



So sweet

THE excitement is palpable - only five more sleeps until ABEE and the Sydney Event Showcase.



The two-day trade show being held at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre 14-15 August, 10am - 5pm, promises to be even bigger and better than ever.

BEN, of course will be there, so please come and say hello and meet the team.

You'll find us on Stand B42 where you will find out just how 'sweet it can be!'

With so much going on make sure not to miss the Event Seminar Program which has some ripper speakers, including what is being described as the experience of a lifetime when Hollywood heavyweight Cheryl Cecchetto talks about her experiences with the Oscars, the Governors Ball and the Emmys and about her 10 years at the helm of Australia's elite G'DAY USA events.

Of course, there's much, much more to see, discover and learn, so see you on the ABEE floor and more particularly on the **BEN** Stand B42 (see pg4) - Jill.

TNZ & CINZ form cooperative

A **NEW** cooperative agreement between Tourism New Zealand (TNZ) and Conventions and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) has been formed to enhance New Zealand as an international business events destination.

Outlining how they will work more closely, Tourism New Zealand's gm marketing communications Justin Watson said of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that the organisation will invest \$200,000 in CINZ's existing marketing activities to enable greater reach and effectiveness of the work, and ensure all potential opportunities are developed.

"TNZ and CINZ have a longstanding relationship however with the increased focus from Tourism New Zealand on international business events as a way to attract higher value visitors it was timely to put some formal context around it," he said.

The MoU will be reviewed in one year with a view to continuing the collaboration for a further two years.

Chief executive of CINZ Alan Trotter said, "As with all things, much greater success can be achieved when we work together

to maximise the strengths of each organisation.

"CINZ's existing programme of work will be greatly enhanced by this agreement - we can draw on the strength of Tourism New Zealand's destination marketing and they can leverage the knowledge and experience we have, having been active in the business events sector for 20 years."

As part of the arrangement, the 100% Pure New Zealand - Beyond Convention campaign will be used in all marketing activities as the overarching destination message.

Significantly, the two parties will work together to develop the annual trade show MEETINGS into a larger scale, international event and work more closely on the New Zealand presence at the AIME Melbourne tradeshow.

Additional offshore markets will include activities such as international media hosting, trade familiarisations and special events.

Tourism New Zealand also aims to significantly increase its efforts in the Australian market, promoting New Zealand as an international business events destination.

Stoner to open ABEE

IN a show of support from the Government to the business events and business tourism industry, the NSW Deputy Premier The Hon. Andrew Stoner is to officially open the Australian Business Events Expo, next Wednesday 14 August at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The event, estimated to contribute \$16 billion to the State economy, will see Stoner talk on the role of business events within the NSW economy and government initiatives, & officially open the expo and associated Event Seminar program.

Following his appearance, a thought leadership session titled, "What is the impact of 'The Asian Century' on Australian Business Events?" will be held.

Visions of tea

TRUE to her vision, to bring back glamour to hotel high teas in a most stylish manner, Georgina Williams, group marketing, promotions and communications manager Stamford Hotels & Resorts, saw the idea come to life on Wednesday at a 'Dressing for Success' fashion High Tea at the Sir Stamford Circular Quay.

As a promotion for the Sir Stamford's Exclusive High Tea Packages for special events and social get-togethers, the Tea was sponsored by Moët & Chandon champagne with guests able to get the latest corporate looks and tips from top fashion stylist Kelly Smythe, hair expert Joh Bailey, make-up artists from the talented Napoleon Perdis team and red roses from Roses Only.

During the event, on trend fashion suitable for corporate wear was paraded, with Kelly, Joh and the Napoleon team discussing their tips for achieving a complete, professional and career winning look.



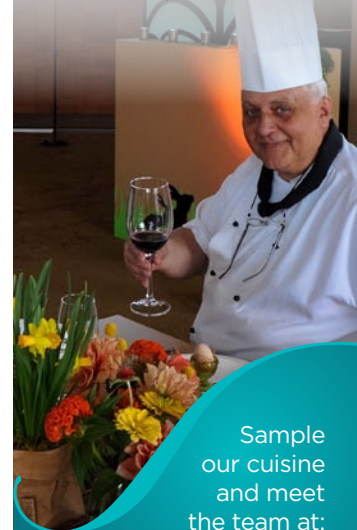
Tables were laden with tiers of freshly baked scones, sandwiches, petit fours and miniature desserts, and sponsor Mount Franklin's limited edition mineral water bottles designed by Australia contemporary fashion designer Akira Isogawa.

And, as at any good fashion event, guests walked away with gift bags filled with promotional goodies.

Pictured above are Georgina Williams, Maria Venuti and Peter Everett with Sir Stamford Circular Quay gm Heather Idoine enjoying the Intelligent fashion for intelligent women's lunch.

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 impression



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 our cuisine
 and meet
 the team at:

**AUSTRALIAN
 businessevents**
 14-15 August expo2013
 STAND D12



business events news

9th August 2013

Book Wolgan Valley & win a trip to Dubai



AN unprecedented mid-week accommodation offer of \$1,200, or weekend rate of \$1,400, per suite per night is being offered by the luxurious Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, for conference and event bookings between now and the end of the year.

What's more the resort is offering conference and event planners the chance to win two economy return flights to Dubai with Emirates Airlines, with each new booking.

The offer includes conference space and catering for the group, accommodation for two people in a Heritage Suite with private pool, gourmet breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, all non-alcoholic beverages and a select range of local wines and beers.

The package also includes two on-site nature-based activities per day, in addition to the choice of some memorable outdoor pursuits including guided walks, wildlife safaris, mountain biking and historical tours.

For more information contact sales@tourismportfolio.com.au.

Virgin connecting Melbourne-Hamilton

HAMILTON Island and Virgin Australia will begin the introduction of its direct flights between Melbourne and Hamilton Island commencing 15 August.

The service which includes both Economy and Business Class seating will arrive on Hamilton Island prior to midday, allowing delegates to leave Melbourne in the morning, conference on Hamilton Island in the afternoon, and sip champagne on a twilight sail around the picturesque Whitsundays by night.

See - www.virginaustralia.com.au.

Heritage's Christmas packages

HERITAGE Auckland hotel in New Zealand has Christmas packages that include everything from barbecues on their newly renovated rooftop pool deck to lunches and dinners in their lovingly restored art deco Grand Tearoom.

Priced from \$45 per person, organisers can choose from 11 banquet rooms and ballrooms, suitable for up to 400 guests or BBQ's for up to 80 guests.

To make a booking email - haklconference@heritagehotels.co.nz.

Visit us at ABEE on stand B42



Go in the draw to win a night at the Sebel Pier One, Sydney including breakfast for two and a bottle of Champagne.

Not also but only

THE 900-room, twin-tower hotel planned for Sydney's \$2.5 billion Darling Harbour redevelopment has been sent back to the drawing board because of complaints that its design blocked views and hogged prime waterfront space.

Now the developers, Lend Lease have released a new design, which has wiped one high-rise from the plans and reduced the number of planned hotel rooms by almost 30%.

It now comprises a single, sleeker 38-storey tower, with a reduced floor space shrinking the number of hotel rooms from 900 to 650.

Lend Lease is now seeking further community feedback on the refined hotel design which will be considered prior to lodging a development application later this month.



Meet & Stay@Marina Bay Sands

BOOK a Meet and Stay package with Marina Bay Sands by 30 November and enjoy exclusive rates from SGD375++ per person.

Additionally, upgrade your meeting for as little as SGD4++pp, and be rewarded with a range of packages and upgrades to enhance the experience with extensive options and flexibility.

Promotional package rates are available for meeting packages booked from 9 July - 30 November, with a minimum of 20 and up to 200 people.

The deal is valid for new requests when booking a minimum 2 night stay before 31 August 2014.

To find out more email - Up@MarinaBaySands.com.



A US passenger, travelling from Seattle to New York on a Delta flight, abandoned their luggage at a Seattle airport when the airline tried to charge a massive \$US1400 extra for overweight luggage.

Rather than pay the charge, which is more than three times the cost of the flight, the baggage was left at check-in.

This action caused a security alert, closing the airport check-in for two hours while police X-rayed the bags and called in bomb specialists to determine whether the contents were dangerous.

After being questioned by law enforcement upon arrival at JFK airport, police and security officials decided there was no criminal intent.

FYI Delta baggage fees range from \$US25 (\$27) for domestic flights to up to \$US200 (\$220) per extra 100 pounds (45 kilograms) on international flights.

Visa-free Philippines

UNDER a new visa policy, the Philippines extended its visa-free privilege from the beginning of August from twenty-one to thirty days for foreign nationals of 151 countries, including Australia.

These travellers now have the privilege of entering the Philippines without a visa and staying in the country for a maximum of thirty days, provided that they are holders of a passport valid for at least six months beyond the contemplated stay in the Philippines, and they possess a return ticket to the country of origin or onward ticket to the next country of destination.

For more information about a visa to the Philippines visit www.philembassy.org.au under the section on Consular Services – Visa.

WIN A 4 NIGHT WINTER ESCAPE TO PELICAN WATERS GOLF RESORT AND SPA



PELICAN WATERS
GOLF RESORT & SPA
CALOUNDRA



This week **Business Events News** and Pelican Waters Golf Resort and Spa is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a fabulous four night getaway in a stunning one bedroom suite, including breakfast for two.

Located on Queensland's beautiful Sunshine Coast, with breathtaking views of the Glasshouse Mountains and Pacific Ocean, the 4.5 star Resort offers a totally unique meeting and conference experience to make your event an outstanding success.

To be the lucky winner of this prize:

In 25 words or less tell us why you deserve a Winter Escape
email: pelican@businesseventsnews.com.au

Hint: www.pelicanwatersgolfresortandspa.com.au

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business events news

9th August 2013

Boat Show celebrates 25

AUSTRALIA'S

largest annual exhibition, the Sydney International Boat Show celebrated its 25th exhibition at Darling Harbour, attracting tens of thousands of visitors from 1-5 August.

Paying tribute to the combined histories of the event and its venue, the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, the general manager of the Boating Industry Association of NSW, Roy Privett, addressed an industry breakfast at the Centre, saying the show had developed over 25 years into one of the world's leading boating exhibitions.

He used the occasion to present commemorative photographs to Centre chief executive Ton van Amerongen and its director of sales – exhibitions, Helen Mantellato.

"At various stages of the past 25 years we have regularly occupied all available exhibition space and pushed the boundaries to occupy the majority of Cockle Bay with our floating marina," Privett said.

In response, Ton van Amerongen paid tribute by saying "There have been many inspirational, amazing and remarkable Boat Shows over the past 25 years.

"But the pre-requisite for a great event is a great client, and it has been a joy to work with the Boating Industry Association of



NSW over that quarter century."

Pictured with the commemorative photographs marking their involvement in the Sydney International Boat Show from left are: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre director of sales exhibitions, Helen Mantellato; Boating Industry Association marketing & events manager Domenic Genua; and Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre ce Ton van Amerongen.

Luxperience sells out

"IT'S a sell out," exclaimed Lindy Andrews, director of sales & partner alliances at Luxperience, of the luxury expo, taking place in Sydney 1-4 September.

"Over 160 exhibitors have registered so far.

"We're at capacity," she said.

"Our emphasis is now on maximising the business opportunities of the B2B interactions on site."

The space sold is up by over 50% on the inaugural Luxperience, which took place last September.

An Apple for the org.

THE Spencer on Byron Hotel, located in Takapuna Beach Auckland with most of its 249 accommodation rooms offering views of Auckland City and Rangitoto, is offering an Apple product reward for the organiser booking an event.

With a capacity for 500 delegates in seven flexible meeting rooms and 709sqm of conference space, the area has a diverse range of shopping, dining, and fun team building activities right on their doorstep.

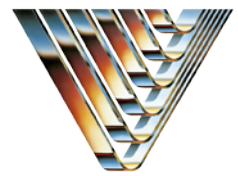
For bookings email Paula Buchanan at - mice@spencerbyron.co.nz.

A Capital special

THE Capital Hotel Group which boasts over 430 rooms in Canberra ranging from exquisite one and two bedroom apartments and spa suites has a winter warmer delegate special.

Any new conference booked and held between now and September will receive a free lunch upgrade to a hot buffet.

Additionally, book your 2014 conference before 31 October and every 11th delegate will be free - www.capitalhotelgroup.com.au.



**VILLAGE ROADSHOW
THEME PARKS**

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

THE Gold Coast's iconic Village Roadshow Theme Parks (VRTP) are famous for their exhilarating rides and amazing attractions, but just as impressive are the unique, state-of-the-art facilities, certain to make any event, incentive or conference an unforgettable experience.

VRTP looks after Movie World, Sea World, Wet 'n' Wild, Paradise Country Aussie Farm, Australian Outback Spectacular and Sea World Resort and Water Park.

Event organisers looking for something different to offer their delegates can have cocktails with the Polar Bears or Sharks, dinner with the Dolphins or enjoy a show with the Nickelodeon Gang at Sea World; have a beach party at Wet 'n' Wild; or be entertained by Hollywood legends in the Main Street of Movie World.

Movie World's 4,000 square metre Main Street roof is the perfect all weather venue able to seat up to 1,500 people.

VRTP can cater to small scale events, conferences and incentives such as intimate gatherings of 20 people right up to large scale gala dinners and cocktail functions for up to 5,000.

A new multi million dollar state of the art conference centre, capable of catering to 1000 people has recently been announced at Sea World Resort which is expected to provide a new focus for the business and convention market on the Gold Coast.

All of the venues are unique, versatile and unmatched on the Gold Coast offering a great scope for creating extra special events with an extraordinary touch, and can be suited to every occasion and budget.

To organise your next event at one of these unique venues email - ConferencesAndEvents@VRTP.com.au.

CONTACT US:

Publisher Bruce Piper	Editor Jill Varley	Contributor/Coordinator Chantel Housler
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For advertising enquiries email Christie-Lee or Chantel email: advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au

P: 1300 799 220 F: 1300 799 221

PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW, 1710

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business events news

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14-15 Aug**