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# ChristchurchNZ Convention BUREAU

Kia ora

Summer is flying by and our city has been buzzing with events, attracting visitors from all over New Zealand. For sports fans, Hagley Oval has been host to several highly anticipated cricket games, while popular music and food, wine and beer festivals are filling Hagley Park each weekend. The central precinct has been humming, with people enjoying the buskers' festival and the riverside hospitality along The Terrace, punting on the river, and experiencing the magic of the heritage tramway.

This is an exciting year for Christchurch as Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre opens in the latter part of 2021. Te Pae Christchurch will be a leader in its field in Australasia, and the first international convention centre to open in New Zealand for decades.

To mark this milestone, we have created a new video capturing the essence of Ōtautahi Christchurch, our beautiful place, our talented people and our welcoming culture. Take a moment to explore Ōtautahi Christchurch. "Welcome to our place — a meeting place, where heritage and brand-new come together, where we explore new possibilities and challenge the status quo." Watch the video [here](#).

Ngā mihi nui

[Claire](#), [Meegan](#), [Joy](#) and [Jess](#)

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## MEET US IN MARKET



Our team member, Meegan Ruff will be representing the city at two key tradeshow events in March and April. Meegan will be taking Christchurch to the [Office, PA and Event Planner show](#) in Auckland, a must-attend

event for New Zealand's leading support professionals on 23 and 24 March.

The following month she will be in Wellington at [AssociationX](#) on 21 and 22 April, a key business exchange and educational event for New Zealand's association community.

If you are attending either of these events, Meegan would love to meet you. Please do come and say Hi.

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## LAUNCHING MEET CHRISTCHURCH IN MARCH

A black rectangular poster for the 'MEET CHRISTCHURCH' event. In the top left, it says 'BUSINESS EVENTS LOCAL SHOWCASE' in white, with a red underline under 'LOCAL SHOWCASE'. In the top right, it says 'ChristchurchNZ Convention BUREAU' in white. The main title 'MEET CHRISTCHURCH' is in large, bold, white letters, with 'MEET' in a smaller font above 'CHRISTCHURCH'. A vertical red bar is on the left side of the text. At the bottom, it says 'Thursday 25th March 2021' in white, with a red underline under the date.

BUSINESS EVENTS  
LOCAL SHOWCASE

ChristchurchNZ  
Convention  
BUREAU

**MEET  
CHRISTCHURCH**

Thursday 25th March 2021

The Bureau is excited to be hosting the inaugural [MEET CHRISTCHURCH](#) showcase on Thursday, 25 March at Christchurch Town Hall.

We will be connecting our Christchurch and Canterbury venues and event service suppliers with local meetings and event organisers and giving away a bunch of spot prizes on the day.

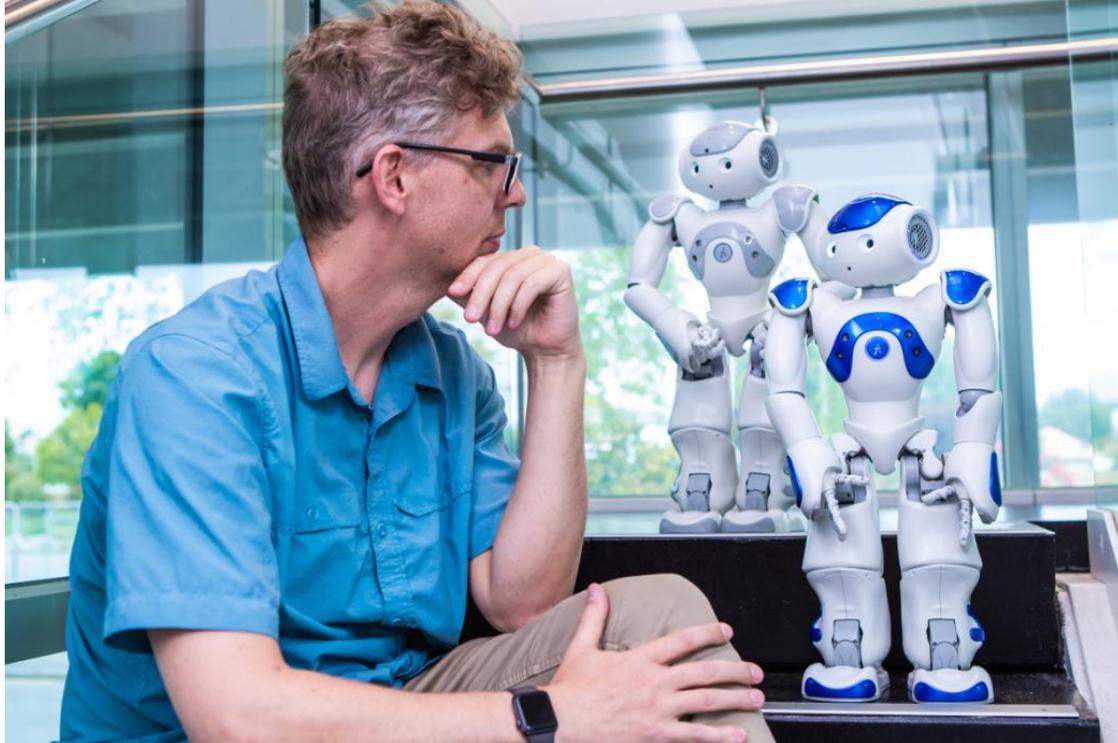
The Town Hall's Limes Room overlooking the Ōtākaro/Avon River will be the venue for the afternoon event. A full-day option is also available, which will include morning site inspections and hospitality around the city with visits to venues and attractions like The Tannery and the Christchurch Gondola.

To coincide with the event we will also be running a two-day famill for out-of-town buyers keen to experience Christchurch and to bring their business events here. Email [Joy](#) for more information.

Get in touch with [Meegan](#) if you are based in Christchurch and you are keen to attend MEET CHRISTCHURCH as a guest, or join the full day programme.

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## CHRISTCHURCH TO HOST HUMAN-AGENT INTERACTION CONFERENCE



Christchurch has won a bid to host the International Conference on Human-Agent Interaction (HAI) to be held at the University of Canterbury (UC) in December 2022. Christoph Bartneck, an Associate Professor at UC's Human Interface Technology Laboratory (HIT Lab NZ), has led the bid.

The conference, which will be held at UC's Ilam campus with support from ChristchurchNZ and Tourism New Zealand, will attract computer science, psychology, robotics and design academics from around the world. Read the full press release [here](#).

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### JOIN US AT MEETINGS 2021

We are gearing up with a newly designed regional area and a strong presence at [MEETINGS 2021](#) – BEIA's annual business events show in Auckland on June 2 and 3, where we will be starting the one-year countdown to MEETINGS in Christchurch for June 2022.



MEETINGS is a prestigious and important event for New Zealand, and the largest exhibition and networking event for all conference, meeting and incentive organisers booking business in New Zealand.

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### NEXT LEVEL INCENTIVE IDEAS

If you haven't considered Christchurch and Canterbury as an [incentive destination](#), you definitely should. We have some incredible options here, and the team would love to work

with you to elevate your experience to the next level.

Get in touch with us to see how these ideas can really come to life to create memorable experiences for your incentive. Check out some thoughts-starters on our website, from city escapes to foodie experiences and easy adventure in our beautiful backyard.



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## WELCOME TO OUR TEAM

Jessica Wise joined our Convention Bureau team last month in an exciting new role. Jess will be developing the new Business Events Advocate Programme for Christchurch, as well as working on international and Australasian conference opportunities. Find out more and meet our full team [here](#).



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## BUSINESS EVENTS COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER



Our Convention Bureau business partner network recently gathered for their first networking event of 2021, with over 50 business partners enjoying the unique spaces at [Haere-roa Events Centre at the University of Canterbury](#). Opened in 2019 and set in beautiful, spacious grounds the complex can cater for up to 3,500 people or for smaller business groups and trade events.

Ross Steele, General Manager of [Te Pae Christchurch](#) gave business partners an update on building progress, pre-opening planning and pipeline business for the city. The building is well advanced, and with its exceptional finish and striking design will be an outstanding venue, and one of the most technologically-advanced convention centre's in Australasia. While COVID-19 had presented challenges, the centre's Business Development team have done a great job over the past several months retaining business for the city with most events for 2020/2021 choosing to postpone and keep their business in Christchurch, and new business continuing to roll in.

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## NEW TO THE BUREAU

We are delighted to announce our new Bureau partner...

### Ibis Hotel Christchurch

[Ibis Hotel Christchurch](#) has joined the Convention Bureau network. This 3-star-plus hotel is ideally positioned right in the heart of the CBD close to The Terrace and Riverside hospitality hubs. It is a fantastic option for conference delegates offering comfortable and stylish accommodation at an affordable price point, and all within a couple of minutes walking distance of key conference venues.



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