

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

events


BRISBANE
 convention
 & exhibition
CENTRE


Grey Street revealed inside


[visit the BCEC website](#)


BCEC General Manager, Bob O'Keeffe has been presented with the Exhibition and Events Association of Australasia President's Award. The national award for contribution to the industry was presented at the EEAA Awards for Excellence dinner in Sydney.

Mr O'Keeffe has been at the helm of the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, which is operated by leading international venue management group, AEG Ogden, since reopening days.

A right Royal occasion

It was definitely a right Royal occasion – a lunch hosted by Queensland's Governor, Her Excellency, Penelope Wensley AC, in honour of visiting royals, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh, held in the Centre's riverside venue, the South Bank River Room.



Thousands gathered at the popular South Bank Precinct which was the focus for the one day royal visit to Brisbane where they met those affected by the January floods together with members of the emergency services.

The Centre's Executive Chef, Martin Latter worked with Government House Head Chef, Paul Newsham, in selecting and preparing the menu for the royal lunch, which showcased the very best of Queensland's wonderful produce.

Queensland's culinary trail for the royal luncheon started with Moreton Bay for its famous bugs, Mooloolaba for king prawns then to Queensland's Scenic Rim and Granite Belt for freshly grown asparagus and salad vegetables, then on to the Diamantina for what is regarded as Australia's best beef - all matched with award winning local wines.

Welcome



2011 has been an eventful year for our team.

It is 11 months since the January floods tested our mettle. Both Brisbane and the Centre recovered and bounced back in a very short space of time with a revitalised and energised spirit that carried us through to welcome more than 112 conventions and 60,000 international and national delegates to the Centre this year.

During the year we were particularly proud to host a stellar array of world leaders and royalty led by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, their Royal Highnesses Prince Phillip and Prince William, the Dalai Lama, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Virgin founder Sir Richard Branson and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

It was also the year in which the Centre hosted its biggest event ever with the big and bold Brisbane Truck Show and its 145 trucks, 62 trailers and 34,700 visitors filling the Centre's entire space.

Looking ahead to 2012, there is every indication that it will be a year of high growth and a record

on a number of fronts with the Centre set to host 131 conventions while also holding the highest ever number of forward bookings.

We excitedly await the opening of our five level boutique expansion, BCEC on Grey Street early in the new year, which, as we go to press has 65 confirmed conventions including 15 international meetings.

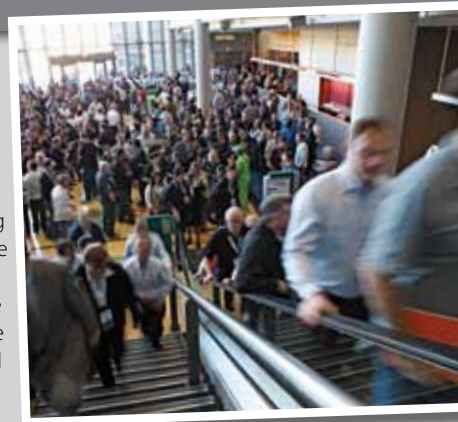
Congratulations to our Food & Beverage Team who gave us a triumphant climax to the year when the Centre was named Australia's Best Caterer, taking out the coveted Caterer of the Year Award at the Restaurant & Catering Australia Awards as well as the award for the Best Function/ Convention Centre Caterer in Australia for the third time in five years.

Bob O'Keefe
General Manager

Breaking news

BCEC finished the year on a high note celebrating a record breaking performance for the months of October and November.

October saw the Centre achieving its highest ever revenue in a single month with November coming in a very close second. The Centre hosted 29 conventions during the eight week period and welcomed 18,000 delegates and visitors to Brisbane.



Brisbane's strong appeal to the international market

Brisbane has secured a series of influential international conferences that will bring 9,000 leading medical, science and allied health experts from around the world to Australia and deliver an estimated \$29 million to the Brisbane economy.

A motivated and united 'Team Brisbane' led by the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Events Queensland and Brisbane Marketing presented a compelling case.

Headlining the impressive list is the world's largest meeting for water practitioners and researchers, the prestigious International Water Association's World Water Congress in 2016 expected to attract 3,000 international water experts to the river city of Brisbane.

The newly confirmed conferences involve Brisbane's key sector strengths including the medical and allied health professions, creative industries, climate and marine environment:

They are:

- Sigma Theta Tau International Research Conference 2012 for 700 delegates
- World Conference on Design and Health 2013 for 800 delegates
- Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) 2013 for 1,500 delegates
- Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescence Diabetes 2015 (ISPAD) for 1,000 delegates
- International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC) 2016 for 2,000 delegates
- International Water Association's World Water Congress 2016 for 3,000 delegates

All in a day's work

The Centre's investment in its neighbourhood community continued this year with staff and management participating in a whole raft of locally based activities.

Heading up the calendar was a series of basic nutrition and cooking classes delivered by Executive Chef Martin Latter to the patrons of West End Community House, some of whom face challenges in society, and the hosting of the Centre's third Christmas lunch for 500 of those

under the care of the Salvation Army's many programs.

Staff also threw themselves into a host of other activities including a pack-a-thon for Bandanna Day in aid of CanTeen supporting young people with cancer, baking cakes for Red Cross, Shave for a cause for Leukaemia Foundation, Smith Family Christmas Hamper Packing and 'Club Red' group blood donations by staff to the Red Cross Blood Bank.



Tourism celebrates

A tough year did not deter 800 tourism operators celebrating the achievements of their industry at the 2011 Queensland Tourism Awards held at the Centre on Friday November 4.

Queensland tourism's best and brightest, winners and finalists alike, were applauded and honoured at the gala event hosted

by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council in partnership with Tourism Queensland and the Queensland Government.

The Centre's team of talented chefs created a special menu for the occasion which showcased the diversity and abundance of our wonderful Queensland produce.

Smart and sophisticated

The recent Queensland Tourism Awards gala presentation dinner was the perfect occasion to launch the Centre's brand new uniforms.

Queensland's tourism night of nights provided the ideal opportunity to preview the Centre's stunning new uniforms to a very enthusiastic and receptive audience.

Australian designed and Australian made, the 7,600 piece wardrobe has been created for the Centre's 650 staff with comfort, efficiency, functionality and of course style and presentation as the major considerations.

Our staff are the front line ambassadors for our jealously prized service standards and as such need to represent the Centre's international leadership positioning and reputation.

There is a distinctly Queensland influence in the look and feel both in the use of tropical colour combinations of jacaranda and avocado and in the relaxed sophistication of the styling.

The new look was launched in time for the opening of the Centre's new expansion, BCEC on Grey Street early in the new year.



Best in Australia!

There was great excitement and pride when the Centre was honoured with Australia's top accolade for catering – named Australia's Caterer of the Year at the recent national Restaurant & Catering Awards.

And in an impressive endorsement of the consistency of its catering, the Centre was



also successful in winning the award for Australia's Best Function/Convention Centre Caterer for the third time in five years.

This remarkable achievement of winning back to back national awards adds to an already stellar reputation in the international market and consolidates the Centre's standing among the leading convention centres of the world.

The Centre's commitment to its Food & Beverage product is evident across all areas of the Centre's operation and is an absolute credit to its very talented team of chefs and service staff under the experienced and enthusiastic leadership of Food & Beverage Director Kevin Gulliver, Executive Chef Martin Latter, and Food & Beverage Manager Brad Lyons.



A stunning unveiling of BCEC on Grey Street

We're nearly there and our new BCEC on Grey Street venue is living up to expectations!

Excitement throughout the Centre is tangible as the final stages of the Centre's boutique expansion progress at a rapid pace bringing us nearer to completion and the long awaited unveiling.

The recent removal of all construction scaffolding from the building site revealed the full glory of the dramatic and stunning facade, of which 85% is glass allowing the building to be bathed in natural light.



Designer, Michael Rayner says BCEC on Grey Street has a more intimate atmosphere.

"The architecture creates a vibrant interface with Grey Street and South Bank, and all the vitality that they offer. Inside, it contrasts the spatially dramatic – a five storey sky lit atrium - with the boutique feel of its function spaces. The aspect of the design which has excited us most is its dynamic, continually changing character, which hopefully stimulates comparable dynamics in the events and functions BCEC on Grey Street will facilitate."

Specifically planned to meet the increased demand from conference organisers for smaller and medium sized meetings, BCEC on Grey Street is already fulfilling that objective with 65 confirmed conventions including 16 international events and a further 50 awaiting confirmation.

Commissioning of the building is expected early in the new year.



BCEC General Manager Bob O'Keeffe treated the General Managers of Brisbane's leading hotels to a sneak preview of BCEC on Grey Street. The Centre's hotel partners received a personally guided tour of the \$150 million project including the almost completed Boulevard Auditorium.

Delegates 'walk the talk' to save the environment

Delegates attending the 6th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC 2011) at the Centre in July certainly 'walked the talk' in a determined show of eco commitment and awareness.

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre was selected by the organisers as the venue for the Congress in recognition of its strong sustainability focus and because it demonstrably met the strict eco responsibility guidelines set down by organisers.

This was the first occasion on which the congress had been held in the Asia Pacific Region and the choice of the Centre was well received by the 1,000 delegates.

Congress Chair, Dr. Jo-Anne Ferreira said one of the highlights of the Congress was the all-vegetarian catering across the entire four day event. "This not only reduced the carbon footprint of the event but also challenged the delegates

to sample, enjoy and consider alternative and more sustainable dietary choices" she said.

The Centre's Executive Chef Martin Latter said this was the first time that they had prepared a totally vegetarian menu across an entire event including all morning and afternoon teas, lunches, cocktails and the congress dinner.

"As is our normal practice we involved all our local suppliers and producers in sourcing the produce from within 100km of the Centre wherever possible and drew on the talents and knowledge of our team of Chefs who provided the inspiration and creativity for the menu planning."

Dr Ferreira said delegate feedback on the catering was very positive with delegates rating it as 'excellent' and 'outstanding.'



BCEC Advocates continue to make a difference

BCEC's influential Convention Advocates Partnership continues to make a difference with a total of 10 Advocate assisted international conferences confirmed for Brisbane and the Centre since the formation of the partnership in February 2010.

This eminent group of Australia's leaders in science, research and innovation who collaborate on promoting Brisbane as a centre of excellence to the international community and showcasing Brisbane's potential as a destination for international meetings, is having a marked and very positive effect on bidding for international events.

The benefits of these conferences to Brisbane are far reaching and provide a focus for Brisbane's many science, academic and industry strengths as well as engendering and strengthening collaboration between the world's leading thinkers, experts and innovators.

BCEC General Manager, Bob O'Keeffe said the significance and influence of the BCEC Convention Advocates Partnership should not be underestimated in the positioning and marketing of Brisbane as an international business destination and in raising awareness of the city's resources of knowledge and innovation.

A dining destination of distinction

The inner city riverside South Bank Precinct, home to the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, is fast earning a reputation as Brisbane's premier dining district.



Already the hub and heart of the city's iconic cultural attractions, South Bank has also become Brisbane's newest and most sophisticated restaurant precinct.

Home to more than 30 cafes, restaurants and bars, South Bank has developed a new dining destination, right on the river's edge with unrivalled views and access to the Brisbane River.

The much acclaimed Stokehouse leads the exciting group of restaurants who have opened their doors at the newly refurbished dining precinct alongside Cove Bar and Dining, popular for its champagne and fresh oysters, The Jetty and the Tuscan influenced Popolo.



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Happy Birthday GoMA!

Brisbane's much celebrated Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) is turning five and to mark this milestone the gallery has embarked on a full anniversary program including the headline exhibition of Matisse: Drawing Life. This major exhibition of works on paper by Henri Matisse includes 300 drawings, prints and illustrated books. To complement the exhibition, GoMA's Long Gallery will feature a large scale drawing studio inspired by the art of Matisse and his working environment.

GoMA and the Queensland Art Gallery continue to lead the way collecting and exhibiting, developing audiences for contemporary art in Australia.

Matisse: Drawing Life
3rd December 2011 – 4th March 2012
www.qag.qld.gov.au

Cnr Merivale & Glenelg Streets
PO Box 3869 South Bank Brisbane
Queensland 4101 Australia

T +61 7 3308 3063
E sales@bcec.com.au
W www.bcec.com.au

The Centre is owned by South Bank Corporation and proudly managed by international venue management group, AEG Ogdén.

