



## Street heart

**SHOULD** you be in Bali in this month during the Sheraton Bali Kuta Resort opening celebrations, be sure to check out the Street Art 3D they are sponsoring with Beachwalk Bali, Aerosoul Indonesia and asie. one.



It's a major project by Olli Frankel, a German born graffiti artist, who has showcased the 3D art of the resort's freeform pool.

The piece took 80 hours to complete, and every curving line and angle has been well designed specifically to capture travellers' camera's attention as well as the buzz in social media.

"We wanted to celebrate this occasion not with just any party, but rather to share it with the public," said Dario Orsini, general manager of the brand new Sheraton Bali Kuta Resort.

The property features 203 guest rooms and more 1,600 square metres of meeting space - Jill.

## Add extra Spicers

**THERE** are some enticing group summer specials currently available at Spicers Hidden Vale, Spicers Peak Lodge and Spicers Canopy in southeast Queensland.

**Spicers Hidden Vale** has a full day delegate package for \$55pp.

Stay longer from \$107pp twin share or \$189 single share.

Valid for conferences booked & checked in by 31 January 2013.

**Spicers Peak Lodge** has a conference day package for \$675 pp single share including extras.

The offer is available Sunday to Thursday nights from now until 28 February and is based on exclusive use of the Lodge.

**Spicers Canopy** offers uniquely luxurious safari-style camping escapes to corporate groups of up to 20 (in 10 tents) with all meals and beverages included priced from \$249pp and available between Sunday and Thursday nights up until 28 February 2013.

For information and conditions visit [www.spicersgroup.com.au](http://www.spicersgroup.com.au).

# Amex forecasts strong Asia-Pacific events growth

A comprehensive American Express survey, based on extensive meetings and events data and in-depth interviews of meetings professionals from around the world has revealed that the Asia/Pacific region's relatively strong economy is likely to see the strongest growth in both spending and the number of meetings and events.

No such outlook for North America, whose economic uncertainty is expected to keep those categories relatively flat.

And Europe is likely to experience declines with its continuing currency crises and political instability in some markets, while Central/South America is also expected to see slight declines overall, especially in spend.

The forecast, which examines predictions regarding budget, spend and other meetings-specific metrics by geographic market, also provides insight into key trends for 2013, and explores key tactics meeting planners are using to reduce costs and improve program efficiency.

"Companies consider meetings and events to be a key strategy to driving revenue growth and change management, but acknowledge that they are proceeding with caution in a challenging global economy," said Issa Jouaneh, vice president and general manager, American Express Meetings & Events.

"While Asia Pacific is likely to experience growth in 2013, as Europe sees declines, meeting professionals in every region point to budget challenges and the need to ascertain their companies' own financial performance before they make investments in meetings as top influencers of their programs," continued Jouaneh.

"As a result, one of the top emerging trends in the space is

the shift to more local meetings.

"Meetings professionals are also preparing for group hotel and air expenses to rise next year," Jouaneh added.

## Kiesecker joins RNA

**GARY**

Kiesecker, managing partner of PG International Consulting, with more than 30 years' experience in the international convention and exhibition industry and a world leading expert in hotel management and the hospitality sector, has been appointed to the RNA Council (Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland) in Brisbane.

RNA president David Thomas said Kiesecker's extensive experience in international convention centres and hotel management would prove invaluable to the RNA, considering the \$2.9 billion regeneration of the RNA Showgrounds.



## Quest hosts Greek Mission

**THE** Melbourne based Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HACCI) recently hosted the Thessaloniki International Trade Fair's Trade Mission to Australia, at the Quest Studios Brighton on the Bay.

The delegation, which included leading Greek businesses from sectors spanning engineering, food and beverage and renewable energy, was accompanied by the Minister for Macedonia and Thrace and the Mayors of the Municipality of Western Mani and the Municipality of Lagadas.

HACCI director for trade George Iliopoulos said the environment at Quest Studios was perfect for their business conference.

"The impressive bayside location, conference and room facilities were perfect for our trade visitors, providing flexibility for them to complete their busy program of B2B meetings on-site and appointments in the CBD and Melbourne's surrounds with ease" Iliopoulos said.



## WIN a two night stay at Mercure Clear Mountain Lodge Spa and Vineyard

**Mercure**

This week **BEN** is offering one reader the chance to stay at **Mercure Clear Mountain Lodge Spa & Vineyard** courtesy of Mercure.

Perched in cool, clear mountain air north of Brisbane, the Lodge enjoys sweeping views of the Glasshouse Mountains, CBD & Moreton Bay.

The prize includes a two night stay in a Spa Privilege room, breakfast for two, one 3 course dinner at Mandy's on the Mountain, late check out and much more.



To win tell us in 25 words or less what getting out of the city and having an event at Clear Mountain Lodge Spa & Vineyard would mean to your delegates

Email: [comp@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:comp@businesseventsnews.com.au)

HINT! [www.clearmountainlodge.com.au](http://www.clearmountainlodge.com.au)

Click here for terms and conditions





# business events news

3rd December 2012

## All power to Auckland

**AUCKLAND** beat out competition from Sweden securing the 86th UIM (Union Internationale Motonautique) General Assembly, when the conference bid was presented to delegates in Corfu, Greece in October.

The conference, expected to bring in more than 200 leading players in the global powerboat industry, will be held in October 2013 with predictions that it will inject more than \$800,000 into the Auckland economy.

Led by the New Zealand Powerboat Federation, the bid was secured with the assistance of Auckland Convention Bureau (ACB) and Tourism New Zealand's Conference Assistance Program. ACB manager Anna Hayward

said, "Auckland's marine industry is internationally recognised for its skilled professionals and innovation."

"With 200 of the leading global players in the powerboat sector here for the conference, there is huge opportunity to not only share knowledge, but for potential investment and business ventures," she said.

### BEN's Xmas comp

**BEN** and Toga Hotels' Christmas competition starts today with readers encouraged to send in fun party and event photos for a chance to win a two night stay at any Toga Hotel in Australia or New Zealand - see below for information on how to enter.

**Send in your Christmas photos & win a weekend with Toga Hotels - Events with BENefits!**



**Business Events News is offering its first ever Christmas photo competition in partnership with Toga Hotels.**

**Our good friends at Toga Hotels are asking you to send in your office/event Christmas party**

**photos over the next three weeks for your chance to win two night's accommodation for two adults in a Toga Hotel of your choice across Australia and New Zealand.**

**Pictured** above is an example of some of the pictures we would love to see you send into us: Santa, Santa and Santa.

**To enter email us your favourite Christmas event/party photo (including names of the people pictured) to:**  
**xmas@businesseventsnews.com.au**



TOGA HOTELS

Terms and conditions apply

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## Edgewater hosts pollie group

**ILLUSTRATING** their ability to host conferences of significant importance, the Edgewater Resort & Spa in Rarotonga recently played host to the 31st Commonwealth Parliament Association's Pacific Regional Conference.

Catering for more than 80 parliamentarians and leaders from New Zealand, Australia and around the Pacific, delegates took advantage of the resort's variety of accommodation, set in lush tropical gardens and with absolute beachfront locations.



**BRITISH** engineers, who have worked on a Sabre jet engine that held back progress for three decades, have overcome major technical obstacles, making it possible to launch a plane into space to reach anywhere in the world in four hours.

A spaceplane using the engine could travel at more than five times the speed of sound, it is said.

All they need now is \$382 million to get the project off the design table and into reality.

## Event Partner's Ireland famil



A recent educational to Ireland in conjunction with Emirates and Event Partners (represented in Australia by PillowMINT) had participants describing the destination as "a small country with a big heart."

Multi award winning DMC Event Partners delivered a creative and thoughtful program including a Segway tour of Dublin's Phoenix Park, one of Europe's largest enclosed recreational spaces, and a visit to the Guinness Storehouse where they learnt to pull the 'perfect pint.'

There was a picturesque trip to county Wicklow to get some tips on playing the traditional game of Hurling and the quality control of some Baileys, before heading

further south to enjoy a horse and carriage ride through the legendary Gap of Dunloe.

Event Partners managing director Rebecca Easterman, said, "Ireland offered an amazing array of hotels, ranging from traditional to contemporary and we were treated to some of the finest."

"It is clear that Ireland can comfortably cater for any sort of event."

En route to Dublin the group enjoyed a brief stopover in Dubai thanks to UAE's premier DMC, Arabian Adventures.

"We stayed at the always-enchanting Madinat Jumeirah, which made the journey to Ireland even more enjoyable," Easterman concluded.





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faith to stimulate independent  
investigation of the matters canvassed.

## MEA's Awards webinar

**REGISTER** now for MEA's  
briefing webinar and get up to  
speed on how to enter the 2012  
MEA Industry Awards.

Being held on Thursday, 6  
December, 2012 at 3.30pm to  
4.15pm, sessions will cover *Nuts  
& Bolts* - Linda Gaunt, ceo, MEA;  
*2010 Platinum Winner* - Bruce  
Ferguson AFMEA, director;  
*2011 NSW Finalist, Technical &  
Creative Production more than  
\$5 million* - Keith Wootton, md,  
AV1; and *2011 National Winner,  
Event Management Organisation*  
- Leanne Constantino, md, Forum  
Group Events.

The 2012 MEA Awards  
applications close Friday 18  
January 2013.

For further information see  
[meetingsevents.com.au/awards2012](http://meetingsevents.com.au/awards2012)  
or call the MEA national office on  
(02) 9929 5400.

# Concur-ing with Cvent

**AN** end-to-end travel and  
meeting management system  
that leverages the best hotel and  
car rental booking capabilities,  
has been introduced by US-  
based Cvent, the world's largest  
cloud-based provider of event  
management and venue selection  
technology, and Concur, a leading  
provider of integrated travel and  
expense management solutions.

"Keeping track of spending  
around meetings has long been a  
challenge for corporate meeting  
planners," said Anil Punyapu, vice  
president, enterprise sales and  
partnerships, Cvent.

"We are making it possible for  
our clients to take greater control  
of their meeting and travel spend  
by continuing to innovate and  
strengthen our integration with  
Concur."

Barry Padgett, executive vice  
president, traveller services for  
Concur said the integration with  
Cvent, is making it even easier  
for travel and event managers  
to capture bookings, drive  
compliance and generate savings.

"By leveraging the Concur T&E  
Cloud, Cvent is able to not only  
help corporate clients simplify the

tracking of meetings spend, but  
to also make the entire process  
of registering and booking travel  
for an event as easy and painless  
as possible for the business  
traveller."

To learn more about the system  
see [bit.ly/cventconcur](http://bit.ly/cventconcur).

## Townsville's early bird deals



**A** conference deal at Hotel  
Ibis Townsville and Mercure  
Townsville with a \$44pp day  
delegate rate, is being offered for  
January and February bookings.

Mercure Townsville, a resort  
style hotel, has conference  
facilities catering for up to 380  
people while the Ibis Townsville,  
located in the heart of the city  
dining precinct, has two meeting  
rooms for up to 80 delegates.

For info see [www.mercure.com](http://www.mercure.com);  
and [www.ibishotel.com](http://www.ibishotel.com).



## Getting to Know: Belgrade, Serbia

by: Barry Matheson

**EASTERN** Europe doesn't exactly spring to mind for the Australian conference and incentive market. Event planners are more likely to opt for the better-known Western European capitals of say, Paris, Milan or London. But a city like Belgrade is worth considering for it offers a solid infrastructure and excellent conference and exhibition facilities, and it's now easily accessible with Qatar Airways launching new flights from Doha to the Serbian capital. Qatar Airways flies daily ex-Melbourne and daily from Perth in December 2012 to Doha, connecting to Belgrade.

"When you look at the price structure of hotels in the major European cities, Belgrade is very affordable and offers great value for money," says Hom Parviz, general manager of the Hyatt Regency Belgrade.

**BEN** flew to Belgrade on the Qatar Air inaugural flight and caught up with Iranian-born Parviz, formerly executive manager of Hyatt Regency Adelaide. "Yes, we have a history of wars and Serbia still carries that image of a Soviet-style environment, but we're not the bombed-up place we used to be, Belgrade today is a modern, hip city where you'll see a normal way of life far removed from past conflicts," he says.

A key attraction is Skadarlija in the city's old bohemian quarter that's dotted with vibrant restaurants, cafes and bistros serving tasty grilled meats and surprisingly good Serbian wine. At one eatery, strolling musicians who looked like they'd come from the set of Doctor Zhivago serenaded **BEN** with Serbian songs and had us up merrily singing and dancing the night away. In the city centre, stroll down Knez Mihailova, a pedestrian street with big malls, tiny shops and street sellers offering a wide range of great gifts and souvenirs. You can also pick up hand-woven wool carpets, sweaters and coats hand-knit of natural wool.

Sava Centre is Belgrade's number one conference and exhibition centre, just 15 minutes from the airport. Buildings A & B have 15 conference halls and rooms with seating for 7,000. All feature state-of-the art sound and presentation equipment, full multi-media projection facilities, high-speed broadband internet connections and superb lighting.

A team of experienced congress organisers can provide full pre, post and on-site management services as well as world-class catering. The Hyatt Regency and its Crystal Ballroom dominated by three crystal chandeliers can seat 600 guests and can be partitioned into three separate rooms. Check their website - [belgrade.regency.hyatt.com](http://belgrade.regency.hyatt.com). There are also many reasonably-priced hotels in Belgrade with meetings' facilities which can be found by emailing the Tourist Organisation of Belgrade at - [office@tob.co.rs](mailto:office@tob.co.rs).

