



EEAA HONOURS EXCELLENCE

THE Exhibition and Events Association of Australasia (EEAA) has celebrated the industry's top achievers, with Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre Chief Operating Officer Leighton Wood receiving the Trevor Riddell President's Award.

Reed Exhibitions Australia claimed three Awards for Excellence at the EEAA gala dinner in Melbourne's Myer Mural Hall last week, taking out the Best Trade Show under 10,000m², for the National Manufacturing Week 2019, Best Consumer Show over 10,000m² and Show the Year for PAX Australia 2018.

International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney also picked up three gongs, taking home the Best Venue Team for SIBOS 2018, Best Corporate Citizenship for its CSR initiatives and Legacy Program, with the centre's Event Operations Floor Manager Aiden Hippensteel landing the Richard Geddes Young Achiever Award.



Hippensteel was also commended for his volunteer work with the Rural Fire Service.

Exhibit Systems - Cisco at Cisco Live! 2019 entered the EEAA Hall of Fame after it claimed the Best Custom Stand award for the third consecutive year.

Harry the Hirer landed the Best Innovation in Event Tech gong for Harry's Concierge, with ExpoNet taking out the Best Supplier Team - Event award for the 17th SportAccord World

Sport and Business Summit.

Zadro Agency Managing Director Felicity Zadro was named the Unsung Hero award winner for her contribution to the industry over the last two decades.

The event also marked the end of an era, with EEAA CEO Joyce DiMascio stepping down at the end of the month (**BEN** 12 Nov).

Pictured, all the 2019 EEAA Awards for Excellence winners at Myer Mural Hall Melbourne.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news plus a full page from **One&Only Cape Town**.

BestCities MD

BESTCITIES Global Alliance Market Development Director Lesley Williams will replace Paul Vallee as Managing Director on 01 Jan.

Williams will bring more than 25 years' experience in the business tourism and events industry to the role, and will head up the BestCities management team, which includes former Melbourne Convention Bureau CEO Karen Bolinger.

The announcement was made at the fourth annual BestCities Global Forum in Copenhagen this week, with a program focused on 'Exploring the Congress of the Future'.



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Centrepiece update

MELBOURNE & Olympic Parks (M&OP) has announced that its \$972 million events complex Centrepiece at Melbourne Park is in its final stage of development, after over 300 cubic metres of concrete was poured in a "landmark event" involving 55 trucks.

"We can almost see the finish line, and very soon national and international visitors will be able to enjoy the event precinct," said M&OP Premier Events & Experiences General Manager Lara Burnes.

The centre is scheduled for completion in late 2021, and will showcase at Sydney's Annual PCOA Conference & Exhibition, on 8-10 Dec 2019.

AIME 2020 teaser

ASIA Pacific Incentives and Meetings Event (AIME) has released its third teaser ahead of the 2020 event (**BEN** 03 Dec).

The 45-second video clip showcases the excitement building among buyers and exhibitors in the event's lead-up as well as exclusive commentary from the Talk2 Media & Events team, including CEO Matt Pearce, Event Director Jay Martens and Hosted Buyer Manager Bernadette Pantan.

CLICK HERE to check out the video.

Te Pae appoints

TE PAE Christchurch Convention Centre has appointed two new Business Development Executives to its team of Business Development Managers, including Brad Isherwood and Jordis Renz, who will be joining Director of Business Development Gillian Officer.

Isherwood will be tasked with showcasing the venue to prospective New Zealand-based clients, while Renz will provide support across all markets.

The centre is scheduled to open next year, with a capacity to host 2,000 delegates across a variety of national and international events (**BEN** 12 Aug).



SOMETIMES the most memorable part of an event is the finger food, but even so, you have to admire the dedication of a venue in Columbus, Ohio in the USA where the chips take three days to make.

The recipe is the brainchild of Chef Avishar Barua, who oversees an "intricate production" involving brining, drying, freezing and then frying precision 20mmx20mm cuts of potato.

"The perfect fry is super crunchy on the outside but soft on the inside...if the fries aren't perfect, why bother ordering them," he said.

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**.

2019 – Conference Year in Review

IN MY conference travels in 2019, I've seen so much, both inside the conference room, in exhibition areas and at social events.

Here in no particular order are 10 awesome things I've observed at conferences in 2019.

1. **Miami Marketta – Gold Coast:** Several of the GC conferences I attended in 2019 held social functions at Miami Marketta, in my opinion, one of the best, coolest, music-festively conference locations anywhere. Great food, great service, great design - and the best toilet areas anywhere.
2. **Donut Walls:** In exhibition halls, you can't beat a wall of tasty donuts for an afternoon tea sugar hit.
3. **Brene Brown:** Sadly, I didn't get to hear her 'live' (but the Netflix special is cool) but Brene is in this list as being, in my view, the most mentioned person during conference presentations this year. Simon Sinek has held that title for about five years. But this year, it was all about 'what did Brene say'.
4. **Best Exhibitor Gift: Webcam covers.** Tiny stick-on bits of plastic (branded of course) which replace tape or Blu-Tak as a way of stopping hackers from spying on you.
5. **Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre:** As a Sydney boy, I've loved working at the ICC - but the best Convention Centre food this year, hands down, came from BCEC.... gourmet conference lunching at its best. Give the Head Chef a raise.
6. **Cardboard Lanyards without plastic sleeves:** One of the many simple environmental changes I've seen.
7. **Festivalisation of Events:** Many great attempts are being made to increase audience engagement - but trying to make conferences and exhibitions more like Music or Arts Festivals seems to be the way of the future. While I have yet to attend, I am told Xerocon is at the forefront.
8. **Conference Presentation Theme:** The "hot" conference theme from the last few years - "Disruption" has been disrupted. While disruption, AI, and bots remain popular, this year I saw 'Resilience' and 'Purpose' start to dominate presentation topics. There's some awesome speakers on those themes out there.
9. **Garden Party:** As a conference junkie, I don't normally get blown away by "Gala Dinner Reveals" (doors open and you're awed by how a room has been transformed?) But at a Surgical conference in Sydney, the amazing The Production House Events (TPHE) turned a regular ballroom into a beautiful garden for a 'Garden Party'. Real trees, a working fountain, a grass dance floor and unlike most booming 'walk in music' it was almost silent on entry, other than bird's tweeting noises. So creative. So different.
10. **People talking to each other:** In this age of mobile phones, conferences have become one of the last avenues for old-style face-to-face communication. Long may it last.
Have a great break and see you at a conference in 2020.

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.



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