



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

Carriageworks back on track

SYDNEY events and arts precinct Carriageworks is set to emerge from voluntary administration (*BEN* 12 May) after previously being forced to close amid plummeting revenue due to COVID-19 restrictions.

NSW Minister for the Arts Don Harwin said the revival followed provision of a "multimillion dollar lifeline" from several generous philanthropists who have committed to the survival and the artistic vision representative of the Carriageworks precinct. "We are delighted with this outcome," he said, thanking Geoff Ainsworth and his wife Johanna Featherstone, Kerr Neilson, Michael Gonski and the Packer Family Foundation for their contributions.

NSW government agency Create NSW has also committed to a 10-year lease and a five year funding agreement with Carriageworks Limited.

Cvent free training

EVENT technology provider Cvent has trained and certified over 1,500 Asia-Pacific marketers, event planners and hospitality professionals through its training platform which is currently being offered to anyone in the industry free of charge through until 31 Aug.

Certifications were previously only available to Cvent clients at a cost of up to \$2,500 - see the academy at [cvent.com](https://www.cvent.com).

IHG SLASHES CANX FEES

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group (IHG) is urging event planners to consider booking upcoming meetings by providing extended flexibility for cancellations along with a range of incentives.

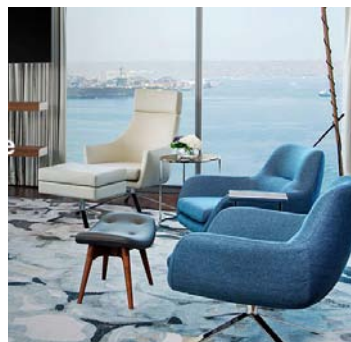
The new IHG "Meet with Confidence" initiative includes no cancellation fees, no attrition fees for rooms which are not booked, and up to a 5% rebate towards the master bill.

The offer applies to bookings of 10 to 50 rooms for upcoming meetings or group events, with or without a meeting room.

It's valid for bookings confirmed by 31 Dec 2020, with meeting or stay dates through until 30 Jun 2021.

IHG Business Rewards points are also applicable on all bookings under the program.

Hotels in the group are also adapting to the new environment with the launch of innovative new tools, including capacity chart calculators which automate the recommended set-up for each room based on



social distancing guidelines.

Creative room set diagrams have also been created to modify room configurations and reimagine traditional spaces, including the hybrid use of indoor and outdoor spaces and the use of alternative areas such as suites, chef's tables, pool decks and gardens.

IHG also recently overhauled its "Way of Clean" program with strengthened health and hygiene measures to ensure guest, delegate and team safety.

More information on the book now, meet later offer along with formal requests for proposals can be seen at [ihg.com](https://www.ihg.com).

Melb ripple effect

THE COVID-19 flare-up in Melbourne this week has seen a number of already postponed events likely to be further delayed.

Analysis by Conference Monitor showed the main impact is on organisers who had postponed their conferences at the outset of the pandemic, and made plans to host them again later this year, usually at the same venue.

Compounding the problem is an increase in demand for conference space in early 2021, as other organisers took a longer view on recovery and deferred their bookings until that period.

Conference Monitor's Matt Baxter said the added financial pressure is likely to result in significantly scaled-down conferences, if not permanent cancellations, until the event sector is able to return to normality.

Conference trivia

THE Conference Shop is inviting the industry to participate in an upcoming "Business Events Trivia" session, with a range of prizes on offer as participants test their hotel and venue knowledge.

Sponsors include Crowne Plaza Coogee Sydney Beach, the William Inglis Hotel, Novotel Wollongong, Cypress Lakes Resort and the Hyatt Hotel Canberra, all of which are providing prizes.

Places are limited, with the event to take place on Tue 21 Jul at 12.30pm sharp.

Register for a spot at the Conference Shop website at [theconferenceshop.com.au](https://www.theconferenceshop.com.au).


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 business events news



EVENT organisers concerned about social distancing during networking functions in a post-COVID environment should take a tip from a pub in Cornwall, UK, where an electric fence has been installed in front of the bar.

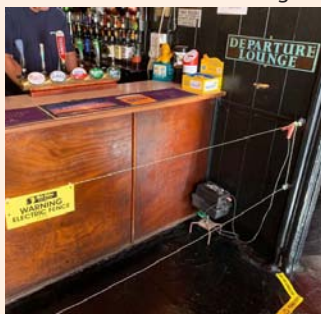
The innovation (pictured) at the Star Inn in St Just followed frustration in getting patrons to comply with the guidelines.

Landlord Johnny McFadden said "before the fence, people were not following social-distancing and were doing as they pleased.

"But now people take heed to the guidance," he told the *Cornwall Live* news site.

Apparently a couple of drunken customers received a zap on Sat night after one too many pints, while the barbed wire is also ensuring people keep their distance from bar staff.

McFadden said he had also posted some polite signage asking people to do the right thing, but hoped that the electric fence would also shock locals into behaving.



IBTM for Dec

IBTM Events is inviting the global event professional community to gather in Barcelona, Spain on 01 Dec for IBTM World 2020.

Portfolio Director Shane Hannam said despite the disappointment of COVID-19 which has forced the cancellation of events across the globe, but added that "finally we can all now meet again and rediscover the strength and influence of business events".

He said IBTM had been working hard with colleagues in Barcelona to ensure the event can proceed with safety.

"We know things will be a little different this year... we may not be able to greet each other with handshakes and hugs like we normally do, but the most important thing is that we will be there together as one industry and one community and we can't wait to see you" - ibtmworld.com.

CINZ, TNZ pact

CONVENTIONS and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) has renewed its partnership agreement with Tourism New Zealand (TNZ).

The pact will see TNZ take over management of CINZ's participation in the Asia Pacific Incentives and Meetings Event (AIME).



BCEC SET FOR REOPENING



THE Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) has announced it will reopen next month, after the approval by Queensland Health of its Site Specific COVID Safe Plan.

Queensland Treasurer Cameron Dick welcomed the prospective return of the venue, saying it was a "significant milestone" for the state.

"As we unite and recover from the pandemic, it's cause for celebration that we can welcome staff and visitors back to this outstanding venue," he said, with the BCEC COVID Safe plan integrated with the VenueShield protocol developed by the Centre's parent group ASM Global (**BEN** 05 May).

The Centre said VenueShield was being rolled out at ASM's 325 venues worldwide, providing the "most advanced hygiene safeguards and exceeding current regulations".

A newly developed BCEC Safe Event Guideline has been prepared specifically to assist in the planning of events at the Centre, encompassing all the necessary health safeguards, food safety measures and social distancing requirements.

Currently the BCEC website lists a number of upcoming events including the Australian Women's Leadership Symposium on 10 Sep, and Flight Centre's World Travel Expo - Including Cruising 2020 on 25 Oct.

Events Beyond relaunch

SYDNEY-BASED corporate travel specialist Travel Beyond has announced a new identity for its Events Beyond brand, including a logo (pictured) and website showcasing events hosted over the last

two years during which it has experienced "exponential growth".

The new look brand is online at eventsbeyond.com.au.



eventsbeyond