



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has one page of news plus a full page from **One&Only Palmilla Los Cabos**.

ART Convention '19

THE Australian Regional Tourism (ART) Convention 2019 will take place in Devonport from 21-23 Oct.

Being explored is the theme of "Exploiting the new found focus on regions - is regional Australia finally a genuine part of our national tourism agenda, and are we ready?"

Register for the Australian Regional Tourism Convention **HERE**.



FOLKS these days don't seem to scare much, but we're betting this will frighten the pants right off you.

Knott's Berry Farm in California is transforming for the next six weeks into Knott's Scary Farm.

For the princely sum of US\$43 (AU\$63), brave souls can enjoy what is claiming to be the largest immersive Halloween experience in Southern California.

Should you choose to visit, awaiting you are haunted houses, mazes, themed shows and scare zones - it's a hard pass for us.

DOCKLANDS PIER IN THE DARK

FUNCTION venues at Docklands' Central Pier in Melbourne are demanding answers as to the sudden closure of the pier last month due to suspected safety concerns.

Stakeholders from events spaces such as MAIA, Peninsula, Sketch and Sumac, as well as 1,300 staff based at the Pier, remain in limbo after it was closed abruptly.

Development Victoria has not given any indication of how long the pier will remain closed, nor the extent of the damage.

One source close to the project told *The Age* the works could take up to six months, after tenants were originally told they would have to vacate for just one month.

"This has been an extremely stressful period for all of our staff who want answers from



Development Victoria about when they will be able to return to work on Central Pier," a spokesperson said to *The Age*.

"We are focused on providing clarity and certainty for 1,300 of our employees, as well as the hundreds of corporate and social clients and customers," the source said.

A spokesperson for Development Victoria said, "an

assessment about options for remediation may take several weeks and no decisions have been made about what repairs may be required", adding specialist marine engineering consultants had been brought in to analyse the condition of the Pier.

Over 100 years old, the Pier began stabilisation efforts early this year.

NT rebranding

THE Northern Territory has announced the Northern Territory Convention Bureau will be rebranded to Northern Territory Business Events.

Research conducted by the Government determined "conferences" and "business events" were more often searched for when information on potential destinations was sought.

The refresh aims to "resonate and engage more effectively and efficiently" with the marketplace.

2019 MEA Awards now open

THE 2019 Meetings & Events Australia (MEA) Awards Program is now open to the Australian events community.

A total of 44 awards will be given out for each state and territory, including 24 Company Awards, nine Event Awards and seven Individual Awards, recognising outstanding creativity, expertise and exceptional experiences in the delivery of events.

The state and territory awards will be presented from 23 Mar to 03 Apr, with



MEA National Awards to be presented on 04 May at Evolve 2020 in the Hunter Valley.

Awards are open to anyone, not just MEA members, and submissions will close at midnight on 10 Feb.

CLICK HERE to register for the Awards.

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