



business events news  
 on location in  
**Auckland**

Today's issue of *BEN* is coming to you from Auckland, NZ for CINZ Meetings 2016.

**CONVENTIONS & Incentives** New Zealand (CINZ) MEETINGS 2016 officially kicked off on Tue, with Australian buyers participating in a day experience of host city, Auckland.

Attendees at this year's event gathered at The Langham hotel that evening for the official welcome function, marking also the 20th year of MEETINGS.

The closing gala dinner will be held tonight at the Vodafone Events Centre.

Tomorrow, select Aussie buyers will depart to Waikato for a special trip to experience NZ's very own Hobbiton movie set, as featured in the *Lord of the Rings* and *Hobbit* trilogies.

## CINZ launches new diploma

**CONFIRMING** its commitment to professional education, Conventions & Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) announced the introduction of the NZ Diploma in Tourism and Conventions and Incentives (level 5) at the opening of MEETINGS yesterday.

Developed and delivered by industry training organisation ServiceIQ, the diploma has been designed to recognise the expertise of event managers who have had several years of experience within the sector.

The professional diploma incorporates aspects of conference organisation, incentives planning and venue sales and operations.

"It is crucial New Zealand invests in human infrastructure, as well as physical infrastructure to grow our country's conventions and incentives business", said CINZ chief executive, Sue Sullivan.

The main part of the program

recognises the knowledge and skills common to all sectors of the conventions and incentives industry.

Additionally, a portfolio of evidence taken from real projects successfully completed to show the individual's level of skill and expertise across a range of areas is required from people looking to acquire the diploma.

"These are the people who, with an impressive knack for making the most complex convention seem easy, play a vital role in persuading local and international clients to choose their employer's venue ahead of the competition, and often year after year," said ServiceIQ chief executive, Dean Minchington.

"This is an industry led program with an industry commitment which sets us apart", Sullivan told *BEN* yesterday.

For more information on the new diploma, **CLICK HERE**.

## 50 Best Restaurants

**MELBOURNE** has been named the host city for the World's 50 Best Restaurant Awards in 2017.

"Everything needed to create memorable food and wine experiences can be found right here in Victoria, and this confirms that the world's best recognise that," said John Eren, Minister for Tourism and Major Events.

The main awards ceremony will include 800 invited guests comprised of chefs, industry leaders and top international food and wine media and influencers.

Tourism Australia will work with Visit Victoria to present a program of high quality events in Apr, which will include a chef's feast gathering; a main awards ceremony; and touring programs around Melbourne and regional Victoria.

### Today's issue of *BEN*

*Business Events News* today has three pages of news.

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## PCOs see light at Uluru

**PICTURED:** A group of nine meeting planners from Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne recently descended on the Northern Territory to experience Uluru as a destination.

The three day familiarisation

was a joint initiative staged by Voyages Ayers Rock Resort and Northern Territory Convention Bureau.

Guests were accommodated at Sails in the Desert, where they were given the opportunity to see first-hand the Field of Light solar-powered light exhibition.

The display, which features more than 50,000 solar-powered stems take up an area of four football fields, opened in Apr (**BEN 24 Mar**) and is the artistic brainchild of famed lighting artist Bruce Munro.

In addition to the famil of the resort, attendees took an escorted walk through Wintjiri Gallery and Museum before undertaking a dot painting class with a local Indigenous artist.

Special surprises included a scenic flight over the desert landscape with Ayers Rock Helicopters and a unique airport transfer with a Uluru Motorcycle Tours (**below**).



**A NEWLYWED** woman still in her bridal gown came to the rescue of an unresponsive woman found outside of the Westin Convention Centre in Pittsburgh.

Julie Stroyne Nixon, a registered trauma nurse, had just left her wedding reception with her husband Andrew Nixon when they heard the cry for help.

"I looked over, and I think my nursing instincts took over," said Julie to *UPI*.

"I started compressions right away. They told me she didn't have a pulse.

"She was mumbling, finally, and she tried to get up," she said.

"Never knew that would happen on my wedding night!"

Her husband Andrew said he was proud of his new wife.

"It was a heroic act, but I've know her for long enough, I'm not surprised at all," he said.

## NZICC to compete with OZ

**THE** New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC) is set to aggressively compete against the large Australian convention centres for future conferences accommodating over 1,000 delegates.

Speaking at CINZ MEETINGS yesterday, group gm NZICC development and tourism Simon Jamieson said, "We're taking New Zealand to the market for that larger end convention, the ones that don't presently come here".

Slated to open in mid-2019, the 32,500m<sup>2</sup> NZICC will be situated in the heart of Auckland city and is five times larger than the current largest convention facilities in New Zealand.

Featuring 24 meeting rooms, the NZICC will have the capability to host conferences of over 3,100 people and one-off events for up to 4,000 people.

"The NZICC will be a very open, inviting and highly transparent building with no back doors", said Jamieson.

The venue will include an adjacent public laneway with retail, food and beverage outlets that will allow locals and

international visitors to meet and mingle.

When open, the NZICC is expected to attract 33,000 new international visitors, generate 101,000 additional visitor nights and \$90m of economic benefits to New Zealand annually.

"We are setting a new benchmark for hosting large and bespoke events, and this is a centre we'll be proud of when finished", said Jamieson.

## Four Points to Sydney

**FOUR** points by Sheraton will return to Sydney at a new \$2 billion mixed-use development in Chippendale, following the penning of a joint venture between Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Frasers Property Australia and Sekisui House Australia.

Named Four Points by Sheraton Sydney, Central Park, the news comes just after Starwood confirmed its 16-year management contract of the Four Points, Darling Harbour was expiring at the end of Nov.

Earmarked to open in 2018, the new hotel will feature 297 rooms (**TD 09 Jun**) and 550m<sup>2</sup> of function space, a fitness centre, lounge and adjoining pub to be operated by celebrity chef Matt Moran and his business partner Bruce Solomon.

## EEAA new board

**THE** Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) has welcomed new board members to the fold.

Newly elected members are Jim Delahunty, ExpoNet; Peter King, MCEC; David Longman, Diversified Communications Australia; Helen Mantellato, ICC Sydney; Robert Moore, Agility Fairs and Events; Matt Pearce, Talk2 Media & Events and Peter Thorpe, Sydney Showground.

## PCOA webinar

**THE** Professional Conference Organisers Association will hold a one-hour webinar titled 'The Resilient Mindset and Keys to Overcoming Adversity' on 23 Jun.

**CLICK HERE** to register.

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## Vic hotels honoured

**VICTORIA's** best lodgings have been recognised at the 2016 Tourism Accommodation Australia (Vic) Awards for Excellence last night.

The Outstanding Contribution to the Industry award went to Lord Mayor Robert Doyal; Dunkeld's Royal Mail Hotel won Regional Accommodation of the Year and Hotel Industry Rising Star went to Annabelle Gibney from Pullman Melbourne on the Park.

The dinner was attended by 550 hoteliers, event organisers and hospitality leaders.

## Heritage appointment

**DYLAN** Rushbrook has been named the new general manager of sales and marketing at Heritage Hotels in Auckland.

"I've always had great respect for Heritage Hotels and in particular the customer centric service standards they have established through building a strong internal team culture," commented Rushbrook.

Rushbrook joins Heritage having spent the last four years at SKYCITY Entertainment Group where he was director of sales, Hotels and Sky Tower.

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## MEETINGS flaunts New Zealand



**THE** 20th CINZ MEETINGS event opened at the ASB Showgrounds in Auckland yesterday, attracting over 600 buyers and media from Australia, North America, China, India and Southeast Asia.

"We know our Maori culture is a significant part of our business, and what sets us apart is this culture, our people and how we bring the outside in", said CINZ chief executive Sue Sullivan.

She revealed that Australian arrivals for conferencing and convention delegates to New Zealand were up 10% in 2015 compared to the previous year; with an average spend of \$390 per delegate per night.

"Infrastructure is also key to our success and our future growth", said Sullivan.

Updating the industry on

developments in the sector, she revealed that Queenstown's revised conference centre at Remarkable Park is expected to open in 2018, while Christchurch is currently in negotiations for a proposed convention centre for 1500 guests.

Wellington is also in the final stages of signing off on a combined convention centre and movie museum site set to open in 2019, and Auckland's NZICC is on track to open in 2019.

**Pictured** at the Australia & New Zealand media briefing yesterday is Ngahihi O Te Ra Bidois, CINZ cultural ambassador; Simon Jamieson, NZICC; Sue Sullivan, chief executive officer, CINZ; Anna Hayward, Auckland Convention Bureau and Richard Jeffrer, Vodafone Events Centre.



## Partner Up

The low down on tech in the events world

### What is a seminar?

**EDUCATIONAL** in nature, seminars bring together like-minded people to learn about a particular subject. A seminar is a more formal event, focused on training or information sharing offered in an academic instruction style. They differ from more informal events such as conferences where opinions and thoughts are shared more readily and informally. They are also usually shorter in length than other similar events.

#### What do they involve?

Seminars usually feature one or more experts on the subject matter who, with the help of visual aids, demonstrations, and interactive equipment, present their information with little participation required from attendees. A few of the common seminar types you may come across include business, personal development, and academic seminars. Seminars may also be held as part of a conference.

#### Where are they held?

Seminars are usually held in hotel

meeting spaces, conference rooms, convention centres or at an academic institution.

#### What equipment is required?

Like any great event, seminars have a heavy reliance on audiovisual aids, as this assists the presenters or trainers in communicating their knowledge to attendees. Options include staging and theming, lighting, microphones, and speakers. AVPartners has a fantastic variety of audiovisual equipment ready to make any seminar successful!

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