



## Happy Diamond Jubilee

WE couldn't let the right royal occasion of the Queen's Jubilee go by without a tilt at some of the happenings this past weekend in Britain.

Including the construction of a 3ft 6in, six-sided cake, made by food manufacturer McVitie's.

The cake featured all 54 flags of the Commonwealth nations, coat-of-arms, and the Imperial Crown, while on its second tier it bears a quote from the Queen's Coronation speech referring to her role in the Commonwealth.

It is designed to be served with the Royal Collection's £8.95 Diamond Jubilee tea - Jill.



## Swissôtel Beijing appoints Chovanec

JAN Chovanec, with more than 39 years of hospitality experience internationally, has been appointed gm of Swissôtel Beijing Hong Kong Macau Center.

Prior to his appointment, Chovanec was gm at Swissôtel Krasnye Holmy Moscow.

In his new role he will be responsible for overseeing the smooth and efficient operations of the Swissôtel Beijing, its planning and direction.



## SCEC packed to the rafters

WITH more than 120 events already confirmed for 2013, the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre predicts one of its biggest periods for business events next year, with more than a million people expected to pass through its doors.

International conferences like the World Congress on Lung Cancer for 5000 delegates in October, the World Congress on Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology for 1500 delegates in October, the International Red Cross General Assembly for 1300 delegates in November and the Congress of the International Liver Transplant Society for 1000 delegates in June.

In July, a 3500-delegate event for the Perfect China direct-sell group hits town, while in October the Centre will become part of public celebrations across Sydney Harbour when it hosts the Pacific 2013 International Maritime Exposition and Seapower naval conference for 1000 delegates.

It is an event that coincides with the spectacle of an international fleet review to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Australian Navy's first arrival in Sydney.

Centre ceo Ton van Amerongen said it was fitting for Sydney to host a packed calendar of events at a time when it was preparing for a redevelopment of its convention and entertainment precinct at Darling Harbour.

"The success of the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre has brought us to the point where we now look to bigger and more advanced facilities, and nothing demonstrates our achievements more than the busy schedule of events we have in 2013," van Amerongen said.

"Sydney undoubtedly has a new impetus behind its events sector and the Centre is dedicating more energy than ever to the success of our upcoming events."

## Classic MICE Cruise



PORTRAYED as ideal for MICE events, Classic International Cruises has announced a one-week extension of the 2012-13 summer season of Athena in Australia.

Two new short cruises on the classic-styled 16,000-ton ship have been added to the program in April, 2013.

The 580-passenger Athena was scheduled to return to Europe but her 40-night voyage to the UK will now leave Perth a week later.

The cruise line's md Grant Hunter said strong and increasing demand for the liner in Australia had extended her stay.

"The scheduling change means passengers on our line voyage from Perth on 15 April 2013, to the UK will also be able to remain on Athena for the first of her European cruises to Scandinavia.

"Many of our growing legion of loyal passengers have in the past remained aboard Athena once she arrives in the UK to enjoy another cruise with us so they can do the same next year as well."

## VIENNA CONVENTION BUREAU

VIENNA is a city that works as a conference & incentive destination as there is no language barrier, it is compact, walkable, green and safe and offers dedicated meetings industry & quality oriented suppliers.

This city offers 404 hotels with 80 of them offering meeting facilities and more than 150 venues.

Vienna is centrally located in Europe with direct flying time to/from any European capital city being no more than three hours.

The Visitors Convention Bureau is your non-profit one stop shop to the destination that can offer information to event organisers as well as facilitate site inspection trips and provide shell folders and posters to publicise an event.

There is a list of all future congresses, conventions, exhibitions and corporate meetings online at the congress calendar <http://www.vienna.convention.at/convention-calendar>.

This calendar is a good support tool for organisers to promote their event & boost attendance.

Vienna Convention Bureau has a target to handle 490,000 delegates and hopes to acquire international association congresses, certifies eligible events as green meetings, maintaining the VCB as a leading convention bureau in the industry and maintain Vienna's reputation as a reliable meetings destination.

According to VCB and VTB current trends in the market seem to be a stronger implementation of social media, apps as services from suppliers for events, consideration and implementation of the structure of meetings, ongoing financial/rate/budget awareness of clients, green meetings to reduce the carbon footprint and the use of ghost speakers.

Ghost speaker service is where native english speakers deliver the presentation for non native english people who need to speak to a delegate crowd.

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# business events news

4th June 2012



**CONFUSING** enough that we've lost track of what to call the Sunshine Coast's former Hyatt Coolum Resort - Coolum Resort & Spa, Palmer Resort Coolum.

Now comes the news that billionaire owner Clive Palmer is rolling out major staff cuts while not so long ago praising workers and awarded them with \$500 bonuses.

The Herald Sun reports that an expensive upgrade and brighter future is planned for the luxury tourism drawcard, as its previous workforce of 650 is being drastically scaled back.

Department sizes have been slashed and dozens of staff, some who have been with the property for more than two decades, made redundant.

According to The Courier-Mail 20 of the 30 housekeeping positions will go, along with four of the six full-time gardeners, eight laundry workers and five of 10 hotel housemen.

Palmer Resort Coolum gm Bill Schoch confirmed the business model was being restructured.

## Somers joins Shang

**SHANGRI-LA** Hotel, Sydney has appointed Jessica Somers as director of communications with key responsibilities of driving the communications activity for the hotel, including public relations and marketing campaigns.

Somers brings to her role six years of experience in public relations and media relations across a range of top-tier brands in the travel and leisure industry, including British Airways.

"We are excited to welcome Jessica to Shangri-Las Hotel Sydney," said Darryl Healey, the hotel's director of sales and marketing.

Jessica's background in PR agencies is invaluable to our team and her depth of knowledge across a range of industries will certainly support our broader communications activity," Healey added.

## New Zealand numbers

**WITH** business tourism an important earner for New Zealand, CINZ ceo Alan Trotter revealed that it brought more than 60,000 people to New Zealand last year.

Once again, the growing export value of business tourism will be under the spotlight later this month, at MEETINGS, when the industry stages the biggest trade show in its history.

The expo to which around 1000 people, including foreign media and influential conference and incentive travel planners from overseas, are expected to attend is being held at the SkyCity Convention Centre in Auckland on 13-14 June.



Last year's event, which was held in Rotorua, generated in excess of \$32m worth of new business leads.

"We've been working hard to position New Zealand as a top class destination for conferences, conventions and incentive travel and we are seeing good growth in this sector of our industry," he said.

"And with new convention centres planned for Auckland and Christchurch our position is only going to get stronger."

This year a record number of exhibitors will be at MEETINGS.

"We have some exciting new exhibitors on board this year," says event manager Jeanette Stanton.

"They have great products and services and demonstrate the diversity of our industry.

"We're really looking forward to introducing our buyers to some new experiences and showing them just how much our small country has to offer."



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## Much ado about catering

**DESCRIBED** as the 'Hollywood caterers' and the 'go to' guys, Queenstown based Flying Trestles catering company, owned and operated by Colin Sutherland for the past 23 years, this month welcomes new business partner David Arnold as sales, marketing & business development director.

Arnold joins the team from the UK where he developed an extensive telecommunications background including directorships and owning his own business.

Flying Trestles has a rich history of providing an 'on location' catering service to the movie and commercials industries, conferences, weddings, and corporate and sporting events, not only in New Zealand, but Asia and the Pacific Islands.

They've dished up exquisite cuisine in some of the most

remote and obscure locations for some of the world's biggest movie stars, including Tom Cruise, Angelina Jolie, Sam Neill and Hugh Laurie.

"We're quite the experts when it comes to delivering fine cuisine absolutely anywhere, and we even have a kitchen geared so that it can be transported by helicopter," Sutherland said.

"We're famous for our great food and being extremely flexible and are available to cater for everyone, not just our Hollywood visitors".



## WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO VANUATU



During the months of May and June, **Business Events News** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing holiday for two people to Vanuatu, courtesy of **Air Vanuatu** and the **Grand Hotel and Casino**.

The prize includes Air Vanuatu return airfares from Syd/Bne/Mel to Port Vila, and five nights accommodation in a Harbour View Room including continental breakfast daily at the Grand Hotel and Casino.

Air Vanuatu offers daily flights from Australia, just over 3 hours away. Complimentary inflight service and the friendliest smiles in the Pacific!

Grand Hotel and Casino offers a relaxing yet sophisticated French style setting, in a prime waterfront location in the heart of the shopping, business and entertainment district. 74 rooms with floor to ceiling windows, own private balcony, Internet access in all rooms and 24 hour room service. We also cater for conferences sizes between 10 - 80 delegates and for groups up to 130 people.

**Q.10: What is the name of Grand Hotel and Casino's restaurant?**

Hint: grandvanuatu.com

Email your answers to: [vanuatu@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:vanuatu@businesseventsnews.com.au)

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## Discovering Canterbury

**TWO** groups of Australian conference industry professionals have been visiting New Zealand's Christchurch region, learning first hand what it has to offer.

The total 'Discover and Re-discover' familiarisations, were supported by Air New Zealand and organised by Christchurch & Canterbury Convention Bureau (CCB), in April and May.

The first group visited Christchurch, then travelled north to Pegasus, Waipara and the alpine resort of Hanmer Springs.

The second group headed to the high country and south west from Christchurch to Terrace Downs and Methven and then on to Tekapo to experience the majestic Aoraki Mt Cook Mackenzie region.

Both groups stayed at The Classic Villa.



## Phuket package deal



**THE** Swissôtel Resort Phuket with a selection of eight meeting rooms for up to 150 persons has special meeting packages available from now until 31 Oct.

The offer of a one-bedroom suite from THB 3,000+++ with breakfast includes a complimentary room or upgrade to the next category on a minimum booking of 10 rooms.

The resort is also offering a full day meeting package at THB 935++ per person including two coffee breaks, lunch and use of meeting room and audio-visual equipment.

The hotel, in close proximity to Patong Beach markets and Jungceylon Shopping Centre, has a range of outdoor activities for team building in addition to sea canoeing, fishing, golfing, diving and snorkelling.

## Hamilton Is giveaway

**WANT** to win a three night stay in the Whitsundays with two nights on Hamilton Island and the unique opportunity of spending a night on the Great Barrier Reef aboard the exclusive Reefsleep?

All you have to do is 'Like' them on Facebook and 'tag' yourself and the person you would want to take with you to Hamilton Island, in one of their photos at - <https://www.facebook.com/HIConferences> or email - [sdichiana@hamiltonisland.com.au](mailto:sdichiana@hamiltonisland.com.au) with your contact details and the correct answer to the following question:

*Up to how many guests have the unique opportunity to sleep in swags under the stars out on the Great Barrier Reef?*

The prize winner must redeem the package prior to 31 May 2013, terms and conditions apply.

## Accor embraces NRW



**AS** one of the country's biggest indigenous supporters - not only through employment but also through training, the Accor Hotel group celebrated National Reconciliation Week (NRW), 27 May to 03 June, with a variety of hotel events and activities taking place across Australia.

Hotels organised events such as morning or afternoon teas, displayed NRW posters and information in staff areas, used digital signage to communicate Accor's support of NRW and wore NRW badges.

On Tuesday 29 May Novotel, Hotel Ibis and Pullman at Sydney Olympic Park and Mercure Sydney Parramatta participated in an Aboriginal Art Class and Cultural Session run by some of their very own Indigenous employees Oscar Close, Shane Blackmore and Lindsay Cobbo.

They learnt about how the Aboriginal art work tells a story using different symbols and how Aboriginals from all different tribes can communicate to each other through art.

Belinda Thompson – director of sales and marketing said, "We

were engaged in a story about our indigenous culture and then taken through a painting experience.

"The budding artists came out in some of our team with very creative uses of nails, tooth brushes, sticks and even the simple finger painting.

"I am sure we will display our artwork with pride around the hotels".

In the photo with Garth from left are: Wayne Taranto, gm and Paige Heesh, Pullman Sydney Olympic Park.

### Stay at Novotel Brisbane Airport



This week, **Business Events News** is giving readers the chance to win one night accommodation in a standard room for two adults plus full buffet breakfast courtesy of **Novotel Brisbane Airport**.

Novotel Brisbane Airport is perfectly positioned as the only hotel located within the Brisbane Airport precinct and featuring 157 contemporary rooms, restaurant and bar, rooftop heated swimming pool, and state of the art conference centre ideal for meetings, conferences and events.

To win be the first to answer: [comp@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:comp@businesseventsnews.com.au)

**How many meeting rooms are there at Novotel Brisbane Airport?**



Hint: [novotelbrisbaneairport.com.au](http://novotelbrisbaneairport.com.au)  
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