



Lombok entices

AFTER two days at the Novotel

Lombok Mandalika Resort with its traditional architecture and wide-sandy beachfront and blue, blue sea it was hard to leave.

What general manager Brian Townsend and his staff at the resort proved to the organisers and delegates at the Australian Society of Travel Writers conference is that they know how to turn on gala events.

A feat that included employing a traditional Rain Stopper to ensure there was no rain at any of the planned events.

There was a cocktail party on the beach hosted by Garuda International with food set out hawker style and entertainment that included a paresean - a ritual fake fight between two warriors with sticks and shields which was an exciting and realistic tournament that looked and sounded like the real thing.

A gala dinner and awards night followed, again on the beach but with table seating, hosted by Visit Indonesia Tourist Office.

It included traditional dancing and a team-building game during which the 90 guests gathered to play what we thought was an instrument called a Uncle but in fact is spelt, Angklung.

Ask for it at your next Lombok/Bali event – it is incredibly musical.

Now **BEN** heads to the Bali Grand Hyatt - details on Wed -Jill.



Pictured at the Novotel Lombok Mandalika Resort from left are: Brian Townsend, GM Novotel Lombok; with Garuda's Franziska Kaestner; Ronald Parsuluan Lumbantoning, GM Garuda Indonesia Western Australia; Clare Waller and Kirk Wong, Garuda Indonesia.

US pavilion for AIME 2013

THE organisers of next year's Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo (AIME) have announced that a new US Pavilion will share dedicated space on the exhibition floor next year.

AIME takes place on 26 and 27 February, 2013 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, with the new US-focused area responding to strong interest in the destination.

Almost half of the hosted buyers at AIME 2012 said they were looking to North America for their conferences and events, with the US the second highest ranked destination at AIME last year.

The new pavilion will become a one-stop-shop for buyers looking to book business in the USA.

Exhibitors already signed up include San Francisco Travel and Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board.

Ibis's room robotics

ACCOR'S pioneering economy brand Ibis, has teamed up with Swedish robotics expert Acne and the creative teams at BETC Digital to assist in the launch of the Ibis Sweet Bed, with a gadget that charts a night's sleep in one of their beds and paints a picture.

A robot connected to the new bedding will use sleep data to reproduce the guest's slumber on canvas, with sensors placed in the topper which is an integral part of the new Ibis Sweet Bed.

Information such as temperature, body movement, sounds, vibrations and other activity is captured by 80 sensors, allowing the robot to translate the guest's night at Ibis into art.

The data is sent to the robot, which is installed in the lobby of the hotel, and the robot creates the artwork 'live' during the night.

Its work is filmed throughout the creation process, and then shared on the brand's Facebook page www.facebook.com/ibis, allowing this technological experience to be shared globally.

Business travel targeted

With almost 50% of AIME Hosted Buyers responsible for organising business travel, the organisers are now actively targeting exhibitors in the business travel industry.

AIME say they will be building on last year's business travel exhibitors which included a number of airlines, hotel chains and corporate travel agencies.

Industry professionals and exhibitors from all over the world will descend on AIME.

Future events experiences

At the forefront of new developments within the industry, AIME is introducing the Future Events Experience - a dedicated section on the show floor where the latest event technologies and innovations will be presented.

This exhibit will also provide a forum to discuss the latest trends and challenges of the industry as well as demonstrating emerging products and technologies.

Hosted buyers

Those interested in attending AIME 2013 are reminded that the Hosted Buyer early bird offer has now closed, but applications to be a hosted buyer can still be made online.

AIME offers Hosted Buyers a dedicated opportunity to attend the Education Program, with a dedicated buyer seminar now taking place on Wednesday morning between 8.45-9.45am.

In addition, all buyers are welcome to attend the Saxton Ultimate Event Experience, combining the finest presenters, production professionals and audio-visual with the experience to take place on Tuesday morning before the start of the show.

New AIME pre tour options have been announced for Hosted Buyers including: Mildura and the Murray River, The Great Ocean Road, Yarra Valley winery tour, and Phillip Island.

Qantas connects GC

YESTERDAY morning Qantas flew its inaugural flight from Sydney to the Gold Coast, starting three daily return services between the two cities on a Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

Qantas Domestic ceo Lyell Strambi said the return to the Gold Coast has resulted in an overwhelming level of support and record sales.

"In the two days after Qantas put this route on sale, we sold an unprecedented 24,000 airfares and we have seen continued strong bookings for both premium leisure and business travellers" he said.

"Subject to regulatory approval, the partnership with Emirates stands to boost inbound tourism, with EK flights feeding directly into the QF domestic network".

WIN a double pass to Dreamworld



This week **BEN** and **Dreamworld** are giving you the chance to win a double pass to Dreamworld theme park.

Dreamworld Events offer a variety of event solutions from offsite dinners to team building activities.

Be the first to email the correct answer to comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

Name the venue you can dine in style with rare & majestic tigers at Dreamworld?

Hint! dreamworld.com.au/events





crumbs!

WORD from the US is that those controversial x-ray body scanners are being removed from major airports and sent to smaller, less busy airports.

In their wake comes newer machines known as millimeter wave scanners, which display a generic cartoon image of a person's body, rather than a detailed body scan.

MEANWHILE, we may have heard of historic toilet buildings being turned into restaurants, now a former morgue is to reopen as a hotel by an Australian businessman.

Complete with autopsy tables and mortuary fridges, cold slabs once used for autopsies could become beds as part of the redevelopment.

The 1950s morgue, on a site which also housed a convict hospital from 1830, served psychiatric patients as well as the wider community before it was closed down 12 years ago.

Owner Haydn Pearce is gradually restoring the buildings in Tasmania's Willow Court precinct, and told *ABC News* that he hoped the hotel would "attract the unusual" and described the dissection table as "our main suite".

Asked whether he thought travellers would actually want to sleep in the new accommodation, he replied: "We're going to find out."

It is hoped that the morgue hotel will open early next year.

What's your idea for AIDS?

THE International AIDS Society (IAS) and AIDS 2014 partners are convening an Asia-Pacific conference in Melbourne, 20-25 July 2014, at which more than 18,000 delegates from all over the world will gather.

In conjunction with the event a "Make your Idea our Logo" competition is being held to select the logo of the 20th International AIDS Conference.

The event is being convened to highlight the issues related to the HIV epidemic in a region with the largest geographic area and population in the world, with varying levels of wealth and a mix of cultures.

For the first time the conference logo, one of the most important tools to promote the meeting, will be selected through this competition specifically addressed to young people - those aged 10-30.

This initiative reflects the conference's basic principle of inclusiveness and it is also meant to raise HIV awareness among youth.

"Young people remain the most vulnerable group to HIV infections due to a number of reasons, including lack of information and education", said Local Co-Chair of AIDS 2014 Professor Sharon Lewin.

"AIDS 2014 will have a robust Youth Program aimed at increasing the participation of young people and the profile of youth issues at the conference.

"As part of these efforts, we think the competition will help to draw young people's attention to the HIV epidemic and to AIDS 2014.

"In past conferences, youth advocacy has played a key role in shaping the HIV agenda.

"By capturing the energy, the passion and the commitment of youth, we are sure the logo will contribute to make AIDS 2014 another milestone in the history of HIV".

More details about the competition are available online at www.aids2014.org, with the winner to travel to Melbourne along with a companion to formally present the logo.

Trending to extreme

IT'S a new craze and its one that seems perfectly suited to team building.

It's river sledding and it's happening at Thredbo's Lake Crackenback Resort & Spa now that the wild flowers are in bloom and the snow is melting.

Participants are wetsuited, complete with booties, gloves, life jacket and helmet and are given a purpose designed raft for running river rapids.

The fully guided two-hour tour starts at the historical gold prospecting site of Thredbo Diggings and cruises down the Thredbo River to the resort.

Lake Crackenback Resort & Spa general manager Scott O'Neile says that no prior rafting experience is required.

"Our tour guide teaches guests everything they need to know including how to read the river which features short bursts of rapids and long stretches of tranquil floating, pushed by the snow melt.

"It really is the most unique way to experience the beauty of the Kosciuszko National Park, from a watery perspective."

River Sled tours cost \$65 and operate daily from November until the end of April.



Hotel Highlight Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea

One is not short of superlatives after having visited the Four Season Resort Maui at Wailea.

As the first ever Four Seasons 'resort' in the world it has a lot to live up to, and it delivers in droves in terms of service, accommodation and facilities.



Its prime location on the crescent-shaped Wailea Beach puts it at the envy of others, while the Palace architecture leaves guests gobsmacked from the moment they arrive.

Set in lush tropical gardens, the resort has 3 pools including an adults-only Serenity Pool with swim-up bar, bubble lounges and luxury cabanas.

The 380 room and suites of the 22yo Hawaiian resort were most recently spruced in 2008, and 16 room & 9 suite options provide plenty of choice - but if you can, go for an ocean front room - you won't regret it.

Complimentary guest activities include multiple daily outrigger canoe rides, yoga, pilates, scuba lessons, snorkelling & the kids club - Kids for All Seasons.

Snorkellers can see turtles and the Hawaiian state fish - the Humuhumunukunukuapuaa.

'The Spa' offers 13 treatment rooms & three ocean-side bales for the ultimate in relaxation.

Guests are also spoilt for choice dining on-site as Ferraro's Bar Ristorante, DUO Steak & Seafood and Spago are all rated in the Top 5 Maui restaurants.

See fourseasons.com/maui.



InterContinental Bali hosts Aussie politicians

DURING the commemorations of the 10th anniversary of the Bali bombing, the InterContinental Bali Resort welcomed an Australian delegation of senior politicians and support colleagues, including Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

"It was indeed a great pleasure to host her Excellency, Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia, former Prime Minister, John Howard and leader of the opposition, Tony Abbott during their stay in Bali.

"We hope that the island of the gods remains a peaceful destination and continues to be a melting pot for travellers from around the world" commented Stephane Duchenne (pictured), the InterContinental Bali Resort resort manager.





business events news

29th October 2012

CONTACT US:

Publisher
Bruce Piper
Editor
Jill Varley
Contributors
Chantel Housler

Advertising:
advertising@businessesnews.com.au
P: 1300 799 220
F: 1300 799 221
PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW, 1710

Business Events News is part of the Travel Daily group of publications which also include: Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly and Pharmacy Daily.

Disclaimer: While every care has been taken in the preparation of

Travel Daily no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. *BEN* takes no responsibility for the opinions of its contributors. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed.

Taking PAICE in Nov

DON'T forget the Pacific Area Incentives & Conferences Expo 2012 (PAICE) is fast approaching and is being held at SKYCITY Auckland Convention Centre in New Zealand on 13 November.

Seminars providing an insight into corporate travel management will feature, with two leaders in their respective fields of travel already confirmed to present.

They are Rachel Harper, regional director of the Global Business Travel Association Australia/ New Zealand, who will present a session titled 'Business travel forecasting'; and Stuart Udy, manager, Expedia Travel Agent Distribution Asia-Pacific, who will lead a session entitled 'Trends in the booking of corporate travel - online tools and travel evolution'.

See www.paiceexpo.co.nz.

Pewter pleasure in Malaysia

DMS Destination Marketing Services recently escorted five conference and incentive planners, to Malaysia, sponsored by Pacific World Asia, Malaysia Airlines, and Tourism Malaysia.

Malaysia's pluralist culture based on its vibrant fusion of Malay, Indian, Chinese and indigenous cultures and customs, exposed the group to multicultural and gastronomic experiences, five star hotels and facilities and its rich biodiversity.

Leading destination management company, Pacific World Asia, developed the program that demonstrated their strength in logistics, professionalism and passion for the destination.

The packed program saw the group venturing into the heart of Kuala Lumpur, being introduced to the Hindu culture at the sacred site of the Batu Caves and were taken on an educational tour through the Royal Selangor



Factory where they met with the granddaughter of the factory's founder and participated in making their own pewter pendants.

The group then arrived in Langkawi to a traditional Malaysian welcome before being taken to the Four Seasons Resort and then on a sail trip on a yacht charter in the Andaman Sea.

Their final evening commenced with a nature trail walk in the Datai Bay rainforest with a famous naturalist guide and ended at the award-winning Gulai House with a Malaysian/Indian family style dinner.



Getting to Know: Queenstown

by: Jill Varley

THE hardest decision you need to make when considering Queenstown, on New Zealand's south island, is what time of the year to go?

Famed as a winter skiing destination, it has to be one of the prettiest towns on the planet, almost entirely encircled by a snow-capped alpine backdrop, even in spring.

The village itself with its mallways and laneways is abuzz with activity in the many boutiques, shops, bars and celebrity chef restaurants. Here one would be remiss not to mention the Furgburger, a Queenstown institution with its more than a mouth-full concoctions bearing eclectic names such as Cockadoodle Oink, Little Lamby and The Codfather. Be warned, long queues form at night, but the wait is worth it.

Winter turns Queenstown into Swiss/ French ski-village, when adrenaline-based activities such as snow skiing, heli-skiing and jet boating on the Shotover River are in full throttle. In spring and summer the city's moniker of New Zealand's 'adventure capital' comes to the fore with even more activities custom made for team-building, such as hiking, scenic helicopter flights, cycling and kayaking on Lake Wakatipu.

Then when it comes to choosing a conference hotel, there's no shortage of quality accommodation from 5-star through to backpacker. You can conference or dine on top of Bob's Peak, reached via Skyline's scenic Gondola, with its five function rooms and intimate Director's Room for boardroom meetings or private dinners. Groups can also bungy jump and take thrilling luge rides from the top of the Peak.

Into this impossibly lovely setting is the Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa, with its French connections and saviour faire, which plays to a five star audience. Offering 82 elegantly appointed bedrooms and suites it's all about French antique chic and local avant-garde design.

Surrounding Queenstown are some of the country's finest wineries including Valli, and Mount Edward, both synonymous with Otago Pinot Noir, with Mount Edward also an enthusiastic champion of Riesling.

Unlike other wine door tastings, both are open by appointment and offer a more personal approach to the wine experience.

As for dining, the choice is limitless and just a 20 minute drive from Queenstown is the historic mining village of Arrowtown, recognised as the walking and biking centre of the Wakatipu. It is here that you will find one the country's most awarded restaurants featured in Conde Nast Traveller's Top 100 Tables of the world, Saffron. Operated by Adelaide-born executive chef Pete Gawron, it's a must on any incentive program.

A lunch or dinner might start next door to Saffron at the infamous Blue Door where you can sit by the fire and enjoy the rustic charm and convivial ambience of this historic building. Back in Queenstown, groups are cycling along the foreshores of Lake Wakatipu, sailing on the snow fed waters and fishing for Chinook salmon, rainbow and brown trout. One thing is certain, Queenstown is sure to wow the delegates.

