



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news plus plus full pages from:

- One&Only Wolgan Valley
- The William Inglis Hotel

ATEC visa issue

THE Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) has today called for both parties to commit to taking policy action on visa issues, with India and China - two important markets suffering significant visa delays.

ATEC MD Peter Shelley said, "There is a failure to recognise the massive commercial knock-on effects of visa delays and it's quite common for large groups planning a trip to Australia to collectively change their destination plans if just one traveller's visa is held up."

He added that recently 700 professionals from India cancelled their trip and went to Canada because Australia's visa issues were too challenging.

Balkin award

MELBOURNE Convention Bureau Associate Director Business Development and Bids, Jason Balkin has been awarded the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition by the Rotary Club of Melbourne.

Balkin was awarded for helping secure the 2023 Rotary International Convention for Melbourne.

The convention is the most valuable conference ever won for Victoria and is expected to attract 20,000 Rotary members from over 200 countries, injecting over \$88m into the Vic economy.

YALLAMUNDI ROOMS OPEN

THE Sydney Opera House has opened the doors to its redesigned function and events centre – the Yallamundi Rooms – marking the completion of the next major project in its \$273 million program of renewal works.

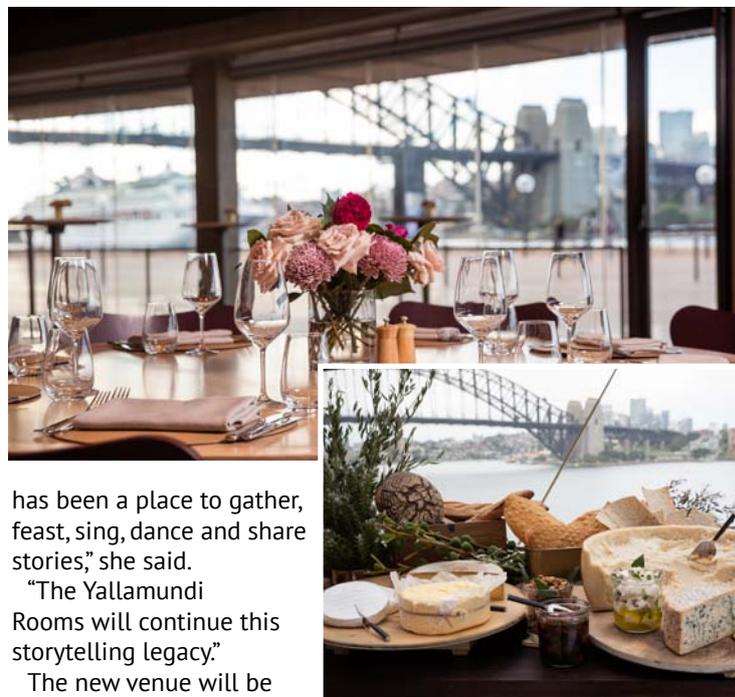
The Yallamundi Rooms (**pictured**) are available for a range of occasions, including community celebrations, intimate gatherings, private events and small-scale performances.

The flexible space has capacity for up to 400 people standing or 180 seated, with several room configurations available.

The name Yallamundi means "storyteller" in the local Sydney Indigenous language and honours the long history of gathering and storytelling by the original custodians of Bennelong Point, the Gadigal.

"The Opera House stands on Bennelong Point, known as Tubowgule to the original custodians of this land, the Gadigal," Sydney Opera House CEO Louise Herron said.

"For thousands of years, this



has been a place to gather, feast, sing, dance and share stories," she said.

"The Yallamundi Rooms will continue this storytelling legacy."

The new venue will be managed by Trippas White Group and its ambassador chef, Karen Martini.

Martini will draw on her professional cooking career, family influences and Tunisian-Italian heritage to bring "new vision" to the Opera House's dining offerings.

"We are sourcing incredible

produce from all around the country to create dishes that emulate the visual beauty of the Australian outback," she said.

The upgrades also include the renewal of the Concert Hall due to begin in Feb 2020.

Inset is a cheese platter put together by Martini.

AAoA ranks

THE Accommodation Association of Australia (AAoA) has welcomed Leanne Harwood to the AAoA board.

Harwood is the MD for Australasia & Japan InterContinental Hotels Group and is responsible for the growth and performance of more than 80 IHG hotels in Australasia and Japan.

Additionally, she oversees the regional teams in Sydney and Tokyo as they continue their growth and prepare for the 2019 Rugby World Cup and 2020 Olympics in Japan.

Shangri-La Fiji MICE benchmark

THE US\$50 million revitalisation of Fiji's largest stand-alone meeting and conferencing facility, Shangri-La's Fijian Resort & Spa, Yanuca Island has been unveiled.

The resort features indoor and outdoor breakout spaces that can be reserved for exclusive use by MICE groups.

With 443 burees, suites and rooms, it is also "the only private-island resort" in Fiji that can house groups of up to 750 residential delegates with full buy-out of the island for exclusive use by the group.

Specialty experiences and events can also be arranged.

Pictured is the Coastal Italian outdoor deck area.





AIME 2019 is done and dusted, read our wrap up in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



AACB NEW LINE-UP

THE Association of Australian Convention Bureaux (AACB) has welcomed the appointment of Michael Matthews, Chief Executive Officer of the Canberra Convention Bureau, as its new President.

"AACB and the network that it represents has a powerful voice in raising the profile of the business events industry as a vital economic driver for Australia – a message that must continue to be prosecuted in the lead up to the federal election," said Matthews.

The AACB has also completed a restructure of its leadership team, following the resignation of Karen Bolinger from the

Melbourne Convention Bureau.

Matthews is joined on the Executive by Damien Kitto, CEO of the Adelaide Convention Bureau as Vice President; Brett Fraser, CEO of Brisbane Marketing, steps into the role of Treasurer; and Lyn Lewis-Smith, CEO of BESydney, as Immediate Past President.

"Through the position of AACB President, Karen ensured that business events continue to play a key role in the Australian Government's future tourism strategy as a representative on the Beyond Tourism 2020 Steering Committee," said Chief Executive Officer of the AACB, Andrew Hiebl.

Daydream Island has reopened



DAYDREAM Island (pictured) has welcomed its first guests back to the resort.

Located in the Whitsundays, Daydream Island spans 1km long with coral and sand beaches lined by palm trees, a tropical rainforest and its own Living Reef and Underwater Observatory.

The resort's conferencing and events facilities cater across a large range of indoor and outdoor events including cocktail parties and gala dinners.

Guests visiting the island for conferences also have access to the latest technology audio visual equipment across three dedicated conference rooms.

Additionally, the resort features 277 rooms and suites with views of either the tropical gardens, pool or the ocean.

Daydream Island will have three new restaurants and bars including Infinity, the resort's premium dining offering with an Asian fusion menu, **pictured** inset above is the restaurant's fillet of Wagyu.

The resort is also home to Tonic, a speciality gin bar & Inkstone Kitchen and Bar which serves modern Australian cuisine.

Daydream Island will be welcoming Graze Interactive Dining, Barefoot Bar and Silica in the coming months.

The island features a revitalised pool landscape, gym facilities, access to water activities and is set to launch an outdoor cinema in Jun.



Nimbo Fork

LOCATED between Gundagai and Tumut, the regional location of Nimbo Fork offers event organisers a chance to host small to medium events, incentives and conferences.

Situated about four hours from Sydney and two hours from Canberra, Nimbo Fork is available for meeting room hire, conferences, larger scale events, or week-long retreats, with an all-inclusive service.

There are three function spaces, a fine-dining restaurant and boutique style accommodation.

Guests can experience fly-fishing or enjoy a visit to the local wineries.



A DRUMMING record has recently been broken in Stirling, Western Australia.

The city recently gathered 77 people from different countries to set a Guinness World Record for most nationalities in a drum circle.

The participants (**pictured**) were invited to dress in their traditional clothing while playing African drums.



Soak up the beauty of all you can see.
Uncover the secrets of winter.

Only here



Unforgettable events in the mountains

Nestled in the magical Greater Blue Mountains, Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley is a chic conservation retreat offering epic fresh air adventures, seasonal dining and blissful private villas. This is Australia at its finest.

An inclusive group stay with daily dining, regional wines and beverages, nature activities and more, now is the perfect time to plan your winter celebration, meeting or incentive program from \$675 per person per evening twin-share.

Emirates
One&Only

WOLGAN VALLEY

Australia

oneandonlywolganvalley.com

events@oneandonlywolganvalley.com



M
GALLERY
BY
SOFITEL

Receive our special corporate offer for conferencing when you book over the Winter months

Receive a complimentary coffee cart and barista for the duration of your event when you book a full day delegate package and hold your event prior to 30 September 2019. Valued at over \$900 our delicious Will & Co coffee will keep your delegates buzzing throughout the day.

Book the Day Delegate Package for only \$75.00 per person and receive:

Complimentary Wi-Fi
Complimentary parking
Complimentary breakfast for single delegates staying overnight

Keep yourself warm this Winter with a hot coffee or Herbal Tea

T & C's apply, visit <https://www.williaminglis.com.au/offers/winter-conference-special/> for more information