



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news plus a full page from **Novotel Sydney Airport**.

TA CEO resigns

TOURISM Australia MD, John O'Sullivan has announced his resignation.

He will move into a new role as CEO and Executive Director of the ASX-listed company, Experience Co.

He will leave the organisation in Jun.

Sofitel win

EVENT organisers can win a seven-night holiday in Bali when booking a residential conference at the recently refurbished Sofitel Sydney Wentworth by 31 Jan 2020.

The offer includes resort accommodation, return flights from Sydney, daily breakfast and transport to/from the airport.

The Wentworth Ballroom accommodates up to 1,100 delegates and also features 11 meeting rooms.

The 436 newly refurbished guestrooms now feature new upholstered bedheads, artworks and carpets.

For more **CLICK HERE**.

GOVT CALLED ON

THE Association of Australian Convention Bureaux (AACB) Forward Calendar of International Business Events Jan 2019 report has highlighted that for the business events industry to grow further, political parties need to support the industry with better policies.

The report also states that approximately one in four international bids are lost due to financial incentives offered by competitors.

Other attributing factors were high costs of holding an event in Australia including airfares, visas, accommodation, political factors and event delivery.

The report also showed that 38% of association bids won was due to the bid team which includes the convention bureau, event organiser, and professionalism of bid delivery.

Additionally, 34% of corporate

bids won were due to geographic preference.

In order to grow the business events industry in Australia the AACB has made the following suggestions - expand Tourism Australia's bid fund program with additional new investment to \$10m per year; Visa reform - reduce the cost and complexity of visitor visas; & invest in more robust business events metric.

The full report can be viewed by clicking **HERE**.

MEANWHILE earlybird registrations are open for the 30th AACB Annual Conference, Destination Business Events from 18-20 Sep at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre.

The conference theme is Customer Experience: Laneways to Success, and aims to challenge thinking about the customer experience.

Art Series Hotel for Perth

ACCOR is set to open its ninth Art Series hotel in Perth's CBD in Oct, marking the arrival of the Art Series brand in WA.

The 250-room Art Series hotel will draw inspiration from its incoming namesake artist, and feature a signature restaurant with terrace (**pictured**), bar and lounge, ground floor cafe, swimming pool, gymnasium and a function room for approx 200 people cocktail-style.



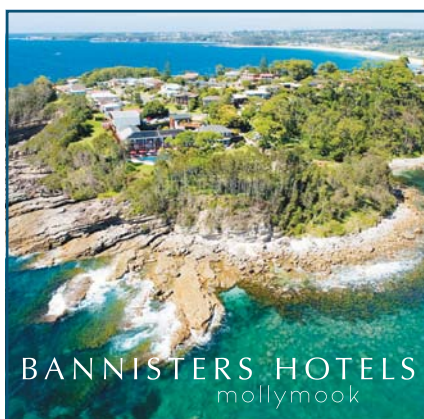
EEAA speaker

PRESIDENT of Int'l Trade Information Stephanie Selesnick is set to speak at EEAA's Leaders Forum & Conference on 05-06 Jun.



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To make an enquiry or book, contact elisha@bannisters.com.au or **(02) 4454 7407**



Read about sustainable practices and whether companies can really have an impact in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



CHC TURNING POINT

THE Christchurch Town Hall welcomed its first conference last Mar (**pictured**) following its Feb reopening.



The international meeting of the Pacific Association of Pediatric Surgeons, combined with the Australia and New Zealand Association of Paediatric Surgeons and the NZ Society of Paediatric Surgeons, welcomed more than 400 delegates over four days.

Karena Finnie, ChristchurchNZ Head of Major and Business Events, said the conference marked a turning point for the central city.

“As more and more venues open in Christchurch, our city

increases its capability to host large-scale business events, which is very exciting for the industry.”

The 2020 opening of Te Pae, the city’s new convention centre, is set to further strengthen event growth in Christchurch.

GC automotive

THE Gold Coast Convention Centre is set to host the automotive parts group, Bapcor Convention from 17 to 21 Oct.

The Convention is expected to attract up to 1,000 delegates, with an estimated economic impact of over \$3m for the city.

Bapcor CEO and MD, Darryl Abotomey said the Gold Coast was selected because of the infrastructure to support a group of this size.

“The Star Gold Coast and Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, excellent offsite venues, along with the ideal weather make the Gold Coast a perfect location.”



ONE way of creating hype and getting people to attend an event is by cooking “a gigantic box of instant noodles 1,500 times its normal size”.

Just north of Tokyo, about 160 kilograms of instant “yakisoba” stir-fry noodles were prepared and served to 579 participants - breaking the Guinness World Record for the “largest instant noodles tasting event”.

The noodle event attracted 5,000 enthusiasts.



Esquire Drink + Dine, Trippas



AUSTRALIAN hospitality pioneer, Trippas White Group, celebrated with industry, and stakeholders last week at the official launch event of Esquire Drink + Dine, its new late night dining venue in Sydney’s CBD.

The venue (**pictured**), located on level two of the QVB, is akin to a New York supper club, brought together by Trippas White Group – including George Diamond, Group Executive Chef; Damien Worthington, Executive Chef; and Fabio Nistrio, Sommelier.

Trippas White Group Managing Director, Joseph Murray, said the launch of Esquire marks a new era of Sydney CBD dining destinations and late-night offerings, and is a significant milestone for the Trippas White Group as it expands into operating its own consumer retail dining venues.

The venue operates seven days a week - for more **CLICK HERE**.

QT Newcastle set to transform

EVENT Hospitality & Entertainment Limited has entered into a management agreement with Iris Capital for a QT Hotel in Newcastle.

The hotel will feature 106 rooms, a boutique rooftop bar, and a QT signature dining concept and bar.

“Newcastle is Australia’s largest regional centre and with the \$700m Iris investment, combined with the \$650m NSW Government investment, the city is being revitalised and QT will be at the heart of this precinct,” said Event Hospitality and Entertainment CEO Jane Hastings.

The property will be within walking distance to Newcastle’s Harbour and surf beaches.

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*Subject to availability and for new bookings only. Must book 20 accommodation rooms to take advantage. Black out dates may apply. Complimentary breakfast is at Seasons Cafe, Restaurant & Bar ONLY for guests who stayed in house.