



MEA HAILS SUCCESS OF EVOLVE

MEETINGS and Events Australia (MEA) has delivered the country's first ever full-day virtual conference, with more than 25 plenary and concurrent sessions featured in the Evolve:Renovated program.

Over 550 event professionals across Australia and New Zealand took part in the organisation's major annual event, which has pivoted to an online format for the first time in more than 40 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The technology, broadcast from Melbourne's Deakin Edge at Federation Square, was facilitated by Events Air's OnAir platform which repackaged the traditional face-to-face gathering into a single day TV-style production.

MEA Chair Kate Smith said "through the leadership, collaboration and generous support from our valued partners, we were able to reimagine Evolve and share inspiring and thought-provoking presentations that helped us to navigate and shape our industry's recovery".

"We were proud to lead the



way and bring our community together to reconnect and share this ground-breaking experience."

The event featured Australian comedian and media presenter Dave Thornton as MC, along with a range of educational updates interspersed with personal care, wellness and fitness sessions.

Participants were also invited to connect and network online with other attendees via the platform's Meeting Hub and

virtual exhibition.

MEA CEO Robyn Johnson said Evolve:Renovated was "a great opportunity to demonstrate MEA's leadership in the planning and delivery of exceptional events and experiences and demonstrate the ingenuity of the venue and our tech partners".

Participants who attended the virtual conference will be provided with access to recordings of every session via the MEATV platform.

ICC renaming

INTERNATIONAL

Convention Centre Sydney's 8,000-seat theatre is to be renamed "Aware Super Theatre," in line with the rebranding of its theatre naming rights partner First State Super.

The venue name change will take effect in mid-Sep.

Meeting space?



Let's talk about how our space can help fill your space.

SPECIAL PACKAGES AVAILABLE

 business events news

Cairns Convention Centre revamp

QUEENSLAND Tourism Minister Kate Jones has announced details of a \$176 million expansion to the Cairns Convention Centre, with an additional 10,000 square metres of meeting, banquet and exhibition space.

A refurbishment of the existing Centre is scheduled for completion in Feb 2021, while the further expansion will add "amazing new spaces" to the facility, with capacity for up to 5,000 when it is finalised in early 2022.

Thai health push

A GROUP of Destination Management Companies in Thailand have banded together to develop the Thailand Hygiene Plus Initiative, providing clients with reassurance of health and safety plans - [CLICK HERE](#).

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HERE'S a great giveaway idea for your next event - a bottle of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's very own gin.

Buckingham Palace in London has been closed since Mar due to COVID-19, but will finally reopen later this week.

During the coronavirus downtime the managers of the Royal Collection Trust, which manages the property, have been very busy, creating a new "premium small-batch London dry gin" infused with products from the Buckingham Palace garden.

It's not clear whether the new beverage (pictured) is a preferred tittle of ER herself, but the new gin will definitely be served at official Palace events and can also be bought online and in the gift shop.

"For the perfect thirst- quencher, the recommended serving method is to pour a measure of the gin into an ice-filled short tumbler, before topping up with tonic and garnishing with a slice of lemon," the Trust suggests.



Virtual styling masterclass

WILLIAM Angliss Institute has announced a free "virtual events styling" masterclass as part of its upcoming open day.

Events management teacher Sandra Grima will showcase an "in-depth introduction to event styling," including the latest trends from across the country.

A virtual event management panel session will also feature several eminent industry spokespeople, with the Virtual Open Day taking place online on 01-02 Aug with over 2,000 prospective local, regional and international students expected to attend.

Register at angliss.edu.au.

ITB Asia online

MESSE Berlin (Singapore), the organisers of the upcoming MICE Show Asia, Travel Tech Asia, and ITB Asia event, have announced the shows will go virtual from 21-23 Oct 2020.

Originally scheduled to take place in Singapore on the same dates, the virtual event will be hosted on a newly created platform titled the ITB Community.

The Oct online event will feature over 5000 pre-qualified international MICE, corporate and leisure buyers who will be invited with a full-access pass to business matching, conference sessions and the exhibitor directory - see itb-asia.com.



Partner Up

The low down on tech in the events world



What hygiene measures should you expect at your next event?

AS RESTRICTIONS during this unprecedented time ebb and flow, venues will be enforcing tighter controls over sanitation and hygiene. To that end, expect your next in-person event to be across these safe hygiene measures:

Staff will be Social Distancing

Both venue staff and AV technicians on-hand at your event will be expected to adhere to social distancing recommendations. This means that while they will be able to control operator's desks and manage technical issues, they are unlikely to be able to resolve issues that would require close-proximity to guests, such as wiring up lapel microphones. Instead, expect to see more simple solutions used, such as hand-held microphones and fixed position microphones.

Contactless handling of presentations and media

In keeping with social distancing, AV companies and technicians will most likely prefer that any media is sent and stored in cloud-based

systems to reduce the need for physical data storage and the possible contact that goes with it (presentations, videos or other media required for the event). The AV provider may also have a preference for using in-house laptops over those brought in by guests to ensure safer hygiene standards.

More thorough equipment cleaning

Equipment that is handled during an event will require thorough cleaning and sanitation. This not only includes the AV equipment, but the tables and chairs and touch controllers.

More time between presentations as items are cleaned

In addition to the higher levels of sanitation on equipment, allow a little more time between presentations as any items used by the presenter, such as lecterns and microphones, will need to be cleaned and sanitised before a new presenter can use them.

Nigel Taylor is the Partner at Four Seasons Hotel Sydney for AVPartners, an unrivalled provider of fully integrated event solutions to premier conferencing and event venues in Australia - for more information see www.avpartners.com.

