



EDITOR: BONNIE TAI



WALSH BAY PLOTS WATERFRONT SQ EVENT SPACE

EXCLUSIVE

DESIGNS for a new event space on Sydney's foreshore at the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct have been revealed by Arts NSW.

Dubbed 'Waterfront Square', the Stage 2 State Significant Development Application proposes a "vibrant new public realm, including a focal multi-use" overwater space, wedged between Pier 2/3 and Wharf 4/5.

Paperwork for Waterfront Square (**pictured**) filed with NSW Planning & Environment shows the shaded outdoor space will feature steps down to the water for multipurpose use.

The type of events flagged that could be held in the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct span special events, arts festivals, open air cinemas, food, wine & product showcasing, as well as corporate and commercial events.



"A new layer of carefully-integrated infrastructure enables the Waterfront Square to function for day-to-day occupation, for small 'pop-up' events and small & large scale managed events", the plans state.

Waterfront Square will be "cost-effective and flexible", and could host a maximum of four one-day major events annually

for up to 10,000 people, as well as a mix of arts & cultural festivals for up to 7,500 people (up to six per year) and an unlimited number of community events for 5,000.

Also uncapped is the number of private events (for up to 1,000 people) that will be able to be conducted at the precinct.

Event activation will be

spread across three scenarios - Waterfront Square Events, Precinct Wide Events and City Wide Events.

Event installations, lighting, projectors, screens and other production equipment will be available utilising rigging points to the sides of facades.

Massive 9.6mX6m LED screens would be installed to the adjacent Shore Shed apron for visual displays, while temporary barges with additional screens & installations may be floated into the precinct's internal waterway for functions.

The project is currently on public exhibition until 16 Dec.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has three pages of news and a full page from *Crowne Plaza Terrigal*.

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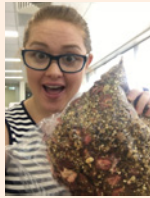
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■ **"I COULD cry,"** those were the words uttered by foodie **BEN** reporter Nathalie

Craig this morning when she received a special delivery of the ICC Sydney's house made coconut granola.

Nathalie, who attended the ICC Sydney's dinner showcase earlier this month, arrived back to work the following day waxing lyrical about the breakfast food.

"I guess in the back of my mind I hoped this would happen, but I didn't think it really would," she said after receiving the tasty gift.

AUS MICE BIZ FLOURISHES

INTERNATIONAL MICE delegates will spend approximately \$750 million in Australia over the next decade, according to fresh analysis conducted by the Association of Australian Convention Bureau (AACB).

Between now and Sep 2023, more than 360 international business events will make their way to Australia, with the study showing there was still scope for growth.

"The analysis found one in four business events attracted to Australia by the AACB's members are in the health sector, while one in five business events attracted to Australia are in the professional, scientific and technical services sector," said AACB's chief executive officer Andrew Hiebl.

Currently in the bid pipeline



AACB members have 157 international business events bids in the books.

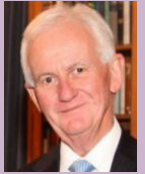
If confirmed, the successful proposals equate to 803 event days for the country, resulting in 85,000 international delegates with a total expenditure of more than \$350 million.

Hiebl said "international business events are an integral part of the visitor economy and play a vital role in lifting Australia's knowledge base".

PCB appoints new chairman

KEVIN

Skipworth CVO has been appointed chairman of the Perth Convention Bureau.



The high-profiled Western Australian replaced outgoing chairman Ian Laurance, who has elected to retire.

Speaking on his new role, Skipworth said "it is particularly pleasing to be joining PCB at a time when the business events sector is seen by Govt as a key economic driver for their destinations".

Skipworth served the last 5 Governors of WA as Official Secretary and ceo of the Governor's Establishment.

MICE visit to Barossa Valley



CORPORATE Traveller and FCm Travel Solutions hosted a group of six PCOs to Barossa Valley last week, where they stayed at the luxurious Novotel Barossa Valley Resort.

Site inspections were conducted at Tanunda Pines Golf Course, Chateau Tanunda, St Huga, Hentley Farm and The Louise.

Led by FCm Travel Solutions' Carly Adler, the group started their 24-hour famil at Chateau Tanunda before heading onto the resort for a charcuterie experience with a pre dinner accompanied by Novotel's head chef.

The happy famil group is **pictured** above.

PCOA conference app download

THOSE attending the 2019 PCOA conference in Brisbane this weekend can now download the mobile app to stay informed and connected.



It features up-to-date schedules and will provide notifications for any changes; exhibitors and floor plans; speaker information and much more.

The app also acts as a networking tool, allowing attendees to swap profile info and connect with other delegates.

CLICK HERE to download.

Oman secures medical congress

THE Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Muscat has won the bid to host the 2019 International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology World Congress in 2019.

"We are honoured that Oman has been chosen to host the 2019 World Congress of the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery," said Dr Mohammed Darwish, president of the Pan Arab Orthopaedic Association, who presented the bid.

"We look forward to warmly welcoming our international colleagues from around the world, showcasing our recent regional research developments and industry insights within orthopaedics and traumatology," he said.



EECW TRANSFORMATION

EVENT management company EECW has rebranded to Encanta.

The word 'encanta', means to enchant or captivate in Spanish, which the group's managing director Alison Petrie explained "epitomises" the company.

"We all love what we do and our collective aim is to delight our clients with creative and personable event management," she said.

"We are so excited about this new chapter in EECW's story."

Petrie assured clients that the "EECW legacy lives on, but our fresh new identity and logo sums up beautifully the passion



and enthusiasm we bring to every event".

With offices in Perth and Melbourne, Encanta is one of only 18 Professional Conference Organiser Association certified event management companies in Australia.

The new logo is **pictured**.

For more information on Encanta's new identity visit www.encanta.com.au.

CINZ to launch '17 MEETINGS at PCOA

CONVENTIONS and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) is set to launch its 2017 MEETINGS show program at next week's PCOA Conference and Exhibition in Brisbane.

Representing New Zealand's diverse regions, from the beaches of the North Island to the mountains of the South, CINZ Australia manager Sharon Auld explained "MEETINGS gives buyers the opportunity to meet with their choice of around 200 exhibitors under one roof".

CINZ will be joined by Tourism New Zealand and 16 exhibitors on the 100% Pure New Zealand stand from 27 Nov.

Vibe Rushcutters MICE upgrades



VIBE Hotel Rushcutters Bay, Sydney has undergone a refurbishment, this week revealing refreshed rooms and public spaces.

The hotel's meeting areas have also seen an upgrade, now allowing for

both indoor and outdoor catered events and cocktail functions for up to 200 guests.

Updated AV equipment has been installed in function rooms Rushcutters 1, Rushcutters 2 and the Bayswater Room.

The flexible meeting rooms offer a capacity of between 15 and 200 guests and cater to formal style meetings and conferences.

Peter Gray, an independent Motivation Consultant, presents a regular **Business Events News** feature on current issues in the Conference and Incentive industries.

Trump card

BY NOW I suspect that most Australians are fed up to the back teeth with one word: Trump. We've put up with it for more than a year and I don't intend to subject readers of **BEN** to a diatribe either in favour or against him. But his promised actions do bring some aspects of American culture into stark focus and not least of these is tourism, in all its incarnations.

Apart from promising to ban a whole raft of potential tourists from entering the USA there's little else that Trump seems to want to change in this area and yet in many respects the USA is way behind much of the rest of the world when it comes to business events, to its detriment.

The Australian/USA dollar exchange rate is not helping anyone intent on travelling to the USA at the moment but the practice by hotels of quoting basic rates to which must be added state taxes, federal taxes, possibly resort fees and then charges for just about everything else including portage, per item and service charges. In the USA these alone are heading into the stratosphere and make even a reasonable meal a considerable expense. And this doesn't include tips. I'm someone that believes, obviously naively, that a tip should be earned by exceptional service (on the assumption that the service charge covers normal service) but clearly this rule doesn't apply to our American cousins.

A conference or an incentive travel reward to a USA destination is no longer a cheap option.

For a country that did not have a unified tourism bureau until comparatively recently while the rest of the world were busy developing theirs our American cousins don't seem to be willing to learn the necessary lessons to attract business events or tourists in general.

American airlines (in general) are not a patch on what most Australians and New Zealanders have come to expect from most airlines that serve both our countries. Their custom of overbooking and then offering payment for passengers not to travel seems unbelievable to most of us - and adds another level of complexity when airline staff don't recognise that a group is travelling on a flight! And although security is supposed to be paramount in these days of terrorist activity I have experienced some very substantial lapses whilst waiting for flights to pull back from airbridges in the USA.

So, Mr. President-elect, if you want to improve the lot of working Americans in the tourism and hospitality industries why not legislate to make hotels and restaurants pay their staff a decent basic rate and cut their dependency on tips; get hotels to quote only tax inclusive rates and eliminate resort fees which are often only an excuse to charge more.

Peter Gray is an independent, Accredited Incentive Practitioner and motivation consultant. He can be contacted at peter.gray@motivatingpeople.net



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