



## 2016 Wedding Expo

**METRO** Mirage Hotel Newport will host the 2016 Wedding Expo on 17 Jan from 12-4pm.

Florists, photographers, wedding stationers, bridal gown designer, music and entertainment specialists, event stylists, photo booth hire and celebrants and more will be available on site.

## Two new Sofitels

**ACCORHOTELS** will manage two new Sofitel hotels at Tanjong Pagar Centre, Singapore and Damansara City, Kuala Lumpur.

The 222-room Sofitel Singapore City Centre is located between Chinatown and the vibrant Central Business District and the 312-room Sofitel Kuala Lumpur Damansara is part of a 8.5 acre integrated development due to open in the second half of 2016.

## Fed Square's new chair

**DEBORAH** Beale has been named the new chairperson of Melbourne's Fed Square Pty Ltd.

In the role, Beale will work to deliver events and exhibitions at Federation Square, which attracts more than 10 million visitors annually and hosts major cultural attractions, events and tourism experiences.

Having previously worked for Merrill Lynch and Ernst & Young, Beale has also served and continues to serve on a number of government, private and not-for-profit boards, including the Arts Centre Melbourne Foundation.

Acting Minister for Tourism and

Major Events Philip Dalidakis made the announcement, lauding Beale's expertise and leadership skills," which he says "will help ensure Federation Square remains on top of its game and continues to be at the cutting edge of technology and the visitor experience".

Beale said she is honoured to take up the role.

"Federation Square has proven a huge success and is enjoyed by so many Melburnians and visitors to our city," Beale said.

"We look forward to continued rejuvenation and innovation for the site which is such an iconic part of the Melbourne cityscape."

## Today's issue of BEN

**Business Events News** today has one page of news, plus a full page from AIME.

## Sydney Int Art Series

**TWO** exhibitions have been secured for the Sydney International Art Series in 2016-2017 in Nov.

In a partnership between Tate, London and the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the series will see *Nude: Art from the Tate Collection* presented at the Art Gallery of New South Wales; and Tatsuo Miyajima will also present his first major solo exhibition in Australia at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia.

## NYE harbour disaster

**MEETINGS & Events Australia** has distanced itself from the organisers of the New Year's Eve 'Above the Harbour' event.

Customers who paid up to \$500 to attend the event in the Royal Botanic Gardens have taken to Facebook to complain about a two and a half hour wait for below par food, long toilet queues and a DJ who blasted Bieber on repeat.

MEA has issued a statement clarifying that the event organiser is not a MEA member.

Organisers have responded to criticism, saying they "greatly regret that a number of patrons have complained" and admitting there was a backlog at certain points of "people wanting to access services and facilities".

The caterer for the event, Shangri La Hotel later said they attempted to create complex dishes which "were difficult to produce at the speed required".

## OTP for top conven cities

**COPENHAGEN** is the city delegates travelling by air are most likely to arrive ontime for meetings and conventions in 2015, according to the OAG's Punctuality League 2015 report.

The report ranked the top global meeting and conventions cities, based on the number of meetings held in each city in 2014 and compared this with the average On Time Performance (OTP) in 2015 for the city's airlines and

airports.

Denmark's capital had an average OTP of 88.53%, followed by Berlin (86.29%), Vienna (85.12%) and Singapore (84.75%).

The report emphasised the role OTP plays in a seamless event - if delegates arrive late, they lose part of the value of the event and if they depart late, they miss out on time with their family and friends.

The top 10 are pictured below.

Table 14: Top global meetings & conventions cities

OTP Rank	Coverage	Name	City	Code	Average OTP 2015	ICCA Rank
1	96.3%	Copenhagen		CPH	88.53%	13
2	89.6%	Berlin		BER	86.29%	4
3	94.9%	Vienna		VIE	85.12%	2
4	93.3%	Singapore		SIN	84.75%	7
5	96.0%	Stockholm		STO	84.23%	19
6	93.3%	Prague		PRG	83.74%	10
7	94.4%	Madrid		MAD	82.62%	3
8	95.5%	Brussels		BRU	81.17%	11
9	98.0%	Amsterdam		AMS	81.15%	8
10	92.3%	Barcelona		BCN	79.56%	5



**IN WHAT** can only be described as an "extreme wedding", the Ice and Snow Festival in one of the coldest cities in China, Harbin, played host yesterday to a mass wedding.

Donning anoraks over wedding dresses and suits, fifteen couples tied the knot in temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius.

The couples are pictured below onboard a sled "to celebrate their new life".



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