



Kumbaya

HOW about this for a small, hi-end corporate adventure? , The Sarara Star Camp, a new



Kenyan luxury lodge on the Namunyak Conservancy.

Spread along the hillside, this secluded camp consists of six luxurious double tents with open air bathrooms and views of the Matthews Range of mountains and animal watering hole.

You are led by foot on a 2 1/2 hr journey by Samburu keepers, with camels carrying all the equipment.

For details - sararacamp.com/.

It's all good

QANTAS's "Change for Good", initiative that encourages passengers to place foreign currency in UNICEF envelopes, has reached a 21 year milestone in their fundraising partnership.

It's an idea that has yielded the global development organisation millions of dollars and helped improve the lives of tens of thousands of the world's poorest children and their families including supporting education, vaccinating babies and young children, providing malaria-preventing mosquito nets, delivering HIV education campaigns and supporting disadvantaged orphans.

From September, in addition to 'Change for Good', Qantas will embark on a new fundraising initiative that will see Qantas Frequent Flyers able to use their points to donate funds to UNICEF to support the projects.

The Australian carrier has raised \$25 million for the charity since its partnership began 21 years ago.



True North turns 25



WITH just 36 passengers and a crew of 20 dedicated to serving them, True North, said to be one of the finest adventure-cruise ships in the world, speaks volumes to the reward and incentive markets.

Peter Trembath, North Star Cruises Australia general manager in conversation with **BEN** last week said the luxury ship which takes in adventure cruises of the Australian coast, Kimberley Wilderness and West Papua and Papua New Guinea, are carefully crafted to allow the ultimate opportunity to experience the destination.

Celebrating 25 years of operation this year, Trembath said, "we are in a league of our own."

"With our shallow draft we can get right up close in places like

the magnificent King George waterfalls on the Kimberley Coast.

"And, with six expedition boats for 36 passengers, it's an indication of the attention to detail we are known for.

"We are the only ship with a helicopter onboard, which means that in destinations like New Guinea, we can fly over jungles to access more remote areas.

Small groups chartering True North on a one or two week expedition need to book well ahead, cautioned Trembath, "We can't interfere with the ship's itinerary.

"Most suitable are the four day Sydney – Hawkesbury, Christmas and New Year cruises," he said.

Check them out on: northstarcruises.com.au/.

Yokohama takes a win

FOR the first time in the long history of the World Federation of Orthodontists (WFO) international congress, the 9th annual WFO event will be held in Asia and more specifically, Yokohama, Japan this year.

The Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau worked closely with Dr. Keiji Moriyama of the Japanese Orthodontic Society (JOS) to beat seven other destinations.

Various reasons for Yokohama's win were cited, including the choice of the venue by the executive committee members who were responsible for the selection, included the capability of PACIFICO Yokohama, the city's all-in-one venue, the city's public safety record, and the support from the local government, in addition to the contribution of the Japanese Orthodontic Society.

According to Dr. Moriyama, the executive committee members have high confidence and trust in Japan, since Japan has been an active and committed member from the very early stages of WFO activities.



Mercure's indigenous recognition

TAKING their commitment to Far North Queensland indigenous communities a step further, the Mercure Cairns Harbourside hotel unveiled a plaque on 26 June to formally recognise the Gimuy Walubara Yindindj People, traditional owners of the hotel's waterfront address.

The plaque at the entrance of the hotel in the lobby area, was presented to Gimuy Walubara Yindindj representatives Henrietta Marie-Fourmile and Sieth Fourmile by the hotel's

general manager, Shane Edwards.

The harbourside hotel heads up the Reconciliation Programs and Indigenous Job Ready Programs for Accor QLD, with Edwards performing the role as Indigenous Champion for the entire Accor Queensland hotel network.

Edwards said the plaque signifies to staff and guests the importance of belonging to the



region.

"A plaque might seem a simple thing, but to Accor it represents our true commitment and an acknowledgment of our adopted Aboriginal elders.

It's our formal show of respect in terms of reconciliation and the Yindji nation."

Pictured from left are: Henrietta Marie, Sieth Fourmile, Shane Edwards, Dolce Murray and Josephine Creek.



crumbs!

WE love the name, Fat Gutz saloon, serving fish and chips in Bangkok's Thonglor district but there is so much more to this hip and happening area, a favourite with the fashionable and young 'IT' crowd.

Recommended by the Amari Watergate Bangkok with six luxurious hotels across Bangkok, they report that there is a host of new and exciting attractions that can be found here.

Other places to explore here include Agalico Gardens and Tearooms, a beautiful retreat perfect for enjoying a slice of cake and cup of tea; rum and whiskey; Roof by Muse, a chilled out venue to enjoy a sunset cocktail before heading to Blue Velvet for potent, eerie drinks in a Dracula-style castle setting.

Wild in the country

COMPANIES seeking to reward their top performers could be inspired by the week-long fishing and wildlife adventures being offered by Wild Bush Luxury, owner operator of some of Australia's most remote luxury camps, reports an increase in both incentive business and corporate retreats this year.

Wild Bush Luxury ceo Charles Carlow say their corporate clients, including Toyota, Deloitte, Bank West, and the Bradstreet Group of companies, are seeking to reward their staff with a new type of luxury that provides unique experiences that few others have the opportunity to enjoy.

"We see our camps booked out by groups of 10, typically men, who are coming to see Australia's most spectacular natural landscapes and wildlife and to experience the bush in a very hands-on way," Carlow said.

"They get hooked on the experience and corporate clients are booking to return to a different Wild Bush Luxury camp each year or combined a couple."

Emirates to fly to South Australian capital



EFFECTIVE from 01 November, Emirates is to launch flights to Adelaide, the South Australian capital.

"Lauded as a 'major tourism coup' by team South Australia - the latest positive outcome of an ongoing strategy to attract and support new aviation services to Australia from key international markets.

Jane Jeffreys, chief executive, South Australian Tourism Commission, said the new service was a major game changer for South Australia in terms of international tourism generally and also for business tourism.

"Emirates is a significant win for South Australia given its extensive network through our key international markets in Europe and the United Kingdom.

In addition this new service also opens new doors to markets in the Middle East," Jeffreys said.

Adelaide is the fifth Australian destination served by the Dubai-based carrier, which already flies to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

Initially operating four services a week, before increasing to a daily operation at the beginning of February 2013.

Perth is also set to benefit from the "concentrated and sustained period of global expansion", said His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum chairman and chief executive of the Emirates Airline & Group, with the current double daily operation to be boosted to 19 weekly from 01 December, moving to triple daily from 01 March next year.

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Whitsundays shines in Sydney



WHITSUNDAY Business Tourism was showcased in all of its glory last week despite the dreary Sydney weather.

PCO's, event planners and guests got the opportunity to speak with representatives from Sunsail, Hayman, Cruise Whitsunday, Daydream Island Resort and Spa, Hamilton Island, Maui Jim and FantaSea.

The Roadshow was moved from the end of the year to July to promote that winter is a beautiful time of year in the Whitsundays.

With an average temperature of 23 degrees and a year round water temperature of 25, this time of year has "perfect weather" said Tamara Piddock, Whitsundays Business Tourism business development manager.

During the event the Queensland operators spoke with **BEN** about new products and attractions that will be launched in the next 12 months for the MICE market.

Maui Jim, a sunglasses company originally from Hawaii, allows companies to have their logo placed on the sunglass case or lens cloth, which can be offered to their delegates as an incentive present when visiting a sunny destination.

"The Whitsundays is synonymous for sunshine" so its perfect for Maui Jim to offer gifts of sunglasses to delegates said Nick Maynard, Australian sales manager, corporate gifts.

"It's a lot of fun and delegates get an interactive experience and a great personalised corporate gift."

Sunsail also announced it will introduce flotillas to its fleet in 2013 and Cruise Whitsunday's purchase of FantaSea will see more access to the islands.

Pictured from left are: Julie Ford & Carla Teixeira, Hamilton Island; Kevin Ross, Marine Tourism Holdings; Mark Windsor, Tui Marine and Tamara Pidcock, Whitsundays Business Events.

Access Qantas

A mobile phone functionality that allows customers to check and book domestic and international flights, receive SMS flight updates and check the status of their flights has been launched by Qantas.

Chief executive officer Qantas Domestic Lyell Strambi said, "The Qantas Mobile site now makes it easier for our customers to book their flights while on the move," Strambi said.

"We have listened to our customers who want greater convenience in the booking process.

"They want flexibility to book flights away from their home or office, or on their way to the airport."

The Qantas mobile site is accessed by typing qantas.com into a web-enabled smart phone.



TravelManagers to convene



THE TravelManagers National Conference, which is being held 9-11 November, at the Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa in Denarau, has in its line-up inspirational speaker Terry Hawkins and the guru of thought leadership Matt Church.

Chief executive, Joe Araullo says providing first-class speakers is an important part of the conference.

“Our personal travel managers work incredibly hard and our national conference is an opportunity to recognise excellence, reward, motivate, inspire and educate them.

Araullo says Hawkins credibility is all the more because of her own personal experience after losing her job when her employer went into liquidation over 20 years ago.

“She talks about how low her self-esteem was at this time in her life and her desire to be in control over her own destiny, she established her own training company, People In Progress, with only \$167 to her name.

Matt Church founded ‘Thought Leaders’ which is an international education business that teaches thought leadership to consultants, business owners &

executives in large organisations including the House of Travel Owner Operators Conference in Auckland in March.

Araullo says his session will be about teaching already smart people how to think ‘commercially’ smart.

Meeting planner special

MELBOURNE’S Hotel Windsor with four private function rooms on its ground floor, catering for between 10 to 300 guests, is offering meeting and events planners a special discount on the hotel’s superior conference facilities.

Book a meeting on a Monday and/or a Tuesday and receive a discounted day delegate rate of \$80pp instead of the usual \$86.

The day delegate rate which includes arrival tea or coffee, morning and afternoon tea, a working lunch, basic AV equipment and complimentary room hire is based on numbers.

Applicable to meetings with a minimum of 15 people and valid from now until 31 December.

Email the catering department: banquets@thehotelwindsor.com.au.

Voyages Meeting Place launch



“I’M talking from the heart,’ Kloos Klein, Voyages managing director said when he spoke at the Sofitel Wentworth last week, about his role and delight in the decision of Voyages to reposition the Ayers Rock Resort and to interact and employ the indigenous people.

The event was the launch of the redevelopment and expansion of the existing conference facilities of the Uluru Meeting Place at Ayers Rock Resort, due for completion in October.

The new conference facilities form part of a major \$29.5 million refurbishment which includes the five star Sails in the Desert hotel.

“We believe that the creation of a modern, state of the art



Conference Centre will establish the Uluru Meeting Place as an important new option in Australia for meeting planners,” he said.

A new ulurumeetingplace.com.au micro-site features an interactive virtual tour as well as conference, incentive and event itineraries, a range of experiences, including full details about all the redeveloped conference venues, resorts and how to get there.

Pictured at the event from left are: md, Koos Klein with executive gm Ray Stone & Anne Camenzind and Liz Wynn from arinex.

Inset: Kerriane Cox and Tracy Stephens entertain the group.

WIN AN ESCAPE TO EMIRATES WOLGAN VALLEY RESORT & SPA



During the months of June and July, **Business Events News** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing two-night stay at the exclusive Emirates **Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa** in the Blue Mountains.

The prize includes a two-night stay for two people in a Heritage Suite with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Non-alcoholic beverages with all meals and selected regional wines and beer with lunch and dinner are also included, as are two outdoor activities each day.

Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa is located on a 4000-acre nature reserve adjacent to the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains and only 190kms from Sydney. The resort offers 40 stand-alone luxury suites, each with its own private verandah & swimming pool.

To enter simply email your answers to each question by 27th July 2012

Q.10: What is the symbol on the Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa logo and why is it important?

Hint: wolganvalley.com

Email your answers to: wolgan@businesseventsnews.com.au

[Click here for terms & conditions](#)



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