



College football to Oz

THE University of California and the University of Hawaii will compete in Sydney on 27 Aug 2016, with the opening round of America's 2016 College Football Championships expected to generate about \$10m for the NSW economy.

MEA calls for applications

MEETINGS and Events Australia is urging MICE industry staff to apply for the 2016 MEA/ Ungerboeck Young Professionals Scholarship, with eight awards up for grabs.

Ungerboeck Software

International has supported the scholarship for more than a decade as part of its commitment to developing young people's careers in the industry.

The scholarship winners, who must be aged 30 or under and have less than three years' full time experience in the industry, receive free registration to the MEA National Conference taking place in Melbourne 17-19 Apr 2016, along with three nights accommodation and return flights.

Open to people working in the meetings & events industry, applicants must be employed by a MEA member and be available for an interview in mid-Feb.

A winner will be chosen from each state and territory, and applications must be received prior to 31 Jan 2016 - for details see meetingevents.com.au.

Jupiters new rooms

JUPITERS Hotel & Casino on the Gold Coast has unveiled the first completed rooms in its current \$345 million transformation.

New features on the level 20 and 21 Executive Floors include a world-class Penthouse, deluxe Executive Rooms and ocean Terrace Suites, with the finest finishes and every detail exuding "coastal elegance".

PCOs enjoy fabulous Fiji



THIS GROUP of professional conference organisers recently experienced InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa on a three day famil, created around the InterContinental Meetings Insider Collection concept.

They stayed in the exclusive Club InterContinental "resort within a resort" and explored Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course as well as enjoying meals prepared by chefs from the resort's signature restaurant Navo, with themed dinners accompanied by Pacific Island tribal drumming and dancing.

The highlight of the trip was a visit to the local Malomalo Primary School in the nearby community, where participants helped paint classrooms before an appreciative performance from the students.

InterContinental Fiji director of MICE David Pearson said feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with the famil providing a platform to showcase Natadola Bay's offerings.

"Most importantly it gave us the chance to promote Fiji as an authentic and enriching MICE destination," Pearson said.

OCEC celebrates wins

THE Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre will host two International Osteoporosis Foundation regional meetings in 2017 and 2021, adding to its forward booking calendar which now comprises 22 events.

General manager Trevor McCartney said the completion of Phase Two of the OCEC would launch a "new and exciting phase in Oman's business events industry," with the addition of two tiered auditoriums, 13 meeting rooms and the Grand and Junior Ballrooms.



Events Calendar

BEN's calendar details events at various venues across Australia.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@businesseventsnews.com.au.

29 NOV-1 DEC

PCO Association Conference and Exhibition 2015; Adelaide Convention Centre; more info at: conference.pco.asn.au

1-2 DEC

EEAA 2015 Conference; Sydney; for more details go to: www.eeaa.com.au.

6-9 DEC

Dreamtime 2015; Adelaide; see: www.tradeeventsaustralia.com.

17-20 JAN

IACC-Australia Asia Pacific Conference; Sydney; visit: www.iacconline.org

23-24 FEB

AIME 2016 Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more visit www.aime.com.au

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crumbs!

AUSTRALIA FACES ROBOT INVASION IN 2009.

That was the grim headline of an announcement from Business Events Sydney last Fri.

But before you get out your phasers or start preparing for a technological attack, don't panic - it's actually good news.

BESydney has managed to secure the world's largest annual robotics event, with hundreds of the mechanical marvels to descend on Australia to "battle it out for one of the coveted RoboCup world trophies" in the RoboCup International Symposium and World Championship.

The University of NSW, Bastion Collective and high school competition circuit RoboCup Junior Australia partnered with BESydney in the bid.

About 2000 robotic researchers from 50 nations will visit Sydney for the six day event, with 600 teams expected to compete in front of as many as 20,000 spectators at the new International Convention Centre Sydney which opens next year.

It's not just fun and games - RoboCup has bold aspirations including, by 2050, fielding a team of "fully autonomous humanoid robots capable of defeating the World Cup-winning [football] squad in a match governed by FIFA's official rules".



ABOVE: Some of UNSW's RoboCup robots.

New reef partnership



SUNLOVER Reef Cruises has launched a new partnership with NQ Exhibitions which centres around the concept of "conferencing on the reef".

Last month some of the delegates at Tourism Tropical North Queensland's annual Sell TNQ trade show experienced a day at Moore Reef which showcased the many options available including Sea-walker helmet diving as well as an exclusive snorkel safari with a marine specialist.

They also enjoyed a surprise ten minute scenic flight courtesy of Nautilus Aviation in a H125 Squirrel Airbus helicopter, the latest addition to its growing fleet.

New DPS chairman

ALLAN Ray OAM has been named as the new chairman of Destination Port Stephens on the NSW north coast.

Ray owns the boutique Nelson Bay resort Marty's at Little Beach, and says key items on his agenda including building community support for tourism, attracting more international visitors and adding more conference facilities.

"We are excited to work with our partners and event organisers to deliver world-class experiences for guests whether on, over or under the water," said Sunlover Reef Cruises group general manager Julie Duncan.

She said Sunlover has the capacity to offer a multitude of options and truly unique charter cruise opportunities, ranging from a two hour break-out session at the Trinity Inlet to a full day out on the reef.

Some of the participants in the introductory dive course are pictured above with their official certificates.

Carlson into Vietnam

CARLSON Rezidor Hotel Group has announced a new contract for the development of the new Radisson Blu Cam Ranh Bay - its first property in Vietnam.

The beachfront hotel is scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2019, with Carlson Rezidor saying it's just the start of its Vietnam growth story with other opportunities-in-progress across the country including Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, and Danang.

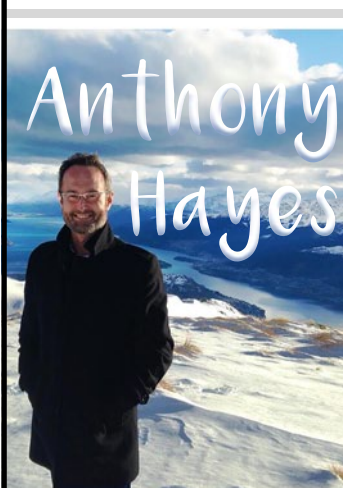
Melbourne dinosaurs

MUSEUM Victoria has revealed that the Melbourne Museum will host the world premiere of *Jurassic World: The Exhibition*.

Opening in Mar 2016, the show is based on Universal Pictures' *Jurassic World* movie, described as "one of the biggest blockbusters in cinema history".

The exhibition will feature encounters with realistic, life-size animatronic dinosaurs, with the Australian exclusive run supported by the Victorian Major Events Company.

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