



## Today's issue of BEN

*Business Events News* today has two pages of news plus a full page from **One & Only Resorts**.

## Underwater art

**LANGFORD** Reef in the Whitsunday Islands will welcome underwater and inter-tidal art in Aug to drive tourism in the region post Cyclone Debbie.

The trial installation is being funded through the Qld Government's \$7 million Tourism Recovery Fund to help revive the Whitsundays tourism industry.

## Vic Library

**SHOWTIME** Event Group has been appointed to State Library Victoria as the event partner and caterer for the next five years.

The move marks a milestone in the Library's Vision 2020 \$88.1m project to transform the Library's buildings and services.

## Xmas venues

**THE** next *Business Events News* Christmas venue guide is in the making & will inc event spaces for the festive season - call 1300 799 200 or **EMAIL** to have your Xmas venue offerings featured.

# HAMILTON ISLAND SAYS HELLO

**THE** newly reopened conference centre on Hamilton Island in Qld's Whitsundays has welcomed its first major event, pulling out all stops for the annual Global Stars incentive event for Helloworld Travel.

The venue has emerged with a fresh new look after a major makeover following severe damage during last year's Cyclone Debbie, which literally blew the roof off the building.

Helloworld's gala dinner took place just over a week ago, with the conference centre behind the Reef View Hotel decked out in a glittering golden theme with atmospheric courtesies of acrobats and other performers.

The \$2.5 million upgrade to the facilities (**BEN** 25 Jul) now allows Hamilton Island to offer

a multi-purpose auditorium ideal for large meetings, banquets, presentations, trade shows or product launches.

The pillar-free area has direct ground floor and stage access, and the centre also features four meeting rooms for breakout sessions of up to 40 people.

Helloworld's gala dinner included a welcome by Hamilton Island's director of leisure sales, Fiona Stillwell, who also unveiled a \$13 million three-year redevelopment of the Palm Terrace Hotel



which will add a new 84-room property to the accommodation options on the island.

Hamilton Island is also working on other enhancements including the Sep launch of an "amazing new reef product," Stillwell confirmed.

## Four Points by Sheraton Syd opens

**FOUR** Points by Sheraton Sydney, Central Park, located within a retail, dining and residential precinct on the site of a former brewery in Chippendale, has officially opened today.

The 297-room hotel features two luxury suites, an al fresco bar & restaurant, 553m<sup>2</sup> of conference space consisting of flexible rooms and an outdoor terrace, along with a gym and parking.

## AITC 2018 details announced

**AUSTRALIAN** Indigenous Tourism Conference (AITC) has released its program details for this year's conference, which will take place 30 Oct to 01 Nov at Mantra Lorne in Victoria.

The conference will include talks on tourism and market development, accessible tourism, the cruising sector, women in tourism business, and pathways for Aboriginal youth into tourism business.

For more information and to register visit [www.aitc.org.au](http://www.aitc.org.au).

## ICC growth

**MORE** than \$1.2 billion has been injected into the local economy and more than two million visitors have passed through event doors at the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC) since it first opened in Dec 2016, according to new figures released by the venue.

"This exceptional outcome is a clear demonstration of the extensive flow on benefits the NSW Government's investment in ICC Sydney is delivering," said Adam Marshall, NSW Minister for Tourism and Major Events.

**Meetings can lead to great things.**

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## NEW SUNSHINE COAST CENTRE

**THE** Queensland Government has committed \$700,000 to develop a business case for the Sunshine Coast Entertainment, Convention and Exhibition Centre via the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program.

Visit Sunshine Coast ceo Simon Latchford said the news was encouraging, "but it is important for the study to include a detailed analysis of future demand as well as identifying other supporting infrastructure and services" to ensure the success of the centre.

The Sunshine Coast Airport's upgrade and new runway is also set to "grow capacity for direct travel to the Sunshine Coast from 2020," said Latchford.

The proposed Centre will have



an 1,800-person plenary hall; a reconfigurable 3,900-person exhibition hall and adjoining concourse; seven meeting rooms for 580 people; and 1500m<sup>2</sup> of external plaza space (pictured).

The plan also includes an eatery, rooftop cafe & bar, and a convention hotel nearby.

The priority now is to "attract a major increase in upscale, branded accommodation" to complement the developments.

## Brissy pop-up

**BRISBANE'S** business events exhibition "Pop-Up" will celebrate its 10th anniversary on 23 Aug at Brisbane City Hall with 20 new exhibitors and over 250 event planners.

Brisbane Convention Bureau gm Juliet Alabaste said attendees would "meet with more than 80 Brisbane exhibitors" and discover "the city's newest, recently improved and always unique products".

Some of the first-time exhibitors include Ovolo Inchcolm Brisbane, Spicers Hidden Vale and Pig 'N' Whistle West End.

**CLICK HERE** to register.



**TWO** elderly men in Germany recently proved that age is no barrier for good old fashioned fun when they made a daring escape from their nursing home to attend a heavy metal music festival.

The pair quickly became lost at the 75,000-strong Wacken Open Air before police found them "dazed and disorientated" at 3am.

The geriatric groovers were eventually escorted back to their somewhat quieter nursing home via taxi and police car, with a police spokesperson flippantly noting the men "obviously liked the metal festival".

## 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*.

### The pyjama presenter

**IN MELBOURNE** last month for a speaking job, I was woken at 3am in my hotel room by the 'woop woop' sound of a fire alarm. Thinking as you do that the alarm was a false alarm, I turned over and tried to go back to sleep.

However, the alarm continued and quickly morphed into the hotel's intercom warning "evacuate, evacuate". Instinctively I grab my mobile phone (sad, yes, but it was within arm's reach OK) and wearing my daggy pyjama pants and old conference t-shirt which doubles as a PJ shirt, I head towards my hotel room door, ready to join the crowd of weary hotel guests gathering in the corridor.

Just before the door closes, with the "Evacuate" sound still ringing loudly in my ears, I turn quickly back into my room, open my luggage and grab my USB stick, which contained a copy of the power-point presentation I need for my session the next day. Armed with my phone and USB stick I make my way with my fellow pyjama-clad guests down the stairwell towards the lobby.

Long story short. False alarm. Back to bed. Woke up next morning and did the presentation.

But the lesson and the reason for me telling you my pyjama-related false alarm tale? As a presenter, one always needs to be prepared for emergencies.



Expect the unexpected. Have several backups of your presentation. Save it to Dropbox (which I actually had done, but didn't think of that in my 3am haze) so it's accessible from anywhere - or email your presentation to yourself. Save your presentation in a variety of formats as some computers are not compatible with others.

Computers play up. USB sticks don't always work. A/V is not always OK. Always have your presentation available in multiple formats in a myriad of locations. Just in case. Perhaps risking a firey end for the sake of a USB is not a wise, advisable course of action - but you get my point.

And while everything turned out fine, it did occur to me later, that while I would have had my presentation available the next day, I hadn't grabbed the rest of my luggage (ie - my clothes). So while I did I have my presentation backup, I would still have had to do my entire presentation in my PJ's. Now that would have made for a great story.

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](mailto:andrew@lunch.com.au) or visit his website at [www.andrewklein.com.au](http://www.andrewklein.com.au).



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