



Sydney Sings festival

THE NSW Government has secured 'Sydney Sings', a festival which is expected to bring in more than 11,000 visitors and deliver \$5 million in expenditure for the state capital.

"Sydney Sings is an exciting new concept that will showcase all genres of vocal performance, from musical theatre to choirs, folk and world music and solo performances with more than 70 performers expected to participate," commented Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, Stuart Ayres.

"The NSW Government is proud to have secured Sydney Sings through our tourism and major events agency Destination NSW," he continued.

The event will run from 28 Jul to 07 Aug this year and will feature massed local and international choirs, orchestra and dancers as well as live performances from chamber groups and soloists.

IACC: top meeting trends

THE International Association of Conference Centres (IACC) has released its Top Meeting Package Trends report for 2016, which focuses on key movements influencing planners and operators across the world.

Food and beverage enhancements topped the list of inclusions, with 76% of IACC members surveyed commenting they tailor packages with non-standard food and beverage items.

Coming in second in the trend report were indoor team building and meeting room configurations at 70%, while outdoor team building came in at fourth.

The study found 95% of its members surveyed have offered non traditional or "flexible" meeting packages for more than five years, resulting in an increased number of "experts" in package customisation.

"Meeting planners not only prefer easy-to-manage delegate packages for their meetings, they also expect delegate packages to be creative and fit their specific meeting objectives," said IACC ceo, Mark Cooper.

"We are seeing some very innovative meeting packages available at IACC member venues in 22 countries across the globe".

AlliedPRA new ceo

DESTINATION Management Group AlliedPRA has announced Tony Lorenz as its new chief executive officer.

Lorenz will lead the way in crafting a new strategic path within the business events space, and help drive growth.

Having formerly held ceo positions in three event-focussed businesses, Lorenz will bring to the role decades of experience within operations and marketing.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has one page of news, plus full pages from: *(click)*

- Auckland Convention Bureau
- AIME

Medical MICE boost



DEMAND for conference spaces for the healthcare and medical sectors are increasing,

according to a recent study by researchers, Conference Monitor.

During 2015, the healthcare and medical sector brought in 286 major conferences - an increase of 18% from the previous period.

"The importance of the healthcare and medical sector to the Australian conference and meetings market is underlined by the fact that it accounted for more events than the next three industry sectors combined," reads the report.

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business events news

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Gold Coast Connect

CANBERRA will play host to the Gold Coast Connect expo, an event designed to introduce meeting planners to some of Gold Coast's top event specialists.

"Gold Coast Connect reflects the needs of our buyers to research their next destination in the most efficient and productive way," commented Gold Coast Tourism director, Anna Case.

The event begins 03 Feb.

To register to attend email amanda.turder@gctourism.com



SORRY, sold out.

Those were the three words that greeted hungry patrons who had purchased tickets to the Sydney Barbeque Festival, held on Saturday.

More than 5,000 tickets were sold for the event hosted at The Domain in Sydney's CBD, which left festival-goers 'hangry' (So hungry that you're angry) and disappointed.

Attendees took to social media to voice their disappointment, flooding the Sydney Barbeque Festival page with complaints.

Luke Wilesmith, who attended the event, wrote "the BBQ festival ran out of meat within 2 hours of opening, what a joke."

"Paid \$25 to stand in line for an hour and told to come back in two hours with nothing else to do at the venue".

The organisers issued a statement which declared the event "delivered as advertised" and "there were no grounds for a refund."

"We are taking your feedback on board for next year," they wrote on their Facebook.

'Angry' to inspire teams

MUSIC legend and founding member of Aussie band 'Rose Tattoo', Angry Anderson, is set to join Rock and Roll Team Building to deliver keynote presentations and perform at corporate events and workshops.



Rock and Roll Team Building founder, Ciaran Gribbin, said he was "thrilled to now have the capability to expand our business to accommodate larger group events and having Angry on the team demonstrates that we are serious about offering a authentic rock and roll experience".

Anderson said "It's fantastic to see rock and roll being used to get corporate audiences having a bit of fun during their business events".

Gribbin, who is the front-man for rock band INXS and a Grammy-nominated songwriter, fashioned

Rock and Roll Team Building to "breakdown formal barriers" and "foster an environment of creativity and collaboration."

CLICK HERE to learn more about Rock & Roll Team Building.

Qld tourism boom

ADDITIONAL international flights secured from seven airlines to Brisbane, Cairns and the Gold Coast will bring in an extra 187,000 visitors annually and up to \$355 million in extra economic activity each year, says Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk.

"These extra flights will mean the equivalent of Townsville's population will fly into Queensland."

"It means up to 3,600 extra visitors and almost \$5 million for our economy every week," Palaszczuk continued.

AIME teaser trailer

FOLLOWING last week's announcement of the theme for this year's AIME welcome event, creative partner EMG has released a teaser trailer of what attendees can expect.


Tickets for the soiree are now available for purchase by visiting www.aime.com.au.

Visit the **Business Events News** facebook page or **CLICK HERE** to view the trailer.

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Ben on BEN



Each month Business Manager for inPlace Recruitment, Ben Carnegie, writes his observations from the recruiter's perspective to help job hunters find the perfect job. Ben has over 15 years working in five star hotels and the MICE industry and has worked on some of Australia's biggest events.

Happy New Year!

I keep hearing a lot of noise about how the start to each new year is affected by having a public holiday



(Australia Day) so close to the Christmas / New Years' break. How disruptive it is to business and in some peoples' opinions, not an appropriate date to celebrate our National Day. I'm not getting into that though.

What I can tell you is that for the start of 2016, the public holiday has made no difference to the Australian job market for either Events or the Travel industries. Employers are hiring, job seekers are looking and there is a general positive vibe about the year ahead.

Yes, I believe there will still be a lot of caution around who will get offered a new job but jobs ARE being offered!

Hot candidates in demand include: Inbound travel consultants, Sales Managers for MICE and generally anyone with a niche skill set. Happy Hunting!!

Business Events News is Australia's newest online publication dedicated to the vibrant meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

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