



## Problem solved!

IF you have special guests in Sydney or someone whose partner has meetings or a conference to attend and they have a few lazy hours to fill, a company called My Sydney Detour could provide the answer.



The company offers unique and exclusive tours of Sydney that allow the traveller the opportunity to go beyond the main attractions and discover a side of Sydney they never knew existed.

Not only do they get an authentic insight into how Sydney lives, they also get to travel in a piece of Australian automotive history - a 1964 EH Holden Premier.

Behind the wheel is well-travelled raconteur Richard Graham and every tour is tailored to meet individual needs and deliver an authentic, world-class experience.

See [mysydneydetour.com](http://mysydneydetour.com).

On another note we are offering two Christmas competitions in *Business Events News*.

The German National Tourist Office is offering a Christmas package - see *right side of page* and don't forget to send your Christmas party photos in to [xmas@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:xmas@businesseventsnews.com.au)

## Invisage your app now

**SHOULD** you be considering a mobile Event App for your 2013 events, Invisage, who have been providing creative and technical services to the meetings and business events industry, suggest you might like to start planning now.

This will ensure that it gets into the hands of your attendees at least one to two months prior to your event, thus maximising the benefits to your attendees and add increased exposure for all key stakeholders.

For more information visit the website at [www.invisage.net](http://www.invisage.net).

## Old darling to get dressed up



A PAST owner described it as "like pouring money down a dark hole."

Such has been the saga of the on again, off again Hydro Majestic hotel at Medlow Bath.

Over the years the historic old lady has been added to, primped, preened and resuscitated within an inch of her genteel and troubled life since 1904.

Now, a consortium of Sydney-based hotel investors led by George Saad, owner of Starwood's Luxury Collection Blue Mountains hotels, Lilianfels and Echoes, are to breathe new life into this heritage icon.

A team of highly revered heritage experts, architecture specialists and designers have been enlisted, with particular weight given to examining and respecting the Hydro Majestic's social history and heritage.

The plans that add to the 21st Century layer are mindful of the

past, but with a vision of the future, will be carried out in two stages.

Stage one will include the revitalisation of the majority of the existing buildings including the Casino Building, The Wintergarden, The Flying Fox Room, The Cat's Alley, The Majestic Ballroom and The Delmonte, a luxury conference business and events centre and exhibition space, with a conference capacity for 250 delegates, while the Belgravia Wing will house the Hotel Management Institute, an elite hospitality training school.

Following in stage two will be the new accommodation facilities, including 140 exquisite suites with commanding views over the valley and an expansive and luxurious spa facility with pools and treatment rooms.

## Best in show

ENTECH Connect has been crowned the winner of Best New Show, at the Exhibition & Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) Awards for Excellence 2012.

Held in Melbourne, the event is a showcase for the Pro-Audio, Audio-Visual, Integration and Lighting industries that aims to provide an informal, inexpensive and comfortable environment that offers the very latest in industry technology.

The EEAA Awards for Excellence recognise outstanding merit and leadership in the industry and provide an opportunity for members to showcase performance and success.

ENTECH Show 2013, the fellow Sydney tradeshow, in its 20th year, will be launching early 2013.

## Centara adds M23

**THE** Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld, with 505 luxurious rooms and suites, is set to unveil M23, a new event space and state-of-the-art corporate meeting retreat.

Located just off the main hotel lobby on the 23rd floor, the fully integrated hotel, convention venue, retail, and leisure complex will provide a unique cutting-edge flexible meetings and event space.

Covering more than 1000 square metres, the space is divided into four natural daylight boardrooms offering dramatic views of the city skyline.

## CWT Global Team

**STEVEN** Smith has been appointed senior director, CWT Meetings & Events, Asia-Pacific.

He joins the CWT regional leadership team, based in Singapore and the global CWT Meetings & Events team.

Smith and Floyd Widener, who was appointed global leader earlier in the year, will be working together to give Asia-Pacific customers access to CWT Meetings & Events' global services, world-class tools and processes, while further developing specific regional expertise and best practices.

Kelly Kuhn, president CWT Asia Pacific said, "The meetings and events market represents increasing business opportunities and significant growth potential in the Asia-Pacific region.

"With a strong global focus on this sector, we are committed to investing in our meetings and events organisation through both people and technology".

## WIN! a German Christmas pack

This week, **BEN** is giving readers the chance to win a German Christmas package valued at \$70, courtesy of the **German National Tourist Office**.

The package includes two bottles of German Riesling wine and other great surprises.

The German National Tourism Office has just published its brand new Christmas market app for iPhone and Android devices allowing people to discover Germany's Christmas markets.

Click here to access the app

**For your chance to win download the app, choose your favourite Christmas market and email us why its your favourite in 25 words or less**

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

Click here for terms and conditions

**Germany**  
Simply Inspiring





## PCOs go crazy at Broadbeach

“THE Crazy Years” a roaring twenties themed event which welcomed three hundred PCO Association conference delegates to Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach last week, has been dubbed as one of the best PCO Association events by the councillors and delegates.

French champagne flowed, candles blazed and croquet was all part of the poolside celebrations which saw delegates dressed in their finest get-up with hats, sequins and pearls ready to be transported back to the City of Lights, Paris.

Executive chef William Magno and his team created the delectable French food,



guests sipped French ‘Aimery’ champagne selected by Sofitel’s general manager (also named Amery), and drank from 1920s glasses modelled on the bust of Marie Antoinette.

**Pictured** above from left are: Barry Neame, Consec Conference Management, Amery Burleigh, Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach, Jenifer Dwyer Slee, Accor and Ian Alexandre, Sofitel Pacific.

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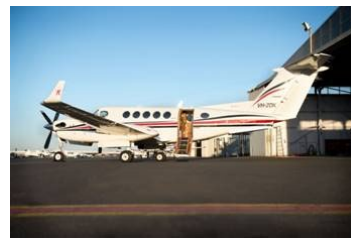
## Corporate air charter

**WITH** charter prices starting from \$3,600 for a group of ten people on board a Kingair Twin turbine, executives can now enjoy the luxury of tailoring their travel plans to their business schedule with Morabbin based Kirkhope Aviation’s private corporate air charters.

Their Kingair twin turbine pressurised, 11 seat aircraft in addition to their Chieftain piston fleet, has the capacity to transport passengers to their next business conference, visit their regionally located clients and travel to multiple destinations in the one-day.

Flights depart from Melbourne’s Moorabbin Airport which allows passengers to travel to Victorian country towns such as Bairnsdale and Albury in as little as 35 minutes, Griffith, Canberra or Mildura in 1.1 hours, or to Adelaide and Broken Hill in just 1.5 hours.

For instance, travelling to destinations such as Bathurst that would ordinarily require a connecting flight in Sydney can be avoided when flying direct with the airline - for details see [www.kirkhopeaviation.com.au](http://www.kirkhopeaviation.com.au).



**FROM** now on I’m taking the bus! Especially since it was revealed that four out of 10 UK pilots have fallen asleep while flying an aircraft.

And if you think that is bad, the survey carried out on behalf of the European Cockpit Association (ECA) which represents pilots across the EU, also revealed that a third had woken up to find their co-pilot asleep as well!

Making the situation even worse is the warning from the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA) of the proposals by the European Aviation Safety Agency to introduce the same working hours for pilots across the EU.

An anathema, as they are more permissive than those already in place in the UK.

More than half of the 6,000-plus pilots questioned for the ECA survey said their performance had been hampered by fatigue, but 70% to 80% would not file a fatigue report or declare they were unfit to fly for fear of the reaction of their employers.

The ECA claimed that long working and standby hours, night flights and disruptive schedules contributed to pilots spending long periods awake.

It is using the results of its survey to back up its campaign for safer flying time regulations.

## Register and win

**IF** you register to attend MEA’s 2013 National Conference, being held in Darwin, 5-7 May, before Christmas, chances are you could win an iPad mini.

With flights and accommodation options now available, the ‘Ignite the Conversation’ is set to reflect a program that will invigorate people’s minds, spark debate, open conversation and produce meaningful outcomes.

To go in the draw to win the iPad mini, register for the MEA 2013 National Conference online at - [www.meetingsevents.com.au/darwin](http://www.meetingsevents.com.au/darwin).

## Last minute meeting?

**RENDEZVOUS** Grand Hotel, Melbourne is offering 20% off a meeting or event if you book before 21 December.

They have day delegate packages from \$69 per person and accommodation from \$169, per room, residential packages from \$249 per room, per night that includes day delegate packages, accommodation and full buffet breakfast.

Get in quick and contact the events team: [conventions@melbourne.rendezvous.com.au](mailto:conventions@melbourne.rendezvous.com.au).

## 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](mailto:xmas@businesseventsnews.com.au)



Terms and conditions apply

# Poh lights up MyCEB's Roadshow dinner

"WE like to position ourselves as the Asia Pacific hub," said Ping Ho Yoke GM for sales & marketing, the Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB), at their Sydney Roadshow dinner, at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth.

Held 3-4 December, the events were attended by approximately 150 incentive operators, associations, professional conference organisers and corporates in both Sydney and Melbourne.

Roadshow participants included Penang Global Tourism, Sabah Tourism Board, Malaysia Airlines, Accor and CHM Hotels, Discovery Overland Holidays Sdn Bhd, Pacific World Destination East Sdn Bhd and UCSI Communications Sdn Bhd.

One of the Roadshow highlights was the unveiling of MyCEB's new brochure: 'Malaysia – Asia like never before,' which covers topics such as *Theme Events & Experiences, Team Building, Corporate Social Responsibility, plus Unique Venues and Accommodation.*

"Malaysia," Ping emphasised, "is true value for money.

"For instance, you can get a cup of coffee for A\$1, while hotel rooms start from around \$150 a night."

Describing the country as a smorgasbord of authentic cultural and lifestyle experiences and perfect for theming events on, she said, "Malaysia is all of Asia in one country, we have 47 different nationalities."

Special guest at the Sydney and Melbourne dinners was Masterchef's Poh, who orchestrated an inspiring Malaysian-style, fusion dinner.

Poh spoke of her passions and her life as she introduced each delicious course.

Guests walked away with a personally autographed copy of Poh's new cookbook – Poh's Kitchen, plus a photo taken with her, making it a truly memorable evening.

Pictured **right** at the event are: Ping Ho Yoke, MyCEB; Roslan Abdullah, Tourism Malaysia; Poh, Masterchef and Faye and Jackie, MyCEB.

**BELOW** also enjoying the Malaysian event from left are:

Dan Darby Ng, Sabah Tourism Board; Cheryl Riley, Roche Products; Marilyn Long, CiEvents and Susan Keyzer, Roche Products.



**RIGHT:** Lex, Discovery Overland Holidays; Gwenda Zappala, Sabah Tourism Board and Annie Wong, UCSI.



**RIGHT:** Shelly Page, Events Authority; Kellie Howard, ID Events Australia; Peter Jones, Peter Jones Special Events; and Mary Goldsack, ID Events Australia.



**LEFT:** pictured with a cuddly Orangutan are: Wendy Lee, Tourism Malaysia; Linda Gaunt, MEA and Gabrielle Vicari, Malaysia Airlines.



**LEFT:** Audrey, Karolina and Kath, Absolute Edge; Pauline, Penang Tourism; Jackie, MyCEB and Ben, CHM.

**RIGHT:** Kate Clifton, Accor; Daniella Chiodo, CiEvents; Lay Teng Tan, MyCEB and Yvette Krisman, CiEvents.





### CONTACT US:

Publisher  
Bruce Piper  
Editor  
Jill Varley  
Contributors  
Chantel Housler

Advertising:  
[advertising@businessesnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businessesnews.com.au)

P: 1300 799 220  
F: 1300 799 221

PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW, 1710

Business Events News is part of the Travel Daily group of publications which also include: Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly and Pharmacy Daily.

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## HG's thousand gestures

**HG** Travel, formerly known as HG Travel Stock Company, a leading inbound tour operator and destination management company specialising in travel to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, has announced a new corporate identity.

"Our new HG logo, which means Hospitality Group, reflects the company's commitment to build a new era of HG Travel, as well as extend our vision of always providing exceptional standards of excellence," said Ngo Minh Duc, founder and gd of HG Travel.

"Our staff will give thousands of gestures to fulfill the dream of a 100 year old company, to serve with heart, with quality of service, and to make our client's life better.

"We are committed to providing comprehensive solutions for all travel needs with creativity, in-depth local knowledge & expertise".

## Sanctuary Cove becomes an InterContinental resort

### MULPHA

Sanctuary Cove (Developments) Pty Ltd has finalised its commercial agreement with InterContinental Hotels Group to manage the former Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove, on the Gold Coast (**BEN 07 Sep**).

To be known as InterContinental Sanctuary Cove Resort, it will be IHG's first InterContinental Resort in Australia, and will introduce the InterContinental marque to Queensland.

Additionally, it will be the second IHG property managed for Mulpha, following the acquisition of InterContinental Sydney in 2004.

Mulpha also owns and operates the Whitsundays' iconic Hayman.

Commenting on the acquisition, Mulpha's head of hotel investments, Lloyd Donaldson said, "The new agreement will also provide significant co-



operative and strategic marketing and promotional activity for both properties within Australia, and internationally as part of IHG."

Bill Edwards, IHG head of operations Australasia, said the group was delighted to extend their long-standing relationship with Mulpha.

"We've developed strong synergies between our two organisations over the years, in recognition of the InterContinental brand's proven ability to deliver a diversified international and domestic market mix in the luxury segment and consistently strong returns."



## Getting to Know: Hamilton Island

by: Chantel Housler

**NOT** having been to Hamilton Island before it was a treat to go to a destination that has captured the hearts of so many before me. As I was travelling for **BEN**, there was work to be done. Hardly work really, unless you consider staying in a coral view room at the Reef View Hotel taking a half day Cruise Whitsundays trip out to Whitehaven Beach and being introduced to the eclectic mix of meeting and event venues, Hamilton has to offer, to be a chore.

One of 74 islands, Hamilton is part of the Whitsundays group, sitting right on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef. The region's crystal clear azure water and year round tropical climate provides a potent enticement to delegates and incentive winners. Hamilton Island has its own commercial jet airport, serviced by Jetstar, QantasLink and Virgin Australia. Our famil group flew as guests of Jetstar to highlight their 16 direct flights a week from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns in addition to flights from other major cities. Jetstar allows passengers to take 10kgs of carry on luggage, while check-in baggage can be purchased at the time of booking. Hamilton is also accessible by boat transfer from Shute Harbour in Airlie Beach on the mainland.

For conferencing and indoor functions, the island has the purpose built Hamilton Island Conference Centre with a capacity to host up to 1000 delegates. There is also the Hamilton Island Yacht Club with nine meeting rooms and views of Dent Passage. Resort Side has eight function spaces able to cater for up to 400 people, ReefView Hotel has event spaces for between 12 to 100 delegates and Hamilton Island Golf Club can cater for up to 70 people and is the only island championship golf course in Australia. The 18 hole course offers two separate nine hole circuits and a central magnificent Club House. Then there is qualia, the award winning gated resort on the island. This Relais & Chateaux property has 60 one bedroom pavilions and a stunning Beach House as well as function options including the helipad, spa qualia and the long pavilion.

Being on the water the island is perfect for team building activities, while delegates will have fun experiencing the 60 activities that include luxury boat charters, scenic flights, buggy rallies, beach Olympics, sea kayaking, a survivor challenge and the Whitehaven beach bonanza of many different aquatic experiences. The Hamilton Island Business Tourism Sales and Marketing team is contactable at - [conference@hamiltonisland.com.au](mailto:conference@hamiltonisland.com.au).

