



Travelling again

WEDNESDAY
 and **BEN** is
 in Ipswich,
 Queensland's
 oldest



provincial city dating from the
 state's earliest colonial days and
 40 minutes west of Brisbane.

Back in the 1850s it was hoped
 that Ipswich would become the
 capital of Queensland and while
 it was not chosen, it nevertheless
 developed into a prosperous and
 confident city.

Something that is apparent
 from its many imposing public
 buildings, fine mansions,
 historic homes and cottages and
 several of the oldest churches in
 Queensland.

Today Ipswich is hosting a MICE
 Expo at the Metro Hotel, at which
 a number of local businesses
 are showcasing the region's
 products and services to visiting
 conference organisers and
 meeting planners.

We've only just arrived but
 already there's an amazing array
 of spacious and intimate historic
 and contemporary venues,
 both in the heart of the city and
 nestled quietly in natural bush
 surroundings - just waiting to be
 explored.

More will be revealed in Friday's
 edition of **BEN**.

Meanwhile today's issue also
 features stories on AVI, Moreton
 Hire, Accor's Novotel Rockford
 Darling Harbour's Pumphouse,
 and a monthly column from Tony
 Wragg, enjoy - Jill.

Aussie numbers to Peru up

THE latest visitor arrival
 statistics from PromPeru,
 show a 17% increase in
 the number of Aussies
 visiting Peru in 2012, with
 35,745 arrivals reported
 compared to 30,436 in
 2011.

Attracted by its rich
 culture, ancient past and
 a diversity of experiences,
 PromPeru's coordinator
 for the Asia-Pacific region, Rosana



Machu Picchu

Get it off your chest at MEA

BASED on the highly popular
 session in Sydney last year, the
 renamed session *Benedict Bull
 and Bagels* is being continued in
 Darwin.

Being held on Tuesday morning
 of MEA'S 2013 Conference, it
 provides participants with a
 chance to ventilate an issue, a
 topic or a burning concern of
 interest to fellow MEA conference
 delegates.

This could be a new idea, a
 better way of doing things, an
 ethical concern or simply an
 appeal for help in dealing with
 the multifaceted pressures of
 running a business event.

Exhibitors are also encouraged
 to champion a topic with industry
 educational value.

To apply simply summarise your
 topic and email it to [conference@
 mea.org.au](mailto:conference@mea.org.au).

Guinea, attributes the rise in
 Australian visitors to increased
 awareness of the destination
 in the market, as well as a
 gastronomic boom that has firmly
 placed Peru on the foodie trail.

"PromPeru has also been
 working closely with the
 trade in the Australian market
 to showcase the wealth of
 opportunities and experiences
 Peru has to offer, and we are
 thrilled to see the results of
 ours and our partners efforts in
 the increase in visitor arrivals,"
 Guinea said.

With various new hotel
 openings, increased domestic
 air connections and new and
 unique experiences to explore
 in 2013, PromPeru anticipates
 arrival numbers from Australia to
 continue to grow.

For more information on the
 country see - www.peru.travel.

Congratulations Rosie

ROSIE Buckley from Conference
 Resources is the lucky winner of
 last week's competition to Spicers
 Vineyard Estate.

She has won a two night
 midweek stay plus breakfast
 for two people courtesy of the
 Spicers Group for her answer to
 last weeks question.

*The property is beautifully
 located in a private vineyard with
 spectacular views to Brokenback
 Mountain.*

*With truly indulgent amenities,
 a first class restaurant serving
 exquisite food and wine to
 compliment each course, what's
 not to love about this property!*

*Maybe the fact that I am not
 there and I am working instead!!*

MEANWHILE this week **Business
 Events News** is offering you
 the chance to win an executive
 meeting package at the Novotel
 Brisbane Airport.

The package includes full day
 use of the executive boardroom
 for up to 11 delegates, a Premium
 Conference Package and audio
 visual equipment.

For more details about the
 property and for your chance to
 win this prize see **page 3**.

TODAY'S BEN issue

BEN has four pages of editorial
 plus a full page. Click here for:
 New Caledonia Tourism

Events Job Bonanza!

- ▶ **Event Director**
 Sydney: Oversee 2 global exhibitions
 - ▶ **Event Travel Manager**
 Sydney: Manage a small team, Sal to \$70K
 - ▶ **Event & Exhibition Manager**
 Melbourne: Wide variety of event programs, Sal to \$75K
 - ▶ **Product Procurement Executive**
 Brisbane: Contracting, product & growth, Sal to \$90K pkg
 - ▶ **Conference & Incentives Managers x 2**
 Sydney: Pharma clients domestic & international, Sal to \$80K
- For more details call or email ben@inplacerecruitment.com.au.



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business events news

13th March 2013

Luxury meetings

CAPELLA Singapore with more than 24,500sqft of meeting and function space, and generously-sized pre-function areas for entertaining, has a special Meetings and Events package.

The conference package priced from AU\$415++ per person per night includes accommodation in a premier garden room; breakfast for one person at The Knolls; wifi in guest & meeting rooms; a meeting package (includes two coffee breaks and one lunch) and complimentary non-alcoholic drinks from the minibar.

As an added incentive, Capella Singapore will include a complimentary room for the organiser during the event period when booking 45 guestrooms blocked for a minimum two night stay.

The offer is available only from Sunday to Thursday and is valid between the months of March to August.

For more information contact - noelene@enticingasia.com.

Moreton glamps it up

MORETON Hire launched its new additions to the tent market in Australia at the Avalon Airshow in Victoria – during the inaugural Business Events Week.

The new look structures move beyond the standard A-Frame design and can be characterised by its unique shapes & rooflines.

From curved rooves with a 10 metre profile to new linings for interior finishes, the range offers clean lines.

A particular star of the range is The Hex; a hexagonal shaped structure with a unique 6-point roofline.

Ideal for those seeking versatility, the design is modular and can be used as a stand-alone feature area or joined together for more space.

It comes with solid walls or the option of a glass finish and still maintains a seamless front with clean lines, similar to Moreton Hire's complete range.

The Hex can be fitted out to any specification.

ACTEing up at Ananas



LAST Tuesday four Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) events were held in Sydney, London, Atlanta and Hong Kong, creating 'Super-Tuesday.'

In Australasia, ACTE successfully staged the Sydney leg of its popular Networking Reception Series, which saw 100+ members of the Business Travel Community ACTE-up at the super-chic Ananas Brasserie in the Rocks.

ACTE regional director, Andrew Kelly highlighted that "these events provide an important informal opportunity for relationships to be forged or strengthened."

Our venue partner, Ananas, provided an amazing location

matched by their food and beverage delights.

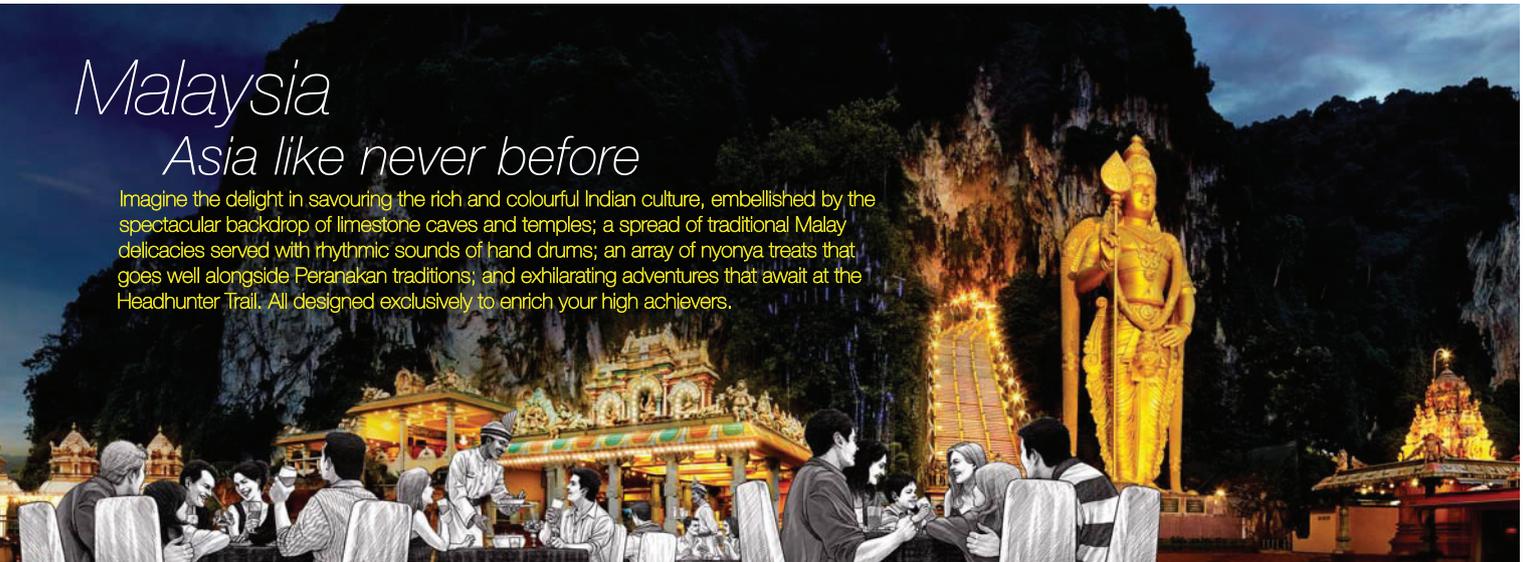
"We have received wonderful feedback from the many attendees who included corporate travel program buyers/managers from the likes of Accenture, Boral, Macquarie, Oracle, PwC, Sonic Healthcare, Ernst & Young, & Hanson to industry partners such as Serko, Accor, Virgin Australia, Singapore Airlines, China Southern, HRG, BCD, CWT, The Star, Four Seasons, Hyatt, Langham, Leading Hotels, Crown, Lido, CAPA and Car Pilots."

ACTE's next event will be in Auckland on 14 May.

Pictured: Lucy Rawcliffe, Mantra; Karina Batnes, BCD Travel and Christine Bailey, Concierge Travel.

Malaysia Asia like never before

Imagine the delight in savouring the rich and colourful Indian culture, embellished by the spectacular backdrop of limestone caves and temples; a spread of traditional Malay delicacies served with rhythmic sounds of hand drums; an array of nyonya treats that goes well alongside Peranakan traditions; and exhilarating adventures that await at the Headhunter Trail. All designed exclusively to enrich your high achievers.



Discover more ideas for theme events and experiences in our new Corporate & Incentive Guide. Visit www.myceb.com.my to request a complimentary copy today!

For enquiries, please contact:

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Malaysia - Asia's Business Events Hub



business events news

13th March 2013



crumbs!



A large-scale, temporary installation - 'The Rocks Windmill', will act as a functioning wheat-grind as well as a vibrant and intimate 40-seated venue when The Rocks come to life in a month-long cultural event program from 12 April to 12 May.

Launched by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, the installation gives voice to the centuries-old design of Sydney's fascinating heritage precinct, while also delving into contemporary subjects around urban sustainability.

The innovative project features theatre and screenings, visual arts and interactive installations, workshops and historical tours, all designed to entertain and educate visitors on The Rocks' heritage and natural environment.

Free webinar this Fri

AN opportunity to increase sponsorship revenue, deliver more value, and make the most out of every sponsor and exhibitor relationship is being made by Leishman Associates through a free webinar.

Learn how, this Friday, 15 Feb at 10.30am Vic/NSW (9.30am Qld, 10am SA) and hear from Warwick Merry, The Exhibitor and Sponsorship Institute; Dave Staughton, industry strategist and Paula Leishman, LA, md.

Spots are limited so register at - www3.gotomeeting.com/register/908546006.

\$300 voucher bonus

JC Travel Professionals, who provide innovative and memorable experiences to company delegates and an extensive range of unique team building experiences, is giving a \$300 bonus voucher to new corporate accounts upon spending \$10,000 within the first three months of activating their account.

Remember when?

AVI does and wrote this walk down memory lane to the good old, bad old days in the early 90s when they relate, the immature AV industry was all about grabbing your equipment lists and your UBD at 5am, filling a van full of equipment, driving it to a venue, setting it up very quickly in a function room and taping the final cable down across the doorway just before the doors opened.

Once done, you would do it all again for a lunchtime function and then for a dinner event.

Hotels all over Sydney had relationships with suppliers with half a dozen white vans, whose technicians tore around the city delivering slide, overhead and CRT projectors and pull up screens.

The only real standards in this early corporate presentation market was to shave your face and to have your shirt tucked in.

A floor plan was unheard of, let alone a safety plan!

Thankfully, due to a bunch of people who stuck with it, our industry has matured and has established itself as a global leader in production, systems and standards.

These days the AV business not only rents equipment, but provides a host of associated services along the way.

By the time the production is loading into the venue, we have already completed close to 60% of the work associated with that event.

Nowadays, events don't happen without a full site survey, proposal, scaled floor plan, schematic drawing, production schedule, WH&S documentation, 3D renders, scissor lift tickets, rigging tickets, backup equipment, production meetings, venue and third party supplier liaison, pre-production briefings, presentation compilation, video pre-production, coordination of travel, logistics and warehouse preparation, freight, and the list goes on...

Meetings are a Breeze



FOUR Points by Sheraton Bangkok, Sukhumvit 15 has launched a new meetings and events space, Breeze and the Garden Terrace.

Located on the rooftop, the venue offers an indoor and outdoor private area able to hold up to 400 people.

The indoor space Breeze, on the rooftop of the Garden Wing overlooks the Sukhumvit skyline and can be joined with the Garden Terrace with a retractable roof offering a more elaborate and larger space ideal to host an event.

"The retractable roof will definitely elevate functionality and flexibility of the space and the full glass wall around Breeze will add the natural light to this already unique meeting venue or enjoy the transition of day to night during the event," states general manager Janet McNab.

Four Points by Sheraton Bangkok Sukhumvit 15 is introducing several meeting packages in conjunction with the launch of the new meeting space.

For more info visit - fourpoints.com/bangkoksukhumvit15.

Dolphin Island rules

A corporate retreat with a difference – a reward for top achievers?

Dolphin Island, Fiji is offering the experience of a lifetime, with the opportunity for up to eight people to enjoy this beautiful island for themselves, while having cooking lessons from Australian celebrity chef Pete Evans from 22-27 June.

Guests can enjoy Pete's company and expertise while exploring local exotic markets, catching and eating their own seafood.

The five-night stay includes a three-day cook school with Pete Evans, assisted by Sue Jenkins, the owner of Mosman's highly respected cook school Accoutrement.

Arrival by float plane, accommodation in a guest bure, all meals and standard bar for the entire stay and road transfer in a private vehicle to Nadi International Airport on the day of departure, for a tariff of NZ\$9,900.00pp (including taxes).

Based on eight guests, on a twin-share basis, within four bures, the event can also be presented for a smaller number of guests, with the per person rate varying according to the number of guests.

Email - accoutrement@bigpond.com.



WIN an Exclusive Meeting Package at Novotel Brisbane Airport

This week **BEN** is giving one reader the chance to win a Premium Conference Package courtesy of **Novotel Brisbane Airport**.

The prize includes full day use of the Executive Boardroom for up to 11 delegates, Premium Conference Package and audio visual equipment.

Brisbane's only airport hotel offers a dedicated conference centre, with unbeatable access and parking options. Six event rooms boast natural light, state of the art audio visual and a capacity of up to 120 delegates.

To enter email us a creative photo showing yourself looking at the Novotel Brisbane Airport website

Email comp@businessesnews.com.au

HINT! www.novotelbrisbaneairport.com.au

Terms & Conditions apply





Pumphouse pumps again

IT'S the crowning jewel of Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour and last week the historic Pumphouse, located opposite the Entertainment Centre was relaunched after an impressive refurbishment.



Pumping once again, the lofty two-storey, heritage-listed space has been redesigned by PMDL architects while the original water pumping tanks which were in operation until 1975, are a prominent feature.

Offering a range of new dishes matched to more than 100 boutique beers.

General manager for Pumphouse at Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour, Peter Emery says, "It's all part of the fun to offer Sydney beer geeks and novices a chance to sample something they most likely cannot get anywhere else."

Pictured above are: David Sude,

eam of Novotel Rockford; Peter Emery, gm; Gaynor Reid, Accor and Glenn A Baker.

Staging a winning streak

THE Staging Connections team have been chosen as finalists across four state offices in the 2012 Meetings & Events Australia (MEA) Industry Awards.

Entering the category of Technical & Creative Production - \$5m for four state-based offices in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland, all four offices will now go on as finalists to the state awards, and then if they win, will go head to head for the national title.

Talking about the finalists, Tony Chamberlain, managing director of Staging Connections said, "we are all so thrilled with four offices receiving the finalist status, especially Western Australia where we have made an investment in growing this office to support the industry."

"Making it through as a finalist in four states is a real testament to the passion, hard work and continued commitment of everyone at Staging Connections to creating great events," Chamberlain said.

Defending their title as previous national winners for the past two years, the Staging Connections Queensland team are on their way to entering the MEA Hall of Fame if they win state award and then the national award.

Shoal Bay's cook offs

WHEN it comes to team-building exercises, the Shoal Bay Resort & Spa resort has created a very today event, The "Master Cook Challenge," lead by their executive chef and talented kitchen team.

It's a challenge that places delegates in groups with elected team captains who are then guided through meal preparation, cooking and plating each course for delivery to their fellow colleagues

The experience caters to delegates from beginners to experienced chefs with customised menus to suit each event - driving a sense of competition.

In addition, delegates will enjoy a lesson in wine or beer appreciation, matching each beverage to the selected courses.

Introducing... the coffee table PC

DISMAYED that family members are spread out over the house, each with a separate PC or tablet?

Lenovo has something it believes will get them back together:



a PC the size of a coffee table that works like a gigantic tablet and lets four people use it at once.

Lenovo, one of the world's largest PC makers, is calling the IdeaCentre Horizon Table PC the first "interpersonal computer" — as opposed to a "personal computer".

At first glance, it looks like a regular all-in-one machine in the vein of the iMac: it's a 27-inch screen with the innards of a Windows 8 computer built into it, and it can stand up on a table.

But you can pick it up off the table, unhook the power cord and lay it flat for games of "Monopoly". It's big enough to fit four people around it, and the screen can respond to ten fingers touching it at the same time.

As a tablet, it's a monstrosity. The screen is the size of eight iPads stitched together, and it weighs 6.8 kilograms.

It's almost as homebound as a flat-panel TV.

The Table PC will include plastic "strickers" for "Air Hockey", and joysticks that attach to the screen for other games, including multi-player shooter "Raiding Company".

Lenovo, a Chinese company

that owns IBM's former PC business, said the Table PC will go on sale this summer in the US (June) starting at \$US1699 (\$1617).

It's being unveiled this week at the International CES gadget show in Las Vegas.

Microsoft pioneered the idea of a table PC with the Surface, a PC with a 30-inch touch-sensitive screen released in 2008. It was designed for store displays and other commercial applications.

The concept is now called PixelSense, as Microsoft started using the "Surface" name for an unrelated tablet computer last year.

More recently, Sony released the Tap 20, an all-in-one PC that can also be laid flat.

But it's smaller than the Lenovo model, at 20 inches diagonally, and doesn't have as much table-oriented software as the Table PC.

Story adapted from an Associated Press article.

To check out the latest tech news for small business visit Tony Wragg's TechTalk at: www.tonystechtalk.com.au.



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