



# EVENTS RESTART PLOTTED



**BUSINESS** events for up to 100 delegates could restart as soon as 01 Jul, under a “Tourism Restart Timetable” proposed by the Tourism Restart Taskforce, a group of industry leaders convened by the Australian Chamber - Tourism.

A meeting on Fri determined the possible timing of the restart of the tourism and travel sector, with larger business events envisioned from 10 Sep.

The schedule (pictured) is subject to health advice at each step “but looks more and more possible every day,” according to Australian Chamber - Tourism Executive Chair, John Hart.

Ticketed events for the general public with over 100 pax may be possible from 15 Oct under the timetable, while international travel to NZ and the Pacific may commence as soon as 01 Jul, the group said.

## Brighton festivities

**NOVOTEL** Brighton Beach in Sydney is promoting a range of Christmas packages and tailored events.

Bookings confirmed before 31 Jul will receive a complimentary beverage package upgrade, with cocktail parties priced from \$99 per person including four hours of beverages, Christmas theming and lucky door prizes - more details on **page three**.

## COVID-free Norfolk

**NORFOLK** Island is well advanced with preparations for reopening and welcoming back the all-important MICE market.

The Pacific Ocean idyll has remained virus free and was the earliest jurisdiction in Australia to ease restrictions, allowing restaurants to reopen.

**Today's issue of BEN**  
*Business Events News* today has two pages of news and a full page from **Novotel Sydney Brighton Beach**

# RELAY GOES VIRTUAL



**INTERNATIONAL** Productions and Cornerpoint Studio have partnered together to rescue a major cancer research fundraiser after the event was set to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

The Hills Relay for Life brings together communities for a 24 hour walking event, and in lockdown it looked impossible until the event experts stepped in to make it happen.

Cornerpoint and International Productions donated a whopping 380 hours of their time, led by Adryan Daynes (pictured) who said his team worked on an engaging four-hour program which is now being shared

with relay organisers in other parts of the country.

The Relay program included baking brownies with author Janelle Bloom, a “guess the song era” session with DJ Tony, group Zumba and the Hope Ceremony which is a key part of any Relay event.

Live crosses throughout the day kept the program interactive, with participants live streaming the event through Facebook and Youtube from 2pm to 6pm.

The virtual Relay for Life raised \$70,000 for the Cancer Council, with spokesperson Danielle Sammut hailing the generous contribution of International Productions and Cornerpoint Studio.

## Catch up on the news of the week

Travel Daily

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**WANT** to make your next event COVID-19-safe?

Perhaps you should enlist the assistance of a new “bionic barman” (pictured) which has debuted in Spain.

The robotic beverage server has been installed during the lockdown period at a bar called La Gitana Loca (The Crazy Gypsy) in Seville, and can happily serve drinks without any risk of contamination.

Spain is gradually easing its coronavirus lockdowns, but a high death toll has meant bars and restaurants are only just starting to reopen now.

The bar’s owner, Alberto Martinez, said he bought the robot before the pandemic escalated, but had not been able to activate it before the bar was forced to close.

However “we thought it would be ideal for reopening in phase one,” he told *AFP*.

“It’s all very self-service,” he added, with disposable plastic cups used and no contact whatsoever between customers and other items in the bar - which unfortunately is still limited to a maximum of 12 patrons at a time.



## MCEC plots relaunch

**MELBOURNE** Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) CEO Peter King has appointed Helen Fairclough to the newly created role of Director of Business Relaunch, as the venue looks to the post-COVID-19 world.

“Like many in the event sector we have found ourselves in the position of not being able to perform our core business at this time, and the immediate loss of revenue has proved challenging,” King said.

While MCEC made the early call to close its operations ahead of other venues, “now we are turning our attention to securing MCEC’s future,” he said.

Fairclough was formerly acting Chief Operations Officer, and prior to that director of People, Culture and Improvement at MCEC, and she is also on the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry board.

“Helen is uniquely placed to guide the business through a process that looks at every aspect of what we do well, what we could do better and what we have never done before, but may be able to do in the new world,” King said.

MCEC will look at new business models, products and revenue streams across local, national and international markets, with King giving Fairclough “the licence to be unrestrained in what we explore as a business”.

Fairclough said she was excited at the prospect of being able to take advantage of the rare opportunity to “pause and reflect...so we can position MCEC at the forefront of the industry when we make it to the other side of the pandemic.”

Having trouble unpacking the government stimulus packages and how they can help your business? Read the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK to read**

**travelBulletin**



## Partner Up

The low down on tech in the events world



## What virtual solution is right for you?

**AS WE** continue to evolve with changing times the events industry is keenly adapting to facilitate conferencing and events.

While virtual conferencing can cater to any size event, from small business meetings to large conferences, these events can be loosely grouped into three modes.

• **Meeting room**  
The meeting room is much the same as always; a dedicated space in a venue, such as a hotel, that a person or small team can walk into and begin their virtual meeting with professionalism and privacy.

The perks of this style are that all equipment and software should be provided making it ‘walk in, walk out’.

• **Virtual Events**  
Virtual Events are perfect for broadcasting to a wider audience where the aim is

to provide studio-quality content to one or more streaming platforms. Virtual events combine the traditional elements of presenter-based events, which could be key-note speakers or panel discussions, through the online platform.

• **Hybrid Events**  
Hybrid events combine both in-person and online attendees.

These are suitable for larger events that may include plenary sessions, break-out sessions, exhibitor booths and networking events.

In all of these scenarios, it’s important to consider the content that is being presented and how to be creative and engaging with online mediums.

This is where experienced teams, like AVPartners, can provide not only technical support, but advice on the structure and presentation of the event.

Jovan Singh is the Partner at Shangri-La Hotel Sydney for AVPartners, an unrivalled provider of fully integrated event solutions to premier conferencing and event venues in Australia - [www.avpartners.com](http://www.avpartners.com)



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