



NSW scholarships

THE NSW Government is now seeking applications for 18 Diploma of Event Management scholarships which are being offered in partnership with Meetings & Events Australia.

The online program aims to maintain and build excellence, giving students in regional areas the opportunity to further their career and contribute to the growth of their local economy.

Applications close on 04 Jul - see meetinns.com.au.

Tassie event hunt

IN LINE with the Tasmanian Govt's \$21.5m election commitment, negotiations have commenced with the organisers of six of the state's events to deliver multi-year funding agreements.

The six events - Australian Wooden Boat Festival, Dark Mofo, Festivele, the Junction Arts Festival, Mona FOMA and Targa Tasmania - attracted nearly 40,000 visitors to the state in 2019-20, with a return on investment of \$170 million.

Securing the events will also complement Tasmania's \$8 million Events Support and Attraction Fund.

Sharon joins team

VENUE management company Tourism Portfolio has appointed Sharon Levingston as its GM.

With a career spanning all sectors from MICE, corporate travel, sports groups and hospitality, Levingston's deep industry roots & partnerships will see her create innovative and strategic solutions for the business, and connect partners.

Levingston was previously The Events Authority's General Manager of Events.

SEE WA VENUES FOR YOURSELF

BUSINESS Events Perth has introduced a range of new digital tours showcasing some of Western Australia's best conference venues.

The new service is intended to disrupt the way site visits are conducted by event planners, with detailed 3D viewings of blue chip venues now on offer via any smart device, including the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre, and Optus Stadium.

"Event planners are now able to take a virtual self-guided walk through a Perth meeting venue and feel like they're really there, no matter where they are in the world," Business Events Perth CEO Gareth Martin said.

"This is a game-changer for reigniting that confidence to plan and book a business event here in Western Australia," he added.

BEIA marks 25

NEW Zealand's business events industry celebrated MEETINGS' 25th anniversary last Thu at Cordis Auckland.

"MEETINGS has marked a turning point for our industry, and a quarter of a century after our first gathering, this is a coming-together to be truly celebrated," BEIA said.

Melbourne lockdown shifts Evolve date

EVOLVE 2021 has been moved from 01 Jul to 08 Sep as a consequence of Melbourne's ongoing lockdown.

The conference will proceed with a live event in Melbourne on the new date, as a sign of Meetings & Events Australia's (MEA) continued support of in-person events and the city of Melbourne (**BEN** 11 May).

"The health and wellbeing of MEA members and the wider community is at the forefront of our decision and members' safety is our main priority," said



The digital tours are part of the body's broader collateral push, including refreshed destination marketing content, more delegate boosting assets and upgraded venue and service searches.

For details on the new virtual tours, **CLICK HERE**.

MEANWHILE Business Events Tasmania has launched a virtual tour of its own, asking

meeting planners to "re-imagine Tasmania's Launceston" online.

A new high-res video promotes the virtue of hosting a major 500-person event in the city, highlighting the destination's relaxed vibe, nature attractions, high-tech venues and great food and wine venues - view **HERE**.

Pictured: The Perth Convention Exhibition Centre.

MyCEB COO

NOOR Ahmad Hamid has been named the new Chief Operating Officer of the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB).

He will play a key role in implementing Malaysia's recently launched Business Events Strategic Marketing Plan 2021-2030.

Get Local grows

GET Local has expanded its footprint at the ICC Sydney to cater for a growing interest it has been receiving from exhibitors and buyers.

The show will now be hosted in both The Gallery and Parkside Ballroom to accommodate delegates attending the Education Program featuring keynotes and a panel discussion, to be held live on 29-30 Jul.

Co-owners Donna Kessler and Gary Bender said the interest for the show had been overwhelming.

"The support we have received from the industry has been truly outstanding... Donna and I are pleased to say we have sold out of the NSW, Qld and National Zone exhibition areas, but we still have some availability in other zones," Bender said.

"We never expected we would need to expand the show footprint at this stage."