



## Get real!

**MORE** than a billion people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water, while in Australia we have the luxury of quality tap water.

Despite this we spend more than half a billion dollars a year on bottled water.

Lady Elliot Island is doing something about reducing their environmental waste by becoming the first island on the Great Barrier Reef to eliminate selling bottled water at the resort.

Reusable bottles will be available to guests that can be filled from drinking fountains or from taps in their rooms.

Sonya Mroz, sales and marketing executive of Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort said, "In 2009-10, approximately 373 million water bottles ended up as waste in Australia alone.

"If we can encourage our guests to live by the mantra of refill not landfill and engage with them to go water bottle free, hopefully this will spread to other communities around Australia and the World."

If you have a story you want to share with our readers - email [jill@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:jill@businesseventsnews.com.au)



## Oversupply of Bali hotels

**WITH** hotel development at an all time high and traffic jams in Bali reminiscent of those once experienced in Bangkok, and the island now twice as popular as it was a decade ago, The Bali Chapter of the Indonesian Association of Tourism (GIPI-Bali) said that new hotel projects were not needed, according to Bali News Update.

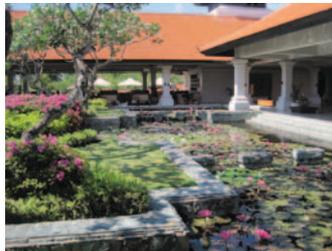
GIPI-Bali chairman, Ida Bagus Ngurah Wijaya told *Bisnis Bali*, "What we must do is increase the selling price of a room, not add more rooms by building new hotels.

His view is in keeping with projections made by property consultants Knight Frank that by 2014 Bali will have a total of 10,466 rooms, including 60 projects now



under construction in Bali.

Wijaya, who is also a hotel owner, bemoaned the excessive supply of hotel rooms in Bali, said consideration must be given to stop granting permits for new hotels, especially in areas that are already filled with accommodation causing strain on the and the surrounding natural environment.



Meanwhile, the executive director of the Bali Hotels Association (BHA), Djinaldi Gosana, discounted the grim projections contained in the Knight Frank report, saying that the coming drop in prices need not necessarily become a reality.

## Starwood bonus

**BOOK** an event by December at any participating hotel in Asia Pacific and receive 5% off Master Account; signing bonus of 1,000 Starpoints per 10 room nights and any of two of the following value adds – Double Starpoints with no limits, double your complimentary room allocation, complimentary high-speed internet in meeting rooms, double room upgrade allocation for every 25 rooms, double your complimentary suits upgrades complimentary welcome reception, selected beverage and canapés for one hour, or complimentary LCD in main meeting room - plus other benefits.

Valid for meetings held between now and end of December 2013.

## Brisbane Four Points

**STARWOOD** Hotels and Resorts Worldwide this morning announced the 2014 debut of its Four Points brand in Brisbane.

The newbuild hotel will comprise 264 rooms at 99-103 Mary Street, as part of a new 32 storey tower.

Starwood's Matthew Fry said the move "marks a significant chapter in the future of the brand in Australia," with the property being the fourth Four Points hotel in the country.

## Incoming passenger changes

A quicker and more convenient quarantine, biosecurity clearance is assured when you arrive in Australia now that low-risk products such as commercially prepared and packaged lollies, chips and chocolates need not be declared.

The changes, which have been made on the Incoming Passenger Card, are a result of the latest scientific advice that shows such food poses a lower risk.

Biosecurity officers will now focus on goods such as raw meats, live plants, seeds and fresh fruit and vegetables, which have a "much greater potential to bring diseases and pests to Australia," Chapman said.

## Accor's 200th hotel in Australia

**ACCOR** this morning announced its 200th Australian property, with a new management contract for the Radisson Resort Gold Coast, which will be rebranded as Mercure Gold Coast from 18 Dec.

Accor said the popular resort and conference centre is in easy driving distance of the region's beaches and just over 20 min from Gold Coast Airport.

Facilities include ten versatile conference rooms and three outdoor venues, and the mid-market addition complements Accor's other Gold Coast properties which include the upmarket Sofitel and Sea Temple.

## Senior Event Manager

- ▶ Sydney based position
- ▶ International & domestic events
- ▶ High end clientele



Ben Carnegie

This well respected events agency is seeking a Senior Events Manager to join their team. Focusing on the international side of the business for conferencing, meetings and incentives. Manage events from pitch/concept through to post event evaluations. Salary paid on experience.

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# Sydney Harbour Marriott's new conference facilities



**SYDNEY** Harbour Marriott at Circular Quay showcased their new conference facilities on Monday night after a massive, just completed \$22 million dollar refurbishment of the hotel.

More than 150 corporate planners and conference clients were invited to see the new meeting rooms complete with all new carpets, tables, chairs and soft furnishings.

Clients saw room set-ups that the hotel can organise, as well as special "themed breaks" that feature a New York, Italian, London, even an ice-cream or candy-store theme.

"We've got rid of the clutter

and have gone for a minimalistic look so that our clients can utilise rooms any way they want to," said Helen Radic, director of sales for the Marriott.

"While we upgraded our public areas and our 563 rooms, our conference offerings weren't up to par, there was a deal disconnect between the two products, but that's all changed as of now," added Radic.

**Pictured** above from left are: Mary Goldsack, ID Events; Jennifer Brown, general manager Sydney Harbour Marriott; Gary Daly, Luna Park; Helen Radic, Sydney Harbour Marriott and Jill Owen, Informa.

## Total eclipse of the heart

**THOUSANDS** of eclipse chasers, local people and tourists from all over the world have flocked to Far North Queensland to experience Australia's first total solar eclipse in years.

Despite early cloud concerns they weren't disappointed, with the moon completely covering the sun early this morning and all of nature standing in silent awe.



Tourism operators across FNQ are making the most of the huge influx which is breathing life into the local industry, with Drive North Queensland coordinator Russell Boswell saying, "There is so much happening across the region from festivals to outdoor concerts."

The Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas has even organised a star-studded event with celebrities Julia Morris and Karise Eden of *The Voice* for the ultimate countdown to the Eclipse 2012.

For more info on the eclipse visit [www.eclipse Cairns.com](http://www.eclipse Cairns.com).

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## SAA strengthens Oz business

**TRACY** Thomas, who has a longstanding career in the airline industry including being a "launch team member" of Virgin Blue, has been appointed by South African Airways (SAA) as sales manager – corporate, groups and MICE markets, strengthening its Australian management team.

According to SAA's country head for Australasia, Tim Clyde-Smith, Thomas' appointment comes at a significant time for the airline.

"With our code-share agreement with Qantas being extended until the end of 2014 (subject to final IASC and South African Government approval) we can work with more certainty with our travel industry partners and loyal passengers and continue to grow our recreational, business and MICE traffic to Africa.

"Tracy's key responsibilities will include planning, developing and implementing sales strategies within these three market segments to maximize ROI, building market share nationally and developing the business," Clyde-Smith said.

## Abu Dhabi's new luxe venue

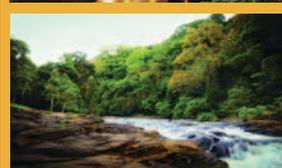
**SAADIYAT**, a large, low-lying island 500 metres off the coast of Abu Dhabi has a deluxe new venue - The Monte-Carlo Beach Club.

Not only does the club boast world-class conference facilities with a meeting capacity able to handle anywhere between 20-200 people, it also plays host to a range of luxurious relaxation areas, including Le Deck, an all day dining restaurant, Bubbles Bar, the Library Lounge, the Sea Lounge, a gym and studio, the Kids' Club, spa treatment rooms, jacuzzi, plunge pool and steam rooms.

With its outlook over the pristine beaches and turquoise Arabian waters, the Monte Carlo Beach Club provides an indulgent way to combine productivity with premium luxury.



## WIN a luxury retreat to Spicers Tamarind Retreat



This week **Business Events News** and **Spicers** have teamed up again this time to give one lucky reader the chance to win a luxury stay, at **Spicers Tamarind Retreat**.

Set next to Gardners Falls in a stunning rainforest in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, Spicers Tamarind Retreat offers an intimately unique experience where Thai style meets the tranquility of the Australian bush.

The prize includes a two night midweek stay in a One Bedroom Pavilion at Spicers Tamarind Retreat plus breakfast for two people.

**To win tell us in 25 words or less what kind of event you would host at Spicers Tamarind Retreat?**

Email [spicers@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:spicers@businesseventsnews.com.au)

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# business events news

14th November 2012



## crumbs!

**PLANS** for mining magnate Clive Palmer's rollout of details for his *Titanic II* project, about which he famously said that the cruise ship should be reserved for those travelling in first class and pensioners banned entirely, have been delayed out of respect, he says, for the victims of superstorm Sandy that devastated America's east coast.

As part of the ship's unveiling, a series of five highbrow events which were to have taken place in London, New York, Boston and Halifax next month, will now take place in late February.

## Ensuring a SANE success

**WHEN** the SANE Event Group organised the 2011 and 2012 Irrigation Australia Conference and Tradeshow (IAL 2012) in Adelaide, the biggest irrigation event in the southern hemisphere, they employed Zadro Communications to provide the management of the public relations.

This included the social media and copywriting for their collateral and digital media and implementing these strategies to ensure the conference was a success.

The objectives of the campaign were to raise the profile of IAL within government and media, increase IAL membership within the irrigation industry (including promotion of the benefits of membership), bring together all sectors of the irrigation industry to exchange technical ideas, and present research and case studies.

It also aimed to provide attendees with the opportunity to meet industry leaders and network with colleagues and attract attendees to the 2011 conference and 800 attendees to the 2012 conference.

For more information visit [zadrocommunications.com.au](http://zadrocommunications.com.au).

## PAICE a plenty

**YESTERDAY**, almost forty Australian tourism operators made their mark at the annual Pacific Area Incentives and Conference Expo (PAICE 2012) at SKYCITY Auckland.

NZ is the largest business events market for Australia, with 44,760 convention and conference visitors (an increase of 3% year-on-year) and 212,380 business arrivals (up 2% y-o-y) for the year ending September 2012.

This is the fifth consecutive year Tourism Australia's specialist business event team, Business Events Australia, has been a major sponsor of the event helping to further grow the corporate meeting and incentive market from NZ to Australia.

Penny Lion, head of Business Events Australia, said Australia's commitment to the New Zealand business events market is evidenced by the number of operators exhibiting at the show for the first time.

"PAICE is an important opportunity for the Australian industry to meet and do business with New Zealanders and we are delighted to have a strong contingent of Australian businesses participating in the event this year," Lion said.

"We have Qantas Airways, Daydream Island Resort & Spa, BridgeClimb Sydney and Canberra Convention Bureau amongst the 36 Australian sellers making the trip across the Tasman to do business with the Kiwis."

## Pulling into London

**ENTERING** the market as London's newest upscale hotel brand, Accor has launched its first Pullman hotel in the UK.

Just three minutes from the Eurostar terminal at St Pancras in London, the 312 bedroom hotel - formerly a Novotel - offers panoramic views of the skyline.

Its close proximity to both St Pancras and Kings Cross stations provides easy access to numerous locations around London, the UK and the European Continent.

# Bringing Sunshine to NZ

**LAST** year they conferenced on board a P&O cruise ship and last week, in a major coup for Sunshine Coast Tourism, Flight Centre New Zealand chose the region for their annual event, a three-day Flight Centre New Zealand Travel Brokers conference.

Conference organiser, Jude Russell, said it has been more than ten years since some of the consultants have been in the region.

"The Sunshine Coast is becoming more well-known and it felt like the perfect opportunity for our consultants to familiarise themselves with this part of the world.

"I think we've focused a lot of our attention on the Gold Coast in the past, but I think that's going to change after this trip," Russell said.

The thirty-four senior travel consultants spent one day participating in marketing and industry workshops with the opportunity to explore the Sunshine Coast over the weekend thanks to a tour organised by Sunshine Coast Destination Limited (SCDL).

"We lined up a full day of activities including a stop at the Eumundi Markets, lunch in Montville and an afternoon of leisure at the beach," said Steve Cooper ceo of SCDL.

The delegates stayed at Centrepoint Apartments Caloundra - courtesy of the owner Murray East, who said, "We were delighted to be providing accommodation for the 34 conference attendees.

"Some of these consultants have worked in the industry for more than 15 years and have a very large client base so I see this as an amazing opportunity to showcase my hotel, Caloundra and the rest of the Sunshine Coast region."

**Pictured** above during the



conference from left are: Tracy Gray, Wellington; Tina Arthur, Wellington; Lynaire Monnery, Wellington and Tracey Stephens, Dunedin.

## Outback escape

**AFTER** a highly successful trial of 'The Greatest Escape' tour in 2012, which combined Air Adventure's signature outback air safaris with a 7-night exclusive charter of the luxury vessel 'Great Escape', it has now become a permanent itinerary schedule.

Imagine Barramundi fishing in remote Outback Australia, the Flinders Ranges for a Leo Sayer concert or overnighting at a secluded Bush Camp at Faraway Bay on the Kimberley coast, Western Australia - just a few of the company's diverse and unique group experiences.

Managing director of Air Adventure Australia, John Dyer says, "This unique itinerary includes highlights such as staying on a one-million acre cattle station Home Valley with exclusive use of the lavish Bush Camp at Faraway Bay, where with no road access your closest neighbour is 150km away.

Top this off with a private helicopter ride over the top end whilst on board this impressive vessel.

"There's also an 'Outback to Ocean' tour which shows guests the vast contrast of South Australia's outback to the wild, unspoilt beauty of the Southern Ocean.

"Giving people an authentic outback experience has always been our mission," he said.



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## The Allure of sea conferences

**WITH** conferences at sea becoming an increasingly popular option for organisers, Cruise Holidays International recently held their 2012 Convention on board the world's largest cruise ship, *Allure of the Seas*.

Attending the event held from 28 Oct to 04 November, were approximately 250 Cruise Holidays franchise owners, consultants and top cruise industry executives, together with their Australian representative, Les Farrar, managing director Cruise Holidays Australia.

Participants learned about the latest industry trends and developments and discussed ways to improve their client services generally.

Participants also joined in a 5km walk around Allure's jogging track to raise funds for the MS Society, to which Royal Caribbean also donated \$1000.

A question and answer session with a panel including the captain, cruise director and F&B managers, provided a fascinating insight into operating a ship of this size.

Whilst the Cruise Holidays franchise and home based program is yet to officially launch in Australia Les Farrar said they had already signed three home based agents and a retail store to their network.

**Pictured** at the Royal Caribbean donation presentation are Vicki Freed, senior vice president of



sales Royal Caribbean and Dondra Ritzenthaler, senior vice president of sales Celebrity Cruises to Mark Schiffner, coo of Cruise Holidays and Tom Baumann, president of Travel Leaders Group.

## AIME-ing for success

**AIME** (Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo), the largest annual exhibition in Australia for meetings, incentives, business travel & events, has been named as a finalist in the Exhibition and Event Association of Australia's 2012 Awards for Excellence.

One of four finalists in the category for Best Trade Show over 10,000sqm, they are the only finalist from the MICE industry to make the final cut.

Winners will be announced at a special gala dinner on 4 December, at Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria, which will be attended by AIME'S owner of the Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau.

With an 8% increase in award entries, the EEAA Awards for Excellence judges stated that they found a strong field of entrants especially, in best show and marketing related categories.



## Sitting Pretty

# British Airways First Class

Welcome to *Sitting Pretty*, our regular review of experiences up the front of the plane.

**BUSINESS Events News** was recently fortunate enough to enjoy the luxury of British Airways new First Class cabin, which is being rolled out across its long-haul fleet. BA recently reaffirmed its commitment to Australia and will operate its newest 777-300ER aircraft on the Sydney-London route effective from 30 March 2013.

### THE SEAT

BA's new First suites feature distinctive British styling, created in comfortable leather with a personal wardrobe and unique windows with an electronic blind. **BEN's** flight was on board a BA 747 which has 14 of the suites in the nose. They have all the expected touches - plenty of storage space, an in-seat power supply, large screen on-demand audio and video entertainment, and of course lie fully flat for a very comfortable sleep.

There's also a USB connector for charging of personal electronic devices, and the inflight entertainment system will stream music or movies from iPods onto the 15-inch screen and through the noise-cancelling headsets.

### THE SERVICE

BA's cabin crew offered unobtrusive, impeccable service on **BEN's** flight from Sydney to London. There were only a few customers in First, and our flight attendant obligingly created a delightful bed in a separate seat, complete with a quilted mattress, 400-thread count cotton duvet and full sized pillow.

British Airways provides a very comfortable sleeper suit, and an upmarket amenities kit exclusively designed for BA First by Anya Hindmarch. It's all very English, with the kit featuring a range of well-being products from London pharmacy D.R. Harris & Co.

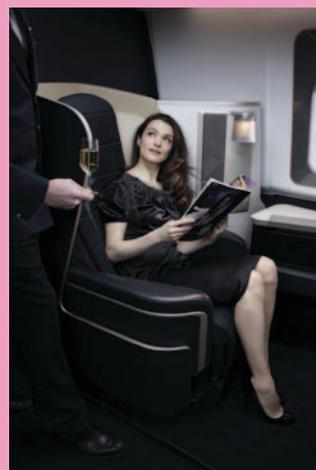
Because **BEN** had to work during one of the sectors, the crew managed meals around our schedule, offering a delicious array of choices exactly when they were needed. The service really was exceptional - as an example, when we asked for a chocolate to have with a cup of coffee we were offered an entire box!

### ON THE GROUND

The First experience isn't just about being in the plane. If you're lucky enough to be travelling via BA's Terminal 5 at London Heathrow Airport, make sure you visit the Arrivals lounge after you land where you can freshen up, have an amazing breakfast and check those emails which came in while you were en route.

First passengers are also able to access a range of Elemis Travel Spa treatments and even have their suit pressed ready for the day.

When you depart again from LHR Terminal 5, make sure you check out the exclusive Concorde Room which offers intimate dining with full waiter service, private cabanas and internet services.



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