



It's all about Rugger

IF you thought you had left the Wallabies vs Lions behind on the Rugby field last weekend, think again.



Their impact on the cities they played in and the psyche of their fans has had a particular healthy influence on the economies of the things they have touched.

Consequently, this issue of **BEN** is not short on news on all things Rugby.

While I am devastated to learn that Daniel Craig was at the Rugby on Saturday and I was not, on Friday I dined at the Harbour View Hotel in The Rocks, with numerous Rugby fans insitu and no doubt many of Mr Craig's too!

Every private function room in the Harbour View was spilling over with Rugby types, which may well be an ordinary night at this popular watering hole, but they certainly gave the hotel a lively ambience.

On a more corporate note, the Harbour View, in cooe of the Bridge caters to exclusive parties and corporate meetings too - Jill.

Today's BEN issue

BEN has three pages of editorial plus a full page. Click here for:

- AA Appointments Career Trade Fair

Fairmont MGallery turns silver

THE Fairmont Resort is turning 25 in August, the first major upscale hotel in the Blue Mountains when it was launched in 1988.

A favourite venue of the conferencing fraternity as well as holidaying couples and families,

it completed a \$10 million refurbishment in 2012, which saw the sprawling 210 room resort brought back to its former glory.

In celebration of this milestone, the resort is offering savings on accommodation and activities throughout the month of July and August, while also running a 'Memorable Moments' competition inviting people to share their most treasured photo or story from



time spent at Fairmont Resort MGallery over the past 25 years.

The winner will receive a helicopter flight landing at the Resort, flying over the wondrous Blue Mountains National park, luxury overnight accommodation in a Suite at the resort, dinner in Eucalypt restaurant, High Tea for two in Sublime Lounge and more.

To enter the Memorable Moments competition visit - www.fairmontresort.com.au/25anniversary-en.html.

The Victoria rebrand

THE Victoria Hotel, one of Melbourne's historic landmark hotels, has been re-badged under Accor's Ibis Styles economy brand.

The 41st Ibis Styles hotel in the Asia-Pacific region, the rich history and personality of The Victoria Hotel combines the grandeur of the late 1800's with all the comforts and conveniences of today.

Situated in Melbourne's bustling city centre, it was originally known as the Victoria Coffee Palace and a dry hotel (no alcohol), it was an alternative to the rowdy pub accommodation on offer during the late 19th Century.

Big game Lions

ITS been hailed as the biggest Rugby Test on Australian soil since 2003 with Lions and Wallabies fans turning out in droves, an event that has seen Accor's hotels across NSW experience record occupancies.

Their Sydney CBD hotels (Sofitel, Pullman, Quay West, Novotel, Sebel, Mercure, MGallery and ibis) were at 94% occupancy on 6 July, while Accor's hotels in the Sydney Metro and regional NSW areas were at 93% occupancy across the board - figures that have not been seen outside of New Years Eve since the Sydney Olympics.

Accor reports that their Olympic Park hotels (Pullman, Novotel, ibis) broke all records since opening and were completely full

Eyeing the BCEC

ALL eyes were on the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) last weekend when optometrists, ophthalmologists, ophthalmic nurses, optical dispensers, technicians and students from Australia and the Pacific region gathered for ODMA 2013, the biennial showcase for the Australian optical industry.

The first time this significant event has been to Brisbane and to the BCEC after many years in Sydney, it brings with it more than \$4 million in economic benefits for the State.

The peak body of wholesalers, manufacturers and importers of optical products in Australia, the Optical Distributors & Manufacturers Association focus was on everything from glaucoma and eye health issues to the latest in luxury fashion eyewear, optical apps and even nutrition in Ophthalmology.

The event incorporated a major conference component of which education was the focus with ODMA chairman Richard Grills, while also included was a line-up of world-class speakers from Australia and Europe.





business events news

10th July 2013

Jump into Jumeirah

JUMEIRAH Himalayas Hotel Pudong, Shanghai has a full/half day meeting package available from now until 31 August and between 16 December to 28 February 2014.

Starting from RMB988 per room per night during low season and on weekends the deal also includes breakfast.

The same package is priced from RMB1388 in the high season.

Prices are subject to a 15% service charge based on a minimum booking of 10 rooms per night and include use of meeting & banquet facilities at the hotel.

Valid for new bookings only.

ALTERNATIVELY, Dubai's fabulous Burj Al Arab has group rates starting at AED3,750 per suite, per night for a two night stay, inclusive of breakfast and other extras plus a AED100 per person spa voucher - conditions apply.

To make an enquiry email - teree.george@jumeirah.com.

Doing the InterContinental

A two-day experience of gastronomic delights was part of a culinary journey enjoyed by a group of professional conference organisers at the InterContinental Sydney, recently.

The InterContinental's executive head chef Tamas Pamer and executive sous chef Julien Pouteau, together with business development director, meetings and events, Janine Pinto, led the itinerary of interactive activities, based on the hotel's new A Taste Of seasonal degustation series celebrating Australia's best local produce.

Incorporated into the event were elements of the hotel's InterContinental Meetings Insider Collections program, such as a



churning-for-charity activity at the Pepe Saya factory, where the group produced and packaged artisan butter, which was later, donated to the hotel's community partner, OzHarvest and used to create 200 meals for people in need.

Another highlight included an Insider Interaction trip with the chefs to Eveleigh Markets to source fresh ingredients, later featured in a degustation dinner previewing the hotel's latest A Taste Of menu, A Taste Of Truffles with Lowes Mount Truffiere and an Insider Interaction cocktail-making experience, a rum tasting of 12 and 15-year-old tipples and an overnight luxury stay and a champagne breakfast.

Pictured above enjoying the famil are the InterContinental participants from Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales, which included: Jack Labbe, Sane Event Management; Sarah Faulkner, HRG Australia; Rosa Frigel, Event Travel Management; Belinda Stephenson, Medical Meetings; Alana Fitzpatrick, Liberty Events; Amanda Mathers, MCI Australia and Jenna Doumit, Arinex.

PCO conference at Pullman Melbourne

THE 2013 PCO Conference - New World Management Strategies is being held at the Pullman Melbourne, Albert Park from 28-30 November not the MCEC (**BEN** 08 July).



REPORTS coming out of the US are that flight attendants on the crash-landed Asiana Flight 214 in San Francisco on Saturday, have been lauded by passenger as 'heroes.'

Lee Yoon-hye, described by The Associated Press as "apparently the last person to leave the burning plane," was among those being called out for her efforts to lead fliers to safety.

Lee who worked to put out fires and usher passengers to safety despite a broken tailbone that kept her standing throughout a news briefing, told the story that one of her colleagues carried a frightened elementary school-aged boy on her back off the plane and down the emergency exit slide

She said she didn't know how badly she was hurt until a doctor at a San Francisco hospital later treated her.

AIPC elects Donaghy

WELL-REGARDED, senior AEG Ogden executive, Geoff Donaghy,



was elected president of the International Association of Congress Centres (AIPC) at its annual meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.

The first Asia Pacific region representative to be elected to lead the peak association for convention centres worldwide, Donaghy has been a board member for the past eight years & vice-president for the past six.

He succeeds outgoing president, Edgar Hirt from Hamburg, Germany and will also assume the ceo position of the new \$1 billion International Convention Centre Sydney project at Darling Harbour, which commences construction in December this year.

A TROPICAL PLATTER OF EVENTS

Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef invites you to attend our annual showcase and get a taste of events Tropical North Queensland style

MELBOURNE

Tues 30 July 2013, 12-2pm Eureka 89
7 Riverside Quay, Southbank

SYDNEY

Wed 31 July 2013, 5:30-7:30pm
Ivy Sunroom, 330 George Street

BRISBANE

Fri 2 August 2013, 12-2pm
Brisbane City Hall, King George Square

A cocktail lunch and tropical tasting display will be served at each event

CLICK HERE TO RSVP

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



business events news

10th July 2013

Lion's triumph, MICE roar

A picture speaks a thousand words and this shot of a group of Carlson-Rezidor's key MICE clients clearly had a roaring time when Lisa Bacon, manager, global sales - MICE, Australia and



New Zealand, took them to the Wallabies vs Lions game at Sydney's ANZ Stadium on Saturday night.

Attending the game were: Lisa Bacon, Carlson Rezidor; David Addison, MCI; Shelly Page, The Travel Authority; Danny Schroder, CWT Meetings & Events; Fernando Lonergan, BCD M&I; Anthony Jepson, CVBS and Andrew Roberts, AMEX Meetings & Events.

WIN tickets to see the BLUE MAN GROUP



This week **BEN** and **BLUE MAN GROUP** are giving you the chance to win a double pass on 11 August to their wildly popular theatrical production.

Enjoy the stunning visuals, live band and comedic party atmosphere for an unforgettable night out.

BLUE MAN GROUP

It opens 10 August at the Sydney Lyric Theatre - book at ticketmaster.com.au.

To win be the first to email the correct answer to:

comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

How long has **BLUE MAN GROUP** been performing?

Hint: www.bluemangroup.com.au

An invitation to an events Tropical Platter

JOIN the team from Cairns & Great Barrier Reef at their annual showcase for a taste of events Tropical North Queensland style.

Visiting Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, the cocktail event will provide the opportunity to meet with 18 suppliers from the Cairns & Great Barrier Reef Region.

Something new at this years Showcase will be a variety of locally produced goods, not just for looking at or admiring but for guests to get a real taste of the region's bounty.

In addition, at each event, guests will go into the draw to win a trip to Cairns & Great Barrier Reef.

See page two or RSVP to - www.businesseventscairns.org.au.

ICMSA strengthens the team

IN response to the increasing number of conferences under management, ICMS

Australasia has appointed Melissa Lawlor as a new event manager in its Sydney office.

After working for a successful pco, Melissa moved to Ireland to join Amnesty International as a major giving and legacy officer before returning to Australia earlier this year.



Sitting Pretty

Emirates Business Class

Welcome to Sitting Pretty, our regular review of experiences up the front of the plane.

BEN recently flew to New York, by way of Dubai and sampled one of the double-daily Emirates A380 flights to the Big Apple. If business takes you to the UAE, and you then need to go on to the USA, EK is the way to go.

An Emirates Concierge greets **BEN** at the new A380 terminal and is escorted to the dedicated Business Class check-in area. In just a couple of minutes, we've got a boarding pass and on the way to the Lounge, a great start, that gets even better. **BEN** was seated in 15A on the upper deck and was handed a glass of Veuve Clicquot French Champagne before take off.

THE SEAT

All are lie-flat. Duvets and pillows are provided. There's a compartment with mineral water and drinks, a stowage area for shoes, and personal items.

A big tray table extends and the 17" digital TV screen is easy to use.

You can also stay connected with high-speed wifi access, send an SMS, or email, and there are plugs for USB devices.

MOVIES

Over 336 latest releases, classics, TV shows and games - just what you want on a 14-hour flight.

MEALS

It's all gourmet-chef prepared cuisine, all so good, it's hard to choose, but **BEN** went for an Arabic Mezze plate, which was amazing followed by herb-crusted lamb cutlets, and blueberry cheesecake for desert.

There were superb white wines from Spain and the Napa Valley, reds from France and Spain, and a terrific 20-year old Tawny Port from Portugal.

EK's A380's have the incredible Onboard Lounge, a convivial meeting place, where pax spend a lot of time indulging in fine wines and Bistro Bites, selections of delicious Arabic and western food, served by friendly crew.

The lounge also features a huge TV screen displaying the route the plane is taking over Russia and Europe, and across the Atlantic over Greenland before landing on time at JFK Airport.



CONTACT US:

Publisher Bruce Piper	Editor Jill Varley	Contributor/Coordinator Chantel Housler
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For advertising enquiries email Christie-Lee or Chantel email: advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au

P: 1300 799 220 F: 1300 799 221

PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW, 1710

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CAREER TRADE FAIR

1 JULY - 31 JULY 2013
NSW, ACT, VIC, QLD, WA & SA



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