



New tourism minister

TASMANIAN senator Richard Colbeck has been appointed by prime minister Malcolm Turnbull to a newly created ministerial portfolio with responsibility for tourism and international education.

The major reshuffle also saw trade and investment minister Andrew Robb retain his portfolio, while former Tourism Australia chief Scott Morrison is the new federal treasurer.

Meeting Escrow

CANADIAN business events veteran Grant Snider has launched a new company which aims to improve the protection of client funds in the global meetings industry.

Meeting Escrow Inc offers a "segregated account system" which ensures planners and their clients are guaranteed that their advance deposit payments are fully secure prior to program operation.

At the same time suppliers are relieved of the burden of having to chase payments.

"Our industry is not regulated so there is no global standard for the protection of deposits," Snider said, with standard practice being to mix client funds with general operating accounts.

"Recent high profile failures have highlighted these risks," he said, with Meeting Escrow aiming to bridge the market 'trust gap'.

AACB inducts Hall of Fame



THE Association of Australian Convention Bureaux (AACB) has named David Weston and David Hall as the inaugural AACB Hall of Fame inductees for 2015.

Announced at a ceremony during the AACB Staff Conference Gala Dinner in the NSW Hunter Valley last week, the Hall of Fame award was established to acknowledge AACB's 30th anniversary and continued business events leadership.

Sponsored by the IMEX Group, the award recognises individuals who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of Australian convention bureaux and the business events sector.

David Weston was the inaugural executive director of the Tasmanian Convention & Visitors Bureau, between 1978 and 1983,

and served as the first chairman of AACB.

David Hall, the second AACB chairman, was CEO of the Adelaide Convention Bureau from 1980-1992 and then CEO at Gold Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau from 1992-1993.

"In celebrating 30 years of leadership, AACB is thrilled to recognise David Weston and David Hall as industry pioneers," said AACB executive director, Andrew Hiebl.

Heibl and Lyn Lewis-Smith from Business Events Sydney are **pictured** above at the ceremony with Weston and Hall.

MEANWHILE, also at the AACB conference Vibhor Pandey from Brisbane Convention Bureau was awarded with the AACB Staff Scholarship for 2015/16.

Co-sponsored by Tourism Australia and Qantas, the scholarship aims to offer middle to senior level bureau staff the opportunity to demonstrate their professional commitment to the business events sector, by delivering a project that highlights innovation and excellence.

As the winner of the scholarship Pandey will present a white paper at the ICCA Research, Sales and Marketing Program event in Dubai next year, and will also report his observations at next year's AACB Staff Conference.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of the latest MICE industry news.

IBTM Africa dates

REED Exhibitions has confirmed that the 2016 edition of *ibtm Africa* will take place at the Cape Town International Conference Centre from 4-6 April 2016.

The event will be co-located with World Travel Market and International Luxury Travel Market Africa in a combined showcase called Africa Travel Week - ibtmfrica.com.

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.

21-23 OCT

ITB Asia; Marina Bay Sands, Singapore; details at: www.itb-asia.com

17-18 NOV

Australian Event Symposium 2015; Novotel Sydney on Darling Harbour; details at: www.eventsymposium.com.au

17-19 NOV

ibtm world; Barcelona, Spain; see: www.ibtmworld.com

18 NOV

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

29 NOV-1 DEC

8th PCO Conference and Exhibition; Adelaide Convention Centre; more info at: conference.pco.asn.au

6 - 9 DEC

Dreamtime 2015; Adelaide; for more details go to: www.tradeevents.australia.com.

23 - 24 FEB

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

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business events news

21st September 2015

NZ centre approved

AUCKLAND'S New Zealand International Convention Centre is one step closer after receiving "resource consent approval" from Kiwi regulators.

Conventions and Incentives New Zealand ceo Sue Sullivan said the new facility can't come quickly enough to meet growing demand.

"New Zealand can now compete on the world stage, challenging Australia and South East Asia for lucrative convention business".

New Central Coast MICE manager



NSW'S Central Coast Tourism says the appointment of Jo Marks as its inaugural Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Events Manager marks a new era in business events for the region.

Supported by the NSW government through the Central Coast Regional Action Plan, the MICE Manager role was identified as a priority according to Central Coast Tourism ceo Robyne Abernethy.

"Events are big business for NSW, and Ms Marks' primary role is to chase and secure business to meet the region's goal of increasing our share of the NSW conference & events market by 3% by 2020," Abernethy said.

That would see the region's economy benefit by \$37 million.

Marks returns to the Central Coast with ten years of industry experience including a stint at Townsville North Queensland Convention Bureau.

MCEC dot Melbourne

THE Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre says the new 'dot-melbourne' domain name for its Lorem Ipsum pop-up event concept is a perfect fit with its values and audience, clearly highlighting it as something new for the Melbourne market - see www Lorem Ipsum Melbourne.

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Storm brews over NZ GST claims

THE Incentive Association has flagged issues with the much-lauded changes to New Zealand tax laws which promised to make business events



Department. Industry concerns raised by the Incentive Association have been passed on to the department by TNZ, which has no role in

in NZ more affordable by allowing Australian companies to claim back goods and services tax on activities in NZ (**BEN** 02 Apr 2014).

In a statement issued late last week by the association, "several incentive practitioners and PCOs have tested the system and found it wanting".

The IA says it appears that intermediary agencies cannot reclaim GST paid in New Zealand even though they have paid all the suppliers involved; only the end customer can claim.

And "their very presence to provide support services to their clients while in New Zealand (which has almost certainly been included in fees paid in their home country) deems them as providing a taxable supply... which makes them liable for tax in New Zealand, effectively taxing the same services twice," the statement added.

The Incentive Association has included a detailed case study from John Hudson of Millbank Marketing - an Australian event management firm which has a long history of operating events for Australian companies in New Zealand - in which he provides his experience of some of the pitfalls of the system.

Tourism New Zealand has also provided a response, saying that since the change in legislation it had sought to provide information to all interested parties and where appropriate to connect them directly with NZ's Inland Revenue

setting taxation regulations or legislation.

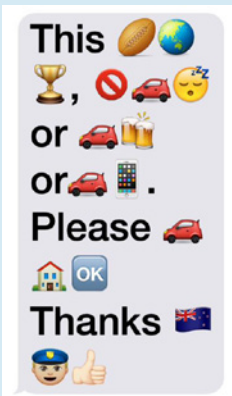
"Since the legislation was introduced there have been around 30 successful applications for the GST rebate," TNZ's general manager corporate affairs Deborah Gray told **BEN**.



ONE of the world's largest events, the Rugby World Cup, has kicked off in the UK, and all eyes of rugby-mad New Zealanders are on the matches which are of course taking place in the middle of the night.

Kiwi police are doing their best to keep drivers safe in the light of a spate of "early morning drinking" with a creative tweet including a whopping 16 special "emoji" characters.

The message, pictured below, roughly translates as: *This Rugby World Cup, don't drive sleepy or drive drunk or drive while on your phone. Please drive home safe. Thanks, NZ Police.*



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