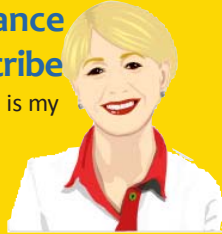




business events news

Last chance to subscribe

"IN the end is my beginning."
is a pretty apt quote considering



that today is the last day **Travel Daily** subscribers will receive their three times a week edition of **BEN** and you wouldn't want that, would you?

To ensure you receive your personal FREE copy, register today by clicking on the 'sign up' link on the **BEN** website at www.businessevents.com.au.

It's also the last day to enter the Ayers Rock Resort Two Night Uluru Encounter, so get your skates on by COB today! (see p2)

I'm heading to the newly renovated Fairmont Resort in Sydney's Blue Mountains for a launch event this weekend - see next week's **BEN** editions for a full update. *Jill*

Sydney under Cruise control

AN independent review released by the Federal Government this week found there would be no enhanced cruise ship access to Garden Island as it was "incompatible" with "current and future" Navy requirements.

This is despite the fact that February 2012 was Sydney's busiest month ever for cruise ships with a record 26 ships making 33 visits.

Further exacerbating the issue is that by 2015 about half of all cruise liners visiting Sydney will not be able to fit under the Harbour Bridge.

The decision has prompted Tourism Accommodation Australia (NSW) to call for immediate action to provide more commercial cruise ship berthing in Sydney Harbour, warning that the billion dollar industry is at risk unless the Government acts now.

Previously the Navy has granted some access to the *Queen Mary 2* at its Garden Island site.

TAA (NSW) director Carol Giuseppe said there was an obvious need for more permanent facilities for an industry expected to be worth \$2 billion to the national economy by 2020.

"Sydney is the magnet for an increasing number of cruise ships – it is the fastest growing sector of the tourism industry, growing at more than 20% each year for six years," she said.

"This is a market that generates millions into the economy and yet we are not investing to retain and grow that revenue.

"The simple fact is if ships can't berth here they are far less likely to visit Australian waters – that's why we are calling for action now on a permanent solution to this problem," Giuseppe added.



DO you have a group of 30 or more going to the US west coast that you need to move around? Check out the super, sleek Lux Bus America.

The company offers pre-packaged-tours to such places as Las Vegas, theme parks, sporting events and museums.

What's more, they have just introduced a new onboard meal service that includes fresh baked pastries and hot breakfast items, available from April 9th to those travelling from Anaheim or Los Angeles to Las Vegas.



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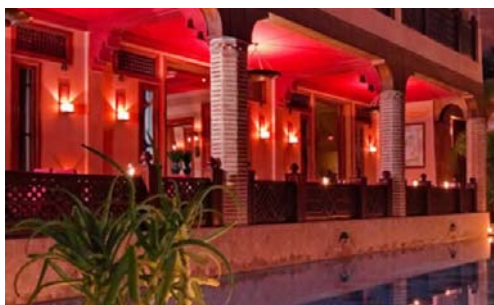
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30th March 2012

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Morocco comes to town

FIRST-time visitor to Australia, Italian aristocrat Prince Fabrizio Ruspoli, owner of the renowned *La Maison Arabe*, in Marrakech, travelled from Sydney to Brisbane and onto Melbourne this month to share his knowledge of his hotel and its famous culinary school.



“We are so excited to have Fabrizio visit Australia to promote his beautiful property, its cooking school and Morocco as a very exciting and exotic destination,” said Carol Prior, owner of the small luxury travel company Morocco by Prior Arrangement. “It’s the first time Fabrizio has visited Australia, and judging by

our urge to learn more about Morocco’s cuisine, it won’t be his last. Food and travel, of course, complement each other very well,” she said.
 La Maison Arabe boasts 26 guest rooms and suites, two restaurants, two swimming pools (either on-site in the medina or at the Private Casbah Gardens), a new spa/hammam, and a world-renowned cooking school.
 See www.lamaisonarabe.com.

Much ado in TNQ

BUSINESS Events Cairns reports that in addition to releasing a new DVD, this region renowned for its natural beauty also has some outstanding opportunities for memorable offsite dinners.
 These can be created to suit any budget and often don’t cost much more than dining on site at the conference or incentive venue.
 Beach and Island dinners are a popular choice which can be readily created in several spots between Cairns and Port Douglas.
 One such option is Ellis Beach, a 30 minute drive from both Cairns and Port Douglas with stunning views over to Double Island or the Coral Sea.
 Four Mile Beach in Port Douglas is easily transformed into just about anything - barefoot casual parties to luxury car launches and sit down gala dinners – ideas they say are only limited by your imagination.

Cook Strait challenge

At the age of 57, NZ motivational speaker, John Shackleton (The Performance Expert) has just entered the unforgiving stretch of water that separates the North & South Islands of NZ in the biggest challenge of his life.
 Pitting himself against the cold and sans wetsuit, he will attempt to swim 26 kms across Cook Strait - see www.bigswim.co.nz

Parker joins Fraser

FRASER Suites Sydney has appointed Gwen Parker to their Sydney sales team in the role of business development manager.
 Parker brings with her a wide range of industry knowledge and experience, including managerial roles at Sir Stamford at Circular Quay, the Rendezvous Hospitality Group and Amora Hotel Jamison Sydney.

WIN A 2-NIGHT ULURU ENCOUNTER



To celebrate the \$10million redevelopment of Ayers Rock Resort’s Uluru Meeting Place conference centre **Voyages** is offering a great prize to **Business Events News** readers.
 The Uluru Meeting Place will feature striking contemporary interiors that reflect the Indigenous heritage of the location. Facilities include a new ballroom that can comfortably seat 420 people as well as a second ballroom that seats over 300. These two rooms combined can create a large area that is ideal for events and trade shows.
 The prize includes two return economy airfares to Ayers Rock Resort from the winners nearest Australian capital city, return airport transfers, two nights accommodation in a newly refurbished room at the Sails in the Desert Hotel, dinner at the intimate Tali Wiru fine dining experience and a Desert Awakenings Small Group Sunrise tour.
 All you need to do to be in the running to win this great prize, is to email your answer to the below question by COB on Friday 30th March to: voyagescomp@businessesnews.com.au
 The most creative answer will win this fantastic prize.

In 25 words or less tell us what Uluru means to you

  [Click here for terms & conditions](#)

Hamilton goes Sane



THE Sane Event Group (pictured) recently held their staff conference on Hamilton Island.
 The conference was held in the Yacht Club’s Ketch Room while other activities included a Twilight Sail on “On the Edge “ and breakfast at the Hamilton Island Golf Club .
 Among their other activities was a custom designed Buggy Rally where teams had to design a table setting in the Conference Centre , try out the new Bowling Alley as well as a posed “Livin’ It Up “in a Yacht Club Villa.”

MACCAs \$15M Project

THE Miami Airport Convention Center (MACCA), located at the centre of Miami-Dade County, adjacent to Miami International Airport, has completed its \$15 million modernisation project.
 Offering 152,000 sq ft, the Convention and Conference Center offers the best combination of access, location, capacity and services in South Florida and can accommodate almost any event for the local, national or international market.



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New Lord Howe rep

FOLLOWING the resignation of Kerry Lorimer, director of Splash Communications who is to embark on a round-the-world sailing adventure, GTI Tourism has been appointed as the new representative for the Lord Howe Island Tourism Association and Wild Bush Luxury.

To JFK via Hawaii

FROM June 4, Hawaiian Airlines will fly daily, nonstop, from Honolulu to New York's John F Kennedy Airport, providing a new one-stop option for Australian travellers.

Hawaiian's daily service from Sydney to Honolulu arrives late morning, enabling passengers to clear US customs, then connect with the onward domestic service from Hawaii to The Big Apple.

Accor's indigenous link

SHANE Edwards, both the gm of Accor's Mercure Cairns Harbourside hotel & Accor Hotel's Indigenous Champion in Qld, provides a critical link between the hospitality business and the people of remote Cape York and the Torres Strait.

As part of this week's inaugural Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference (PAITC) in Darwin, Edwards has taken Accor's reconciliation message beyond his own state and community to share personal experiences and Accor's progressive approach to indigenous employment.

"Hotels are a great catalyst to build diversity and acceptance," he said.

"Tourism and hospitality can genuinely provide help and increase awareness for indigenous cultures, both locally, nationally and at an international level. It's my belief that tourism – especially the hotel industry – has and will continue to play a major role in the reconciliation process."

Accor started its Reconciliation Action Plan exactly a year ago.

The event wraps up today, with about 150 delegates from across the region attending.

Sleeping rough!

DR Caroline Hong, CEO, SME Association of Australia, is for the third consecutive year sleeping rough and she needs our help!



No, she's not hit the skids but is rising to the challenge of sleeping out rough for one night, with hundreds of CEOs and business leaders at the 2012 CEO Sleepout.

This night spent in the elements is to raise awareness and the necessary funds to support Vinnies homeless services at the CEO Sleepout in Sydney.

Caroline aims to raise a minimum of \$10,000 towards this worthy cause.

"We all do not have to wait until we become billionaires to start giving and helping those less fortunate.

"Every bit will help make a huge difference," Dr Hong said.

To sponsor against her profile, and to know why, go online to: <http://www.ceosleepout.org.au/ceos/nsw-ceos/profile/?ceo=346>

Marina Bay Sands Hotel and Sands SkyPark

GETTING TO KNOW:

If there is one development among Singapore's vast array of cutting-edge new structures that has captured the imagination of world travellers, it would have to be the Marina Bay Sands Hotel and Sands SkyPark® complex and in particular its much photographed, 150-metre infinity swimming pool, the world's largest outdoor pool at that height.

Since its opening two years ago, this unique three tower structure, crowned by the magnificent boat-like Sands SkyPark, has graced the pages of newspapers, magazines and websites.

At 1.2 hectares the SkyPark's tropical oasis is longer than the Eiffel Tower is tall and large enough to park four-and-a-half A380 jumbo jets and it extends to form one of the world's largest public cantilevers.

With more than 2,500 rooms and suites over 55 floors and South China Sea or Marina Bay and Singapore skyline outlooks, it has become the aspirational hotel de jour when staying and conferencing in Singapore.

The hotel offers an array of dining experiences and there's even more within the vast complex beneath the hotel, including Tetsuya's Waku Ghin.

Add to this a casino and entertainment options that include a theatre and ice-skating rink, to a vast array of shops and boutiques and you never have to leave the complex.

As iconic in its structure as the rest of the Marina Bay Sands, the lotus-inspired ArtScience Museum has become the premier museum destination in Singapore for major international travelling exhibitions.

Voted the Best MICE Hotel in Asia (2011, 2012) - and it shows – the Sands Expo and Convention Center from its spacious corridors and stylish design, is Singapore's largest and most flexible exhibition and meeting venue.

Last November the Center hosted its largest banquet to date, a local corporate dinner/dance for 5,000. And more recently, in February, the 2012 YPO Global Leadership Summit held their annual conference with 2000 delegates, spouses and guests.

Described as no ordinary conference but a summit of breakouts, Level 14 was renamed the 'Market Place' and set up with all sorts of toys and distractions including virtual golf and two cadillacs.

