



## Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

### New MEA board

**MEETINGS** and Events Australia (MEA) has named the nine members of its new Board at the MEA Annual General Meeting last week.

The Board comprises Nigel Collin as Chairperson; Suzana Bishop from Fed Square as Deputy Chair; Beverley Williamson from the Melbourne Convention Bureau as Secretary and Harry the Hirer's Michael Firman as Treasurer.

Other directors include Belinda Doery from Solterbeck, Sydney Masonic Centre's Paul Davison, Kirsty Forbes from Accor, Jessica Glass of the University of Qld, & Paula Nolan from the Commonwealth Bank.

The new Board will meet regularly, including a strategic planning day scheduled for Jan to review its membership proposition, identify new business opportunities and seek to strengthen its educational offering given its position as the only industry association that is a registered education and training provider.

### UK reopening

**LARGE** business events with up to 4,000 delegates will be able to resume in most of the UK later this week, as soon as the country's national lockdown ends.

PM Boris Johnson laid out the new requirements for business events, spectator sports and other gatherings in Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas, which will bring them into line with theatres and concert hall venues.

Events will not be allowed in Tier 3 areas with high rates of COVID-19.

### Hilton is ready!

**HILTON** Australia showcased its EventReady with CleanStay initiative at an event in Sydney last week, with a full range of COVID-safe protocols to allow meetings and events to return to its properties.

Hilton's Senior Director, Commercial for Australasia, Shaizeen Contractor, said while other providers were making changes, "Hilton is the first to develop a truly holistic cleanliness and disinfection program leveraging trusted experts in health and hygiene," with CleanStay extending across the entire hotel experience - including the event spaces in each property.

F&B has been reimaged for a COVID-safe environment, along with room layouts and more, with a full "Playbook" available to help guide event planners - see [meetings.hilton.com](https://meetings.hilton.com).

### Auckland win

**THE** International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES) will take place in Auckland, NZ in 2023, with around 450 delegates from across the globe expected to attend the five day event.

It's estimated ICWES will deliver an economic contribution of over NZ\$880,000 along with almost 2,600 visitor nights.

It's the first time the flagship event has been held in NZ in its 56-year history, with the conference secured by the Auckland Convention Bureau in partnership with the Association for Women in the Sciences and Engineering New Zealand.

## MCEC LIVE EVENTS RETURN

**THE** Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has confirmed it is now welcoming live events and experiences once again, under the updated Vic Government Public Events Framework.

Events at the Centre are currently limited to 25% of the venue's seating capacity, up to a maximum of 250 people seated, while free-standing events are not allowed at this stage.

A density limit of one person per four square metres applies to non-fixed seating areas.

The MCEC has been closed for eight months due to the pandemic, during which time "we've been doing a lot of work behind the scenes to make our customers' next experience at MCEC memorable and safe".

A wide range of measures have been implemented under the Centre's new VenueSafe Plan, while every event in the premises will also be required to have its own COVIDsafe plan.

In-house VenueSafe advisors will work alongside employees, customers and contractors

to ensure that MCEC and government health protocols are followed, the Centre said, adding that it was only open to delegates at events that are actually under way, with the MCEC not able to be used as a public thoroughfare to the surrounding precinct.

Entry and exit points will be reduced to allow for health checks at each point, including temperature checks and hand sanitizing, and all MCEC staff will receive training on COVID-19 safety and sanitisation protocols.

"MCEC is more than an incredible event space. We partner with our customers to deliver unique experiences," the Centre said in an update, adding that event capacity will increase over time, based on public health advice and in line with the Government's framework and future easing of restrictions.

"It will be some time before we can return to the level of activity we're used to in our building. But this is a positive step," the update added.

## Be inspired with *keep dreaming...*

A weekly e-magazine with destination features, puzzles and more.



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**CORPORATE** event planners are set to break out the bangers with the exciting opening of the new Grill Academy in Adelaide.

The new Weber corporate experience and event space is being described as “another first in barbecuing,” offering a 120m2 all-weather balcony complete with the company’s full range of barbecues ready for action.

The complete “Hands on Tongs” interactive barbecue experience is limited to 20 guests, but larger events are also possible including fully-catered barbecues.

Capacities for gatherings at the Academy will be adjusted as required to meet evolving COVID-19 restrictions.

A full bar and catering facilities are available, and there’s state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment available for any presentations.

While it’s the first Weber Grill Academy in Australia, the new facility joins more than 100 others across the globe, with spokesperson Jakki Govan from Clockwise Consulting confirming there had already been strong enthusiasm from association and corporate planners.

For those not so handy with tongs, there is full instruction available from the Academy’s manager Adam Mizzi, who was a 2016 *MasterChef Australia* contestant.

## IBTM departure

**REED** Travel Exhibitions has announced that IBTM Events Portfolio Director, Shane Hannam, is stepping down after almost three years in the role.

The full IBTM Events roster will now be managed by Claude Blanc, alongside his current position as Portfolio Director for World Travel Market.

Hannam has been with Reed Exhibitions throughout almost his entire career, having commenced with the organisation as far back as 2002 as an International Sales Exec.

## SkyCity events

**THE** newly minted \$330 million SkyCity Adelaide integrated entertainment precinct will open to the public later this week, with the revamped facility featuring the new Eos five-star luxury hotel, four new restaurants & two new bars.

In early 2021 SkyCity’s new Functions Floor will open, including the new SkyCity Ballroom with capacity for 650 guests and a range of other meeting spaces.

## Australia Next out

**BUSINESS** Events Australia has released the latest editions of its incentive inspiration publication *Australia Next*.

The new issues are now available in NZ and the USA, along with an inaugural edition for the South and South East Asia markets, aiming to keep business event dreams alive.

## Who needs a drink?



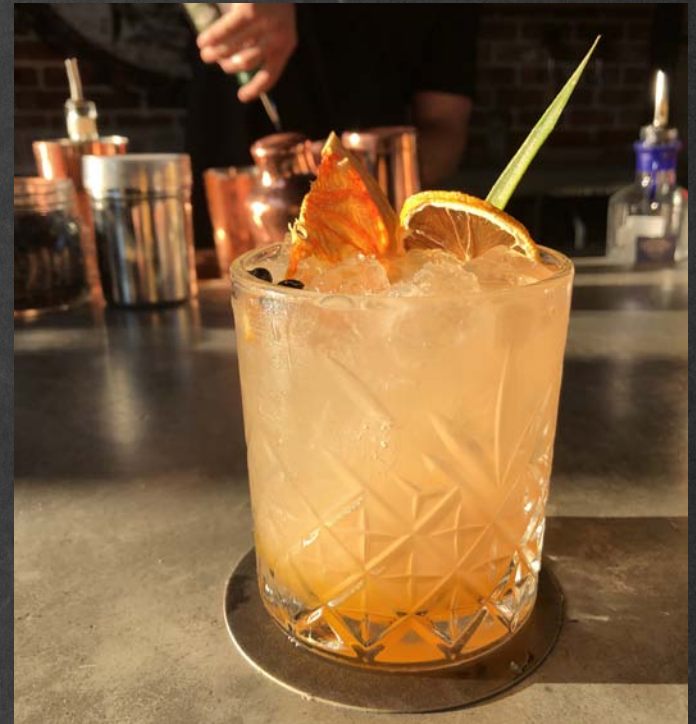
**NAMED** after the Gold Coast’s perfect temperature, the latitude of the destination and the local lifeguard tower of the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, this cocktail will give you a taste of summer.

mixologist Luke Ridden. As always, please keep sending your recipes to [cocktails@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:cocktails@traveldaily.com.au).

xx Jenny

Jenny Piper  
Owner,  
Business  
Publishing  
Group

The drink was put together for the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre award winning distiller and creative



## 28 Degrees Cocktail

### INGREDIENTS

- 45ml Greenhouse Gin
- 30ml passionfruit pulp
- 20ml lime juice
- 20ml pineapple juice
- Grapefruit tonic
- Pineapple leaves, rosemary sprigs, dehydrated grapefruit and lime wheels to garnish

### METHOD

Pour passionfruit pulp into a glass and add ice. Pour gin, lime juice and pineapple juice over ice. Top with grapefruit tonic. Garnish with pineapple leaves, rosemary sprigs, dehydrated grapefruit and lime wheels for the full 28 Degrees experience.

### EDITORIAL

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