



What a week!

THERE was a night on the water for the launch of Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, on Monday – a spectacular event last year and one that is a must on the “to see” list when it opens later in March.



Tuesday – The Zadro team ventured out to the wilds of **BEN's** Epping offices to film a camera piece in celebration of The Star, which is to be launched at AIME next Tuesday.

Then that evening I saw a rollicking production of Falstaff at the Opera House.

Wednesday started with a lunch with Brett Dudley at eCruising, then on to the Hilton where they strutted their venues and what exceptional things they can do for clients.

This was followed by a 60's themed party to launch Sofitel Wentworth's new bar – Soiree.

Thursday it was Destination Marketing Services annual workshop and lunch at L'Aqua and today, I'm heading off to Melbourne on a pre-AIME famil trip to Ballarat.

But wait there's more..... Jill.

Starwood departs Blue Mountains

STARWOOD Hotels and Resorts Worldwide have announced their franchise agreement with Lilianfels Hotel Blue Mountains and Echoes Hotel Blue Mountains formally ceased on 19 February, 2013.

Both companies mutually agreed to “deflag” the hotels which had been operating under Starwood's The Luxury Collection brand for just over twelve months.

Starwood say they will “continue to explore opportunities to expand The Luxury Collection and other brands in Australia and the Pacific.”

MCEC hosts Open Space

AS part of Business Events Week, the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) will present Open Space, a free public event being held next Thursday 28 February.

Open Space's activities will include a plenary session led by Simon Hammond, world-leading expert on brand excellence and customer engagement.

A panel of influential business leaders will also take part including AusBiotech coo, Glenn Cross; AFL chief executive Andrew Demetriou; MCEC chief executive, Peter King; VECCI chief executive, Mark Stone; and Cisco Asia Pacific area vice president, Les Williamson.

A pop up installation of hawker-style food markets will offer a complimentary taste of MCEC's award-winning produce and a range of Victorian suppliers including Milla's, Tarago Olives and Farinacci Pasta.

MCEC chief executive Peter



King said “Open Space is a great opportunity to bring Melburnians together, show off what we do so they can embrace MCEC as their home to learn, share, connect and be entertained.

For tickets and further information on Open Space visit openspace.mcec.com.au.

Ayana upgrades

AN increased demand for high end function and meeting space in Bali has seen AYANA Resort and Spa upgrade to its meeting and event facilities

The enhanced facilities include the ballroom, which has been extended by 45% to 846sqm with capacity for reception-style events increasing by 80% to 900 people, up from 500.

The extended ballroom opens onto a large private garden with an additional venue for outdoor events while around the garden, are six new break-out rooms, a 150-person high-tech classroom, three additional meeting rooms each catering for 120 people (reception-style) and a 120 square metre VIP room with private catering facilities.

Cairns up for grabs

AN indulgent seven-night holiday for two in Cairns & the Great Barrier Reef will be up for grabs at AIME 2013, when Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef join with 11 industry partners to conduct a business card draw competition.

The prize includes airfares from Brisbane, Melbourne or Sydney, accommodation, daily breakfasts, and a range of dinners, touring and welcome gifts.

The winner will stay at the Pullman Reef Hotel Casino, the Shangri-La Hotel The Marina Cairns, Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas, QT Port Douglas and Novotel Palm Cove Resort.

Visitors to AIME should visit Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef at stand 2414 to lodge their business cards.

Qantas cashes in on frequent flyer loyalty



QANTAS has announced one of the “biggest leaps in innovation” with the launch of a “next generation” frequent flyer card.

The card includes a prepaid cash facility that allows it to be used as a global travel card.

In partnership with MasterCard, the new cards will be available for Australian members from the third quarter of this year.

“There are more than nine million Qantas Frequent Flyer members and we are investing in making their membership card more valuable,” said Qantas Loyalty ceo Lesley Grant.

“The Qantas Cash feature will tap into the rapidly expanding area of electronic payments as people shift from cash to cards.

“This new generation card will open the door to a lot of other uses through smart chip technology and the ability to integrate it with mobiles, meaning the sky really is the limit,” she added.

As well as being used for the Qantas check-in system, up to nine currencies can be stored on the card, and it can be used in ATMs to withdraw cash around the world as well as for online and in-store purchases.

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business events news

22nd February 2013

Parker joins Dockside

BEVERLEY

Parker has joined the Dockside Group as executive director of sales and marketing,



heading up the team that will drive Dockside Group's new strategic communications and business development plans.

Previously Parker held the position of director of sales and marketing, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre and at Accor Darling Harbour Hotels as well as director of brand marketing at Accor Hotels and Resorts Australasia.

Most recently, Parker was director of marketing, Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney.

Tracy Knight, a key member of the team who temporarily filled the role of director of sales and marketing, will return to her role of marketing manager.

Networking series in Melbourne & Sydney

THE Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) will kick off a series of networking receptions next week in Melbourne (Wed 27 Feb 5-7pm) and Sydney (Tue 05 Mar 5-7pm); providing an informal setting to strengthen partnerships and forge new relationships in the business/government travel community.

The events provide "vital opportunities to expand and strengthen networks during a time of tight economic conditions," ACTE said.

ACTE is giving away a registration to each event to the first person who can inform **BEN** of the name of the venue partner where the ACTE Networking Reception that you wish to attend will take place.

For more information and registration details visit the organisation's website at www.acte.org/australasia.

Email your answers ASAP to comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

Air Pacific's A330's

AIR Pacific, Fiji's national carrier, has released the schedules for the soon-to-arrive brand new A330 aircraft.

Fiji will be more accessible once the planes roll out, with increased frequencies to Sydney, Melbourne, Hong Kong, and Los Angeles throughout 2013

The first A330 commercial flight on 02 Apr will provide a 'pre-Fiji Airways' sneak peak' of the airline's 24 business and 249 economy class seats, between Nadi and Auckland.

Brisbane will be the first city in Australia to see the A330 on 21 April, which will fly there five times a week until July.

Sydney services start on 8 June with weekly flights by A330 and B737 aircraft to increase from 13 to 14 in September and a double daily every day of the week and up to 17 flights a week during the peak season.

Fiji Airways' Melbourne A330 flights will start in December this year.

WIN a tropical holiday

Visit the Cairns & Great Barrier Reef stand #2414 to enter.

BUSINESS EVENTS
CAIRNS & GREAT BARRIER REEF
The natural place to meet



crumbs!

THE organisers of a special exhibition at a Vienna art gallery this week probably didn't need name tags - because there was nowhere to pin them.

A special session for the 'Naked Men' show at the Leopold Museum was open only to a group of "naturists" - that is, people who think that wearing clothes is oppressive.

Apparently several hundred nudists turned up for the launch of the exhibition, which features life-size naked male sculptures including one titled 'Mr Big'.

A museum spokesman said "we get lots of requests for private tours by special interest groups and, given the subject matter, this seemed appropriate.

"The staff were all volunteers and no ordinary members of the public were allowed in".

The only people wearing clothes during the tour were the museum guides and security guards.

Malaysia Asia like never before

Imagine the delight in savouring the rich and colourful Indian culture, embellished by the spectacular backdrop of limestone caves and temples; a spread of traditional Malay delicacies served with rhythmic sounds of hand drums; an array of nyonya treats that goes well alongside Peranakan traditions; and exhilarating adventures that await at the Headhunter Trail. All designed exclusively to enrich your high achievers.

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Malaysia - Asia's Business Events Hub



business events news

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Come and visit us at AIME on stand 1322 for your chance to win a stay at the Waldorf Astoria, New York



eCruising expands into MICE



WHEN Brett Dudley started his highly successful company eCruising some years ago, he was told no one would buy a cruise online.

Such is the success of his group of companies; they have expanded their travel interests into the business events market with the announcement of an exclusive representation in Australia of Maniago Safaris, one of Africa's leading multi-disciplined destination management companies.

eCruising's representation will centre on land content across eastern and southern Africa with product designed to appeal to the high end incentive and wholesale markets as well as special interest groups, and those seeking deluxe tailor-made holidays and unique African experiences.

Executive director of Maniago Safaris, Peter Karanja, who flew from Kenya for the Sydney launch on Wednesday will run a media conference at AIME 2013.

At the launch this week Dudley announced the appointment of Bradley Ellis, as Maniago Safari Australia's general manager.

Last year Maniago took an incentive group of 100 to Nairobi and took over the Fairmont Mara Safari Club, on the edges of the world's Seventh 'new wonder of the world,' the Masai Mara.

"A major strong point of ours is we build experiences around our tours," Karanja.

Pictured at the launch from left are: Peter Karanja, Maniago Safaris Kenya, Brett Dudley, chairman of eCruising Group & Bradley Ellis, Maniago Safaris Australia.

DCC takes silver at awards night

DARWIN Convention Centre sparked in the Business Tourism category of the 28th Australian Tourism Awards gala, winning a Silver award at the tourism industry's "night of nights".

The annual celebration of the highest achievements of Australian tourism businesses held in Hobart 15 February saw more than 850 industry leaders & operators attend the event.

Entrants first had to win their respective state category with finalists drawn from the State and Territory Tourism Awards winners.

"It is an honour to receive national recognition with a silver award as a tourism business that strives for excellence in every area of our operation," said Malu Barrios, gm Darwin Convention Centre.

For the Northern Territory tourism operators it proved an amazing night, winning no less than nine awards – five gold, one silver and three bronze.

McDougall to MCI

LAURA McDougall will join MCI Australia's Melbourne office as corporate relations manager on 25 Feb - just in time to complement the company's representation at AIME.

In her position she will focus on business and relationship development for corporate events.

Prior to joining MCI Australia, McDougall held the position of sales manager – events at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Ben on BEN inPlace RECRUITMENT

Each month Business Manager for inPlace Recruitment, Ben Carnegie, writes his observations from the recruiters perspective to help job hunters find the perfect job.

Ben has over 15 years working in 5 star hotels and the MICE industry and has worked on some of Australia's biggest events.

ONE thing I have noticed with regard to the MICE industry is that everyone works so hard on the projects they have, they never get the time to really focus on themselves.



"Sharpening your sword" is imperative to working in this industry.

It constantly changes and this can be anything from the hottest destination to hold your next incentive program to the current popular choice of wines you use at your next cocktail reception.

Next week is a perfect opportunity to take some time out of your busy lives and spend time on yourself.

AIME in Melbourne will have the largest gathering of exhibitors in the southern hemisphere all in one place so it truly is the one stop shop when it comes to the future inspiration of your events.

This year there are even more categories for you to find out about including our careers stand 1906. Come on by!

WIN a two night stay at Spicers Clovelly Estate, Sunshine Coast Hinterland



This week **Business Events News** and the Spicers Groups is offering one reader the chance to win a two night midweek stay at **Spicers Clovelly Estate** including breakfast.

Set amongst lush rolling hills in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, lies a European estate renowned for its comfortable luxury, award winning restaurant, Spa Anise day spa and onsite cook school - the perfect escape for intimate Board Meetings and Team Incentives.

To enter email comp@businesseventsnews.com.au & tell us in 25 words or less what sets Spicers Clovelly Estate apart from other luxury retreats?
Hint: spicersgroup.com.au
Click here for Terms and Conditions

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