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Check-in mandate comes into effect on Monday

In addition to venues already required to display Service NSW QR codes, the use of the Service NSW QR code will be mandatory at all workplaces and retail businesses from next Monday July 12.

Expanding the mandate will provide NSW Health contact tracers with real-time access to QR code data from a greater number of venues including supermarkets, retail stores, gyms and offices.

From July 12, it will be mandated that these additional businesses also display the Service NSW QR code and take reasonable steps to ensure people entering their premises check-in using the Service NSW QR codes or [digital sign-in sheet](#):

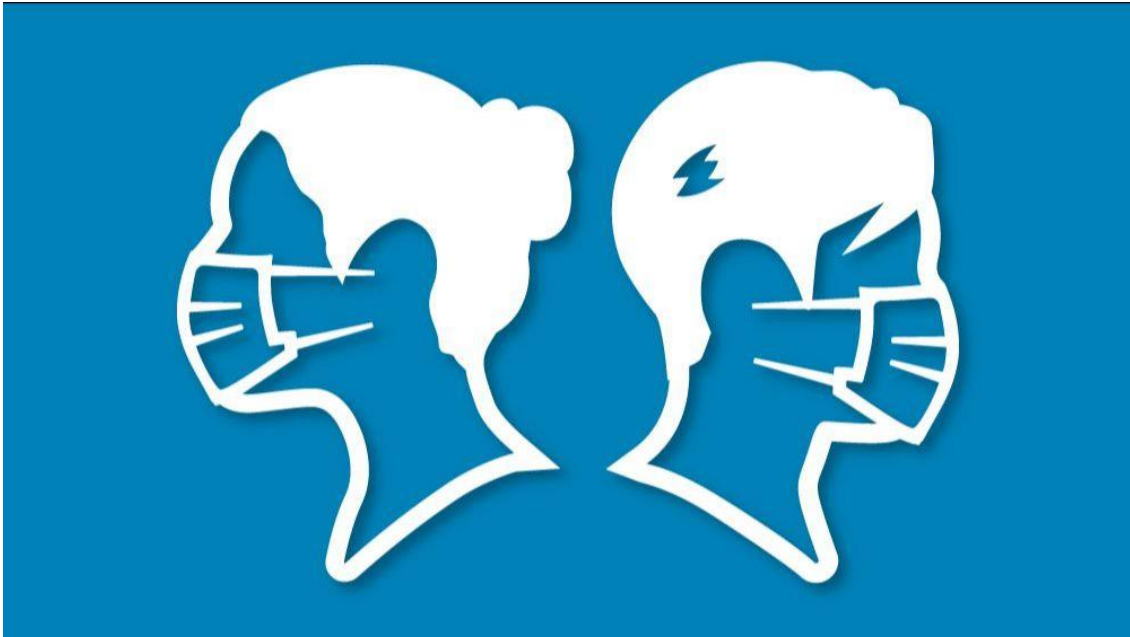
- Retail businesses and supermarkets
- Individual shops within shopping centres
- Shopping centres will also be asked to display QR codes at entry points where practicable
- Gyms
- Offices including call centres
- Manufacturing and warehousing
- Universities and TAFE
- Schools including teachers and visitors (such as parents and contractors) but excluding students.

Businesses such as hospitality and hairdressers that were already using the Service NSW QR code will also need to ensure staff and visitors such as maintenance workers and delivery drivers check-in, when they resume services after the lockdown period.

[See the full list of businesses required to display QR codes](#)

[More information about QR codes](#)

[How to support patrons without smartphones](#)



The latest on COVID-19 support grants

The NSW Government has announced a new grants package and changes to the Dine & Discover NSW program to help tens of thousands of businesses and people across NSW impacted by the current COVID-19 restrictions. This includes regional businesses impacted by a loss of trade during the school holiday period.

Applications for grants must be made through [Service NSW](#), with the application process due to go live later in July 2021.

[Details on eligibility for and usage of grant funds can be found here.](#)

We will continue to advocate for local tourism businesses who do not meet the criteria as outlined, so please provide us with any feedback you have on the program.



Congratulations to our Macleay Valley Coast Local Tourism Heroes!

Congratulations to Bec Laws, [Pilot Station Pizza](#) and Tiffany Pandey, [Costa Rica Motel](#) for being recognised as Local Tourism Heroes for the Macleay Valley Coast at the recent Destination North Coast Gala Dinner in Urunga.

There was no formal application process for the awards this year, however the evening presented a chance to single out operators who go above and beyond, that lead from the front and always put themselves forward to support their team, peers, guests, and our industry.

Bec and Tiffany have worked together tirelessly through bushfires, COVID-19 and the recent floods to build the profile of South West Rocks as a key tourist destination.

In a time when hospitality staff are hard to find, these two businesses have created a model that draws in and retains staff and in turn, developed an amazing tourism experience. They are both engaged within the tourism industry and advocates of tourism and hospitality within the [Macleay Valley Coast](#).

Through the disasters that have continued to plague us all, they have continually kept relevant and promoted not only their businesses but the whole region on social media and have made sure to support locally wherever they can.

[Learn more about the awards](#)



Destination North Coast Business Accelerator and Mentoring Program

We are pleased to announce that applications will soon open for the the Destination North Coast Business Accelerator and Mentoring Program.

The program will be specifically designed to build the knowledge and skills of local tourism businesses that are keen to accelerate and develop their businesses.

In the meantime, you are invited to join in for a series of Program Launch Events that will be held across the North Coast. Here you will learn more about the program, the benefits and opportunities for your business, how to apply and the events present an opportunity to learn from industry experts as well as network with the broader North Coast tourism industry.

There is no cost to attend the event and refreshments will be provided.

Click on the links below to register your attendance for a Launch Event near you (venues to be advised):

[Port Macquarie: Friday 23 July 9.30am-11am](#)

[Coffs Harbour: Tuesday 27 July 4pm-6pm](#)

[More information](#)



Macleay Valley Coast Tourism Workshops *rescheduled*

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions in place, we believe it is best to reschedule our next round of Tourism Industry Workshops and have selected new dates for each location that was previously announced.

The ***new*** schedule is as follows:

- 16/8/2021 South West Rocks: 3.30pm - 5pm at [Pilot Station Pizza](#)
- 17/8/2021 Crescent Head: 3.30pm - 5pm at [Surfaris Retreat](#)
- 23/8/2021 Gladstone: 3.30pm - 5pm at [The Heritage Hotel](#)
- 24/8/2021 Bellbrook: 12pm - 1.30pm at the [Bellbrook Pub](#)

We will reach out directly regarding the date changes to everyone who has already RSVP'd with us.

Otherwise, if you are interested in attending one of the workshops and have not yet put your hand up, please **RSVP** with [Ashley Gray](#). by **29 July**.



Heal Country! NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and accomplishments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and runs between the 4 – 11 July.

This year's NAIDOC Week theme is Heal Country which highlights the need to embrace First Nations culture and recognise this as part of Australian heritage.

People from all backgrounds celebrate NAIDOC Week with a great range of activities to support our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The current COVID-19 restrictions has forced the Kempsey NAIDOC Committee to postpone their week of celebrations to September but NAIDOC Week is still a time to learn and to reflect on the past and work towards a better future.

Additionally, we would like to extend a congratulations to local artist, Joseph Douglas of Dunghutti Country, for receiving a prestigious music fellowship.

[Learn more](#)



Regional Tourism Activation Fund helping to develop regional tourism

A \$30 million Regional Tourism Activation Fund will accelerate the development of new and enhanced tourism infrastructure across regional NSW.

Regional NSW is home to iconic tourist destinations and visitor attractions that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

People visiting these attractions spend important tourist dollars in local restaurants, cafes, shops and accommodation, boosting regional NSW economies and allowing money to flow into local communities.

[More information](#)



TAFE Tourism Courses on offer

[TAFE NSW](#) are running additional rounds of two fully subsidised 6 week online courses on '[Tourism Product Design and Promotion](#)' and '[Event Design & Feasibility](#)'.

These courses have been very successful and well attended by a range of tourism and events professionals from different backgrounds, as well as those wanting to join the industries.

The next round of courses begin Thursday 15th July.

Email sarah.kerrsmith2@tafensw.edu.au with any questions or for further information if you are interested.



Rockpool Motor Inn awarded grant funding

Through the Hotel Energy Uplift program the Rockpool Motor Inn, South West Rocks, has received \$11,700 in funds to install energy efficient air conditioning at the Rockpool Motor Inn.

[Learn more about the program and other funding recipients](#)



Chefs added to skilled migration list

Two weeks ago, the Australian Government announced the inclusion of 22 additional occupations to the Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List, including chefs.

See the full list [here](#).

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Alex Henley
Coordinator Economic Development & Tourism
Alex.Henley@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
0418 830 257



Ashley Gray
Tourism Development Officer
Ashley.Gray@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
0428 663 147



Kristy Forche-Baird
Economic Development Officer
kristy.forche-baird@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
02 6566 3113



Ali Briggs
Agricultural Development Officer
Ali.Briggs@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
02 6566 3200



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