



QLD STEPS UP AFTER CYCLONE

QUEENSLANDERS have come together to ensure the success of upcoming events in the wake of Cyclone Debbie, including the annual Panalitix Accountants' Conference which has shifted from Hamilton Island to the Sunshine Coast.

Upon hearing the island could no longer host the 400-delegate event, Novotel Twin Waters Resort (**pictured** right) stepped in to ensure it could still go ahead as scheduled.

As conference organisers declared "the show must go on," the hotel's events team arranged function space, conference staging, an awards night and accommodation for the group - even finding extra rooms at neighbouring resorts to house all the delegates.



Visit Sunshine Coast ceo Simon Latchford, who previously worked for Whitsunday Tourism, said it was a great example of Queensland destinations helping each other out in a time of need.

"Fortunately the Sunshine Coast escaped most of

Debbie's fury, so we were in a good position to take on the conference and it is a tribute to the Novotel conference and events team that they were able to turn this around so quickly."

The conference will be held from 26-30 Apr and includes the Panalitix Annual Awards.

ICC Syd wins best project

THE International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) has been named Australia's best infrastructure project at the Infrastructure Partnerships Australia National Awards.

It was recognised for its design, financial performance and its role in delivering new business events to Australia.

ICC Sydney ceo Geoff Donaghy said the venue had performed well since its Dec opening, delivering almost 200 events and welcoming 300,000 people.

"ICC Sydney is a new \$1.5 billion events precinct that has been specifically designed to welcome more events and patrons to Sydney while providing the best possible experience," Donaghy said.

MCB launches Planners Guide

THE Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) has launched the 2017 edition of its Melbourne Planner's Guide for meeting planners and event organisers.

With over 300 products, services and incentive activities listed from MCB industry partners, the free publication provides information for planning a business event with a range of experiences outlined for delegates to enjoy.

It provides activities in the areas of art, culture, shopping, dining and wildlife encounters, as well as a full list of hotels, venues specialist services and pre- and post-touring suppliers.

Maps are included to assist in logistics planning.

CLICK HERE to view and download a copy of the guide.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

Fiji Marriott Momi Bay opens



FIJI Marriott Resort Momi Bay has opened its doors, featuring a picturesque function area.

The resort features 114 bure villas, 22 over-water bure villas and a 136 rooms.

There is a 360m² ballroom for conferences and meetings, plus a 1,200m² outdoor

beachfront pre-function events space.

Marriott designed the venue with flexibility in mind.

The conference and function areas features the latest technology, access to gourmet catering and expert event planning services.

Business Development Manager

Newly created, as a result of growth and a strategic vision for continuing excellence, ID have a current vacancy for an experienced, and energetic

Business Development Manager, to continue our growth and to bring their pro-active personality and energy to the ID family. The BDM will develop and maximise revenue opportunities within the domestic market for business within Australia and off shore through tele-marketing, cold calls and face to face sales activities for corporate business.

If this sounds like an opportunity for you, please have a look and apply via www.seek.com.au/job/33193441





See what's new in Melbourne conference and meeting venues in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read

travelBulletin



Events Calendar

WELCOME to the **BEN** events calendar.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@businesseventsnews.com.au

30 APR - 2 MAY

MEA Conference; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); for more info see: www.meetingsevents.com.au

14 - 18 MAY

ATE 2017; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); details at: www.tradeevents.australia.com

24-25 MAY

This is Gold Coast PCO Famil; Gold Coast; for more info visit: www.visitgoldcoast.com

25 - 27 MAY

This is Gold Coast Business Exchange; Gold Coast; apply here: www.visitgoldcoast.com

31 MAY - 1 JUN

CINZ Meetings 2017; ASB Showgrounds, Auckland NZ; for more info visit: www.meetings.co.nz

20 - 21 JUL

The Travel Industry Exhibition & Conference; Luna Park Sydney; register here: travelindustryexpo.com.au

25 - 26 JUL

The Travel Industry Exhibition & Conference; MCEC Melbourne; register here: travelindustryexpo.com.au

28 JUL

Get Global - Where the World Meets; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); read more: www.getglobal.com.au

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi, Vietnam

venue spotlight

THE Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi has a long tradition as the city's premium venue for events, conferences and meetings.

The luxury hotel is nestled in the Old Quarter of Hanoi, just a short walking

distance from many of the city's best-known historical and cultural landmarks.

Having opened in 1901, the hotel was inspired by classic French architecture with a hint of Vietnamese style and has facilities for all groups - including restaurants, spas and a gym.

The hotel has a total of nine meeting rooms which can be arranged in various forms such as theatre, banquet and boardroom to suit any event, and can accommodate groups from



six to 200 guests.

Metropole includes 364 rooms, with some named after famous residents and guests who stayed such as the Charlie Chaplin and Graham Greene suites.

The property has hosted many VIP guests in recent years including Prince William, John Kerry, Angelina Jolie & Brad Pitt.

With the launch of direct flights from Sydney to Hanoi, two weeks ago on Vietnam Airlines, holding an event in Hanoi more accessible.

Launceston wins farm congress

LAUNCESTON will host the International Farm Management Association (IFMA) world congress in Mar 2019.

The five-day event will see more than 250 international delegates discuss farm management issues in a global context and take part in pre- and post-conference famils.

IFMA will be based at the Grand Chancellor Conference Centre, but will also use other locations in northern Tasmania.

PCB updated website

THE Perth Convention Bureau (PCB) is preparing to launch a new website in mid-May, having moved to a new Simpleview customer relationship management system in Jan.

The new website, also developed by Simpleview, will be more interactive and easier for visitors to discover information on Perth and the PCB.



WHO loves hot buns, beer and Easter eggs?

If you have an Easter function, then you should take inspiration from the annual Easter Blues & Brews Festival in Port Stephens, which runs from Good Friday until Easter Monday.

The catering options include once-a-year beers created by Murray's Craft Brewing, including Chocolate Easter Egg Beer and Hot Cross Bun Beer.

While adults soak up their liquid hot cross buns, kids will be able to enjoy interactive games, arts and crafts and face painting.

Local musician Tom Blake will also dish out indie and roots tunes at the free Easter blues concert.

Business Events News is Australia's newest online publication dedicated to the vibrant meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector. Sign up for a free subscription at www.businesseventsnews.com.au. Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia. Street address: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia. P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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