



No questions asked!

TURN out the drawers and check the china



cabinet, because Melbourne's historic Hotel Windsor who celebrates its 130th anniversary in 2013, is asking people to share their memories and memorabilia of the famous property.

The material collected will be used as part of a special display for the public next year and also to update the hotel's historical files and records.

Anything you might have kept is welcome - such as a valet parking receipt, special menus, wedding or special dinner photographs, invitations to an event, recollections or employment contracts from former employees at the hotel and even items that were "affectionately taken as souvenirs" such as a room key or a wine glass.

Email - Victoria Batters via victoriabatters@thehotelwindsor.com.au

W sweet MICE offer

THE W Singapore-Sentosa Cove has launched two attractive Meeting + Event packages to celebrate the hotel's opening on 16 September and the W brand's debut in the city-state.

The packages start at S\$108++pp and include, a "full day meeting" package for a minimum of 30 paying persons of a pumped up breakfast and lunch at the W brand's signature restaurant, The Kitchen Table, energy drinks during morning and afternoon breaks and energy bars provided throughout the session.

To further sweeten the deal, one person will be complimentary for every 30 paying delegates.

In addition, there is the "Wonderful Room" group package priced at S\$368++ /room.

This includes a night's stay in the Wonderful Room category, inclusive of Wi Fi and breakfast for two at The Kitchen Table.

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas



FURTHER news on a General Services Administration's Las Vegas conference, held in 2010 and the ensuing resignations and anger (**BEN 4 May**) it caused after the agency managed to spend more than US\$820,000 on their four-day event, is having a disturbing effect on US travel and conference industries.

The US Travel Association say hotel chains have reported that spending reductions and extra scrutiny of travel have already contributed to millions of dollars in cancellations across the country.

According to Reuters, a recent Obama administration directive



to federal agencies to cut travel budgets, and congressional proposals to further cap agency spending and travel, are predicted to hurt hotels, conference centres, rental car agencies and other private companies.

Leaders of trade associations and industry groups fear less participation in conferences and meetings will leave the government out of touch with the industries it regulates.

"It's difficult to understand the program that you're in unless you can hear from the people who have to live with your rules," said

Larry Anderson, who recently retired from the federal government after more than 30 years at the rural housing service at the US Department of Agriculture.

"There's just absolutely no way to establish that kind of relationship with a phone call," he said.

Videos and photos from the General Services Administration 2010 event went viral on the internet, prompting lawmakers to hold several hearings.

Both the Senate and House of Representatives have since approved caps on agency spending and travel, though

neither plan has become law.

The Obama administration issued a directive in May to federal agencies to reduce travel budgets by 30 percent in fiscal year 2013 and implement new rules for conference spending.

Shangri-La in Brisbane

SHANGRI-LA Hotels & Resorts has overnight announced the acquisition of the Holiday Inn Brisbane, which will become its first Traders Hotel in Australia.

The 191 room property is centrally located in Roma Street above the Brisbane Transit Centre and offers seven meeting rooms which have the ability to be converted into a ballroom for up to 500 guests.

Traders Hotel Brisbane offers total meeting area of 700 square metres and a full business centre.

Skytrans flies Sydney

CAIRNS based airline Skytrans, operating scheduled and charter flights throughout Queensland and New South Wales, will launch their new daily service between Toowoomba and Sydney on 02 July.

Strong forward bookings are reported to exceed forecasts for the first few months of operation, according to Skytrans md, Simon Wild, who said the response to the new route has generated bookings up until February 2013.

Flights will operate on all weekdays & are timed to support travellers connecting to or from both domestic and international destinations at Sydney airport.

Two return services are scheduled each Wednesday with prices starting from \$149 one-way.

Be creative & win a 2 night stay at Novotel Melbourne St Kilda



This week, **Business Events News** is giving readers the chance to win two night's accommodation in a superior bayview room for two adults plus full buffet breakfast and car parking courtesy of **Novotel Melbourne St Kilda**.

Novotel Melbourne St Kilda, located opposite St Kilda beach and 6km from the city centre is a venue in a class of its own. Choose from 12 versatile function spaces which can cater for up to 300 delegates.

Featuring state of the art facilities, modern decor & pillarless layouts the venue and its location make Novotel Melbourne St Kilda the perfect choice for your next event.

To win send your creative answer to: comp@businessesnews.com.au

In 25 words or less tell us what makes the Novotel Melbourne St Kilda a great destination for meetings & conferences...

Hint: novotelstkilda.com.au
Click here for terms and conditions





business events news

27th June 2012



DON'T mess with the Polish police!

The English-language Krakow Post newspaper is warning English fans at Euro 2012 that the Polish police are going to come down on troublemakers "like a bag full of anvils."

In the police arsenal are such emasculating weapons as testicle-biting police dogs as well as sonic cannons capable of inducing involuntary urination.

OUCH!

Should you be planning to combine a visit to the Dead Sea with a diving trip to Aqaba during your stay in Jordan, it's advisable to do the Dead Sea experience first.

Do it the other way around and any small cuts or grazes you may pick up from the coral reefs will soon let you know why this is the better option!

DoubleTree for WA

HILTON Hotels Worldwide yesterday announced its first ever DoubleTree by Hilton property in Australia.

The new 164-room DoubleTree by Hilton will be located in the Pilbara resource hot-spot of Karratha, and has aspirations to become the region's leading full-service hotel.

And with insatiable demand seeing rates for quite ordinary accommodation more than \$300 per night, the new DoubleTree is expecting to command high prices once it launches in 2014.

It will feature 20 apartments, all-day dining, a fitness centre, an outdoor pool and three function rooms.

The property is to be developed by a consortium led by WA firm Rothchester Hotel and Resorts Pty Ltd, with Hilton Australasia vp for development, Robert Scullin, saying it will be Hilton's sixteenth property in the region.

"We have been committed to expanding our brand portfolio in the region for some time," Scullin said yesterday.

Cry freedom!



SIX rehabilitated turtles will swim free this Friday 29 June when Jumeirah's properties in Dubai go head to head in the Big Jumeirah Sea Turtle Race.

Fitted with a satellite tag that tracks their location and measures the success of their rehabilitation, the six Green and Loggerhead sea turtles have been restored to health by the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project (DTRP) initiative.

Each of the tagged turtles are sponsored by one of Jumeirah's Dubai based properties including Burj Al Arab, Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Jumeirah Zabeel Saray, Jumeirah Living, Madinat Jumeirah and Wild Wadi Waterpark.

The turtle which travels the farthest over six months will win their sponsor a highly coveted trophy.

Hobart snares a Gruen

THE 2012 Australian Hospitality Conference to be held 3-5 September at Wrest Point, Hobart should be worth attending especially as popular panelist on ABC's hit show The Gruen Transfer/Gruen Planet, Todd Sampson is to feature in an impressive lineup of keynote presenters on day one of the conference.

A highlight of the conference social program will involve delegates in a fast-paced "Beer Pulling Competition" at a cocktail reception being staged at the iconic Cascade Brewery

Full delegate registration is \$880 and special industry rates have been negotiated at official conference hotels.



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BESydney appointment

IN line with their organisational re-structure, Business Events Sydney (BESydney) has appointed Kristian Nicholls in the role of general manager Business Development.

With more than 10 years extensive management and sales experience in the business event and hotel sectors, he was most recently the director of venues for leading industry supplier, Staging Connections.

BESydney ceo, Lyn Lewis-Smith says, "This is the first of a number of new appointments across the company that we will be making."

Nicolls joins the BESydney team in October.



MEANWHILE

The Pan Pacific Hotels Group has announced the appointment of Michael Johnson as

general manager of PARKROYAL Melbourne Airport.

In his role Johnson will oversee operations at the 276-room property directly connected to the Melbourne Tullamarine Airport.

He has more than 30 years experience in tourism and hospitality in Australia and New Zealand, 13 spent heading hotels in Christchurch, Queenstown, Sydney and Brisbane.

More recently Johnson was general manager of North Sydney Harbourview Hotel.



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.5: Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa include 2 outdoor daily activities for all guests, please name 2 activities that are available on the property

Hint: wolganvalley.com

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

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News from across the ditch

THE Sofitel hotel network has officially opened its doors to its newest address, the Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour, after its soft opening in February.

Marking the occasion, in spectacular style was a traditional Sabrage Champagne ceremony performed by Ian Alexandre, vp for Sofitel Pacific.

Area manager, Sofitel New Zealand and general manager, Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour

Victor Sharan to retire



VETERAN airline man and Air Pacific's regional general manager, Australia, New Zealand and Asia, Victor Sharan, is to retire in August after more than 42 years with the company.

Sharan who began his Air Pacific career in Fiji joined the company as an Airport Traffic Officer, and was subsequently promoted to broader roles with increasing responsibility including marketing development manager, global general sales manager, global freight director and finally regional director Australia and NZ based in Sydney.

Dave Pflieger, Air Pacific's md, in thanking Sharan said, "Victor's many contributions and leadership have helped make Air Pacific what it is today - one of the South Pacific's most successful airlines and a well respected company that has withstood the difficult test of time and will be celebrating its 65th year of existence in 2012."

Air Pacific will initiate a global search to fill the role and Sharan will act as a commercial advisor to the CEO during and after the search.

Wouter De Graaf said, "After several months to settle the hotel into its new Sofitel branding, we're very excited to officially launch in such elegance and style.

CHOICE Hotels in New Zealand have a winter conference delegate package of \$49pp, inclusive of room hire, arrival tea and coffee, writing pads and pens, lunchbox morning tea & afternoon refreshments, mints etc.

The offer is valid for any date until 03 August.

Delegates spending the night get one complimentary room for every 10 rooms booked as well as receiving FlyBuys points.

HOSTED buyers at MEETINGS this year were able to sample some of the Auckland Convention Bureau's 50 group activities featured in their 'Mild to Wild' brochure whose online version was launched at the two day trade show.

Delegates took off on a 'Wild' Easy Rider Harley Davidson tour, crewed on America's Cup racing yacht and experienced the 'Mild' at a number of foodie heaven restaurants.

Check them all out: aucklandnz.com/conventions.

RAINBOW Spring's new multi-million dollar Big Splash water ride in Rotorua has added an adrenalin rush to this home to one of New Zealand's largest and most successful kiwi conservation centres.

Kat Hicks, Rainbow Springs event manager says there was a lot of interest in the park and the water ride at MEETINGS 2012, particularly from the Australian market.

The park offers conference groups entertainment and function venues on site that include the newly extended Wairere Cafe, a lawn adjacent to the cafe large enough to accommodate a marquee and a covered, tiered 384 seat outdoor auditorium suitable for plenary sessions, award ceremonies and performances.

Sitting Pretty

Welcome to *Sitting Pretty*, our regular review of experiences up the front of the plane.

Malaysia Airlines
Paris-Kuala Lumpur route

MALAYSIA Airlines flies 777-200 aircraft between Europe and Asia, configured with two cabins: Economy and Business. The carrier owns 17 of these types of planes in its fleet. Business Events News recently experienced the business class cabin between Paris and Kuala Lumpur.

BEN flew Business Class on the sector, window seat 2K, but getting to the gate for the MH21 flight required time



and patience, lots of both. Firstly, the boarding process at the massive Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport can be daunting.

Terminal 1 was in chaos, crammed with thousands of passengers heading to all points across Europe and the globe and with only two Immigration inspectors on duty, long lines formed resulting in angry



travellers moving at snail's pace worried that they'd miss their flights.

For the elderly, who had to stand in line, it was especially hard going, not to mention families with kids.

It took **BEN** nearly 2 hours to pass through. To make matters worse, there is no Express Lane for Premium passengers. An Air France official explained "well, this is Paris".

A tip: don't turn up at the last minute, give plenty of time, more than 3 hours to check in and go through the formalities. After coping with the huge crowds, finally getting on board the MH B 777 was a relief. Shown to your seat, the friendly cabin crew were a welcome sight as they handed out fresh towels and cool drinks. The flight left on time and soon the airline's satays were served. Malaysia Airlines serves 20,000 satay sticks a day on its flights.

Main courses included crusted chicken, poached dory, stir fried beef & lasagna, accompanied by French champers, a German riesling and a French and Spanish red. On the 11hr 40m flight, you can help yourself in the galley to a great range of snacks and French cheeses before brekky is served about 2hrs from KL.

BEN's verdict? Excellent flight, top-notch on-the-ball crew, fab food & wine, comfy Business Class seats that convert to almost lie-flat beds.



But fighting your way through the sheer volume of travellers at Paris Charles de Gaulle is no fun!

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