



Today's issue of BEN

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

Syd in the top

SYDNEY, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Hong Kong ranked as the top five cities for meetings in the APAC for 2019, according to the *Asia Pacific Destination Report 2019* published by the American Express Meetings & Events.

The report revealed the key drivers behind the top cities related to minimal travel times within APAC countries, cultural variety, cost, and the emergence of attractive second-tier meeting cities.

According to research, 47% of meeting planners are seeing a strong interest in operating meetings within the region, while 63% said this interest was increasing.

Despite Asia Pacific's rising popularity, potential challenges include language barriers, and rising costs.



NZ FOCUSED ON SUSTAINABILITY

NEW Zealand's tourism industry must focus on sustainability, Tourism Industry Aotearoa CEO Chris Roberts told delegates at TRENZ 2019 in Rotorua.

Speaking at the launch of a refreshed Tourism 2025 & Beyond - a Sustainable Growth Framework, last week, Roberts highlighted the importance of nurturing the industry in a sustainable way.

"Tourism 2025 & Beyond addresses current issues but also looks beyond 2025 to focus on building an industry that continues to make a positive contribution to Aotearoa and New Zealanders in the long term," he said.

"This Sustainable Growth Framework keeps our focus as an industry firmly on growing



our value to individuals, communities, the environment, the economy and our visitors," he said.

"The key change is that sustainability is now at the centre of Tourism 2025, providing a clear pathway towards a sustainable tourism industry for New Zealand."

Meanwhile, Christchurch has

been named as the venue for TRENZ 2020.

ChristchurchNZ CEO Joanna Norris welcomed the decision to bring the event back to the city for the first time since 2006.

"We can't wait to show off our exciting new city to the world," she said.

Pictured, Christchurch city centre.

Xmas Venues

THE next *Business Events News* Christmas venue guide is in the making & will inc event spaces for the festive season - call 1300 799 220 or **EMAIL** to have your Xmas venue offerings featured.

The new look 2019 guide has been designed to give venues more space to highlight their facilities and services to event organisers.

Vivid Sydney

SYDNEY'S annual Vivid festival will start this weekend with light displays being installed throughout the city.

Highlights of the 23-day festival will display from Pixar Animation Studios, Lights for the Wild at Taronga Zoo, and the Austral Flora Ballet, which will be projected onto the Opera House.

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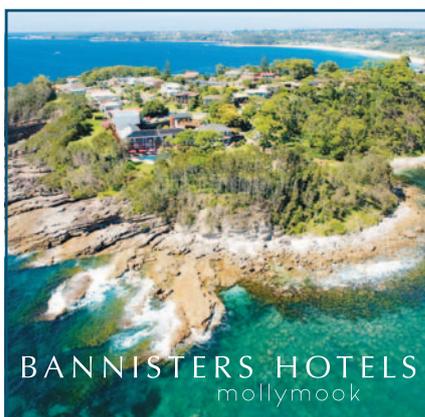
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Read about sustainable practices and whether companies can really have an impact in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

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NZ BUSINESS BOOM

NEW Zealand ranks 46th in the world as a conference destination, up five places on 2017, and 12th in Asia Pacific, according to new data from the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA).



“New Zealand is punching above its weight as a conference destination winning more conference business than ever before,” said Tourism New Zealand Business Events Global Manager, Anna Fennessy.

Having hosted 64 international conferences in 2018, Tourism New Zealand’s conference wins were worth \$49.5 million to the local economy in FY18.

“Business events deliver significant economic benefits to our communities, they also allow for knowledge share between global and Kiwi experts and get New Zealand expertise on the world stage,” she said, adding “We’re outperforming much larger, more easily accessible destinations through our manaakitanga and the hospitality of Kiwis”.

Picture: Auckland.

GC to host IASP World Congress

THE International Association for Suicide Prevention will host its World Congress on the Gold Coast in 2021.

Destinations Gold Coast CEO Annaliese Battista said the event will attract more than 800 mental health professionals, crisis workers, teachers and suicide survivors from around the globe to the region.

“Securing this event is a testament to the capabilities of the city to deliver world-class, large-scale business events in the heart of Australia’s playground. It also highlights the appeal of Gold Coast’s growing health and innovation sector,” she said.

“The distinctive winning mix of conference infrastructure, delegate experiences, service and our climate, continue to entice prominent business events to the region.

“It’s encouraging to see more associations and multi-disciplinary medical and health conferences, choosing to align with the Gold Coast and its burgeoning reputation as Australia’s progressive hub for medicine, health and innovation.”

The Congress will be held from 21- 24 Sep 2021 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

It will be the event’s first return to Australia since 1997.



ORGANISING a post election party has to be a stressful task, and those keeping things rolling at the Australian Labor Party’s in Melbourne on Sat must have suffered heart palpitations when the infamous “Egg-Boy” turned up.

Having smashed an egg against former Senator Fraser Anning’s head in response to his comments about the Christchurch terror attack, Will Connolly’s presence at the party prompted guests to watch their backs in case he was looking to reprise his heroics.

Solo Is SPUMS

SOLOMON Islands is this week hosting over 100 members of the South Pacific Underwater Medical Society for the organisation’s Annual Scientific Meeting and Conference, held at the Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel in Honiara.

Tourism Solomons CEO, Josefa ‘Jo’ Tuamoto, said that with tourism – and particularly dive tourism – growing in importance as a key economical driver for the Solomon Islands, the opportunity to host the SPUMS event and showcase the country’s world-class diving represented a huge opportunity for the country.

Archie returns to Sofitel Sydney

SOFITEL Sydney Wentworth is teaming up with the Archie Rose Distilling Co to celebrate the 2019 Archibald Prize.

From 24 May until 31 Jul guests will be able get a taste for the nation’s leading portrait competition while sipping on a specially curated cocktail named after it.

“The Archibald” uses Archie Rose’s Signature Dry Gin, dry sherry, soda and a twist of lemon, to deliver a fresh clean taste.

As the official hotel partner to the Archibald Prize, the Sofitel will be offering its popular Archibald High Tea, showcasing the culinary and artistic skills of Executive Chef Boris Cuzon and his pastry team.

The High Tea is priced at \$75pp including admission to the exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW.



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