



**Today's issue of BEN**

*Business Events News* today has two pages of news.

**Qld \$1m boost**

**THE** latest round of the Queensland Destination Events Program (QDEP) will see \$1 million extra funding go towards growing 43 events held between May 2020 and May 2021, with the aim of attracting more tourists to the state.

“In 2020, our events calendar will be worth \$880 million and support thousands of jobs – making Queensland a world-leading events host,” said Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones.

QDEP has supported 345 events since 2015.

Applications for Round 15 are open for events hosted between Sep 2020 and Sep 2021 - **CLICK HERE** for more.

**NEW ZEALAND ENDS 2019 ON A HIGH**

**NEW** Zealand has firmly entrenched itself as a leading business events destination, with Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre announcing it has 50 confirmed events worth more than \$30 million, with less than a year to go until the centre opens in Oct 2020.

The conferences, which include the New Zealand Dental Association 2020 Conference, 2021 Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting and the Australasian Coasts & Ports 2021 Conference, are expected to bring over 28,000 people to the city.

“With most delegates spending an average of four days at a conference, and many choosing to include a component of pre- or post-touring, there are myriad opportunities for the city and its residents to benefit,” said General Manager Ross Steele.

**MEANWHILE**, indigenous Maori culture is increasingly



taking centre-stage in New Zealand’s business events and conferences sector as a provider of “unique and innovative content, knowledge, and values”.

The upcoming 11th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference, which will be held in Christchurch in 2020, chose the theme “traditional knowledge and innovative science in wetland research and management” and will draw upon the Mataranga

Maori approach to outcomes on sustainability practices.

**Pictured:** The Te Pae team.

**BEN wraps up**

**TODAY** marks the final edition of *BEN* for 2019, with your favourite MICE publication returning 07 Jan - until then, have a safe and wonderful holiday season!



**Explore the huge variety of world cruises in 2021**

Read the Summer edition of *Travel & Cruise Weekly*

Travel & Cruise Weekly

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Macquarie Park, Sydney

The Business Publishing Group is looking for the services of a proactive Advertising Coordinator to work across our industry leading titles.

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## AIME Leaders Forum returns

**THE** highly anticipated Leaders Forum will return to The Asia Pacific Incentives Meetings Event (AIME) in 2020, after its success in 2019.

The forum is anticipated to attract up to 60 leaders and CEOs across convention bureaus and centres, destination marketing organisations and business events media from all over the world, who will come together to engage in a thought-provoking session.

World-renowned adviser on cities and new industries Professor Greg Clark will speak at the session alongside #Meet4Impact co-founder and CEO Genevieve Leclerc.

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Sustainability Summit 2020

**TRAVEL Daily's (TD) 2020** Sustainability Summit will be an entirely carbon-neutral event, hosted on 22 Apr at Doltone House Darling Island - the first six-star, green-star rated building in New South Wales.

The event, expected to attract around 250 travel and tourism industry attendees, will have a zero carbon footprint courtesy of South Pole Australia.

"Through our partnership, we will ensure that all event-related emissions – including guest travel – are compensated for through our extensive portfolio of climate action projects that drive sustainable development and mitigate climate change," said Senior Carbon & Renewables Manager Jay van Rijn.

The summit will include panel discussions and debates covering key sustainability issues, plus a line-up of keynote speakers including InterContinental Hotels Group CEO Ruwan Peiris and Sustainability & Schwartz Family Co Project Coordinator Paul Briggs.

In conjunction with Doltone House, the summit will see any leftover fresh food donated to food rescue charity OzHarvest to be shared with people in need.

[CLICK HERE](#) to purchase your earlybird tickets.



**AUSTRALASIA'S** leading speaker's bureau Saxton Speakers has added some star power to its network, announcing multi-award winning Australian singer Kate Ceberano has signed on as an exclusive speaker.

"We are so pleased to offer her talents as a speaker, entertainer, conversationalist and MC," said Saxton Speakers CEO Anne Jamieson, highlighting Ceberano's hit song "Brave" as the "perfect illustration of what it has taken to succeed in life and business".

## Immerse yourself in Myanmar on a river cruise

Read how in the Summer edition of *Travel & Cruise Weekly*

Travel & Cruise Weekly

## DMS CONNECT 2020



**DMS** Destination Marketing Services announced its annual DMS Connect roadshow for Feb 2020, marking the 20th consecutive year of the event.

The event informs attendees in the outbound travel sector on all the latest in the global events arena, connecting them with airline, tourism marketing

and accommodation exhibitors, such as Abu Dhabi Convention & Exhibition Bureau, Hosts Global and Pacific World.

The shows will be held at The Maritime Room in Auckland; Aerial in Melbourne; and the Opera House in Sydney on 24, 25 and 27 Feb respectively.

**Pictured:** The team at DMS.

## Bris's Eagle St

**BRISBANE'S** Eagle Street Pier is set to be transformed into a "premium business and leisure destination" thanks to a \$2.1 billion Waterfront Brisbane plan.

Signed by the Palaszczuk Government and property group Dexus last week, the concept includes two office and mixed-use towers; a variety of restaurants; upgraded wharf facilities; and new public spaces.

Construction is expected to begin in 2022, with the first tower slated for 2026.

## Oregon CC hotel

**HYATT** Regency Portland opened on 19 Dec at the Oregon Convention Center, which recently underwent a US\$40 million renovation, marking the city's first convention centre hotel as well as its first full-service Hyatt hotel.

The property features 20 event venues, including two ballrooms, 18 meeting rooms, and a pre-function space, and offers three dining spaces, a fitness centre and an exclusive Regency Club Lounge.