



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

EEAA names Lane as MC

THE Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) has revealed the MC for its 2017 Awards for Excellence gala dinner will be Australian comedian Colin Lane.

The Lano & Woodley star will lead the event at the Touring Hall, Melbourne Museum on 29 Nov, with nominees for the Richard Geddes Young Achiever Award also announced.

The four young finalists "will lead our industry to a very bright future," EEAA ceo, Joyce DiMascio said.

RECORD PCOA CONFERENCE

A RECORD crowd is expected to descend on the Gold Coast this weekend for the start of the annual PCOA Conference & Exhibition at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Over 400 professional conference organisers have registered to attend the 10th anniversary of the event.

In a sign of its popularity, all 60 exhibitor booths have been sold since Jun, with a growing waiting list in place since Jul.

Program director Peta Moore said the three-day event running from Sun 26 to Tue 28 Nov packed in expert speakers, panel and interactive sessions as well as networking events.

"This year's theme of MEETING Beyond Tomorrow will encourage attendees to discuss ways to take conferencing to the next level and continue the growth of the business events sector," Moore said.

The line-up of speakers



includes Gus Balbontin from Roshamo, mind reader Anthony Laye and president of global body, the International Association of Professional Congress Organisers, Jan Tonkin.

On Sun, delegates will be able to attend a series of workshops, while Mon and Tue will focus on a number of presentations and several plenary sessions.

A gala dinner will be held on

Mon at Sea World.

Exhibitors at the event cover a wide array of areas including hotels, event services, airlines, tourist attractions and convention bureaux from Australia, NZ, the Pacific & Asia.

CINZ will have the CINZ MEETINGS 2018 smoothie bike, which will allow delegates to peddle blend their own juice while networking at the event.



THE annual World Toilet Summit is taking place at the Melbourne Convention Centre from 20-21 Nov where waste experts will discuss problems such as water sanitation with a flush of creative vigor.

The event will aim to provide a forum to chat about all things toilet-related and will presumably conclude with a thorough washing of hands.



Sell TNQ

TROPICAL North Queensland hosted 30 delegates over the weekend for its annual Sell TNQ program.

Commencing 17 Nov and concluding on Wed 22 Nov, the event is designed to promote Cairns, Palm Cove and Port Douglas as the perfect locations to host business events.

"Sell TNQ showcases the diversity of our region and is an invaluable opportunity for buyers to experience unique event options first-hand and to network with our members while they learn about the region's products," Tourism Tropical North Queensland director of business and tourism events Rosie Douglas said.

Staging Connections signs deal

STAGING Connections has secured a brand new contract with Sofitel Sydney Wentworth.

The contract marks the first time the five-star hotel has chosen to outsource its AV services to a dedicated supplier.

A new deal will enable Sofitel to receive a far wider range of services than they previously could as well as access to resources to support larger and more technical events, according to Staging Connections.

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STRONG SEP FOR EVTS

THE latest visitor stats from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show the number of int'l visitors entering Australia for

conferences and conventions was 27,900 in Sep 2017.

This was an increase of 22%, compared to Sep 2016, when the figure was 22,700.

The number was slightly down from Aug, when 28,300 delegates entered Australia, but Sep was still the second best month for int'l arrivals this year.

The result marked the first time three consecutive months have each had over 25,000 international delegates arrive into Australia for a convention or conference.

So far this year there have been 190,800 delegates touched down in Australia for the purpose of conventions and conferences, which is a 26.4% increase from the same period last year.

Last year in the nine months to Sep 2016, 150,900 entered Australia for business events.

BCEC record first quarter

BRISBANE Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) has confirmed a record 51 new conferences during the first quarter of the financial year.

Events were secured in the key sectors of health, research and science, education and technology.

The conferences will bring 20,000 delegates to Brisbane and deliver 55,000 room nights for the city's hotels, generating \$30 million in economic benefit.

The latest result follows a strong end of financial year performance by Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, which saw the facility confirm \$197.6m worth of new conference business for Brisbane and Queensland.

Noosa on show to MICE planners

TOURISM Noosa, in partnership with Peppers Noosa Resort & Villas, recently hosted 25 event managers and PCOs for a Noosa Showcase famil.

The trip highlighted the conference facilities at Peppers Noosa Resort & Villas and local activities including jet ski riding, a 4WD experience to Rainbow Beach and a spa treatment at Stephanie's Ocean Spa.

Pictured is the group of meeting planners enjoying a ferry ride.



Events Calendar

WELCOME to the **BEN** events calendar.

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

26 - 28 NOV

PCOA Conference; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; details here: www.pco.asn.au

29 - 30 NOV

EEAA 2017 Conference; Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; register here: www.eeaa.com.au

3 - 9 DEC

Dreamtime 2017; Brisbane, Queensland; details here: tradeevents.australia.com

20 -21 FEB

AIME 2018; Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; visit: www.aime.com.au

7 - 11 MAR

ITB Berlin; Messe Berlin ExpoCenter City; for details see: www.itb-berlin.de

15 - 19 APR

ATE 2018; Adelaide Convention Centre; register here: www.events.tourism.australia.com

6 - 8 MAY

MEA 2018; Adelaide Convention Centre; register to attend: www.mea2018.com.au



with Frank Meany
Director, One Vision Pty Ltd

What you should know before signing a venue contract

SOME venues will entice you with an offer of no extra charges for your AV equipment with room hire. Make sure you know exactly what equipment and labour this covers. Is the room hire a lot higher than other venues to offset the "free" equipment. Always get any free of charge (FOCs) offers in writing. Will you have the same crew each day for the event? Having consistent crew throughout an event means that you should only have to brief the personnel once. Many venues will sell a room for three functions in a day - breakfast, lunch and then dinner. If you have to pack down your show after a day of conferencing for another function in the same room you may be up for the extra labour to strike and reset the room.

Know what screens are in the rooms. Stretched / squashed slides will misshape all the graphics and look unprofessional.

Be wary of any venue internet connections that have a download limit per day, or excess data charges after a low use threshold.

Use an experienced technical director to take care of the technical complexities and sort out issues on your behalf. A technical director will interpret what you want to achieve and advise how to best fit into your budget.

