



What a week!

ROADSHOWS

hit the country this week, visiting eastern capitals; from Cairns & the Great



Barrier Reef to Queenstown, New Zealand. Each were held in scenic function spaces, Queenstown at the MCA with its busy harbour outlook, and Cairns & the Great Barrier Reef in the Opera Point Marquee, on a perfect spring day.

The funky QT Hotel opened in Sydney, shushing-up the city to much fanfare, and Four Seasons Hotel officially launched its fabulous Grain bar, a name that pays homage to the origins of alcohol and the intricate grains in the hand-made timbers.

Next week it's Madame Butterfly at the Opera House and who knows what! *Jill.*

Sydney wins youth vote

THE news that next year's World Youth and Student Travel Conference (WYSTC) will be held in Sydney (*BEN* breaking news yesterday) has been acclaimed by the industry as a significant win for Business Events Sydney.

More than 800 delegates from 80 countries around the world are expected to attend the event in September 2013, which will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.

It will be held close to the SCEC's swansong, capping off a huge year before the Darling Harbour precinct begins its redevelopment in December.

NSW tourism minister George Souris said the conference secured by BESydney would generate \$5.4 million in economic impact for the state.



"This is another vote of confidence in the Harbour City and speaks volumes for the tourist potential of NSW," he said.

It's a major coup for Australia too, providing a way for tourism suppliers focusing on the youth market to get in front of the world's buyers, according to Tourism Australia md Andrew McEvoy and Australian Tourism Export Council managing director, Felicia Mariani.

"The Australian youth and education travel sector has been struggling, particularly following the GFC, and this will be a great opportunity for our product to re-engage with the international distributors who will help to sell their product as the market strengthens," she said.

WYSTC is the only event of its kind globally, and is the annual event of WYSE Travel Confederation.

The event includes pre-scheduled business appointments, seminars and workshops, networking events and a trade exhibition.

Roberts joins Hilton

THE Hilton Sydney has a new public relations manager, Kimberley Roberts, who will be responsible for building and managing all media relationships, development of the hotel's social media channels and leveraging the profile of The Hilton Sydney and its outlets amongst national and international media.

Roberts, who is from Brisbane, worked in various not-for-profit positions prior to her job as marketing communications manager at Hilton Brisbane.

Baillie Lodge comp

TODAY is the final day to enter our amazing *Business Events News* competition, offering a prize of a two night stay at the stunning Southern Ocean Lodge including all meals, transfers, open bar and signature experiences.

Southern Ocean Lodge is a member of the Luxury Lodges of Australia group, and has won scores of accolades as one of the country's most exclusive premium holiday experiences.

Don't miss your chance to experience this stunning high-end property.

For your opportunity to win, see the competition box on **page three**, with all of the comp questions also listed online at www.businessesnews.com.au.

Queenstown on show.



ABOVE: Helen Bambray and Alison Rogers from Millennium Hotels & Resorts, as well as Sharon Auld from Conference Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) were among guests at a Queenstown roadshow this week at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art.

Hosted by Destination Queenstown, the annual visit showcased the wide array of MICE offerings across the region.

Hamilton Island app

HAMILTON Island has launched its own iPhone app; a handy pocket-guide to everything there is to see and do on Hamilton Island.

Free to download from the App Store, the iPhone application allows access to the latest island information including 'what's on', restaurant and bar opening times, activity schedules, shopping outlets, maps and more.

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business events news

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A NICE little earner.

The *New York Times* reports that 18 airport workers were caught for allegedly stealing more than 100,000 of those tiny liquor bottles from American Airlines' flights.

Rather than return the unused bottles to a storage facility after flights, it seems workers were reselling them to co-workers and local bodegas.

AND while we're on the subject of airline antics, there's the story of a passenger at New Delhi's international airport who was caught attempting to smuggle a seven-inch monkey aboard a flight inside his underwear.

Proving that size really does matter, it was no surprise that he was caught during a routine security check.

Reports don't mention whether it involved a pat-down.

Conrad's VIP package

CONRAD Bali has launched a VIP meetings package created to deliver luxury experiences for delegates.

Designed for high-calibre board-level meetings requiring absolute privacy, the Conrad Suites – an exclusive wing adjacent to the main resort – feature a private entrance, private spa pavilion, adults-only swimming pool and private dining lounge.

This enclave has a capacity for 70 delegates, who will also be accommodated in the luxury wing, which allows them access to the lounge that serves breakfast, afternoon tea, evening cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

This elite package also gives delegates access to Conrad Suites' exclusive 'Stay & Source' programs – a professional sourcing and buying program allowing them to connect more deeply with traditional and contemporary Bali, through a personal introduction to the very best of Bali's world-renowned culture, arts and crafts.

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Gowings is really gone, man!

IT'S quirky and it's hokey and altogether something you haven't seen this side of the equator - QT, Sydney's first newly-built property to grace the city in a decade, opened this week in the



iconic building formerly occupied for many years by the Gowings department store.

From the photos *BEN* has seen, there appears to be a touch of Galway's G Hotel in Ireland at QT, from its highly curated fusion of cutting-edge art and in its bold and colourful interior design.

The hotel's eccentricity, they say, is offset by the historical features of the former Gowing's building and the nearby State Theatre, in a distinctive space that celebrates an eclectic mix of unique artefacts, bespoke furniture and a daring use of colour and art.

All these quirks and nuances bring the hotel alive with an exciting sense of intrigue to 200 guest rooms.

Macau bigger 'n' better

THE largest hotel in Macau and the largest Sheraton in the world opened its doors yesterday in the casino and entertainment enclave of Cotai Strip.

The ground breaking event saw the first of Sheraton Macao's two hotel towers, Sky, open to the public, while the second tower, Earth, will open in early 2013 bringing the total guestroom count to a huge 3,896.

Macau also boasts two other record breakers in the world's largest Conrad and the world's largest Holiday Inn.

At the Sheraton everything is big, including the hotel's grand ballroom with nearly 4,900 sq-m of meeting space, and the largest Sheraton Club in the world.

In May the QT group previously transformed Rydges Sabaya Port Douglas into QT Port Douglas, a vibrant designer style resort.

The next QT to open will be the former Gold Coast International.

WIN A \$100 PREPAID VISA CARD!



This week *BEN* has teamed up with *inPlace Recruitment* to celebrate the launch of their new travel recruitment website, by giving three readers the chance to win a \$100 prepaid Visa card to spend online or in a store of their choice!

For your chance to win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below.

inPlace Recruitment have been successfully recruiting for over how many years?

Email your answer to comp@businesseventsnews.com.au
Hint! Visit www.inplacerecruitment.com.au

Congratulations to Wednesday's lucky winner **Samantha Cooke**, from *Holiday Specialists!*



Sell TNQ 2012

Apply now to join the Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef annual Sell TNQ famil program.

Sell TNQ provides an exclusive opportunity for qualified event and incentive planners to visit the Cairns & Great Barrier Reef Region and experience firsthand our ability to host successful business events. This year's program will be hosted 2-5 November in Palm Cove followed by an optional post touring program encompassing Cairns and Port Douglas.

During Sell TNQ, meeting planners and conference and incentive organisers are given the chance to meet with the region's premium business tourism operators, and enjoy Australia's ultimate all year round conference and incentive destination.

With a large variety of meeting venues and spectacular off-site locations, participants will enjoy an eventful program of networking opportunities, touring and events set amongst the tropical atmosphere.

APPLY NOW!

Applications close
September 28

BUSINESS EVENTS
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25Hours in Zurich



24 HOURS in a day is pretty much the global standard, but bucking the trend in Zurich, they have opened a 25Hours Hotel.

The first of its kind in Switzerland (sixth in Europe), the hotel is located in the heart of Zurich-West's dynamic and trendy precinct and features 126 rooms in four categories.

The 25Hour's motto of "You know one, you know none" sees to it that its Zurich-West property connects with the local Zurich values and the city's sophistication in its designs and furnishings.

Targeted at the chic and creative urban crowd, it has introductory rates of \$153 per room per night on weekends and \$225 per room per night on weekdays. The offer ends on 31 January 2013.

Roadshow to pieces

THE weather was picture perfect for the Cairns & Great Barrier Reef Roadshow on Sydney Harbour yesterday, so it was easy for guests to immerse themselves in the tropical display surrounds, especially after the sarong tying demonstration and dress-up photo booth.

On arrival guests were given an empty jigsaw board and needed to complete a Cairns scene by collecting different pieces of the puzzle from each of the operators manning the stands.

Businesswise, there was an optimistic air with expectations of growing business from China, after two challenging years and business events ticking along nicely.

As Shelagh Murphy of Sunlover Reef Express expressed, she was "Quietly but not overtly confident" when asked about business prospects.

BCEC flying high

ONE of the world's largest aerospace conferences, the 28th Congress of the International Council of the Aeronautical Sciences (ICAS), is being held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre next week

Bringing with it more than 750 delegates, this global event will focus on advances in aeronautical and aviation research, as well as recent developments in the world aerospace industry and future developments in air transport.

ICAS president Dr Detlef Müller-Wiesner said "the ICAS Congress would provide a unique global forum for scientists, engineers, managers and students from industry, government agencies, and universities to learn, debate and share ideas and technical information about key issues for the aeronautical industry."

Co-hosted by the Australian Division of the Royal Aeronautical Society and Engineers Australia, the ICAS 2012 event will concentrate on subjects ranging from international collaboration in the aerospace industry to the future of hypersonic flight.

Major themes will be the economic challenges facing the aerospace industry, including the design of more cost-effective and environmentally friendly aircraft, the impact that weather, climate and recent volcanic eruptions have had on the air transport industry, the effects of aircraft emissions on the climate and the requirement for intelligent air traffic management systems which minimise the impact of natural phenomena.

Visit www.icas2012.com.

What's NEXT?

LANDMARK Brisbane hotel The Chifley will undergo refurbishments and be rebranded as the world's first NEXT® Hotel.

The announcement by SilverNeedle Hospitality completes the purchase of the property for approximately AUD\$57 million from Abacus Investment Group.

Four Seasons Grain harvest



A WELCOME addition to Sydney's hotel bar scene and a stylish meeting place, the Four Seasons Hotel Sydney has opened Grain. Set off the hotel's lobby, with an entrance on George Street,

Amari bags Barrett

NICE to see that Bangkok based former Diethelm honcho David Barrett has followed his passion for hotels and joined ONYX Hospitality Group as executive director of events at Amari Watgate Bangkok and Amari Orchide Pattaya.

"It is not so much a new profession, it is a passion," he said in customary style.

Expect to see some of the well-known Barrett flair, even for the most complex of events if you are looking for ideas.

He promises that any event including the catering will be delivered in a tasteful, stylish and efficient manner - for info email david.barrett@amari.com.

it has been designed by award-winning architect Michael McCann.

The bar's eye-catching central island, clad in giant slabs of sustainable Queensland Blackbutt timber, also has a floating up-lit bottle wall, a central fireplace and retractable glass windows which open to views of the Quay's native garden.

Beyond the hand-crafted beers and list of exotic drinks that bar manager David Ramos Hernandez presides over, chef Hamish Ingram, from popular eatery Bar H, matches a unique menu.

Pictured above at this week's launch are, from left, ABC radio's Simon Marnie with Sarah Vickery and Simon Barnett from Four Seasons Sydney.

Win a luxury stay at Southern Ocean Lodge



During the months of August and September, *Business Events News* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing two-night stay at the exclusive Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island courtesy of *Baillie Lodges*.

The prize includes two-nights accommodation for two people in a Flinders Suite with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, open bar with premium wines and spirits, in-suite bar, signature experiences and return island airport transfers.

To be in the running simply answer the 17 questions and the final creative answer which will be featured in *BEN* on 21 September.

The person who answers ALL the questions and has the most creative response will win.

Email your answers to:

baillielodges@businessesnews.com.au

Q14: Name one of the rejuvenating treatments available on the Southern Ocean Lodge spa menu

Hint: www.southernoceanlodge.com.au
Click here for Terms and Conditions





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Queenstown hopes

SUCH was the buzz on the floor at the Queenstown Roadshow on Tuesday evening at the Museum of Contemporary Art (see p1), that the redundancies reported across the MICE industry at MCI are very much a reflection of a marked downturn in bookings across the C&I industry, both in Australia and New Zealand.

One New Zealander activities operator who usually receives several bookings a week said he hadn't had one in the last week.

Something he said had been quite unheard of previously.

Still, it must have been a heartening roadshow for the Kiwis, as the venue at the MCA in Sydney was awash with guests.

Prizes were won in this lively atmosphere, where the band played on while 32 Queenstown-based tourism operators networked.

Start your engines

REVHEAD alert!

Glenn Lehman of Lehman and Associates is producing the Tasman Revival Number 4 at the Sydney Motorsport Park, from 23-25 November 2012, at Eastern Creek Raceway.

The event, he said, allows an unrivaled opportunity for racing car enthusiasts to experience the excitement of 1960s Formula cars and 1970s Formula 5000 cars in full flight with over 30 racing events over three days.

Lehmann said the event is a good idea for corporations, race groups and car clubs to host their guests in an air-conditioned private Hospitality Suite on the Tasman Revival Pit Straight.

"What better way to celebrate Christmas than to purchase a few tables within the suites and bring your staff or clients and let them view motor racing at its best.

"You can have indoor and outdoor access to view the races. Catering packages have been created and of course we are very flexible and can tailor something to suite the needs of your organisation."

For more information email frances@lehman.com.au.

Grace's new team

SYDNEY'S Grace Hotel has welcomed the appointment of three new staff members and an internal promotion to their team.

These include Craig Gosling as director of sales and marketing.

With 30 years in the hospitality industry, more recently with the Rendezvous Hospitality Group.

Belinda Harvy has been appointed assistant director of sales, with a strong MICE and corporate background and Anthony Nguyen as sales and marketing executive, who is responsible for providing social media and marketing assistance.

Luke Tuckwell, with seven years across numerous roles at the hotel, has been promoted to the role of BDM corporate.

GC Versace sold

THE luxury Palazzo Versace hotel on the Gold Coast - which epitomises the destination's glitz and glamour - is set to move into Chinese hands, after a group from China agreed to purchase the property from Sunland yesterday.

The \$62.5 million deal is subject to approval by the government and also the House of Versace.

GETTING TO KNOW: Switzerland

ABUNDANT natural beauty everywhere you look embodies Switzerland as more than just a 'passing through' destination for conference, meetings or incentive groups on their way to France, Germany, Italy or elsewhere. At least, it should.

Too often, it is looked upon as such, when there is so much to see, do and experience, and in so many ways you can do it all conveniently while keeping to an affordable budget.

Many long-haul flights from Australia into the country land at either Geneva or Zurich, which are, in many cases, ideal starting points for a Swiss adventure as they are at opposite ends of the nature-rich European nation.

As with much of Europe, getting around is extremely easy, with the Swiss Railway system running like a Swiss watch - pun intended - so you can't blame the trains for getting you to your meetings late. Four languages are considered as 'official' in Switzerland - German, French, Italian and Romansh, but English is also spoken in the major centres. Any trip to Switzerland, year-round, and you're likely to need, or want, your board shorts and winter woolies all in the same day, depending on where you are.

In townships such as Lucerne, Berne and Interlaken, the lifestyle is very much centered on the Swiss Alps and the high-intensity attractions and extreme sporting thrills such as bungee jumping off the highest dam in the world; the one James Bond dove off in the 1995 movie Goldeneye.

Sure, in winter, it's just as cold down at the townships resting on the edge of Lake Geneva - places such as Lausanne, Vevey and Montreaux, but in summertime, visitors can stare up at what little snow remains on top of the Alps in their t-shirt and shorts, lapping up the glorious 30+ sunshine. For those wanting to keep the cliff-diving and bungee jumping extremes to a minimum, these south-western towns are ideal, as they offer excellent shopping and dining, plenty of great attractions and sights to behold, as well as access to some of the finest wineries outside of France.

The 20-minute train journey from Lausanne to Montreux, for example, is lined with row after row of grapevines ripening with every passing day. Montreux itself is famous for a particular export, one you may not necessarily associate with Switzerland, in its music, with the annual jazz festival held in July drawing crowds in the thousands on a daily basis for the duration. There's no finer property for an event than the 155-room Grande Suisse Majestic Montreaux which underwent renovation in 2010. It successfully combines the charm from the Belle Epoque period, with all that is new and trendy.

Nine elegant, air-conditioned meeting rooms have direct access to the terrace, which has stunning view of the lake and the Swiss and French Alps.

