



# DARWIN SHOWCASE

2 - 5 MAY 2019

**A BUSINESS EVENTS DESTINATION FAMIL PROGRAM CONNECTING YOU WITH LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPLIERS**

The Northern Territory Convention Bureau is offering conference decision makers an exciting opportunity to experience the NT first-hand, obtaining an invaluable perspective on why it is such an inspiring and sought after business event destination.

Programs feature visits to key meeting venues and accommodation, cultural activities including a 'Welcome to Country', sampling NT specialty cuisine at unique off-site venues and networking with NT industry partners.

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### Today's issue of BEN

*Business Events News* today has two pages of news plus a front cover wrap from **Northern Territory Convention Bureau** and a full page from **Pullman Magenta Shores Resort**.

### Darwin famil

**THE** NT Convention Bureau is inviting delegates to visit the NT from 02-05 May.

The famil includes visits to meeting venues and tasting local cuisine - see **cover pg.**

### Pullman offer

**PULLMAN** Magenta Shores Resort is offering a \$75 Day Delegate Package for events between now and 31 Aug.

See **page three** for more.

## NEW CENTRE SET FOR SYDNEY

**SYDNEY** is set to welcome a new event and function space with capacity for up to 450 people, when Crown Group unveils its new Infinity Convention Centre at Green Square in Sep.

The Infinity Convention Centre (render **pictured**) will form part of the \$575 million mixed-use development, Infinity by Crown Group, which is nearing completion.

Crown Group's Director of Hotels and Suites, Wayne Taranto, said Infinity Convention Centre would set a new benchmark for events in Sydney, with "beautiful interiors and ergonomic equipment and technology" forming the backdrop for events.

"The new Infinity Convention Centre will provide a much-needed new space for sophisticated conferences,

business functions, parties and weddings, in the heart of Sydney's newest residential and commercial precinct, Green Square," he said.

Event spaces on offer include classroom style for up to 65 people, cocktail events for 450

people, sit-down dinners or weddings for 370 people, and an auditorium for 430 guests.

"It will attract the best events... with event managers drawn to this exciting, attractive new space, made more appealing because of its ease of access, with the airport and



city so close by and the added bonus of having more than 20 new retail stores, cafes and restaurants nearby," he said.

The building forms a landmark gateway to the \$13b Green Square transformation, which will add a new train station and aquatic centre to the area.





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## BOLINGER RESIGNS

**MELBOURNE** Convention Bureau (MCB) last week announced the departure of CEO, Karen Bolinger, after 7.5 years at the organisation (**BEN** breaking news Fri).

MCB Chair, Chris Barlow, said Bolinger would finish on 05 Apr 2019 "to take some well-deserved time off before exploring other opportunities".

He also said Karen had suffered a significant personal loss over the past couple of years, "which she has worked tirelessly through, and she had decided that the time has come to stop and take some time out for self care".

During her time at MCB, Bolinger and her team had "led the repositioning of Melbourne's profile as an

innovative business events destination by highlighting the city's intellectual capacity and knowledge sectors," Barlow said.

The period had seen Melbourne's most successful years on record in terms of business events, with 2018/19 expected to deliver the sector's highest ever economic contribution to Victoria of almost \$500 million.

"During Karen's tenure she was integral in delivering strategic direction to the many boards she sat on, as well as leading the transition for MCB to become part of Visit Victoria," Barlow said, while also thanking her for her commitment to the organisation and wishing Bolinger all the best for her future endeavours.

## Marriott Events

**MARRIOTT** International has launched a dedicated digital platform, Marriott Events Asia, for meeting and event planners for Asia Pacific.

The website provides the latest industry trends and event tips, Marriott International's key MICE destinations and openings, and examples of meetings and events hosted at Marriott Int'l properties.

Additionally, the platform features advice on event and meeting tech, food and beverage, and catering offers from Marriott International.

For more info on Marriot Events Asia **CLICK HERE**.



**IT'S** a bird, it's a plane, no... it's a bunch of Belgians trying to be a bird?

That's right, the very first European Gull Screeching Championships was recently held in the Belgian town of Adinkerke, with competitors vying to deliver the most authentic giant seagull impression.

Stealing hot chips from random spectators obviously scored extra points.



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## Royal Botanical goes corporate



**BOUTIQUE** catering company, Blakes Feast, has joined forces with Harry the Hirer to create The Atrium at Melbourne's Royal Botanical Gardens which will be available for events from 06-22 Dec.

The Atrium (**pictured**) which accommodates 350 guests cocktail style and 240 sit down, boasts a cathedral roof, glass panelling, panoramic views, 3 metre high walls, and a circular-shaped truss - all encased within a black powder-coated aluminium frame.

Additionally, Blakes Feast, headed by chef Dylan Roberts, has created menus featuring seasonal ingredients and curated beverage packages to compliment the space.

## Record for Gold Coast 2018

**INTERNATIONAL** Visitor Survey (IVS) figures released last week showed a record \$1.4 billion was pumped into the Gold Coast for the year ending 31 Dec, while visitor arrivals were up 1.2% to one million.

Destination Gold Coast CEO, Annaliese Battista, said the record sum was up 17.9% on the previous year.

"Overseas visitor expenditure is growing faster than visitor arrival numbers, showing the value of visitors to Gold Coast's tourism economy is on the rise," said Battista.

"Destination Gold Coast is unashamedly focused on attracting high yield visitors that spend more while they're holidaying."

Visitor numbers are also on the rise with overall volume growing by 1.2%.

China is the Gold Coast's largest source of overseas visitors, welcoming 269,000 travellers despite the 13% decrease, followed by New Zealand with 213,000 (up 11.5%) and Japanese visitors accounting for 68,000 (up 5.2%).



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