



EDITOR: BONNIE TAI



ICC SYDNEY OFFICIALLY WELCOMES PUBLIC

NSW Premier Mike Baird formally opened the revitalised Darling Harbour precinct yesterday, including the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney).

A commemorative plaque marking the inauguration was unveiled during a Celebrate Darling Harbour public event, with Baird stating the ICC Sydney would "revolutionise the city's business and entertainment offering for visitors and locals alike".

"ICC Sydney sits at the heart of the AU\$3.4 billion reinvigorated domain and has been delivered both on time and on budget," he said.

"It is a magnificent accomplishment for the state and will play a significant role in boosting the local economy, generating at least \$5 billion in



economic benefit for New South Wales over the next 25 years."

The venue's chief executive officer, Geoff Donaghy, was also on hand at the debut adding that the ICC Sydney would "fundamentally change the way events are experienced in Sydney".



"I am confident that ICC Sydney is truly ready to dazzle," said Donaghy. "From the time we open, the

venue will be activated with amazing events starting with exhibits like *The Hunger Games: The Exhibition* and *Brickman: Wonders of the World Exhibition*.

The ICC Sydney has also been chosen as the venue for musical performances by international artists such as Keith Urban, PJ Harvey and Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds.

"We look forward to welcoming the world through our doors," said Donaghy.

Pictured inset is NSW Premier Mike Baird and ICC Sydney chief executive Geoff Donaghy shaking hands following the unveiling of the plaque.

Today's issue of BEN
Business Events News today has three pages of news.

Staging Connections for Stamford

STAGING Connections has been appointed the event services supplier for three Stamford Hotels in NSW and Queensland.

The Stamford Plaza Brisbane, Sir Stamford Circular Quay and the Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport will now utilise Staging Connections services, joining similar partnerships with Stamford Plaza Adelaide and Stamford Grand Adelaide.

Stamford Hotels and Resorts coo Thomas Ong said Staging Connections had enhanced events offerings at the Adelaide hotels and he looked forward to extending its services.

Brisbane Showgrounds' big year

BRISBANE Showgrounds have wrapped up a successful year, holding more than 60 events attended by a total of around 85,000 people in this quarter.

Nov was the showgrounds' busiest month of the year, hosting 35 events across 30 days, including the Channel Nine Telethon which was broadcast across Queensland and raised \$12.3 million for the Children's Hospital Foundation.

Brisbane Showgrounds general manager of venue sales and marketing Jago Coyle said it had been a busy year, with almost 300 events staged since Jan.

Many new or returning events are already booked for 2017.

Exotic Dubai on show at Doltone



MICE professionals were treated to an Arabian feast at Doltone House Sydney last Thu, hosted by Dubai Tourism.

During the evening, key suppliers updated attendees on why they should pick Dubai for their next business event.

Following formal presentations, PCOs and event organisers sat down for a meal which was designed especially by celebrity chef Manu Feildel.

Pictured above at the evening soiree are: Sheree Pekovich, Dubai Tourism; Manu Feildel; Julie King, Dubai Tourism and Jodie Collins, Dubai Tourism.



Explore the new ICC Sydney in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**

MEET LURE ABELL POINT MARINA

Venue spotlight

SET alongside azure waters and offering breath-taking views of the spectacular Whitsundays Islands is Queensland's newest venue, Lure Abell Point Marina.

Launched earlier this year, the venue was part of a \$12 million redevelopment of the marina, with the space initially outlined for the Abell Point Yacht Club.

But Lure's marketing manager Joscelyn O'Keefe said a gap in the market for conferences and weddings in the region prompted a change in plans.

"We felt that the location of the venue in the heart of a world-class marina would be perfect for these markets, so the idea of Lure was born and the venue was further developed with a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, AV equipment and contemporary nautical influenced interior design to appeal to these emerging markets," she told *Business Events News*.

Capable of accommodating full conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, corporate galas, networking



function and more, Lure has three spaces that can be used either separately or combined for larger corporate events.

Incentives are also aplenty in the area, said O'Keefe, with Abell Point Marina home to some 85 commercial tourism operators offering authentic Whitsunday products and experiences.

An array of activities are accessible in the vicinity including sailing on a tallship, jetskiing to a tropical island, snorkelling

the Great Barrier Reef or sending the team out for a scenic helicopter ride to iconic Whitehaven Beach.

Suitable for small to medium sized functions, Lure Whitsundays can host up to 200 delegates theatre style.

A Whitsundays-inspired menu is available for those interested in hosting formal functions at Lure, with a range of healthy dinners on offer which can be pre-selected and tailored by the event organiser to create a memorable spread.

Check out more pics on the **BEN** facebook page by **CLICKING HERE**.



■ **FLORIDA** is set to play host to America's largest dessert event: The Americas Cake Fair, with more than 10,000 people expected to descend on the state.

Held between 13-15 Oct the Orange County Convention Centre in Orlando, an array of pastries, cakes, chocolates and sugar art will be on display.

The exhibition will be split into four themed zones: weddings, chocolate, kids and cakes.



NEW APPOINTMENT

JULIE Turpie (pictured) will join the Destination NSW team as director event development - arts, entertainment & lifestyle from Jan.

She brings to the table a strong background in events, sponsorship and commercial having worked on some of Australia's largest events and festivals including Rugby World Cup, Australian Fashion Week, Australia Day and the Boat and Motor Show at Darling Harbour.



AEG Advantage debut

AN INTERNATIONAL awareness campaign targetting convention decision makers has been launched by AEG facilities.

Dubbed AEG Advantage, the global initiative sees a specific website established to educate potential clients on the features and benefits of each of AEG Facilities' convention centres in nine locations including Hawaii, LA, Kuala Lumpur, Sydney, Brisbane, Darwin and Melbourne.

It will also serve as a portal for people to stay in tune with all the latest venue news from all around the world.

Visit www.aegadvantage.com for more information.

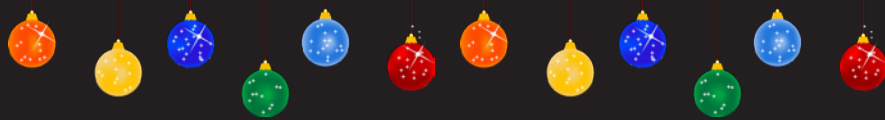
Wellington secures LGBTIQ conference

WELLINGTON has been chosen as the host city for the 2018 International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) World Conference.

More than 600 delegates are expected to convene in the NZ capital city, with Mayor Justin Lester commenting he was "proud Wellington had been chosen as the the first city in Oceania to host an ILGA World Conference".

"I wholeheartedly support the ILGA's ongoing work to achieve equality and liberation from discrimination for the people it represents," said Lester, who wrote a letter of support for the bid.





Events Calendar

WELCOME to the **BEN** events calendar.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@businesseventsnews.com.au

21-22 FEB

AIME 2017; Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more info visit www.aime.com.au

6 MAR

DMS Connect; Ivy Ballroom, Sydney; for details see www.destinationmarketing.com.au

7 MAR

DMS Connect; Park Hyatt Melbourne; for details see www.destinationmarketing.com.au

8-12 MAR

ITB 2017; Messe Berlin ExpoCenter City; for more info visit: www.itb-berlin.de

9 MAR

DMS Connect; The Maritime Room, Auckland; for details see www.destinationmarketing.com.au

30 APR - 2 MAY

MEA Conference; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); for more info see: www.meetingsevents.com.au

14-18 MAY

ATE 2017; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); details at: www.tradeevents.australia.com

28 JUL

Get Global – Where the World Meets; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); read more: www.getglobal.com.au

STAR TOWER DESIGN

THE Star Sydney has chosen architects FJMT to design its \$500 million tower development, including a six-star hotel under The Ritz Carlton brand (**BEN** 19 Sep).

The firm was chosen from three submissions judged by a panel of industry experts and will now complete final designs for submission to the NSW Department of Planning by mid next year.

The 60-storey high-rise hotel and residential development will face off against James Packer's Crown Casino under construction across Darling Harbour at Barangaroo, and will come on top of \$500 million in improvements underway in existing sections of The Star.

FJMT Design Director Richard



Francis-Jones said the firm was delighted to emerge as the preferred architect.

"Our vision is for a beautifully sculpted architecture, that will seem to grow from the great sandstone of Pyrmont," he said.

"It will be a unique tower, shaped organically in relation to the local environment and character."

The tower will feature 220 hotel rooms and 150 residences.

To see more images of the tower, **CLICK HERE**.

HNA buys Aitken Hill centre



HNA Group has purchased Melbourne's Aitken Hill conference centre for \$120 million, according to *The Australian Financial Review*.

The Chinese headquartered conglomerate, which also owns shares in Virgin Australia and a 25% stake in Hilton Worldwide, has investments in tourism, real estate, financial services & logistics.

Aitken Hill is a five-star Conference and Events venue set amongst 170 acres and located 30 mins from Melbourne CBD.

It offers 6,000m² of conferencing space, along with accommodation for 248 delegates, a six-hole golf course, pool, spa, gym, beach volleyball court, basketball court and more.

AFR is reporting the property was offered with the potential to add a seven-hectare retirement village and a 630-lot residential estate on undeveloped portions of the estate.

The venue promotes itself as "Australia's premier conference and events venue," boasting a "world class, purpose built venue that leads the way in superior conference technology".



with Penny Lion

THE Business Events Australia trade program, delivered by Tourism Australia, offers a number of opportunities for industry to meet and do business with international buyers through activities such as trade shows and educational visits.

In 2016, more than 80 Australian sellers joined us at trade shows such as Associations World Congress, IMEX Frankfurt, IMEX America, PAICE and IBTM World, with feedback showing industry satisfaction for Business Events Australia's trade show activity reached 96 per cent. More than 140 business leads were generated for Australia at these shows, demonstrating the tangible business outcomes in highlighting why there's nothing like Australia for business events.

In addition to this, our partnerships with Australia's business events industry to deliver educational visits that showcase Australia's exceptional business events products, unique experiences and event capabilities, continued to be pivotal. In total, more than 90 incentive agents and corporates have attended 12 Business Events Australia educationals in 2016, including a New Zealand visit which concluded last week and has already generated three business leads for Australia.

For more information on Business Event Australia's trade program, including how you can join us on show in 2017, visit www.australia.com/businessevents or contact bea@tourism.australia.com.



BUSINESS EVENTS AUSTRALIA

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