

Meeting Place puts a spotlight on WA

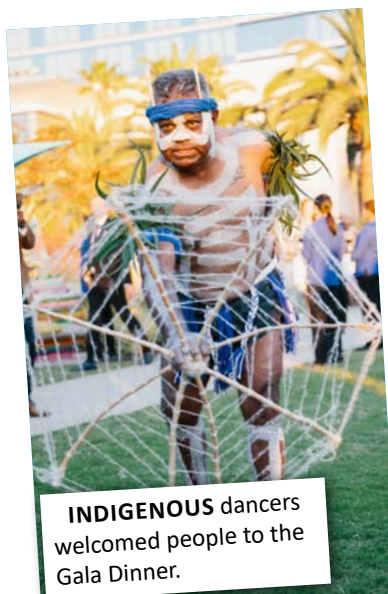
AUSTRALIA'S tourism exporters celebrated a big 2017 in Perth last month where 400 industry leaders gathered for the annual Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) Meeting Place event held at the new Crown Towers.

The three-day event featured lots of fun and excitement from the welcome function held at the hip Hamptons City Beach restaurant to the amazing Indigenous performances at the gala dinner. There were also B2B workshops - with over 3,500 individual meetings - and a range of pre- and post-famils around Perth and Fremantle.

Around 70 CEOs attended the Chairman's Forum featuring conversations with Tourism Australia boss John O'Sullivan, ATEC board members and industry leaders Gary Patterson and Jackie Walshe, Perth Airport's new boss Kevin Brown, Chairman of Tourism WA Nathan Harding and Australia's South West's CEO Catrin Allsop.

Meeting Place was also the launchpad for the 31 graduates of ATEC's 2017 Emerging Leaders of Inbound Tourism Excellence (ELITE) Program, presenting their ideas for solving some of the industry's challenges.

The 'New Frontiers' conference day included insights from financial journalist Michael Pascoe, virtual reality guru Scott O'Brien and China-based social media content creator Amy Lyons, and saw the launch of a new partnership with Chinese mobile and online payment platform Alipay.



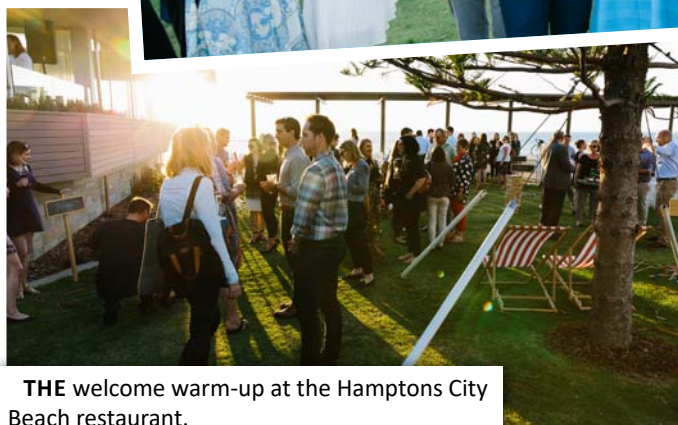
INDIGENOUS dancers welcomed people to the Gala Dinner.

ATEC'S WA branch manager Margaret Wilson with Paul Murray and Stuart Dobson from Acacia Tours.



BEN Doolan from ATG Downunder, Mark Abercromby from A&A Travel and TA's John O'Sullivan.

GUESTS gathering at Crown Towers Perth ahead of the night's gala dinner.



THE welcome warm-up at the Hamptons City Beach restaurant.



GETTING down to fun at the welcome function.



ATEC'S Denis Pierce and Peter Shelley with Sally Cope from Ultimate Winery Experience.



SOME of the guests ahead of the gala dinner.



ELITE presentations, selling Christmas Island to the world.

ATEC celebrates its top stars in Perth

ATEC'S annual Excellence Awards, announced at the gala dinner, recognised the pioneering leadership of Jade Express' Tony Liu who was given the prestigious Outstanding Contribution by an Individual to the Tourism Export Industry awards.

Alongside Tony, Sarah Dudek from WA's Seashells Hospitality Group was awarded the Len Taylor Young ATEC Award for Leadership, and the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual to ATEC went to Wayne Thompson from Australian Transit Group.

ATEC md, Peter Shelley said this year's Meeting Place was a record breaking event reflecting the growth of Australia's export tourism industry.

"This year, ATEC has seen amazing growth in membership, across all of its key training and capacity building programs, in industry services and engagement

and with our state and national events," Shelley said.

"This growth is aligned with the growth we are seeing across the export tourism industry and with increasing numbers of tourism operators focused on gaining a share of this growing market opportunity, they are looking to ATEC as a professional industry group able to maximise this growth for their business," he said.



TRADE Minister, Steve Ciobo with Elite graduates and mentors.



WA TOURISM
Minister, Paul Papalia.



QANTAS WA regional manager Julian Barry, with Young ATEC award winner Sarah Dudek, Minister Steve Ciobo and ATEC chairman, Denis Pierce.



WAYNE Thompson receives his award from Minister Steve Ciobo.



OUTSTANDING
Contribution by an Individual
award winner Tony Liu.



WEL-TRAVEL'S
Edwin Kwan
getting down
to business
at the B2B
workshops.



WA'S friendly
Quokka pays a visit.



OVER 3,500 B2B meetings were
held on Workshop Day.



AOT'S
Gary
Patterson
addresses
the CEO
Forum.



INSIDE the gala dinner.