



Glebe Island Expo

NEWS to hand is that five groups have submitted tenders to design, build & operate an interim venue on Glebe Island – the Glebe Island Expo.

The plan is to host exhibitions and trade shows while construction takes place on the Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct (SICEEP) from late 2013 to late 2016.

The bidders are: Infrastructure Glebe Island Consortium, which include: Cox Richardson Architecture Pty Ltd, Singex Venues Pte Ltd; iEDM Pty Ltd; Probuild Construction (Aust) Pty Ltd - Sydney Harbour Expo@ Glebe Island: Pages Equipment Holdings Pty Ltd - GL Events SA - Expertise Events and Renascent Sydney Pty Ltd.

While the successful tenderer will develop detailed plans, the Glebe Island Expo is likely to be constructed as a marquee-style structure.

The successful tenderer is expected to be selected in December 2012, while the Glebe Island Expo is to start operating by late 2013 - Jill.



Meeting Muster triumph

ATTENDANCE at this year's Northern Territory Meetings Muster 2012 roadshow topped last year's inaugural Meetings Muster figures.

Deemed a great success with more than 250 guests attending, the roadshows were held in Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, in late October.

Four two-night trips to Uluru, Darwin, Top End and Alice Springs were won by Bridget Dixon (Australian Lung Foundation - Brisbane), Natasha Dunn (SAPRO - Adelaide), Tina Nguyen (AOT-Melbourne) and Sophie Newsome (Complementary Health Care Council - Canberra).

In Sydney, Deb Saunders (Encore BT), Polly Nampetch (Events with Moore) and Barbara Addison-Weiss (MCI) were the respective winners of Paspaley pearl earrings, an Mbantua Art Gallery painting and a di CROCO "Zara" pouch bag.

Scott Lovett, director of business events for Meetings Muster organiser, the Northern Territory



Convention Bureau (NTCB), said, "This year's Meetings Muster road-show was a huge success and proves that we've got the right formula for these events.

"We're aware that a number of new pieces of business are already at quotation stage for Alice Springs, Darwin and beyond and are expecting many more to develop as follow-up is rolled out," he said.

The roadshow also enabled a generous CSR contribution to be made to one of the Northern Territory's local community-based not-for-profit organisations, children's indigenous drumming group, Drum Atweme.

The NTCB and their 10 industry partners will be providing the group with a donation of \$5,000.

Gold Coast update

BEL Air on Broadbeach has introduced new meeting space and a new Blue Air Café.

The newly opened meeting room and lounge with a relaxed yet functional ambience has large doors facing a private courtyard area.

Boasting free wifi, a board table that seats up to 14 delegates, the room is suitable for small groups, meetings and events.

Bel Air has also opened the Blue Air Café, infused with quintessential 'Aussie' elements and even a complete 'breakfast box' with everything delegates need to prepare a continental breakfast - for details see www.belairbroadbeach.com.au.

MEANWHILE Surfers Paradise's Hotel Grand Chancellor has undergone a transformation, with renovations due for completion in mid-December.

The fresh new look has been rolled out across the lobby with contemporary styling and includes the addition of new signage, a tour desk and a new lobby bar – Hanlan's Bar - www.ghihotels.com/hgc/SurfersParadise/hotels.aspx.

AND O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, Villas and Lost World Spa have expanded their already unique eco-friendly offerings with an adrenalin pumping Night Fox, a 180m zip line lit only by glow sticks and head torches.

Conference sales executive Skye Hastie says, "Almost all of our conferences involve outdoor aspects and I'd estimate that at on average, at least one third of conference time is spent outdoors."

Transfers are available from Brisbane and the Gold Coast and the property also boasts a helicopter landing site - see www.oreillys.com.au.



Jacinta is off to ACTE

CONGRATULATIONS to Jacinta Cox, Meat & Livestock Australia for being the first to correctly answer Friday's question for a ticket to the Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) inaugural Business Travel Education Conference 'Travelution -Evolving Solutions for the Business Travel Community.'

She will be able to attend the educational conference, which takes place at the Sydney Shangri-La Hotel on 5-6 Dec for correctly answering that Virgin Australia is the airline sponsoring ACTE's event.

BEN readers are being offered special pricing for the event by emailing ACTE regional director Andrew Kelly at akelly@acte.org.

WIN a Luxury Spa Weekend at La Sante Medi Spa & Crowne Plaza Norwest



This week **Business Events News** is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a Luxury Spa Weekend for two courtesy of **JC Travel Professionals, La Sante Medi Spa & Crowne Plaza Norwest**.



The prize includes one night's accommodation at the Crowne Plaza Norwest in a balcony room with buffet breakfast and sparkling wine, plus a 1.5 hour couple spa treatment at La Sante Medi Spa, valued at \$700.

To win tell us in 25 words or less why you deserve this Luxury Spa Weekend away?

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Setting the standard for green events



A GROUP of event industry representatives who participated in the development of a recently launched international standard **ISO 20121: Event Sustainability Management Systems**, have recommended that

the international standard be considered for identical adoption as an Australian Standard.

The committee believes that uptake and implementation of ISO 20121 by the domestic event industry will occur as a result of such a move.

"We are seeing many Australian events stand out as leaders in sustainability performance, particularly in the performing arts," says Meegan Jones, from the Sustainable Event Alliance who also represented the Australian committee at several international working group meetings.

"They are addressing the social, environmental and economic impacts and benefits of their events and are not only leading in Australia but the world.

"We hope that this standard is adopted across all sectors of the industry including big sport and business events, with all events considering sustainability issues, impacts and opportunities in their event planning and delivery."

According to Australian committee chair, Giselle Radulovic, who represents Business Events Sydney "Internationally, event organisers are increasingly including social, environmental and economic factors as a key factor in their decision making process.

"Australia's adoption of ISO 20121 shows we are ready and able to deliver on these expectations," she added.

Integral to success is

commitment by the organisation's top management to sustainable development principles, and that the team producing and running the event has skills and knowledge in sustainability and how it can be applied in action for event production.

The implementation of ISO 20121 offers a strategic way to manage sustainability, and is something event organisers can follow systematically to address the issue across the event cycle.

A Melbourne information session will be held this afternoon, with copies of the standard available for purchase through SAI Global.

Committee members have also developed resources to help the industry understand the standard and its implementation - for more information and downloads see greenshootpacific.com/resources.

The Venetian clock

A RECORD one million visitors have been hosted at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo tradeshows and exhibitions in the past 10 months, with more than six MICE events still to come in 2012.

Thrilled at this accomplishment, Gunther Hatt, executive vice president of operations, Venetian Macau Limited said, "With more and more large-scale MICE events coming in to the Cotai Strip and to Cotai Expo, we are making a global name for ourselves as a venue that can handle the largest and most high-end events all under one roof."

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New villas and a new gm in Danang



THE Furama Resort Danang on the beachfront in Central Vietnam, which opened in May this year, now boasts 30 villas, which include six beachfront villas and 24 pool villas.

With uninterrupted access to a white sand beach, the villas are available with three or four bedrooms.

In addition to the Villas, the Furama has welcomed a new general manager, Matthias Wiesemann, who brings with him more than 30 years experience.

He previously held management positions with hotel groups such as Sun International, The Peninsula Group, Westin Hotels & Resorts and Marriott International.

Riva Surya's package

WITH the needs of the business traveller in mind, the Riva Surya Bangkok, a member of SilverNeedle Hospitality's 'SilverNeedle Collection', has released a new business meetings package.

Valid until 31 October, 2013, it is priced at US\$272 in a single room, US\$313 for a twin on the first night and US\$138 for the second.

Also available is a special package for the individual business traveller.

The hotel's riverfront Supapan meeting room has a capacity for meetings of up to 30 delegates theatre style - visit

www.rivasuryabangkok.com.



BIGGER and better in China!

Not to be out done by the Dubai's Burj Khalifa tower at 829.8m, China plans to build the world's tallest skyscraper in just 90 days!

Sky City in Changsha with a final height of 838m, is set to claim the 'mine's bigger than yours title.'

The builders plan to add five stories a day using prefabricated blocks built offsite.

Able to house 17,400 people, included in the building's design are hotels, schools and office space, the whole of which will be able to withstand a magnitude 9.0 earthquake.

ICCA to revitalise -30s

WITH its 2013 theme *Revitalise Your Thinking* and a focus on new approaches and innovative case studies in the meetings industry, the International Congress and Convention Association's (ICCA) annual forum is once again prior to AIME 2013 in Melbourne.

Pitched at career-minded industry people under 30, the forum offers a fast-track learning opportunity over an intensive two days, running 24-25 Feb.

The forum is especially attractive to ICCA members since it is offered at no cost for their staff to attend, thanks to the support of ICCA's education fund, AIME, MCVB and MCEC.

Forum manager, Elizabeth Rich, says the 2013 program has been released and she expects another sell out.

"We leverage off the AIME trade show to develop a quality program using senior industry experts visiting Melbourne.

"It will feature at least four international speakers along with leading Aussie practitioners".

There are limited spaces for non-members, at a cost of \$330.

Full program and registration details can be found on the ICCA website or email Rich on elizabethrich@agenda.net.au.



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New Sydney hotel

THE \$30 million redevelopment of an 1888 building, in the inner-city suburb of Pyrmont, is to be launched as a boutique hotel in March next year.

The announcement made by boutique hotel operator, 8Hotels revealed that the 90 room property, named 1888 after the year the building was erected, will include a 60-seat bar-restaurant called 1888 Eatery and boutique conferencing facilities.

8Hotels' founder and ceo Paul Fischmann said 1888 would have soaring high ceilings, exposed brick walls, huge period windows and a seven-storey, light-filled, internal atrium.

"It will be the most unique hotel in our 20-property collection, but we're expecting it to be one of the most unique, contemporary hotels in Australia," Fischmann said.

Marriott gives thanks



WITH 127 hotels in Australasia, (half of which are in China) and 700 hotels around the world, Marriott International's Avril Northridge thanked industry clients and friends for their support over the past challenging year and welcomed them to their much-anticipated annual Thanksgiving dinner last week.

At the event held at the Public Dining Room on Sydney's Balmoral Beach, Northridge said that Marriott was opening one hotel a month in China.

"When I'm told we have a new hotel opening in a particular town

or city I have never heard of, I ask, "But, how many people live there to support the hotel?"

"And the answer is always X number of millions!"

Pictured at the event from left are: Jane Scribner, Hong Kong Tourist Association; Neeraj Chadha, Marriott Surfers Paradise; Hardy Kilimann, Marriott Int'l; Petula Allan, Virgin Australia; Avril Northridge, Marriott International; Peter Hewlett, Asiana Airlines; Joe McCormack, Flight Centre and Portia Tang, Renaissance Harbour View Hotel, Hong Kong.



Getting to Know: Bali

by: Jill Varley

The road cleared suddenly as we headed to the luxurious Bayan Tree Resort, perched 70 metres above sea level of Bali's southern most peninsula. I asked my driver where had everyone gone and he answered, "In Bali when there are no bikes on the road, then there's a cock-fight going on somewhere!"

Right now, much of central Bali is in the throes of a building frenzy in anticipation of hosting next year's APEC Forum. To begin with, Phase 4 of a \$211 million expansion upgrade to Bali's Ngurah Rai International Airport is expected to be ready well before the APEC conference. Additionally, an 11.4km toll road over the sea is under construction, connecting the airport with Tanjung Bena and the Nusa Dua resort.

The Nusa Dua enclave with its three manned security gates is where the Heads of State will stay at individual hotels, many of which are being upgraded in preparation for the big event. "Australian groups tend to prefer Nusa Dua because of the security and safety aspects, said the Grand Hyatt Bali's public relations manager, Melanie Kristanto, host hotel to many of the dignitaries. Throughout Bali some 10,000 rooms are predicted to become available in 2013, a worrying fact for many hoteliers who marvel at who is going to fill them.

Meanwhile, in the southern most part of Bali, the luxurious Banyan Tree Resort known to have hosted a number of full property buy-outs, target the corporate niche market. "We provide that retreat getaway for both FITs and small corporate groups," explained Ferry Susanty Lee, manager, senior public relations and CSR, "They work well for us."

Similarly, the exclusive Bulgari Bali, located on what was once the hunting grounds of the Balinese royal family and on southern Bali's Bukit peninsula, also hosts smaller groups and incentives. This stylish resort can host up to 150 for a cocktail party and 110-theatre style, in The Pavilion. One of Bali's newest function spaces is the very impressive Taman Bhagawan, a beachfront event venue. Set with beautiful water features and a main lawn that can seat 2250, traditional Javanese teak structures of varying sizes can take up to 650. This is a must see if you are seeking an outdoor event venue in Bali.

Of course, a good event or meeting is nothing without the right people looking after you on the ground. Pacific World, with a strong world network and strength in Bali means that any problems can quickly be solved and back up plans put into action smoothly. Sumadi is Pacific World Bali's meeting & incentives manager, and their go-to person for event organisers. In Australia, they are represented by Destination Management Services DMS.

