activation Fund announces successful projects

The NSW Government has announced that 37 projects will receive funding through the \$30 million [Regional Tourism Activation Fund](#). The projects will support the development of unique and high impact tourism infrastructure and improve the accessibility of visitor experiences across regional NSW.

Six projects across the North Coast were successful obtaining funding to develop their tourism proposition. They include:

Coffs Harbour Yacht Club Accessibility Infrastructure Upgrade - \$450,000

The construction of appropriate access to all areas of the facility, to enable the promotion Clubhouse and the Jetty Foreshore Precinct as an Inclusive tourism destination.

Lennox Park Accessibility Revitalisation - \$700,297

The Lennox Park upgrades are part of a broader plan to revitalise Lennox Head's town centre while retaining its low-key, social and coastal village feel to attract inclusive tourism and improve the visitor experience.

Urunga Inclusive Tourism Activation Project - \$499,717

The project will see an upgraded inclusive path to the boardwalk, beach and parklands, an upgrade to an accessible amenities, new inclusive benches and new inclusive play equipment as well as updated interpretative signage including along the boardwalk, and an accessible ramp to the main stage located in the Reserve.

Disabled accessible pathway - Nambucca River Foreshore to Stuart Island- \$151,180

Construction of a 1.5m wide footpath and connecting footbridge for the Stuart Island causeway connecting the Nambucca River Foreshore at Bellwood to Stuart Island

Mallanganee Observatory - look up, look down, look out - \$2,067,694

The Mallanganee Observatory will showcase the astronomical, geological and natural attributes of the Richmond Ranges to Wollumbin (Mount Warning), the caldera and the east coast.

Yarrawarra amenities upgrade \$261,188

The upgraded amenities building will have access paths and amenities that encourage visitors of all abilities to enjoy the cultural and artistic experiences of the Centre.

Regional NSW In Fast Lane To Lead Autonomous Vehicle Technology

The NSW Government has unveiled its vision for regional NSW to become the Southern Hemisphere hub of cutting-edge autonomous vehicle technology, with a testing and research 'city' to be built at Cudal, near Orange.

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Faraway today announced a \$9.5 million upgrade to the Future Mobility Testing and Research Centre - once the local airstrip - which opened in 2019.

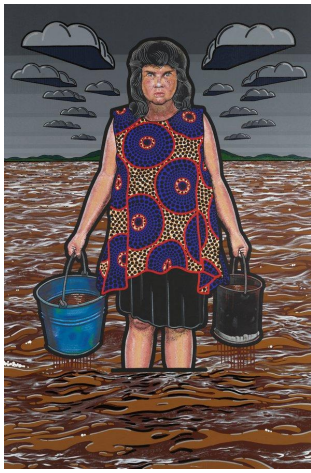
Mr Faraway made the announcement after turning the first sod on a new 400-metre intersection which, along with a new one-kilometre section of road, will provide additional testing infrastructure at the centre. Both are due for completion by November.

Find out more about the [Future Mobility and Testing here](#).

Blak Douglas Wins Archibald Prize 2022

Blak Douglas, a Sydney-based artist with Dhungatti heritage, has won the [Archibald Prize 2022](#) and \$100,000 for his portrait of artist Karla Dickens during the Lismore floods, titled Moby Dickens. A five-time Archibald Prize finalist, he painted his good friend, Wiradjuri woman Ms Dickens, for the portrait award.

With his win Blak Douglas becomes the second Aboriginal artist to win the Archibald Prize in 101 years after Western Aranda artist Vincent Namatjira won in 2020. Moby Dickens is the first time a portrait of an Aboriginal woman has won the prize.



Aquabumps Explores The Mid-North Coast

Last week, world-renowned photographer and Aquabumps founder Eugene Tan spotlighted the NSW Mid-North Coast in his collaboration with Destination NSW.

The NSW Aquabumps series is the latest stunning phase of the NSW Government's 'Feel New' campaign, showcasing spectacular destinations across the state, from Byron Bay to Broken Hill, with the images shared globally and locally across social platforms.

Eugene Tan has been travelling around NSW, capturing the seven feelings of the 'Feel New' brand: joy, connection, freedom, awe, rejuvenation, belonging and adventure. He was captivated by the long stretches of white sandy beaches, beautiful lakes and some of NSW's grandest and tallest trees, which are located on the Mid-North Coast.

Read Eugene Tan's blog post about his [trip to the Mid North Coast here](#).

Tourism Insights

National Visitor Survey February Snapshot

[NVS snapshot for the February 2022](#) is now published. It shows continued signs of recovery for domestic travel.

Encouragingly, nights spent away and overnight spend were up when compared to pre-COVID results in February 2020, although the number of overnight visitors remained down slightly.

Industry Development & Other Opportunities

Tourism Australia and Destination NSW Update

Tourism Australia's largest annual travel trade event, the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE), held last week in Sydney in partnership with Destination NSW, saw more than 1,100 buyers and sellers attending the live event whilst ATE Online concludes today and connected those unable to travel to Australia.

International buyers from 20 countries were welcomed back to Australia for ATE and the relationships and future business opportunities built over the course of the event will help to spearhead the tourism industry's recovery as we move beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

ATE2023 will be held on the Gold Coast in partnership with Tourism and Events Queensland.

Register for [Tourism Australia's next Industry Webinar](#) being held at 11am Friday 27 May 2022.

The Pricing Challenge: The Cost of Producing Quality Food and Beverages & Common Pricing Pitfalls

[Northern Rivers Food's](#) next industry breakfast brings together an expert panel of local speakers to discuss the topic of pricing your product or service.

From 8am Monday 30 May 2022 at [Crystalbrook Byron](#).

[Buy tickets here](#).



Australian Festival Industry Conference

Aimed at [festival organisers and industry professionals](#) that produce quality festivals of all shapes and sizes, the [Australian Festival Industry Conference](#) (AFIC) will be held on the Gold Coast, 30 August to 1 September 2022. With just three months to go, now's the perfect time to start getting organised and booking tickets and securing your discounted accommodation.

Review the [Conference Program](#) and check the [variety of tickets available](#) (you can attend in person or virtually and buy individual or group tickets).



Social Media Success Workshop - Tweed Businesses

In this half-day workshop, business owners/managers will be taken through the creation of an actionable social media marketing strategy using storytelling, content marketing, social monitoring, measurement and optimisation.

8.45am-12.00pm, Wednesday 1 June 2022, Coolamon Station, Palmvale

Cost \$25.00 with [RSVP essential](#)

The Tweed Hosts Australia's First Ever Wellness Tourism Summit

The [Wellness Tourism Summit](#) will be held in The Tweed on October 13 and 14 2022 convened by Katherine Droga, founder of Droga & co. and chair of the Global Wellness Institute's (GWI) Wellness Tourism Initiative.

The event aims to showcase the rapid growth and demand in the wellness sector and the opportunities for tourism businesses across Australia.

This thought leadership event has been designed for media, tourism operators, destinations, travel distributors, government, wellness suppliers and practitioners.

DNC are delighted to see the event held in the Tweed, demonstrating the North Coast's abundant product and appeal as a wellness destination.

Read [Media Release](#) and buy [Early Bird Tickets](#).



Funding And Other Opportunities

\$200,000 Medium Business Flood Grant Opens

Flood-impacted medium-sized businesses and not-for-profit organisations in the Northern Rivers can now apply for up to \$200,000 under the [Northern Rivers Medium Size Business Grant](#).

Medium-sized businesses that employed between 21 and 199 staff, as at 22 February 2022, can apply for up to \$200,000 through the Northern Rivers Medium Size Business Grant program.

Read [Media Release](#).

Temporary Accommodation Sites Secured For Flood-Affected Communities

Nine temporary accommodation sites which will have capacity for around 800 temporary modular homes known as 'pods' have been secured by the NSW Government across the Northern Rivers region to house flood-affected residents, with more to come.

Read [Media Release](#).

Local & Regional stream of the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund

A \$30 million fund available to local and regional NSW organisations will help communities to reduce, mitigate and manage the risks of future natural disasters. Councils, joint organisations of councils, not-for-profits, and other local groups are encouraged to apply for the [Local & Regional Risk Reduction Fund](#) now open for applications.

This second stream of the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund, jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Government, offers between \$50,000 and \$1.5 million to eligible organisations.

The fund supports initiatives and projects that can leverage community strengths, address risks and vulnerabilities, promote collaboration, build capacity for evidence-based decision making, and enable locally-led disaster resilience initiatives.

Two funding pathways are available within the Local & Regional Risk Reduction stream:

- Pathway 1 - \$50,000 to \$300,000 in funding per project applied for by a single applicant
- Pathway 2 - \$300,000 to \$1.5 million in funding per project applied for by more than one applicant via a consortia or partnership arrangement. If the project focuses on a single LGA, the maximum funding amount is \$500,000.

All funding is administered for the NSW Government by Resilience NSW, with applications open until 1 July 2022.

To [learn more and apply online, visit here](#)

Grants To Support Arts and Culture Flood Recovery

The NSW Government has increased its 'Recovery Grants for NSW Creatives' financial support for arts and culture to meet the demand of those in need in flood-affected communities, enabling dozens of arts and cultural organisations, screen practitioners, individual artists and collaborative groups impacted by recent floods access to \$500,000 in funding.

The Recovery Grants for NSW Creatives program is designed to provide targeted support to individuals, groups and organisations in the small-to-medium arts and cultural sector in flood and/or extreme weather-affected NSW communities. A full list of recipients is [available here](#).

For further information on arts, screen and cultural funding, including targeted support opportunities, visit the [Create NSW website](#)

Read [media release](#)

Tourism Grants For Indigenous Businesses

Round Two of the [Tourism Grants For Indigenous Business Program](#) is now open. This is a further opportunity for eligible businesses and community organisations to access assistance for the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visitor experiences.

Applications can be submitted via the [GrantConnect website](#) by 14 June 2022. Assistance with the application process can be requested by [email](#).

Small Project Grants (Quick Response)

Supports the creation, development and presentation of new work and professional development or promotion for NSW-based professional artists and arts and cultural workers. Closes 30 May 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 31 May 2022.

Make It Awards

For the first time in Australia, Squarespace is excited to present the [Make It Awards](#) in support of Aussie entrepreneurs, creators and small businesses. Closes 3 June 2022.

Community Building Partnerships Program

The NSW Government's [Community Building Partnership](#) provides funding for infrastructure projects, including vehicles and equipment, that deliver positive social, environmental, and recreational outcomes while promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion. Closes 10 June 2022.

REMINDER: Regional Events Acceleration Fund (REAF) Round 2

Applications to the [Regional Events Acceleration Fund](#), are open.

The \$40 million Regional Events Acceleration Fund is part of the NSW Government's \$2 billion Regional Growth Fund, which is delivering infrastructure and programs that generate economic opportunities, create jobs and improve everyday living in the bush. Event organisers, regional NSW councils, not-for-profit organisations, sporting bodies and Aboriginal Land Councils are eligible to apply for grants. Applications close October 4, 2022 or when funding is fully committed.

REMINDER: State Significant Event Fund

The NSW Government's \$200 million State Significant Event Fund has been refocused to turbocharge the recovery of the events industry, with Expressions of Interest (EOI) open for events which can be delivered in 2022 and that will significantly stimulate the visitor economy, create jobs, support businesses and contribute to the cultural and social fabric of the state.

Potential applicants should carefully consider the [State Significant Event Fund Guidelines](#).

North Coast Product Development

South Solitary Island Historic Site Guided Heli-Tour

Visitors can join a National Park Wildlife Service ranger on a [rare two-hour guided tour](#) of the remote South Solitary Island, in Solitary Islands Marine Park near Coffs Harbour.

Available on Saturday and Sunday on the first weekend of June, July and August (4 & 5 June, 2 & 3 July and 6 & 7 August). [Book here](#).

Upgrades To Reflections Holiday Parks Across NSW

Regional tourism in NSW is set to grow with a \$28 million upgrade to Reflections Holiday Parks, which manages 378 iconic coastal and country holiday parks in the state, giving grey nomads, families and holidaymakers the chance to see what NSW has to offer.

View [Reflections Strategic Plan 2030](#) and read [Media Release](#).

North Coast Events

To aid in your planning and to support local events, please note these upcoming events on the North Coast.

Murwillumbah Arts Trail

The [Murwillumbah Arts Trail](#) was the winner of the 2021 Tweed Australia Day Community Event of the Year with the event attracting a large number of visitors as well as engaging the local community and promoting our local talent. This year the event will be held on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May and provides a unique opportunity for all to visit artists in their studios, historic halls and pop up galleries.

Slice Of Haven

[Slice of Haven](#), a smashing foodie festival on the Mid-North Coast returns this Sunday, 29 May in the stunning Camden Haven! Live music, entertainment, heaps of great stuff for kids, and food glorious food (including fresh oysters), craft beer, cider and wine.

Archibald Prize 2021 Exhibition - Manning Regional Art Gallery

The [Archibald Prize 2021 Exhibition is coming to the Manning Regional Art Gallery](#), from 8 July to 21 August. The Manning Regional Art Gallery is the last regional Gallery on the tour so this is the last chance to see the amazing exhibition!



Kingscliff Triathlon

The Tweed is looking forward to welcoming athletes, supporters and visitors to the [Kingscliff Triathlon](#) on Sunday 29 May 2022.

River Sounds Festival - 19-21 August 2022

River Sounds festival has emerged bigger and better than first imagined and has been expanded to run over three days with more artists joining the already impressive line-up.

River Sounds is an all-weather, licenced and all-ages event held Bellingen. Find more information and ticket sales here.

Read [Media Release](#).

Sculpture In The Gaol - Trial Bay Gaol, South West Rocks

[Sculpture in the Gaol](#) public art exhibition runs between 2-10 July 2022 at the iconic Trial Bay Gaol, South West Rocks transforming this heritage-listed attraction with an array of stunning sculptures.

Lismore Lantern Parade - 25 June 2022

This year's [Lantern Parade](#) will be a smaller, simpler event this year and will honour the brave people who took to the raging flood waters and saved so many lives, thanking them and all the good people who have helped in the clean-up. It will bring community together to begin healing broken hearts.

The light and connectedness of the lantern parade has become even more important this year.



Primex Announces New Dates

Norco Primex Field Days is proud to announce new dates for this highly anticipated agricultural expo. The event was originally scheduled for May 19-21, but earlier this month organisers made the difficult decision to postpone it due to floods and ongoing adverse weather conditions.

Norco Primex 2022 will be held at the Richmond Valley Events Centre at Casino from November 10-12, 2022. Visit www.primex.net.au for the latest updates.

Clarence Valley Camp Oven Festival postponed

This year's Clarence Valley Camp Oven Festival has been postponed to the spring long weekend 30th September to 3rd October 2022.

This year's festival has benefitted from substantial grant and sponsorship funding and organisers are in the process of contacting funders, contractors and performers to lock in the new dates.

The revised festival program will be published at www.clarencevalleycampovenfestival.com

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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