



EDITOR: BONNIE TAI



GOLD COAST BIZ EVENTS WINS

THE past 12 months have been the most successful on record for Gold Coast Business Events, marking a 46% increase in the value of conferences and corporate meetings won for the city.

Almost \$71 million has been secured in the 12 months to 30 Jun by the team, compared to bid wins of \$48m in the previous financial year.

"Our team of professionals, in strong collaboration with our supportive industry, have worked hard to highlight the extraordinary appeal the Gold Coast delivers as a destination," said Gold Coast Business Events director Anna Case.



Credit: Tourism Australia

Case said the numbers reflect the coming of age of the Gold Coast as a destination for business events.

"What has become increasingly visible is the emerging sophistication of our cultural scene, fine food and wine and limitless diversity of

offsite venue options," she said. "Our team has been shouting these attributes from the rooftops and the results clearly indicate that the message is being heard."

WREDA appoints delivery partner

AVENUES Event Management has been appointed by the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) to manage the largest conference and events expo in Wellington, Show Me Wellington.

WREDA gm venues & projects, David Perks said Avenues was a standout, lauding the company for their "experienced and professional team with a deep understanding of the conferencing and events industry's needs".

Show Me Wellington 2017 will be held on 08 Mar, at TSB Bank Arena and Shed 6. Registrations will open in Oct.

New event space debuts in Dubai

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts has opened W Dubai - Al Habtoor City.

Featuring 356 guestrooms and suites, the resort's event space includes an oval-shaped 725m² Great Room, where the walls and ceiling converge in a spiral effect.

Five multi-use studios are also on offer, all equipped with W's Sensory Set Up.

Events Calendar

WELCOME to the **BEN** events calendar.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@businesseventsnews.com.au

19-21 OCT

ITB Asia; Marina Bay Sands; Singapore; for details and to register visit: www.itb-asia.com

27-29 NOV

PCOA Conference and Exhibition; Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre; register here: www.pco.asn.au

21-22 FEB

AIME 2017; Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more info visit www.aime.com.au

8-12 MAR

ITB 2017; Messe Berlin ExpoCenter City; for more info visit: www.itb-berlin.de

14-18 MAY

ATE 2017; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); details at: tradeevents.australia.com

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news plus the latest **BEN** Christmas Venue Guide on **page three**.

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Grange events space

A NEW state-of-the-art events space has opened in the Illawarra at The Grange Golf Course/Dapto Leagues Club on the NSW South Coast.

The Club has invested \$7m into the transformation of The Grange since the start of this year, with many corporate events already locked in.

"Our new events space has been well received by members and the community, so I'd encourage you to come down and see the new country club-style venue for yourself," Club President of Dapto Leagues Club Gary Tozer said last week.

See thegrangegolfclub.com.au.

TA showcases Canberra to China



LAST week Tourism Australia hosted the first Canberra educational for incentive agents and media from Greater China.

The group enjoyed breakfast at the National Arboretum Canberra, a tour of the Royal Australian Mint, lunch at Pialligo Estate and searching for truffles at the Canberra Truffle Farm.



■ **RADISSON** Blu Plaza Sydney will convert the decor in one of its guest rooms pastel pink next month as part of a global initiative to raise funds during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Rooms will feature a pink bed runner, throw pillows and flowers, with a portion of proceeds donated to research charity organisations.

Nearly 300 Radisson Blu hotels are taking part in the 'Love Blu, Think Pink' project - radissonblu.com/en/bepink.

THE HEFTY STUDIO CITY MACAU

Hotel Review

STUDIO City Macau rises above the skyline like a grand palace.

Stepping off the transfer - likely one of the free hotel shuttles which link to most places of interest in the region - it is easy to be gobsmacked by the sheer size and scale of the hotel.

Inside, it's clear the designer didn't skimp on lighting.

Giant chandeliers drop from the downlight-dotted ceiling, and vertical backlit strips of orange and red on the walls are met by decorative floor lamps.

Instead of columns, mammoth-sized red vases, embellished with gold detailing hold up the ceiling and bright red roses spill from the lip.

Throughout the casino resort, no element goes untouched by either marble, deep red or shiny gold features.

Studio City really is a self-contained city. The entire region is synonymous with casinos, glitz and glamour, so it's no surprise a string of high-end shops wrap



around the brightly-lit casino.

The self-titled "Entertainment Capital of Asia", the hotel boasts the highest Ferris wheel in Asia and a 5,000-seat Studio City Event Centre capable of hosting concerts, theatrical and sporting events.

A 300-seat live-audience TV broadcast studio is also on hand for reality and game-show productions.

The entertainment extends to children, or at least the young-at-heart, offering "The House of Magic" theatre, a Warner

Bros. *Batman*-themed motion ride "Batman Dark Flight" and a massive 3,716m² family entertainment center.

The facilities don't end there, offering a stunning pool, Ibiza-style nightclub Pacha Macau, a surprisingly long breakfast bar, and the 1,820m² Grand Ballroom.

The entire complex is buzzing with workers, each ensuring their allocated element of the hotel is immaculate - even the plants are trimmed to perfect angles.

Staff may be used to tourists getting lost in the giant complex, as simply looking puzzled will prompt a well-mannered employee to abandon their post and lead you all the way to your desired destination in the property.

Rooms glimmer with opulence and the Star Premier King Room offers floor to ceiling windows and a bathroom with wall-to-wall marble.

No matter the purpose of the visit, Studio City Macau has it all packed into its self-contained complex.

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

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CHRISTMAS VENUE GUIDE



business events news
presents

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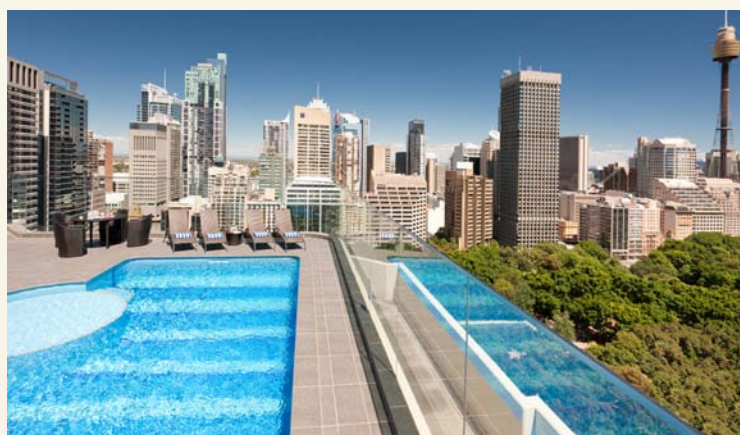
The Swanston Hotel, Grand Mercure Melbourne, VIC

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