



Mouse trapped

IN the nicest and most inventive way, 22 tourism



operators from the newly formed body, MICE Port Stephens hove into Sydney on Wednesday night to present a Sydney Showcase event at The Sydney Theatre, Walsh Bay to a select group of conference organisers.

Immediately after the showcase guests attended a performance of Agatha Christies long running London play, 'The Mousetrap.' Port Stephens tourism marketing mgr, Tars Bylhower, said the MICE body was an evolution of the region's 'P.S. I Love You' marketing campaign.

We pledged not to reveal who the murderer was!

We can't let the start of the £27 million, London Olympic Games commence without highlighting this significant event and all the Factor 30 (bronzed being politically incorrect) Aussies athletes ready to do their darndest.

With the spectacular opening ceremony starting at 5.30am Sydney time tomorrow, keen **BEN** viewers will be taking in all the colour and movement and gathering ideas for their next event.

Expect to see a proliferation of British themed ideas during and after the Games – high tea lunches, Olympic themed dinners, pub events and Downton Abbey dress-ups.

Bangers and mash will be back on the menu, periwinkles and jellied eel starters will make a appearance, Plaice and chips with brown vinegar will be scoffed as will pickled eggs and onions ploughman lunches and warm brown ale. Enjoy! - Jill.



InterContinental Cares

THE Fijian Ministry of Education is to collaborate with the InterContinental Fiji's Community Care program, to improve education facilities in the greater Natadola community.

The InterContinental Fiji introduced its Community Care program in 2009 and since then has raised more than FJD100,000 in funding to improve nearby Malomalo Primary school,

In that time the resort's Community Care team has transformed Malomalo Primary, connecting and fresh water to the school, building a new roof, painting buildings and repairing old and broken furniture and structures.

"Another boon to the Malomalo Community Care project has been the MICE groups who have gotten involved in helping us repair damaged property, re-paint classrooms and furniture, and raise thousands of dollars for the school as part of their conferences at our resort," said InterContinental Fiji general manager, Scott Williams.

A far Pavilion

A new event centre, set in the surrounds of tropical gardens and beautiful, wrap-around timber decking – the Sea Temple Garden Pavilion - has been opened at Sea Temple Resort & Spa Palm Cove.

Located at the front of the 5-star, beachfront resort, the outdoor space is ideal for holding breakouts, tea and coffee get togethers, and alfresco pre or post-conference drinks and canapés.

Sea Temple Resort & Spa Palm Cove general manager, Mike MacManus, said "We're really pleased with how the Garden Pavilion looks.

"With direct road and boardwalk access, we're able to offer a truly unique and private event space in the middle of beautiful Palm Cove and we're looking forward to welcoming people into the space."

The getting of wisdom



IT was an 'all star' line-up when the Victorian Minister for Health David Davis, in conjunction with the Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau (MCVB), gathered with The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Australian Minister for Health and The Hon. Kim Beazley AC, Australian Ambassador, in the USA at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC on Wednesday night.

The occasion was the launch of the *Melbourne IQ: The Intelligent Choice for Conferences Melbourne IQ*, campaign and designed to reach out to international associations, it highlights Melbourne's expertise in a diverse range of fields such as medicine, science, technology, engineering, finance, research and development.

It also confirmed Melbourne's status as Australia's intellectual capital and the intelligent choice for holding international conferences.

The launch event coincided with the XIX International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012), the next Conference which will be hosted in Melbourne in 2014 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre - the largest medical conference ever held in Australia.

Davis said the launch event was a welcome opportunity to showcase the scope of Melbourne's outstanding intellectual capabilities on an international stage.

"Melbourne is home to 263

biotechnology companies, 13 major medical research institutes and seven teaching hospitals, with a robust biotechnology sector that attracts eminent researchers from around the world and it's fantastic to be able to highlight this here in Washington, DC," Davis said.

MCVB chief executive officer, Karen Bolinger, said Melbourne's combination of intellectual capabilities, world-class infrastructure and ease of accessibility made it an outstanding international conference destination.

"Melbourne is not only a world leader in medical research and innovation, we also boast Australia's highest concentration of convention facilities in the central business district and were rated the world's most liveable city in 2011.

"Given these credentials, it's not surprising that over the next two and a half years, Melbourne will host six of the world's largest and most prestigious conferences in addition to AIDS 2014, including the World Diabetes Conference in 2013 and the World Congress of Cardiology in 2014."

Pictured from left are: Australian Federal Health Minister, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MCEC ceo, Peter King, MCVB ceo, Karen Bolinger, Victorian Minister for Health the Hon. David Davis and Australian Ambassador to the United States of America, the Hon. Kim Beazley AC.



business events news

27th July 2012

MyCEB scores a first

WITH more than 30% of Toastmasters global members now residing outside North America, and with the strongest membership growth in Southeast Asia, the Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) has successfully bid for the Toastmasters World Convention 2014, the first time it has been held outside North America.



Scheduled to be held from 20 – 23 August 2014 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, it is expected to bring together 2,000 delegates and RM32.5 million in economic impact to the country.

Toastmasters International executive director, Daniel Rex, said, "Kuala Lumpur is high on the list of international travel destinations."

Known for its dazzling high-rises and rich cultural sense, the city is a prime international convention site for many reasons.

"It is centrally located to a broad membership population which would potentially boost convention attendance higher than it's ever been.

"We're excited to host our convention in this wonderful city".

Bhutan's new flights

SPECIALIST Bhutan operator, Bhutan & Beyond, report that from November, Bhutan's national airline Drukair will add two new twice-weekly Airbus A319 services between Paro (Bhutan) - Singapore and Paro - Mumbai.

This means there will be even more choices of services and schedules for Aussie travellers wanting to access Bhutan via Asia.



One World, two awards

Worldhotels affiliate One World Hotel Petaling Jaya was voted both Best Convention Hotel in Malaysia and also Best Convention Hotel in Asia Pacific in the 2012 Asia Pacific Hotel Awards.

The awards make One World the first hotel in Malaysia to earn both Five Star awards.

An honour that will see them go on to compete against equivalent award winners in Europe, Africa, the Americas and Arabia in the 2012 International Hotel Awards.

Something to sing about

ARIA Catering who create memorable events and experiences at Sydney Opera House, with menus created by Matt Moran, coupled with professional service and management, have an unbeatable offer.

Book your next event with them by the end of August and receive complimentary venue hire for your next event at Sydney Opera House valued at up to \$5,500.

Available for any bookings made up to August 2013 but must be booked by the end of this August.

More information online at - events@ariacatering.com.au.

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Bliss in the Rocks

THE Park Hyatt Sydney, basking in the splendor of its stylish refurbishment has opened an urban retreat - The Spa at Park Hyatt.

Offering personalised therapies towards relaxation and well-being and drawing on time-inspired treatments and philosophies, corporate types, stressed executives and hedonists yearning for peace of mind and tranquility, and the odd glass of champers, will find true respite here.

With its prime position in the historic Rocks area between the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge, The Spa has a champagne afternoon tea offer where relaxing massages and desserts meet in harmony.

This blissful offer includes a 60-minute massage of choice, followed by an indulgent champagne afternoon tea experience served with a flute of Moët & Chandon Rosé Champagne in the hotel's lounge, The Living Room.



THE world's largest travel site, according to comScore Media Metrix, TripAdvisor, has more than 75 million travel reviews and opinions.

What's more they have a community of 32m marketable members worldwide.

50 contributions are posted to the site per minute which carries more than 11 million user-submitted images and 56m people now use the site each month, making it the largest travel site in the world.

In addition, TripAdvisor has over 610,000 hotels, 880,000 restaurants & 200,000 attractions represented.

NOW GET THIS. It would take 1,644 years to spend a night in each of the 610,000 hotels on the site, 3,312,697,099 is the total word count of all TripAdvisor reviews and opinions, with the longest totalling 9,166 words.

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

Q18: Tell us in 25 words or less what makes Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa the perfect venue for an incentive, executive retreat or conference event.

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

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leuba Bangkok special

AN all inclusive meeting package is being offered by the Tower Club at leuba, Bangkok priced from THB 6,499 (single) (A\$202), valid until 31 October.

The package includes such things as accommodation in a Tower Club Suite with balcony and breakfast as well as exclusive usage of the Tower Club Lounge, use of meeting room from 8am to 5pm for full-day meeting, tea breaks, lunch and some audio equipment and 15% discount on business centre services.



Spring into the snow

AH to be in the snow country, now that spring is near.

Especially as Lake Crackenback Resort & Spa has free springtime conferencing available for all overnight corporate retreats booked between 27 September and 30 November.

The offer includes free conference room usage, a free half-hour of pre-dinner drinks on one night, 10% saving on already low accommodation rates, 10% on spa treatments, 10% off all Activate products and tours including the very popular river sledding experience, Segway tours, mountain biking and fly-fishing.

In addition conferences with 20 or more delegates will receive a free 45-minute icebreaker activity.

A versatile venue for small meetings and corporate retreats, it features a choice of two dedicated conference rooms for up to 80 delegates' theatre style or 40 delegates' classroom style.

Lake Crackenback offers an array of mountain view chalets that provide upmarket & self-contained accommodation for small groups.

There's also an extensive choice of outdoor activities and team building exercises.

Victoria's 'go-to' guide

DESCRIBED as bigger and better than ever, Business Events Victoria has released their Regional Victoria Planners Guide 2012/13.

The 'go-to' publication for information about conferencing in regional Victoria was launched by The Hon. Louise Asher MLA, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, at a function attended by more than 60 business events buyers and operators.

"The fact that we have had a 45 per cent increase in advertisers since the last edition reflects an increased confidence in our organisation and its direction," said Andrew Hiebl, chair of Business Events Victoria.

"Within regional Victoria, we already know our product is competitive and of high quality, but getting the message out is vital," he said.

The new guide, he continued will communicate this message and be a key tool for organisers.

Used in conjunction with the recently launched Business Events Victoria website the new planner will be a key tool for all conference organisers - see businessesvictoria.com.

GETTING TO KNOW: Port Macquarie, NSW

ON the eve of the Olympics it would be remiss not to mention Port Macquarie's favourite son, current 100-metre freestyle world champion and Olympic gold medal aspirant, James 'Missile' Magnussen. He, like this North Coast region is the new face of this rapidly developing town, moving out of its retired 'Mum and Dad' image whilst retaining all the well-loved imagery of the Hastings River and the Norfolk Pine colonnaded Town Beach.

Prime amongst this seismic shift is a \$500 million, state-of-the-art conference centre, the Glasshouse. This multi-award winning space has a number of versatile layouts for up to 600 delegates, including the Glasshouse Theatre. Here, the extraordinary acoustic cut out panels that surround the space give it, its unique look. With world class technical facilities, it has 12 conference venues and six sport and outdoor locations.

The Port's largest conference offering is Panthers with a number of flexible and versatile spaces including an auditorium and outdoor covered deck and garden. Then there's Rydges Port Macquarie with its fabulous Zebu Bar + Grill and Hastings River outlook offering first class accommodation and conference facilities and catering for up to 300 people theatre style.

Out of town, Cassegrain Winery with its spectacular grounds is a venue that can take 1000s. Here corporate functions can be accommodated in The Restaurant, the marquee or formal garden, and in the wineries barrel room.

Other impressive venues include the 83-room, Quality Resort Sails on Pelican Bay with the only absolute waterfrontage and six versatile meeting rooms and Waters Edge Boutique Hotel - Country Comfort Port Macquarie, on the banks of the Hastings with refurbished conference and event facilities for up to 200.

Two stylish apartment hotels in easy reach of The Glasshouse with one, two and three bedrooms include the 4.5 star Macquarie Waters Boutique Apartment Hotel with free wi-fi access and The Observatory with its spectacular beach views.

Dining in Port is a real standout. Start the day with breakfast at Bonnie Hills Surf Club a new \$2 million development with its own conference room, or take in a cooking class and executive lifestyle talk at Jean Davy's Amber Healing Farm where ingredients are chosen to nourish the mind and encourage innovation and creativity. Not to be missed is a visit to Koala Hospital where talks on Koala/animal behavior give insights on teamwork and leadership. Nearby is the historic Roto House built in 1890, perfect for a themed cocktail evening or take a walking meditation tour at Sea Acres Rainforest Centre to ease workplace stress, you can frolic with the whales and dolphins or take an evening cruise with Port Venture Cruises or really get the adrenalin running take a ride in a L-39C Albatross Jet Fighter. No matter what you do you can guarantee it will be memorable.

