



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has three pages of news plus a full page from **One&Only Wolgan Valley**.

One&Only offer

ONE&ONLY Wolgan Valley is offering an inclusive group stay with daily dining, wines, beverages and activities.

See more on **page four**.

Westin reality

THE Westin Sydney is offering planners the chance to view their event using VR (Virtual Reality) Tech.

The VR system allows clients to visualise what their event will look like in their chosen event space.

GEELONG SET FOR \$170M CENTRE

GEELONG is set to welcome a \$170 million purpose-built convention and exhibition centre for up to 1,000 plenary delegates.

The centre, to be situated on the site of the car park at Deakin University's waterfront campus, will have 3,000m² of pillar-less exhibition space, banquet facilities, meeting rooms, a business centre and retail outlets.

Additionally, a four-star, 200-key hotel adjoining the precinct has also been included in the plans.

"The brand new convention and exhibition centre is fantastic news for the region," said Convention Bureau Manager Mark Day.

"It will not only inject \$50 million in economic impact annually to the region once operational, but it will also



open us up to bid for larger pieces of business that we have previously not been able to."

Other improvements to the region to be funded under the landmark deal include a revitalisation of central Geelong, upgrades to infrastructure along Great Ocean Road, and a new

ferry terminal in Queenscliff to enhance services crossing Port Phillip Bay.

The \$355 million Geelong City Deal is a joint agreement struck between Federal and State Government.

Pictured is an aerial view of Geelong waterfront.

Host your next event in the spiritual heart of Australia

Hold your Uluru event between 1 Dec '19 - 30 Jun '20 to take advantage of our special hotel room rate*.

Quote Uluru 2020 for new events contracted 18 Feb '19 - 30 Apr '19. *Subject to availability at time of booking.

ULURUMEETINGPLACE.COM.AU | CONFERENCES@VOYAGES.COM.AU | 02 8296 8067

VOYAGES
**AYERS
ROCK
RESORT**
TOUCH THE SILENCE



SPAIN IN-DEMAND

GLOBAL destination and event management company, Pacific World has identified that destinations including Spain, Thailand and China are on the top of the list for MICE planners.

Spain has continued to generate interest, topping both the worldwide and Europe/Middle East/Africa (EMEA) lists for the second year in a row, along with France, UK, Italy & Monaco/South of France, who also topped the EMEA list.

"Motivated by the upcoming 2024 Olympic Games, the Paris region committed to enhancing the visitor experience, backed by a €23 million investment plan which will greatly boost France as both a tourist and MICE destination," said Pacific World Global Marketing Manager Patricia Silvio.

Thailand has moved up this year to the second position

worldwide, buoyed by a "strong Convention Bureau and the backing of local and state governments".

China, Indonesia and Singapore follow Spain in the worldwide list, with China continuing its strong presence in the MICE market, with more interest from a wider swath of audiences.

Up-and-coming countries such as Peru and Monaco also climbed up the list, with Peru moving up to sixth place this year.

"[Peru] has made important infrastructure changes and investments and have proactively courted MICE planners in the US," said Silvio.

"Moreover, the opening of a new convention center in Lima in 2015 was a game-changer in that the city is now able to host large-scale events."

Thailand changes the game

THAILAND has shifted its policy on providing supported site inspections for Australian meeting and incentive organisers.

Buyers for events with upwards of 80 guests are now

eligible to apply for financial support, DMC services and ground transport to conduct a tailored inspection, which was previously only available to organisers of large conventions.

"The business event industry of Thailand headed by TCEB, knows that when decision makers can see the quality and diversity of the product available, they buy," said Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) rep and Director of Clockwise Consulting Nicole Tingey.

"We expect this to have a major impact on the number of events that take place in Thailand over the next few years."

Australian buyers will be able to find out more and apply for site inspections at the upcoming TCEB sponsored roadshow in which 14 Thai products will be revealed next month in Sydney and Melbourne.

"The roadshow is designed to immerse our guests in the Thai experience, and provide an easy way to feel, see and taste the Thai culture, we hope to entice people to then apply for a site inspection," she said.

Thailand MICE Roadshow Sydney is held on 02 Apr and Thailand MICE Agency Showcase Melbourne is on 04 Apr.

Pictured are traditional Thai Sukhothai dancers.



M GALLERY
BY SOPITEL

DELEGATE PACKAGE
FROM \$77PP

Come up for Air

INSPIRED MEETINGS AND EVENTS IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS, NSW

Call 02 4785 0099 — 1 Sublime Point Road, Leura, NSW

Image: Gary P Hayes Photography

FAIRMONT RESORT & SPA BLUE MOUNTAINS

Access the wellness benefits of nature in the spectacular World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park.

15 EVENT SPACES
TEAM ACTIVITIES ON-SITE
224 ACCOMMODATION ROOMS
UBIKA DAY SPA

ACCOMMODATION
FROM \$199
PER NIGHT
INCLUDING BREAKFAST

ENQUIRE NOW →



business events news

businessesnews.com.au

19th March 2019

New Zealand's ICC is a step closer to completion. Read more in the March issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



WONCA CONFERENCE

AUSTRALIA has won an international bid to host over 4,300 family doctors at the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) World Conference, which will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney in 2022.

"This is an extraordinary win for the RACGP, Australian GPs and their patients," said Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) President Dr Harry Nespolon.

"Doctors from every corner of the globe will converge on Sydney in Oct 2022 to share research and discuss best practice and techniques to keep people and communities healthy on an international

level," he said.

"This gives us the chance to put Australia on an int'l stage."

The bid was given financial support by Tourism Australia's Business Events Bid Fund.

Tourism Australia's Managing Director, John O'Sullivan said "attracting large-scale international business events to Australia is a critical part of Tourism Australia's strategy".

BESydney CEO, Lyn Lewis-Smith added "WONCA 2022 will mark 50 years since the global meeting was first held Down Under, attracting doctors from emerging, developing and developed health systems".

Watch the RACGP's video bid for WONCA 2022 **HERE**.

PTSD conference

CHARITY organisation FearLess is holding its first national conference on post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at the Events Centre in Caloundra from 21 to 23 Aug 2019.

The conference seeks to initiate a national conversation on PTSD and explore how to develop a community-owned and community-operated PTSD management protocol.

The conference will welcome 26 speakers and explore how PTSD impacts families, an overview of current medical research, and share accounts from people with PTSD.

CLICK HERE to register.

Convene 2019

CONVENE North 2019, a showcase for organisers interested in hosting conferences, events or incentives on the North Island, will take place at the recently refurbished Aotea Centre, Auckland on 09 Apr.

The first major refurb in 28 years, the Centre will feature fresh lighting, floor and wall treatments and new bars & exhibition spaces floors-register **HERE**.

Vivid Syd launch

VIVID Sydney from 24 May to 15 Jun has released its 2019 program featuring over 50 works across Taronga Zoo, Darling Harbour, Chatswood, Barangaroo and Luna Park.

In a partnership first, Pixar Animation Studios will illuminate Sydney's Argyle Cut in The Rocks with characters of Pixar films, including Woody and Buzz Lightyear.

For event info, **CLICK HERE**.

Ormond reveals new hotels 2022

SOUTHEAST Asian hospitality brand Ormond Group is set to introduce two new hotel concepts to Melbourne in 2022.

The Ormond Melbourne and MoMo's Melbourne on Flinders Lane will feature 537 rooms between the two properties, along with social spaces, multi-use spaces, a sky bar and restaurant.

Ormond Melbourne will embody "the spirit of luxury simplified", while MoMo's Melbourne is set to provide guests with "minimalist hotel rooms alongside playful spaces" that engage with "creative communities and urban nomads".

"Through our new brands, we hope to be able to elevate the hotel scene in Melbourne through our inclusive approach to programming and design," said Ormond Group CEO Gareth Lim.



ABOUT 600 yellow rubber ducks made their way down the Huatoki Stream in New Plymouth, NZ for the annual Red Cross charity duck race.

Despite the challenges of last year's race, where volunteers were left scrambling to collect their ducks after hundreds of them swam in the wrong direction due to the current being too strong, this year's event went off without a hitch.

"They went where they were meant to go," said Humanitarian Services Coordinator for Red Cross Taranaki and Event Organiser Shirley Birt.

Sustainability SUMMIT

30 April 2019
Primus Hotel, Sydney

Register quick!
Earlybird ends 29 Mar

Hear from:

Leigh Barnes
Chief Purpose Officer, Intrepid Group

Giles Hawke
Global Lead - Sustainability, CEO UK, Cosmos Tours & Avalon Waterways

business events news

www.businessesnews.com.au

Business Events News is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Business Events News is Australia's newest online publication dedicated to the vibrant meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Senior Journalist – Nicholas O'Donoghue

Contributors – Jasmine O'Donoghue,

Adam Bishop, Sarah Fairburn,

Anastasia Prihodko

info@businessesnews.com.au

Business Events News is a publication of Business Events News Pty Ltd ABN 80 153 775 449. All content is fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. *BEN* takes no responsibility for the opinions of its contributors/columnists. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi and

Melanie Tchakmadjian

advertising@businessesnews.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

accounts@businessesnews.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

CRUISE
WEEKLY

Reconnect with the wonders of nature.
In the great outdoors.

Only here



Inspiring events in the mountains

Nestled in the magical Greater Blue Mountains, Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley is a chic conservation retreat offering epic fresh air adventures, seasonal dining and blissful private villas. This is Australia at its finest.

An inclusive group stay with daily dining, regional wines and beverages, nature activities and more, now is the perfect time to plan your winter celebration, meeting or incentive program from \$675 per person per evening twin-share.

Emirates
One&Only
WOLGAN VALLEY
Australia

oneandonlywolganvalley.com

events@oneandonlywolganvalley.com