



## Your say,

THERE was a healthy response from my 'Guilt trips' whinge (BEN 7 June).



Most of these I am sure we can all relate to.

Here are a few:

"People that constantly tell everyone how busy they are," said one reader.

"I doubt any of us would last the distance in our industry if they did not thrive on being busy.

"We live in a time of endless choices, if they're not happy then 'get off the bus!'"

While another let forth on a number of other pet hates.

People who are rude to - and dismissive of - the local people and their culture.

People who turn up pathologically late!

People who drink too much and embarrass the group and people who aren't grateful for having been invited.

In the end most famil attendees appreciate the opportunities that are given to them - Jill.

## SKYCITY's NZICC gets an extension



WITH construction scheduled to start on the SkyCity Convention Centre in 2014 and completion slated for 2017, an agreement, signed on 12 May, has been reached between SkyCity Entertainment Group and the New Zealand Government to extend the date to formalise SkyCity to design, build and operate the New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC).

The deal and its negotiations raised ire from problem gaming groups and opposition MPs, who

called in the Auditor-General to look at the process.

The Heads of Agreement, which sets out the SkyCity key terms to design, build and operate the NZICC, states that the parties had until today, 14 June, to be formalised, otherwise it would be automatically terminated.

Although the final decision of the government to negotiate with SkyCity passed muster with the Auditor-General's investigation, the process was considered to be sloppy, with the casino operator treated differently from rival bidders.

"While we have made good progress since the Heads of Agreement was signed and believe agreement will be reached, this is a relatively complex transaction and we need more time to finalise the agreement," SkyCity chief executive Nigel Morrison says.

## ATEC awards Guillan



THE executive general manager sales & marketing for Hayman & Mulpha Hotels, Anna Guillan, was awarded by the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) the Most Outstanding Contribution to Industry Award, sponsored by Qantas and Accor Hotels, at Friday night's Symposium Gala Dinner in Adelaide.

"As a long time industry role model, and a wonderfully gracious person, this year's Outstanding Contribution to Industry award winner is an active mentor and sage advisor," ATEC chairman John King, OAM said in announcing the award.

"Held in high esteem by all that know and work with her - Anna Guillan has contributed an outstanding amount to our industry and I am very pleased to be honouring her with this award here tonight."

**Pictured** congratulating Anna Guillan on her win and are seen above with her holding her award from left are: ATEC chairman, John King; Qantas representative John Simeone and Accor representative Neale Herridge.

## Stretching the Kombi

LAYNE Beachley, Laurie Daley, Kelly Slater, you name them; they've all ridden in the Kombi Limousine.



So if you've done the stretch limos and the stretch Hummers and you want to create a sense of retro-arrival at your next event, how about doing it in a stretch Kombi limo?

This new and exclusive Sydney chauffeur driven luxury service currently has just has one 1962 Kombi, fully restored and upgraded to impeccable modern standards which managing director Sean Devine soliloquised as, "Our baby.

"A three year project that cost over \$300,000 to build."

Painstakingly restored, stretched and beautifully finished, the Kombi includes four LED TVs, deluxe sound and light system, bar facilities, air-conditioning, sunroof and leather finished seats.

It's able to seat 10 people in luxury and is powered by a 2.5l turbo WRX motor.

"We are the only limousine with 39 windows where people actually see you on the inside having a great time," he said.

See - [www.kombilimousines.tv](http://www.kombilimousines.tv).



Victoria's Natural Conference Destination





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## Vivid lights up hotel profits



**ACCOR'S** Sydney hotels with properties in Circular Quay, The Rocks, Walsh Bay and Darling Harbour report Vivid 2013 as a resounding success for the group.

The Pullman Quay Grand Sydney Harbour, with guestrooms directly facing the Harbour Bridge saw occupancy growth of 8.6% compared to last year and have already been receiving booking requests for Vivid 2014.

The hotel's gm Belinda Paterson,

said Vivid was an overwhelming success for the hotel – not only in terms of room nights but in restaurant at bar profits.

"A 3-course dinner for two people delivered to the suite along with a bottle of Taittinger Champagne, was a sellout," she said.

"In fact in-room dining throughout the duration of Vivid jumped a whopping 58.9%."

In Walsh Bay the recently renovated Sebel Pier One Sydney recorded a 75% increase in food and beverage profits from the increased foot traffic.

The hotel set up a winning combination of a Moët-Hennessey Bar in the hotel lobby and also operated a pop-up bar on the Pier, which served hot drinks and snacks.

The Harbour Rocks Hotel too enjoyed a significant uplift in food and beverage trading at both Eric's Bar and Scarlett Restaurant who traded to capacity on most nights during the festival - recording a 62% increase in sales and 21% increase in rooms sold over the same period.

According to Scott Boyes, Accor's regional general manager for NSW, Sydney as a market has grown over 5% year on year throughout the Vivid period, and for a tier-one market to perform so strongly over a traditionally quiet period, it supports an event-based strategy to drive the tourism and hospitality sector.

## Getting the point at Voyages

**DURING** last week's Jetstar launch to Ayers Rock and the combined Voyages Ayers Rock Resort familiarisation, the invited pco's participated in a dot painting workshop, one of a number of daily activities on offer at the resort.

The workshops run by Maruku Arts, a 100% Indigenous owned enterprise provides a fun introduction to the intricacies of Aboriginal art through practical demonstrations that explains the symbolism and painting styles used to depict Indigenous stories and legends.

Each participant was given the opportunity to create their own art work and to tell their own story through a dot painting and afterward to take it home as a memento.

A great activity for conference delegates, and not as easy as it looks, Maruku also run team-



building workshops where those in the group create one big canvas together.

Maruku are also able to create Indigenous representations of company logos' or to design collateral for use during their event.

**Pictured** above is the creative output of the group's workshop.



**HAS** climbing to Mt Everest base camp lost its glow, been there and done Antarctica, canoed the Amazon – fear not, there are still places that are ridiculously popular with tourists and ridiculously risky.

Choose from such heart starters as bungee jumping over crocodile infested waters, mining with dynamite or even illegal cocaine lab tours.

At the Victoria Falls Bridge, leaping head first over the croc-filled waters of the Zambezi River has been described as a "111 metres of pure adrenaline."



If crawling around in mud on your hands and knees carrying a bag of dynamite sounds like your sort of thing, the Silver Mines of Potosi, Bolivia, is the way to go.

You carry alcohol gifts and dynamite for the miners who fuel up on the grog and then put on a highly dangerous, dynamite explosive show for the visitors.

For as little as \$9 a guide will take tourists along the Caribbean coast to La Ciudad Perdida – The Lost City on a Colombian cocaine factory tour, which includes seeing how the drug is made.

Then despite the fact that at least 20 people including seven children were killed since the start of June, there's Tornado Chasing in the United States.

A week-long chase costs \$2600 plus meals and airfares.

The tours run from mid-April to July mostly in the southern part of the country as tornados arise.

