



South Africa MICE opportunities

SOUTH African Tourism Minister Derek Hanekom has highlighted the country's strong potential for business events.

Speaking this week in Barcelona, Hanekom said in just three years since it was formed, the South Africa National Convention Bureau has secured 163 bids for the country between 2016 and 2020.

Collectively, they're expected to bring more than 150,000 delegates to South Africa, he said. "The potential of Africa for the MICE industry is exponential".

RTE partners with oneworld

REED Travel Exhibitions has announced an exclusive partnership with the **oneworld** airline alliance, offering clients attending Reed events across the globe "attractive discounts" on flight prices.

The agreement, said to be the "biggest such contract yet gained by any airline alliance," covers all 19 Reed events worldwide in 2016 including World Travel Market, International Luxury Travel Market and ibtm events in Barcelona, Africa, America, China and Latin America - as well as Melbourne's own AIME.

From next month, delegates for the Reed events will be able to make flight reservations at www.oneworld.com/events for travel to the shows, with discounted fares available for themselves and a companion.

All **oneworld** member airlines are on offer, including Qantas, Cathay Pacific, American Airlines, British Airways, Malaysia Airlines, Finnair, Japan Airlines, LATAM, Qatar Airways and SriLankan.

Reed Travel Exhibitions divisional director, Nick Pilbeam, said each show would have its own customised booking link as well as a 24 hour support desk.

"Being the world's largest travel event organiser, with shows on all continents and customers travelling all over the globe to attend our events, the synergy with **oneworld's** global network, with 15 major carriers and their affiliates, is an excellent fit for our customers," Pilbeam said.

Pullman Trinity Point

ACCORHOTELS has announced that new Pullman hotel will be built as part of a new \$388m integrated resort development at Trinity Point on Lake Macquarie north of Sydney.

Pullman Trinity Point Resort will be the first newbuild five star resort in the area for almost a decade, with the hotel including a 300 person conference facility.

Members of any **oneworld** airline frequent flyer program will also be able to take advantage of their usual privileges and benefits including earning miles/points and where applicable, lounge access and priority services.

Reed and **oneworld** said the "synergy of their expertise and quality of customer service will build an alliance where connections really do mean business".

Event Awards

THIS week's 2015 Australian Event Awards saw a range of winners celebrate excellence in festivals and events, with the gala held at Doltone House Jones Bay Wharf in Sydney.

The night was hosted by Catriona Rowntree from Saxton Speakers Bureau, with guests entertained by SMA Productions including their new act Swoon.

For pictures from the night see facebook.com/BusEvNews.

MEA's Event Show returns for 2016

MEETINGS & Events Australia has announced the return of The Event Show for 2016, with the second incarnation of the event to take place in August.

In what's being described as a "bold move", the showcase will be held on Thu 25 and Fri 26 August, in response to visitor focus groups and feedback from exhibitors, according to MEA ceo Linda Gaunt.

"Having the show at the end of the working week will help us to maximise visitation which will, in turn, provide more opportunities for our visitors," she said.

Feedback from this year's inaugural show was very positive, with one of the highlights being 'Australia Speaks' by Saxton Speaker Bureau.

More than 1,800 people came through the door over the two days, Gaunt said, which "proved that the show has met market demand".

The Event Show 2016 will include several new initiatives including an Entertainment Showcase, a Learning Lounge to be hosted on the main exhibition floor and an Event Pitch concept

Last days for ACTE

THE Association of Corporate Travel Executives has limited spots available for its 2015 Global Corporate Travel Conference, taking place at Sydney's Sheraton on the Park 23-24 Nov - acte.org.

for exhibitors to connect with visitors.

Next year's show will once again be held at Sydney's Randwick Racecourse, with exhibition space now available for a limited time at \$3,500.



WE'VE heard of unusual event dining arrangements, but this is a little ridiculous.

Taking the phrase "having one for the road" just a little too literally, a group of men in Perth created a sensation when they travelled along a road drinking beer at two motorised picnic tables.

The stunt (pictured below) took place in the suburb of Scarborough, with bemused drivers and passers-by greeted with a friendly thumbs-up.

Western Australian police are yet to comment on the incident, which has naturally attracted significant social media interest.

But officers are apparently searching for the participants, saying they're concerned they weren't wearing any protective clothing - let alone the clear offence of drinking and driving.



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Wilkinson wows Walkabout



THE Northern Territory's *ConveNTions Walkabout '15* roadshow held last week saw more than 150 participants at events in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

PCOs and event planners were joined by representatives from the corporate and association sectors to get all the latest news from the Top End, with 19 NT exhibitors including convention centres, accommodation providers, attractions, off-site venues and activity, tour and transport operators.

Lucky door prizes of hand-painted art pieces from the Alice Springs-based Talapi Art Centre were up for grabs as lucky door prizes, while three NT adventures for two to Alice Springs, Uluru or Darwin were also won.

The lucky trip prize-winners included Jo Morgan from the Australasian Hepatology Association in Adelaide, Peta Demery of Aussie Home Loans in Sydney and Sisilia Tjiandra of Australian Tours Management in Melbourne.

The events also included guest

appearances by Channel 9 *TODAY* show host Lisa Wilkinson, who has been associated with the NT for 18 months as an official "Mate of the Territory" Ambassador.

She spoke about her own experience of discovering the NT (above) and highlighted the destination as "a place where long-lasting memories are forged and engaging business events are staged".

In lieu of gifts for participants, a generous contribution was made by the NTCB and its participating industry partners to Territory-based non-profit group Helping People Achieve.

NT Convention Bureau executive director of business & events, Suzanne Morgan, said the roadshow had enabled invaluable engagement with key markets.

"The anecdotal feedback I've received from planners and our exhibitor partners so far would suggest this has been one of our most successful roadshows ever.

"We look forward to converting this strong interest into confirmed future business for the NT," Morgan said.

Pacific World expands into Germany

GLOBAL DMC and event management organisation Pacific World today announced the establishment of Pacific World Germany.

The move is a collaboration with European DMC Albamy, with Pacific World global md Selina Chavry saying the launch "gives our clients a truly excellent coverage of the European region".

Chavry said the partnership would enable Pacific World to provide meetings management services to clients in all major German cities as well as Austria.

The company said Germany had established itself as a key hub for meetings, with many clients keen to hold events there.

Queenstown So SPA

SOFITEL has launched its So SPA brand in Queenstown, NZ, with the newly rebranded facility at the Sofitel Queenstown promising to "take guests on an unadulterated journey of relaxation and pampering".

The move follows the 2013 launch of So SPA at sister property, Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour.

Westin for Brisbane

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts yesterday announced the 2018 debut of a new Westin Hotel in Brisbane, with the 5-star property part of a new mixed-use development called "Mary Lane," with 660 square metres of meeting and event space.



Partner Up

The low down on tech in the events world

Apps for event planning

PLANNING an event is a huge and complex undertaking, with countless tasks to keep track of, tight deadlines and multiple stakeholder demands.

Thankfully, with the use of digital technology, the enormity of event planning becomes a whole lot easier. And with most solutions now offered through apps, you gain the added convenience of accessing them on your smartphone or device, while on the go.

Here are our favourite apps for event planning:

Eventbrite - a ticketing website and app that allows you to go paperless through online event registration and ticketing. The app allows attendees to show their tickets on their phone, and for hosts to quickly scan at the door, with the attendee list updated in real time.

QuickCal - an intuitive calendar app that lets you create events using natural language, for example, 'event starts @5'. It gives you reminders, shows you multiple calendars and provides views of upcoming events.

Scanner Pro - Go paperless with

your documents and receipts by scanning them into the Scanner Pro app. It scans documents with a snapshot and converts them to PDF, ready to email or save.

Super Planner - Don't stress about running out of drinks or overcrowding anymore, Super Planner calculates venue capacities, staffing, and catering to avoid these kinds of issues.

Asana - A task management app, Asana let's your team collaborate seamlessly together. It allows for project teams to allocate, organise and manage tasks or communicate directly using chat functions.

What apps can't you do without when planning events?

Brandon Biffin is the partner at Sofitel Brisbane Central with AVPartners, which creates integrated event experiences through combining state of the art audiovisual technology, unrivalled expertise and a highly-tailored approach. www.avpartners.com



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