



EEAA calendar launch

THE Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) has launched its 2016 Trade and Consumer Exhibition and Events Calendar which showcases a comprehensive list of events organised or hosted by EEAA. View the calendar **HERE**.

NEX underway

CONSTRUCTION has started on the Newcastle Exhibition and Convention Centre (NEX) - a multi-million-dollar function venue set to open later this year in Newcastle's Wests City Club.

The Altogether Perfect marketing group is positioning the development as "game-changing" and one which will "strengthen the position of the Hunter as a popular meetings destination".

It will be the largest indoor functions centre in the Hunter, region with the capacity for 2,400 people for conferences, expos, concerts, weddings or large dinner events.

"NEX will be a very exciting new addition to the MICE space in Newcastle and the broader Hunter," Altogether Perfect specialist and Business Events Facilitator for Newcastle City Council Nerida Worboys said.

The transformed space will have "flexible spaces, cutting-edge technology, private bars and menus showcasing the premium food and wine of the Hunter".

NT luxury hotel interest

CHIEF Minister of the Northern Territory Adam Giles has confirmed eight proposals have been received from investors for a new, luxury five-star hotel earmarked for Darwin's CBD.

Proposed last August (**TD** 24 Aug) the project could spur fresh interest in the region as a unique business events and tourism destination.

"New hotels of this calibre would give Darwin a significant edge in the lucrative business conference market," Minister Giles said.

The MICE market currently injects around \$89 million into the Northern Territory economy each year.

Minister Giles said such a development would help to fill a gap in demand for "high end business and leisure accommodation".

AVPartners appt

AUDIOVISUAL service provider AVPartners has positioned Matt Gibbons as its new lead senior technician at Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC).

Gibbons will head the PCEC audiovisual technicians while supporting the technical director, operations manager and technical event managers.

The qualified rigger and sought after lighting director has over 16 years industry experience.

The Government is pleased with the strong response to the Expressions of Interest process with both local and international investors keen to play a part.

The project is part of a push to create jobs and drive the development of Northern Australia, building a \$2.2 billion visitor economy by 2020.

The department of the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory Government is coordinating the development with the chosen proponent expected to be announced in Jul.

MEA Keynote speakers

MEETINGS and Events Australia (MEA) has announced its keynote speaker for the 2016 National Conference as 2015 Melbourne Cup winner Michelle Payne.

Payne will be interviewed by award-winning journalist Sara James during the 17-19 Apr conference at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

MEA ceo Linda Gaunt said they were looking for something different for this year's "Breaking Convention" conference and believe Payne is perfect.

"Michelle not only has a history of 'breaking conventions' but she is unlike many speakers we've had before," Gaunt said.

The event will see 2 days of workshops & networking events plus an awards ceremony.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **JITO Connected**.

AIME P&O winner

MANY delegates tried their luck, entering the P&O Cruises prize draw at last month's AIME Expo in Melbourne to win a seven-night cruise for two to the Pacific Islands.



Prize winner Melinda Pantelis (**pictured** above) executive assistant at Danihers Facilities Management said she could hardly believe her luck when the P&O corporate team called to congratulate her on her fabulous win.

The prize which also includes a \$500 Visa gift card is valued at over \$3,000.

The P&O Pacific Islands cruise hops from one tropical destination to the next, where passengers can experience the "Frenchy-chic" vibe of Noumea, the ancient culture of Lifou and the Caribbean atmosphere in Port Vila all while soaking up the pristine beaches.

Bon Voyage Melinda!

ENTERTAIN YOUR CLIENTS PRE-GAME

Planning an event at the upcoming Wallabies V England game? Take advantage of our pre-game entertainment package.

11 June 2016 - Australia V England

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- Wallabies Scarf
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JITO networking

JITO Connected, The Travel Daily Group and partners will be hosting an Industry Networking Night at the Ivy Sunroom in Sydney on 22 Mar from 6 to 9pm. JITO Connected is a niche online community connecting candidates with employers, within the travel industry. Guests will be capped at 300 and a free trip for two to Hawaii will be given away - full details on page 3.



TEA and biscuits may be the original fuel for those at events and functions - but we don't rely as heavily on this classic combination as the English do. Mother England faced a "biscuit crisis" after serious flooding forced United Biscuits plant in Carlisle, Cumbria to shut down last Dec. Never fear, two Emirates SkyCargo planes full of the sweet snacks have been flown into the country from Dubai to diffuse the emergency situation. Since the closure many retailers reported running out of stock of United's McVities, Jacob's and Carr's biscuit brands. United's general manager said the months since the weather event had been "tough on the entire region". The arrival of the cargo planes will be a huge saviour for a nation that runs on tea and biscuits.



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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) **F:** 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)
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Hawkesbury on a plate



QANTAS and SunLux Collection organised a successful event over the weekend bringing together two renowned chefs at the Cooks Co-Op on the Hawkesbury River. Jason Franco who is head chef at Cape Town's The Table Bay Hotel South Africa (forming part of the SunLux Collection by Sun International) joined together with founder of the Cooks Co-Op Marty Boetz to create an incredible "foraged feast" for their guests. Boetz and Franco share a passion for sourcing seasonal, local produce in their cooking and put their combined talents together to create a stunning Hawkesbury and South African

inspired meal. VIP guests included travel agents who sell South Africa along with media outlets. During Jason's trip to Australia he also attended the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival where he presented a special MasterClass. **Pictured** above are the two chefs Jason Franco and Marty Boetz.

Hawaii proposal

THE Hawaii Tourism Authority is requesting proposals for an external leisure destination marketing management & representation in combination with meetings, conventions and incentive services for US, Canada, and Japan. **CLICK HERE** for more info.

New ExpoNet site

EXPONET has launched its new and improved website featuring tailored resources and an updated suite of online tools. For the first time exhibitors will have access to a step by step guide on how to prepare their exhibit and event planners can find event styling inspiration. The "ExpoConnect" tool will house floor plans, artwork, schedules and order details in one location which can be updated in real time. A news page will also keep users abreast of what's happening. To see the new website go to www.exponet.com.au.

BEA Insights with Penny Lion



AUSTRALIA'S business events industry is exceptional at delivering business events, and sharing details of our successes as well as the unique offering of our destination is vital for generating future business. The team at Business Events Australia, Tourism Australia's specialist unit, is firmly focussed on promoting Australia internationally working in partnership with bureaux and the industry to tell compelling stories to our key international markets. Profiling Australia's unparalleled business events offering, increases awareness and preference for Australia amongst our target customers and in return converts business for the industry. Our social media channels, website and content partnerships in our key markets are just a few of the channels we're using to showcase the latest industry highlights from across our nation. We also work with Australian industry to capture video content for both delegate acquisition, and event case studies. This content provides an opportunity to highlight Australia's prowess in sectors including medical research and professional services, demonstrating our strengths as a great business events destination. How can you get involved? Keep us updated so together, we can continue to showcase what makes Australia the world's most exceptional place for business events. Share your news with us by emailing the Business Events Australia's Content and Communication manager, Rebecca Berringer at rberringer@tourism.australia.com.

Win a trip for two to HAWAII



Prize sponsored by Hawaiian Airlines and winner to be drawn at the event subject to terms and conditions

JITO CONNECTED Industry Networking Night

Jito Connected and The Travel Daily Group have partnered with some key industry players to bring you our largest networking night of the year

This event is a traditional mix of complimentary food, drinks and networking & is open to anyone in the Travel & Hotel Industry at all levels

22nd March

Limited to 300 guests
RSVP by 15th March
Your attendance will be confirmed subject to availability

Register & RSVP on the
JITO CONNECTED APP
by downloading it now from the
Apple Store and **Google Play**
Set up your profile, and RSVP
by clicking on the (going) button
in the event section of the APP
CLICK & DOWNLOAD NOW



6pm – 9pm

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