



Live US event tickets

A NEW website offering real-time access to US sports events tickets has gone live today, with dynamic Australian dollar pricing and availability along with local service in both Sydney and Perth.

A division of Keith Prowse Sport & Entertainment Travel, the new www.ussportstickets.com site has been launched in response to growing demand from the more than one million Aussies travelling to the US every year, according to md Dan Morahan.

"There is no real local offering to cater for this considerable market," he said, with the new platform offering a full range including baseball, basketball, gridiron and even Nascar events.

EEAA, TAFE free training

THE Exhibitions and Events Association of Australasia (EEAA) this morning jointly launched a new Excelling in Exhibitions Series in partnership with Sydney TAFE.

The program, which is free thanks to funding obtained from the NSW government, targets individuals currently working in the exhibitions sector, who are seeking to add to their existing knowledge with skills in order to further their career.

There are five separate series in Excelling in Exhibitions, with Sydney TAFE director David Riordan saying each program will be delivered in a single weekend workshop complemented by

additional webinar sessions.

That will give maximum flexibility to participants so they can balance study with their industry commitments, he said.

"Each series offers a unique opportunity to network and reflect on current practices in the industry...the focus is on nurturing innovation and improving skills that are readily transferred into each business".

EEAA ceo Joyce DiMascio said the partnership would help address industry concerns about skills, recognising the specific training required to deliver trade and consumer expos.

DiMascio said with the pending debut of the new exhibition facility in the International Convention Centre Sydney "it is an ideal time to be skilling up our industry with exhibition specific courses".

The Excelling in Exhibitions workshops will take place at Sydney TAFE from 30 Apr 2016 through until the end of May, covering topics such as operations, project management, compliance and sponsorship, risk and crisis management, and innovation and e-business.

CLICK HERE for the full prospectus; for more information call Kathy Herd on 02 9217 5937.

IHG Melb Rialto offer

THE Intercontinental Melbourne The Rialto is offering a complimentary audio visual package for bookings of their \$99/day delegate package for a conference of 30 or more.

Offer is valid for residential meetings held 01 Apr-30 Sep and day meetings from 01 Jun-30 Sep.

Contact the events team by 31 Aug at events.icm@ihg.com.

New Caledonia R&R for AIME delegates

THIS lucky group of ten buyers recovered from the busyness of AIME courtesy of New Caledonia Tourism, which hosted them on an itinerary taking in Bourail, Noumea and the Isle of Pines.



New Caledonia Tourism MICE representative Danielle Flegg said it was a great opportunity to whisk the buyers away "and show them how accessible and exciting New Caledonia is for business events".

As well as a range of activities the group stayed at Le Meridien Isle of Pines and the newly renovated Le Meridien Noumea plus the Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Spa, Hilton Noumea Le Promenade Residences and Chateau Royal Beach & Spa.



THIS could be ideal for a medical conference activity in the USA.

Washington's venerable Smithsonian Institution has just taken custody of the world's largest collection of intestinal parasites - which is certain to be fascinating for some groups.

The National Parasite Collection consists of some 20 million samples, which have resided in the basement of a US Agriculture Department building for the last 80 years.

According to the *Washington Post* the carefully curated specimens include tapeworms, roundworms, flatworms, pinworms, bladderworms and much more, with the Smithsonian undertaking the gargantuan task of cataloguing the items.

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business events news

21st March 2016

New Miramare for Manly

THE Miramare Group has announced the addition of Sydney's Manly Pavilion to its portfolio of venues.

Just minutes walk from the iconic Manly Wharf the heritage pavilion was originally built in 1933 and boasts panoramic harbour views.

Scheduled to open in two phases, the dining room on the upper level will debut as Bistro at



Manly Pavilion in May, while later the restored and renovated lower level will commence operation as a function and events centre in late 2016.

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RESEARCH TO LEAD THE WAY FOR LUXPERIENCE 2016

At Luxperience we are constantly looking for ways to grow and improve our offering to the MICE industry. As such, 2016 is going to be all about research.

This is being done via a series of networking Pop Up events across the country, one to one interviews and dedicated surveys developed by our research partner MyTravelResearch.com with travel buyers across different market segments

Our Luxperience team has already hosted two pop ups, one in Melbourne and one in Perth, meeting with corporate executive assistants. They have all expressed to us that an official research study for the meeting and events industry is long overdue. Executive assistants feel they repeatedly raise similar issues with suppliers, yet change is not yet forthcoming.

One of the first problems our attendees raised was the disappointing standard of technology available at venues. Many our respondents feel are not equipped with the most up to date AV equipment or sub-contractors charge too much for inbuilt AV equipment like projectors, screens or plasma TVs – often more than the room hire. Add to this the issue of slow internet speeds or the outdated practice of charging for internet usage.

Our take home from this? The industry needs to keep up. In this day and age, venues, particularly hotels need to provide free internet and basic AV for small meetings. The good news is that Executive Assistants believe that changes in this area may result in more small meeting bookings for hotels.

This is ground-breaking research and directly contributes to the evolution of the industry. More information is available by contacting us on beinspired@luxperience.com.au

luxperience.com.au

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Staging Novotel deal

STAGING Connections has been named as the new in-house audio visual supplier for Novotel Sydney Brighton Beach, with the contract awarded after a "highly competitive tender process".

Michael Karkkainen has been appointed as Event Staging Manager at the hotel.

Manor House launch

MANTRA Group has officially relaunched Peppers Manor House in the NSW Southern Highlands, after a \$4.5 million refurbishment.

The 137 year old property retains a "1920s sensibility" along with 21st Century comforts, with the upgrade co-funded with a \$500,000 Regional Visitor Economy Fund grant from the NSW government.

As well as guest room revamps the upgrade includes a new dining venue, reception area, lounge plus roads & carparks.

Tassie numbers up

TASMANIA recorded its strongest growth ever in business events visitor numbers last year, with the Tasmanian Visitor Survey showing a whopping 42% increase to 40,800 arrivals.

Business Events Tasmania ceo Stuart Nettlefold said the results confirmed data which highlighted a standout period for conference and business event activity, particularly in the last quarter.

"In September last year, Hobart hosted a high number of large national and international business events, including the 2015 Barker's Delight National Conference, the Society of Economic Geologists International Conference 2015 and the 2015 Population Health Conference," Nettlefold said.

business events news

on location in
Uluru, NT

Today's issue of **BEN** is coming to you courtesy of Voyages, which will unveil the stunning Bruce Munro 'Field of Light' art installation here tonight.

BRUCE Munro has brought his groundbreaking 'Field of Light' to the Red Centre, with the inspirational display of 50,000 solar-powered spheres atop slender stakes creating the perfect complement to the starry sky above Uluru.

Business events at Ayers Rock will never be the same again, with Voyages hosting the interactive art installation for the next twelve months.

A range of unique new activities centre around the Field of Light, with options ranging from simple coach transfers where guests can explore it on their own, right through to a special dinner under the night sky.

After a gala dinner tonight the Field of Light will formally open to guests on 01 Apr - full details in Thu's edition of **Business Events News**.

Port Stephens venue

PACIFIC Dunes Port Stephens has unveiled its \$3 million Country Club, which includes a 200-seat event venue.

Overlooking the golf club, the events space donned the Greenhouse, is the largest and most environmentally-sustainable venue in the area.

The facility is one of the most environmentally-sustainable buildings in Port Stephens and also houses a new eatery, bar and golf shop.

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