



crumbs!

YOU have to admire his poise under pressure - but probably next time he'll get a new belt.

During an awards ceremony in Croatia this week one of the recipients had an awkward wardrobe malfunction during a photo opportunity.

Ivan Zvonimir Čičac is the head of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and was being honoured for his lifetime of humanitarian work by the country's president, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic.

Unfortunately just at the crucial moment his belt failed and down came his trousers, in front of the local paparazzi who managed to immortalise the moment (**below**).

The president attempted to help out by holding the large award to help protect Čičac's dignity, but it seemed to be no avail with the plummeting pants persisting in making their way to the floor.



Adelaide city just warming up

ADELAIDE'S growing capacity to host incentives and business events was well and truly on show at Dreamtime 2015.

"We've always done incentives really well but we haven't been able to get the word out there," said Damien Kitto, ceo Adelaide Convention Bureau.

The bureau has stepped up its marketing efforts, pushing the message "welcome to our home".

"Welcome to our home is about inviting people into our home to experience a very personalised, boutique opportunity and that's what Adelaide and South Australia incentives are all about," Kitto said.

"The great thing about Adelaide is when you bring your incentive, we're able to bring the people in and around your event and basically bring the city to life and offer a boutique experience."

With a 300-500 pax sweet spot, but the capacity to host mega-conventions up to 4,000 people, the city has seen a number of changes in recent years.

Adelaide's waterfront precinct and infrastructure has undergone billion dollar renovations over the last couple of years.

"We've got the biomedical health research precinct developing, that is going to be the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere. Along that whole precinct, there's the casino, the convention centre, the festival centre and the very iconic and unique Adelaide oval," Kitto said.

Hotels have also been popping up throughout the city with the opening of five-star property, The Mayfair earlier this year and a Sofitel and Sheraton in the works.

But it's Adelaide's food and wine, accessibility and people which Kitto says makes the city a hot contender for events.

The city has the most restaurants per capita in the country and produces 70% of Australia's wine.

The State govt recently passed some legislation to make it very easy to start small businesses, which has seen a number of rooftop and laneway bars and restaurants open, a cultural shift which has been well received.

"We see Adelaide as very innovative, creative and the entrepreneurialism is growing and growing across the city," Kitto said.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of the latest news plus a full page from JITO.

12 mths til ICC opens

THE Int'l Convention Centre Sydney is on track to open Dec 2016, with the team in the final planning stages of the test events.

"Along with three impressive theatre venues, ICC Sydney will be home to a 5,000m² open air event deck, a 2,400m² multipurpose event space, a 2,000 seat ballroom and seven exhibition halls, all folding into the beautiful Tumbalong Park which will be expanded by 3,000m²," ICC Sydney ceo & AEG Ogden Group Convention Centres director, Geoff Donaghy said.

The centre will offer 70 event spaces and allow for three conventions to run consecutively.

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Dreamtime dinner wows guests



THE Adelaide-leg of Dreamtime came to a close on Tue night with a lavish Dreamtime dinner at the National Wine Centre of Australia.

Keeping in tow with the food and wine theme, the dinner brought each course to life with a video on the produce's origin.

First delegates heard from Dr Hagan Stehr AO, founder of Clean Seas Hiramasa Kingfish in Port Lincoln, followed by Ben Bryant, chief winemaker of Jacob's Creek, who took attendees through the tasting notes of Centenary Hill Shiraz.

Lastly, Chocolatier Steven ter Horst spoke about his passion for quality, for South Australian produce, and for chocolate, before guests were treated to his degustation dessert table.

Attendees were yesterday split

into groups and headed to Cairns, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney for three days.

Pictured: Damien Kitto, ceo Adelaide Convention Bureau; John O'Sullivan, md Tourism Australia; Penny Lion, head of business events Tourism Australia and Rodney Harrex, ceo of the SA Tourism Commission.



NZ events to Adelaide

NEW Zealand is the biggest market for Adelaide events, Nic Mercer, director of Sales & Marketing, Adelaide Convention Bureau told **BEN** at Dreamtime.

"New Zealand is interested in Adelaide because it's something different to what they usually get and it's really easy to get here."

Mercer says a lot of New Zealanders will typically go to Australia's east coast and so there's a bit of saturation there.

"I think there's a little bit of saturation from the Asian markets as well, they're looking for something different and that's what Adelaide has."

"Part of what Dreamtime is about is to expose Adelaide to those markets. So our challenge is that we have all these fantastic opportunities that nobody really knows about," Mercer said.

CONFESSIONS OF A COMPULSIVE CONFERENCE-GOER

Andrew Klein, professional MC and presentation skills speaker and director of SPIKE Presentations, presents his front line observations on conferences in a regular feature in **BEN**.

10 great things I've seen at conferences in 2015

END of year. Reflection time.

End of year also brings with it Year in Review Best Of Lists. Best TV shows, books, movies or best Federal Politics Leadership Spills. I've been too busy at conferences to be able to comment on any of the above - so here's my list of 10 great things I observed at conferences this year.

10. Shorter conference presentations: bit by bit conference organisers are starting to acknowledge that audiences have shorter attention spans, so TED style 20-30 minute sessions have crept into Agendas and invariably work exceptionally well. More please!

9. Hobart: once derided as a tired or unfashionable destination, it was the location I travelled to more than any other in 2015. As anyone who has conferenced there in the last few years will tell you, it's awesome. In my opinion, MONA is the best museum or evening event location in this country. Go there.

7. Less bullet-points: I've been banging on about this for years but slowly I'm seeing companies insisting on more engaging presentations and less reliance on tired PowerPoint. Still a long way to go but the conferences that got it right (presentations with more images and less words) tended to be more engaging.

6. Hotel wifi: some hotels in Australia are still behind the times, but mostly I noticed that wifi was finally free in 2015.

5. CSR: raising money for charity is nothing new to conferences, but I rarely attended a conference in 2015 that didn't incorporate some element of corporate social responsibility.

4. Younger presenters: maybe it's a sign of my own aging, but for many years I'd been noticing how younger speakers were entering the speaking circuit. This year GenY speakers like Thank-you water's Daniel Flynn, social entrepreneur Holly Ransom and Brad Smith from Braap MotorCycles were everywhere - and they're all a breath of fresh air.

3. Conference apps: they've have been around for a few years but 2015 seemed like a bite-the-bullet year for many organisations - no more conference booklets and wasted paper. Download the App or miss out.

2. Quinoa at conferences: sausage rolls and party pies still get a look-in, but it was good to see some newer healthy options like quinoa and kale served at the 2015 conference buffet.

1. Uptown funk: the most popular conference theme song of 2015 hands-down. Great song at the start of the year but by year's end it had been played to death. We killed "Happy" in 2014 the same way. What great song will we overplay in 2016? Stay tuned.

Happy New Year. See you at a conference in 2016.

If you are looking for an MC for your next conference or a speaker/trainer on presentation skills or pitching skills, email andrew@lunch.com.au or visit his website at www.andrewklein.com.au.



Eventbrite RFID tech

EVENTBRITE will roll out RFID (radio-frequency identification) technology to Australian event-goers next year.

The technology will use smart wristbands to simplify the venue entry process, reducing paper tickets and ticketing fraud, and minimising the need to carry large amounts of cash to events.

Business Events News is Australia's newest online publication dedicated to the vibrant meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

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