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### **Kempsey Visitor Information Moving to the Slim Dusty Centre**

Kempsey Shire Council is working with the Slim Dusty Foundation to reopen the Slim Dusty Centre. As a result of this, the **Macleay Valley Coast Visitor Information Centre (VIC)** in Kempsey is moving into the Slim Dusty Centre!

This is great for tourism in the Macleay Valley Coast as it helps to enhance our visitor experience at the new centre by:

- refreshing the space with beautiful new imagery and collateral
- QR codes for ease of access to specific pages on the new [tourism website](#)
- a retail space
- a café and various art exhibitions for people to extend their visit
- a better location as it placed at an already popular visitor attraction and a short detour from the highway enabling us to service more visitors and get them to explore the Macleay Valley Coast further

In the initial stages of opening the trading hours of the centre will be:

- **Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 4pm** (cafe open 10am - 2pm)
- **Closed Monday & Public Holidays**

### **Tourism Operator Brochures**

The centre will open to the public on **Friday 18 December** with all collateral that was previously at the Val Melville VIC being transferred across but if you want to drop any **new brochures** off to the new centre please do from **19 December**. The best size to fit in our brochure stands are DL portrait.

Alex will also be dropping into businesses next week to pick up any brochures that you cannot get there yourself, please [contact her via email](#) if you would like a drop in.



## Local Jobs Program



The North Coast and the Mid North Coast Local Jobs Employment Facilitators have extended an offer of assistance to employers who are urgently looking for staff to meet current vacancies. The North Coast Employment Facilitator, as part of the Australian Government's [Local Jobs Program](#), can provide a direct connection between people who are looking for work and employers looking for staff.

The Facilitators will take a coordinated approach by establishing a business network for employers in the Accommodation, Tourism and Hospitality sector, and by providing these employers with a regular list of suitable candidates for a range of positions.

Northern NSW employers are invited to join the business network to take advantage of this opportunity. To join or to

discuss details of the arrangement please email the North Coast Employment Facilitators at [valerie.shavgarova@dese.gov.au](mailto:valerie.shavgarova@dese.gov.au) or call on 0422 910 318; or Mid North Coast Facilitator at [mark.almond@dese.gov.au](mailto:mark.almond@dese.gov.au) or call Mark on 0418919509

### **Rolling back of restrictions**

On Monday 7 December the 2 square metre rule was expanded and venue caps were removed under a major easing of restrictions, as NSW continues to record zero cases of community transmission.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian said the timing is right to ease restrictions and replace the 4 square metres rule with the [2 square metres rule](#), except at gyms and nightclubs.

[Find out more here.](#)

### **Go Local First**

NSW residents will be given \$100 worth of digital vouchers that can be used at eateries and on arts and tourism attractions across NSW as part of a \$500 million program to help business, stimulate the State's economy and support local jobs.



This program will be rolled out across the state from late January 2021.

[Read more here.](#)

### **Working Holiday Makers Supporting Tourism Recovery**

The NSW Tourism Council with support from Business NSW and other key stakeholders have recommended changes to the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa to support tourism and hospitality supply. Allowing [Working Holiday Makers to work in tourism and hospitality](#) in rural and remote areas as part of their 6 months to qualify for their second or third year WHM visa will help ease labour shortages in both sectors. There is also a call for the Government to go one step further and extend all current WHM visas for another year to encourage holders to stay and help fill crucial roles.

### **Are you an employer of seasonal or casual workers?**

Austrade has commissioned Flinders University to run a survey telling government how Australia's Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program is addressing skill needs in regional Australia.

If you have employed or tried to employ Working Holiday Makers recently, you are invited to take part in a short survey by clicking on the link below.

Read Working Holiday Maker Program [online survey information sheet](#) and [fill in the survey](#) which closes on **Wednesday 23 December 2020**.

### **Upgrades to Blackbird Flat**

The new upgrades to free camping spot - Blackbird Flat in the Hinterland that were funded under the ***Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund*** in the Hinterland look great. With new shelters have been erected, including stainless steel benches in the main shelter and the BBQ shelter, new wood BBQ installed, 2 x table settings installed under main structure and toilets have been re-sheeted.

The perfect spot to promote to our adventurous visitors that want to explore our beautiful Macleay Valley Hinterland and camp the night beside the river.

