



EDITOR: BONNIE TAI



QUAKE CAN'T SHAKE KIWI CAPITAL EVENTS

WELLINGTON'S conference and business events infrastructure remains fully operational, following the magnitude 7.5 quake which shook the capital and Kaikoura earlier this week.

The city's portfolio of conference and performance venues have all been inspected and deemed safe to occupy, with the CBD also completely open for business, confirmed David Perks, gm venues and projects, Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA).

He said while minor clean-up and cosmetic repairs were made, "delegates and organisers will have no issues getting to, staying in and enjoying Wellington during their conferences".

Conference and Incentives New Zealand's chief executive officer Sue O'Sullivan reiterated



Perks' safety message, commenting that visitors to New Zealand could be assured of a warm welcome upon arrival.

"Earthquakes are part of life here and while unpredictable, we are well-equipped to deal with them," she commented.

O'Sullivan added: "In many parts of the country, including

Christchurch and New Zealand's largest city, Auckland daily life is unaffected".

Wellington will play host to a series of multi-day conferences this week, which are set to be hosted at the Michael Fowler Centre, TSB Bank Arena & Shed 6, plus scheduled performance events at St James Theatre and The Opera House.

MEANWHILE, Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism's (CCT) chief executive Vic Allen is urging visitors to keep their travel plans, reassuring visitors the disruption is confined to Kaikoura, which is located 180 kilometres north of the city.

Allen said whilst further aftershocks can be expected the city is well-prepared for earthquakes and set up to assist visitors.

This week, Christchurch will host one of its largest-ever conferences, the SingularityU New Zealand Summit, which will bring 1,500 delegates to the city.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news and a full page from *Novotel Wollongong*.

EEAA to grow WA membership base

THE Exhibition and Event Association of Australia held three events across two days recently, in a bid to strengthen its membership in the West.

Group chief executive officer Joyce Dimascio said the Association's WA visit was so well received that the EEAA Board would head to Western Australia for the first time next year.

"Our members, particularly the Perth Convention Bureau and Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, see great value in working with EEAA and they are very committed to assisting us to grow business events in the west, especially in the conference and expo markets," DiMascio remarked.

PCOs impressed by Ballarat



REGIONAL Victoria's Ballarat had all eyes on it last weekend, as a group of events organisers experienced all that the historical city had to offer on an exclusive famil.

The day commenced at Sovereign Hill, where the group explored seven unique meeting and function rooms ideal for both day meetings and full residential conferences.

Next, the group headed to Craig's Royal Hotel for lunch where they took note of the venue's five meeting rooms before heading off to medieval adventure park Krystal Castle.

The group are **pictured** above at Krystal Castle following a fantastic feast fit for kings.

Grand Millenium New Zealand launch

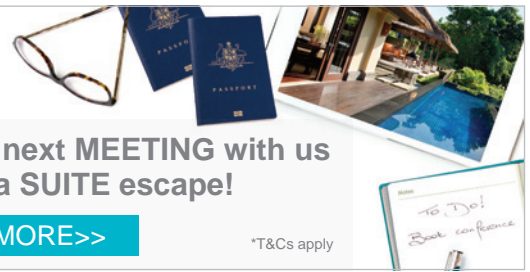
OVER 300 guests attended the launch of the all-new Grand Millennium Auckland earlier this week.

The hotel features 1,619m² of conference space, which includes a grand ball room, various meeting venues, a lounge bar and much more.

Land Forces a success

LAND Forces 2016, one of the largest conferences to be held in Adelaide, has been deemed a success.

Collated feedback showed 90% of trade visitors reported the state's facilities to be excellent or above average and 84% found Adelaide as a conference destination to be excellent or above average.



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DCC wins big at Brolga Awards



THE Darwin Convention Centre took home top honours in the Business Event Venue category at the 2016 Brolga Tourism Awards over the weekend.

Commenting on the accolade, the winning venue's general manager Janet Hamilton said "our passion is always to showcase the Darwin Convention Centre as a modern, world-class venue with outstanding dining experiences and exceptional service".

The Darwin Convention Centre team is **pictured** above accepting the award.

Partner Up

The low down on tech in the events world

How to impress with a business dinner

BUSINESS dinners are a great way to combine relaxed fun and entertainment with professionalism and networking. They offer guests a chance to mingle, catch up, and learn more about each other in a more casual environment than the office or board meeting scene.

A business dinner might be planned to celebrate milestones; to thank and recognise clients, customers or staff; to introduce new products, services, or ideas; or simply to continue with long-standing traditions. They offer guests a chance to let their hair down while also cementing your brand identity in their minds.

Some things to keep in mind when planning a business dinner to impress include:

Venue

First things first – a great venue will delight your guests as soon as they arrive. Perhaps the venue is in a gorgeous location, is modern, sleek or awe-inspiring. Ensure your guests enter your business

dinner with a smile on their face.

Entertainment

For a business dinner, an engaging or classy choice of entertainment is best, such as a presentation by a motivational speaker, or a smooth and slow band to set the mood.

Catering

Impressive food doesn't need to be oysters or caviar. Your chosen venue may offer dining specialties that can give your dinner a point of difference. Often, the most impressive options involve presenting tried and true favourites in new ways.

AV and styling

Advances in audiovisual technology mean there are endless ways to inspire guests at a business dinner. From lighting up the tables in your brand colours, to projecting your logo onto the walls – there are no shortage of ways to thrill. Add this to themed styling and decor, and your guests will be talking about this dinner for weeks to come!

Andrew Delangen is the Partner at Sofitel Noosa Pacific Resort for AVPartners, one of their newest venues. AVPartners create integrated event experiences through combining state-of-the-art audiovisual technology, unrivalled expertise and a highly-tailored approach. www.avpartners.com



BCEC to host WMC

THE Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) has been selected to host the 26th World Mining Congress (WMC) in 2021.

Around 2,000 delegates from 40 member countries are expected to attend the four-day conference, which is estimated to generate \$5 million in economic benefit for the state.

BCEC general manager Bob O'Keefe said "being selected to host the WMC further endorsed the centre's unique capabilities".



THE faithful and allergen sensitive need not suffer anymore.

St Joseph's Church in Waitara New Zealand has announced it will now offer a gluten-free option to those who attend communion.

Gluten-intolerant Christians will now be handed a special round receptacle to hold their communion wafers to ensure cross contamination doesn't occur at church.



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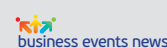
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