



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

Syd biz forum

THE 2018 World Business Forum Sydney kicked off today at The Star in Sydney, with more than 2,000 business leaders from around the world taking part in presentations and networking events designed to “stimulate new thinking and inspire action”.

This year, the two-day event is focusing on “Humanification” and the process of empowering the people behind organisations.

Key speakers include leader in creativity Sir Ken Robinson, former Ford ceo Alan Mulally, F1 racing royalty Mark Webber, digital transformation author Rachel Botsman and ceo of Cirque du Soleil Daniel Lamarre.

GOLD COAST'S NEXT BIG EVENT

A RECORD number of meeting influencers, professional conference organisers and media representatives are expected to converge on Queensland for this year's This Is Gold Coast Business Exchange, which kicks off tomorrow at the Gold Coast Exhibition Centre.

The three-day event, which will run from 31 May to 02 Jun, aims to showcase the region's best venues, experiences and professional services, and will feature 68 hosted buyers from Australia, New Zealand and South-East Asia.

Director of Gold Coast Business Events Anna Case said the event was an opportunity for the region to shine a light on its business offerings.

“Post Commonwealth Games, the city is buzzing with a revitalised spirit and infectious new energy, with so much on offer for conferences and meetings,” Case said.



“We'll be showcasing it all, from our sun-kissed locations to our internationally acclaimed venues and creative spaces - this event will leave no doubt that we're the best choice for business events in Australia.”

Delegates will be treated to a welcome reception at street market Miami Marketta before moving on to breakfast at Mantra at Sharks Event Centre, the city's newest hotel.

They will then have the chance to meet one-on-one

with a range of exhibiting local companies, including suppliers from hotels, attractions and theming companies on the floor at the main event.

The program, which is an initiative of the Global Business Events division of Destination Gold Coast, will also get attendees up close and personal at a polo match at Polo by the Sea, as well as visiting various venues as part of the post-famil program.

CLICK HERE for info.

EEAA all-in for Exhibitions Day

THE Exhibition & Events Association of Australasia is showing its support for Global Exhibitions Day on 06 Jun by inviting industry to download a series of tools from their website & sharing their pics on social media using the hashtag #GED18.

The Association will also be running a series of leaders' forums, dinners, conferences and its Annual General Meeting between 06-07 Jun to coincide with the event, as well as launching a campaign to promote events industry careers.

MEANWHILE, comic Tim Ferguson has been announced as the closing keynote speaker at EEAA's conference on 07 Jun, and will speak about “filling your tank with resolve and determination”.

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“My personal opinion is that agency accreditation is long overdue and a necessary step to setting minimum levels of compliance and standards.”

Georgie Farmer
Group Manager, Global Meetings & Events, Microsoft Procurement



Hear how Adelaide is preparing for Asian events in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

VENUES ON RICH LIST

HIGH-PROFILE venue operators and hospitality chiefs have made the list of Australia's richest people, amassing fortunes of up to \$1.56 billion.

This year's *Australian Financial Review* Rich List includes a string of well-known identities with a hand in the events sector, including bar and venue baron Justin Hemmes who appears on the list for the first time.

The *AFR* says the Hemmes family - owners of the Merivale group and its series Sydney venues including The Ivy, The Establishment and the Coogee Pavilion - is now worth a total of \$951 million and is placed at number 78 on the Rich List.

The wealthiest hospitality sector identity on the list is Alan Rydge, chairman of the Event

Hospitality & Entertainment group which owns the Rydges, QT and Atura hotel brands.

Now estimated to be worth \$1.56 billion and ranked at number 49, Rydge's wealth has dropped dramatically since last year when it was calculated at \$2.09 billion.

Fellow hoteliers Ervin and Charlotte Vidor are ranked at position 79 and have amassed \$927 million through their ventures which include the Toga group and its Adina, Vibe, Medina and Travelodge brands.

Others include Robert Magid whose hotels includes Pier One Sydney Harbour and Hotel Lindrum in Melbourne (ranked 168, worth \$513 million), and pub baron Arthur Laundry (ranked 170, worth \$506 million).

CINZ 2018 launches in Auckland

NEW Zealand's key business events showcase CINZ Meetings kicked off in Auckland last night with a welcome event at the city's Town Hall, setting the scene for two days of business at the ABS Showgrounds.

This year's event will involve more than 190 suppliers and 500 conference, event and incentive organisers who are hoped to confirm business rivaling the NZ\$56 million in signed deals secured through last year's event.

The show includes an industry leader program, celebrity speaker showcase, a masterclass for professional conference organisers and an expanded education hub.

This morning at CINZ the developers of the new Christchurch Convention Centre announced the facility would be named Te Pae when it opens in 2020, taking a title that reflects a gathering place.

Wes Carr tackles team building

AUSTRALIAN singer Wes Carr has turned his hand to corporate events, joining Rock and Roll Team Building to help host its music-based workshops.

The former *Australian Idol* winner joins the company's founder and former INXS singer Ciaran Gribbin and Indigenous duo Apakatjah.



"Wes Carr is a musician of the highest quality," said Gribbin of the new recruit, **pictured**.

"He sings from his soul and as a hit songwriter he has a magic presence on stage which connects the audience in a special way. It's a genuine honour to welcome Wes to our team."

Rock and Roll Team Building offers "energy elevating corporate events" for small and large groups.

PCOA sellout

THE Professional Conference Organisers Association has announced all 60 of its booths at the upcoming Annual PCOA Conference & Exhibition have sold out.

The event, set to take place at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre between 09 and 11 Dec, is in its sixth year, with the sellout highlighting the "value suppliers placed on being able to build a rapport" with their events & conference industry peers.

Barry Neame, PCOA pres said, "This year's theme 'Embracing Change' is a proactive call to all meeting planners to seek out fresh perspectives and try something new," adding that there will be a focus on stress management in 2018.



AS THE events sector unites in Auckland this week for CINZ Meetings 2018, across town there's a movement with a distinctly less collaborative agenda.

A local politician on Auckland's North Shore is mounting a campaign to split from the rest of New Zealand and establish an independent state similar to Monaco or Singapore.

Miriam Clements, a past candidate in national elections, wants Auckland Harbour to become a more substantial border, proposing a referendum to decide upon making the North Shore a country of its own.

Certain regions of Sydney will be watching closely.