



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

Club Med inspo

CLUB Med has released a new Meetings & Events by Club Med digital brochure, with a range of new experiences and adaptations for group bookings in response to COVID-19.

The program features resorts across the globe, with the addition of Cefalu, Sicily, La Rosiere, France and a private island getaway in the Seychelles.

A new Club Med Rent a Village package in the Maldives provides exclusive use of an entire resort of 52 beach and overwater villas.

Health and safety measures have been introduced in partnership with Ecolab, while the offerings include premium accommodation, open bars, daily and nightly entertainment and a host of sport and wellness activities.

Club Med's Peace of Mind policy offers a range of flexible conditions, allowing bookings to be secured from as little as \$200 per person along with free cancellation 30 days before departure - see clubmed.com.au.

EVENTS HEADING HOME

ALMOST 80% of corporate event decision makers in Australia who usually hold one or more major activities overseas each year are likely to relocate the events to Australia in the next 12 months, according to new research released this week by Business Events Australia.

A total of 256 respondents took part, across the information technology, retail and professional services sectors.

The survey aimed to help understand attitudes to restarting events amongst Australian corporate decision-makers, and showed increasing optimism for events in the next six to 12 months.

EEAA webinars

THE Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) will host a series of sector-by-sector industry updates starting next week, with the aim of providing an "open exchange for industry" to discuss key issues facing venues, suppliers and event organisers.

Key topics will include COVIDSafe plans, state-by-state restrictions, resourcing, and commercial support, with more details and regos available by [CLICKING HERE](#).

About two in five said they were planning events within the next year, hoping to help build team morale, reward staff and drive innovation within their businesses.

However almost half (46%) said their planned events would not involve travel, while 30% would only have intrastate travel as part of their meetings.

The top three barriers to running events now were current restrictions on gatherings (30%), concerns for employees' health (21%) and financial considerations (15%).

Two thirds of respondents said they believed their companies would run the same number or more events after COVID-19 compared to before the pandemic.

Events could resume immediately, according to those polled, if there were zero coronavirus cases in Australia (54%), a COVID-19 vaccine was developed (44%) and if there was no community transmission in Australia (43%).

GCCEC hybrid

THE Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) says it's receiving strong levels of enquiry for hybrid, live streaming and online event options.

The facility now offers the ability to showcase remote presenters, stream events to public platforms and even provide private streaming and tools via a dedicated high bandwidth fibre optic connection, said GCCEC Executive Manager Technology, Ben Morris.

Missing Thailand?

THE Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) has launched a new testimonial video featuring three eminent event organisers describing what they miss about the country - businessesnews.com.au/videos.

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COVID-19 is forcing many in the hospitality and events arena to pivot to new business models - and there's a good example at a hotel in southern India which has turned its swimming pool into a fish farm.

The Aveda Resort & Spa in Kumarakom, Kerala has been closed since Mar under nationwide coronavirus lockdown orders, meaning its expansive 150m-long pool (pictured) is no longer full of relaxing sun-worshippers.

GM Jyotish Surendran said "we have had zero revenue, so in June we put about 16,000 two-month-old pearl spot fish in the pool".

The creatures are being fed by resort staff and will grow to full size in Nov, when they will be harvested and exported to the Middle East.



ABU DHABI'S COVID-FREE ZONE



AUTHORITIES in Abu Dhabi have hailed the successful delivery of the "UFC Fight Island" event which saw a safe zone created on Yas Island accommodating about 2,500 people over five weeks.

UFC Fight Island occupied an 11km stretch of the emirate, completely isolated over the period to protect staff and UFC visitors from 35 nations who stayed in some of Abu Dhabi's prime hotels during the event.

Safety procedures included COVID-19 testing every 72 hours and 14-day isolation periods to achieve a COVID-free sanctuary, with a full range of entertainment facilities and hospitality within the perimeter.

The safe zone included Yas Marina Circuit, Yas Links Golf Course, Yas Beach, the Etihad

Arena and the Flash Forum, a multi-purpose indoor venue where the fights were staged.

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi (DCT) said the initiative demonstrated the destination's ability to organise and safely manage large-scale global events amid the highest standards of safety and delivery.

"This established the Emirate as an aspirational destination and ideal global partner for high profile events, including sports, entertainment and cultural events," the organisation said.

The DCT said it planned to evolve the concept for the return of tourism and other events in the coming months, including the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix at the end of 2020.

Air summit success

MORE than 650 delegates have registered for the upcoming CAPA Centre for Aviation 2020 Summit, which will be conducted via a virtual event platform from Sydney tomorrow.

It's the first time the summit has been staged online, with the new format enabling the participation of key speakers from across the globe who will be "beamed in" to address delegates.

The platform also allows for virtual networking, roundtables, an exhibition area and one-on-one meetings - capaevents.com.

Noosa plastic push

TOURISM Noosa has launched new bespoke branded aluminium bottles representing the destination as part of the Plastic Free Noosa program.

The new Noosa Aluminium Water Bottle is supplied in cartons of four showcasing Noosa both in and out of the fridge, with scores of regional cafes, hotels and event venues already adopting the new offering.

Events space?

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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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