

## Today's issue of BEN

**Business Events News** today has two pages of news.

### Vic's big fat win

**VICTORIA** has won the bid to host the biennial International Congress on Obesity (ICO) 2022, which aims to tackle the worldwide obesity epidemic through research, treatment and prevention.

The event will be held at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC), where over 1,500 leaders across the science, medicine, research and policy sectors will gather from all over the world to showcase the latest research on obesity.

The bid was secured by the Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) in partnership with Australia & NZ Obesity Society (ANZOS), backed by the Vic Govt and Tourism Australia's Business Events Bid Fund Program.

"This reinforces the city's standing as a business events destination of choice," said Federal Tourism Minister Simon Birmingham.

### Gary Daly to retire

**EXHIBITIONS and Trade Fairs (ETF) CEO, Gary Daly will retire at the end of Oct after leading ETF for almost seven years, during which time it has seen 15-20% growth on revenue, visitor and exhibition numbers for each event in the portfolio.**

**MEANWHILE**, Keiran Haycock has joined ETF as Managing Director, bringing to the role over 22 years' of B2B and B2C experience.

## EVENTS TO BRING QLD \$880M

**THE** 2020 Queensland events calendar is set to inject \$880m into the state's economy, up from \$380m in 2015, and further strengthen the Sunshine State's reputation as world-class events destination.

"That's an extra half-a-billion-dollars generated for local businesses by our events over five years," said Qld Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk.

"This proves that our strategy to support events that we know will lure tourists and support our tourism industry is paying off," she continued.

The "It's Live! In Queensland" events calendar features new events including the inaugural ATP Cup in Jan and The Ring Cycle in Nov, as well as old favourites like the Birdsville Big Red Bash and the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

"Having so many destinations right across the state that are capable of hosting events of all sizes is an incredible competitive advantage and one we will continue to leverage," said Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones, who also mentioned the state's "iconic tourism landscapes and experiences."

"No matter who you are or what you're looking for one thing is clear – you can find it in Queensland."



**MEANWHILE**, over 700 leading academic scientists, researchers and scholars from across the globe will head to Cairns for the Int'l Congress of Vertebrate Morphology (ICVM) in Jul 2022, marking the first time the triennial conference is held in Australia.

"Over recent years, Australia has become a leading nation in vertebrate research and we wanted to bring the international community to a city where they could network together and explore one of the most beautiful destinations in the world," said Dr Olga Panagiotopoulou from the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute, who led Australia's bid against Portugal, Italy and the US to host the event.

The 2022 conference will be hosted at the Cairns Convention Centre, considered Australia's leader in hosting international scientific conferences.

"Hosting the congress in Cairns will help us attract international experts, a broad range of delegates, and shine a light on the local industry," continued Dr Panagiotopoulou.

Cairns also presents a variety of tourism options for delegates, such as snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef and 4WD tours of the Daintree Cape Tribulation rainforest.

The ICVM conference is expected to highlight Cairns as an events destination and help drive tourism to the area.

**Pictured:** The idyllic Cairns coastline.

### NZICC fire investig

**AN INVESTIGATION** has begun into the recent fire at the New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC), according to Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

The under-construction venue had already been delayed multiple times, pushed back to 2021.

### BUSINESS EVENTS WITH BENEFITS

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## Sunny Soiree

**BUSINESS** Events Sunshine Coast held its annual Sunshine Soiree in Brisbane on Thu.

Attendees heard about the Sunshine Coast's new infrastructure and the expansion of the Sunshine Coast Airport, as well as the region's natural beauty.

The event was staged at the newly opened Bougainvillea House at Howard Smith Wharves, and brought Sunshine Coast operators together with Brisbane-based buyers to showcase the region's best conference and incentive products.



THE Noosa Food & Wine Festival has announced a name change ahead of its 2020 program - it will now be known as the Noosa Eat & Drink Festival.

Worry not though, Festival Director Sheridah Puttick has reassured festival-goers the wine won't be going anywhere - the new name, which has been welcomed by the beer, cider and spirits industries, better reflects the "myriad of other delicious things" that will be on offer too, such as ginger beer, gin, whisky and craft beer.

## China event

**THE** 2019 World Culture and Tourism Forum was held last week in China, with the event seeing its first ever international delegation.

Held in Xi'an, the event attracted over 3,000 attendees from 26 countries, including a delegation of 15 industry representatives from 13 countries.

The forum focused on the theme of "Intelligent integration of culture and tourism", exploring new marketing ideas for inbound tourism in China.

The event was hosted by the Xi'an Municipal People's Government.

## Meet Hawai'i 2020

**HAWAII** Tourism Oceania has released its 2020 *Meet Hawai'i Guide*, assisting meeting planners in organising business events, conferences and incentive programs across the Hawaiian Islands.

The guide provides event planners with information on the experiences, activities, accommodation and team-building opportunities available in the state.

Hawai'i Tourism Oceania offers a free event planning service for organisers holding a conference or incentive in Hawaii - click **HERE** to access the guide.

**Business Events News** is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

**Business Events News** is Australia's newest online publication dedicated to the vibrant meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

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Read how Arabia is hotting up for conferences and events in the October issue of *travelBulletin*.

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## DOLTONE TURNS 50



**PRIME** Minister Scott Morrison was present at Doltone House's first venue in Sylvania Waters last Fri, where he unveiled an official plaque commemorating its 50th Anniversary, alongside the Signorelli family, who took over the business 25 years ago.

"They aren't a business just seeking to make money, it's a business seeking to make a difference in the lives of its customers," said Morrison.

Over its 50 years, Doltone House has hosted almost 67,000 events - nearly half of them business events - and catered for over 6,400,000 people.

The Signorelli family plans to open Marconi Events at Marconi Club in 2020, and an event destination precinct in Milperra, NSW in 2025 (**BEN** 28 May).

**Pictured:** PM unveiling the plaque with members of the Signorelli family.

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