



BEV upgrades site

BUSINESS Events Victoria has launched a new website, designed to help buyers find the best regional venue to host their next business event.

Key features from the new website include a wishlist function which allows buyers to collate venues they're interested in, improved search functionality to better find relevant venues and the ability to view special offers on their individual profile pages.

"Business Events Victoria's aim is to grow regional Victoria as a business events destination, and we think the new website and its features will assist in achieving this goal," commented executive officer, Chris Porter.

"We have plans to grow and improve the website even further into the future to continue offering benefits to our members and the buying industry."

[CLICK HERE](#) to view.

Outrigger appoints

PAUL K. Richardson has been named Outrigger's executive vice president and chief operating officer responsible for global operations spanning the Asia Pacific, Oceania and Indian Ocean regions.

Richardson will be based in Hawaii, where he will oversee and direct strategic operational leadership and provide guidance on key topics and issues affecting the company.

APT seeing groups success

AUSTRALIAN cruise and tour giant APT is actively targeting the groups and incentives market, with a first time appearance at AIME in Feb this year seeing strong interest from business events buyers.

Speaking to **BEN** in Europe last week, the company's Channel Strategy manager Damian Borg said the company's product range was particularly suited to group departures, with a fleet of river cruise ships in Europe and Asia available for part or full charter for groups of up to 160.

APT also operates three small expedition ships with capacity for 110 passengers, while the product range features rail journeys in Europe too.

"We've made no secret of the fact that we are chasing group business," Borg said, confirming the company had already received bookings as a result of

its participation at AIME.

APT can operate exclusive group departures, on-board conferences and high end incentives, with a range of exclusive shore excursions also available.

The product range extends to private jet journeys under sister brand Captain's Choice.

APT's MICE proposition includes preferred pricing and the option of total exclusivity for full charters; special prices for groups of 20 cabins or more; as well as the ability to hold an allocation of up to 20 cabins at brochure pricing along with an FOC policy after 10 passengers are booked.

CeBIT 2016 kickoff

MEGA information technology convention, CeBit, officially kicks off today at the Sydney Olympic Park.

The three-day event is expected to attract around 15,000 attendees, 200 speakers and 300 exhibitors.

NSW Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts remarked "CeBIT confirms that NSW is the nation's leader when it comes to the ICT and digital industries.

"We are sending a message to the world that NSW has a thriving and diverse ICT community, supported by strong research and development capacity, which can support both startups and established tech firms," he said.

Amongst those attending will be a number of NSW Govt supported companies who will be launching innovative new products for the first time at the convention.

The new products include: a new app by Utilix which allows users to avoid striking underground pipes during construction work, and driver monitoring software.

MEANWHILE, the NSW Government has today announced it was committed to keeping CeBIT Australia in Sydney for the next three years.

AU Incentive films

BUSINESS Events Australia has released a suite of new films to be pushed out internationally through its various media channels. The videos will be used to promote Australia as a premium incentive destination. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch.

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.

Events job market

THE Job Market for Events is looking strong if you're a job seeker. Currently there are more job opportunities available

than we've seen in over 12 months and this is at all levels. Businesses are reporting that they are extremely busy and market confidence is strong. If you're in the market for new staff though, quality candidates are scarce. The skills shortage in our industry is steadily worsening. Currently we have event managers ready to take a step up in their careers but there are few event coordinators ready to take the step into event managers roles. Companies are finding time constraints an issue to take on juniors which is leading to an unbalanced work force. Those that can take on juniors are not only benefiting their business but the industry as a whole. Let's find time for the new players as they will be the managers of tomorrow, but still need our guidance today.



Luxperience famil

REGISTRATIONS to attend Luxperience's Australian familiarisation program are now open.

Global buyers will be given the opportunity to cruise WA's Kimberley region on a small ship, stay at a luxury beach resort in the Whitsundays and tour remote outback lodges in the Northern Territory, swim with sea lions off the coast of South Australia and more - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

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business events news

2nd May 2016

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Fiji Expo countdown

THE countdown for Fiji's largest tourism industry event is on, with only one day to go until opening.

Taking place from 03-05 May, the expo will converge 112 Fijian exhibitors with key buyers from 19 different countries.

A host of evening networking events have been planned across the three-day showcase, with organisers promising attendees an "unforgettable Fijian tourism industry experience".

FTE global public relations manager, Patricia Mallam, commented that the networking nights give buyers the chance to socialise with everyone in the tourism industry - "a sector of truly strategic importance for the Fijian economy because of its high capacity to generate economic growth and employment."

BEA promotes Australia at IMEX



FOR three days the Business Events Australia team (BEA) (pictured) promoted Australia as an associations meeting destination to key buyers and customers at the Associations World Congress.

At IMEX Frankfurt, the Aussie stand showcased a strong contingent of Australian business events products and destinations, with 18 stand partners - an increase from the 15 attending the prior year.

During the course of the event, the BEA team conducted business appointments, group destination

presentations and participated in networking opportunities.

BEA reported that IMEX sellers already indicated that they have already received 40 solid leads as a result of the event.

cievents dominates

GLOBAL corporate events agency, cievents, has won the national title for Corporate Meeting of the Year at the MEA National Awards, for their work on the Subaru product launch.

Working closely with Subaru, cievents produced a product launch for Dealer Principals and their partners at the One&Only Hayman Island with exclusive use - a first for the new resort.

Group general manager Australia, Fiona Batten, commented "we are very proud to accept this award on behalf of our client, Subaru."

"We are fortunate to have strategic relationships with our clients that allow us to work together in a true partnership".

The MEA Industry Awards recognise excellent performance in event management within the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) industry.



THE purr-fect convention for cat lovers kicked-off over the weekend at the 62nd Palmerston North Cat Club Show in New Zealand.

Billed as the main event on the cat calendar this year, the show featured 240 cats on display.

Cats were judged from a blueprint, and then marked on how close the cat came to the actual breed.

When questioned by Stuff about the crazy cat lady cliché, Cat Club President Denise Grace said "a huge spectrum of people love cats and show cats, you really can't stereotype it because it is all sorts."

"People love cats for different reasons, they're companions. When the whole world is against you, your cat will still love you."

Wyndham Dubai

WYNDHAM Dubai Marina has officially debuted - the first Wyndham-branded property in the UAE.

The 32-storey, 486-room property is situated near Bluewater Island and close to transportation links including Dubai Metro and Tram Services.

The new property offers meeting and conference space as well as leisure amenities including spa, gym and swimming pool.

Hospitality Expo

THE Hospitality Expo 2016 will bring together over 100 industry suppliers showcasing premium hospitality products and services.

The expo will kick off 10-11 May at Crown Perth from 12pm-6pm.

Tickets can be purchased for \$50 by **CLICKING HERE**.

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