



Galway seafood

SHOULD you be heading across the sea to Ireland, do so in September



when the Galway International Oyster and Seafood Festival shucks into being hailed by the *Sunday Times* as "one of the 12 greatest shows on earth".

It is being held from 26 - 29 September when seafood trails, oyster hot spots, guest chefs and a Food Village of top restaurants create incredible dishes with Irish ingredients.

First hand memories of Galway and oysters was on a pco food trail famil I joined a few years ago, which included staying at the g Hotel, fabulous in its Hollywood glamour style and wading out near Killary Harbour in rubber boots, our host shucking creamy, fat oysters as we moved along the oyster beds.

The g, by the way provides six cutting edge occasion suites for meetings, conferences or private events for up to 300 people.

Galway and the g, make for a pretty inspirational combination.

Enjoy today's issue as it is action packed with industry news - *Jill*.

EEAA's cautionary tale

WITH a relatively optimistic outlook for the industry in the Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia's (EEAA) latest Market Monitor, it also warns of emerging levels of caution particularly among exhibition and event organisers.

The Market Monitor which tracks key facts and trends about the health of the industry and what's on the mind of organisers, venues and suppliers, show that the Lifestyle category dominates the landscape with 38% of organisers delivering exhibitions in this market.

It also shows that over 24,000 companies exhibit through events organised by EEAA members.

Venues also attribute 30% of revenue to exhibitions, reports the EEAA's general manager, Joyce DiMascio.

The report goes on to show that the industry outlook is positive though EEAA members are pointing to concerns about impacts on their businesses from building and construction at venues, decreasing exhibitor budgets and the domestic economy.

It also shows that 52% of trade shows and 10% of consumer events included a paid conference component and the growing trend of exhibitions to deliver content and engagement through conferences and seminars associated with the exhibition.



"The stimulatory impact of exhibitions on the conference market is very significant and should not be overlooked by Convention Bureaux around the country and Governments that invest in event procurement mostly in the meetings and conference sector," she said.

This is the third report produced by the association and it covers the period of July to December 2012 with consolidated results for the 2012 calendar year.

DiMascio says that overall the exhibition industry is performing well and that there is forecast for growth, although sentiment across the industry is not uniform with growth in some areas and a softening in others.

For more key findings, the report can be purchased for \$400.

Contact - memberservices@eeaa.com.au.

BCEC goes dental again

WHEN the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) hosted the biggest Australian Dental Congress in its history, in 2011 it attracted a record 4,000 delegates.

Once again, the Australian Dental Association has announced that the 36th Australian Dental Congress will return to the Centre in March 2015.

Australian Dental Association Federal sales and events manager, Oscar van Elten said Brisbane was a very popular destination with great appeal to delegates.

"Accessibility of the destination and location and suitability of the venue were major influencing factors.

"Feedback from delegates attending the 2011 event was overwhelmingly positive; it was almost universally described as a fabulous Congress," he said.

Eddie ready for Perth

PERTH readers and visitors might like to join 'Mr Football' Eddie McGuire at the Crown Perth for lunch at the Rockpool Bar & Grill on Monday, 6 May.

Guests will enjoy a three-course luncheon, designed by Neil Perry and wines from Cape Mentelle, as Eddie shares the secrets to his success at this exclusive event.

Limited tickets are available at \$195 each; email reservations@rockpoolperth.com.

Paddy visitor numbers on the up

WITH Australian, NZ and other Oceania countries visitor numbers to Ireland up 21.3% for the three-month period January to March, Tourism Ireland's Donna Campbell remarked that the result was amazing.

Commenting on the figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) issued on Monday, Tourism Ireland's ce Niall Gibbons said, "Today's figures from the CSO showing growth of 7.4% suggest a strong start to 2013 with the best first quarter performance from North America since 2004 and the best ever first quarter from Australia and developing markets (such as China and India).

"It is encouraging to see growth from all market areas and, in

particular, to see Great Britain return the best first quarter performance in four years with growth of 1.4%."

Great Britain, he said, continues to be challenging, with the pace of economic recovery continuing to impact on outbound travel.

"Tourism Ireland mounted its biggest ever St Patrick's promotion with over 70 iconic landmarks across the world turning green to mark St Patrick's Day.

"This year, The Gathering Ireland 2013 and Derry - Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013 present tremendous opportunities for us to shine a spotlight on the island of Ireland around the world," he said.





Racing in the Red Centre

THE Alice Springs Turf Club voted one of Australia's most scenic and centrally situated thoroughbred racing clubs, is just 7km from the Alice Springs CBD.

With racing 34 days of the year, broadcast internationally on Sky Racing Channel, there are plenty of opportunities to stage a conference or event.

The course's top-class facilities include an expansive, pillarless Marquee, set in the spectacular surrounds of the McDonnell Ranges, which seamlessly adjoins the trackside lawns.

In total the Marquee has a capacity for 850 theatre style,



450 banquet and 70 exhibition booths.

Pictured above are local industry identities and operators: Nina Peters, Staging Connections; Terry Hooton, Alice Springs Turf Club; Kay Eade, Central Australia Region Chamber of Commerce; Scott Lovett, NT Convention Bureau and Meg Foster, Alice Springs Turf Club.

Sheraton Macao meetings offer

BOOK an event at Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central and they will make the event up to five times more memorable, and if you book and hold it by the end of this year, they will extend the exact same offer for the next five years.

The meetings offer includes – a half-day package from HKD480 and, a full day from HKD600.

Personalise the event by choosing one of a number of free items for groups over 100 rooms at peak, such as free room internet, double the complimentary suite allocation, an exclusive helicopter transfer and 10 tickets to the spectacular live show 'The House of Dancing Water.'

Events for subsequent years must be contracted within 12 months of a 2013 event with similar dates, stay pattern and size.



Stay on in Seminyak

SEMINYAK is very much the destination du jour in Bali, so the news HRA has signed The Villas – Seminyak to their portfolio, provides another good reason to stay on after the conference.

Located in the heart of Seminyak, the exclusive accommodation offers privacy and luxury with all the conveniences of a full service hotel.

Each of the 50 villas has a private swimming pool.

"Bali is the number one holiday destination for Australians and we are delighted to finally have the right property here" says Craig Davies, managing director of HRA.

"Bali offers something for everyone and villa stays are becoming a serious option to the normal hotel stay."

Book three nights accommodation now and each adult receives a complimentary 40 minute massage in Prana Spa.

For more information visit the website online at - www.hotelrepresentationaustralia.com.au.

1 300 799 220

Advertising in BEN:

- Cost Effective • Targeted • Easy

For details call us today or email: advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au



A Rendezvous with the autumn season

RENDEVOUS Grand Hotel Melbourne is celebrating autumn with some enticing iPad rewards.

Spend \$5,000 on your next conference, event or group accommodation booking and receive an Apple iPad mini or spend \$10,000 or more and receive an Apple iPad 4.

Email - conventions@melbourne.rendezvous.com.au.

Sharp Tiger's new ceo



ROB Sharp has been announced as the new ceo for Tiger Airways Australia.

An experienced senior aviation executive, Sharp has held a number of executive positions with Qantas Airways over the past 15 years.

With a wealth of commercial expertise including specialist experience in operating in a multi-brand environment, he has strong operational credentials and a track record of innovation, having served in various commercial roles at Qantas Airways over the last eight years.

Roles that include Strategy and Innovation, and Global Airport Infrastructure and Services.

MEANWHILE Tiger Airways and Virgin Australia (VA) are currently in the process of finalising a proposed joint venture under which VA would acquire 60% of the existing shares in Tiger Australia from Tiger Airways.

The proposed transaction still remains subject to certain conditions and regulatory approvals, including clearance from the Foreign Investment Review Board.



WE all know how friendly the crew on Virgin is.

Now, if you choose things can get a whole lot friendlier.

It has come to pass that passengers with their eye on a fellow traveller can make a move, without even leaving their seat.

How? Virgin America has launched a new system that lets passengers send drinks to their fellow flyers via the inflight entertainment unit.

It's as easy as pinpointing the object of your affection on a digital seat map displayed on the screen and swiping your credit card for a tipple to be taken directly to the passenger's seat.

You can even buy them dinner or interact with people seated in other parts of the plane via a text messaging function on the Red in-flight entertainment system.

Virgin boss Richard Branson said, "I'm not a betting man, but I say your chance of deplaning with a plus-one are at least 50%."

Don't get too excited though, it's currently only available on flights in the US.

Lions plant 51 trees



LIONS Clubs International Multiple District 308 who hosted its annual convention in Kuala Lumpur in April, participated in the Let's Meet & Green program, planting 51 trees – an activity aiming to give back to the environment.

Powered by the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) the event took place at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) Kepong.

Representatives from the Lions Club International, MyCEB and FRIM are **pictured** above.



business events news

1st May 2013

Team building with Heritage

21 of Heritage Boutique's collection clients were whisked away to Auckland's Waitakere Estate for an afternoon of team building with AWOL Adventures and a fresh look at West Auckland's finest conference venue.



The afternoon ended with canapés and drinks and a celebration by the victors of the team building activities.

Subadia joins BICC



SARASWATI Subadia has been appointed as director of sales MICE at The Westin Resort Nusa Dua and Bali International Convention Centre (BICC).

With 12 years of past service exclusively in the MICE sector, Subadia brings a wealth of experience to her new assignment.

Subadia's arrival in Nusa Dua also coincides with the completion of BICC's renewal project that has extensively remodeled the Centre and given a sophisticated new look to the much utilised venue.

More recently she was managing director MICE with Smiling Tour.

Pictured are the very happy Team One winners who received a night's accommodation at a Heritage/City Life Hotel or Heritage Boutique property.

Rendezvous Christchurch reopens

IN celebration of the 1 May reopening of the Rendezvous Hotel Christchurch and to give even more reason to stay, the hotel has put together a set of special offers.

These include eight days of exclusive launch offers posted daily online at www.rendezvoushotels.com/christchurch.

For the first month, until 1 June, guests will receive 10% off the best available rate every day of the week, including free internet and free local calls.

Until 31 December, guests who stay two nights will save 20% off the best available rate, and 25% off the best available rate when they stay three nights.

CONTACT US:

Publisher Editor Contributors/Coordinator
Bruce Piper Jill Varley Chantel Housler

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

Business Events News is part of the Travel Daily group of publications which also include: Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly & Pharmacy Daily.

Disclaimer: While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Business Events News* no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. *BEN* takes no responsibility for the opinions of its contributors/columnists. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed.



Sitting Pretty

China Eastern Business Class

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

BEN recently flew from Sydney to Shanghai aboard China Eastern Airlines new Airbus A330-200 aircraft, which comes with lie-flat bed seating in Business Class, plus a host of other new amenities that makes the 10-hour non-stop flight surprisingly enjoyable.

THE AIRCRAFT

It's clear China Eastern is pulling out all stops to woo premium western travellers with the latest planes, super service, and comfort.

On boarding, we were welcomed by four beautifully-groomed female, English-speaking cabin crew proudly sporting their smart new navy blue uniforms (the airline has just won a top award for the best uniforms in the sky), and shown to seats 1A and B where French Taittinger Champagne was poured.

After takeoff came drinks and canapés, then the dinner service which included two choices each of Western and Chinese cuisine.

We tried a bit of both – the Chinese marinated Abalone and Alaska crabmeat, and Aussie Rack of Lamb, or Sea Bass.

Wines are mainly French, so we chose a Baron Philippe de Rothschild white and a fine Bordeaux red. Top Barossa Valley wines were also available. Dessert and cheese plates followed.

The crew then handed out pyjamas and an amenities kit with eye shade, socks, moisturising creams, blanket and pillow as we settled in for a night's rest. I couldn't help but notice how the crew kept the toilets spotlessly clean after use by passengers, and how attentive and friendly they were to those on board.

THE SEAT

The 30 Business Class seats are equipped with automatic massage cushions in four directions – press a button and you get a nice back rub.

They recline to an angled lie-flat position in a 2-2-2 configuration. They were so comfortable, there was no problem sleeping for several hours. There are several storage areas for carry ons and coat hooks.

ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

There are 80 on-demand movies to watch on a 15-inch LCD screen, plus a number of the latest TV shows as well as games (including multiple 3D games), electronic books, USB ports for photo browsing and charging and universal power socket.

Before landing on time just after 5am, breakfast was served and after collecting our bags, we took advantage of the complimentary chauffeur-driven Mercedes for all Business Class passengers for transfer to our Shanghai hotel.

China Eastern flies 12 times weekly from Sydney to Shanghai and daily from Melbourne with the new A330-200 and thrice weekly Sydney-Nanjing as well as Cairns-Shanghai.

It also codeshares with Qantas on the route.

