



Bali's security

SAFELY cosseted at the Grand Hyatt Bali, everything is grand, safe and secure, from the 16 hectares of its manicured gardens, lily and koi ponds and substantial buildings, to the 59 sqm size of its lead-in rooms. Security here is paramount so it's no wonder they host most of the world's visiting dignitaries and some of the more prestigious conferences.

Right now hotel development in Bali is relentless with another 10,000 hotel rooms expected to come on-line in 2013.

We've checked out some exciting five star, corporate retreats like the Bvlgari at Uluwatu and the Banyan Tree at Ungasan and a most impressive, stand alone function venue, Taman Bhagawan in Benoa, about all of which more will be written.

Nothing works better on a family or holiday than having a good ground operator and I have to say I have been looked after by Bali's best - Pacific World, past masters in escorting Australian groups and ensuring everything runs smoothly from the moment you land to the minute you depart.

Here in Australia they are represented by DMS - Destination Management Services, and I highly recommend their services - Jill.



Boyes joins BESydney

FOLLOWING Business Events Sydney's (BESydney) AGM on Tuesday, Scott Boyes, regional general manager of Accor NSW and ACT, was elected to the Board of Directors.

Boyes, an experienced hotelier who has worked with Accor Asia-Pacific since 1994, joins the Board as a Members Director, received the most votes from BESydney's Strategic Partner and Members.

BESydney chairman, Col Hughes, said, "Scott is a well-respected member of the industry who will bring unique insights and a strong state-wide vision to the board."

"Given his experience and understanding of the accommodation sector and our industry, he will be a valuable voice for our members."

"The diversity of industry and commercial knowledge that our directors possess is vital to the continued strength of BESydney's board."

Lyn Lewis-Smith, ceo of BESydney, commented, "The business event market globally and locally is changing."

"I'm proud to say that under the guidance of our highly-respected and connected Board of Directors, BESydney is tackling the future head on, and reaping the rewards."

"Whether that be in growing business from Asia, innovatively collaborating with Strategic Partners and Members,

championing the 'Sydney is open for business 2014-2016' message, or challenging the status quo both internally and externally," Lewis-Smith added.



Sebel Brisbane to become Pullman

A cake was created in the shape of the famous Pullman rail carriage from which the Pullman name originated and champagne corks popped when the newest name in Brisbane's 5-star scene, the former Sebel King George Square hotel was rebranded the Pullman Brisbane King George Square on Wednesday.

The hotel now undergoes a \$7 million upgrade involving renovation of all the Sebel rooms to Pullman standards, the creation of an exciting new lobby and Pullman lounge, a total renovation of the hotel's meeting and exhibition facilities, new exterior painting and signage.

With half of the rooms already completed and the remainder due for completion by the end of the year, an upgrade to the function centre will take place in January and February 2013 to minimise disruption.

The adjoining Citigate hotel has also been rebadged to Mercure, the second in the Brisbane CBD.

Chief operating officer of Accor Asia Pacific, Simon McGrath, said growing the Pullman brand in Australia was a key factor in the global positioning of Pullman as a premier 5-star hotel brand.

"Once the planned refurbishment is complete, the hotel will certainly rival some of Accor's best Pullman hotels in Asia. "We are investing heavily into this property and look forward to seeing our customers enjoy the benefits," McGrath added.

Di Henry joins the RAS

THE Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) has announced the appointment of internationally acclaimed producer and director of Events, Di Henry OAM, to the position of creative director for the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Henry will be responsible for the development and delivery of the Main Arena entertainment program for the Show, the largest annual event in the southern hemisphere.

Henry, who was involved with the Show from 1992-1995 in the role of event and venue manager, returns to deliver an exciting Main Arena entertainment program.

Michael Collins, Sydney Royal Easter Show ceo said he is delighted to welcome someone of Henry's calibre to the team.

WIN a double pass to Dreamworld



This week **BEN** and **Dreamworld** are giving you the chance to win a double pass to Dreamworld theme park.

Dreamworld Events offer a variety of event solutions from Christmas parties to special functions.

Be the first to email the correct answer to comp@businessesnews.com.au

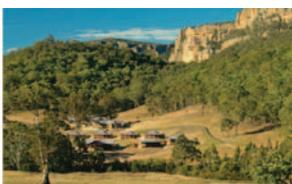
What is the name of the ultimate party house available for hire for \$3000 during Nov-Jan at Dreamworld?

Hint! dreamworld.com.au/events



Wolgan Valley's rewarding special

THE highly aspirational Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa is offering MICE industry partners a special Delegate Package to inspire and reward their team or colleagues as the year draws to an end.



To take advantage of the offer, book a minimum group

of five suites for at least two nights and receive the special accommodation rate of \$700 per suite, per night and a delegate hosting rate of \$500 per suite, per night - valid for travel from now until 22 December.

Email sales@tourismportfolio.com.au or call 02 9929 5520.



Ben on BEN inPlace RECRUITMENT

Each month Business Manager for inPlace Recruitment, Ben Carnegie, writes his observations from the recruiters perspective to help job hunters find the perfect job.

Ben has over 15 years working in 5 star hotels and the MICE industry and has worked on some of Australia's biggest events.

IT'S amazing when you read through hundreds of resumes every week, how different they can all be!



I have said in previous articles that one day, resumes may be a thing of the past. We are certainly not there yet.

In an industry as competitive as the events industry, if you aren't providing the 'meat' in your resume, how are employers going to know what you have done?

Today I'd like to bring things back to basics. Include your name, contact details, education, your employment history and experience with various systems.

Many don't! Include the year and month you started and finished each role and list responsibilities.

Provide tangible information, eg. "international incentive programs for up to 600 participants".

Make sure you list your achievements in each role.

Be specific! The less questions that come up when reading your resume, the more likely you will be to get that call!

Queenstown conference perks

THE Heritage Queenstown, NZ is celebrating its brand new accommodation refurbishment by inviting organisers to experience their new rooms.

Book and hold a conference between now and 31 May 2013 and get free wi-fi in the conference rooms and choose from a range of three perks that include a discounted daily delegate rate of \$57 for a full day, and \$47 for half a day; complimentary canapés during the welcome cocktail function and every 10th night free.

Crave showcases at the SCEC

THE Crave Sydney International Food Festival, staged their two-day, World Chef Showcase at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, transforming the exhibition halls into a massive kitchen for more than a dozen of the world's top chefs.

Two showcase sessions ran concurrently throughout the weekend, with no less than 14 cooking stations created in the Exhibition Centre hall to allow the visiting chefs and their teams to prepare food for their sessions, as well as two lunches for 150 people.

In all, more than 2500 dishes were served last weekend to an appreciative audience.

The chefs, including Italy's No. 1 restaurateur Massimo Bottura, Spain's Jordi Roca and Italy's famous pizza chef Gabriele Bonci, cooked a range of dishes for their fans, assisted by a team of 12 chefs from the Centre and 16 volunteer chefs.

The Centre also staged a welcome cocktail party for the showcase chefs and many other famous culinary faces including Italian Antonio Carluccio and Australian Maggie Beer.

The Centre's director of food and beverage Simon Lomas said the showcase was a significant logistical exercise with every chef requiring specific food items for their dishes.

Whilst the Centre had many ingredients to hand, others had to be sourced.

Unusual items included local chef Alessandro Pavoni's Parmesan Vacche Rosse – a cheese made from the milk of red cows - and hay, used by English chef Jason Atherton for his full English Breakfast.

"It was a great experience to be working with such different chefs and cooking such different dishes," Lomas said.

Crave Festival director Joanna



Savill said the event was an amazing feat.

"Everyone from the chefs to the attendees were impressed with the Centre's attention to detail and the care that was taken in ensuring that the World Chef Showcase was the premium experience it was designed to be.

"We were thrilled with the results," Savill said.

Pictured at the event are two of the culinary maestros, Antonio Carluccio and Maggie Beer.

Air Force Museum

CHRISTCHURCH continues to forge ahead with construction well underway on phase one of a \$14 million expansion to the existing Air Force Museum of New Zealand, with an expected completion by December.

The finished building, a popular events space for functions, with an overall cover of 6,500sqm will have 1500 sqm and will be available for day conferences, conventions, trade shows and gala dinners from January 2013.

An \$11 million, 4,200sqm aircraft display gallery is the first stage of the larger project, which will eventually include an adjoining purpose-built aircraft and large object restoration facility.

The building has been designed with green in mind, featuring energy efficient lighting, solar hot water heating, and rainwater harvesting systems.



crumbs!

WHETHER you believe it or not, the fact is the 'rain stopper' is part of the Balinese culture and more often than not is in the arsenal of the event planner.

Used at conferences, weddings and all sorts of events, the rain stopping ceremony is performed by a holy man who is hired to ensure the event is rain free.

Talk to the Balinese and the resort hotels and they will say it works - "We don't know how, it just does."

Aussie PCOs and event organisers swear by them and for those of a less spiritual and more cynical disposition there are now laser rain stoppers which use technology and lasers to break-up rain clouds.

The choice is yours.

Retreat Packages at Mount Lofty House

HEAD to the Adelaide Hills wine region because Mount Lofty House has good value conference retreat packages and newly refurbished conference facilities 15 minutes from the heart of Adelaide.

Popular is the "Conference Escape Package" priced from just \$199 the special includes deluxe overnight accommodation with country continental breakfast, use of drawing room for meetings with tea and coffee and a butler service menu available throughout the day, etc.

Their upgrade package includes a two course dinner in the Piccadilly Restaurant for \$49.

There is also a day delegate rate of \$79pp with many inclusions.

Originally built between 1852-1858 as a cool summer residence, today Mt Lofty House has 33 rooms and suites and boasts a total of seven unique function venues providing the flexibility to accommodate conferences of up to 120 to seated, to 350 cocktail.

For more information visit - www.mtloftyhouse.com.au.



Celebrate at Versace

WITH their range of sophisticated and stylish event and function spaces, Palazzo Versace is inviting event planners to take advantage of the excellent location, stylish venues, restaurants and luxurious accommodation.

For celebrations the hotel's iconic opulence and style is available in venues such as Vie Bar + Restaurant and Il Barocco, a relaxed celebration space with their renowned seafood buffet.

For something more intimate and formal, Versace's signature restaurant Vanitas has a four-course menu designed by chef de cuisine, Martin Glutz, while larger groups can experience the elegance of La Finestra, La Medusa Ballroom and the Fountain Terrace.

Guests are welcome to extend their stay and make the most of Palazzo Versace's festive sleepover rates with overnight accommodation available from \$729 or an extended three-night stay available from \$619 per night.

For more information, visit www.palazzoversace.com.au.

W Singapore Sentosa

A new W hotel has opened on Singapore's Sentosa Island with more than 1,500sqms of meeting and event space and private berthing stations along the shore with direct access to the hotel's great room for an enhanced grand entrance.



In addition to the 732sqm great room, meeting and function facilities include seven meeting rooms, and a stunning outdoor space outfitted with adaptable conference furniture and state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment.

With 240 guest rooms and suites, Stephen Ho, president, Asia Pacific, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide said yesterday they are thrilled to announce the opening of W Singapore.

"The arrival of a design-led hotel brand like W Hotels to Singapore comes at the right time as Singapore has emerged as Southeast Asia's lifestyle and creative hub.

"Without a doubt, the hotel's iconic design infused with the W brand's passion for what's new and next will offer Singapore the ultimate lifestyle destination."

The fully integrated lifestyle hotel, featuring 240 guest rooms and suites, two signature restaurants, a destination bar, the W Lounge experience, WET pool deck and bar and Away Spa, is adjacent to 228 W-branded residences.

In celebration of the opening, W Singapore - Sentosa Cove is offering an "Island Glamour Welcome," which includes wonderful room accommodation, breakfast for two at The Kitchen Table and cocktails prepared by the W Mixologist at WOObAR, with stunning marina views and sunset transformations.

Starting at SGD\$388++ per package, upgrades are available to 'spectacular' or 'fabulous' rooms for an addition of \$20++ and \$70++, respectively.

The Star's top 10 attractions

IF you are looking for a different slant on entertaining in Sydney this festive season The Star has some memorable ideas and lasting reward options for employees, clients, prospects and suppliers.



Here is a listing of their top ten.

• **Dine** - Celebrate with the sales team or invite all the administration staff for a meal to show appreciation of their hard work.

The Star has a range of restaurants from which to choose including *Balla*, where Italian chef, Stefano Manfredi, reinterprets traditional Milanese fare at his stylish Osteria style restaurant.

(3 courses \$95, 4 courses \$115, canapé menu available, beverages on consumption)
There's also *BLACK by ezard* where award winning chef, Teage Ezard, has created two special menus for groups delicately balancing the best of the Australian contemporary grill (Grill menu, 3 courses: \$95, Chef's menu, 3 courses: \$110, beverages on consumption).

Or what about *Sokyo* - where the buzz of Tokyo meets a Sydney beat.

Indulge in the exclusive seven course menu, an innovative take on contemporary Japanese flavours - (7 course menu \$100, canapé menu available).

At *Bistro 80* head chef Paul Gaspa's three-course festive menu showcases his blend of modern Australian dining featuring classics such as a perfect steak and rustic terrines (3 courses \$75, canapé menu available, beverages on consumption).

• **Drink** - *Cherry* - hold glam celebratory drinks where a wide range of imaginative cocktails and delicious canapés are on offer.

(Canapés \$4-\$7.50 each, minimum order 20 pieces, beverages on consumption).

Rock Lily - Not just live music, the bar is stocked to the ceiling with some of the world's best tequilas.

(Canapés \$2.50-\$6 each, minimum order 10 pieces, beverages on consumption).

• **Stay** - *The Darling hotel* - a five

star boutique lifestyle hotel with stunning views of Sydney Harbour is a retreat that employees and clients will appreciate.

Treat staff or clients to the ultimate pampering experience at *The Spa at The Darling*.

Or for clients who travel frequently, give them a gift voucher to enjoy where the effects of stress, exhaustion or jet lag are diminished.

How about treating the entire family to a luxury stay at The Star's five star hotel, *Astral Tower and Residences*.

And don't forget The Star's festive gift cards which can be redeemed at over twenty restaurants, bars, cafes as well as The Darling Hotel and Spa.

Visit www.star.com.au

Forensic science win

A major international, four-day conference to be held at SKYCITY Auckland Convention Centre in 2016 has been secured with the help of the new Auckland Convention Bureau Bid Fund.

The fund, only introduced in July this year, was instrumental in helping to secure the 23rd International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences 2016 for Auckland.

With up to 1,000 delegates expected to attend, and an estimated economic value of more than \$4m, the symposium has a well-established reputation as one of the best forensic science conferences in the world.

Auckland Convention Bureau (ACB) manager Anna Hayward said, "The Bid Fund was created for the purpose of attracting more conference business to Auckland, and securing a meeting of this scale is fantastic."

She went on to say that one of the most important aspects of hosting international conferences is the contribution they make to economic development within Auckland and New Zealand and not just within the tourism sector.

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