



## Plane annoying!

**THERE** are bound to be howls of protest, however



passengers on Virgin Atlantic's new Airbus A330 jet flying the London to New York route from now, will be allowed to make calls, send and receive text messagees, as a well as access emails and use basic internet access via GPRS.

This apparently can be done without interfering with the aircraft's instruments because the system is like having a telecoms base station on the plane relaying the signals to a satellite or land-based system.

Two other airlines have already dropped their similar systems after complaints - *Jill*.

## Accor lifts Christchurch

**TWO** of Accor's four hotels which were closed following the Christchurch earthquake in Feb 2011 are set to reopen.

The first of these is the Hotel Ibis Christchurch which is scheduled to relaunch with a target date of September 2012.

Novotel Christchurch will follow, with a planned re-opening date of April 2013.

The future of the two All Seasons hotels are still pending as access – particularly to the Cashel Street property – has been severely restricted by on-going demolition work in the area.

“Both of the hotels were relatively new – the Ibis was built in 2007 and the Novotel 2010 – so they were built to very exacting standards and their structures received only minor damage during the earthquakes.

“The main problems were internal and required a complete re-fit of both hotels, so when they re-open they will have a very fresh and new feel to them,” explained regional manager,ayne Boon.

## BESydney looks to the future

**FOUR** talented individuals from leading NSW universities were this week inducted into a new Future Leaders program by Business Events Sydney.

At the BESydney 2012 Ambassador Dinner and Investiture, ceo

Lyn Lewis-Smith said the scheme aims to facilitate relationships with some of the State's brightest minds to uncover valuable information, stay ahead of emerging trends, develop more bid opportunities and “profile the next generation of bid leaders”.

Awardees (pictured above with Lewis-Smith) are: Dr. Pia Winberg, director, Shoalhaven Marine and Freshwater Centre, University of Wollongong; Dr Andrew Hutchinson, Chancellor's Post Doctoral Research Fellow, School of Medical and Molecular Sciences, University of Technology, Sydney; Dr Amanda Kennedy, deputy director, Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law, University of New England; and Dr Jochen Schweitzer, Lecturer in Strategy and Marketing, Faculty of Business, University of Technology, Sydney

These Future Leaders will receive grants to attend global business events relating to their fields of expertise to develop networks, identify bid opportunities and to explore the structure and purposes of conferences and congresses.

In their new role they will provide valuable perspective, insights and ideas to help BESydney to keep its finger on the pulse of the ever-changing architecture of meetings.

“The business events sector is evolving at a rapid rate and the



competitive landscape is changing considerably,” commented Lewis-Smith.

“We are adapting to changes brought about by technological advancement, the rise of the Asian market and its inherent challenges and opportunities, and the increasing competitiveness of our global market,” she said.

“We have to be on the front foot when it comes to identifying and responding to trends...the Future Leaders program will be integral to this process and together we will simultaneously promote our local talent to the world,” Lewis-Smith added.

## BIG4 for meetings

**BIG4** Adventure Whitsunday, a multi-award winning Airlie Beach resort is now catering to small conferences, events and retreats for up to 50 people.

Set in 10 hectares of lush tropical gardens and ideal for team building and break-out spaces, they offer a dedicated events manager and professional support team.

Accommodation ranges from open plan deluxe ensuite cabins through to luxury three bedroom condos to suit a variety of budgets.

The resort's function room accommodates 35 theatre-style or 50 for cocktails, with other layouts available.

Wi-fi and business support services are also featured.

## A New Direction

**IN** an event entitled ‘New Directions,’ the Global Business Travel Association AUS/NZ Conference is to return to Sydney on 26-28 August.

Centrally located at The Westin Hotel, this year's conference promises to be full of topics and insights requested by the business travel buyer.

The conference, a gateway into a global network covering four continents with access to over 17,000 buyers and suppliers, will show case how to make the difference to strategically position businesses in an advancing yet demanding industry.

Find out more: Elizabeth Montgomery on 02 9456 4470 or [emontgomery@gbta.org](mailto:emontgomery@gbta.org).

## Stay in paradise at Paradise Palms



This week, *Business Events News* is giving readers the chance to win one night accommodation for two in a Resort Room courtesy of Paradise Palms Resort and Country Club.

Paradise Palms Resort & Country Club is paradise for discerning visitors; golfers looking for the perfect game, event planners searching for the ultimate venue and wedding parties wishing for a day to remember.

Recently securing its position as a world-class venue for conferences and events, Paradise Palms Resort and Country Club has invested over \$30,000 in the latest, state-of-the-art audio visual equipment.

Be the first to send the answer: [comp@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:comp@businesseventsnews.com.au)

**What year was Paradise Palms golf course opened?**

Hint: [paradisepalms.com.au](http://paradisepalms.com.au)  
Click here for terms & conditions





**WHAT** next? A pooch hotel and day spa!

The swanky Pooch Hotel has launched in Los Angeles (where else?) and is hoping to attract Hollywood's most pampered pets, with amenities that most people would have to beg for.

The Pooch Hotel has overnight suites that come complete with TV's, sofas and web cams so their doting owners can check up on Fluffy from the road.

They also feature a heated indoor pool built specifically for dogs, an indoor spa, a treadmill, a turn down service, a tummy rub and special one on one time for each precious pup.

Owners also have the option of adding little extras like aromatherapy baths, pedicures and facials - appropriately described by the Pooch Hotel as SPAW treatments!

## The new art of Paul Gauguin

THOSE who are familiar with French Polynesia and the South Pacific, and in particular with the deluxe cruiser *m/s Paul Gauguin*, will be interested to learn that the company is to launch a second luxury ship, the intimately configured *Tere Moana*.

Currently undergoing a multifaceted renovation in Brisbane with completion in December, it has incentive product written all over it.

With its inaugural Chairman's Cruise taking to sea on 29 December, on a roundtrip St Martin, French West Indies



voyage, it accommodates just 90 guests.

At a lunch last Friday befitting the elegance of the brand, in the office of Australian representative Wiltrans International, Oscar Abello, vice president, product planning and revenue management, introduced Gauguin's luxury new product to the travel industry and media.

"The fares are all inclusive on the *Moana* and that includes an open bar," he explained.

"Other than that it is only things of a personal nature and shore excursions that are not covered.

Describing the *Moana* as ideal for small groups and incentives, he revealed that the firm already has 17 weeks of charters for 2013.

"Groups can take part of the ship but it works better if they can charter it all - an option we find most companies prefer."

Spacious staterooms, an onboard watersports marina, a choice of two open-seating venues, and extensive spa are among *Moana's* luxurious attributes.

The *Moana*, Abello went on to say will specialise in warm-weather destinations with an emphasis on delivering unique itineraries that larger ships cannot offer.

Some of its destinations include the Panama Canal, Rome, Venice, Athens, Istanbul and the Black Sea.

**Pictured** is Oscar Abello, VP, product planning & revenue mgt, Paul Gauguin Cruises with Wiltrans Int'l md Diane Patrick.

## Ladies in red

THEY'RE eye catching, coloured red and lots of fun.

That's the new look fleet of Captain Cook Cruises which have been wrapped in bright red vinyl to not only look inviting but to make them easy to identify as the 'Hop on Hop Off Sydney Harbour Explorer' service vessels.

The Harbour Explorer departs every 45 minutes from Jetty 6, Circular Quay and Pier 26 Darling Harbour, with live commentary visiting Taronga Zoo, Watson's Bay, Fort Denison, Manly and more.

## Surprises in Cairns

A GROUP of professional conference organisers from Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney were hosted by the *Palm Cove Business Events Group* in conjunction with *Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef* recently.

The group visited the Palm Cove and Kewarra Beach region to acquaint themselves with the many accommodation, venues and experience options located within this compact area, many of which are within walking distance.

The three day program highlighted the collaboration and team approach of operators in the region which included a 'Walk and Talk with the Animals' session at the *Cairns Tropical Zoo*, dinner under a tranquil rainforest canopy at the *Novotel Palm Cove Resort*, a cruise to the Great Barrier Reef with *Quicksilver* and a farewell dinner on the beach at *Kewarra Beach Resort*.

Special surprise elements included helicopter transfers back from the reef, pampering spa treatments, cocktail-making classes and a special gift of indigenous artwork.



Dining in the rainforest at Palm Cove.

## 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.2: Name the Australian cities from which Air Vanuatu flies to Port Vila?**

Hint: [airvanuatu.com](http://airvanuatu.com)

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

[Click here for terms & conditions](#)





## It's all go for Australian Hospitality Conference

AN enthusiastic response from delegates, sponsors and trade exhibitors to last month's launch of the inaugural Australian Hospitality Conference 2012, "Improving Profitability in your Changing World," has garnered support from across Australia and New Zealand.

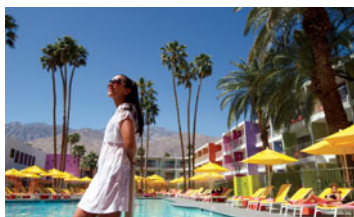
To be held 3-5 September at Wrest Point, Hobart, already on board are some of industry's biggest names as event sponsors, including CUB, Lion Nathan, Coca-Cola Amatil, Treasury Wine Estates, AUSTAR, OAMPS, and Franklyn Scholar.

These companies join local organisations, Wrest Point, Tourism Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government.

Organisers say this support means being able to provide a first class conference agenda and social program (including an unforgettable welcome party at MONA).

Visit [hospitalityconference.com.au](http://hospitalityconference.com.au) for more information.

## A new day for Greater Palm Springs

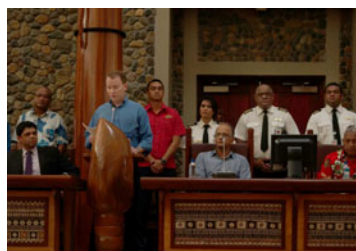


**GREATER** Palm Springs has repositioned the entire area as the 'Greater Palm Springs Oasis' with the overarching maxim: 'A Brand New Day.'

In addition, the 'Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau' will be the new name for the former Palm Springs Desert Resort Communities Convention and Visitors Authority.

The change is designed to reflect the evolution and progression of the region over the past decade, and to unify the nine-city resort community into a single destination.

## Fiji back to the future



David Pflieger, Air Pacific's managing director and CEO announces Fiji Airways' new name in Suva.

IN a revitalising and rebranding initiative, Air Pacific is returning to its former name, Fiji Airways. Back in 1970, the name change to 'Air Pacific' reflected the airline's greatly expanded regional presence.

When its new Airbus 330-200 fleet takes to the skies in June 2013, the new name will see the airline more closely aligned with its proud Fijian heritage and its role as Fiji's largest inbound and outbound airline, according to ceo David Pflieger.

"Globally there is high consumer awareness of Fiji as a holiday destination," he said.

"We want to strengthen that association and also promote Fiji in every country we fly to."

Pflieger added, "Our rebranding is part of an overall turnaround plan – a plan that is working well and should, with continued focus and effort, help us thrive and grow as the preferred airline of the South Pacific.

"In 2010/2011 Air Pacific and Pacific Sun carried a combined 1.1 million passengers on 15,000 flights," he said, reflecting an increase of 37,000 and a revenue boost of FJ\$40 million.

In addition to the new strategy, which will be rolling out over the next 12-18 months, the airline will also relaunch with key new strategic partnerships such as **Panasonic Avionics Corporation (Panasonic)**, Zodiac company **Weber Aircraft**, and **Singapore Airlines Engineering Company (SIAEC)**, which will all contribute their services or premium products to assist Air Pacific with its new Airbus fleet taking to the skies from the middle of 2013.

## Tablets set to replace the PC as favoured computing device

**PERSONAL** computers at home and in the office will soon be displaced by the tablet as the primary computing device,



according to a new report from Forrester Research.

Tablet sales are expected to grow sharply from 56 million in 2011 to 375 million in 2016, according to the report. Given that most users keep their tablets for three years, there will probably be 760 million tablets in use globally by 2016, said Frank Gillette, principal analyst on Forrester's business technology futures team.

As a result, the tablet will replace the PC as the user's digital hub, connecting devices such as smartphones, desktop computers and content stored in personal cloud services — remote servers that can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection.

Eventually these burgeoning cloud services such as Dropbox, SugarSync and Box will dictate what compatible devices consumers will use, according to the report.

As for market leaders, Apple is expected to maintain its dominance, even as its market share erodes amid increased competition. Google is expected to lose some market share because of a fragmented market

and competition from tablets running Microsoft's Windows 8 software.

Although Microsoft is playing catch-up behind Apple and Google in terms of apps that are available for it, Gillette said that "once rolling, however, we expect Microsoft will be a significant player."

Ultimately, in the next decade, PCs will be redefined figuratively and literally, the report said.

"PC no longer will mean personal computers — instead it will be the full spectrum of personal computing, from personal cloud services to the broad range of personal technology used for work, including tablets, smartphones, and frames," Gillette wrote.

To check out the latest tech news for small business visit Tony Wragg's TechTalk at:

[www.tonystechtalk.com.au](http://www.tonystechtalk.com.au)

Story adapted from an article in the LA Times.



### CONTACT US:

#### Publisher

Bruce Piper

#### Editor

Jill Varley

#### Contributors

Bruce Piper, Chantel Long

**Advertising:** [advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au)

**P:** 1300 799 220 **F:** 1300 799 221

PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW, 1710

**Business Events News** is part of the Travel Daily group of publications which also include: Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly & Pharmacy Daily.