



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

QT Auckland

QT HOTELS is set to open its first Auckland property in early 2020, following a management deal between Event Hospitality & Entertainment (EVENT), Russell Property Group and Lockwood Property Group.

EVENT CEO Jane Hastings said Auckland was a key city that had been a missing piece of the QT footprint.

The project will involve converting an existing building into QT Auckland, which will feature over 150 rooms, several conferencing and event spaces, and a new QT dining concept and bar.

The property will be located in Viaduct Harbour, in the city's downtown entertainment precinct.

Russell Property Group Director Brett Russell said the "harbourside location combined with the unique footprint of the existing building makes this one of the best conversion opportunities available."

Marriott Int'l dining site

MARRIOTT International has launched a new gastronomic website dedicated to highlighting its restaurants, chefs, recipes and upcoming gourmet events.

Marriott's events include Underground Gourmet and Margaret River Gourmet Escape Dinner Series

For more [CLICK HERE](#).

SMC GEARS FOR MAJOR REFURB

SYDNEY Masonic Centre (SMC) has revealed its renovation plans that will increase event spaces and delegate capacities.

"This is the most exciting update to the iconic Sydney Masonic Centre in its 40-year history," said SMC General Manager Paul Davison.

"As Sydney's original purpose-built conferencing venue, the transformation will ensure that SMC remains at the forefront of the business events sector and retains its place as a landmark building amongst Sydney's cityscape," he said.

The renovations will add two new flexible event spaces on Level 4, capable of hosting 140 guests each, with refurbishments to adjoining meeting rooms and break-out areas on the same level.



Other new features include new digital signage and a Digital Concierge

that offers in-house support and connection to event managers.

SMC will close 17 Dec for the renovations and is scheduled to

re-open in May 2019.

Pictured is the SMC exterior and inset is a render of the training room.



Dreamworld welcomes DEC

DREAMWORLD has revealed the name of its newest event space - Dreamworld Exhibition Centre (DEC).

Previously known as Brock's Garage, the 1,500m² pillarless space is Dreamworld's largest indoor event area, with a capacity of up to 550 guests seated and 750 guests for cocktails.

Dreamworld General Manager Sales Annette Pearce said, "We are very excited to be able to expand our event portfolio with the addition of the DEC, giving our clients even more options for a truly unique event experience."

The multi-functional venue is suited to gala dinners, launches, exhibitions, meetings and pop-ups.

For enquiries [CLICK HERE](#).

Sustainability for Tourism Noosa

WORKING with event organisers, Tourism Noosa has launched a new sustainability program Trees for Tourism for major events.

The program supports Noosa & District Landcare's rehabilitation projects, in particular the Noosa Trail Network Revegetation Project to revegetate areas of the trail and address a range of issues including: erosion and land slips, lack of shade for walkers, need for greater riparian buffers and to improve the habitat value for local wildlife species.

Tourism Noosa CEO Steve McPharlin said the program would initially be undertaken by Noosa's largest events, the Noosa Triathlon Multi Sport Festival and the Noosa Food & Wine Festival in 2019.



TRAVELTECH.
SUMMIT 2018

Travel Differently!

The strategy, technology and innovation event for travel industry leaders

4-6 December 2018

Novotel Sydney Central | Sydney | Australia



Dubai is a city of innovation and hot property for event now. Read more in the October issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**



MEA EVENT DATES

MEETINGS & Events Australia (MEA) has announced the dates for the state and territory MEA Awards events to be held in Feb and Mar 2019 across Australia.

To encourage recognition within local marketplaces, finalists and winners are first announced and celebrated in each state and territory.

The finalists of these awards are automatically entered in the National MEA Awards presented at the Evolve 2019 Conference in Brisbane on 02 Apr.

“We are pleased to announce the state and territory MEA Awards events so far in advance

and encourage the members and their guests to attend the events to support their local Awards Program,” said the CEO of MEA Robyn Johnson.

“We are hoping that MEA will break the 2017 submission record and invite the membership to review the award categories and submit an award to profile their events, their key personnel and their companies,” she said.

For a list of awards categories and criteria **CLICK HERE**.

Tickets to attend the state and territory awards will go on sale in the coming weeks.



HOSTING a themed event is never easy and there's no guarantee that guests will dress up - especially for an event that requires a paddle, a board and a witch costume.

But for Oregon the “Standup Paddleboard Witch Paddle” event held just before Halloween has grown from a handful of keen paddleboarders to hundreds.

Sporting pointed hats and black robes with stuffed black cats, witches tossed their broomsticks & grabbed paddles to travel 10km along the Willamette River.

The attendees dodged days of rain with the final day delivering a window of sun for the three-hour paddle - now that's some watercraft.

Abu Dhabi EDITION

EDITION Hotels will debut in the Middle East with the introduction of The Abu Dhabi EDITION.

The property features 198 rooms as well as 57 exclusive residences along with three signature restaurants and Library Bar, a craft gin-led cocktail bar.

The property's ballroom of 654m² seats 450 guests and also houses a pre-function area, a boardroom, meeting rooms and business centre.

The hotel is located on the Al Bateen peninsula, 20min from The Louvre Abu Dhabi and the beaches of Saadiyat.

Reservations are now open, and the official launch is set for 21 Nov.

ICC Sydney impresses with Sibos



INTERNATIONAL Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) has staged Sibos, the world's financial services event which welcomed more than 7,600 business leaders, academics and entrepreneurs from 150 countries earlier this month.

ICC Sydney CEO, Geoff Donaghy said it took a collaborative city to win and host a high-impact, international event like Sibos.

“The entire city worked tirelessly to ensure Sibos delegates enjoyed the full-spectrum Sydney experience, from the Convention Centre ferry services, the calibre of local restaurants to the brilliant City of Sydney volunteer guides across the venue and the precinct,” said Donaghy.

“We are also immensely proud of our team and the multifaceted event concept we delivered, which reflects almost five years of planning

and includes our most complex catering effort to date.”

The catering involved daily customised food and beverage options, the creation of a 1,800 seat, purpose-built Sibos Restaurant housed within one of the ICC Exhibition Halls, a menu design for 78 exhibitor cocktail parties and on-stand catering for 130 exhibitors.

The Sibos program featured panel sessions and international and local speakers while connecting business leaders and revealing the latest innovations in the digital economy.

Donaghy said that Sibos would exceed its estimated \$40m in economic impact.

Pictured is the Sibos conference.