



## Today's issue of BEN

*Business Events News* today has two pages of news plus the latest **BEN** Christmas Venue Guide.

## Rubik's Cube games

**MELBOURNE** is bracing itself for an influx of "cubers" this week with the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre to host the 10th World Cube Association Speedcubing World Championships.

The event will see more than 1,600 delegates tackle Rubik's Cube challenges across 18 disciplines, including solving the popular puzzle blindfolded, using one hand, and even their feet.

Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) led the campaign to bring the competition to the Victorian capital.

MCB acting CEO, Julia Swanson, said it took a unified effort to secure the event, that is expected to generate close to \$8 million for the Victorian economy.

"It is not just one team's effort, it is the collaboration of all stakeholders, government and industry partners that enables us to continuously demonstrate our city as a top choice destination for business events," she said.

"We are excited to welcome such a unique audience and wish all the contestants the best of luck with their competitions and a memorable stay in our marvellous city."



# SUPER FUND LANDS ICC THEATRE

**INTERNATIONAL** Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney Theatre will be known as the First State Super Theatre for the next decade, with the industry superannuation fund securing naming rights to the 8000-seat venue.

ICC Sydney CEO, Geoff Donaghy, said the sale of the venue's naming rights reflected an increase in First State Super's investment in the venue, and the result of the strong performance of the venue's operations, brand and reputation.

"We are delighted to be strengthening our partnership with First State Super, an existing equity partner of ICC Sydney, through the naming rights agreement," he said.

"Their increased investment in the project is a clear sign of confidence in our operation and a result of the reputation we've built for the venue.



"We see many synergies between our two companies, particularly our razor sharp focus on building the best possible teams to service our delegates, patrons, members and partners.

"While we have one of the most magnificent venues in the world, on one of the most spectacular harbours, it is people who ensure successful

events and visitor experiences every day at ICC Sydney.

"We will work collaboratively with First State Super to ensure their members, and all of our patrons, enjoy exceptional experiences at the newly named First State Super Theatre."

ICC Sydney will continue to manage the theatre through a partnership agreement.

## Island added events

**BOUTIQUE** Gold Coast hotel, The Island, will open a new events facility in Nov, with capacity for up to 400 delegates.

The Glasshouse will feature a marquee-style glass-framed design, high ceilings and an adjoining deck area.

The new events space will also feature state-of-the-art audio visual capabilities with direct access to all of the hotel's facilities including boutique rooms suites.

The addition of the Glasshouse to The Island Gold Coast means the venue now has five unique and captivating event spaces on offer, including the Rooftop, the Penthouse, the Pool Deck and Goldie's.

**CLICK HERE** for more info.

## Kambri opens at ANU campus

**CANBERRA'S** newest cultural events centre, Kambri, has opened its doors in the heart of the Australian National University's campus.

Designed as part of \$260-million redevelopment of the university campus, Kambri aims to be the new meeting place for Canberra.

Spread across five buildings the centre has a 500-seat multipurpose venue, suitable for hosting concerts, banquets, exhibitions and lectures; a smaller 220-seat venue ideal for more intimate events; a 300-seat cinema; a 150-theatre; a lobby bar; and aMBUSH Gallery's newest exhibition space, complete with outdoor balcony.

The 'superfloor' at the top of the six-floor Marie Raey



Teaching Centre, offers a collaborative space for up to 300 delegates, combined with uninterrupted views over Canberra.

The new conference centre also offers catering services, with 2011 My Kitchen Rules, winning sisters Sammy and Bella Jakubiak, delivering menus that incorporate sustainable Australian native produce.



## MCEC STRIKES A CHORD

**AFTER** years of music venues closing across Melbourne, there's some good news for lovers of live performers.

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has launched a new package to deliver live music, with exhibition bays reimaged with staging, lighting and audio set ups.

MCEC CEO, Peter King, said the centre's 3,000 general admission capacity would provide touring companies with



a new venue in the centre of Melbourne.

"We've hosted countless live music events in our Plenary and know we have the cutting edge technology and expertise to bring these events to life," King said.

"Expanding our options for ticketed events is a natural progression, Melbourne's been losing some of those spaces, and we're looking at where we can fill the gaps."

"Whoever you're planning to put under the spotlight, we have the support, space and experience to ensure your event stands out from the crowd."

King added that the MCEC's live music offering was now possible following a major investment in technology and infrastructure at the venue.

For more information **CLICK HERE**.

## Corp Travel Show

**TURNSTYLES** Exhibitions & Events (TE&E) is aiming to "come out from under the radar" by bringing its Corporate Travel Show to Melbourne and Sydney for the first time.

The company has been running the annual roadshow since 1992, taking it to Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra and Perth, but up until this year "the numbers didn't stack up", to make it viable to bring it to Australia's two biggest corporate travel markets.

"Our loyal group of exhibitors have been asking us [to host events in Sydney and Melbourne] for a long time," a spokesperson for the company told **BEN**.

"Exhibitor commitment and two supportive host venues has allowed us to have a crack in 2019.

The first event of this year's roadshow will be hosted in the Sofitel Melbourne on Thu 11 Jul from 12.30pm, followed by Adelaide (23 Jul), Perth (01 Aug), Canberra (13 Aug), Sydney (15 Aug) and Brisbane (27 Aug).

**CLICK HERE** to register.

## Destination update

### Host your 2020 meeting or event at Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley - in the heart of wine country

**THE** Hunter Valley is perfectly positioned to invoke the excitement of travel, making your event a true destination experience. Combining a relaxing sense of place with renowned fine wines and gourmet food make for a memorable delegate experience. Just two hours north of Sydney, Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley provides premium facilities and seamless service for corporate events. Our modern meeting rooms are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and enjoy stunning views of the resort and surrounds. The Hunter Valley Conference and Events Centre provides the largest and most comprehensive conference and exhibition facility in regional New South Wales, with a capacity of up to 1750 delegates.

Call today on (02) 4991 0000 or email [meetings.hunter@ihg.com](mailto:meetings.hunter@ihg.com).



**IT'S** that time of year when Aussies are racking their brains to work out what they can claim back in tax.

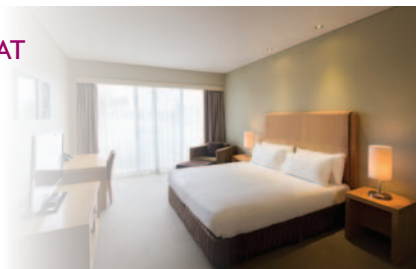
The usual list of part of their phone bill, charity donations, a new laptop or depreciation on an old one will be drawn up.

But conference expenses, from the cost of the conference to travel, meals and accommodation costs should not be forgotten, when lodging a return with the Australian Taxation Office.

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# CHRISTMAS VENUE GUIDE



business events news  
presents

Looking for a Christmas venue or staff celebration?

*Business Events News* guide to 2019/20 Christmas venues is the place to showcase!  
To feature here email [advertising@businessesnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businessesnews.com.au).

## MERCURE RESORT HUNTER VALLEY GARDENS

Pokolbin, NSW

*Cheers to your Christmas Celebration at Mercure Resort  
Hunter Valley Gardens*

Book your 2019 End of Year Event with us, and your guests will enjoy a full yuletide feast including the roast, and lots of end of year cheer! Cap off the evening with discounted entry tickets to the Hunter Valley Gardens Lights Spectacular to be dazzled by over one million lights.

Enjoy a set menu & 3 hour éléments beverage package from \$99.00 per person. Looking for something different? Enquire about our other Christmas menus.

Situated within walking distance to all the unique offerings of the Hunter Valley, incredible dining options and the ability to cater up to 200 delegates contact our Events Team today and learn how to secure your End of Year event.



For Bookings and Enquiries P: 02 4998 2000 E: [events@mrhvg.com.au](mailto:events@mrhvg.com.au) | [www.mercurehuntervalley.com.au](http://www.mercurehuntervalley.com.au)



## STAMFORD PLAZA MELBOURNE

Melbourne, VIC

Celebrate in style this festive season at Stamford Plaza Melbourne hotel, in one of our eight private function spaces. Whether you are celebrating with family, friends, colleagues or playing host to a larger group, we look forward to making this festive season one to remember!

### EARLY BIRD OFFER

For a limited time, we are giving you a very tempting reason to **BOOK EARLY** for your festive get-togethers.

Book your end-of-year celebration with Stamford Plaza Melbourne hotel **before 31 October 2019** and receive a **complimentary 30-minute beverage package\*** for your event!

Let us take care of the planning, allowing you to focus on what is truly important – time with your family & friends.



For bookings and enquiries: P: 03 9659 1000 E: [events@spm-stamford.com.au](mailto:events@spm-stamford.com.au) | [www.stamford.com.au/spm](http://www.stamford.com.au/spm)

