



business events news  
 on location in  
**Auckland**

Today's issue of **BEN** is coming  
 to you from Auckland, NZ for  
**CINZ Meetings 2016.**

**CONVENTIONS & Incentives**  
 New Zealand (CINZ) MEETINGS  
 2016 officially kicked off on  
 Tue, with Australian buyers  
 participating in a day experience  
 of host city, Auckland.

Attendees at this year's event  
 gathered at The Langham hotel  
 that evening for the official  
 welcome function, marking also  
 the 20th year of MEETINGS.

The closing gala dinner will be  
 held tonight at the Vodafone  
 Events Centre.

Tomorrow, select Aussie buyers  
 will depart to Waikato for a  
 special trip to experience NZ's  
 very own Hobbiton movie set, as  
 featured in the *Lord of the Rings*  
 and *Hobbit* trilogies.

## CINZ launches new diploma

**CONFIRMING** its commitment  
 to professional education,  
 Conventions & Incentives New  
 Zealand (CINZ) announced the  
 introduction of the NZ Diploma  
 in Tourism and Conventions and  
 Incentives (level 5) at the opening  
 of MEETINGS yesterday.

Developed and delivered by  
 industry training organisation  
 ServiceIQ, the diploma has  
 been designed to recognise the  
 expertise of event managers  
 who have had several years of  
 experience within the sector.

The professional diploma  
 incorporates aspects of  
 conference organisation,  
 incentives planning and venue  
 sales and operations.

"It is crucial New Zealand invests  
 in human infrastructure, as well  
 as physical infrastructure to grow  
 our country's conventions and  
 incentives business", said CINZ  
 chief executive, Sue Sullivan.

The main part of the program

recognises the knowledge and  
 skills common to all sectors of  
 the conventions and incentives  
 industry.

Additionally, a portfolio of  
 evidence taken from real projects  
 successfully completed to show  
 the individual's level of skill and  
 expertise across a range of areas  
 is required from people looking to  
 acquire the diploma.

"These are the people who,  
 with an impressive knack for  
 making the most complex  
 convention seem easy, play a  
 vital role in persuading local and  
 international clients to choose  
 their employer's venue ahead of  
 the competition, and often year  
 after year," said ServiceIQ chief  
 executive, Dean Minchington.

"This is an industry led program  
 with an industry commitment  
 which sets us apart", Sullivan told  
**BEN** yesterday.

For more information on the  
 new diploma, **CLICK HERE.**

## 50 Best Restaurants

**MELBOURNE** has been named  
 the host city for the World's 50  
 Best Restaurant Awards in 2017.

"Everything needed to create  
 memorable food and wine  
 experiences can be found right  
 here in Victoria, and this confirms  
 that the world's best recognise  
 that," said John Eren, Minister for  
 Tourism and Major Events.

The main awards ceremony  
 will include 800 invited guests  
 comprised of chefs, industry  
 leaders and top international  
 food and wine media and  
 influencers.

Tourism Australia will work  
 with Visit Victoria to present a  
 program of high quality events  
 in Apr, which will include a chef's  
 feast gathering; a main awards  
 ceremony; and touring programs  
 around Melbourne and regional  
 Victoria.

## Today's issue of BEN

**Business Events News** today  
 has three pages of news.

*light up*  
**YOUR NEXT EVENT**  
 Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience



ulurumeetingplace.com.au  
 61 2 8296 8067  
 conferences@voyages.com.au

FIELD OF LIGHT  
 ULURU

VOYAGES  
**AYERS  
 ROCK  
 RESORT**  
 TOUCH THE SILENCE

presenting partner  
**Investec**

official airline  
**QANTAS**  
 Spirit of Australia





# business events news

16th June 2016



## PCOs see light at Uluru

**PICTURED:** A group of nine meeting planners from Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne recently descended on the Northern Territory to experience Uluru as a destination.

The three day familiarisation

was a joint initiative staged by Voyages Ayers Rock Resort and Northern Territory Convention Bureau.

Guests were accommodated at Sails in the Desert, where they were given the opportunity to see first-hand the Field of Light solar-powered light exhibition.

The display, which features more than 50,000 solar-powered stems take up an area of four football fields, opened in Apr (**BEN** 24 Mar) and is the artistic brainchild of famed lighting artist Bruce Munro.

In addition to the famil of the resort, attendees took an escorted walk through Wintjiri Gallery and Museum before undertaking a dot painting class with a local Indigenous artist.

Special surprises included a scenic flight over the desert landscape with Ayers Rock Helicopters and a unique airport transfer with a Uluru Motorcycle Tours (**below**).



**A NEWLYWED** woman still in her bridal gown came to the rescue of an unresponsive woman found outside of the Westin Convention Centre in Pittsburgh.

Julie Stroyne Nixon, a registered trauma nurse, had just left her wedding reception with her husband Andrew Nixon when they heard the cry for help.

"I looked over, and I think my nursing instincts took over," said Julie to *UPI*.

"I started compressions right away. They told me she didn't have a pulse.

"She was mumbling, finally, and she tried to get up," she said.

"Never knew that would happen on my wedding night!"

Her husband Andrew said he was proud of his new wife.

"It was a heroic act, but I've know her for long enough, I'm not surprised at all," he said.



# LEAVE EARTH.

for your  
NEXT CORPORATE EVENT

CONTACT : MICE@POCRUISES.COM.AU : CALL 1300 366 168 : POCRUISES.COM.AU

## NZICC to compete with OZ

**THE** New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC) is set to aggressively compete against the large Australian convention centres for future conferences accommodating over 1,000 delegates.

Speaking at CINZ MEETINGS yesterday, group gm NZICC development and tourism Simon Jamieson said, "We're taking New Zealand to the market for that larger end convention, the ones that don't presently come here".

Slated to open in mid-2019, the 32,500m<sup>2</sup> NZICC will be situated in the heart of Auckland city and is five times larger than the current largest convention facilities in New Zealand.

Featuring 24 meeting rooms, the NZICC will have the capability to host conferences of over 3,100 people and one-off events for up to 4,000 people.

"The NZICC will be a very open, inviting and highly transparent building with no back doors", said Jamieson.

The venue will include an adjacent public laneway with retail, food and beverage outlets that will allow locals and

international visitors to meet and mingle.

When open, the NZICC is expected to attract 33,000 new international visitors, generate 101,000 additional visitor nights and \$90m of economic benefits to New Zealand annually.

"We are setting a new benchmark for hosting large and bespoke events, and this is a centre we'll be proud of when finished", said Jamieson.

## Four Points to Sydney

**FOUR** points by Sheraton will return to Sydney at a new \$2 billion mixed-use development in Chippendale, following the penning of a joint venture between Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Frasers Property Australia and Sekisui House Australia.

Named Four Points by Sheraton Sydney, Central Park, the news comes just after Starwood confirmed its 16-year management contract of the Four Points, Darling Harbour was expiring at the end of Nov.

Earmarked to open in 2018, the new hotel will feature 297 rooms (**TD** 09 Jun) and 550m<sup>2</sup> of function space, a fitness centre, lounge and adjoining pub to be operated by celebrity chef Matt Moran and his business partner Bruce Solomon.

## EEAA new board

**THE** Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) has welcomed new board members to the fold.

Newly elected members are Jim Delahunty, ExpoNet; Peter King, MCEC; David Longman, Diversified Communications Australia; Helen Mantellato, ICC Sydney; Robert Moore, Agility Fairs and Events; Matt Pearce, Talk2 Media & Events and Peter Thorpe, Sydney Showground.

## PCOA webinar

**THE** Professional Conference Organisers Association will hold a one-hour webinar titled 'The Resilient Mindset and Keys to Overcoming Adversity' on 23 Jun. **CLICK HERE** to register.

## EVENTS BY LUXPERIENCE

CONNECTING THE WORLD OF BUSINESS EVENTS  
WITH THE WORLD OF LUXURY

18 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2016 SYDNEY

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW  
[luxperience.com.au](http://luxperience.com.au)



Dedicated MICE  
MARKETPLACE now open for  
new buyers and exhibitors

SPECIAL REGISTRATION OPTIONS  
AVAILABLE TO MICE SPECIALISTS



## Vic hotels honoured

**VICTORIA's** best lodgings have been recognised at the 2016 Tourism Accommodation Australia (Vic) Awards for Excellence last night.

The Outstanding Contribution to the Industry award went to Lord Mayor Robert Doyal; Dunkeld's Royal Mail Hotel won Regional Accommodation of the Year and Hotel Industry Rising Star went to Annabelle Gibney from Pullman Melbourne on the Park.

The dinner was attended by 550 hoteliers, event organisers and hospitality leaders.

## Heritage appointment

**DYLAN** Rushbrook has been named the new general manager of sales and marketing at Heritage Hotels in Auckland.

"I've always had great respect for Heritage Hotels and in particular the customer centric service standards they have established through building a strong internal team culture," commented Rushbrook.

Rushbrook joins Heritage having spent the last four years at SKYCITY Entertainment Group where he was director of sales, Hotels and Sky Tower.



## What is a seminar?

**EDUCATIONAL** in nature, seminars bring together like-minded people to learn about a particular subject. A seminar is a more formal event, focused on training or information sharing offered in an academic instruction style. They differ from more informal events such as conferences where opinions and thoughts are shared more readily and informally. They are also usually shorter in length than other similar events.

### What do they involve?

Seminars usually feature one or more experts on the subject matter who, with the help of visual aids, demonstrations, and interactive equipment, present their information with little participation required from attendees. A few of the common seminar types you may come across include business, personal development, and academic seminars. Seminars may also be held as part of a conference.

### Where are they held?

Seminars are usually held in hotel

meeting spaces, conference rooms, convention centres or at an academic institution.

### What equipment is required?

Like any great event, seminars have a heavy reliance on audiovisual aids, as this assists the presenters or trainers in communicating their knowledge to attendees. Options include staging and theming, lighting, microphones, and speakers. AVPartners has a fantastic variety of audiovisual equipment ready to make any seminar successful!

Andrew Delangen is the Partner at Novotel Twin Waters Resort for AVPartners, a great venue to hold your next seminar! AVPartners create integrated event experiences through combining state-of-the-art audiovisual technology, unrivalled expertise and a highly-tailored approach.



[www.avpartners.com](http://www.avpartners.com)



## MEETINGS flaunts New Zealand



**THE 20th CINZ MEETINGS** event opened at the ASB Showgrounds in Auckland yesterday, attracting over 600 buyers and media from Australia, North America, China, India and Southeast Asia.

"We know our Maori culture is a significant part of our business, and what sets us apart is this culture, our people and how we bring the outside in", said CINZ chief executive Sue Sullivan.

She revealed that Australian arrivals for conferencing and convention delegates to New Zealand were up 10% in 2015 compared to the previous year with an average spend of \$390 per delegate per night.

"Infrastructure is also key to our success and our future growth", said Sullivan.

### Updating the industry on

developments in the sector, she revealed that Queenstown's revised conference centre at Remarkable Park is expected to open in 2018, while Christchurch is currently in negotiations for a proposed convention centre for 1500 guests.

Wellington is also in the final stages of signing off on a combined convention centre and movie museum site set to open in 2019, and Auckland's NZICC is on track to open in 2019.

**Pictured** at the Australia & New Zealand media briefing yesterday is Ngahihi O Te Ra Bidois, CINZ cultural ambassador; Simon Jamieson, NZICC; Sue Sullivan, chief executive officer, CINZ; Anna Hayward, Auckland Convention Bureau and Richard Jeffrer, Vodafone Events Centre.



**Business Events News** is Australia's newest online publication dedicated to the vibrant meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

Sign up for a free subscription at [www.businesseventsnews.com.au](http://www.businesseventsnews.com.au).

**Postal address:** PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

**Street address:** Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia

**P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)**

Part of the Business Publishing Group.

**Business Events News** is a publication of Business Events News Pty Ltd ABN 80 153 775 449. All content is fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. **BEN** takes no responsibility for the opinions of its contributors/columnists. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

**Editor:** Bruce Piper [info@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:info@businesseventsnews.com.au)

**Contributors:** Guy Dundas, Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

**Advertising and Marketing:** Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdzik [advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au)

**Business Manager:** Jenny Piper [accounts@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:accounts@businesseventsnews.com.au)