



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has three pages of news and a full page from Novotel Brighton.

CINZ series

CONVENTIONS and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) will launch the MEETINGS Education Series at MEETINGS 2020 at ASB Showgrounds in Auckland on 22 and 23 Apr.

Sponsored by Celebrity Speakers, the series will include talks from four guests, including former New Zealander of the Year Dr Lance O'Sullivan, and celebrity chef Simon Gault, scheduled for 10am and 2.45pm on both days.

To register, **CLICK HERE**.

DON'T CANCEL EVENTS - EEAA

THE Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) has urged the country's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Brendan Murphy, to make a public statement saying there is "no reason to cancel or postpone events such as exhibitions, conferences and other business meetings".

EEAA CEO Claudia Sagripanti (**pictured**) said it was vital that the Australian government follow the lead of other international jurisdictions and "declare public events low risk" for the spread of coronavirus.

"We want to reassure event attendees that events... can continue operating in light of current advice from Government," Sagripanti said.

She noted that the industry had already responded by implementing World Health Organization guidelines, such as



additional cleaning procedures, providing hand sanitisers, upgrading workplace health and safety protocols and asking event attendees who feel unwell to stay at home.

While the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has already formally recommended that public events should proceed, the EEAA

has called on the government to "elevate the message and call for calm in the community".

EEAA is collaborating with Meetings & Events Australia (MEA) to host COVID-19 Information Exchanges in Sydney, Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

To register to attend or for more details, see eeaa.com.au.

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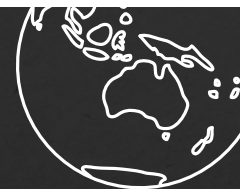
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iVvy Wembley win

VENUE management software specialist iVvy Inc has announced a new partnership with Delaware North at the UK's iconic Wembley Stadium.

The Wembley team has selected iVvy's sales and catering platform to optimise the venue's group sales, meetings and events.

iVvy CEO Lauren Hall said the company continued to build its partnerships in the stadium space by providing solutions to a growing number of customers within the UK.

She said the cloud-based CRM and advanced event booking system was able to boost efficiencies by over 50%.

The iVvy-Delaware North at Wembley Stadium roll-out has commenced, with additional Delaware North UK venues, including London Stadium, to begin implementation of the new platform later this year.

Indaba still on

SOUTH African Tourism says it has no intention of postponing or cancelling this year's INDABA 2020 conference, scheduled to take place in Durban from 12-14 May this year.

While the COVID-19 situation remains unpredictable, the organisation said it is constantly monitoring the unfolding landscape.

"For association meetings and conferences, SAT will continue to work with the health and safety authorities to ensure that we have up-to-date information provision for organisers to keep them at ease of South Africa's readiness to host business events," an official statement read.

More at southafrica.net.

GET GLOBAL 2020 OFF



THE cancellation of this year's Get Global exhibition (**BEN** breaking news) is a reflection of the intimate industry knowledge of founders Gary Bender and Donna Kessler (**pictured**), who said they recognised the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the business events sector.

The show, set to take place at Sydney's International Convention Centre in Jul this year, was already more than half sold-out, but the pair said they were acutely aware of what coronavirus would do to buyers' capacity to book and spend in the year ahead.

"The success of our show's brand is based on very strong ROI for exhibitors...we know,

as we work every day in the industry, that the impact of coronavirus on international business travel has been severe, and our exhibitors who sell international destinations are particularly impacted," according to Bender.

Exhibitors are being offered full refunds or secured spots in Get Global 2021, which is scheduled for 30 Jul next year.

Novotel special

NOVOTEL Sydney Brighton Beach is highlighting its Day Delegate Package, starting from \$75 per person.

Bonus offers include a \$500 gift card - **see page 4**.



Amora Hotel Riverwalk Melbourne is the place to be!

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Sage Meets

SAGE Hotel Adelaide has launched the Sage Meets program to reward meeting planners and event organisers who spend more than \$1,000.

Rewards, based on the level of spend, include 64GB Samsung Galaxy Tablet and Active2 watch, \$250 Zouk bar voucher and a free stay.

The property features four function rooms that can accommodate up to 200 delegates.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

GCCEC is gold

THE GOLD Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) nabbed gold in the Business Event Venues category at the Australian Tourism Awards in Canberra on Fri night.

The category included evaluation of entrants based on Tourism Excellence, Business Planning, Marketing, Customer Service and Sustainability.

The Queensland Govt-owned GCCEC opened in 2004 and is managed by the Star Entertainment Group.

MEANWHILE, it was announced on the night that the 2021 Australian Tourism Awards will be held at the Sunshine Coast Convention Centre, which is expected to attract more than 850 industry stakeholders.

CELEBRATING WOMEN



THE Exhibition and Event Association of Australia (EEAA) says its 2020 International Women's Day (IWD) Breakfast, hosted at Doltone House in Sydney last Thu, was a "great success".

The all-female panel line-up included Origami Flight Creative Director Daz Chandler; Full Time Lives founder and CEO Natalie Yan-Chatonsky; Harry the Hirer Senior BDM Christine Kotsis; and ICC Sydney Director of Finance and Administration Erica Blythe.

"A clear message that came through from the panel

discussion was that we all must commit to taking action - we can do better," said EEAA Chief Executive Claudia Sagripanti.

Donations from the sold-out event, which was established in 2014, will go towards supporting UN Women and Fitted for Work, an organisation that helps women who have been disadvantaged get into the workforce.

Pictured: Anna Cesarano, Doltone House; Joyce DiMascio, The Venues Collection; Spiro Anemogiannis, EEAA President; and Claudia Sagripanti, EEAA Chief Executive.

International events cancelled

THE global travel and tourism sector has joined the trend towards cancellation of international gatherings, with the latest casualty being the annual Rendezvous en France conference convened by Atout France, the French government's official tourism marketing agency.

Scheduled to take place 24-25 Mar in Nantes, organisers formally pulled the pin on the event today, citing the ongoing rise of coronavirus in Europe.

Other recent major tourism cancellations include ITB Berlin.

BoE speakers

BUSINESS of Events (BoE) 2020 has announced its female line-up of speakers, which will be led by veteran presenter and reporter Tina Altieri.

Collective Hub CEO Lisa Messenger will kick off the conference, scheduled on 19 Mar at Luna Park, Sydney, with an info session over breakfast.

Melbourne Convention Bureau Business Development and Bids GM Beverley Williamson and Coles Supermarkets Head of Events and Sponsorship Carmel Horvath will also take to the stage - for more, **CLICK HERE**.



ATTENDEES at the Mumbrella Travel Marketing Summit, taking place in Sydney this Thu 12 Mar, will need to get creative with their greetings.

The summit's organisers, Diversified Communications, have announced a "no-handshake/cheek-kiss policy" amid coronavirus fears, and said they will provide hand sanitisers around the venue.

But hey, at least there's still the option of pats on back, fist bumps or the now infamous "Wuhan shake" involving fancy toe taps.

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