



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news, the latest **BEN** Christmas Venue Guide plus a full page from **One&Only Wolgan Valley**.

EEAA Awards open

EXHIBITION and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) is accepting nominations for the 2019 Awards for Excellence.

Organisers, venues and suppliers are being urged to shine a light on their standout achievements for events held between 01 Oct 2018 and 30 Sep 2019.

The awards cover 20 separate categories, with the Best Show title going to one of the winners of the five Show awards.

CLICK HERE to enter.

GC SECURES AMWAY INCENTIVE

DESTINATION Gold Coast has fended off competition from Tokyo and Hawaii, to land the hosting rights for the Amway Taiwan 2019 Leadership Seminar in Nov.

The five-day event is expected to generate \$2.8 million for the local economy attracting more than 950 of Amway Taiwan's top selling distributors and representatives.

Queensland Tourism Industry Development Minister, Kate Jones, said securing the event was a coup for the state, with Cairns having hosted the Amway China event in Jun (**BEN** 02 Jul).

"Winning the bid to secure a second Amway event for Queensland above other international competitors demonstrates the strength of our tourism offering and the importance of business



events to Queensland's tourism economy," she said.

Destination Gold Coast CEO, Annaliese Battista, said the city's successful bid was the result of a collaborative partnership with Tourism Australia, supported by the Business Events Bid Fund Program, and Tourism and Events Queensland's Business Events Acquisition and Leveraging Fund.

"We are delighted to have

secured this important incentive and offer our support to Amway Taiwan who will no doubt deliver an inspiring and motivating itinerary as part of their robust distributor reward program," she said.

"The Gold Coast offers business event travellers exceptionally diverse tourism experiences and high-quality venues in an enviable globally-renowned destination."



DELEGATE
PACKAGE
FROM \$77PP

FAIRMONT RESORT & SPA BLUE MOUNTAINS

Access the wellness benefits of nature in the spectacular World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park.

15 EVENT SPACES

224 ACCOMMODATION ROOMS

UBIKA DAY SPA

ACCOMMODATION
FROM \$199

PER NIGHT
INCLUDING BREAKFAST

+ FREE UPGRADE
TO SUPERIOR ROOM*

*SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

ENQUIRE NOW →

Come up for Air

INSPIRED MEETINGS AND EVENTS IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS, NSW

Call 02 4785 0099 — 1 Sublime Point Road, Leura, NSW

Image: Gary P Hayes Photography



BCEC CHEF QLD'S #1

BRISBANE Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) Sous Chef Matthew Lee has been named Queensland Chef of the Year for 2019.

One of the most respected competitions in the country, 28 chefs from around the state raced against the clock with only one hour to prepare dishes from a mystery box.

Lee snared the title with his starter of seared Hervey Bay scallops and Moreton Bay bugs with a citrus salad, fennel, gooseberry, avocado and finger lime salsa, followed by an Asian inspired main course of pork cheeks, ears and loin, with pecan, apple and potato puree

and soy pickled mushrooms.

Judges commended Lee on the diversity of his cooking and demonstration of technique.

Lee will compete at the Australian Professional Chef of the Year competition in Sydney in May.

No stranger to competitiveness, Lee has won a gold medal as part of the BCEC team in the Australian Culinary Federation's Restaurant Challenge in 2018 and silver in the Australian and Pacific Competition of the Global Chefs Challenge.

In his second stint as a chef at BCEC, Lee has also worked in some of Europe's top restaurants.

Te Pae makes apts

TE PAE Christchurch has appointed its new executive team, with Karine Legeay-Fisher, Event Services; Gillian Officer, Business Development; Ben Buchanan, Business Services; Darren Tait, Culinary Services; Vanessa McBean, Human Resources and Ken Davidson, Building Services all joining the team.

Collectively, the group brings more than a century of hospitality and event services experience to the city's brand-new convention centre, with GM Ross Steele saying he is looking forward to working with the new team as they launch the purpose-designed venue.



BULLFIGHTING recently returned to Mallorca in Spain, where it had been outlawed since 2017.

Around 300 protestors turned out to oppose the highly controversial practice, which is protected as part of the country's cultural heritage in the Spanish constitution.

However, the protestors were met with tunes, with organisers blaring the fascist anthem, Cara al Sol, over the arena's loudspeakers.

We're not sure what either side proved, but it looks as if bullfighting will continue for the time being.

CATERING 2 GO

is your one-stop catering solution in Melbourne.

FIND OUT MORE

STAMFORD
Plaza
Melbourne



Confessions of a compulsive conference-goer

Andrew Klein, professional MC and presentation skills speaker and director of SPIKE Presentations, presents his front line observations on conferences in a regular feature in *BEN*.

For Forky's sake (What 'Toy Story 4' can teach us about conference presentations)

I'M A huge fan of Pixar movies - which apart from being immensely entertaining, always contain brilliant messages, multiple layers for kids and adults and wonderful story-telling.

My favourite of all Pixar movies are the 'Toy Story' films. I went to see 'Toy Story 4' last month and while I'd argue it's the 4th best of the 4 films, it's still very good and better than the majority of animated films released these days.

One thing about Toy Story 4 that I loved was their newest character (and probably the most interesting one in the film) - Forky, a hand-made toy, made at kindy by the child character Bonnie, the current owner of the Toy Story toy characters. Bonnie literally creates Forky before our eyes from a box of craft accessories - a plastic spork, a pipe cleaner, two mismatched googly eyes and a paddle-pop stick.

He is the most imperfect, rough around the edges and on the face of it, simple of all the toys in the film. Yet Forky is also one of the deepest and most interesting toys in the series. We watch him over the course of movie go through an existential crisis - Who am I? How did I get here? What is my purpose in life?

What does all of this have to do with conferences? I have always maintained that the best

conference presenters are the authentic ones. Presenters who are a little raw, rough around the edges, not necessarily the most polished, not always the most articulate. But the most real. In my view as a presentation skills trainer, authenticity trumps polish every time. Present yourself with your endearingly human imperfections visible.

The second thing is simplicity. The hand-made, spartan Forky is the simplest of all characters, on the surface. Minimalist - exactly how most good presentations should appear. Sure, the content might be complex (Forky is a mass of complex insecurities underneath) but when it is presented, the content should be simple to comprehend. The presenter should do the heavy lifting behind the scenes (remove the jargon, extract the essence of the topic) to ensure the audience can easily understand what is being presented. The best presenters have the knack to clearly explain, break down complexity and highlight a few key messages.

Anyone who has seen the Toy Story films (or Inside Out, Wall-E or Coco etc) would hopefully agree that those engaging Pixar films might appear simple and childlike on the surface - but below that lies some complex, fascinating, heavy-duty issues. Just like a good presentation. 'To Infinity and beyond'.

If you are looking for an MC for your next conference or a speaker/trainer on presentation skills or pitching skills, email andrew@lunch.com.au or visit his website at www.andrewklein.com.au.



CHRISTMAS VENUE GUIDE



business events news
presents

Looking for a Christmas venue or staff celebration?
Business Events News guide to 2019/20 Christmas venues is the place to showcase!
To feature here email advertising@businessesnews.com.au.

CROWNE PLAZA HUNTER VALLEY

Lovedale, NSW

Celebrate the festive season with us

Create magic this festive season and celebrate with a Christmas party in the heart of wine country at Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley - where gatherings turn into memorable occasions.

The festive season is a time to reflect on the year, so let us take care of the planning so you can unwind and enjoy our outstanding dining, impeccable service and stunning wine country ambience. With a vast range of event spaces available including the poolside pergola, versatile private function rooms or the Haven Deck, we have the perfect space for your festive occasion.

Let us tailor the perfect event for your end of year festivity.



For more information and bookings, please call 02 4991 0000, email meetings.hunter@ihg.com or visit www.crowneplazahuntervalley.com.au



HOLIDAY INN MELBOURNE ON FLINDERS

Melbourne, VIC

Here at Holiday Inn Melbourne on Flinders, we believe in celebrating in style. Picture yourself enjoying Melbourne on our Poolside Terrace, with the glittering pool as the perfect backdrop, while you enjoy a cool glass of bubbles and tasty fresh food.

Our five elegant Melbourne inspired spaces are the perfect venues to celebrate in. Whether it's a lunch, dinner or stand up event we have the perfect package to impress your guests.

Early Bird Offer

Book by the 11th of October 2019 and enjoy:

- 5,000 IHG Rewards Club bonus points for the booker
- One complimentary arrival cocktail or mocktail for each guest



Please quote **EARLY BIRD** when booking. Call 03 9612 5759 or email meetings.melsf@ihg.com to take advantage of our promotion. holidayinnmelbourne.com.au



Reconnect with the wonders of nature.
In the great outdoors.

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 next celebration, meeting or incentive program from \$675 per person per evening twin-share.

Emirates
One&Only
WOLGAN VALLEY
Australia

oneandonlywolganvalley.com
events@oneandonlywolganvalley.com