



Dub, dub, dub

A good night's sleep at the Crowne Plaza Auckland, a shower that heats instantly, big fluffy white towels and to top it off – the SkyCity Convention Centre is just across the road from the hotel. Perfect!



Celebrity Speakers Showcase provided the entrée event to MEETINGS 2013 with its 'Inspiring Solutions' theme and some incredibly inspirational speakers.

I'm now all over setting goals, eating fibre, drinking water and breathing deeply.

Under the topic of 'Only in New Zealand,' ask a Kiwi their web address and they will answer dub, dub, dub, followed by the relevant information.

What the.....?

It's just quicker, they say, than www.

And, on a number of grumbles that have run through these columns of late comes this comment from Sally Brown of Conference Connections in Kenmore, Queensland, during breakfast this morning.

"You know what I hate? When I get an email saying, 'hi, this is my last day at the hotel....."

"Why don't they let you know beforehand so I can plan and learn about who will be taking over my account.

"It's frustrating and time-consuming having to re-establish myself every time someone leaves their job," she said.

Sounds like its hotel policy – perhaps we can get an answer from a hotel or two?

Today is the last day of MEETINGS, with the gala event being held at a new venue Shed 10, on the finger wharf, which will eventually become Auckland's cruise terminal.

Then tomorrow morning it's off to Wellington - Jill.

MEETINGS on the move

MEETINGS has grown at such a pace that after holding the event for two years at Auckland's SKYCITY Convention Centre, in 2014 New Zealand's largest business tourism trade exhibition will shift to Auckland's ASB Showgrounds on Cornwell Park.

"The number of exhibitors wanting to display at MEETINGS grows each year and we just need more exhibition space if we're to cater to that demand," says Conventions & Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) chief executive Alan Trotter (pictured).

MEETINGS event manager Jeanette Stanton says SKYCITY Convention Centre has been a fantastic venue for six MEETINGS



events, since 2005.

"We've loved having MEETINGS there, but the move to the ASB Showgrounds will allow us to expand and do things a bit differently.

"We're very excited about the possibilities it opens up and can't wait to welcome exhibitors and buyers back to an even bigger and better MEETINGS", Stanton said.

New era for Sunshine Coast tourism

AS the Sunshine Coast focuses on broadening its tourism base to place greater emphasis on business events, experiential travel and inbound tourism, Simon Ambrose, the highly regarded ceo of the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association has been appointed as the new ceo of Sunshine Coast Development Limited.

Announcing the appointment, which will begin in August, Sunshine Coast Development Limited chairman, Barrie Adams, said that Simon had played a key role in raising the domestic and international profile of Margaret River, and his ability to add cachet to local businesses would help generate income and jobs for the Sunshine Coast.

"Margaret River has become one of Australia's most successful

tourism brand names, and we believe that with the Sunshine Coast offering a range of outstanding natural and developed attractions, he can really help maximise the tourism potential of our region," Adams said.

Prior to his appointment Ambrose was director of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre and before that, he was director of the premier McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park in Victoria.

"I believe that with the Sunshine Coast's direct air access and with its easy proximity to Brisbane airport, there is tremendous potential to expand the conference, incentives and events sector and attractions.

"I am really looking forward to the move", he said.

Getting a wriggle on

THE PCO Association has identified that annual hotel and venue conference bookings valued in excess of \$150,000,000 are made each year by PCO Association members.

With the bulk of individual bookings negotiated on a one-off basis, it leaves, they say, little "wriggle room" for negotiation and limited opportunities to make value comparison judgments.

An initial discussion paper has outlined possibilities to consolidate member booking requirements in each State and to negotiate with venues for the opportunity to make a "bulk" buy.

This would not include negotiations with other conference suppliers.

Respected business consultant Richard Woodward has been engaged to facilitate the owner/managers SIG meeting at the PCO Conference in Melbourne next November.

Final recommendations on the implementation of the proposal will be made following the SIG and extensive discussions with members and venues.

The scheme aims to assist small to midsize PCO's stimulate their local meetings market.

Experience Six Senses Resorts with Luxperience



This week **Business Events News and Luxperience** have teamed up to give one lucky reader the chance to win a three night stay for two people at **Six Senses Qing Cheng Mountain China** plus daily buffet breakfast.

Six Senses Hotels Resorts and Spas can be discovered in some of the world's most unique and beautiful places.

To be eligible for this prize answer the three daily questions in **BEN** this week with all answers due in by Friday 28 June.



Q3: Tell us in 25 words or less what has been your favourite luxury travel experience and why?

Email lux@businesseventsnews.com.au

Terms & Conditions apply

Hint: luxperience.com.au



Book before 30 June and be rewarded with great package rates and inclusions.

Conditions apply call Christie-Lee or Chantel:

1300 799 220



crumbs!

WE'RE sure it's not a malaise that is wholly centred on UK citizens but according to a new poll, 69% of Britons admit to stealing from a hotel.

The survey, carried out by the travel discount website myvouchercode.co.uk also revealed other items that found their way into peoples suitcases.

Top of the pops are fluffy towels, which are too tempting for 68% of British travellers - toiletries were not included in the poll as they're considered fair game.

Incredibly, 7% admitted to breaking the 8th Commandment by stealing a Bible.

Nearly one in five (19%) have risked ending up in hot water by pinching a kettle and 27% have stolen the curtains!

One in three UK travellers have admired a piece of hotel art enough to slip it into their suitcase, while 57% claim to have nabbed the batteries from the TV remote, or carefully unscrewed a bulb from the bedside lamp before secreting it in their luggage.

Las Vegas design

POPULOUS, designers of many of the world's most memorable sports, concert and entertainment venues, have been chosen as the Architect of Record for the new Las Vegas, AEG and MGM Resorts International joint venture arena project.

The area under revitalisation, between New York-New York and Monte Carlo will have an approx. 20,000 seat indoor arena.

Expected to break ground in summer 2014, with the grand opening projected for spring 2016, the project is anticipated to cost \$350 million.

"The combination of MGM and AEG, along with the excellent Las Vegas Strip location, is already driving interest from potential investors in this exciting new development," said Jim Murren, MGM Resorts Int'l chairman/ceo.

Sri Lanka to attend CIBTM

SRI Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) and Sri Lankan Airlines have confirmed their participation at The China

Incentive, Business Travel & Meetings Exhibition (CIBTM) being held 2-4 September.

With more than 8,600 meetings industry professionals expected to attend, key exhibiting partners include Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo, Beyond Boundaries, Walkers Tours, NKAR Travels & Tours, Golden Isle Travels, Butterflies, Lanka Sportreizen, Delux Holidays, Jetwing, BMICH Convention & Exhibition Centre, Sunway Holidays and Asian Adventures have signed up to showcase their products to

Jeffrey Xu, Reed Travel Exhibitions, project manager, CIBTM commented, "Following on from research conducted by Reed Travel Exhibitions, which confirmed that 73% of respondents who attended CIBTM were interested in placing business in new destinations, it is great to see so many new and exciting suppliers sign up to make the very most of the regional and international business opportunities which CIBTM can offer."

The SLCB recently released



www.cibtm.com

figures showing an increase in the country's MICE industry, with 11% of the total visitors to the country now representing meetings and events professionals in a

business capacity. This figure is expected to grow by a further 5-10% annually, demonstrating the country's growing prominence within the industry.

Sheehan joins Novotel Creswick

JESSIE Sheehan who specialises in conference and events management has been appointed general manager of Novotel Forest Resort Creswick.

An experienced hotelier, Sheehan believes her skills will enable her to raise the profile of Novotel Forest Resort Creswick as an exceptional conference and wedding venue.

Prior to joining the Novotel, Sheehan's previous general manager positions include Accor's Mercure Kooindah Waters and Grand Mercure Mt Lofty House.



Luxperience registration open



AUSTRALASIA and the Pacific's primary luxury trade event, Luxperience being held over three days from 2 to 4 September at the Overseas Passenger Terminal, Sydney is offering hosted opportunities for the National Inspire Buyer Program.

Travel managers and planners from around Australia can now apply to participate and network with some of the finest suppliers of high end and experiential products from around the world.

Return flights and accommodation along with airport transfers, daily lunches and networking events will be offered to registered and qualified Australian agents.

To register for the Luxperience Inspire Program contact beinspired@luxperience.com.au.

MEANWHILE check out the Luxperience competition on **page one** where one **BEN** reader will win a three night stay at Six Senses Qing Cheng Mountain in China plus daily breakfast for two valued at \$2,000.

To win answer the two daily questions plus today's creative response to lux@businesseventsnews.com.au.

Huka Lodge, New Zealand offers a two-for-one special package

HUKA Lodge, long one of New Zealand's most aspirational huntin' shootin' and fishin' retreats and recently recognised by Travel + Leisure as one of the World's Top Hotels, has a previously unheard of 'Two for One' offer for organisers of small business meetings, planning sessions or for client entertainment.

Valid until 14 December, double occupancy is offered at a single room rate, allowing guests to bring partners.



The proviso of the 'Two for One' offer is that reservations must

be for a for a minimum of five rooms and subject to availability.

The Lodge, set on the banks of the Waikato River amongst 17 hectares of park-like grounds and legendary service dating back to the 1920s, is ideally suited to corporate events, ranging from management retreats and private meetings to bespoke product launches.





business events news

28th June 2013

Whitsundays made easy

ON Wednesday, Whitsundays Business Events hosted pco's and event planners at The Loft @ Bungalow 8 in Sydney.

The event which featured representatives from Airlie Beach, Daydream Island Resort & Spa, Hayman and Hamilton Island, was hosted by Leanne Zeid, the new business events manager for the Whitsundays who at four weeks into the role, thanked everyone for their support of the region.

Gary Manuel from Virgin Australia and Julie Ford from Hamilton Island expressed their pleasure at the recent introduction of direct flights from Melbourne with Virgin Australia, starting from 15 August with four non-stop flights per week on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

Ford pointed out that the new service now gives clients the opportunity to arrive just in time for lunch and enough time to fit in a conference session the same afternoon.

Zeid congratulated her predecessor, Tamara Pidcock, who commenced a new role with Daydream Island Resort & Spa, producing their newly released event planner guide, which will also soon be available as an online magazine.

Pictured above at the event from left are: Michael, Royal North Shore Hospital; Margaret,



M.E. Research Solutions; Karen Maher, Daydream Island Resort & Spa and Robyn, University of Sydney.

Star Trek's to Jordan

A \$1.5 billion project, expected to create more than 4,000 jobs for the local community is to be built in Jordan.

The Aqaba, Red Sea Astrarium (TRSA) will have four-world-class hotels, an expansive retail and dining district, a theatre that will bring globally renowned shows to Aqaba, a 4D cinema, an exhilarating water park and an entertainment district that includes 16 attractions.

Fifteen of the attractions will be designed by Rubicon Group Holding, an international group founded and headquartered in Jordan, and the 16th attraction is based on Star Trek, the CBS-owned property designed by Paramount Pictures.

This diverse leisure destination, which is themed on the entertainment attractions, draws from the past, the present and the future of the region and will also host the American Museum of Natural History's Silk Road Exhibition throughout its Hijazi Gardens,

Technology it is expected will catapult Jordan to the forefront for interactive experiences, including a global first for 4D.



Outrigger's festive specials

OUTRIGGER Hotels and Resorts in Surfers Paradise and Noosa are offering special festive function packages for bookings made by 31 August and held before 31 December.

Outrigger Surfers Paradise, one block from the beach has a \$49 per person special for a two course alternate dinner menu with a special overnight accommodation rate starting from \$125 per night for two.

Contact Sophie Secombe via email at - sophie.secombe@outrigger.com.au.

MEANWHILE Outrigger Little Hastings Street Resort and Spa, Noosa, has function packages starting from \$39pp and overnight accommodation, including breakfast from \$239 per night for two.

Email Raelene Ohlson at - noosa.confsales@outrigger.com.au.



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 - visit www.inplacerecruitment.com.au.

THE great debate on whether photos should be included with your resume is always interesting.



I regularly receive resumes with pictures from glamour shoots, to Friday night drinks and once even from a guy in his budgie smugglers on the beach.

As humans we are very visual and (unfortunately) naturally judgemental.

When applying for roles in an extremely competitive market, you must do everything possible to stand out, but in the right way.

This could end up being the deciding factor between two candidates.

My personal suggestion is to leave photos off completely as it's too easy for someone to make a decision based on your photo before they even read your resume.

If you must include one, ensure it is a professional head and shoulders shot of you dressed in business attire, something that matches your personal brand.

After all we're here to run events and not walk down the catwalk.

Fraser Suites new BDM

KATHY Soriano, who began her career in the Philippines has been appointed by Frasers Hospitality as the new business development manager, for corporate and MICE across all three Australian properties.

With responsibility for building and managing the small meetings, incentives, conferences and corporate events, Soriano will be based at Fraser Suites Sydney and will also represent Fraser Suites Perth and Fraser Place Melbourne.

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