



Looking good

NEED a suggestion for a high-end partner program?



Mr Aristotle.com, the boutique travel experience specialist has created a portfolio of unique shopping experiences, both in Australia and overseas.

No two tours are the same, whether it be a champagne high-tea shopping tour in Sydney or a chauffeur-driven expedition through the boutiques of Los Angeles - each session is tailor-made to suit the needs of individual participants.

Packages are designed to meet all budgets with prices starting from just under AU\$150 for two people on an incredible boutique shopping tour in Los Angeles with a professional stylist.

Mr Aristotle.com managing partner and co-founder, Paul Kent, said the tours are ideal for people who value the professional expertise of a personal stylist in creating looks that suit their lifestyle and tastes.

"The growth of online retail has seen the demand for personal stylists increase as individuals want professional advice on how to look good without the hassle of long shopping trips.

"They then use this information to shop at their leisure either online or in-store," he said.

See www.mraristotle.com - Jill.

Inviting Tangalooma

CORPORATE Team Building and Executive Management Retreats should consider the conference and event facilities available in 2013 at Tangalooma Island Resort.

With a huge range of complimentary options to choose from, organisers are choosing to send their clients "offshore" to experience a relaxing getaway from the urban jungles of the day to day business world.

For further information see **page 4** or contact Robyne Wilson at corporate@tangalooma.com.

Macao's mega event

ONE of the world's leading multinational pharmaceutical companies, with an estimated 6,000 attendees from all over China, will conference in Macao.



The move demonstrates the intriguing destination's stunning capacity to host business events.

Announced by the Sands Cotai Macao, the mega event being held in November will utilise both sides of Sands sprawling Cotai Strip development, and occupy around 3,000 rooms per night at a diverse array of accommodation, including The Venetian Macao; Conrad Macao, Cotai Central; Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central and Holiday Inn Macao Cotai Central.

Over the course of four days the delegates will attend event sessions at both The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena and at the meeting space at Sands Cotai Central.

"With Macao making a strong push to become a world centre of tourism and leisure, events of this magnitude, the expansive and comprehensive facilities

provided by Sands China Ltd's integrated resort city on Cotai, event delegates at Sands Cotai Macao will find that they are at the absolute centre of all the best business and leisure offerings available on Cotai" said Brendon Elliott, vice president of sales.

Heron heads to Hilton

RECENTLY relocated from Victoria, where he was associate director – conference, incentive & group sales at Crown Melbourne, Jayson Heron has been appointed as director of sales Hilton Sydney.

Reporting to the director of business development, Heron will be responsible for leading the pro-active sales team whilst developing and implementing sales strategies, to maximise revenue contributions, across all market segments and outlets for the hotel.

Business impediments

CONCERNS around attracting, and winning business events, top the list of impediments to the business travel sector, according to the quarterly Mastercard/TTF industry sentiment survey.

The national, member-funded Tourism and Transport Forum, advocating the public policy interests of the 200 top corporations and institutions in the Australian tourism, transport, aviation and investment sectors, reports the lack of government support to win bids and the ability to attract business events were rated as having a medium to high level impact by 71% and 62% of executives, respectively.

However concerns regarding Australia's reputation as a business events destination are less prevalent than a year ago, down from 73% to 49% of respondents.

Industry worries around a lack of business events space are also down from previous quarters, but remain of high concern for 30% of industry executives.

Mackay adds Salmon

MEGHANN Salmon has joined the Mackay Convention Bureau as business events manager.

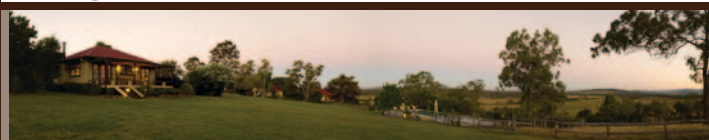


With a background in events, marketing and communications Salmon will work with Lucy Biehl, who has been with the Bureau since January and has a background in tourism and a wealth of local industry knowledge.

With strengths in local business and a growing accommodation offering, Mackay Convention Bureau say they are now poised to promote Mackay nationally as an event destination and develop new business for the region.

See www.mackayregion.com.

WIN a two night stay at Spicers Hidden Vale



This week **Business Events News** and the Spicers Group is offering one reader the chance to win a two night stay at **Spicers Hidden Vale** plus breakfast for two people.



Situated on a 12,000 acre working cattle station just an hour from Brisbane, Spicers Hidden Vale offers a unique country adventure getaway, perfect for small team conferences, executive retreats and incentive programs.

In 25 words or less describe what is so unique about the location of Spicers Hidden Vale

Email: comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

HINT! www.spicersgroup.com.au

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The Texans come to town



A cocktail party at the MCA last Wednesday night welcomed back the team from Dallas/Fort Worth Airport (DFW) to Australia for their fourth sales mission since Qantas commenced non-stop flights to Dallas in May last year.

Ken Buchanan executive vice president revenue management, DFW Airport explained how things are bigger in Texas when he said, "Dallas/Fort Worth sits on 18000 acres of land and you could put the island of Manhattan in the DFW space."

"We are the largest hub for American Airlines in the United States," he said.

Speaking at the function, Maria Patanzis, Qantas Industry Sales

said the route, which is the "longest commercial, non-stop flight operating in the world," had been very successful for Qantas, building up to now operate on a daily basis and providing easy connections to ports across the USA.

Pantazis is pictured above (third from left) with the DFW team.

Brisbane's hotel update

NEXT year the Stamford Plaza Brisbane, is planning a massive refurbishment and redevelopment, which will include all new function spaces and additional accommodation.

Royal International Convention Centre, the largest indoor/outdoor events precinct in Brisbane, will finish their redevelopment in March 2013.

Novotel Brisbane have completed their large scale refurbishment of all aspects of the hotel, including all public spaces and individual rooms creating a chic and glamorous vibe throughout.

Sofitel Brisbane Central is currently undergoing refurbishment of all accommodation rooms, to include all the finest personal luxuries for a memorable stay.

Rydges South Bank, in the heart of the CBD has completed a refurbishment, including new function spaces, pool decking area and new restaurant.

KLCC social connection

TAPPING into the growing interest in the social media arena, and hot on the heels of its wi-fi upgrade of 40MB offered to guests complimentary, the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre's deputy general manager Alan Pryor said, "Get set, scan, go," when the Centre's mobile application went 'live' recently.

The mobile app which also features an interactive locator that provides directions and displays a map to the Centre from the user's location, further expands the Centre's technology spectrum to allow users to access its website from smart phones, anytime, anywhere.

The code will be featured extensively across the Centre's collateral as an additional marketing platform.

Pictured is The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre's QR code.



The Shangri-La's bonus offer

SHANGRI-LA Hotel, The Marina, Cairns has a generous conference and accommodation offer of interest to those considering Cairns between 1 January and 30 April 2013.

Book an event with a minimum of 25 delegates and accommodation rooms per night and enjoy the following benefits at no additional cost as part of your package.

Complimentary broadband and wi-fi, five complimentary room upgrades to superior sea and deluxe marina view rooms, upgraded hot and cold seated lunch included in the daily delegate package.

In addition, the organiser will receive one free night's stay in a luxurious royal suite plus dinner for two in the North Restaurant overlooking the spectacular Marina - valued at over \$1,000.

For details email Darlene at darlene.holdsworth@shangri-la.com.



IT sounds sooooo 1980s, but it appears another generation has discovered the thrill of joining the 'mile high' club.

According to a campaign by leading travel search site Wego, airline passengers are still quite partial to experiencing one of life's ultimate pleasures at 35,000 feet.

The report said that 15% of respondents from a total of 3,000 in the Asia Pacific region told Wego they'd witnessed some form of sexual conduct on an aircraft.

Reports such as the sighting of two people entering a toilet together followed by a lot of banging and squealing, while in-seat; underneath a blanket 'activities' were also very common, especially in a three-seat row.

Other occurrences included a suggestive lipstick message on a toilet mirror meant for the guy in line behind and a couple who hadn't locked the door properly, only to fall out on the floor half naked to the amusement and applause of passengers and crew.



Free conference wi-fi

HAMILTON Island is now offering free wi-fi in all conference rooms across the Whitsundays resort.

Julie Ford, business tourism manager, said: "We recently held focus groups with our clients in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane and one of the 'hot topics' was that Australia seemed to be a bit behind our Asian neighbours as far as free wi-fi goes."

"So we decided to offer it as a value add for all our conference and incentive groups."

"Hopefully this will encourage other Australian venues to do the same," Ford added.



Peppers enchants McCune

IT was some enchanted evening and day when Lisa McCune chose Peppers Broadbeach for media interviews and an overnight stay while on the Gold Coast publicity trail to promote the celebrated Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific*.



After a morning on Gold Coast breakfast radio and interviews with print media by the pool, Lisa was looking forward to hitting the beach on the Peppers surfboard!

"I love the Peppers Rundells Lodge in the Mt Hotham ski fields so it's great to experience a Peppers by the beach - I will be back with the kids!" she said.

The celebrated musical begins its Brisbane season next month on 27 December and

Peppers' sister property, Mantra South Bank, next door to the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), is offering great *South Pacific* deals from \$172 for bed and breakfast per night.

Lisa McCune is *pictured* with Cindy Ullrich from QPAC, which is the venue for the show, Kristylea Jones assistant manager Peppers Broadbeach and Adam McGurk from the South Pacific production team.

Regal's self-check-in

SELF-SERVICE airline check-in kiosks have been installed for guests of Regal Airport Hotel Meeting and Conference Centre.

The two "self check-in" kiosks which are located at Hong Kong International Airport's hotel concierge on the second floor of the hotel, are available for passengers to check-in and print their boarding passes on Air France, Cathay Pacific Airways, China Airlines, Delta, Dragonair, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Mandarin Airlines, Turkish Airlines and United Airlines.

Regal Airport Hotel Associates are also available to assist guests with the process.

"The self check-in system is part of Regal's ongoing efforts to enhance their unique guest experience and to accommodate the worldwide trend of increasing passenger demand for self-help service, reinforcing Regal Airport Hotel with the title as the World's Best Airport Hotel," said John Girard, area general manager and general manager.

BCEC hosts psycho-oncology event

BRISBANE Convention & Exhibition Centre welcomed 1200 of the world's most eminent cancer specialists this week, here to talk about the elimination of cancer as a life threatening disease for future generations at the joint International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) 14th World Congress and 39th Clinical Oncological Society of Australia's (COSA) Annual Scientific Meeting, hosted by Cancer Council Queensland.

BCEC general manager, Bob O'Keeffe said this Congress was one of 23 international conventions hosted by the Centre during 2012 generating \$61 million in economic benefit to Brisbane and Queensland.

"The Centre continues to be a strong player in the international scientific meetings space resulting in significant economic, social and scientific benefits for Brisbane," he said.



Have app, will travel

THROW away that dog-eared accordion-like map.

Forget those inch-thick city guides that are out of date before they're printed.

They are no match for a smartphone or tablet loaded with a few well-chosen travel apps.

Most require an internet connection, so make sure you get a prepaid SIM card from a local phone shop at your destination to avoid international roaming charges.

Here's just a few!

Travel planning

- Triplt (for iPhone, Android, BlackBerry and Windows Phone) - forward emails with flight and hotel confirmations, car hire, even restaurant bookings and concert tickets to your Triplt account and the app transforms them into a single super-organised itinerary.

- Sydney Airport or Melbourne Airport apps – find out flight arrival/departure times and even the departure gate for your flight.

Food

In Singapore: Hungrygowhere (iPhone, Android) – lets you search for restaurants by dish, cuisine and price.

In the US: OpenTable (iPhone, Android) – for a fast, convenient way to reserve a table at your favourite restaurant.

In Britain: TopTable (iPhone,



Android) – similar to Open Table.

Other popular apps based on user ratings and reviews are Yelp, UrbanSpoon and FoodSpotting (iPhone, Android, BlackBerry and Windows Phone) BeanHunter (iPhone, Android) will help find the best coffee in most Australian cities, while the Best Coffee series of apps (iPhone, Android) will help you in London, New York, LA or San Francisco.

Language

iTranslate (iPhone, Android) provides voice translation between more than 50 languages.

Story adapted from an article in the Sydney Morning Herald.



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www.tonystechtalk.com.au.

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