



## Well hung!

THE inaugural Brisbane Truck show, which attracted more than 34,000 visitors and was the biggest event ever, occupying the entire Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, has been immortalised by Brisbane artist Donna Gibb.



The large artwork, a colourful print on canvas was presented to Centre gm Bob O'Keeffe by Commercial Vehicle Industry Association of Queensland ceo Brett Wright.

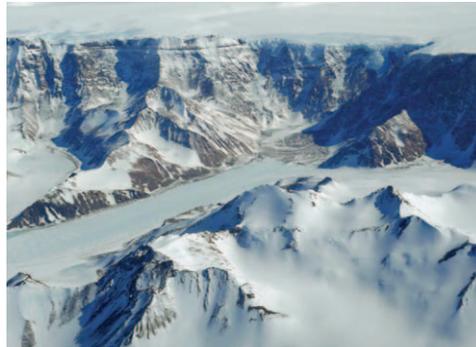
Depicting every aspect of the Truck Show with its big rigs, trailers and tankers, the event returns to the Centre in May 2013 and Brett Wright says it will be bigger and better than ever with bookings already rolling in - Jill.



ABOVE: Centre gm Bob O'Keeffe keeps on truckin' with CVIAQ ceo Brett Wright.

## Ice is nice for Christmas

A reward or Christmas gift doesn't get much better than a flight to Antarctica, in fact groups have been known to conference during the flight as it makes its way to this, the world's coldest, driest, windiest and most remote continent.



Chartered by Croydon Travel and operated by Qantas, the Antarctica Sightseeing Flights are made in the comfort of a Boeing 747-400, with a typical flight offering unparalleled views of icebergs, coastal cliffs, majestic glaciers and spectacular mountain ranges, most of which have never been visited by humans.

These day trips from Australia allow travellers to view the magnificent diversity of the continent as they fly over Antarctica but do not land, so no special gear is needed and no passport is required.

This summer six flights are scheduled from Australia, compared with the three last

year and flights are filling fast, with one from Perth already fully booked.

Seats remain available on the five other services – Adelaide on 20 January, Perth on 27 January, Sydney on 10 February, Melbourne on 17 February, and a limited number aboard the signature New Year's Eve departure from Melbourne.

Phil Asker, founder and director of Antarctica Sightseeing Flights, said, "Seeing Antarctica is a lifelong dream for many people, but the cost of a cruise and the length of time spent getting there means the closest that most will ever come to seeing the world's last great wilderness area is via the media," he said.

Prices range from \$1199 for Economy Class Centre to \$6999 for Ice Class.

All seat categories include full international catering and bar service.

Visit [www.antarcticaflights.com.au](http://www.antarcticaflights.com.au) or call 1800 633 449 for further information or to book.

## Byron's special rate



IF you need a suggestion for a special mid week event, the Byron at Byron is offering rates that start from \$295 per night.

Better be quick because it's only available until 14 December.

To enquire, email [reservations@thebyronatbyron.com.au](mailto:reservations@thebyronatbyron.com.au).

## Qantas increases fares by 3%



IN breaking news from Qantas, it has been confirmed that international fares from Australia will be increased by "around 3%", effective 21 November.

In an industry update Qantas said the fare boost would impact "most" International Economy, Premium Economy, Business and First class core tariff fares.

Qantas said any existing booking, including published, retail net, private and wholesale, must be ticketed on or before 20 Nov to avoid the surcharge.

"Qantas will continue to closely monitor pricing in each market. As a result, some price increases may be more," Qantas warned.

However the carrier still has a range of specials including its current Global Sale which has been extended until next Monday with deals across the globe.

## Big Splash for groups

FOR exclusive hire after 5.30pm, Rotorua's Rainbow Springs has added a new dimension to its conference offering by opening The Big Splash water ride at night.

Kat Hicks, Rainbow Springs event manager says, "We've just installed a series of spotlights and floodlights throughout the ride which lights up the whole experience in the dark."

The Big Splash water ride takes riders on a nine-minute narrated journey through time and the ecological evolution of New Zealand featuring state-of-the-art animation bringing to life dinosaurs, moa and the haast eagle, and an adrenalin-boosting plunge at the end.

In addition, the park has some unique function spaces for cocktail parties and a lawn big enough to accommodate a marquee.

## 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@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:spicers@businesseventsnews.com.au)

HINT! [www.spicersgroup.com.au](http://www.spicersgroup.com.au)

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## Wild for Brown Brothers

**EVENT** Planet, who produce a wide range of events for businesses and organisations in the corporate, private and government sectors recently teamed up with wine maker Brown Brothers, who have been growing grapes and making wine at Milawa in North East Victoria since 1889.



They collaborated at the World Chef Showcase in Sydney to create an exciting 'where the wild things are' theme. The creative theme which included a 'gypsy' caravan inspired by the 'wild things' book together with other mythical elements, created curiosity and interest in the Brown Brothers brand with guests stopping to sip on Prosecco and other Brown Brothers wines.

Joining in the fun was food and wine critics, Terry Durack and Guy Griffin, celebrity chef Karen Martini and TV presenter, Paul Mercurio.

## Moreton Hire takes steps

IT was a red-carpet event when Moreton Hire partnered with George P. Johnson to transform Sydney Harbour's Fleet Steps for a gala event recently.



The dinner attended by 350 guests was the finale to a weeklong convention that included a delegate conference, exhibition and harbour cruise, concluding with the dinner.

Stealing the show at the sit down dinner was Moreton Hire's popular Arcum curved marquee, styled using Moreton's new range of premium furniture including Pedrali Pasha Chairs with tables set with fine, signature linen and crystal Reidel glassware.

Commercial manager at Moreton Hire, Tim Coupland, said "The Arcum is the ultimate in space



functionality, and the curved roof combined with solid or glass walls offering a seamless front and tight finish."

Moreton's national events manager Ian Hoath, said their team worked meticulously to ensure no detail was overlooked.

"We are committed to the constant improvement of our product and service for our client; with the seamless delivery of premium events in Australia our utmost priority."

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## EEAA awards finalists



WITH an 8% increase in the Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia's (EEAA) 2012 Awards for Excellence entries, the finalists have now been announced.

Judges found a strong field of entrants across the categories especially in best show and marketing related categories.

EEAA general manager, Joyce DiMascio, said the team morale, reputation and brand boosting value of winning the EEAA Excellence Awards continues to drive the popularity of the awards.

"Each category is assessed separately by three judges with the scores aggregated to select the final winner," DiMascio said.

"We congratulate the finalists and look forward to the winner announcements at our gala dinner at which we will also be celebrating 20 years since the Association was founded."

The Richard Geddes Young Achiever category attracted a strong field of impressive young people with outstanding capability in event operations; show management, social media and marketing.

As the Association is so committed to promoting and inspiring young talent in the industry all the Richard Geddes nominees will be honoured during the awards ceremony.

For more information on the EEAA 2012 Awards for Excellence finalists and booking details see [www.eeaa.com.au](http://www.eeaa.com.au).

MEANWHILE registrations are now open for the EEAA 2012 annual conference being held in Melbourne on 3-4 December.

The 2012 EEAA Annual Conference will be followed by the 2012 Awards for Excellence to be held at National Gallery of Victoria, (NGV International).



A recent survey conducted by "the world's only travel dating website," MissTravel.com, has placed Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport at the top of its list of America's Best Airports to Get Stuck In.

Website members based their reasoning on factors such as availability of extra amenities, cleanliness, entertainment, and food/shopping selection.

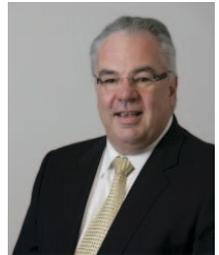
The site breaks men and women into 'generous' and 'attractive' categories.

"Generous" people are generally well-off solo travellers who are willing to pay the website for an 'attractive' man or woman to accompany them.

## Gary Daly ETF's new chief

**WELL-KNOWN**

general manager of sales for Luna Park, Sydney, Gary Daly, is to



join Exhibitions and Trade Fairs (ETF) in the role of managing director.

Taking over from Jodie Richmond effective from next month, Daly joins the ETF team with an extensive background in business, commencing in media and advertising.

His thorough understanding of the meetings and events industry is strengthened by his role at Luna Park, during which time he assisted in positioning the business, transforming it into a complete entertainment precinct.

Jodie Richmond who has been at ETF's helm for the past two years, increasing the breadth of the portfolio of shows owned and managed and introducing brand new events whilst strengthening shows already in operation, will work alongside Daly as he transitions into the role.



# business events news

9th November 2012

## O! for a bubbly

**AS** Christmas fast approaches Oventions, one of the most respected and established Speakers Bureaux in Australia, with access to speakers anywhere in the world, is giving away the presents.

To get in on the act, book a speaker for any event to be held before Christmas and they'll send you a bottle of bubbly.  
Email [info@ovations.com.au](mailto:info@ovations.com.au).

## EIBTM sells out Tech Village

**ORGANISERS** of the European Incentive, Business Travel and Meetings Exhibition (EIBTM) have announced that the technology pavilion is now fully booked with more than 70 exhibitors, the most since the Technology Village was launched in 2003.

Seventeen of the companies are first-time exhibitors at the show which takes place 27-29 November in Barcelona, Spain.

Accompanying the exhibition will be an education stream devoted to technology topics, with more than 30 sessions.

Find out more online at [www.eibtm.com/techsessions](http://www.eibtm.com/techsessions).

## 30% off Xmas special

**THE** A List Guide – The A-Z voice for organising events, reports a special offer of 30% off Christmas



venue hire at Byron Kennedy Hall.

The Hall, located in the Entertainment Quarter precinct, next to Sydney's Hordern Pavilion, is a heritage listed building that exudes 1920's charm and style.

It features a large dome and pillars, exquisite Jarrah wooden floors, a distinctive bell tower, an anteroom and covered veranda.

With the capacity for a cocktail function of 100 - 1,100 or a sit down function of 100 – 550, it is an ideal venue for high-fashion warehouse sales, banquets, auctions, product launches, parties, weddings and a myriad of other special events.

Functions must be held by 24 December to qualify for the special offer - for more information on the events hotspot email [entertainmentquarter\\_reception@gfsgam.com](mailto:entertainmentquarter_reception@gfsgam.com).

## AHL's rookie gm of the year

**STEVEN** Oakley has been named AHL's Rookie gm of the Year at the hotel group's bi-annual conference held on the Gold Coast recently.

Oakley, the new general manager of QT Resort Port Douglas and until recently general manager of Rydges Esplanade Resort in Cairns, was presented with the coveted award by the group general manager of Rydges Hotels and Resorts, Norman Arundel, who said Steven should feel proud as this is a huge feather in his cap and a testament to the hard work and commitment of his team at Rydges Esplanade.



## Scoot-ing into the North Coast



**WITH** Scoot, Singapore's newest low-cost airline, flying directly into Gold Coast Airport as well as Sydney International Airport, the North Coast Destination Network (NCDN) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the airline to develop other visitor markets from Asia.

"The agreement is a framework to meet our shared interest in growing international visitor expenditure on the North Coast of NSW and encourage use of the direct air services of Scoot through cooperative marketing," said North Coast Destination Network international marketing spokesperson Russell Mills.

Commenting on the agreement, Campbell Wilson, Scoot's ceo said "The NSW North Coast has much to offer visitors, with places like Byron Bay, Coffs Harbour and Port Stephens offering an authentic experience of regional Australia.

"The area's laid back lifestyle, natural beauty, fabulous food and friendliness is a perfect match for Scoot, which seeks to offer fun, friendliness and a dash of what we call Scootitude.

"With our great value airfares being marketed around Asia, and our operations direct from Singapore into both Sydney and the Gold Coast, this means it's never been more affordable, or accessible to get to the North Coast of NSW."

"Gold Coast Airport is delighted to work with tourism bodies in New South Wales as we know that the growing number of passengers coming through our airport from overseas will love all that the North Coast NSW has to offer," said Michael Curtis, OOL international business development manager.



**LOS** Angeles is the entertainment capital of the world, filled with the lifestyle playgrounds and landmark attractions of the famous, 75 miles of sunny coastline, acclaimed dining, trend-setting nightlife and fashion scenes, and an array of cultural attractions second to none.

There are endless options for meetings of any size and budget, each offering a version of LA's famed glitz and glamour.

Adding to LA's unique vibe, the destination is easy and affordable for delegates to get to Los Angeles since the airport, LAX, is serviced by so many airlines.

And hotel accommodations range from trendy through to historic right through to value.

To help organisers navigate the options and find the perfect fit for their function, LA Tourism has a newly formed team of regional hotel sales directors to complement the national sales directors & act as liaisons to each of LA's specific neighborhoods - the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and the Beach Cities, Downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood, and the Westside.

LA Tourism is seeing more short term bookings, a greater desire for assistance in marketing the destination to meeting attendees and a greater reliance on the LA Tourism staff to identify venues and vendors to work with.

In 2013 the LA Tourism and Convention Board will continue to build its brand awareness as a global meetings destination.

Delegates won't be without an opportunity to explore the city with plenty of activities available including behind-the-scenes movie studio tours and celebrity home tours; fabulous beaches and hundreds of miles of scenic hiking and biking paths; some of the world's top cultural attractions at a variety of art, history and science museums; and an international and acclaimed dining scene.

And don't forget California-style shopping options from couture to vintage; and vibrant nightlife ranging from intimate clubs to some of the world's most famous music venues.

For more info visit - [www.discoverlosangeles.com](http://www.discoverlosangeles.com).

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