



NSW PREMIER BECOMES PATRON

BUSINESS Events Sydney (BESydney) has named New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian as patron of the event organisation's Ambassador Program.

As patron, Berejiklian will support the efforts of Ambassadors who volunteer their time to help New South Wales obtain business events.

The announcement comes off the back of Berejiklian's existing support for the business events sector, which included lobbying for Sydney to host the 2023 World Roads Congress.

On a recent trip to Japan and Korea, Berejiklian discussed the state's strengths in infrastructure and innovation with key decision makers for the event.

Berejiklian said BESydney played a vital role in increasing Sydney's profile on the international stage.

"Together we're securing international events which



provide lasting community benefits across health, education, infrastructure and technology," she said.

Berejiklian also worked to secure the MedInfo conference in 2021, which will be staged at the International Convention Centre Sydney and bring several thousand delegates to the city. BESydney ceo Lyn Lewis-Smith

(pictured above, right, with Berejiklian) said the program leveraged the insights and network of leaders to secure prestigious international events for New South Wales and the rest of Australia.

"They include award winning luminaries from Google, ANZ Bank through to Animal Logic and Sydney University," she said.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news plus the latest **BEN** Christmas Venue Guide on **page three**.

InterCon to open in Perth

INTERCONTINENTAL Perth City Centre will open its doors on 15 Oct.

The 16-storey hotel will have 240 rooms, a Club InterContinental, a collection of new dining and bar options and an event area.

The Gallery Meeting Suites will offer five conference spaces that can host events with up to 150 delegates.

The events area is equipped with an outdoor terrace and bar as well as an open plan kitchen for pre- and post functions.

Gold Coast hosts big incentive

THE Gold Coast will welcome 1,200 qualifying representatives this week for an incentive program involving one of Thailand's largest life insurance firms.

AIA Thailand delegates will take part in a gala dinner at Movie World and hold conference sessions at The Star Gold Coast.

The group will stay at Hilton Surfers Paradise and Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa.

Gold Coast Business Events director Anna Case said the city was looking forward to welcoming AIA Thailand.

"The Gold Coast has incredible appeal for incentive groups, with the perfect combination of venues, experiences and climate to inspire and motivate potential delegates with the ultimate reward," she said.

AIA operates in 18 markets across the Asia Pacific region.

Melanoma conf to Bris

BRISBANE is set to welcome 1,000 delegates next month for the 9th World Congress of Melanoma.

The conference is scheduled to begin on Mon 16 Oct and will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Delegates will discuss the latest advances in treating the skin cancer.

GCCEC grant

THE Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) has launched its 2017/18 GCCEC Linkage Grant program worth a total of \$25,000.

Five grants of \$5,000 each will be awarded to those in SE Queensland's academic and professional sectors to connect with key figures in their industry.

The successful applicants will be awarded a grant to attend their chosen conference.

Applications close on 31 Mar, with the winners named in May. **CLICK HERE** for more info.



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MACKAY SOARING

MACKAY in North Queensland is riding high after a series of recent conference wins.

In 2018, the Queensland coastal city will welcome over 5,000 delegates across three large events.

They include The Queensland Mining Expo, the Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists and the Australian Wayu Association's annual conference.

A pre-conference satellite workshop will also be held in Mackay for international delegates attending the Australasian Bioenergy and Bioproducts Symposium in

Brisbane in Oct.

The event will be held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre and will allow delegates from energy, agricultural and transportation backgrounds to connect with industries in the regional town.

To capitalise on the growing appeal of business events in Mackay, the Mackay Regional Council has extended its Invest Mackay Events and Conferences Attraction Funding Program for another year.

The incentive provides financial support for eligible conferences that choose to host events in Mackay.

Cinematic event package

EVENT Cinemas is after a greater slice of the product launch, conference and team building markets with the unveiling of its Event Exclusives offering.

The package allows for groups to rent a cinema out for private screenings of the latest blockbuster or back catalogue movies.

This can be combined with a presentation or a networking function.

Catering for events held at Event Cinemas can also be arranged if required.

Event Cinemas has over 60 theatres across Australia including a number of Vmax and Gold Class Cinemas.



CONVENTIONS come in all shapes and sizes, and can cover a range of topics including clocks.

Yes that is right, 21,000 buyers from over 92 countries turned out in Hong Kong for the Hong Kong Watch & Clock Fair last week.

Attendance was up 4% from the previous year for the annual tick-tock affair.

At the exhibition, buyers could view all types of clocks from smart watches to fashion watches, antiques and even basic clocks.

One delegate attending the event in Hong Kong even made an order for \$62,000 worth of watch straps!

Confessions of a compulsive conference-goer

Andrew Klein, professional MC and presentation skills speaker and director of SPIKE Presentations, presents his front line observations on conferences in a regular feature in *BEN*.

Winter Is Coming (to a conference room near you)

OK, I admit, I'm using a shameless *Game of Thrones* reference to get your attention and I'm jumping on the *GOT* zeitgeist bandwagon by citing their catch-phrase "Winter Is Coming."

But the winter I refer to is not one of impending doom, (Spoiler Alert) Crumbling Ice-Walls, Ice-Zombies and blue-fire breathing Ice-Dragons. I'm referring here to the number one question asked by conference delegates, to event organisers, usually around morning tea time of day one.

"Can we turn the air-con down a little?"

I'd hazard a guess that this one specific question gets asked in pretty much every hotel ballroom in every conference all over the country, all year round. For reasons unknown to me (and to be fair there may be an engineering reason or mechanical explanation that I am unaware of) the air conditioning at the start of a conference always seems to be turned up way too high. Is it a hidden technique to ensure people don't doze off during a dull presentation? Does a frosty room subliminally force us to pay attention? Surely it can't be a cost saving device? Is it hard to judge how high or low the room temperature should be?

I know not Jon Snow. Sorry, that was another GGOTR, (gratuitous *Game of Thrones* reference).

If you are looking for an MC for your next conference or a speaker/trainer on presentation skills or pitching skills, email andrew@lunch.com.au or visit his website at www.andrewklein.com.au.




Surely hotel banquet or conference staff know the right, most comfortable room temperature for standard numbers of delegate attendances. And it makes no difference whether it's a Darwin conference where outside the temperature is pushing 30 or a chilly Hobart conference. The inside room temp never seems quite right. I was working at a conference in the USA last month and they had exactly the same issue, so it's clearly not an Aussie thing.

Most conferences get it right by the middle of day one, by which time delegates have already thawed off out in the sun over morning tea or trotted back to their hotel rooms to grab a jacket - one they then have to remove in the next session, when the ballroom temp becomes too hot!

Yes I know, first world problem. But what's the solution? No idea, but I'd love someone in the know to enlighten me. Until then, if you're heading off soon to the Gold Coast, Cairns, Hamilton Island or Alice Springs for a conference, pack your fur coat, even though Summer Is Coming.



CHRISTMAS VENUE GUIDE


business events news
presents

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Business Events News guide to 2017/18 Christmas venues is the place to showcase!
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Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens Melbourne, VIC

Festive Season Buffet Lunch

Celebrate the festivities on a Friday from 24th November 2017 with a festive lunch buffet at HQ's on Williams Restaurant, for \$39 per person. Bring in the whole office and enjoy traditional Christmas fare, featuring HQ's Summer Lunch menu with a selection of Christmas themed specials. We guarantee the holiday cheer!

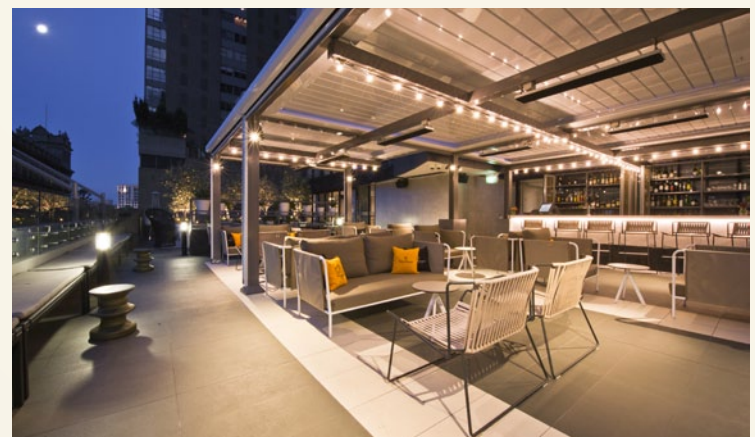
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