



## New IACC president

**THE** International Association of Conference Centres (IACC) has announced the election of Alex Cabanas as its new Global President.

Taking up the role immediately, Cabanas is the ceo of Benchmark Hospitality International and will serve a two year term as head of the association which comprises more than 350 conference and meeting venue members across 22 countries worldwide.

Cabanas was previously vice president of the IACC-Americas chapter, and also leads the IACC 2020 task force which is developing a strategy to set goals for the organisation over the next five years.

## Big wins for BCEC in 2014/15

**THE** Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) has hailed a strong year, with 148 bid wins during 2014/15, up 35%.

The overall value of the wins is estimated at \$153 million for the Queensland capital's economy, with healthcare, scientific, medical and education sectors dominating the line-up.

More than 75,000 delegates will visit the city in coming years as a result, generating over 280,000 room nights for Brisbane's accommodation sector.

BCEC general manager Bob O'Keeffe, said the spate of success provided a great opportunity to showcase both

the centre and the city, building on the success and reputation developed during the G20 Leaders Summit last year.

"These latest major wins reinforce the importance of a strong united approach by the city's stakeholders in attracting meetings, involving key sector strengths," he said.

Combined proposals developed by the Brisbane Convention Bureau together with BCEC, Tourism & Events Queensland, city partners and institutions "ensure hosts and delegates have unparalleled conference experiences," said Brisbane Marketing gm of Conventions & Business Events, Rob Nelson.

## NZ celebrates record year



**THE** business events industry from across New Zealand came together last week at the Tourism New Zealand Business Events National Awards to celebrate its most successful year of conference wins to date.

A group of 21 business events ambassadors from across New Zealand were recognised for their achievement in bidding for events which will see over 10,500 delegates visit the country in the coming years - bringing an estimated \$25 million to the New Zealand economy.

"International delegates present

significant value for the country spending an estimated \$304 per night, which is almost double the average spend per night for all international visitors according to the International Visitor Survey," said Tourism New Zealand director of Trade, PR and Major Events René de Monchy.

"It really has been a record year for the sector, with more bids for events than ever before.

"This year's focus will be on building on this momentum with higher targets for both conferences and incentive bids," de Monchy said.

## CINZ appointment

**CONVENTIONS** and Incentives New Zealand has appointed Emma Searle to the role of Exhibition Manager.

The contract position will see Searle work alongside CINZ Events & Marketing Director to manage MEETINGS 2016.

## NT Walkabout in Nov

**NEXT** month almost 200 event planners from across the country are expected to meet with the Northern Territory Convention Bureau during the ConVENTions Walkabout 2015 roadshow.

Participants will include hotels, off-site venues, function spaces, service providers and convention centres, with the showcase taking place across cocktail events in Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne from 10-12 Nov.

As well as updates there will be opportunities for informal networking, while destination trips to the NT will be given away at each event.

Open to PCOs, event planners, in-house meeting organisers, association conference planners and other decision-makers, registrations are live now at [ntconventions.com.au/walkabout](http://ntconventions.com.au/walkabout).

## Events ben Calendar

This week's **BEN** events calendar is brought to you by **The Professional Conference Organisers Association**.



### 20 OCT

NSW Career Insights 2015; UNSW CBD Campus, O'Connell Street, Sydney; more info at: [www.meetingevents.com.au](http://www.meetingevents.com.au)

### 21-23 OCT

ITB Asia; Marina Bay Sands, Singapore; details at: [www.itb-asia.com](http://www.itb-asia.com)

### 27-28 OCT

Complimentary hosted Networking Functions for PCOA members; for details email: [jillian@pco.asn.au](mailto:jillian@pco.asn.au)

### 17-18 NOV

Australian Event Symposium 2015; Novotel Sydney on Darling Harbour; details at: [www.eventsymposium.com.au](http://www.eventsymposium.com.au)

### 17-19 NOV

ibtm world; Barcelona, Spain; see: [www.ibtmworld.com](http://www.ibtmworld.com)

### 18 NOV

Pacific Area Incentives & Conferences Expo (PAICE); SKYCITY Auckland Convention Centre; Auckland; more info at: [www.paicexpo.co.nz](http://www.paicexpo.co.nz)

### 29 NOV-1 DEC

PCO Association Conference and Exhibition 2015; Adelaide Convention Centre; more info at: [conference.pco.asn.au](http://conference.pco.asn.au)

### 1-2 DEC

EEAA 2015 Conference; Sydney; for more details go to: [www.tradeeventsaustralia.com](http://www.tradeeventsaustralia.com)

### 6-9 DEC

Dreamtime 2015; Adelaide; for more info at: [www.eeaa.com.au](http://www.eeaa.com.au)

### 23-24 FEB

AIME 2016 Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more visit [www.aime.com.au](http://www.aime.com.au)

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:info@businesseventsnews.com.au)



# business events news

12th October 2015



## crumbs!



**YOU'VE** heard of Sydney's iconic Sculptures by the Sea - but what about Ice Sculptures by the Sea?

Japanese whisky brand Suntory is making the most of the Bondi Beach exhibition by inviting "art and whisky enthusiasts" to carve their own whisky ice sphere.

Each Thursday evening during Sculptures by the Sea guests will learn the (ancient?) art of ice carving courtesy of Suntory Whisky Ambassadors, before enjoying Suntory Whisky Japanese Harmony over their creation - along with some tasty canapes.

It costs \$25 to participate, with tickets strictly limited via [bookings@neighbourhoodbondi.com.au](mailto:bookings@neighbourhoodbondi.com.au).

**SECURITY** staff at China's Kunming International Airport managed to avert a potentially serious in-flight incident when they confiscated a fruit knife that a woman was attempting to pass off as a hair accessory.

The offending item (pictured) had been stuck into her bun as she passed through a checkpoint, but sharp-eyed guards spotted the gcm implement.



According to the *South China Morning Post* she told officials she had bought some fruit while on holiday in Yunnan and was hoping to snack on it while waiting to board the flight home.

Guards did not agree that the potential weapon was simply decorative, and refused to let the woman board the plane until she handed it over.

## Nitmiluk takes all of Cicada

**THE** Northern Territory's Nitmiluk Tours has taken 100% control of Cicada Lodge, purchasing the half stake previously held by Indigenous Business Australia.

Nitmiluk Tours chairperson Jane Runyu said the announcement is a significant announcement for Nitmiluk

Tours and the Jawoyn people, as well as for the Katherine region and for Indigenous tourism in Australia.

Indigenous Business Australia partnered with Nitmiluk Tours in the development of the flagship 18-room property located about 300km south of Darwin and 32km from Katherine town centre, within Nitmiluk National Park.

The lodge is one of the first 100% Indigenous owned and managed luxury properties in Australia, and follows the successful partnership which saw the Nitmiluk cruises business launch over 20 years ago.



The lodge will continue to be run as the lead product in the Nitmiluk portfolio alongside touring operations and a range of other accommodation options.

**Pictured** above celebrating the acquisition are, back from left: Mark Lewis, Nitmiluk Tours; Tom Jenkins and Greg Cox, Indigenous Business Australia.

Front row: Lisa Mumbin, Jawoyn Association and Jane Runyu from Nitmiluk Tours.

## Hong Kong special

**THE** JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong is offering room rates from HK\$2,200 per room per night for bookings of a minimum of ten guest rooms.

The non-commissionable offer is valid for bookings before 31 Aug 2016, for stays between now and 31 Dec 2016.

The hotel is located in the Pacific Place complex, about two minutes walk to the nearest MTR station - for more details or to book call +852 2841 3838.

## PCOA earlybird

**EARLY** registration for the eighth annual PCO Association Conference & Exhibition closes this Fri 16 Oct.

Sixty exhibitors are taking part in the show which also includes a full two day program, social functions and a hosted Adelaide famil - [conference.pco.asn.au](http://conference.pco.asn.au).

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## Varga gets on board

**DEANNA** Varga has been appointed to the role of Assistant Director, Commercial & Visitor Services at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Varga has been acting in the role for the last two years, with director Kevin Sumption hailing the "outstanding commercial outcomes" achieved in that time.

Achievements include a whopping 54% increase in sponsorship revenue, while income from the museum's venues business is up by more than a third, Sumption said.



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## Industry Networking Night

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