



A tall story

RIGHT now I'm on my way to Shanghai with Qantas, on a Shanghai famil, staying at the Grand Hyatt Shanghai with a group of key event planners.



I'm familiar with the 555-room hotel's iconic Cloud 9 bar, up there in nose bleed territory on the 87th floor of the Jin Mao Tower, but not with the hotel itself, so I'm looking forward to the experience and getting a update on this ever changing city.

At 88 floors in height, the Grand Hyatt isn't the world's tallest hotel, but it is number five, whereas its sister hotel, the Park Hyatt Shanghai on floors 79 to 93 of the Shanghai World Financial Center, is not only the city's tallest building with a 101 floors and 79-93 hotel floors, it also comes in at number two in the world's tallest.

Number one is the Ritz-Carlton in Hong Kong where floors have three-digit numbers and views of Victoria Harbour can be seen from well over 400 metres up.

Coming in as the tallest building solely used as a hotel is the JW Marriott Marquis Dubai, at 355 metres in height, which supersedes the 22 metres shorter Rose Tower, home to the luxurious Rose Rayhaan by Rotana.

More to report from Shanghai on Wednesday.

MEANWHILE check out page two of today's **BEN** for an opportunity to win an overnight getaway at the newly renovated Novotel Sydney Parramatta!

The hotel has just completed refurbishment on all 194 rooms as well as public spaces.

There are 11 meeting areas including two boardrooms, and nearby facilities such as Rosehill Racecourse, Sydney Olympic Park, Riverside Theatre, Parramatta Stadium and the soon-to-open Wet'n'Wild Sydney mean that Novotel Parramatta is in an ideal position to take advantage all that Greater Western Sydney has to offer. *Jill*

ExpoNet goes global



AUSTRALIAN exhibition and event industry supplier ExpoNet is spreading its wings abroad, with the successful implementation of a high profile stand at the recent Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS).

The 2013 APCS took place 9-11 September in Kaohsiung Arena in Kaohsiung, Taiwan and was themed 'Reshaping the Urbanomics of Cities – City Challenges, City Solutions.'

Exponet managed the design and project process for the Brisbane City Council stand at the show from its offices in Australia, with the exhibit constructed by one of its global partners, Taiwan-based Uniplan.

Key features of the 225 square metre stand design included a 'theatrette' presentation area, several business hubs, huge high impact signage and a Brisbane

Café where Australia's Di Bella coffee was sampled.

ExpoNet say that one of the most challenging aspects was managing the audio visual schedule using local crew, interpreters and the international partner's most experienced AV technician to coordinate videos, presentations and image files.

Other difficulties included limited availability of sub-hiring for certain equipment, with the team purchasing new items directly in Taiwan when needed and arranged for the sale of non-hire items to a second hand furniture dealer after the event in order to reduce waste.

Brisbane City Council said it was extremely proud of the outcomes and the visitation experience provided by the pavilion, commending ExpoNet for its "professionalism and expertise".

New science at EIBTM

IT has been announced that the first edition of The EIBTM Meetings Leadership Summit will take place next Monday 18 November, at the brand new Renaissance BarcelonaFira.

Also confirmed is that the event, facilitated by BBC journalist and professional presenter Nadine Dereza, will feature Christophe Morin, ceo and co-founder of Salesbrain, as the keynote speaker who will deliver his session on 'Neuromarketing: The New Science of Decision Making.'

Let's be Frank

FRANK who? You may well ask, but foodies and those in the know will be delighted to learn that Frank van Haandel, one of Australia's most successful and experienced restaurateurs, is the preferred tenderer for the Bennelong restaurant at the Sydney Opera House.

'Bennelong by Stokehouse' will evoke his Stokehouse Q in Brisbane, with the restaurant to be overseen by creative director Anthony Musarra after a substantial refit in the New Year.

The GCCEC's new team

THE Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre has appointed three new staff to its management team.

Keith Bazley is the new executive manager of property operations, who brings with him extensive experience including an impressive career spanning 27 years with the Department Housing and Public Works.

Adrian Potts is the GCCEC's new audio visual manager with 20 years experience working on high-profile events and previously for corporate, exhibition and event supplier, Harry the Hirer.

And Andrew Sjaus is now food and beverage manager with 17 years hospitality experience in roles including at Palazzo Versace, Ritz Carlton, as well as Jupiters Hotel and Casino.



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business events news

11th November 2013

Staging Connections welcomes Morgan

WITH over 15 years in the Australian events industry, Tim Morgan has been welcomed by Staging Connections as its new general manager NSW & ACT.

He's also been on the board of the Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA), with Staging Connections md Tony Chamberlain, saying "we are looking forward to the positive changes that will occur under his leadership."

"At the core of our strategy, is our intent to produce events which are outstanding and personalised and to ensure that our clients look forward to working with Staging Connections at their next event," he said.

WIN an overnight getaway



This week, **BEN and Novotel Sydney Parramatta** are giving you the chance to win an overnight stay for two in a luxurious Superior King room and a buffet breakfast in Two Forks restaurant.

Novotel Sydney Parramatta has completed a room's refurbishment to compliment their rebranding. The hotel has 11 meeting spaces including a pillar less ballroom that fits up to 550 people. Situated just 24km from Sydney CBD and local attractions like Riverside Theatres, Sydney Olympic Park, Wet 'n' Wild and many others just moments away.

For your chance to win, email your answer to the question below by Fri 15th Nov to: comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

In 25 words tell us why you deserve a weekend away from reality

Hint: www.novotelparramatta.com.au
Click here for Terms & Conditions

The cup runneth over @ Randwick



LAST week's Melbourne Cup proved to be the perfect opportunity to introduce the newly refurbished Royal Randwick Grandstand to a select group of the Australian Turf Club's key clients (pictured above).

They were hosted in one of Royal Randwick's stylish corporate suites, where they not only enjoyed the afternoon's racing program but also a premium food and beverage menu.

The world-class six-level grandstand and the surrounding facilities have increased the venue's capacity to provide flexible spaces that can be used for both racing and non-race day events.

The venue spans more than 81 hectares with 15 unique indoor and outdoor spaces, which



allows the racecourse to cater for conference events, exhibitions, trade shows, dinners and corporate days.

Spectacular is the new 4,000 capacity Theatre of the Horse (inset), an outdoor amphitheatre which is a first for an Australian racecourse and lends itself to open-air concerts, fashion shows and product launches.

There's also the Owners Pavilion which is a fully equipped event space that can be used on its own or in conjunction with the Theatre of the Horse.

Thailand's new area

KHON Kaen, in Thailand's northeast, is poised to become one of the country's top business events destinations, according to the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau.

The up-and-coming destination features the Golden Jubilee Convention Hall at Khon Kaen University with capacity for up to 5,000, while the Convention Hall @ Central Plaza Khon Kaen is able to host 1500 - 4000 delegates.

More intimate venues include the Art and Culture Museum; the Khon Kaen University and Lakmuang Gallery Khon Kaen.

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crumbs!



OH dear, we do love you Adelaide, you are indeed deserving of being in Lonely Planet's Top Ten Cities for 2014.

However, a *News Limited* story: "Was Lonely Planet drunk when it rated Adelaide" - is so exquisitely funny, we are sure you took it in good part.

Here are a few lines:

Adelaide is better than your city. We know this because some publicity-starved travel guide that no one buys anymore just said so.

Where else in the world do you have the choice of being gored to death by sharks or bored to death by some wannabe literati in a small laneway bar - all on the one unbearably hot day?"

On the subject of Adelaide's Tour Down Under, described as 'The bike race with really interesting scenery,' it says, *The Tour de France may have the Alps and the Riviera and 1,000-year-old chateaux, but the Tour Down Under has some of the world's most excellent grassy countryside over seven straight days!*

When it comes to aquatic wildlife, it enthuses: *You may not be eaten by a shark. Swimmers on Adelaide's beaches have occasionally been known to emerge from the water without a Great White attached to their leg.*

And the story downplays the Adelaide suburb of Elizabeth thus: *When you visit New York you simply must visit Harlem or the Lower East Side. You can't see Paris without a walk around the 16th arrondissement and Montmartre. And when in Adelaide, you simply must put Elizabeth North on the list.*

This humble community has a unique collection of artisans and quirky characters, some of whom are even free to walk the streets.

Get the drift?

Butterfly bookings

BOOKINGS have opened for Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, when Puccini's much loved opera *Madama Butterfly* opens for just three weeks from 21 Mar 2014.

You will be moved hearing Ceo-Cio-San and Pinkerton's exquisite love duet, all against the backdrop of the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

Showbiz has tickets, exquisite pre-performance dinner and interval drinks packages, and 'Stay & See' hotel packages at the Adina Apartment Hotel Sydney.

For more information visit showbiz.com.au/butterfly.



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Big biz for Hamilton

LAST month the inaugural CEO Magazine Executive Conference was held on Hamilton Island, an occasion that was organised by Flying Ruby Events.

The event saw some of Australia's top CEOs and MDs fly to the Island for three days of conferencing and networking.

The conference's line up of top-notch speakers included former PM John Howard, Mark Bouris of Yellow Brick Road, and media personality Ita Buttrose.

The event included a luxury cruise around the Whitsundays, sponsored by Chivas Regal, along with stunning dinners at the Hamilton Island Golf Club, Coca-Cola and the Bommie Deck on the Hamilton Island Yacht Club.

There was also an 'Amazing Race' style Buggy Rally around the island, sponsored by Jura Coffee.

Macau's Grand Hyatt celebration

THE Grand Hyatt Hotel in Macau recently showed appreciation for its clients in an unmistakable manner, hosting the "corporate event of the year" in a multi-sensory extravaganza.

It was an occasion that saw 1200 VIP guests gather at the hotel, with the event taking them on a journey of sensory indulgence defined by different venues, ambiances and entertainment.

In order to build anticipation, guests received an exclusive gift delivery in October, which contained three enchanting fragrances especially created for the event and the invitation.

The evening was divided into three time periods, each represented by a different colour: orange, green and yellow.

Open bars showcased hundreds of premium spirits and wines, including more than 50 different labels each of wine, beer, whisky and sake, plus a selection of Chinese spirits and fine cigars.



A lavish banquet then saw twelve elevated dining podiums flank both sides of the pool, each featuring different culinary themes while aficionados could enjoy the standalone cigar and cocktail bar.

The final part of the journey saw guests move into one of the biggest outdoor hotel marquees in Macau - which had been transformed into a chill-out club adorned with velvet.

Paul Kwok, general manager of Grand Hyatt Macau said, "The marquee is our newest offering for memorable events in 2014."



Getting to Know: Hong Kong's cruisiest events venue

by: Bruce Heilbuth

IN addition to being able to berth Oasis-class cruise ships – of up to 220,000 tonnes – Hong Kong's glitzy, high-tech new cruise terminal at Kai Tak is already making its mark as a genuinely different big-events venue.

Opened in June this year, the 76,000-square-metre facility is set on the site of the old airport close to the heart of the city. It's already hosted two major shows, for Mercedes and Audi, as well as a large-scale public expo visited by 30,000 people over the course of two-and-a-half days. The passenger waiting and baggage halls double as events spaces.

"The shows were fantastic because they were all about design, and the makers could juxtapose their new cars with the beautiful building and panoramic view of Victoria Harbour," explains Jeff Bent (**pictured** below right), who's the managing director of Worldwide Cruise Terminals, which operates the US\$1 billion facility.

"Banquets will also be part of our strategy; we'll be able to use the two waiting halls which cover 3,000 square metres each."

Bus services currently run to local MTR (subway) stations, and a new Kai Tak station is scheduled to open in 2018 at the end of the old runway. Also planned is a sports stadium and water sports center. Meantime visitors can already relax in the terminal's leafy rooftop garden.

"This truly is a unique place and Hong Kong is an outstanding events venue," says Jeff. "It has few visa restrictions and it's easy to fly people in and out, with great air connectivity."

"And I think this is a very nice niche for Hong Kong. The [visitors] are generally affluent, educated people, and they're here for leisure. We get a lot of business travellers, and it'll be great to add another niche to the mix of affluent leisure travellers."

"Equally for the cruise industry I believe it's a huge step forward for Asia, because cruise lines for some time have said they'd like to deploy more capacity in Asia; now they're getting the facilities for it."

For more information on the venue see www.kaitakcruiseterminal.com.hk.

