



Oi, Oi, Oi

LOOKING
for something
distinctively
Aussie and
interactive
for your
clients?



BEN was invited to try this special Sydney idea at WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo where a unique breakfast dining experience allows exclusive access to the animals prior to the facilities opening.

The limited capacity Breakfast with the Koalas commences at 7.30 am with an exclusive highlights tour guided by the Zoo's experienced keepers.

On the tour, guests gain access to WILD LIFE's residents including Rex, their huge Saltwater Crocodile, a range of tropical butterflies, wallabies, and some of Australia's most unique creepy crawlies.

Following the tour there's an informative koala talk, a delicious hot buffet breakfast and an interactive experience and photo, with the cuddly koalas.

Currently available on Saturday and Sunday morning, out of hour's small group tours can also be organised.

To check it out go to:
<http://www.wildlifesydney.com.au/tickets/koala-breakfasts> - Jill.



Iririki's long weekend

IRIRIKI Island Resort Vanuatu is offering a 'Booker's Incentive' with a minimum of 30 rooms for three nights or more.

The Iririki Long Weekend Package includes three nights accommodation for two (twin/double share), return airport transfers, full buffet breakfast daily and full body massage.

Valid for new business only, when booking materialises before 31 December and includes a conference or catering package.

Email - groupsales@iririki.com.

Carlson's leadership position in India

CARLSON Rezidor Hotel Group, with a portfolio of more than 1,300 hotels and a global footprint spanning 81 countries and territories, reports strong growth in India in 2012 with 13 hotel openings and 13 new signings, thus sealing its position as the number one international hotel operator in India by number of hotels and earning industry accolades along the way.

Carlson who closed the year with a total India portfolio of 63 hotels in operation and 44 hotels in development, expressed confidence in the potential of the Indian market, foreseeing opportunities to further strengthen their position in 2013.

The groups expansion in India also gained added traction with the signing in April of a strategic alliance with Bestech Hospitalities



to develop a network of 49 Park Inn by Radisson hotels in north and central India by 2024.

Under the agreement, Carlson Rezidor and Bestech will invest US\$42 million in a joint venture to develop the first two hotels, Park Inn by Radisson Gurgaon Sector 88 and Park Inn by Radisson Chandigarh, Mohali.

Simon C. Barlow, president, Asia Pacific, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group said they are ready to move forward aggressively rolling out their mid-scale Park Inn by Radisson hotel brand in selected locations in India.

Register now and save big time

AIME (Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo) being held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 26-27 February has five reasons why those involved in the organisation of conferences, meetings, incentives, product launches, special events or business travel should attend this important event.

These include: *Time management* – book all your upcoming events in just two days.

Increase knowledge – attend AIME's expanded Educational Program.

Network – Enjoy unrivalled networking opportunities.

Be the first – Discover fresh and innovative solutions and new suppliers.

What's more it's free.

Register now at aime.com.au or pay \$25 on the day!

Competition's last day

CAN you picture yourself in the pink hat below?

What better way to start off the new year, than to win a three night stay at Furama Resort Danang in Vietnam.

BEN, DMS - Destination Marketing Services, Unique Venues and Furama Resort have partnered together to offer readers the chance to win this amazing prize (see the competition box below).

Simply answer Monday and Wednesday's questions as well as the one below.

The questions are: **How many properties are currently in the Unique Venues Portfolio?** and **Which Unique Venue Property will be present at the 2013 DMS Annual Workshop?**

Today's question is: **In 25 words or less tell us what makes Furama Resort Danang a great place for conference and incentive groups?**

Unique Venues is a company that offers a range of deluxe international hotel options which are ideal for conferences, incentives, meetings and events.



Win a stay at Furama Resort Danang, Vietnam

This week **Business Events News** is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a three night stay in an Ocean Studio Suite at Furama Resort Danang plus breakfast for two people and one Vietnamese body massage

per person courtesy of **DMS - Destination Marketing Services and Unique Venues.**

Unique Venues offers a range of deluxe international hotel options which are ideal for

conferences, incentives, meetings and events.



FURAMA
RESORT
DANANG
★★★★★



To enter, answer the 2 questions earlier in the week and submit your creative answer today:

In 25 words or less, tell us what makes Furama Resort Danang a great place for conference and incentive groups

Email:

comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

Hint: uniquevenues.com.au
 Click here for terms and conditions



A winning finish for the YCVB



GOING out on a high, the Yokohama Convention & Visitor's Bureau (YCVB) 2012 won the Goldschmidt Conference and 17th

AYANA'S new DOSM and new resort

VINEET Mahajan has been appointed as AYANA'S director of sales & marketing, to strengthen the brand and develop new markets as the resort enhances its meeting and conference facilities.

Mahajan will also be part of the pre-opening team for a 288 room, separately-branded resort 'Rimba,' scheduled to open in late 2013 adjacent to AYANA, within the 77 hectare Karang Mas Estate.

With more than 16 years experience in the hospitality, telecom and investment banking industries, Mahajan said his immediate priorities are the relaunch of AYANA'S technologically-advanced meeting facilities with an extended ballroom to cater for multinational meetings, conferences and events in a secure, high-tech environment. The extension increases the size of AYANA'S ballroom by around 50%, while the upgrade also features a new outdoor event space with four break-out rooms including a VIP reception room and a plenary meeting room seating 150 people.

Rimba will provide additional accommodation for these groups, who will enjoy convenient access to AYANA as the main venue for Bali weddings, meetings and conferences.

International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste (ISOT) just as the year ended.

Both international meetings will take place in 2016 at PACIFICO Yokohama, the city's flagship facility.

Boasting a strong track record in the geological field, the Goldschmidt Conference with an expected 2500 delegates, will be hosted by the Geochemical Society, European Association of Geochemistry, and the Geochemical Society of Japan.

"Research in areas like seismology, environment, resources, and natural energy are becoming more important and Japan is proud to be able to showcase its science and share its intellect in this field with other respected leaders," said the YCVB's Kana Nomoto.

The 17th International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste will be held in collaboration with East Asia and Oceania region.

Cambodia Royal Palace closure

FOLLOWING the death of Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanok who died in October at the age of 90 in Beijing, the Ministry of the Cambodian Royal Palace has announced the Royal funeral and cremation ceremony will be held on 1 and 4 February at the Royal Palace.

As the ceremony will take place in front of the National Museum both the Museum and the Royal Palace may be closed from 1 to 7 of February.

Brugnara joins Hyatt Saigon



HYATT Saigon has announced the appointment of Federica Brugnara as the new director of sales and marketing.

The Italian national brings more than eight years of experience in 5-star hotels, focusing on the MICE and corporate markets.

In her new role, Brugnara will be responsible for the overall management and leadership of the sales and marketing department.

Speak up at Ovations

OVATIONS 2013 National Speaker Showcase is being held on Tuesday 19 February, with registrations beginning at 7 am and the event to start half an hour later at 7.30 am at the Ivy Ballroom, Level 9, 320 George Street.

The Showcase costs \$55 per person or \$400 for a table of 8.

The entertaining line-up of speakers includes Master of Ceremonies and The Chaser/Chaser's Hamster Wheel personality, Craig Reucassel, Kamal Sarma, a resilience professional with a strong focus on creating resilient leaders, Paul Wallbank an expert on change and Narelle Hooper editor of AFR BOSS magazine who has reported on Australian business and financial markets for nearly 20 years.

For further details visit: www.ovations.com.au.



CAMPING it up!

Zose crazy Germans are at it again, creating a camping hotel inside a former vacuum-cleaner factory.

The new hotel, the Hüttenpalast - literally "Hut Palace" is found in Berlin's trendy "Kreuzkölln" neighborhood, which straddles the border of the Kreuzberg and Neukölln districts.

Guests can choose where to stay for the night from a selection of wooden huts and camping trailers clustered inside a 200-sqm hall.



MEA earlybird's win great prizes

REGISTERING early for MEA 2013 National Conference has its rewards as Jane Hardie from BridgeClimb found out when she won an iPad Mini for being on the ball.

To be in the running to win three nights accommodation in a deluxe room including breakfast at SkyCity, for the duration of the conference, all you have to do is register and pay before 31 January.

And, if you want exclusive access to the conference's delegates, a limited number of booth spaces are still available.

MEANWHILE, in addition to the Saturday destination famil, local Top End suppliers have discounted some tours for attendees to take advantage of either as a lead up to the conference or as a post conference wind down.

Click here to view the tour options www.mea.com.au.



Encouraging rewards from Mercure

ACCOR'S latest Mercure Meetings campaign is offering rewards to meeting planners who book a new conference with participating Mercure hotels in New Zealand before 30 April, held before 31 December.



Pictured: Dunedin, New Zealand's second largest city located on the south island

Depending on the value of the event booked, meeting planners will receive the latest Samsung digital camera (\$10,000 event), Galaxy Tablet (\$15,000 event), Galaxy S3 Phone (\$20,000 event) or 40inch Smart LED TV (\$30,000 event).

The six Mercure hotels participating in the campaign include Mercure Auckland, Mercure Wellington, Mercure Wellington Willis Street, Mercure Picton Marlborough Sounds, Mercure Queenstown and Mercure Dunedin.

General manager of Mercure Auckland, Edward Judd, said that conferencing in New Zealand has never been stronger with a great exchange rate adding to the country's stunning and diverse natural beauty and culture. "Our Mercure Hotels are also leading the way with carbon neutral meetings by proving complimentary carbon offsets, so we are helping event organisers balance the negative environmental impact of their events which is a win-win for everyone," he said. For further information on the meetings deal or about the hotels visit - www.mercuremeetings.co.nz.

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Stylish Quarters in Mornington

A new style of 'seaside modern' accommodation in the form of a stylish 40 room hotel has opened on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, with the completion of Quarters, the final stage of the iconic Flinders Hotel redevelopment.

"It is the culmination of our vision to make the Flinders Hotel a true culinary destination on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, following the opening of Terminus fine dining restaurant and the Peninsula function space in December 2011," said Karen Inge, director of Flinders Hotel.

Anchored in the coastal destination, Quarters, is a unique property with private and modern accommodation.

The hotel's versatile conference and meeting space is suitable for up to 200 guests theatre style, and can be configured to suit small gatherings, conferences with breakout spaces, through to larger cocktail or wedding functions.

Oman to shine at AIME

OMAN, a destination with century old stories and a history of welcoming visitors will be showcasing their inspirational destination at AIME this year.

With its premium venues and accommodation, it has become one of the definitive MICE destinations.

Exhibiting partners on the Sultanate of Oman stand, fashioned like one of the countries great forts include the Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa, Oman World Tourism, Eihab Travels, Khimji House of Travel and Oman's Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Building on its allure as a MICE destination – Oman's Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC), and hotel business park precinct is currently under development with a completion date in 2016.

According to IATA data, Oman has received a consistent rise in arrivals from Australia since October 2010.

Two idyllic resorts in Khao Yai

TWO unique resorts in Khao Yai, Thailand, the Kirimaya Golf Resort Spa, set in 324 hectares of lush greenery bordering a UNESCO World Heritage National Park and the exquisite resort MUTHI MAYA – with 64 luxurious Forest Pool Villas, offers an idyllic meeting and incentive retreat for up to 120 people.



The 64 room Kirimaya whose choice of accommodation includes four tented villas, as well as a variety of rooms and suites with private terraces, while each MUTHI MAYA villa has a 3 x 7 meter pool, large patio, and garden pavilion.

The resorts include an 18 hole, par 72 championship golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus, and dedicated conference facilities which comprise two spacious conference rooms and a large executive boardroom seating 14, with additional lounge seating and its own secretarial suite with

separate entrance.

From now until 28 February, Kirimaya has an exciting hot air ballooning adventure activity for groups after which a champagne breakfast is served and a souvenir certificate presented.

Group rates start from THB5,000 (AU\$167) net for Plantation View rooms per night plus the flight fee of Baht 15,500 (AU\$517) net per person.

Reservations can be made through the hotel's reservations offices directly by emailing: reservation@kirimaya.com.

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