



## Duh!

PEOPLE do ask the silliest questions and this list compiled by Whitsunday's Marketing is an example from the past 12 months.



- Can I take my poodle on the Crocodile Safari?
- Where do the fish go when it rains?
- Where do the fish go at night?
- What stops the islands from floating away?
- I have to cancel my Whitsundays trip, as no one told me it departed from the Whitsundays.
- Do you get wet when you snorkel?
- Is Hayman Island on Hamilton Island?
- Where is two thirds of The Esplanade? (Do you mean shop 2, 3 The Esplanade?)
- I'm arriving in two months. Can you tell me the weather for that week?
- How does the washing machine work? Should I separate colours?

Tell us the silliest question you have ever been asked - [jill@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:jill@businesseventsnews.com.au) - Jill.

## The Datai raises bar

THE Datai Langkawi always at the forefront when it comes to desirable accommodation on Langkawi Island, has opened 14 new beach villas.

Located on Datai beach, the 13 one bedroom villas offer 218sqm of living space with sea, beach, and pool views from most rooms.

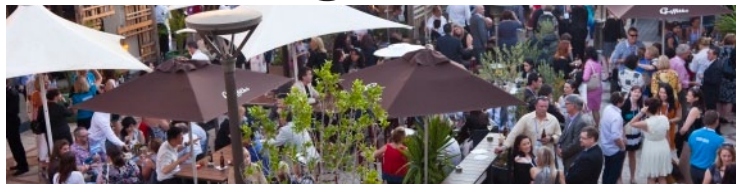
There is also a two-bedroom villa of 475sqm.

Each villa has an open plan living/dining area opening onto a pool terrace.

The Datai boasts two pools plus a spa and multiple dining options.

Guests can have bespoke meals prepared by Datai chefs within the privacy of the beach villas, or they can eat at the Dining Room, The Pavilion Restaurant, The Beach Club Restaurant or The Gulai House.

## AIME goes LIVE!



**MELBOURNE LIVE!** will be the theme for the Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo (AIME) 2013 official Welcome Reception.

Tickets are now available for the event which will be staged at South Wharf Promenade – Melbourne's newest wining and dining precinct, a welcome that will invoke Melbourne's famed fervour for festivals, with a series of live sites showcasing the city's areas of expertise, including: Live-Art: Local artists will line a waterside red carpet, creating their own interpretation of the Melbourne skyline that guests can view as they enter the event.

Live-Music: An energetic music venue will be recreated, featuring a line-up of well-known Australian talent.

Live-Fare: This site will pay tribute to Victoria's food fascination, with its open plan kitchen and theatrical chefs guiding guests through the state's premier culinary delights.

Live-Acoustic: Guests will experience Melbourne's inner-urban gastro pub scene, as they enjoy locally crafted beers, "Aussie" fare and a live band.

Live-Culture: Simmering paella stations will greet attendees as they enter a slick Spanish tapas bar, offering a spicy menu and sultry tunes.

Live-Networking: Guests can mingle with fellow festival-goers, as they take-in a 360 degree view of all the event's festivities.

The South Wharf Promenade venue, situated in-between the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre and the Yarra River, will give guests the option of a cruise on the iconic waterway before the event begins.

Melbourne Conventions & Visitors Bureau ceo, Karen Bolinger, said this year's theme will be a perfect introduction to Melbourne for AIME attendees.

"Melbourne is renowned for its events – almost every day a festival is breathing life into this amazing city.

"Melbourne LIVE! will embody these events and allow attendees to revel in the atmosphere they create," Bolinger said.

"It is also a valuable opportunity for guests to network with their fellow AIME attendees, and get a feel for the city before the show begins on 26 February.

Thanking the South Wharf Promenade for their help with the event, Bolinger said, "Year after year, AIME's Welcome Reception puts Melbourne's business events industry up in lights and is the must-attend event on the calendar, so purchase your tickets now."

Tickets are available now online at [aime.com.au](http://aime.com.au).

## Chiva Som's new gm

**LUXURY** Thai health resort Chiva-Som Resort & Spa has announced the appointment of Sheila McCann as its new general manager.

With a spa and wellness career spanning over 30 years McCann has managed destination wellness retreats, five star hotel spa brands and day spas in North America, UK, Europe and Asia Pacific.

Most recently McCann spent five years with an Asian luxury hotel group as corporate spa director where she was responsible for more than 35 spas around the globe.

## Lindeman's redevelopment plans

**WHITE** Horse (Australia) Holdings Pty Ltd who bought Lindeman Island last year for \$12 million, have announced plans for its \$200m refurbishment and development.

Formerly in the Club Med's portfolio for 20 years, it closed last January due to cyclone damage and a downturn in the global tourism industry.

Whitsundays Marketing and Development ceo Danial Rochford said the region was excited about the plans.

"The announcement that the Chinese owned White Horse company has made is not only significant for the Whitsunday region but also nationally.

"Certainly it will have a long-term significant contribution and benefit to the region.

"Their particular interest in the Chinese market will give it a unique difference," he said.

## The Chedi Club opening

**THE** lifestyle-oriented GHM group is to open The Chedi Club in China's eastern city of Suzhou.

Featuring just 36 rooms, the hotel is being developed on the top three floors of the towering Global 188 skyscraper, the city's tallest building.

The Chedi Club will feature a rooftop restaurant, health club and spa.

Global 188 is located in downtown Suzhou with panoramic views of the central business district and a number of water features including Jin Ji Lake, the Yangtze River, and various canals.

Suzhou, 20 minutes by high-speed train from Shanghai is renowned for its classical gardens, traditional waterside architecture and historical heritage dating back to its time as the capital of the Kingdom of Wu from the 12th to 4th centuries BC.



## The future shock of Hotel Hotel

**EVH** has been appointed as the agency representation for Hotel

Hotel, a holistic concept from the Australia-based Molonglo Group.

To be launched in Canberra in March, the 63 room, 31 hotel apartments property is

the result of a three year collaboration of designers, artists, artisans and fantasists including Fender Katsalidis, Suppose (Japan) and March Studio.

The Group who describe Hotel Hotel as a sustainable 'vertical village' and punk rather than posh, say they prefer textures and patinas of the bush, big trees, well-worn t-shirts and



weathered old men, rather than the surrounds of the new, shiny or white.

The hotel will be housed on three levels of the Nishi residential building as part of The NewActon precinct, Canberra's cultural hub.

## Whitsundays moves

**DANIELLE** Krista (nee Seymour) has returned to her role as marketing services manager following a five month stint as acting ceo of Whitsundays Marketing and Development.

Nikkie Romais has now finished her contract filling in the role and has moved to Cruise Whitsundays.

## Ibis Townsville sold

**THE** Sydney boutique investment company Centennial Property Group are the buyers of the 117 room Ibis Townsville Hotel in the heart of the CBD.

The group recently bought the Cairns Campus Student Lodge in Smithfield and has a portfolio that includes hotels in Surry Hills and Macquarie Park, Sydney.

The present Ibis management team headed by gm Steve Wellsteed, will remain in place.

Wellsteed said that under the new owners Ibis Townsville would continue to provide competitively priced accommodation and conference facilities for the tourist and business market.

## Taiwan's visitor growth

**THE** extent and visibility of Taiwan's tourism advertising campaign is having its effect on visitor numbers with the Taiwan Tourism Bureau releasing the latest statistics that shows an increase in Australian visitors, with more than 55,000 arrivals for the 11-month period between January to November 2012.

The 55,466 total represents a 5.08% increase over the 52,783 number recorded for the same period in 2011.

This was further boosted by 5,424-recorded Australian arrivals in November.

The new figures follow hot on the heels of news that Taiwan has welcomed its seven millionth visitor, Malaysian tourist Lim Swee Chin who arrived at Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport on 18 December.

Recently addressing students at the National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism Taiwan's president, Ma Ying-jeou said given the exponential growth of the country's tourism visitation it was highly possible Taiwan would be welcoming more than 10 million visitors within the next three years.

"The speed of that growth is unprecedented and is evidence that Taiwan is a potential tourist hot spot," Ma said.

## Cambodian MICE venue

**DESTINATION** Asia, Cambodia reports there is the perfect venue for small MICE events in Siem Reap.

Since its opening Theam's House, a unique facility in a city more famous for its ancient temples than art has trained many people a variety of artistic disciplines.

The brain child of Lim Muy Theam, an artist-designer who was trained at the École des Beaux-Arts de Paris in France set out on a mission to learn about Cambodia, Khmer art and culture.

Now his expertise is on hand to give visitors an insight into a distinctive world of art.



**ONLY** 10 people have checked in to a new \$45 million Mediterranean hotel, the al-Mashtal, since its recent opening.

With 222 rooms, marble floors, five restaurants, conference facilities and a piano bar, things are not looking good.

The problem is that it is in Gaza City, not exactly holiday heaven where conflict continues between the two main Palestinian parties, Fatah and Hamas.

Added to this is the Hamas military training camp next door which was recently bombed by the Israeli military, the poverty of the local population, a complete lack of tourism and bans on serving alcohol and women using the pool.

## Craig joins Rydges Esplanade

**SHANNON**

Craig with more than a decade of hospitality experience has brought her expertise



to Rydges Esplanade Resort, Cairns as the newly appointed resident manager.

Rydges Hotels and Resorts area general manager for Cairns Matthew Hurley said Craig's experience and qualifications proved her commitment and passion for the industry.

"Shannon has held positions in sales and marketing, through to management and in each role she has proven she has what it takes to get the best for the business, and of course our guests," Hurley said.

Although new to Cairns, Craig has been employed by Rydges Hotels and Resorts for the past five years working in management positions in Canberra and New South Wales and most recently was the general manager at Rydges Eagle Hawk Resort, in the ACT.

## It's no accident Finnair won

**FINLAND'S** national carrier, Finnair has taken out the gong as the world's safest airline in the 2012 JACDEC Safety Index, the first time they have topped the rankings.

Following Finnair came Air New Zealand, Cathay Pacific Airways, Emirates and Etihad.

JACDEC based Finnair's position on its accident record: the airline's last accident was in the 1960s.

The company also has relatively few near misses and other incidents.

"We are ecstatic to be called the world's safest airline," says Geoff Stone, Finnair country sales manager Australia & NZ.

"As the fifth oldest airline in the world, Finnair has the experience, the investment and most importantly, the drive to continually improve our passenger experiences."

"Safety can never be compromised," Stone said.



# business events news

11th January 2013

## 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.

### HAPPY New

Year! Now 2013 is here, have you prepared your business to cope with potential job vacancies, or as a job seeker are you ready for when the job market flourishes again?



As they say, "preparation is the key to success". Regardless of which side of the fence you are on, take this opportunity to fine tune your job descriptions, revisit your contracts or revamp your resume.

After the holiday season, when you've had time to switch off from work and concentrate on you, and while you're fresh and motivated, ask yourself, 'what do I really want' personally and/or for your business. Here at inPlace Recruitment we've done just that and it's been a positive way to start the year.

We're also excited to have been asked to exhibit at AIME in 2013 so if you are heading to Melbourne in late February, come by stand 1906.

I'd love to see you there!

## Madinat Jumeirah to host Art Dubai

MADINAT Jumeirah will be home to the seventh and largest fair of Art Dubai, which takes place 20-23 March.

76 galleries have been selected to take part in the fair with a strong not-for-profit program of curatorial and educational projects, including artists' and curators' residencies; site-specific works and commissioned performances; workshops.

The line-up includes some of the most influential art spaces from the Middle East, Asia and Africa as well as leading galleries from across Europe and America.

Participants from 29 countries will be involved in what promises to be the most dynamic edition in Art Dubai's history.

For more information visit - [www.artdubai.ae](http://www.artdubai.ae).

## The Travel Authority comes up trumps

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Shelly Page for submitting The Travel Authority Groups Christmas Party photos, she is the lucky winner of our Toga Hotel Christmas competition featured in Business Events News in December.

The company had 200 guests in attendance at the party at the Zeta Bar in Sydney, and many guests enjoyed dressing themselves up in fun props and taking happy snaps of themselves in the photo booth (pictured).

Page has won two nights



## Orient-Express associate program



**ORIENT-EXPRESS** Hotels Ltd have launched the Orient-Express Associate Hotels program, with the announcement that the founding member is the iconic Hôtel du Palais, Biarritz, France.

"The Associate Hotels program is an opportunity to enhance our portfolio of iconic travel experiences by partnering with independently owned and/or managed luxury hotels," said David Williams, chief marketing officer, Orient-Express.

"In return for providing access to our highly valued international sales force and strategic marketing channels, this initiative enables us to curate new destinations for our guests to discover," he said.

Hôtel du Palais is the first property to become an Orient-Express Associate hotel.

## Mount Lofty House starts its upgrade



**THE** Grand Mercure Mount Lofty House, considered one of South Australia's most iconic properties, has undergone a major two-year refurbishment.

With \$200,000 assistance from the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC), Tourism Development Fund, the Acting Minister for Tourism Paul Caica said the redevelopment of Mount Lofty House would continue to attract high yield experience seekers to the Adelaide Hills.

"This is a wonderful project, which enhances one of Australia's premier boutique hotels," Caica said.

"The upgrade of 28 accommodation rooms to a 5-star standard is in-line with SATC's goal of developing more 4 star+ accommodation rooms, as part of the Adelaide Hills Destination Action Plan."

Included in the project is an upgrade of all common areas with soft furnishings, and the expansion of the restaurant and function space into 'The Pavilion' for 200 guests.

A new day spa set amongst the newly landscaped, tranquil gardens, the conversion of the cottage into five extra accommodation rooms, and the refurbishment of all conference and function rooms, are also among the recent upgrades.

Grand Mercure Mount Lofty House general manager Craig Dodd said the upgrade had increased the hotel's capacity, allowing for larger events, weddings and conferences.

"The development of the external garden areas has completed the overall presentation of the property, ensuring all areas are presented in a style that reflects the history and grandeur of the property."

Adelaide Hills Tourism chair Helen Edwards said "Mount Lofty House reminds us of gentler times when this country manor house was an idyllic retreat."

"With the upgrade of 28 rooms to 5-star accommodation this hotel will again be highlighted as an irresistible destination."

accommodation for two adults in a Toga Hotel of her choice across Australia and New Zealand.

Toga Hotels has 45 hotels in the Asia Pacific region under its four brands - Medina, Vibe Hotels, Travelodge Hotels and Adina Apartment Hotels - and a further seven properties in Europe.

**BEN** is offering its readers the chance to win many great prizes again this year with DMS next week offering a three night stay at Furama Resort Danang, Vietnam, look out for the competition box.

### CONTACT US:

**Publisher** Editor  
Bruce Piper Jill Varley  
**Contributors/Coordinator**  
Chantel Housler  
**Advertising:** [advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au)

**P:** 1300 799 220 **F:** 1300 799 221

**PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW, 1710**

Business Events News is part of the Travel Daily group of publications which also include: Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly & Pharmacy Daily.

Disclaimer: While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Business Events News* no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. *BEN* takes no responsibility for the opinions of its contributors/columnists. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed.