



## Melb investment call

**VICTORIA** Events Industry Council (VEIC) is calling on the State Govt to ensure that Melbourne can continue to deliver all-round excellent experiences for the growing numbers of sports fans.

The move follows the city being named the SportBusiness Ultimate Sport City of the decade at the SportBusiness Ultimate Sport City Awards last week.

"Key areas of focus should include improved transport services, such as access to free Wi-Fi services within the CBD, minimising congestion, extending the Free Tram Zone, and providing multi-lingual information on public transport," said VEIC chief executive Dianne Smith.



**THE** first state-sanctioned Pastafarian couple, potentially in the world, have been married in New Zealand.

The couple consider themselves members of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, worshippers of a spaghetti-and-meatball god.

Married aboard a pirate ship, the couple and their 40 guests were dressed as pirates - as the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster teaches all humans descended from pirates.

The couple came up with their own wedding rituals, including an exchange of rings while blindfolded and a "Lady and the Tramp," where they ate the same strand of spaghetti until their mouths met in a kiss.

## \$50m incentive for NZ

**NEW** Zealand will welcome 10,000 of Amway China's top sales people in 2018 for a five day incentive following a "massive win" for the country.

Secured by Tourism New Zealand, Destination Queenstown, Air New Zealand and Immigration New Zealand, the group will visit in waves of 500 spread across the off-peak season in autumn 2018.

"The \$50 million in value is estimated just from Amway's spend on the incentive alone. Each of the 10,000 staff will also contribute additional personal spend while in the country bringing the total even higher," said Tourism New Zealand chief executive Kevin Bowler.

"The win also sends a clear message that New Zealand is a significant player in the incentive

business sector.

China is New Zealand's second-largest and fastest growing tourism market, contributing nearly \$1.7 billion to the economy in 2015 and Chinese tourists have the highest daily spend of any visitors.

Mayor of Queenstown Lakes District Vanessa van Uden said Queenstown will pull out all the stops for the sales reps.

"We are known as the adventure tourism capital of New Zealand so if Amway's visitors would like to hurl themselves off a bridge at the end of a bungy cord, or take a swift ride in a jetboat, they will be thrilled with what they find here.

"Equally, if they would like to soak up the views while enjoying fine food and wine, or saunter around our local trails, then they will be delighted," van Uden added.

## BESydney appoints

**BUSINESS** Events Sydney (BESydney), has grown its team and appointed Ashley White as Deputy GM of Bidding.

White will be responsible for BESydney's new Industry Sector teams and the company's European and North American international offices.

## Convene Q rego open

**REGISTRATION** is open for Hosted Buyers and Day Buyers to sign up for Convene Q being held at the BCEC (Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre) on 26 Jul.

Organisers in Melbourne, Sydney and other parts of Australia as well as New Zealand can apply for hosted buyer status.

To register, **CLICK HERE**.

## Staging MCG win

**STAGING** Connections has been appointed as the exclusive in house AV and event services supplier for the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

The AV and event staging provider will provide technical solutions for the 80-90 days of sporting events and all corporate events at the venue.

## Marina 50% off special

**MARINA** Bay Sands Singapore is offering up to 50% off Audio-Visual (AV) and technical spend on new bookings for events held by 31 Dec.

For more information, email [Sales@MarinaBaySands.com](mailto:Sales@MarinaBaySands.com).

## AccorHotels NZ offer

**ACCORHOTELS** New Zealand is running an 'Eat Before You Meet' special, offering in-house delegates a complimentary breakfast before heading into a business event or conference.

Also included are double Le Club AccorHotels Meeting Planner points for clients on every dollar spent on all new event bookings made between 12 Apr-31 Aug at participating AccorHotels.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

## OCEC Aug opening

**PHASE** One of the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC) will open on 15 Aug.

The OCEC will be 4km from Muscat International Airport and offer 22,000m<sup>2</sup> of flexible column-free exhibition space and ten hospitality suites supported by a full service kitchen.

## AVPartners Hamilton

**AVPARTNERS** has named Emma Lilly as Styling & Theming Specialist at Hamilton Island.

Lilly comes from a role at Clownfish Club, where she styled and themed events for kids.

## GC events well rated

**CONFERENCE** venues on the Gold Coast surpassed expectations of organisers, according to a post-conference survey conducted by Gold Coast Business Events in Sep.

The survey found 81% of respondents rated their conference venue as 'outstanding' or 'better than expected' and 100% planned to return to the city.

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