



### Today's issue of BEN

*Business Events News* today has two pages of news, the latest **BEN** Christmas Venue Guide plus a full page from **One&Only Wolgan Valley**.

### EEAA Awards open

**EXHIBITION** and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) is accepting nominations for the 2019 Awards for Excellence.

Organisers, venues and suppliers are being urged to shine a light on their standout achievements for events held between 01 Oct 2018 and 30 Sep 2019.

The awards cover 20 separate categories, with the Best Show title going to one of the winners of the five Show awards.

**CLICK HERE** to enter.

## GC SECURES AMWAY INCENTIVE

**DESTINATION** Gold Coast has fended off competition from Tokyo and Hawaii, to land the hosting rights for the Amway Taiwan 2019 Leadership Seminar in Nov.

The five-day event is expected to generate \$2.8 million for the local economy attracting more than 950 of Amway Taiwan's top selling distributors and representatives.

Queensland Tourism Industry Development Minister, Kate Jones, said securing the event was a coup for the state, with Cairns having hosted the Amway China event in Jun (**BEN** 02 Jul).

"Winning the bid to secure a second Amway event for Queensland above other international competitors demonstrates the strength of our tourism offering and the importance of business



events to Queensland's tourism economy," she said.

Destination Gold Coast CEO, Annaliese Battista, said the city's successful bid was the result of a collaborative partnership with Tourism Australia, supported by the Business Events Bid Fund Program, and Tourism and Events Queensland's Business Events Acquisition and Leveraging Fund.

"We are delighted to have

secured this important incentive and offer our support to Amway Taiwan who will no doubt deliver an inspiring and motivating itinerary as part of their robust distributor reward program," she said.

"The Gold Coast offers business event travellers exceptionally diverse tourism experiences and high-quality venues in an enviable globally-renowned destination."





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## BCEC CHEF QLD'S #1

**BRISBANE** Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) Sous Chef Matthew Lee has been named Queensland Chef of the Year for 2019.

One of the most respected competitions in the country, 28 chefs from around the state raced against the clock with only one hour to prepare dishes from a mystery box.

Lee snared the title with his starter of seared Hervey Bay scallops and Moreton Bay bugs with a citrus salad, fennel, gooseberry, avocado and finger lime salsa, followed by an Asian inspired main course of pork cheeks, ears and loin, with pecan, apple and potato puree

and soy pickled mushrooms. Judges commended Lee on the diversity of his cooking and demonstration of technique.

Lee will compete at the Australian Professional Chef of the Year competition in Sydney in May.

No stranger to competitiveness, Lee has won a gold medal as part of the BCEC team in the Australian Culinary Federation's Restaurant Challenge in 2018 and silver in the Australian and Pacific Competition of the Global Chefs Challenge.

In his second stint as a chef at BCEC, Lee has also worked in some of Europe's top restaurants.

### Te Pae makes apts

**TE PAE** Christchurch has appointed its new executive team, with Karine Legeay-Fisher, Event Services; Gillian Officer, Business Development; Ben Buchanan, Business Services; Darren Tait, Culinary Services; Vanessa McBean, Human Resources and Ken Davidson, Building Services all joining the team.

Collectively, the group brings more than a century of hospitality and event services experience to the city's brand-new convention centre, with GM Ross Steele saying he is looking forward to working with the new team as they launch the purpose-designed venue.



**BULLFIGHTING** recently returned to Mallorca in Spain, where it had been outlawed since 2017.

Around 300 protestors turned out to oppose the highly controversial practice, which is protected as part of the country's cultural heritage in the Spanish constitution.

However, the protestors were met with tunes, with organisers blaring the fascist anthem, Cara al Sol, over the arena's loudspeakers.

We're not sure what either side proved, but it looks as if bullfighting will continue for the time being.

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## 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*.

### For Forky's sake (What 'Toy Story 4' can teach us about conference presentations)

I'M A huge fan of Pixar movies - which apart from being immensely entertaining, always contain brilliant messages, multiple layers for kids and adults and wonderful story-telling.

My favourite of all Pixar movies are the 'Toy Story' films. I went to see 'Toy Story 4' last month and while I'd argue it's the 4th best of the 4 films, it's still very good and better than the majority of animated films released these days.

One thing about Toy Story 4 that I loved was their newest character (and probably the most interesting one in the film) - Forky, a hand-made toy, made at kindy by the child character Bonnie, the current owner of the Toy Story toy characters. Bonnie literally creates Forky before our eyes from a box of craft accessories - a plastic spork, a pipe cleaner, two mismatched googly eyes and a paddle-pop stick.

He is the most imperfect, rough around the edges and on the face of it, simple of all the toys in the film. Yet Forky is also one of the deepest and most interesting toys in the series. We watch him over the course of movie go through an existential crisis - Who am I? How did I get here? What is my purpose in life?

What does all of this have to do with conferences? I have always maintained that the best

conference presenters are the authentic ones. Presenters who are a little raw, rough around the edges, not necessarily the most polished, not always the most articulate. But the most real. In my view as a presentation skills trainer, authenticity trumps polish every time. Present yourself with your endearingly human imperfections visible.

The second thing is simplicity. The hand-made, spartan Forky is the simplest of all characters, on the surface. Minimalist - exactly how most good presentations should appear. Sure, the content might be complex (Forky is a mass of complex insecurities underneath) but when it is presented, the content should be simple to comprehend. The presenter should do the heavy lifting behind the scenes (remove the jargon, extract the essence of the topic) to ensure the audience can easily understand what is being presented. The best presenters have the knack to clearly explain, break down complexity and highlight a few key messages.

Anyone who has seen the Toy Story films (or Inside Out, Wall-E or Coco etc) would hopefully agree that those engaging Pixar films might appear simple and childlike on the surface - but below that lies some complex, fascinating, heavy-duty issues. Just like a good presentation. 'To Infinity and beyond.'

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).



# CHRISTMAS VENUE GUIDE



business events news  
presents

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*Business Events News* guide to 2019/20 Christmas venues is the place to showcase!  
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