



2021 National Conference

*Defending the Bottom Line
and Comprehensive Rugby League update*

Sheraton Grand Mirage, Gold Coast | 27 Feb to 1 Mar 2022

SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY

4.30pm – **Conference Registration Sheraton Grand Mirage Reception area**
6.30pm – **Welcome Cocktail Party Grand Terrace & Ballroom | Welcome to Country**

MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY

7.30am – **Morning Coffee located in the Foyer area of the Ballroom** - Sponsored by Hennessy Coffee

CONFERENCE SESSION GRAND BALLROOM – DAY ONE

8:30am	Your MC James Bracey James Bracey is the host of Channel Nine’s National Rugby League and Australian Open tennis coverage, plus Sports Sunday and 100% Footy programs. James graduated from the University of Newcastle in 2005 with a Bachelor of Communication (Journalism), after joining Sky News as a sports reporter and presenter in 2004. In December 2016, James was announced as the host of Nine’s rugby league coverage, joining the famous Wide World of Sports team that includes Ray Warren, Peter Sterling, Phil Gould, Andrew Johns, Wally Lewis, Brad Fittler, Darren Lockyer, Johnathan Thurston and Billy Slater. As well as regular season matches, James hosts the State of Origin series and Nine’s NRL Grand Final coverage. As a mad North Sydney Bears fan, he’s still holding out hope of getting the mighty red and black back in the NRL!
8:40am	Welcome & Opening Comments by Conference Sponsor IGT Dallas Orchard, Chief Operating Officer, IGT APAC
8:55am	Keynote Speaker Amanda Stevens Entertaining. Inspiring. Humorous. Engaging. Memorable. These are just some of the words used to describe Amanda Stevens, CSP. After wowing audiences in 14 countries for more than a decade on the speaking circuit, Amanda is widely regarded as one of the best female speakers in Australia. Amanda’s specialty is the customer experience. She’s passionate about it, blogs about it and writes books about it. But her approach transcends a one-dimensional customer service message; her content is based on powerful, proven and practical strategies for turning customers into advocates and it can be applied to any industry.
9:55am	Grant Easterby, CEO Dee Why RSL Club The NSW Liquor & Gaming complaint against Dee Why RSL attracted significant interest from the industry and regulators. What were the facts? What were the outcomes? What were the learnings? Find out these answers from Dee Why RSL CEO Grant Easterby as well as the effect these decisions could have on your Club and the wider industry.
10:40am	Morning Tea
11:00am	John Van Waard, Senior Sales Manager, Systems Solutions, IGT APAC The Evolution of Gaming Funding -John will provide an update on the NSW government’s Digital Wallet program and on cashless gaming developments around the globe.
11:30am	Paul Malek, General Manager MAX Has COVID really changed patron behaviour? Paul Malek, General Manager of MAX Integrated Systems looks at how COVID-19 has impacted what patrons now expect and value when visiting a venue. Drawing on Tabcorp led research he’ll focus on the importance of staying connected with your patrons and the effect this pandemic has had on the transition from physical cash to digital payments.
11:50am	Closing Keynote Speaker Dawn Fraser Dawn Fraser AC MBE OLY is Australia’s greatest Olympian. In November 1999, Dawn was awarded “World Athlete of the Century” at the World Sport Awards in Vienna. In the same year was also awarded “Athlete of the Century” by the Australian Sports Hall of Fame. She was voted the person who best symbolises Australia and in 1998 was included as one of Australia’s National Living Treasures. Dawn Fraser’s sporting accomplishments are unlikely to be repeated - in swimming or any other sport. She is an international phenomenon: a multi-Olympic and Commonwealth Games Gold Medal winner whose success stretched over fifteen magnificent years. During her career she broke and held 41 World records and was undefeated over 100 metres freestyle.
12:30pm	Conference Finish
6:30pm	Pre dinner drinks foyer area
7.00pm	Conference Dinner – Sponsored by Paynter Dixon Entertainment – Eric Grothe & The Gurus
10:30pm	Conference Dinner Finish

TUESDAY 1 MARCH

7.30am – **Morning Coffee located in the Foyer area of the Ballroom** | Sponsored by Hennessy Coffee

 MC - James Bracey	 Dallas Orchard	 Amanda Stevens	 Grant Easterby	 John Van Waard	 Paul Malek	 Alan Wilson
 Dawn Fraser	 Ben Ikin	 Paul Kent	 Stephen Lowndes	 David Trodden	 Rohan Sawyer	 Gordon Tallis

CONFERENCE SESSION GRAND BALLROOM – DAY TWO



8:30am	NRL 360 with Ben Ikin & Paul Kent Ben Ikin is a former professional rugby league player he has played 150 games for Gold Coast Seagulls, North Sydney Bears & Brisbane Broncos. Won a premiership in 2000 with Broncos and played 17 State of Origin Games for Queensland and 2 Test Matches for Australia. Ben is now Head of Football, Brisbane Broncos and was the former host of NRL360 on Fox Sports. He also was a former board member for North Queensland Cowboys & The Queensland Rugby League. Paul Kent is a Senior Writer for the Telegraph and the co-host of NRL360 on Fox League. He specialises in covering NRL but has also covered multiple Olympic Games, soccer World Cups, Rugby World Cups, tennis Grand Slams and golf majors.
9:15am	Millie Read – The Australian Sports Foundation The Australian Sports Foundation is Australia’s leading Non-Profit Sports Fundraising body, which has been helping athletes, sporting clubs and organisations fundraise for more than 30 years.
9:35am	Stephen Lowndes – Men of League update Stephen was appointed to the role of CEO of the Men of League Foundation in May 2018, following his lengthy tenure as Chief Executive of Royal Rehab, a public and private hospital provider specialising in traumatic brain and spinal cord injury rehabilitation, and complex disability support services organisation. Prior to that, Stephen held executive and general management roles in the health insurance, finance, and retirement & aged care sectors, and is currently a Director of Community First Credit Union, a mid-sized community mutual bank.
9:55am	David Trodden - NSW Rugby League - Update David Trodden has been the Chief Executive of NSW Rugby League since 2013. During that period, the organisation has undergone significant change, most notably the successful merger with Country Rugby League and the establishment of a Centre of Excellence at Sydney Olympic Park. He has presided over recent growth in participation which saw nearly 110,000 playing the sport in New South Wales in 2021 including ‘20000 women for the first time ever.’ He was named Sport NSW Administrator of the Year in 2014 and again in 2019. He is a published author on sports law topics.
10:15am	Rohan Sawyer – QRL Chief Operating Officer Rohan started at QRL in 2018 in the newly created role of Chief Operating Officer and has since been promoted into the role of CEO in October 2021. Prior to the QRL, Rohan was Head of Commercial & Marketing for the 2017 Rugby League World Cup, where he led teams across Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Rohan has also held various senior roles at the Australian Turf Club and investment banks UBS and Goldman Sachs. In recent time Rohan has played a lead role in supporting the development of the QRL’s Female Strategy and Pathways and Performance Strategy. He has also played a key role in restructuring the QRL’s commercial business and developed new assets across ecommerce, digital and broadcast.
10:35am	Morning Tea
11:00am	NRL - The latest update from the NRL Leadership Team
11:30am	Rugby League Panel Discussion – Moderated by Alan Wilson Our expert Panel includes: Gorden Tallis, Paul Kent, Anthony Minichello, Ben Ikin & Eric Grothe Senior
12:30pm	Conference Finish
12:45pm	Conference Lunch included
1:40pm	Coaches depart Sheraton Grand Mirage for the airport

Our Conference Beverage Sponsors



Our Sponsors

PREMIER



DIAMOND



PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Great Northern Golf Challenge

Sunday 27 February | \$150.00 per person



Coaches depart the Sheraton Grand Mirage at 7.45am sharp for the Great Northern Golf Challenge to be held at Royal Pines Golf Course.
Format: 4 person Ambrose event shot gun start at 9.00am (Max. 18 Handicap for men & 36 for women – unless AGU handicap)
Dress: Standard Golf Attire (soft spikes only)
Inclusions: Electric shared cart, breakfast & lunch

PLEASE NOTE – Golfers flying from Sydney on Sunday 27 February MUST catch a 7am flight. Please contact Jodie Tipping for Golf clubs hire

MEMBER / CORPORATE PARTNERS: \$1100.00 | PARTNER PACKAGE: \$395.00

ACCOMMODATION

Sheraton Grand Mirage, Gold Coast

All rates are per room per night including breakfast

- Standard room \$320 per night including breakfast for one
- Standard room \$345 per night including breakfast for two either Double or Twin share
- 2 Bedroom Villa \$795 per night including breakfast for two (limited availability)

Accommodation Terms & Conditions

Check in time: 3.00pm | Check out time: 11.00am

Should you cancel your room within 30 days prior to arrival – 100% cancellation fee applies

Between 60 & 30 days prior to your arrival – 90% cancellation fee applies. Substitutions are welcome

FLIGHT OPTIONS

Please contact Jodie Tipping at Total Travel Management for your group flight options.

Group flights will have coach transfers included

Email: jodie@totaltravelmanagement.com.au | Mobile 0416 130 202

You must agree to our terms & conditions regarding Covid-19 on the online registration system

Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, Gold Coast is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all guests and associates

Shopping Trolley Shuttle

Pacific Fair – A shuttle service arranged by the Pacific Fair Visitor Lounge leaves the main driveway of the Sheraton everyday. Please check with The Total Travel Management registration desk for shopping trolley shuttle times.

