



North Coast News & Views No. 146

More Help For NSW Flood Victims

The Australian and NSW Governments have extended support committed following the extensive floods in NSW in February and March to include those impacted by the most recent July event.

Find [more information here](#).

[Destination NSW](#) has created three NSW First Quick Tips Guides that provide practical advice to help tourism businesses prepare, respond and recover from natural disasters:

- [Prepare for natural disasters](#)
- [Respond during natural disaster](#)
- [Recovery after natural disasters](#)

The Department of Customer Service has also prepared an updated communications toolkit containing the latest floods recovery information and collateral. [Click here to download it](#).

New Board Directors For Destination North Coast

Destination North Coast welcomes two new directors to our Board - Julie Stewart (Airport Manager, Ballina Byron Gateway Airport) and Margaret Shannon (General Manager, Tiona Holiday Park).

We also sincerely thank Donna Carrier one of our inaugural Board Members who is stepping down after five years as part of the Destination Networks that replaced the previous Regional Tourism Organisation of which Donna was also a Board member. Donna is a superstar operator for the North Coast of NSW, as the owner operator of the multi awarded winning and highly respected "Bent on Food" café and catering in Wingham on the Mid North Coast. Donna is embarking on a new food and beverage venture housed with the newly renovated Taree Rowing Club, a spectacular location and one in which we are sure Donna will shine for the local community and visitors alike.

DNC Chair Cameron Arnold said "It has been an absolute pleasure to have worked alongside Donna on both regional boards, as a voice for the restaurant & catering industry as well as for events across the region, her experience, knowledge, local intel and connections has been monumental for the success of the visitor economy across the North Coast. On behalf of the Board, I wish Donna all the very best with this new business as well as continued success with her existing ones, you will be missed".

Julie and Margaret (and Donna) will be all be attending the [North Coast Tourism Symposium and Gala Dinner](#), in Grafton on 28th July so come along and meet them.

Rail Trails Framework Released



Rail Trails are revitalising former rail corridors in regional NSW, turning them into recreational assets that bring social and economic benefits to their local communities. The NSW Government has released a [Rail Trail Framework](#) to expedite the creation of additional trails in NSW by clarifying the proposal and approval process, as well as providing guidance for general rail trail operation and maintenance.

This augurs well for the Northern Rivers Rail Trail; a 132km recreational trail development follows the disused Casino to Murwillumbah railway corridor which is scheduled to open in 2022/2023. The Rail Trail will be a hero experience for the North Coast providing visitors the opportunity to enjoy exceptional nature-based and recreational experiences. It has great potential to support local businesses, create jobs and boost the economy.

National Park Flood Recovery Webpage Is Now Live

NPWS has established a webpage to keep the community informed of flood recovery progress in our North Coast National Parks.

- Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/north-coast-flood-recovery for information and images of the impacts of the floods.
- Sign up for regular updates on flood recovery works using the online form. These regular updates will keep you informed about the progress of National Parks, and Wildlife Service (NPWS) flood recovery works in the Tweed Byron and Richmond River areas of the New South Wales North Coast.

Remember, before visiting a park, go to [NPWS Alerts](#) or call NPWS on 1300 072 757 (13000 PARKS) for the latest information on park closures, conditions and camping.

New Festivals Take A Taste Of The Ocean On Tour

Seafood lovers from Sydney to Dubbo will get a chance to hook some of the State's world-class seafood at a series of free events thanks to the NSW Government's Eat More NSW Seafood Grants Program.

The Taste of Seafood Festivals will kick off with four premier events in Sydney, Bermagui, Dubbo and Ballina later this year, with the remaining events to follow in the first half of 2023.

Find [more information here](#)

Tourism Insights

Working Holiday Visa Application Boom

New data shows more than 12,700 working holidaymaker applications were received by the Department of Home Affairs in May, the highest rate in the last 12 months. More than 58,200 working holidaymaker visa applications were lodged in the first five months of 2022 - about 75 per cent the rate of applications before the pandemic. Additional staff have been added to speed up processing of applications. Find [more information here](#)

NSW No.1 For International Visitors

NSW is the most popular destination in Australia for international visitors according to new data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

A total of 231,480 short-term trips were recorded in Australia during May 2022. The number of visitor arrivals on short-term trips to NSW was 81,990, an increase of 65,510 compared with May 2021.

[ABS has also released figures](#) showing there has been increased household spending in the NSW visitor economy.

Household spending in hotels, cafes and restaurants in NSW was up 9.8 per cent in May 2022 compared to the same time last year, while spending on recreation and cultural activities rose 5.8 per cent.

Strong growth was also seen in spending on miscellaneous goods and services (up 12.6 per cent), hotels cafes and restaurants (up 10.3 per cent), and recreation and cultural activities (up 10 per cent).

Regional Tourism Satellite Accounts 2020-21

The [Regional Tourism Satellite Account](#) provides annual data for Australia's tourism regions. This data includes:

- tourism gross value added (GVA) - direct, indirect, and total
- tourism gross regional product (GRP) - direct, indirect, and total
- tourism employment by full-time or part-time
- tourism consumption by visitor type (international or domestic)
- population
- number of tourism businesses.

National Visitor Survey Monthly Snapshot April 2022

The [National Visitor Survey Monthly Snapshot](#) provides statistics on how Australian residents travelled in your state or territory and nationally during this period.

April 2022 showed improved domestic travel after a COVID-impacted 2020 and 2021. Even though number of visitors and nights have not returned to pre-pandemic levels, travellers have spent more money on average.

Industry Development

Last Chance! - Accommodation Reinvestment Mentoring Program

Are you interested in getting advice on how your accommodation property can invest? Don't miss out and **APPLY NOW** for the [Accommodation Reinvestment Mentoring Program](#).

This program is **FREE** of charge and provides one-one one mentoring support with the team from [Stafford Strategy](#). **Applications Close Friday 22 July** .

Visit [our website](#) or contact [Sarah Elphinstone](#) for more information.

Closing Soon - Tourism Australia's Annual Stakeholder Engagement Survey

Tourism Australia are reviewing their industry engagement strategy and approach to ensure it remains useful and relevant. Take part in the following [Industry Engagement Survey](#). The survey closes on **Friday 22 July**.

Free Regional Workshop On Tendering For NSW Government Work

The NSW Small Business Commission, in partnership with TAFE NSW, invites you to attend a Selling to the NSW Government workshop during July and August 2022.

This is a free face to face workshop for small businesses wanting to learn how to tender for NSW Government work. [Register to attend the Coffs Harbour workshop](#) on 9 August 2022.

Tourism Australia Webinar

Minister for Trade and Tourism, and Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Don Farrell will join the next Tourism Australia Industry Webinar at 11am AEST on Friday 22 July. Phillipa Harrison will also share some insights on the Future of Demand Project, which is based on research across 20 markets, uncovering the changing travel landscape, and identifying future travel sectors and opportunities. [Register to attend here](#).

Creative Industries Flood Recovery Forum 28 & 29 July

The Northern Rivers region is home to the highest concentration of creative businesses outside of metropolitan areas. After the recent floods Arts Northern Rivers gained a sector-wide snapshot of the direct impact, financial losses and damage from both independent creatives and organisations across the region. One of the insights is the need for the creative industries to come together as a sector, hence the creation of a Forum. This two day event is designed to provide practical support for the creative industries to achieve a more sustainable recovery after the recent flood events.

The forum will be held at Lismore Heights Bowling Club. Find [more information here](#).

Staff Shortages - Welcome Travel Help Find Employees

As part of their travel service for international backpackers, Welcome to Travel helps travellers to find jobs by linking them with employers. Employers can join the employment database so they can be discovered by travellers and can post jobs. It takes just five minutes to input information through a simple questionnaire and it is completely free for employers. More information [can be found here](#).

Australian Distillers Invited To Enter Tasting Australia Spirit Awards

Australian distillers are invited to enter [Tasting Australia Spirit Awards](#). The fifth annual Tasting Australia Spirit Awards presented by Master Cask call on Australian distillers to submit their entries. Last year's awards attracted spirits from across the nation, with a record number of entries - 315 spirits from 73 distillers. Entries close 26 August.

Product And Experience Development

Clarence Valley Cultural and Community Precinct

A new Clarence Valley Cultural and Community Precinct with a tiered 270-seat auditorium will replace the Maclean Civic Hall in a proposed project to enhance the Maclean CBD and connection to the Clarence River.

The project will be funded by the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (\$4.997m), Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program (\$3m), Clarence Care and Support surplus funds (\$2.7m), proceeds of the sale of Short Street properties (\$1.36m), Maclean & District Improvement Reserve (\$600k) and Developer Contribution funds (\$1.529m). Find [more information here](#)



Crystalbrook Byron Is Bringing A Taste Of The Barossa To Byron Bay

Four weekends. Four unique wineries. Wine, dine and delight this winter. During the month of August, Crystalbrook Byron's restaurant Forest, is teaming up with some of the best wineries in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales for a month-long series of long lunches and cellar door pop-ups.

Each Saturday in August a winemaker will take over Forest and guide guests through a long, lush and totally indulgent menu with paired wines from their winery. Find details in the [Media Release](#) or [buy tickets here](#)

Grant To Enhance Nimbin For Residents, Businesses And Tourists

Nimbin will be a better place to live, work and visit, with community spaces to be revitalised as part of the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces funding provided to Lismore City Council.

The Streets as Shared Spaces program is part of the NSW Government's focused efforts to help communities and local economies following the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides funding for councils to test and pilot new and innovative ideas that adapt streets as safe, shared public spaces to support healthier, safe and resilient communities. Find [more information here](#)



Cape Byron Distillery - Single Malt Whisky Release

The launch of Cape Byron Australian single malt will be a whisky celebration hosted by Jim McEwan & Eddie Brook to punctuate the highly anticipated release of the first single malt whisky from the Bcorp certified distillery. The world-renowned master distiller has inspired generations of whisky distillers, blenders and fans through his tenures with Scotland's Islay distilleries Bowmore, Bruichladdich, Ardnahoe and now Australian distillery Cape Byron in the hinterland of Byron Bay.

Cape Byron Australian Single Malt whisky will be available in premium independent liquor retailers, whisky and cocktail bars nationally from 1st September 2022. Find [more information here](#)

Funding And Other Opportunities

[Create NSW Minor Works and Equipment \(Round Two\)](#)

Grants will be available to fund new infrastructure or to upgrade existing cultural infrastructure to make existing spaces fit for purpose. Communities will benefit with fit-for-purpose, high performing museums, theatres, performance spaces, galleries, Aboriginal Cultural Centres, Keeping Places and language centres across NSW. **Closes 8 August 2022**

[Transport Heritage Grants](#)

Aims to help the NSW community rediscover the culture, the events and the people that shaped transport in NSW over the past 160 years, as well as support the restoration and conservation of our valuable heritage assets. **Closes 9 August 2022**

[NSW Small Business Month Grants](#)

Helps business chambers, industry associations and not-for-profits to deliver events during NSW Small Business Month in November 2022 that directly benefit and support the small business community. **Closes 5 August 2022.**

[Australian of the Year Awards](#)

The Australian of the Year Awards are a great way to celebrate people who are great at what they do, contribute to our society and inspire those around them. They could be quiet achievers, community members, leaders in their field, household names, or unsung heroes. **Nominations close 31 July 2022.**

[Event Saver Program](#)

The purpose of Event Saver is to provide financial support to organisers of Major Events scheduled to be held between 15 December 2021 and Saturday 31 December 2022 where an event is cancelled or Significantly disrupted as a direct result of Public Health Orders (PHO). Stage One Expressions of Interest are now open and **close 30 September 2022.**

[Kyogle Council's Community Assistance Fund](#)

Provides one-off grants of up to \$1,000 for organisations, \$500 for individuals and \$5,000 for projects with matched funding. **Closes 30 August 2022.**

Project Development Grants empower community museums and keeping places to carry out strategic and innovative projects with mid to long term outcomes. The grants can also provide an opportunity to work productively with an appropriate museums and/or arts consultant as a skill development opportunity. **Closes 11 September 2022**

Small Grants aim to meet the short-term, collection-based requirements of community museums. There are no set categories for funding, and applications for a broad range of projects will be considered. **Closes 11 September 2022**

North Coast Events

To aid your planning and to support local events, please note these upcoming events on the North Coast or find [all events on our website](#).

Harvest Food Trail 2022

Northern Rivers Food (NRF) present their **Harvest Food Trail** over the weekend of **July 30th - 31st 2022**.

The NRF Harvest Food Trail is a carefully curated collection of very special food and beverage experiences for that showcase the region's amazing food and beverage producers. Part of enjoying food is knowing its story...understanding where your food was grown, the regenerative methods the farmer used to produce your food, the families behind the brands and their unique stories. The Harvest Food Trail offers a range of special food and beverage experiences over the weekend, including unique farm tours, 'behind the scene' insights, tastings, chef workshops, lunches and so much more.

The NRF Harvest Food Trail offers something for everyone! Create your own food discovery trail visiting farms, restaurants, distilleries, breweries and food outlets across the region. Enjoy a leisurely drive at your own pace, choosing your own itineraries over the weekend.

Port Macquarie Upcoming Events

5-7 August will see the **Caravan, Camping, 4WD, Fishing & Boat Show** returning to Wauchope Showground. This crowd-pleaser attracts thousands of visitors.

Then, from 5-22 August, the **Australian Surf Championships** which includes Short Board, Long Board, Logger, Parra and Bodyboarding comes to Port Macquarie.

River Sounds Festival

The inaugural River Sounds festival is finally here after three false starts due to Covid impacts. River Sounds has expanded to run over 3 days and is shaping up to be one of the biggest multi-day festivals held in regional NSW post Covid.

A diverse line-up of over 50 artists will perform across three stages ensuring cracking tunes and good times will be front and centre at this event. Find [more information here](#)

Joeys Mini World Cup Heads To Lismore

More than 2000 people from across NSW and Queensland will converge on Lismore from 26 September to 1 October 2022 to take part in one of the nation's largest regional football tournaments - The **Joeys Mini World Cup**, which includes age categories ranging from Under 10's to Under19's.

Destination NSW worked with Lismore City Council, the Northern Rivers Football Academy



and Football Far North Coast to secure the event for the next three years.

Woopstock Pop-up Festival - Woolgoolga

Woopstock - a FREE (registration required) pop-up festival of music, film and festivities - is coming to a mystery location in the heart of Woolgoolga from 29-31 July.

There will be daytime Yoga, Wellbeing and Drumming Sessions at the pop-up park, plus a local bike tour, and Bands and Outdoor Cinema in the evenings.

Find [more information here](#)



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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