



Vale Bill

WE bid farewell to dear friend, colleague and fellow travel writer, Bill Peach, the original host of the first nightly current affairs TV show in Australia aired on the ABC in the 1960s, who died yesterday after a battle with cancer.



Peach, 78, who hosted *This Day Tonight* when it premiered in 1967, died in Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital.

Peach's last work for the ABC was hosting a travel program called *Peach's Australia*.

In the last few decades of his life, Peach hosted air tours of the Australian outback - Jill.



Marriott travels brilliantly

MARRIOTT Hotels, has launched its new global marketing campaign in Asia, called 'Travel Brilliantly' that re-establishes Marriott's role as a pioneer in the travel industry.

The move amplifies the brand's dedication to leading the future of travel and reflects the lifestyle of the next generation of travellers, who seamlessly blend work and play in a mobile and global world

In this regard Marriott has created a new brand logo, keeping its iconic 'M' while modernising its overall appeal and a new website www.travelbrilliantly.com.

As part of Marriott Hotel's transformation are re-designed lobbies and public spaces known as Greatrooms, which have been created for the next generation of travellers who blend work and play, demand style and substance, and require technology.

EEAA announces 2013 Awards

IN an exciting year for the exhibition industry, which has undergone significant change with more than 20 new shows opening, nominations have now opened for the prestigious 2013 EEAA Awards for Excellence.

The Awards that honour organisers, venues, suppliers and people working in trade and consumer shows across Australia and in NZ, will take place at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre on 26 November - one of the last official events to take place at the site.

EEAA chief executive, Joyce Di Mascio (pictured) said the awards, of which there are 16 categories covering a broad cross section of industry operations, represent another important platform for putting the spotlight on the recently launched *Power of Exhibitions* campaign.

"We invite our members to present the story behind their achievements in their award submissions - we've streamlined the judging criteria to ensure the judges evaluate crucial information rather than fancy submissions," she said.

"While many companies now use PR companies to prepare their submissions, we encourage member companies that cannot afford to outsource writing their entry to follow the guidelines and entry writing tips.

"This is designed to ensure the EEAA Awards are accessible to all



members, large and small."

Gary Daly, managing director of Exhibitions and Trade Fairs, winner from the 2012 Awards for Excellence said, "Exhibitions are an important part of the marketing mix by providing the opportunity for buyers and sellers to meet, engage and do business.

"ETF is rewarded by the positive responses from our exhibitors and visitors to our exhibitions and recognition through a EEAA Award is the icing on the cake."

To enter the awards, see the site at www.eeaa.com.au.

Antarctic savings

AURORA Expeditions is offering 10% off selected small group adventures to the Antarctic on remaining berths for this upcoming 2013/14 season.

It's a saving of up to US\$1770pp, and there are also early bird deals - see auroraexpeditions.com.au.

Malaysia Airlines to boost Aussie flights

MALAYSIA Airlines has announced a significant increase in the frequency of its direct flights from Kuala Lumpur to both Sydney and Melbourne, with the cities to be served by 21 MH flights per week.

Melbourne will go triple daily from 21 November with an additional A330-300 flight each day, while Sydney will initially expand with four extra weekly B777-200 services from 22 November, lifting to a total of 21 flights effective 5 February 2014.

IA to hold Sydney breakfast

THE Incentive Association (IA), in association with Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel at Circular Quay is hosting an Incentive Association breakfast seminar on Wednesday 5 September at 8am.

The event, which has been developed for incentive practitioners from Sydney and NSW, will provide a forum to discuss the future development of the incentive industry as well as showcasing the IA to new members.

"We are proud to support the formation of the association and to facilitate best practice sharing and networking with IA's new members," said Avril Northridge, regional director - global sales South Asia for Marriott International.

"Developing the Incentive market segment in Australia and across the globe continues to be one of Marriott International's key focus areas.

"We look forward to "discovering a world of opportunity" together!" she said.

There are still a few places available and those interested in attending the Incentive Association Sydney breakfast should email the organisation on info@incentiveassociation.com or call 02 8006 9770 to request an invitation.



Opportunity knocks

Hold your next meeting before 31 March 2014 and enjoy a getaway in Port Douglas on us! Including a 4 night stay and a \$500 voucher towards airfare of your choice
 For more information visit sheratonportdouglas.com/meetings or call +61 7 4099 5888



business events news

28th August 2013

Kiwis spotted at Wolgan



THIS lucky group of New Zealand incentive buyers this week experienced the delights of Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, with the luxury famil conducted in conjunction with Tourism Australia.

The guests enjoyed some of the 40 free-standing luxury suites, each with a private verandah and swimming pool, and also explored meeting and event facilities including the conference room which accommodates up to 90.

There's also a private boardroom for up to 12 and a

business centre - along with a range of great activities for groups including horse riding and a 4WD wildlife tour.

For MICE enquiries Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa is represented in Australia by Tourism Portfolio - www.tourismportfolio.com.au.

Pictured above from left are Jenny Aiken, Tourism Australia; Belinda Paterson, Event Travel Office; Julie McWatt, CiEvents; Tui Harwood, Driving Force Incentives; Suz Baker, Eventionz; and Lesley Aldridge, Chimaera Group.



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Sheraton's new look

AFTER a one year, \$10 million refurb, which includes all of the resort's 176 rooms, suites and villas & eight conference spaces, the Sheraton Noosa Resort & Spa has unveiled a new look.

A new conference space has been redesigned for users to enjoy automated, three metre screening in the Noosa Ballroom with newly installed high definition projectors, digitally controlled and projecting the most advanced defined image.

Other inclusions are the Sheraton signature banquet chairs with laptop holders as well as new carpet and curtains.

"Sheraton Noosa Resort & Spa has enjoyed 'iconic' status for almost 23 years and was the first high-end, upscale hotel to welcome guests to Noosa.

"This relaunch marks a whole new era for us as well as for Noosa and we look forward to sharing it with both regular and new guests," said general manager Stephen Ferrigno.



crumbs!

CHINA may have the fastest growing air traffic and the world's second biggest air travel market but when it comes to flight delays, it's also number one.

Delays are so frequent that scenes of travellers smashing up check-in desks, brawling with staff or storming the tarmac have verged on the commonplace.

According to official figures, 75% of China's flights left on time last year, however, travel industry monitor FlightStats reports that just 18% of flights at Beijing's airport left on time in June, the lowest proportion among 35 airports worldwide, with Shanghai second at 29%.

What's more, eight of the 10 worst performing airlines were mainland Chinese carriers.

In China, pilots also say they are routinely denied permission to detour around storms into restricted military areas in order to avoid severe turbulence.

THE ULURU MEETING PLACE



Immerse yourself in this timeless landscape and the ancient intricacies of the Indigenous Anangu culture. With the mighty silhouette of Uluru on the horizon, Ayers Rock Resort, home of Uluru Meeting Place, inspires delegates with high-impact events and once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

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- In-house audio visual & creative event production
- Unique outdoor event settings - 300 guests



business events news

28th August 2013

Blaszkowski tees off

A new direction was on the cards when Jeff Blaszkowski turned his passion for golf into a career, after 12 years working in numerous roles in golf resorts around the country.

Now he has joined the team at InterContinental Sanctuary Cove Resort in the role of bdm - golf, sporting and leisure.

Working with golf tour operators and pcos to develop and promote golf based packages as a complement to a meeting or event, InterContinental Sanctuary Cove Resort's director of sales & marketing Jayme Cuttriss said, "In a resort such as this where golf is a major highlight, we need to have someone on board who lives and breathes golf."

"Jeff's experience and passion for golf coupled with his sales experience in golf resorts around the country, makes him the perfect person for this role," she said.

Pan Pac's \$17m ballroom

A DEDICATED meetings, events and banquets space, The Ballrooms at PARKROYAL on Beach Road has opened in Singapore.

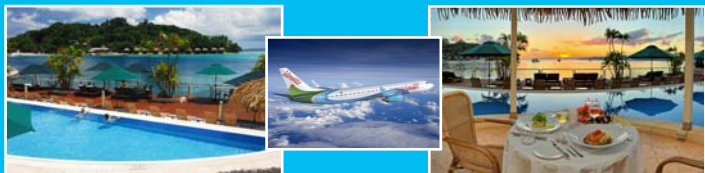
The A\$17m events space is the third significant development in Singapore for Pan Pacific Hotels Group (PPHG) this year.

The 576sqm space with a capacity for up to 860 guests at the 343 room hotel, follows from the Group's successful openings in Singapore - PARKROYAL on Pickering and Pan Pacific Serviced Suites Beach Road - earlier this year.

Designed as a standalone meetings facility, it is connected to the PARKROYAL on Beach Road via a skywalk and offers a full range of events.

Patrick Imbardelli, ceo/president, PPHG said, "The Ballrooms will capitalise on growing business opportunities in this market."

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO VANUATU



During the months of August and September, **BEN** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing holiday for two people to Vanuatu, courtesy of **Air Vanuatu and the Grand Hotel & Casino.**

The prize includes Air Vanuatu return airfares from Syd/Bne/Mel to Port Vila, and five nights accommodation in a Harbour View Room including breakfast daily at the Grand Hotel and Casino.

Air Vanuatu offers daily flights from Australia, just over 3 hours away. Complimentary inflight service and the friendliest smiles in the Pacific!

Grand Hotel and Casino offers a relaxing yet sophisticated setting, in a prime waterfront location in the heart of Port Vila. The hotel is central to Port Vila's business and entertainment district and just 200 metres to the markets. The Grand's business facilities cater well for small groups and conferences. With water views from every room, the hotel also features an outdoor pool, Aromessence Day Spa, Crystals Restaurant and Hemisphere Bar. The Grand Casino also offers the very best in gaming facilities.

Q8. What is the name of the Grand Hotel and Casino's restaurant?

Email each of the daily questions and the final creative response by Friday 20 September to:

vanuatu@businesseventsnews.com.au

Click here for terms & conditions

Hint: www.grandvanuatu.com



Grays' Say

Peter Gray, managing partner of Motivating People, presents a regular *Business Events News* feature on current issues in the Conference and Incentive industries.



IT'S ALMOST OVER!

In just eleven days the political nightmare that was begun almost eight months ago by our erstwhile prime minister will be over.

The longest election campaign in Australian history will be at an end. This doesn't mean that we'll be any better off.

Both main parties have made promises that will seriously affect the conference and incentive industries, and not always to their benefit, even though these industries between them comprise one of Australia's major exporters.

The uncertainty the last eight months have brought has already reeked havoc with incentive programme budgets which, according to some sources, have declined by as much as 20%.

Incentive rewards, too, have been affected, moving from travel - always the most favoured - to merchandise and lifestyle rewards.

Whilst exporters have been pleading for a lower Aussie dollar value against overseas currencies the fall in the value of the Aussie dollar against the greenback has had serious consequences for those incentive reward destinations where currencies are linked to the US dollar.

Hawaii, which was experiencing a renaissance not long ago, is now at least ten percent more expensive and with budgets declining too this means companies are looking to other destinations for their travel rewards.

The Arabian Gulf is another region which is being affected because of the various countries' reliance on a relationship with the US dollar.

It didn't take long for the petrol companies to raise their prices and, of course, this also affects aviation fuel.

Both Qantas and Virgin Australia have raised prices and other airlines will no doubt follow suit meaning a devalued Aussie dollar buys even less when it's used to travel overseas.

The petrol price rise for motorists could also have something to do with the increased level of discounts being offered by supermarkets... or am I being too sceptical?

All this adds up to increasing pressure on budgets - money being set aside for events suddenly has other priorities, sometimes just to keep a company afloat although that's a fairly drastic scenario.

It's true that a well designed and implemented incentive programme will cost the sponsor nothing overall and, indeed, could add significantly to bottom-line profits, but a reasonable investment is required up front.

If this isn't forthcoming the very means of obtaining much-needed additional profit won't get off the ground even if these costs will be repaid in time.

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