



Welcome to Monday

SYDNEY loves a good party and on Thursday night the Moët was in full and glorious flow when PCOs and event planners attended the launch of Sydney's newest harbourside function venue and conference centre – Water @ Pier One at Sebel Pier One.



Five airline prizes and a Sebel Pier One accommodation prize were up for grabs and won by guests with great elan.

The Sebel also launched a special incentive for PCOs called Business with Class, with two business class Etihad tickets as the incentive for booking the Sebel's new conference centre.

Check out Wednesday's **BEN** for more information and to see if your photo made the cut in our full-page photo spread.

It was distressing to learn of the fire at Fiji's Naviti Resort last week, we wish them a quick recovery - see **page 2** for the full story.

And, in brighter news details of the announcement of the Gold Coast's proposed multi-billion dollar integrated tourism facility also features at right - *Jill*.

Rendezvous Hotel Perth's new facilities

RENDEZVOUS Hotel Perth will revamp its existing event spaces as part of the second stage of its multi-million dollar renovation.

The conference and events facilities will feature stylish and contemporary furnishings as well as state of the art technology which will be supported by a new onsite audio-visual team.

Stage two will see the hotel's grand ballroom redeveloped as well as the existing spaces, hotel lobby, restaurants and bars.



Gold Coast going for gold



THE private sector has been invited to tender for what could be the largest piece of integrated tourism infrastructure in Queensland's history, according to an announcement released on Friday by the State Government and the Gold Coast City Council.

Known as the Broadwater Marine Project, it includes the delivery of a Cruise Ship Terminal on land owned by the State Government on the Spit or in the Broadwater.

In addition to the terminal, the multi-billion dollar integrated tourism facility could include hotels, a casino, super yacht facility, retail development, restaurants, entertainment and hospitality venues, commercial and residential development and significant open community space and recreation facilities.

Research supplied by tourism consultancy firm EC3 Global, reports that the world-class integrated tourism development has the potential to inject \$750 million in additional tourism revenue annually into the Gold Coast economy and create more than 10,000 jobs locally by 2020.

The Council and State are inviting major national and international consortia to submit their ideas and designs to transform the city's Broadwater into a globally-acclaimed marine getaway.

Gold Coast mayor Tom Tate said, "We want to see an integrated attraction that will be globally

renowned.

"We are Australia's premier tourism, business and events destination.

"In fact, as host of one of the world's greatest sporting events in 2018 – the Commonwealth Games – we will showcase our vibrant city and citizens across the globe."

Tate went on to say that right now the city is crying out for a boost to tourism.

"We look forward to seeing the ideas," he said.

"This is not just about a cruise ship terminal - this is about creating an international wow factor for tourists and the local community."

Get engines racing

WITH the 59th Macau Grand Prix officially



on the doorstep, it's time to get those last minute bookings in if you want to view this magnificent event which takes place on 17 and 18 November.

Perfect fodder for corporate hospitality, here you can enjoy a full day's racing from the Grand Terrace vantage point and a tasty BBQ buffet.

Tickets are priced at MOP 1,088* per person per day and for a two-day pass MOP 1,976* per person.

Enquiries and reservations at www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo.

Dreamworld winners CONGRATULATIONS

to Cathryn Gertzos, AST Management; Jessica Riches, Event Management Group; and Domino Houlbrook-Cove, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust who were last week's lucky winners of the **BEN** Dreamworld competition.

The winners have each won a double pass to Dreamworld theme park on the Gold Coast for being the first to answer the competition question in **BEN**.

This week Spicers is offering one lucky winner the chance to win two nights accommodation at Spicers Peak Lodge - see **page 2**.

Twin Waters new staff

SIMON

Brown has been appointed as general manager of the 360-room Novotel Twin Waters Resort Sunshine Coast.



Brown brings with him extensive management experience in the tourism and hospitality industry, most recently as Mirvac's regional general manager Queensland for ten properties and a golf course and general manager of Sea Temple Surfers Paradise.



In addition, Rebecca Middleton has also joined the Novotel resort as director of sales and marketing, bringing with

her more than eight years experience in the tourism and hospitality industry including positions with The Menzies Hotel Sydney, Novotel Sydney Brighton Beach, Swiss Grand Resort Bondi Beach & Accor's Darling Harbour Hotels.

Prior to her relocation Rebecca was the director of sales and marketing at Mercure Kooindah Waters.



BEA's free workshops

IN November, Business Events Australia is to hold free-of-charge business events-specific workshops, in tandem with Tourism Australia's (TA) Industry Briefings which will be held around the country.

They're geared to provide an update on the latest market results, current campaign activity and TA's national Tourism 2020 strategy to double visitor spending - with business events a key driver of the growth.

These workshops will deliver detailed information on TA's business events marketing campaigns, enable attendees to ask questions and find out about the opportunities available for the industry to get involved the trade program.

For more info and to register to attend a workshop visit businessesvents.australia.com.

MEANWHILE Business Events Australia, a major sponsor of the Pacific Area Incentives and Conferences Expo in Auckland on 13 November, has reported that 36 Australian sellers will be exhibiting at the event.

Business Events Australia will focus on showcasing the website businessesvents.australia.com, alongside a range of destination itineraries created specifically for the New Zealand conference, meetings and incentive market.

Flames engulf The Naviti



THE news that The Naviti Resort on Fiji's Coral Coast caught fire last Thursday afternoon, destroying the central building, the main lounge, restaurants, shops and offices, will come as a shock to many Fiji holiday makers and those who have attended conferences at the four star resort.

Midway between Nadi's International Airport and Fiji's Capital, Suva, The Naviti is a favourite with the Australian and New Zealand small conference market with its venue for up to 150 delegates.

Word from Fiji's National Fire Authority ceo, John O'Connor said they managed to save the accommodation blocks.

Naviti director, Tammie Tam said no one was hurt and "all

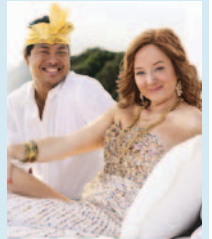
procedures were meticulously followed."

Guests and staff were safely evacuated to the Naviti's nearby sister property, the Warwick Fiji Resort, with the fire apparently starting in the kids club.

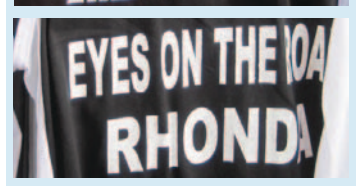
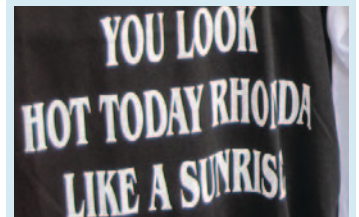
Large parts of the resort were untouched, and the Naviti is still accepting guests some of whom may be relocated to the Warwick.



AAMI car insurance and their ad agency must be jumping for joy since their Rhonda and Ketut ad (right) featuring a sunburnt Australian woman and a Balinese bar attendant went viral, not only in the social media but also in Bali.



On a recent trip **BEN** wasn't able to track down the spunky Ketut, but we did spot these T-shirts in a Seminyak market.



Wake up to the Outrigger

OUTRIGGER Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast, with conference facilities for up to 600 delegates and vehicle access (making it ideal for trade shows, product launches and large performances), is offering a complimentary one hour group wake up workout.

The move will see *Life's a Gym* international wellness specialists provide a set of exercises that are easy to do anywhere, anytime – with great results.

Special conference rates from \$155 per night include breakfast and there's also a day delegate

package at \$58 per person with free internet connection for the event secretariat.

This special must be booked before 31 December for a conference held before 31 December 2013 with over 50 delegates and a minimum 50 room nights booked.

It includes city view twin rooms with buffet breakfast and is per room, per night, twin share.



WIN a luxury retreat to Spicers Peak Lodge



This week **Business Events News** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a luxury retreat to **Spicers Peak Lodge**.

Located 2 hours south-west of Brisbane, this all-inclusive mountain lodge retreat offers a unique blend of luxurious accommodation, fine food and wine, active outdoor experiences in a spectacular wilderness region of Australia.

The prize includes 2 nights accommodation, 3 course lunch, 7 course degustation dinner each night with matched wines, breakfast each morning, selected beverages throughout the stay for two people.

To win tell us in 25 words or less what is unique about Spicers Peak Lodge.

Email spicers@businessesventsnews.com.au

HINT! www.spicersgroup.com.au

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investigation of the matters canvassed.

MEA elects new board

A new Board of Directors was
elected at MEA's AGM last week.

They are: **Simon Baggs**, chair
of the board, Lateral Event
Management; **Anne Jamieson**,
vice chair, Melbourne Convention
& Exhibition Centre; **Phil Holmes**,
Treasurer, MCI Australia; **Dianna
Crebbin**, board director, DC
Conferences; and **Susan Ryman-
Kiernan**, board director, Wise
Connections.

Simon Baggs paid tribute to
retiring chair **Rhona Walker**
AFMEA saying that "she is one of
the industry's most colourful &
popular figures who has led MEA
through big changes over the last
four years.

"Rhona leaves MEA in a very
strong position with healthy
membership, solid finances, a
bright future as a Registered
Training Organisation and
dynamic plans for the future.

"At tough times like these,
organisations working in the
meetings & events industry need
support from their association
more than ever before.

"MEA is in great shape to
support its members, provide a
voice for the industry and be a
catalyst for positive change".

BCEC hosts three national conferences

THE National Housing
Conference, co-hosted by the
Queensland Government and the
Australian Housing and Urban
Research Institute was held last
week at the Brisbane Convention
& Exhibition Centre (BCEC).

The Conference was one of
three national conferences held
at the Centre during the week
attracting 2,600 delegates and
generating an estimated \$4m into
the Brisbane economy.

Queensland Minister for
Housing and Public Works, Dr
Bruce Flegg said the industry
had undergone major changes
since the last conference in 2009
and between 2008 and 2011,
the demand for social housing in
Queensland rose by 50%.

The three day conference
attended by more than 750
delegates, saw 95 experts
including Magnus Hammer,
secretary general, International
Union of Tenants from Sweden
and Valerie White, senior
director, Standard and Poor's
Rating Services from the United
States who spoke on a broad
range of topics.

Conference in Jordan



JORDAN'S King Hussein
Bin Talal Convention Centre
managed by Hilton has been
chosen as the destination for the
32nd International Academy of
Pathology Conference in 2018.

The 2018 conference is expected
to attract 5000 international
delegates.

Dr. Abdel Razzaq Arabiyat,
Managing Director of Jordan
Tourism Board, stated that this
conference will not only place
Jordan as a first choice MICE
destination with international
audiences but is also likely to
have a major impact on the local
economy.



Getting to Know: Auckland Harbour & Waiheke Island

by: Jill Varley

THERE are many places to conference and hold an event in Auckland, a city defined by its harbourside location with everything needed for a business event and fun leisure activities. Event and conference venues include two signature buildings on Queen's Wharf, *Shed 10*, a former cargo shed given a \$4m makeover in time for the Rugby World Cup and *The Cloud*. The 180m long Cloud can accommodate up to 5000 people, while in the reinvigorated Wynyard Quarter, *The Viaduct* has seating for up to 1,200 guests. Then, in a special maritime location with its dramatic water filled lobby and chic interiors, the *Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour* faces the waters of the Waitemata Basin.

Here the Sofitel's luxury appointed bedrooms and suites have private balconies and floor to ceiling windows, while holding a cocktail party in their stylish Penthouse or chartering a boat for a harbour cruise, is as close as the wharf outside. The harbour foreshores are dotted with an endless array of bars, restaurants and cafes. Worth checking out is Britomart, with its heritage buildings and funky bars. Here in a grand Victorian building is *Everybody's* where executive chef Sean Marshall has designed a well-crafted menu. It would be remiss on a visit to Auckland not to go to Waiheke Island (think going to Manly on the ferry).

A picturesque blend of farmland, beaches, vineyards and olive groves, it is home to some of NZ's best red wines. You can get to Waiheke by Fullers Ferry and be met at the Waiheke wharf by Ananda Tours who will show you the best the island has to offer. Or for a splendid arrival or departure take a helicopter over Waiheke and Waiheke Harbour. Stop off at Rangihoa olive farm to see how the traditional Tuscan style of processing of the fruit is picked, pressed and bottled. Quaff wine at the 17 hectare Obsidian vineyard on the island's northern shores where they make great Bordeaux-style reds. A private visit to the Tuscan pile of Gabriella Lewez – one of NZ's favourite artists – and you'll be forgiven for thinking you have landed in the midst of the Mediterranean; her artwork is sold worldwide and interested buyers can even stay in her self-contained cottage.

One of Waiheke's best boutique wineries, Mudbrick Vineyard, with a Provence-style eatery has a conference room that can accommodate 40 people and a delightful light filled restaurant, with seating from 2 to 200 guests. Back in Auckland on Saturday, the French-style Farmers Market in Parnell is not only a great place to enjoy breakfast but to buy French products, breads, cheeses and pastries.

