



Business at its best

BEN is in Macau today, in China's Pearl River Delta region, a 60km ferry ride from Hong Kong.



It is said, "getting there is half the fun" and the crew of our Qantas 747-400 aircraft certainly added to the enjoyment of our journey, which began with a discussion on the Australian wines they serve in Business and First class and ended up, at the bar, with an enthusiastic tasting of some of their finest.

We quaffed an award winning Peter Lehmann Margaret Semillion 2005, Woodlands 'Alma May' Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 and a Moss Wood, Mornington Peninsula, Pinot Noir 2009.

Now, after a high-speed turbo jet ride from Hong Kong, the evening finds us ensconced in the lap of luxury at the new Mandarin Oriental Macau - *Jill*.

Redesigning SilverKris

OVER the next five years, Singapore Airlines is to invest more than \$20 million in a new design concept for their SilverKris airport lounges worldwide.

The new design concept being developed by renowned architectural and interior design firm ONG&ONG, will be rolled out progressively from the middle of next year, with Sydney Airport the first to have the new SilverKris Lounge concept.

Customer engagement will be a part of the design process, from the initial conceptualisation to the testing and evaluation of prototypes.

"Many of our customers tell us that the moment they step on board a Singapore Airlines aircraft, they feel an immediate sense of 'home'.

"We hope to replicate that 'home away from home' experience in our lounges, along with the warm Asian hospitality that Singapore Airlines is renowned for," said SIA's senior vice president product & services, Tan Pee Teck.

Come back to Christchurch

CHRISTCHURCH tourism authorities have launched a concerted push to welcome visitors back to the NZ South Island city, as it continues to rise from last year's earthquake crisis.

Last week city mayor Bob Parker visited Australia and urged Australian conference and meeting organisers to "come and see for yourself".

Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism ceo Tim Hunter added his voice as he unveiled a long term blueprint for what he called "a glorious garden city".

Key to the recovery is the re-establishment of more accommodation options, and it's all happening, with the imminent

return of the 155 room Ibis Christchurch which will become the first CBD hotel to reopen.

Parker said the emerging city had an amazing buzz, with lots of innovative restaurants and bars "popping up around the perimeter" while many other existing attractions were unaffected by the tremors.

The "reimagined" Christchurch includes a new sports stadium, visitors centre and the major new convention centre (**BEN** 01 Aug).

Last week's Christchurch push followed the lowering of the DFAT Smartraveller advice for the region to the same 'exercise normal safety precautions' level as the rest of New Zealand.

Sydney's new Darling Quarter Theatre

AN \$11 million, state of the art, 236 seat theatre – the Lend Lease Darling Quarter Theatre - has opened in Sydney, adjacent to Darling Harbour, on Sydney's CBD fringe.

This new corporate venue space is conveniently located near a number of business precincts adjacent to Darling Harbour offices that include the Commonwealth Bank Place and Macquarie Bank.

The unique venue is ideal for theatre style presentations, such as product launches, staff training sessions, presentations, fashion shows, corporate entertaining and seminars.

With a capacity for 236, it can expand for up to 380, and comes

fully equipped with the latest AV and lighting equipment, while the theatre lobby can be used for pre and post event networking for up to 170 guests, with catering packages available from the local Darling restaurants.

In addition, the venue is capable of web casting, streaming, hosting webinars and hybrid events, all with a dedicated internet connection.

The Monkey Baa Theatre Company who stage award-winning performances for young people, are the venue's resident theatre company and manages all corporate and arts company bookings.

For more information visit www.monkeybaa.com.au.



Park for free

REGIONAL Victorians travelling interstate on business or holiday will 'jump on board' this deal from Mantra Tullamarine Hotel which offers free seven day parking and a complimentary airport shuttle when you stay for at least one night.

And, if you have an early morning departure, an overnight stay at the Mantra is just \$185 per night (Fri-Sun) or \$239 per night (Mon-Thurs) in an Executive Studio.

Similarly, for a late arrival - park your car prior to your outbound flight and if you have a late night return back to Melbourne, overnight at Mantra Tullamarine and head home or back to work the following morning.

To book the 'Park, Stay & Fly' deal visit - www.mantra.com.au.

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crumbs!

IT'S almost four years since Adelaide's Mantra on Frome's 69 Juliet balconies were refurbished and despite them being ready for use, Council approval was needed before anyone - not even Juliet - was allowed to walk out on them.

At long last approval has come through so that guests can enjoy the full features of the 4-star self-contained apartments and spacious studios, with the door handles finally fitted on their classical French doors.

Balcony doors can be thrown wide open for the first time, to step out and soak up the view.

Malaysia gets appy

TOURISM Malaysia Sydney has launched a free smartphone app called Malaysia Amaze-Ya!

Designed to provide travellers with a useful tool for navigating in Malaysia, Tourism Malaysia are celebrating the launch, in partnership with AirAsia X, Traders Hotel and Golden Sands Resort, with a competition on the Tourism Malaysia Australia page - www.facebook.com/tourismmalaysiaaustralia.

The competition invites fans to describe their dream Malaysian adventure for their chance to win, first download the Malaysia Amaze-Ya! app and go to their Facebook page.

WIN YOUR AMERICA FIX ON ROUTE 66 WITH COSMOS!

Share your celebrity moment with us & you could win a trip for two to America including a 16 day tour & flights, courtesy of Cosmos.

See facebook.com/BusEvNews or businesseventsnews.com.au for more details on this great prize and how to enter



Pictured is Cassandra Newbold, Travelscene Eastern Hill with The Prodigy

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Dreamworld Zoo conference

WHILE most of the focus on Dreamworld right now centres on TV's Big Brother, this week (28-30 August) a conference of global significance will be held at the Gold Coast theme park, when they host more than 100 delegates from Australasia and South East Asia at the annual International Zoo and Aquarium Association Conference.

The event is themed 'One Earth, One Deciding Decade.'

Aiming to piece together a sustainable plan for the future, Dreamworld Life Sciences general manager and Queensland president of the Zoo and Aquarium Association, Al Mucci, worked with the Gold Coast Convention Bureau and won the bid to bring the landmark event to the Gold Coast.

Highlighting how vital the discussions at the conference will be, Mucci said, "The decisions we make now will play a major part in the survival of countless endangered species so it is important that we get it right."

"Crucial to our future success is understanding. Innovation in conservation and biology has changed drastically in the past three years alone and as a result has changed how we as zoo and aquarium facilities need to operate," he said.

Guest speakers include Jessica Watson OAM, 2011 Young Australian of the Year and patron of the Save the Bilby Fund and 2011 Young Australian of the Year; as well as Australian Koala Foundation ceo, Deborah Tabart OAM, who will address the key challenge of climate change and give their recommendations of how zoos and aquariums should prioritise their expenditure and activities to ensure they can best promote and assist in making the transition to an ecologically sustainable economy.

Other guest speakers include Save the Bilby Fund Co-Founder Frank Manthey and University of Queensland Honorary Research Consultant, Dr Frank Carrick AM.

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Jenna is China bound



JENNA

Lipshut, the Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau's (MCVB) International

Incentives coordinator, heads to China next week, to participate in five months of intensive Mandarin language studies, as a recipient of the Victorian State Government's Hamer Scholarship.

One of only 11 recipients of the inaugural scholarship, Lipshut said she is looking forward to improving her language skills in China and the benefits it will have for her career.

"My existing knowledge of the language, coupled with the continued growth of the valuable Chinese inbound visitor market to Australia, has helped shape my career direction and motivated me to further my skills," she said.

The program, which provides funding for recipients to study in China, is part of a Government initiative to build the Chinese language skills of Victorians across a range of industries, in addition to promoting greater cultural understanding, and strengthening links between Victoria and China.

New AACVB president

THE Asian Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaux (AACVB) has



announced the appointment of MyCEB ceo Zulkefli HJ. Sharif, as president of the renowned association for one term starting from 2012 to 2014, at the recent AACVB's 24th AGM and BOD meeting held on 03 August in Hong Kong.

The previous AACVB president was Akapol Surasuchart of Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau.

Ben on BEN inPlace RECRUITMENT

Each month Business Manager for inPlace Recruitment, Ben Carnegie, writes his observations from the recruiters perspective to help job hunters find the perfect job.

Ben has over 15 years working in 5 star hotels and the MICE industry and has worked on some of Australia's biggest events.

LAST week I attended the Sydney Showcase at Darling Harbour.



There were so many new types of

companies exhibiting this year, companies that I wouldn't have expected at an Event Showcase.

It goes to show that in tougher times everyone thinks outside the square for new business.

Job seekers also need to be doing the same thing.

The current market is showing us more contracting positions as well as casual roles and on the permanent side, it's the coordinators and executive level where the jobs really seem to be.

Senior or Management positions currently appear quite stable.

So why not look at contracting if you've been a permanent employee your whole career.

It can give you exposure to new skills in shorter time frames that can still be listed on your CV.

It can also give you more freedom and grow that valuable network much faster as well.

Until next month...

Dynasty's new ceo

THE Dynasty Hotel Group (DHG) which operates Heritage Hotel Management in New Zealand have announced Graham Yan, formerly chief financial officer of the Group, will become the ceo.

Based in Auckland, Yan will oversee both the Dynasty Hotel Group's hotel management and property investment.

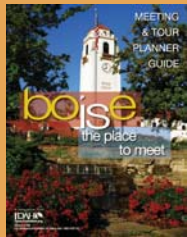


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ben brochures



Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau has released a Meeting and Tour Planners

Guide for event organisers to see all that Boise has to offer delegates.

The planner features 74 pages of information that showcases the Convention and Visitors Services, special event venues, hotels and meeting spaces, accommodation maps, hotel amenities listings, restaurant and banquet facilities, tours, attractions and much more.

Boise is known as the hub of a great region with a widely diverse economy.

For a copy of the planner visit - boise.org/documents/mtgplannerguide.pdf

Sharks unveil venue

THE Southport Sharks AFL club on the Gold Coast has unveiled a business events venue with a difference.

It's a place where delegates can escape, relax and enjoy themselves in the Cabana Bar & Lounge or on the outside deck overlooking the oval at Southport Sharks.

The Cabana Bar & Lounge features five custom built cabanas set in flowing fabric and rich timber, with scattered seating.

The result is the look of a luxury venue with a distinct Gold Coast feel, perfect for intimate groups and events of up to 150 guests cocktail style.

There's a tasty canapé and tapas menu available, plus an extensive premium spirit, beer and cocktail range.

For bookings or more information on the venue email the events centre at: sharkseventscentre@southportsharks.com.au.

So what, I'm a rockstar!

MELBOURNE'S iconic 5-star hotel, Como Melbourne is back in its straps, with a multi-million dollar refurbishment set to re-establish its dominance and legendary rockstar-to-be-seen-in status, as it becomes part of Accor's exclusive MGallery collection of hotels.

The baby grand piano that Robbie Williams famously

played to his entourage in the Gold penthouse along with other famous musos, is back in position, while all of the 107 rooms have been transformed by Melbourne-based interior designers Elsie+Betty.

The spacious guestrooms feature new, high gloss kitchens, stylish enhancements to the general public areas as well as quirky hallway seating and striking artwork.

In joining the MGallery collection, the 5-star Como Melbourne becomes part of this highly distinctive set of upscale hotels which possess an exceptional personality through one or more of three principal categories: Heritage, Serenity and Signature.

The hotel's naturally lit indoor swimming pool with retractable roof remains one of the centrepieces of the hotel, while the bustling SOBar is still a favourite watering hole for a late night night-cap.

You'll find the Como waiting on the corner of two of Melbourne's most famous and fashionable streets, Chapel St and Toorak Rd.



Rewarding rebrand

AFTER eleven years, Event Planet has unveiled a rebrand of their company logo.

Amy Merriman, Event Planet's md, said the time was right for a brand makeover to celebrate the company's recent success and to reflect its continuing evolution.



eventplanet

'We've been in the events business for more than a decade and each year we've been expanding our portfolio in the private, corporate and government sectors.

"This expansion has extended our brand into a different market," she said, reflecting the changing world of social media, instant information and internet-driven visuals to contend with.

Event Planet is nominated in four categories at the Australian Event Awards on 13 September.

Where's Tim?

AFTER a number of structural changes in the past month, Rendezvous



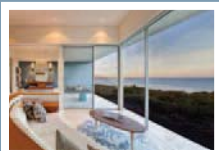
Hospitality Group (RHG) has appointed well known industry personality Tim Birley as its new associate director, Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Events.

Birley brings with him a wealth of knowledge, with experience representing hotels in the Australian and New Zealand markets.

He will represent RHG to the Professional Conference Organisers and in-house corporate event managers in all major markets.

Birley's last three sales positions were with Radisson Hotels & Resorts, Couran Cove Island Resort and Rydges Hotels.

Win a luxury stay at Southern Ocean Lodge



During the months of August and September, *Business Events News* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing two-night stay at the exclusive Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island courtesy of Baillie Lodges.

The prize includes two-nights accommodation for two people in a Flinders Suite with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, open bar with premium wines and spirits, in-suite bar, signature experiences and return island airport transfers.

To be in the running simply answer the 17 questions and the final creative answer which will be featured in *BEN* on 21 September.

The person who answers ALL the questions and has the most creative response will win.

Email your answers to:

baillielodges@businesseventsnews.com.au

Q7: With a passion for using local, seasonally fresh ingredients in each daily-changing menu, the Lodge Executive Chef's name is _____.

Hint: www.southernoceanlodge.com.au

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