



BIG NAME EVENTS TO BRISBANE

BRISBANE is in the midst of a busy events season with five major events scheduled to take place over the next few months, bringing in more than \$5 million into the local economy.

The bumper line-up of conferences and meetings will attract more than 2,200 delegates to the Queensland capital.

A succession of medical conferences is scheduled including the

Solutions for Drug-Resistant Infections Conference to be held next week and the inaugural joint meeting of the Australian & New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society & the International

Federation of Musculoskeletal Research Societies in Jun.

In May, Brisbane will also welcome the Museums Galleries Australia National Conference, featuring top leaders from the

sector and governments from around Australia and across the Asia-Pacific region.

The three-day event features speakers, workshops, social activities and tours.



Langham events pack

LANGHAM Hospitality Group has launched a program for event planners and organisers, promising more flexibility and exclusive rewards.

The 'No Strings Attached PLUS' scheme is available for bookings between 01 Apr and 31 Aug for events between Sat and 31 Dec.

Cancellation terms are waived under the program and no attrition rate charges are applied.

Other features include no minimum food and beverage spend, a complimentary room offering, room upgrades, a 30 minute cocktail reception, spa credits and more.

Langham vp of sales and marketing Simon Manning said the offer provided greater flexibility and bespoke services.

For details, **CLICK HERE**.

WYSE Youth Tourism Conference

SYDNEY'S Doltone House Darling Island will this week host the WYSE Exchange Australia Youth Tourism conference.

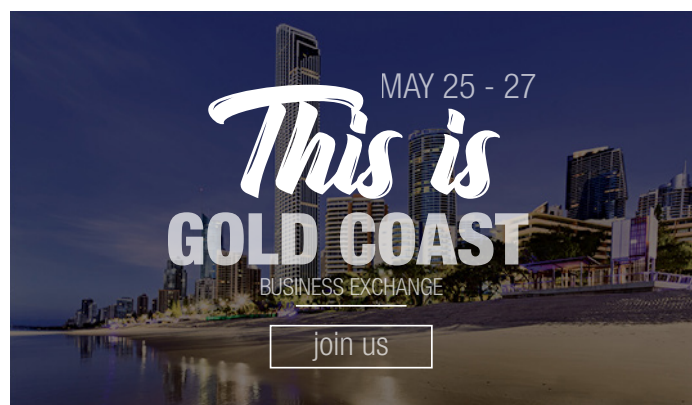
Supported by Tourism Australia, the Backpacker Operators Association NSW (BOA) and Adventure Queensland, the event will bring together operators from around Australia to focus on the international inbound youth travel sector.

The event, on Thu, is staged by the World Youth Student and Educational (WYSE) Travel Confederation and is held before the annual BOA Ball on Fri at Luna Park.

Registrations are still available - **CLICK HERE**.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has three pages of news.



 **mehk** Meetings & Exhibitions Hong Kong

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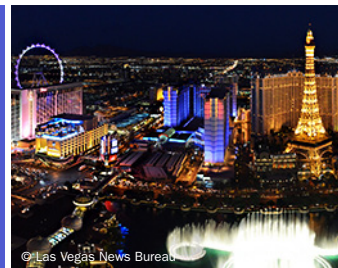
FREE Party @ Happy Wednesday (Horse Racing)

[Learn more](#)



Check out what new offerings are in the US for your next conference in the March issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read
travelBulletin



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■ **IF FLAGGING** delegate numbers have ever kept you awake at night, spare a thought for organisers of the African Global Economic and Development Summit held at the University of Southern California earlier this month.

Despite having an African focus, none of the 60 invited delegates from Africa turned up - every one of them had their US visa application knocked back.

America's *National Public Radio* reports that organisers had expected about 40% of delegates to suffer visa problems based on past experience, but the 2017 event had been hit by a 100% strike rate.

Though no delegates came from countries affected by President Trump's latest travel ban, organisers speculated that new vetting procedures discriminated against Africans.

PCEC refurb nears completion



THE refurbishments at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC) are in the final stages ahead of its completion next month.

As part of the refurb, upgrades have been made to meeting and function rooms as well as improving audio-visual facilities and updates to technology within the building.

In addition to the new technologies, meeting rooms feature new wireless entry double doors, new floor and wall coverings and cameras installed within event spaces to enhance monitoring capabilities for event organisers.

General manager Nigel Keen said revitalisation of PCEC enabled the venue to meet the growing needs of its clients.

"We are striving to maintain modern facilities with a contemporary feel that allows our guests to achieve their outcomes in a business friendly environment," Keen said.

SA welcomes NZ

THE Adelaide Convention Centre has welcomed news that Air New Zealand will introduce Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliner* flights to the South Australian capital.

The deployment of its flagship aircraft gives the airline 23% more capacity over the peak season between Oct and Mar, providing a boost for the growing number of Kiwis attending conferences in SA.

Adelaide Convention Centre chief executive Alec Gilbert said Adelaide's increasing international connectivity would help make the city more attractive to conference and event organisers.

"The Air New Zealand announcement is well timed with additional capacity on flights coming shortly after the completion of the Centre's \$400 million expansion," Gilbert said.

"South Australia and New Zealand enjoy strong economic and cultural ties and this announcement will further strengthen this important relationship," he said.

Flights start 26 Oct.

Record meetings for Vienna

THE Austrian capital Vienna has recorded a 7% increase in delegate numbers last year, with 67,000 people joining 4,084 congresses, corporate events and incentives.

The nation-wide value of the Vienna conference industry broke the billion-euro barrier in 2016, contributing a total of €1.072 billion to the Austrian gross domestic product, an increase of 3%.

About 80% of the value added was attributed to international congresses, which in 2016 attracted about half the total number of meeting delegates.

Business events in Vienna supported 20,000 jobs last year.

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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

30 APR - 2 MAY

MEA Conference; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); for more info see: www.meetingevents.com.au

14 - 18 MAY

ATE 2017; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); details at: www.tradeeventsaustralia.com

24-25 MAY

This is Gold Coast PCO Famil; Gold Coast; for more info visit: www.visitgoldcoast.com

25 - 27 MAY

This is Gold Coast Business Exchange; Gold Coast; apply here: www.visitgoldcoast.com

31 MAY - 1 JUN

CINZ Meetings 2017; ASB Showgrounds, Auckland NZ; for more info visit: www.meetings.co.nz

20 - 21 JUL

The Travel Industry Exhibition & Conference; Luna Park Sydney; register here: travelindustryexpo.com.au

25 - 26 JUL

The Travel Industry Exhibition & Conference; MCEC Melbourne; register here: travelindustryexpo.com.au

28 JUL

Get Global - Where the World Meets; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); read more: www.getglobal.com.au

Tas unveils new website

BUSINESS Events Tasmania (BET) has launched a new website to make finding a destination for business events easier.

Stuart Nettlefold, CEO of Business Events Tasmania, said the site was designed to help Tasmania compete in the lucrative conference and incentive market.

"The functionality of the new site makes it attractive for event planners, providing direct access to suppliers."

BET has also made its website mobile- and tablet-friendly to serve the increasing levels of use from those platforms.

New app for event industry

SHOWGIZMO has released a new product suite with features and enhancements designed to create better event experiences.

The new suite includes a low priced 'Essentials' option for single events that need simplicity, a 'Premium' package with extras and a support service, and the 'Professional' platform for event managers who plan events all year round.

Event managers can also customise app features themselves to better promote their event.

ShowGizmo is running a webinar on the product suite. **CLICK HERE** for more details.



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THAILAND EXPANSION

AUSTRALIAN exhibition and event supplier Expo Direct has announced an expansion into Thailand, opening a new office in Bangkok.

It is the first operation outside Australia for the company and complements its existing presence in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Expo Direct chief executive officer Eden Fridman said the company had long planned an Asian base to better serve its clients in the region.

"Having a presence here will also enable the Expo Direct team to pursue new opportunities in the region, including possibly supporting those Australian companies and organisations that exhibit here in Bangkok," Fridman said at the office's opening.

"We look forward to seeing what new opportunities emerge over the next 24 months."

The Bangkok office is located centrally in the Siam district at the Central World Tower.

Queenstown Convention Bureau Director

Promote Queenstown as competitive destination for business events.

This is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic and experienced Conference and Incentive (C&I) leader to make a difference in one of New Zealand's leading tourism marketing organisations. Destination Queenstown (DQ), incorporating the Queenstown Convention Bureau (QCB), is the official regional tourism office for Queenstown.

Reporting to the CEO, the QCB Director is responsible for the development of the QCB's overall strategic vision and leading the QCB as a business events marketing agency in domestic and international markets.

Managing a small and experienced team, the QCB Director engages confidently with senior industry stakeholders in the business events sector, nationally and internationally, as well as working closely with our stakeholder businesses and the wider DQ team.

This is an outstanding opportunity for someone who:

- Is a dynamic and strong business events leader with a minimum of 10 years' successful management experience, ideally having led a successful Convention Bureau
- Has highly developed strategic business skills
- Is experienced in C&I sales and lead management processes
- Has a passion for Queenstown and development of Queenstown as a competitive business events destination
- Operates with autonomy and uses creativity, initiative and independent judgement
- Has excellent senior relationship building, networking, influencing and negotiation skills
- Relates well to a wide variety of people at all levels of organisations from different cultural and linguistic background
- Demonstrates superior and articulate communication skills
- Holds relevant tertiary qualifications



To apply, find out more information or request a copy of the position description, please contact Kate Martin, HR Manager: hr@queenstownNZ.nz. Applications close Friday, 7 April.

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

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