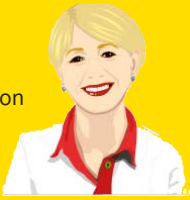




## Tread carefully

THE Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) says



Friday's tragic shooting at LAX, underscores the risks taken on behalf of every traveller by officers of the Transportation Security Administration.

"The TSA's checkpoint personnel are the frontline in preventing criminals, terrorists, or disturbed individuals from inflicting mass loss of life while paralysing the country's transportation network," said ACTE exec director Greeley Koch.

Koch notes that the TSA has a difficult job of balancing security with traveller convenience.

Past issues regarding pocket knives, shoe removal, and pat downs have opened the agency to criticism.

"Yet here we have a lethal demonstration of what can happen in the blink of an eye."

"It is evident that airport security at LAX has been training for just such an event."

Koch added that this incident undoubtedly triggered an emergency response from any corporate travel manager who had clients moving through LAX that day.

This event also emphasised the need for companies to track their travelling employees and to be ready to provide assistance, anywhere in the world on extremely short notice, he added.

On a lighter note, I don't know how you went in the Melbourne Cup. I hope it was better than me!

Still, it isn't about the winning, but the playing of the game. Isn't it? *Jill*

## ICC Sydney bookings flow

**BUSINESS** Events Sydney says that more than \$30 million of business has already been secured for the new International Convention Centre Sydney, despite the facility not even opening for another three years.

Speaking in Shanghai, BESydney ceo Lyn Lewis-Smith said the five international events show "strong confidence in the new facilities," supporting the NSW state government's redevelopment of the Darling Harbour precinct.

There's a strong focus on professional and legal services in the wins, with the five events including the 4000-delegate International Bar Association Annual Conference 2017, and the International Association of Restructuring Insolvency Bankruptcy Professionals World Quadrennial Congress 2017 with 800 delegates.

There's also the 2017 AIPPI World Intellectual Property Congress expected to attract 2000 delegates; the Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors Congress 2018 with 500 delegates; and the 20th International Congress of Cytology in 2019 with an estimated 1200 delegates.

### Save the date!

**DON'T** forget to RSVP for the next Platinum Networking Night which is being hosted by TMS Asia Pacific and other key partners including Tourism Ireland, Travelport, Qantas, Breakaway Travelclub and **Business Events News**.

It's taking place at the Sydney Sofitel Wentworth Hotel on 28 Nov from 6pm - see **page four**.

Lewis-Smith said there were also sixty expressions of interest from national association events for the new centre.

NSW Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner said the professional services meetings reinforced Sydney's standing as "Australia's global city and one of the world's major financial centres," and were aligned with the govt's economic development plan which includes a focus on NSW's finance and business services competitive advantages.

"An aligned economic development strategy makes sense," he said, with the meetings bringing opportunities for trade, investment, knowledge sharing, collaboration and innovation.

Lewis-Smith said the new centre had been a key theme of BESydney's international discussions.

### BEN's office\* winner



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Chris Norrgard from Revlon Australia, winner of the **BEN** office\* draw promotion, winning two nights at the absolute beachfront Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre Marcoola Beach, on the beautiful Sunshine Coast.

She's **pictured** receiving her prize from Slava Atkins of Wyndham Hotel Group.

### From little acorns...

**TOURISM** Portfolio has been appointed to represent the Riverside Oaks resort which is conveniently located about an hour from the Sydney CBD.

The property has just added 36 new rooms and will next month unveil a new fine-dining restaurant and a second championship golf course, making it a great option for meetings and conference groups.

For more information see [www.tourismportfolio.com.au](http://www.tourismportfolio.com.au).



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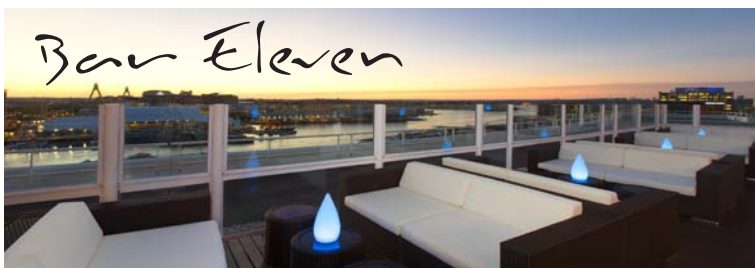
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POINTS  
BY SHERATON  
Sydney  
Darling Harbour





# business events news

6th November 2013

## Auckland's world of possibilities

AN Auckland famil trip last month, hosted by Auckland Convention Bureau (ACB), was a chance for 12 Australian and three Kiwi conference and incentive planners to get an insiders' guide to NZ's premier destination.

ACB sales manager Lee Watkins said: "From gourmet dining in the city centre to eco adventures on our idyllic islands, we really made the most of their time here and the feedback has been fantastic."

The group networked at Auckland Museum's 1866 Gallery as they were welcomed by the museum's Maori cultural group.

There was dinner in the museum's spectacular Grand Foyer, themed by EventSmart and catered by Austin's Food Design Events, and the famil also included breakfast at The Wharf on Auckland's North Shore, a private launch trip on Activa to Waiheke Island where they ziplined between the vines at EcoZip Adventures, enjoyed fine



local wines at Mudbrick, boutique beer at Wild on Waiheke and sampled the menu at Stonyridge.

Ananda Tours provided transfers on the island and then they were given a bird's eye view of Waiheke as they flew back with North Shore Helicopters.

There was an Adventure Jet adventure (pictured), while the trip also included dinner at Eight at The Langham and lunch at The Sugar Club at SKYCITY plus a night at the theatre to see WICKED.

The famil ended fabulously on the back of Harley Davidsons courtesy Bularangi Motorbikes.

## A Toga Rendezvous

RENDEZVOUS Hotels' parent company Far East Hospitality and the Toga Group have entered into a joint venture partnership, which gives them a combined portfolio of more than 13,000 rooms under management across more than 80 hotels and serviced apartments with nine distinctive and complementary brands, and over 2,200 staff.

Toga Hotels will immediately assume responsibility for the management of the Rendezvous Grand Hotel Perth Scarborough, Rendezvous Studio Hotel Perth Central, Rendezvous Grand Hotel Melbourne and Rendezvous Grand Hotel Adelaide as part of a transition that will increase its accommodation offering to more than 65 hotels across Australia, New Zealand and Europe.

All of the Rendezvous Hotels which are set to come under the management of Toga Hotels, carry four and five star categories.

The Rendezvous Grand Hotel Singapore and Rendezvous Hotel Shanghai Merry will continue to be managed by Far East Hospitality.

The Rendezvous Hotel website will remain although the 11 transitioning Rendezvous Hotels will also be integrated into the Toga Hotels and Far East Hospitality websites.



## TEAM challenge perhaps?

In order to promote their new Kuala Lumpur to Adelaide route, Malaysian low-cost long haul airline Air Asia X, which touched down in the city of churches for the first time on Saturday, has dared millions of potential travellers from across Asia to take the "Port Lincoln - Deep Blue, Great White" challenge.

The challenge, which involves activities such as cage diving with Great White sharks and speed eating Coffin Bay oysters, could well become the newest individual or team building exercise for corporate groups.

It goes like this.

A heart rate monitor is strapped to each competitor and the one with the lowest average heart rate during the undersea cage dive with the savage giants is crowned the winner.

Or, in the case of a group exercise, the team with the overall lowest heart rate.

Other challenges include a treasure hunt in the Barossa Valley, a wildlife safari on Kangaroo Island, a busking competition in Adelaide, and a contest to see who can gorge themselves with the most Coffin Bay oysters in five minutes.

# THE ULURU MEETING PLACE

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## Famils for GIBTM buyers

**THE** National Tourism Offices in Bahrain, Jordan and Qatar have officially confirmed their support to host a group of top international meeting and incentive buyers next year, after GIBTM 2014, which takes place at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from 24-26 Mar. "These MICE buyers will be given an insight to the world-class business and meetings facilities offered in these key Middle East destinations, immediately after the 2014 edition of the show," said Gulf Incentives, Business,

Travel and Meetings (GIBTM) exhibition director Lois Hall. "With so much investment throughout the region being put into transport infrastructure, new conference, concert and sports facilities, cultural and heritage sites, not to mention some of the most iconic hotels in the world, it is little wonder that the meetings and incentive market is growing exponentially in the Middle East," Hall said.

In addition to the post-event familiarisation initiative, the expo will also include Business Travel @ GIBTM featuring specialist exhibitors within the Business Travel Zone, a dedicated Business Travel Knowledge program and exclusive networking opportunities for this specific sector; the first-ever GIBTM-hosted 'Market Focus on Asia' event along with a dedicated Asia Pavilion; and the *sourceme* Pavilion which will showcase the region's leading event service suppliers.

For more info: [www.gibtm.com](http://www.gibtm.com).

## Xie joins GainingEdge

**GAININGEDGE** ceo Gary Grimmer has announced that Cassy Xie who joined GainingEdge on 1 November, is the company's newest consultant in Singapore.

Xie, with 10 years experience in the business events and leisure industry, started out as a member of the Business Events Services team at Singapore Exhibition and Convention Bureau.

Prior to joining GainingEdge, she was with Singex Group, and will now work on Japan and Nigeria projects with her new company.

## Penang Four Points

**WITH** the opening of Four Points by Sheraton Penang, a special introductory rate of RM199++ per night in a deluxe room is being offered for stays between now and 31 Mar 2014.

The offer follows extensive renovations and the rebranding of the 220-room property on the Tanjung Bungah beachfront.

The resort is ideal for meetings and events and features more than 1,100 square metres of flexible space across four venues including two ballrooms and a pre-function area with panoramic views of the ocean.

All venues are equipped with the latest audiovisual technology and are fully supported by a professional events team to cater to a range of functions.

## Pieter van der Hoeven honoured

**PIETER** van der Hoeven, the founding ceo of the Adelaide Convention Centre has been awarded honorary life membership of the International Congress and Conventions Association (ICCA).

Honoured for his contribution to the global meetings industry, van der Hoeven was president of ICCA between 1994 and 1998 and help pave the way for China's inclusion in the organisation in 1997.

He was at the helm of the Adelaide Convention Centre for 21 years until 2006 and instrumental in bringing the prestigious ICCA world congress to Adelaide in 1990.

More recently he's consulted on convention centre-related projects around the globe including Moscow, Kuching, Port Elizabeth and Melbourne.

# BESydney inks China link



**BUSINESS** Events Sydney has launched a new Key Distribution Partner (KDP) Program, In recognition of the importance of the Chinese market to New South Wales.

The scheme is a "long-term, strategic and results-oriented initiative" according to BESydney ceo Lyn Lewis-Smith.

Australian Consul-General in Shanghai, Alice Cawte, along with representatives from the NSW Government and Tourism Australia attended a special launch event last week, along with industry partners including Qantas, Accor, Hilton, Shangri-la, Starwood and Intercontinental.

Lewis-Smith said business from Asia is growing at a great rate with growth in the corporate market being driven by new events and repeat events.

"In the last three years, 85 business events from Asia have been held in NSW, contributing an estimated \$190 million to the economy," she said.

"Last financial year, BESydney secured 11 Chinese corporate incentive events, which represented over 50% of the total estimated economic impact for NSW from all corporate

incentives secured by the bureau during this period.

"A further 10 Chinese corporate incentives, amounting to potentially 25,000 delegate nights, are currently in the event pipeline," she said.

"The KDP program will build on our already strong ties with China, which have been developed over a decade of engagement."

Lewis-Smith also highlighted Sydney's whole-of-city commitment to the Chinese delegate experience as a key reason for the city's desirability across this market.

She added that partners such as Sydney Airport and BridgeClimb Sydney were taking the Chinese visitor very seriously and going 'above and beyond' to enhance their overall experience in Sydney.

One example is BridgeClimb's "Mandarin Club" of proud local Mandarin-speaking climb leaders, which has seen Chinese climbers grow 30% in the last year.

Under the KDP program, BESydney will partner with CYTS, CITS and UMICE in Beijing; GZL in Guangzhou; and JinJiang MICE in Shanghai.

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# Platinum

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