



Tread carefully

AS they say, "wherever you step the land is mined."



While the Planning Department has approved the decision to build a temporary exhibition centre on Glebe Island as the new convention and exhibition centre is being built in Darling Harbour, Leichhardt Council says it will lead to road chaos and create a \$26 million "white elephant," according to a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Occupying the inner-west centre site for four years, the exhibition industry warns that the site's success rests on seamless public access, which is not the case on Glebe Island.

A working port, it has car spaces limited to 1000 and bears little comparison to the SCEC with its light rail, rail access and pedestrian and cycle links from Town Hall to Central.

The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority has also expressed concern that the plan would put pressure on the "constrained transport network", the *SMH* said - Jill.

Trotter applauds NZICC



DESCRIBING Heads of Agreement reached between the government and SKYCITY as desperately needed and long overdue, Conventions and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) chief executive Alan Trotter said, "I really applaud the government for their innovative and pragmatic approach to the challenge of building an international convention centre in these tough economic times.

"It's going to be great for our country and for our economy so the fact they have managed to do it without imposing any extra costs on either Auckland ratepayers or the NZ tax-payer is truly laudable," he said.

"What we need to do now is keep the foot on the accelerator and get this facility built as soon

as possible."

Meanwhile the International Convention Centre is projected to generate \$85 to \$100 million of new foreign exchange earnings in the first year, based on a capacity of 3,500 delegates.

An international convention delegate spends around \$365 per night, compared to an average spend of \$200 per night for international leisure visitors.

Geoff York to join Amalgamated

NEWS just to hand is that highly regarded and personable Accor general manager, Geoff York, currently heading up the MGallery's Fairmont Resort in the Blue Mountains departs the property this week after just over three years in the role.

With the hotel's business back on track, he leaves in his wake a substantial growth in business and occupancy levels and the seizing back of the Fairmont's good name.

York will take up a new challenge in early June, with Amalgamated Holdings, the owner/operator of Rydges and QT Hotels where he will have responsibility for bringing a new hotel brand to the market.

PWV to host AFAC

WITH the Wellington Town Hall shortly set to close for three years, for earthquake strengthening, the city's Shed 6 is being refurbished into a multi-purpose venue, to enable Wellington to host the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Conference 2014.

Taking place from 2-4 Sept 2014, half of the expected 650 delegates are likely to cross the Tasman for the event.

Positively Wellington Venues ce David Perks says the conference - which will be hosted at Shed 6



and TSB Arena - is expected to inject over \$1 million into the city's economy.

Securing the conference in New Zealand for just the third time in its history is a "real coup", says New Zealand Fire Service chief executive & national commander Paul Baxter.

Living a suite life on the Great Barrier Reef

LIVING a lifestyle of the rich and famous is a distinct possibility now that Pullman Reef Hotel Casino Cairns and Orpheus Island Resort have created The Suite Life Package.

The joint venture between the two North Queensland properties features two nights in a suite at the hotel and three nights beachfront accommodation on the island.

Orpheus Island, located offshore from Townsville boasts 11km of immaculate turquoise coastline, spectacular fringing reefs and accommodates just 34 indulged guests at any one time.

The Orpheus Suite Life package with access via helicopter includes all gourmet meals, regional wines and beers, a romantic Dining with the Tides experience, a chef-prepared picnic hamper on a secluded cove and nature-based experiences including snorkelling, fishing or a local island cruise.

MEANWHILE at the five star Pullman Reef Hotel Casino located in the heart of Cairns with harbour and mountain views, the Suite Life Package comprises two nights junior suite accommodation at Pullman Reef Hotel Casino, room service breakfast for two each morning, \$100 credit for the acclaimed Chef's Hat Tamarind Restaurant, complimentary Audi transfers to and from Cairns Airport and midday checkout.

Total cost of the Suite Life Package is \$4,678 per couple.

Team building. More fun in the Philippines



facebook.com/itsmorefuninthephilippines
 Visit morefuninthephilippines.com.au





SkyTeam's Global Meetings

NEW features have been added to the Global Meetings product offered by global airline alliance SkyTeam.

These include an online self-booking tool; enabling delegates to book discounted travel on any of SkyTeam's 19 member airlines through a dedicated portal on SkyTeam.com, as well as increased discount levels.

To qualify to use the free tool, the event must have 50 or more attendees travelling by air from a minimum of two countries - other than the country in which the event is taking place.

Organisers can register their event for the Global Meetings product from two months to five years in advance by visiting SkyTeam.com.

Other benefits include a wide range of fare discounts, an enhanced Productivity Reward Program that offers one free ticket on any member airline for every 50 attendees that travel to their event and the possibility for delegates to earn miles with any

Mercure embraces urban renewal

AS Sydney's Central Station/Broadway area undergoes a substantial urban renewal program, with new residential, commercial and educational buildings transforming the precinct, the Mercure Sydney in keeping with its refurbishment phase is about to unveil a multi-million dollar revamp.

The four-star, George Street-located hotel in the final stages of a major renovation, will see each of its 517 rooms revealed in a bright, contemporary new look by spring.

Guests can now try out the new rooms while also making great savings in the Accor 'Stay 3 Pay 2' promotion.

Travellers simply need to book three consecutive nights before 25 June and stay before 30 June to enjoy the bonus night FOC.

SkyTeam airline loyalty program.

In addition, SkyTeam is working on a number of additional features to be introduced later in the year.

"The enhanced Global Meetings product is SkyTeam's cost-effective solution for the competitive MICE sector, which combined with our presence in key markets such as North America, Greater China and Europe, meets the demands of today's meetings industry," said Mauro Oretti, SkyTeam's vp sales and marketing.

See - www.skyteam.com/en/Supporting-your-business/Global-meetings/.

Hotel exhibitor demand at CIBTM

THE results of research by Global Business Travel Association (GBTA), third GBTA BTI Outlook, reveals that spending on international outbound business travel from China will increase by 13.3% in 2013, followed by 16.3% in 2014.

Reed Travel Exhibitions has also identified that 72% of buyers attending CIBTM are actively seeking to identify new destinations where they can host events in the next twelve months.

Jeffrey Xu, Reed Travel Exhibitions, CIBTM project manager commented, "It is great to see from our post show research that buyers attending CIBTM are increasingly seeking new event destinations, presenting a unique prospect for international hotel exhibitors looking to increase their customer base from China.

"CIBTM creates a platform for international hotels to showcase their properties to buyers and visitors from China, and from the rest of the world."

CIBTM, the China Incentives, Business Travel and Meetings Exhibition, will be held from 2-4 September at the China National Convention Centre in Beijing.

Help yourself & others

WANT to know how to heighten your chances for success and help a worthy cause?

An opportunity to network with industry colleagues and to gain knowledge from an expert during an interactive professional development 'Dressing for Success in the Workplace' event is being held on Wednesday 29 May, at the Gallery Bar @ The Arthouse Hotel, 275 Pitt Street, Sydney between 12pm - 2pm.

The event is priced at \$25 which includes food and drinks with \$5 from each ticket sold being donated to the not-for-profit organisation, Dress for Success Sydney.

Personal stylist, Sarah Donges will speak about Creating the right first impression for your clients; Getting the most out of your work wardrobe without spending too much; Defining the office dress code, especially the new "Corporate Casual" and options on what to wear and appropriate work wear for "Dress Down Friday."

There are door prizes to be won on the day and you will also leave with a goodie bag valued at a lot more than the entry ticket.

To purchase your ticket or to find out more information visit the website at - www.thearthousehotel.com.au.



IF there ever was a reason, apart from the obvious benefits, to attend the 2013 Hawaii Tourism Conference Aug 22-23, - "Defining the Next Chapter" - then it has to be the headline speaker, Andrew McCarthy.

Yes, he of such films as "Pretty in Pink," "St. Elmo's Fire" and "Less Than Zero."

Not just a pretty face and a serious spunk, but also editor-at-large for National Geographic Traveler, author of The New York Times best-selling travel memoir, The Longest Way Home.

Attendees get to hear some of his personal stories of the transforming effect of travel and his perspective on what visitors seek in travel.

Definitely sounds like a **BEN** assignment!



Live and stay at Mantra

THE Mantra Group has launched a comprehensive program offering to service long-term stays of 28 days or more, to not just stay at Mantra but to 'live@Mantra'.

With 18 Mantra hotels in the live@Mantra long term stay program situated in all mainland Australian capital cities and key regional hubs, competitive discounts of up to 50% off daily rates; no special event charges should occur over these periods; personalised service including a welcome grocery pack to ease into the first week; and a dedicated hotel manager to arrange any additional home comforts are included.

Mantra Group's director of corporate sales, Kyle Wallwork said growth in the long term 28-plus night accommodation market has seen a dramatic pick up in the first quarter of 2013 which confirmed nearly 40% of the total room nights booked by long terms stays for the entire year in 2012.

"Industry feedback from relocation companies who assist 457 visa workers; clients from industries such as the mining resources sector, the legal industry and government departments; and travel management bookers with long term stay needs provided us with an excellent blueprint for the live@Mantra program and we were able to implement their requests from a service, rate and product perspective," he said.

For further details on the package visit - www.liveatmantra.com.au.





Asia-World highlights Lantau

IN order to promote Hong Kong's AsiaWorld-Expo exhibition and events venue, last week they joined with seven of their collaborative partners to hold a networking lunch for representatives of professional conference organisers, destination management and professional event organisers.



The event was part of a two-day tailor-made tour of the tourism experience that Lantau offers and included a special visit of "Baby and Mother Carnival" in AsiaWorld-Expo, a dining event at Novotel Citygate Hong Kong Hotel and a night's stay in Regal Airport Hotel in Lantau.

Organised in association with AsiaWorld-Expo, Auberge Discovery Bay Hong Kong, Hong

Kong Disneyland Resort, Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel, Ngong Ping 360, Noah's Ark Hong Kong, Novotel Citygate Hong Kong Hotel and Regal Airport Hotel, it revealed to the guests the many ways in which Lantau is able to enhance MICE events.

Lantau, AsiaWorld-Expo and its seven collaborative partners are now offering, events a 10% discount on their total bill if the booking is confirmed on or before 30 September 2013 and the event takes place on or before 31 August 2014.

Delegates are pictured above at the networking luncheon, held at IKON Seaview Restaurant at the AsiaWorld-Expo.

To find out more information about the Expo visit - www.asiaworld-expo.com.

Hunt the chief with SCB at IMEX

IF you are heading to IMEX 2013, 21-23 May in Frankfurt, the Sarawak Convention Bureau (SCB) is asking visitors to find their Tribal Chief.

Dressed in his 'Sunday best', the Tribal Chief can be seen roaming around the trade show floor at the following times: 21 May 10.30am to 11.30am, 22 May 2.30pm to 3.30pm, and 23 May 10.30am to 11.30am.

The first person to spot the chief during these time slots and provide the password will receive a card to collect a gift from the Sarawak booth.

Hints on the password will be given on Facebook at "BE. Sarawak" or at the Malaysia stand number B200.

What's more, if you think you might be related to an ethnic tribe in Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo, you can discover your Borneo roots at the booth in an interactive game and have a chance to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab in a lucky draw.

Byron at Byron's one off special rate

IN a region that offers a diverse range of activities from sea kayaking to rainforest mountain bike riding, the Byron at Byron Resort and Spa has a one off special from 16 June to 6 July, that allows organisers the opportunity to hold a conference from as little as \$220 per room per night, while they undergo routine maintenance work around the pool deck.

The \$220 rate is for standard suites only.

It is valid for residential conferences with a minimum of 10 rooms booked per night.

The deal is available for new bookings only, see - www.thebyronatbyron.com.au.

Mobile overload looms as phone production ramps up

A billion new smartphones sold worldwide in 2013 will increase pressure on already-crowded mobile broadband spectrum, leading to increased network dropouts and slowdowns, including in Australia.



The year ahead will also see the rise of the big-screened "phablet" phone, internet-connected and ultra-high definition "4K" television, and the decline of password-only online security as hacking becomes more prevalent, a Deloitte Technology, Media and Telecommunications Predictions 2013 report says.

Deloitte Australia lead telecommunications partner Stuart Johnston said global smartphone shipments are expected to exceed one billion this year.

"There will be two billion people that will have a smartphone in their hand by year end," he said.

A quarter of those will only be used for voice and text rather than data functions.

There will still be 1.5 billion people accessing data from smartphones and that will put unprecedented pressure on the mobile spectrum.

While Australia is better placed than most for wired broadband, courtesy of the national broadband network,

Johnston said, it was in the same poor position as the rest of the globe for shortage of wireless spectrum.

Australia's government, like others worldwide, needed to speed up the auction process for 4G broadband spectrum and realise that carriers will not pay the historic high prices paid for 3G.

"We believe that the current spectrum shortage issues that are being experienced now will get worse before they get better," he said.

The report, which seeks to predict technology trends each year, tipped the "phablet" – the large-screened phone-tablet-cross device – would gain in popularity.

Story adapted from an AAP article.

To check

out the latest tech news for small business visit Tony Wragg's TechTalk at -

www.tonystechtalk.com.au.



CONTACT US:

Publisher Bruce Piper	Editor Jill Varley	Contributors/Coordinator 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.