



business events news

Keep on truckin'

IT takes a lot to slow down the EEAAs ceo Joyce de Mascio but an early morning walk and a slip on wet ground, resulted in a broken elbow. Ouch!

Can't imagine anything so distracting will keep Joyce away from AIME though!

The crew at **BEN** wish you a speedy recovery - see you in Melbourne.

More of a fact than a rumour, but guess who has crossed over to the other side?

Find out who and what's going on, in Dining out on relationships, on page 2 - Jill.



Doctors in house for the next four years

THE Melbourne Convention Centre is to host the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) 12th annual Pathology Update conference, a win that will see the Centre home to the prestigious event for the next four years.

The 2013 conference, which features a new scientific program, will run from 22 - 24 February.

Themed 'Melbourne Under The Microscope', it will bring together some of the world's leading pathologists in all nine of the profession's disciplines.

Satisfying the senses

A new era for Sydney's Event Showcase has been announced by Exhibition and Trade Fairs (ETF), where event professionals can see, hear, touch, taste and smell all the products and services.

With increased networking opportunities, event director, Karen Krieger (**pictured** right) said, "This year, we're engaging our visitors and exhibitors via the theme 'satisfy your senses'.

"This has been designed to appeal to the personal reasons people get into events; the excitement, the anticipation and the full sensory stimulation, to drive them to visit and connect with our range of excellent exhibitors," Krieger added.

New features include workshops on the show floor, Rendezvous at Central which plays host to the inaugural Showcase networking lunches, while the Entertainment Showcase will feature bands and orchestras, quartets to comedians, emcee's and aerial artists.

Back too are the very popular Bite Tastings and Roving. Entertainment Exhibitors will also be invited to take part in an all new VIP Buyer Program run as part of the Australian Business Events Expo.

The VIP Buyer Program brings together key industry buyers who are actively looking for and researching new services.



Sydney's Event Showcase, held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre (SCEC) is now open and taking enquiries and bookings for exhibitors.

Visitor registrations will open at the end of February.

Visit the website at sydney.eventshowcase.com.au for more information.

The parting of ways

THE IHG (InterContinental Hotels Group) management contracts for four properties in the Northern Territory - Crowne Plaza Darwin, Holiday Inn Esplanade Darwin, Holiday Inn Darwin and Crowne Plaza Alice Springs and currently owned by Ludvik Berger's Berger Hotel Group - will cease as of 1 May.

"While we are saddened by the end of a long relationship, IHG is confident of its future in Australia.

"We still have strong brand distribution across the country, and we will now actively pursue opportunities in Darwin, among other cities," said Phil Kasselis, head of development, Australasia.

Having been in the group's development team for 13 years, Kasselis - who relocated back to Sydney at the start of the year - has made brand integrity and quality expansion his priority for Australia.

"We have some exciting developments in the works, which we'll look to share in the coming months," Kasselis added.



The Business Events News team will be at AIME on stand 1322

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Dining out on relationships

"I believe in relationships," said Christopher Drivas, managing director of the Dockside Group, to a gathering of high profile industry guests at the first in a series of the Group's innovative 'Our Kitchen Table' dinners.

Held at L'Aqua, at Cockle Bay on Tuesday, the series of six themed dinners taking place during February and March, will involve a small group of no more than 16 - 20 industry personalities.

"The objective," Drivas explained, "is to encourage everyone to network amongst each other to gain new contacts, and work together."

"Each confirmed guest receives the full guest list of attendees before they arrive on the night, so they know who is coming."

The first dinner all about 'Growth' and growing relationships was set on a single long table decorated with candles and potted baby herbs and chilli plants.

There was entertainment by the Daisy Orbs and a sole guitarist/singer.

Executive chefs who presided at either end of the table talked of how herbs add flavour and excitement to a dish, then carved and served the



main course of lamb and salmon.

Gifts of the plants and a jar of fresh basil/tomato pesto made by the Dockside chefs, were given to the guests at the end of the evening.

Other dinners in the series include – Nurture and Nature, The Grapevine, Embrace, Body and Soul and Recharge and Renew.

MEANWHILE enjoying her first day on the job was Beverley Parker, the Dockside Group's new director of sales & marketing, and whilst it may have been a few years since she trod the boards at the SCEC, she had indeed 'crossed over' from that side of Darling Harbour to the dinners venue at L'Aqua!

Pictured above is the Dockside team, from left:

Tracy Knight,
Beverly Parker,
Christopher
Drivas, Sandra
Swan, Collum
Dearman & Tina
Eggers.

Left are:
Amanda Anker
dsm, SCEC with
Linda Gaunt ceo
MEA.

Right: the Daisy
Orbs entertain at
the dinner.



BURP!

If you have a spare HK\$88,000 and seven best friends, Hong Kong's one-star Michelin restaurant, Gold by Harlan Goldstein, has an exclusive eight-course gastronomic journey for eight people.

The dinner, which features eight superlative wines, handpicked by celebrity chef Harlan Goldstein, will take place in Gold's exclusive private room.

"The number eight represents fortune, so I wanted to create a unique menu that celebrated this auspicious number together with fantastic wines, that are also personal favourites," says Goldstein.

The luxurious menu includes a warm potato chive blini, Iranian caviar, brittany blue lobster carpaccio, 48 months aged iberico 5J ham, Japanese abalone and foie gras tart, sardinian suckling pig slow-cooked in mirto leaves, a decadent 80-day aged Spanish wagyu beef, porcini mushroom custard and french black winter.

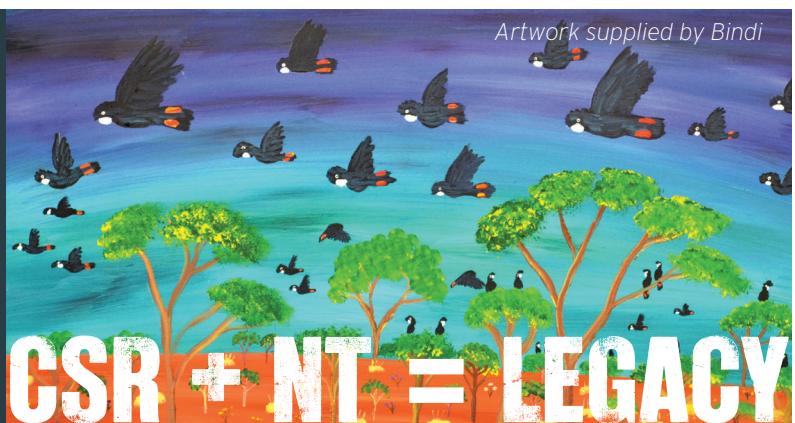
Completing the culinary extravaganza is a chocolate truffle meringue, with the superb chateau d'Yquem, "Y" 2004.



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Spaced out at Four Seasons

TIME was that Kables fine dining restaurant at the Four Seasons Hotel Sydney, was the place to be and to be seen.

Today, out of its well-credentialled ashes the hotel has transformed the entire level two space overlooking the atrium lobby to four creative and flexible meeting suites – studio one, studio two, studio three and the residential suite.

Created by award-winning designer Michael McCann, the space is redefining the way guests meet, with its architectural style, design and artwork, where warm timber shelving houses a range of quirky home wares including a woven rubber bowl with white marble eggs, copper shoe and

WIN A \$300 RED BALLOON GIFT VOUCHER



This week **Business Events News** and **inPlace Recruitment** are giving you the chance to win a \$300 Red Balloon gift voucher to indulge in an amazing experience of your choice.

As the MICE job market heads into full swing for the year inPlace Recruitment is asking you:

*What office perk would you choose, to make your workplace more satisfying and why?
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Email your answer by COB on Friday 15th February to:
comp@businesseventsnews.com.au



plaster roller-skate.

These character filled spaces set them apart from traditional hotel meeting rooms with a focus on creating a stylish yet relaxed and homely environment.

Menus have been redesigned to offer bespoke home-style cuisine each day of the week, ensuring a variety of options across multi-day events.

With a capacity of up to 120 guests, the residential suite, resembling a designer lounge-cum-boardroom, offers the very latest in state of the art technology, while the studios caters for 18 and up to 180 guests in a range of configurations.

In addition, the hotel has transformed the former café into a relaxing lounge area, available exclusively for guests using the studios and residential suite.

Four Seasons Hotel Sydney gm, Vincent Hoogewijs, said the meeting suites are a welcome addition to the hotel.

"This is the final phase of a large scale three-stage refurbishment and one we are extremely proud to share with our guests.

"The suites are not only an ideal place for large-scale meetings and conferences, but the residential feel we've chosen creates an ideal venue for weddings, while the residential suite transforms from meeting by day to private dinner by night, anything is possible," Hoogewijs affirmed.

Pictured above: Sam Ricotta, Mala Fitzsimons, Mary Goldsack, Karen Mathieson, Laura Pressley, ID Events; Nicolas Mina, Four Seasons Hotel Sydney & Maeve Chomphunut, Event Connect.

AIME UPDATE

Tropical North aim

VISITORS to AIME 2013 looking for the Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef stand, will find them at stand 2414.

Don't forget to lodge your business cards because you have the chance to win a seven night stay in Tropical North Queensland for two, including airfares, accommodation, daily breakfasts, and a range of dinners, touring and welcome gifts.

Visitor to the stand can also collect premium Australian coffee packs, along with the opportunity to sample some delicious tropical north Queensland treats.

Meet Sarawak at AIME

MIKE Cannon, managing director of the Sarawak Convention Bureau (SCB) in Malaysian Borneo, is inviting everyone to visit the Sarawak stand, 3914, and meet their representatives - Anedia, Regina and Serena to share the magic that is Sarawak.

"Sarawak is truly a place that can cater for the business of Business Events; in every aspect," he said.

"Our infrastructure is excellent.

"It's fresh, not over-ridden by tourists, offers a genuine welcome and can-do environment, and caters beautifully for meetings, incentives, product launches, conferences and conventions, all with a great sense of adventure".

Hilton HHonors AIME

WHEN you request Hilton Worldwide in Australasia's 'Flexible Meetings, Flexible Offer' for your next event, you can choose two free add-ons like a 15% discount off the daily delegate rate and double Hilton HHonors points.

All you need do is confirm your meeting within 21 days of enquiring and the choice is yours.

The offer also includes welcome a drinks reception, double Hilton HHonors event bonus points, themed coffee breaks and a complimentary room for the event planners.

Hilton also has a Carbon Offset Guarantee, which means for every meeting and event held at participating Hilton hotels in Australia/NZ, they will offset the carbon emissions generated by the use of their meeting room and food consumed.

HAWAII TOURISM

OCEANIA

LONG celebrated as a dream destination for travellers, The Hawaiian Islands offer distinctly unique experiences for your corporate meeting or incentive program.

Only in Hawai'i will you find a combination of breathtaking scenery, year-round warm climate, unique cultural programs, modern facilities and infrastructure, outstanding accommodations, a never-ending array of fun activities and first-rate leisure opportunities.

Whether you're planning for 15 or 30,000, with six islands to choose from Hawai'i can provide a solution for nearly every combination of meeting size, accommodation requirements and transportation needs.

Then there is the Aloha Spirit. It's a combination of feeling welcome, a caring, friendliness and attention that infuses every visitor and leaves them rejuvenated, relaxed and refreshed.

The Aloha spirit shows that Australia's love affair with Hawai'i is going strong.

Hawai'i Tourism Oceania country manager Helen Williams said many Australians were returning two, three and even four times.

The increase in visitor numbers can be attributed to three factors – the continued strength of the Aussie dollar, an increase in flights and departure points from Australia to Honolulu and the continued support from the travel trade.

We are exhibiting at AIME and will be joined by Visitor Bureau representatives from O'ahu, Maui Nui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i; the Big Island.

Other partners from Hawaii include MC&A, Maui Jim, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Kathy Clarke Hawai'i, Hawaiian Airlines, Kahala Hotel & Resort, Marriott Resorts Hawaii and Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa.

Contact Hawai'i Tourism Oceania on 02 9286 8935 or visit our website www.meethawaii.com.au.



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Pacific World expands

PACIFIC World, after rebranding as Pacific World EMEA (www.pacificworld.com) in November 2011, is expanding its European network with the key focus to expand its geographic footprint.

The four original destinations of Scotland, Portugal, Spain and Greece have been supplemented by the opening of new offices in Paris and Monaco on 1 February, shortly to be followed by the opening of a London office on 1 March.

Citigate to Novotel

CITIGATE Central Sydney has rebranded to Novotel Sydney Central, marking an exciting time for the hotel as it undertakes a major refurbishment, while the suburb of Haymarket is in the midst of one of the most progressive urban renewal plans the city has ever seen.

Boasting 255 spacious guestrooms, the hotel has 14-purpose built function rooms able to host up to 400 people.

We are sailing

IF you'd rather be sailing, Eastsail is inviting event planners to sign up for their inter-company Corporate Challenge Series, twilight racing series on Sydney Harbour.

"Sail for one, two or three Thursday evenings this February and March and experience the excitement of racing on Sydney Harbour aboard their matched Beneteau 40.7 yachts with a professional skipper," says Eastsail.

"It's a unique way for Sydney businesses to strengthen relationships between clients, staff and other companies, and to promote corporate identity".

"There is also a spectator boat for those who would rather look on with a drink in their hand, and post-sailing BBQ dinner and drinks at the Cruising Yacht Club down the road from our marina.

"You don't have to know how to sail because Eastsail runs RYA accredited courses that will help participants gain qualifications recognised all around the world.

Starwood's Twilight Lawn Bowls event



STARWOOD Preferred Planners joined representatives from Starwood Hotels and Resorts Pacific Region to enjoy Twilight Lawn Bowls at Paddington Bowling Club recently.

With the sun setting, Starwood report the teams got right into the competitive spirit and a great time was had by all.

Starwood Hotels and Resorts have launched "Rewards on the Double" MICE Promotion in Asia Pacific exclusively for Starwood Preferred Planners to receive Trendy Tablet & Double Starpoints for Group bookings.

More information available at www.starwoodmeetings.com/doublereward.

Robertson wins dream prize



STAMFORD Hotels and Resorts launched a successful and popular MICE campaign last year, designed to offer one lucky winner a \$10,000 dream travel prize for conference bookings made at Stamford Hotels and Resorts.

"MICE organisers work hard to create seamless and fault free meetings, conferences and events, so at Stamford, we believe they should be rewarded for that," said a Stamford spokesperson.

Now they are thrilled to announce that the lucky winner for the dream vacation is Denyse Robertson from the Royal Australasian College of Physician.

Robertson is considering visiting India in style; through Goa, Kashmir to Jaipur where she plans to attend a friend's wedding.

"I'd like to congratulate the Royal Australasian College of Physicians for organising their events with us and wish to thank all who have entered the competition", said Jon Foo, deputy chief operation officer for Stamford Hotels & Resorts.

"We are of the belief that

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time
only,
the
newly



refurbished Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa has a group room rate that start from \$199 including breakfast when booking a conference or event before 31 March for travel to 30 June.

For further information email - marriotsurfers.sales@marriothotels.com.

it is irrespective of the size of events, each time anyone visits Stamford, it is highly important that they are left with a positive impression".

Stamford has eight hotels around Australia and in New Zealand, Foo added that the Group "prides themselves in being able to offer professional and personalised service from the first point of contact and planning right through to event conclusion and debrief."

Pictured above from left are: Jon Foo, deputy coo, Stamford Hotels and Resorts presenting Briony Manion, event booker, Royal Australasian College of Physicians who accepted the giant cheque for \$10,000 on behalf of the lucky winner.

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