



Eventbrite/Queue

SELF-SERVICE ticketing and registration platform Eventbrite is set to expand after acquiring event management platform Queue.

Eventbrite plans to integrate Queue's planning and collaboration tools into its web platform and mobile box office solution, Eventbrite Neon, which will soon be available in Australia.

Vice president of Strategy at Eventbrite Randy Befumo said Queue would build on Eventbrite's "commitment to deliver the most innovative event solutions to our broad range of customers".

"Queue has built a suite of industry-leading products, designed specifically with the complex needs of venues in mind," he said.

"We are thrilled to welcome their talented team to the Eventbrite family and believe their expertise in music will substantially enhance our ability to deliver for customers".

MEANWHILE Eventbrite has been named Fast Company's Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Live Event with the award specifically recognising the company's introduction of Radio-frequency identification technology (**BEN** 10 Dec 15).

BCD expands tech market

BCD Meetings & Events (BCD M&E) will significantly expand its life sciences and high-tech offerings after purchasing Plan 365, a marketing logistics agency specialising in these domains.

BCD M&E's global president Scott Graf said the acquisition added nearly "50 dedicated experts" to the company's existing team.

The new members will deliver event-to-enterprise solutions out of the Life Sciences Center of Excellence.

The move brings with it Plan 365's offerings including speaker bureau management, virtual meetings, web conferencing and other program management services to "reinvigorate and amplify" go-to-market strategies through direct and indirect sales channels.

Plan 365 was founded a decade ago by Carey Barnes, who will continue to lead it under its new

ownership.

"We are confident that BCD M&E's global footprint, suite of complementary services and technology solutions will bring new value to our customers as the ability to deliver and scale globally becomes more and more critical," said Barnes.

She said Plan 635 was "delighted" to join forces with a global leader in the meetings and events space that is "not only customer-focused and solution-oriented but also committed to the success of its employees".

China Uncovered

TOURISM Australia has announced a second half day entirely dedicated to China has been added at its upcoming Destination Australia and China Uncovered conference on 16 and 17 Mar in Sydney.

For more **CLICK HERE**.

Qantas was there says Gray

PETER Gray has clarified Qantas did exhibit at AIME after telling readers in his recent column (**BEN** 03 Mar) that the Aussie carrier was not present at the event.



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Glebe Island events

SYDNEY Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island (SEC@GI) has made a successful start to 2016 with the Reed Gift Fairs Sydney which attracted more than 16,500 visitors.

The show, held 20-24 Feb is the centre's biggest trade exhibit and one of the largest in the country.

It has been an important event for SEC@GI since it started operations in 2014.

This year saw 450 homewares and gift exhibitors - with at least 115 new companies joining the show since last year.

"It was a fantastic show, we were extremely busy every day," group director of operations for Reed Exhibitions Australia Stephen Steenson said.

"Each year we refresh and update the fair to reflect the needs of both exhibitors and visitors. It's been a great collaborative effort with the SEC@GI team to continually deliver on this commitment".

There's a range of accommodation choices to suit any budget, and many have conference facilities, saving travel time and costs.

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Malaysia medical pact

MALAYSIA Airlines together with Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) are promoting Malaysia as a premier destination for medical tourism.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding Malaysia Airlines will be positioned as MHTC's preferred healthcare tourism airline and will sponsor tickets for familiarisation events to the country.

Those taking trips to Malaysia for medical procedures will be supplemented with discounted rates.

The signing took place during the recent Malaysia Healthcare Media Week.



THERE'S a new item the security team at China's major political meetings in Beijing will be on the lookout for - the selfie stick.

Delegates have now been banned from using them after self-absorbed politicians, journalists and business leaders were spotted wielding the poles around last year's meetings of the National People's Congress and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Authorities said it was time that delegates focused on their work rather than their own smiles while framing the perfect selfie snap for Instagram.

CPPCC spokesman Zhang Jing'an said people waving the long metal sticks around were "distracting" and gave a "bad impression".

Not to worry, we're sure the delegate's selfie sticks will enjoy a well-earned day off.

MTA's golden conference



CLOSE to 400 agents, guests and suppliers converged at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort on the Gold Coast over the weekend for the Mobile Travel Agents (MTA) annual conference.

The event themed 'Power of Community' was the biggest the company has ever held.

Emceed by ABC Gruen Planet regular Dan Gregory, there were also several inspirational speakers including author of best-selling novel *Mao's Last Dancer*, Li Cunxin.

Li wowed the audience with his life story which highlighted the rich rewards of hard work.

This was followed by

motivational talks, breakout sessions and workshops.

Attendees enjoyed a casual pool party held on the hotel's beach front grounds on the Friday evening and a fun run all culminating in a vibrant celebration dinner party on the Saturday evening with flash dancers and a live band.

Celebrity chef Lance Seeto and sailing Star Jessica Watson hosted a family bbq on the Sun.

Pictured above are md and co-founder of MTA, Karen Merricks together with Li Cunxin, Li's travel agent and MTA member Jonica Gilbert, and md and co-founder of MTA Roy Merricks.

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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.

Square pegs, Rounds holes

BEING a recruiter to the Events Industry has given me an excellent view on just how big and how diverse this industry is.

People working in some sectors of events won't even get an interview in other sectors as the roles are considered too different. When you are searching for a new job, most people see this as an opportunity to use their existing skills and build on them in a challenging new job. Consider your skills the square pegs and the new job, a round hole. The two don't always look like they will fit. Job seekers must know their skills, so they can match them with the selection criteria listed in the job description. You might not be comparing like for like, but it's how you articulate the similarities of your skills to a potential employer. Knowing the versatility of your skills will always open more doors to you!



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