



COVID-19 Newsletter



Jervis Bay Territory Community | Issue no. 30 | 8 October 2021

Mental Health Month – October 2021

Mental Health Month is observed each year in the month of October.

This month encourages all of us to think about our mental health and wellbeing, regardless of whether we may have a lived experience of mental illness or not. It also gives us the opportunity to understand the importance of good mental health in our everyday lives and encourages us to seek help when we need it.

The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) has set up a free and confidential counselling service for any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person who may want to have a yarn with someone about their wellbeing.

COVID-19 has impacted so many people across Australia, leaving many feeling vulnerable and isolated. If that's you, or you just want to yarn safely with someone who 'gets it', why don't you give them a call?

For more information, visit the VAHS website, or their Facebook page.



Stay-at-home orders for the JBT

To protect residents from the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the Jervis Bay Territory (JBT) lockdown will continue until the NSW Government lifts the lockdown on the Shoalhaven Local Government Area (LGA).

The NSW Government has announced this will occur on 11 October, but the COVID-19 situation can change quickly, so please check the news closer to the date.

While the JBT is in lockdown, travel between the JBT and the Shoalhaven remains allowed, but only if you have a reasonable excuse for leaving home.

Even when lockdown ends, some restrictions will still apply. For example, if you travel outside the Shoalhaven LGA, you will need to quarantine for 14 days when you return home to the JBT. People from outside the Shoalhaven cannot come into the JBT unless they have an exemption.

If you are going outside the JBT after 11 October, please remember that stricter restrictions apply in NSW for people who are not fully vaccinated. Find out more on the NSW Government COVID-19 website: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/easing-covid-19-restrictions/70-percent>

Remember, while the COVID-19 vaccine can help protect you from getting really sick, you need to still keep an eye out for any COVID-19 symptoms and get a COVID test as needed.

To stay up to date with all the latest JBT Public Health Directions, go to: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/territories/jervis-bay-territory/coronavirus-response>

Support for JBT businesses

On 29 September, the Australian Government announced that JBT businesses hit hard by COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions in the territory will be eligible to apply for the NSW COVID-19 business support scheme.

JBT businesses are now able to apply for financial assistance under one or more of the business support programs including the NSW 2021 COVID-19 Business Grant, the NSW 2021 COVID-19 Micro-business Grant and the JobSaver payment. To access the support, businesses will need to meet the relevant eligibility criteria, including showing that the Public Health Order has resulted in a 30 per cent or more decline in their turnover.

The amount of support for businesses will depend on annual turnover, with grants available to businesses with a turnover starting from \$30,000 annually. Applications are managed by Service NSW. For more information visit: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/2021-covid-19-support-package> or use the Service NSW guide to [compare the 2021 COVID-19 support grants](#) and work out which one suits your situation.



National Park Update

We would like to remind visitors that Booderee National Park remains closed for day visits and camping until further notice.

The Jervis Bay Territory Public Health Emergency Directions currently prohibit anyone from entering the Territory unless they are a resident or an essential worker.

Parks Australia is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will continue to review the health directions, and to consult with relevant authorities with a view to re-opening the park when it is safe to do so. The safety of our staff, community and visitors remains our highest priority and we will provide further updates as they become available.

We thank the community for their understanding and also acknowledge our Booderee National Park staff who are continuing to maintain and care for the national park during this extended park closure.

For updates about Booderee National Park visit our website, sign up to the mailing list using the form below, or follow us on Facebook.

For community bulletins and directions, affecting the Jervis Bay Territory, visit:

https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/territories/jervis_bay/community/bulletins/bulletins-2021



Vaccine roll-out for the Jervis Bay Territory

Over recent weeks, the Royal Flying Doctor Service team has been working closely with the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council and the Jervis Bay Territory Office to vaccinate the JBT community from COVID-19.

Vaccinations remain our best defence against getting seriously sick from COVID-19, with vaccinations now available to people aged 12 and over.

Since the vaccination rollout commenced in Wreck Bay on Monday 30 August, approximately 447 JBT residents have had their first dose of the vaccination while approximately 350 residents, including elders, children and families have rolled up their sleeves and received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to receive their first and second vaccinations, the Royal Flying Doctor Service is administering another round of shots next week – with all JBT residents strongly encouraged to come forward to help protect themselves, their families and their community from the worst impacts of COVID-19.

A big thank you to WBACC, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Jervis Bay Territory Office for coordinating the vaccination roll-out in the region and to all the local businesses and organisations that have put up their hands to help out and keep our community COVID-Safe.

A shout-out also to all residents who have come forward to be vaccinated. We anticipate an 80% vaccination rate within the Wreck Bay community, which will go a long way to supporting the ongoing health and wellbeing of JBT residents.

Remember that the vaccines are most effective when you've received two doses – without the second dose, your body will not be able to fight COVID-19 as effectively.

If you haven't yet had your first COVID-19 vaccination you still can make a booking with WBACC for the coming week to ensure you are fully protected from COVID-19.



JBT Office Update:

Reminder: counter hours are:

Tuesday 9am – 12pm and Thursday 1pm – 4pm.