



## Today's issue of BEN

*Business Events News* today has two pages of news and photos plus a full page from **Tangalooma Island Resort**

## Ovolo event space

**OVOLO** Woollomooloo in Sydney has unveiled a brand new event space, following a \$20 m reno of the property.

The flexible event spaces have been affectionately nicknamed Darlo, Paddo, The Cross and The Burbs, after the surrounding inner-city suburbs.

New rooms come complete with interchangeable walls offering one large space or smaller combinations.

Meeting packages start from \$109 per delegate.

## glass brasserie dinner

**SYDNEY** restaurateur Luke Mangan has teamed up with Johnny Schuler, a leading expert on Peruvian pisco to present a Peruvian-themed dinner at glass brasserie.

Held on 09 Jul, the dinner will feature five Australian-Peruvian fusion dishes with each course especially designed by executive chef Joe Pavlovich.

Tickets are \$140 per person, email [eat@glassbrasserie.com.au](mailto:eat@glassbrasserie.com.au) to make a reservation.

## EXPO appoints GM

**DIANE** Chen has been promoted to the position of general manager of the Shenyang New World EXPO.

Chen joined EXPO in 2012 as director of business development and rose to the position of deputy gm in 2015.

## CHCH conv centre shake up

**WORKS** for the planned Christchurch Convention Centre will go ahead without construction consortium PCNZ, after negotiations between the two parties failed.

Construction of the new venue was initially slated for 2015 (BEN 10 Jun 15), however the new timeline released by Greater Christchurch Regeneration Minister Gerry Brownlee shows the project completion is now earmarked for 2019 - two years behind schedule.

The Crown will now develop the centre alone, with Brownlee confirming site preparation would start immediately and groundworks to begin in Oct.

"The government remains absolutely committed to a precinct that is world-class, and offers quality accommodation, hospitality and retail to support the convention facilities," he said.

"Having certainty around this project is important for the city's



forward planning, and I thank everyone for their patience as we took the necessary time to make this decision on the path ahead," Brownlee added.

Conventions and Incentives New Zealand boss Sue Sullivan said having a purpose-designed facility in the South Island will lift New Zealand's profile as a premium spot to do business.

"With the New Zealand International Convention Centre in Auckland and this premium boutique centre in Christchurch we can now compete on the world stage, challenging Australia and South East Asia for high-value convention business," she said.

An artist's rendition of the new design is **pictured** above.



**LEFT:** Pan Pacific Perth took home two awards at the Expedia Awards earlier this week.

Winning 'Top Performing Hotel by Room Nights' and 'Most Engaged Partner on Expedia Partner Central Conversations'; the WA lodging was the only hotel to take home more than one award at the ceremony.

Pan Pacific Perth general manager, John Kockan, said it was an honour to be presented with the awards and they were a "wonderful acknowledgement of team effort."

**Pictured** are Yolandi Venter and Derek Martin from Pan Pacific Perth accepting the accolades.

## Rock Star convention

**SYDNEY** will play host to MyTravelResearch.com's inaugural Rock Star Convention on 17 Aug.

The one-day event has been designed as a live performance of its Tourism Marketing Plan Blueprint, and will be led by marketing specialists Bronwyn White and Carolyn Childs.

For more info or to register to attend **CLICK HERE** or email [bronwyn@mytravelresearch.com](mailto:bronwyn@mytravelresearch.com).

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# business events news

30th June 2016



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## Four Points to Parramatta

**STARWOOD** Hotels & Resorts is continuing its Australian expansion, this week announcing the signing of Four Points by Sheraton Parramatta.

The move follows the deal inked between Starwood, Sekisui House and Frasers Property earlier this month for the Four Points by Sheraton Sydney, Central Park (**BEN** 16 Jun), which is earmarked to open in 2018.

As Sydney's second largest business district, Parramatta was a "natural choice" for the next Four Points hotel, said Sean Hunt, regional vp of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Pacific.

"The brand's strong Pacific presence...is reflective of its growth globally, with Four Points leading pipeline development in Starwood's portfolio," he said.

Located just a short walk from Parramatta station, the Parramatta River and Westfield Parramatta; the 271-room new build features an indoor swimming pool, fitness centre and bar and lobby lounge.



The hotel's conference and meeting facilities are projected to be among the largest available in Parramatta at 500m<sup>2</sup>.

"Parramatta has become a focal point of economic growth in Sydney, with significant investment in a range of building and construction opportunities and hotel occupancy levels reaching a new high," commented Andrew Taylor, director of acquisitions and development, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Pacific.

"There is clear demand for a new high quality international hotel with accommodation and facilities to support the growth of Western Sydney," he said.

Four Points by Sheraton Parramatta is slated to welcome guests by 2018.

### NYC to host IGLTA

**NEW** York City is set to play host to the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association's (IGLTA) annual global convention in 2019 - marking the 50th anniversary since the 1969 Stonewall uprising.

The announcement follows New York City's annual pride celebration which took place earlier this week.

### Four Seasons Jakarta

**FOUR** Seasons Hotel Jakarta has officially opened (**BEN** 26 May).

The 125-key property offers event facilities, a selection of restaurants and bars, a rejuvenating spa and a garden terrace; all within easy access to Jakarta's business district.



**A NEW** white water rafting facility specialising in team building activities and conferences has opened in South Auckland, New Zealand.

Vector Wero Whitewater Park is located adjacent to the Vodafone Events Centre and managed by four-time Olympic gold medalist Ian Ferguson.

The community owned man-made lake is filled with 20 million litres of water and features a 4.5m high waterfall and grade 4 rapids, ideal for rafting and kayaking activities (**pictured**).

Speaking at CINZ MEETINGS, Vector Wero Whitewater Park ceo, Richard Jeffery said "we've had 850 people through the Whitewater Park since it opened six weeks ago, and the corporate market has taken to it just like ducks to water".

To celebrate Vector Wero's recent opening, Vodafone Events Centre has launched a new meeting and white water rafting package priced from \$149pp.

The package includes venue hire, Tea and coffee on arrival, morning and afternoon tea, lunch, car parking, wetsuit and booties and more.

Construction of a new hotel onsite will also commence next year, which will feature 140 guest rooms and 40 residential rooms.



**WHAT** would you do to get free burgers for life?

Melbourne-based restaurant, Mr Burger, is offering a lifetime supply of its tasty wares to anybody who will formally change their surname to 'Burger'. "We like to have fun at Mr Burger. And giving someone burgers for life if they change their last name to 'Burger' seems about the most fun thing we can do," the fast food chain wrote on its website.

Group marketing manager, Maleik Edwards, told the *UK Telegraph*: "Last week was a pretty heavy week in news, between Brexit, the election and the crazy weather. We thought it was a great way of brightening people's day."

"It's a bit interesting and fun, and it's about celebrating the ridiculous things in life."

Burger lovers have until 31 Jul to take the plunge and email the company proof of their new name.



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

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