



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

IBTM record

IBTM World has smashed its record for pre-arranged meetings ahead of the 2019 event in Barcelona on 19-21 Nov.

Meeting numbers are up 6% on last year's total, Exhibition Director, David Thompson said.

"All indicators are that we're going to have another record-breaking event in terms of the number of high-quality opportunities for our customers to do business," he said.

To date buyers from 77 countries have signed up for this month's event.

GOLD COAST LANDS AIEC 2020

INTERNATIONAL education practitioners, teaching staff, research and policy makers are set to deliver a \$3.3 million boost to the Gold Coast's economy when it hosts the Australian International Education Conference (AIEC) in Oct 2020.

The four-day program, taking place at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre in Oct 2020, will be hosted by IDP Education in conjunction with the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA).

Destination Gold Coast CEO Annaliese Battista said the conference win highlights the benefits of Gold Coast's ability to seamlessly integrate business events, leisure travel and education pathways in an enviable location.

"We are delighted the Gold

Coast has been selected to host the 34th annual Australian International Education Conference, as we continue to solidify our reputation as a premier business events destination and a remarkable place to live, work, study and play," she said.

"The Gold Coast is one of Australia's best performing regional edutourism markets, with students and visiting family and friends contributing an estimated \$1.7 billion in total economic value to the region.

"As a destination of extraordinary diversity, our unrivalled business events offering, authentic experiences and enviable climate are just some of the key reasons organisers choose to host their conference on the Gold Coast, with many returning to paradise.



"The world-famous appeal of the Gold Coast is especially enticing for international education, so it is timely that this prestigious conference returns to the heart of Australia's favourite playground."

The bid was secured by Destination Gold Coast in partnership with Study Gold Coast and Study Queensland, with the region's location, climate, conference space and accommodation key to its success.

Miami to host Bitcoin Conf '20

PIONEERS of the near-mainstream cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, will converge on Miami, Florida, in Jan for the seventh Annual North American Bitcoin Conference.

The event is set to attract more than 20,000 attendees, with 60 presenters set to discuss the commercial

potential of blockchain.

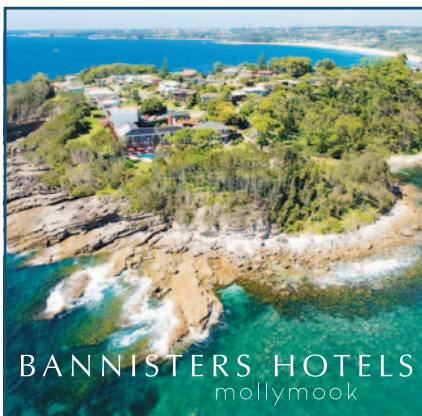
The conference will get started with the annual "kick-off party" on 15 Jan at the Cleverland Hotel on South Beach, with organisers booking out Wharf Miami for a networking night on 16 Jan to mark the end of the event's first day.

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Western Australia is really hotting up for events. Read more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

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EEAA AWARD NOMS

THE Exhibition and Event Association of Australia (EEAA) has announced the finalists for its 2019 Awards for Excellence, which will take place at the Myer Mural Hall in Melbourne on 04 Dec.

The event will be hosted by ABC journalist, Jane Hutcheon, EEAA CEO, Joyce Di Mascio, revealed.

She said that submissions were received across 15 award categories with many of the leading Organisers, Associations, Venues and Suppliers showcasing their best work and the people in their organisations who bring these events to life.

"We congratulate all the finalists and the nominees



for the Richard Geddes Young Achiever Award, all have presented us with outstanding work, and we thank the judges who have put significant time and effort into the assessment of each entry," she said.

The judging panel, chaired by Australian events industry leader John Trevillian, said that the judges had gone through a rigorous process in order to determine the finalists.

CENTREPIECE at PAICE 2019

MELBOURNE and Olympic Parks' newest addition, CENTREPIECE is set to take centre stage at PAICE 2019 in Auckland later this month.

CENTREPIECE at Melbourne Park General Manager Premier Events and Experiences, Lara Burnes, will highlight the venue's location close to the city's CBD and transport facilities, at PAICE on 19 Nov.

"Being only a few hours flight away from New Zealand, we are so excited to meet with delegates at PAICE and showcase how we can create unforgettable experiences for their upcoming events," she said.



Burnes said the venue was designed to cater for "a large-scale conference or design an intimate dinner, our indoor and outdoor function spaces are suitable for any event".

Catering for 10 to 3,000 guests, construction on the new events centre is scheduled to be completed in late 2021, with the venue accepting bookings for Feb 2022 and beyond.



THE world's most remote music festival is already a sell-out, but the Birdsville Big Red Bash is still seeking a sponsor.

With legends of the Australian music industry set to perform before a record 10,000 party-goers in the outback town of Birdsville, Queensland, more than 1,500km west of Brisbane, the event offers sponsors a captive audience to promote their brands.

The festival generated 5,000 pieces of coverage in 2019.

Major Events GC CEO

JAN McCormick has been appointed as the inaugural CEO for the newly established Major Events Gold Coast.

McCormick is also the CEO of Broadbeach Alliance, where she has played a pivotal role in the development of the annual Gold Coast event, Blues on Broadbeach.

Major Events GC Chairman, Darryl Kelly, described McCormick as having a strong understanding of the "needs of Gold Coast businesses and residents and what is needed to drive the future growth of the city as an event destination".

WEB SUMMIT 2019 HITS RECORD

INTERNATIONAL technology conference, Web Summit has attracted a record crowd to its 2019 event in Lisbon, Portugal.

The four-day event, which started yesterday, sold-out on Fri with 70,469 delegates from 163 countries booking their places at the conference.

Organisers revealed the gender gap between attendees has further narrowed with a record 46.3% female attendance - up from 44.5% in 2018.

The conference will feature more than 1,200 speakers over the course of four days, with former US National Security Agency contractor, Edward Snowden, among the first to address delegates via video link yesterday.



However, the event has experienced some issues with delegates taking to Twitter to voice disapproval at "last minute security changes" implemented by Portuguese police.