



Confession!

I'M going to let you into a guilty secret, so shush, don't tell anyone!



We've been watching *The Bachelor!*

The "we" are the staff of *Travel Daily* (BEN's parent company), and almost to a man (really) lively discussions about who gets "the final rose" have gone on after each episode.

On Wednesday night it was all over when the very handsome Tim Robards' search for his true love ended on a stunning cliff top resort in Thailand, and when he presented the final rose to Anna our hearts fluttered.



What was also intriguing was the rather stunning location where the last two contestants and Tim's family stayed – the Pullman Phuket Arcadia.

We are told they rested in personal pool villas, drank sunset cocktails in the sunken lounges, relaxed with signature treatments at Dhatri Spa, and sampled amazing cuisine in the resort's Italian Restaurant 'Vero Trattoria and Wine Bar'.

The resort had opened just two months before production of the finale was filmed, with its special guests a closely guarded secret.

While the 277-room Pullman Arcadia is now rather smartly offering a special 'Time of Love' package for lovers, those romancing the idea of a conference or event in this paradisiacal place might be more interested to know the resort has nine meeting rooms, the largest with a capacity for 320.

Sigh, Thursdays around the 'water cooler' will never be the same! *Jill*

AIME delegate regos open

VISITOR registration for the 2014 Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings expo opened this morning, with a number of new initiatives aiming to appeal to the event's diverse audience.

Taking place at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre on 18-19 Feb, AIME 2014 will introduce brand new Asian and European pavilions in response to demand from delegates to see more from these regions.

Also new is the Events and Services Pavilion, which will be "the go-to venue for all event logistics requirements".

There's also an Innovation Zone, dedicated to all things new and interesting in the business events space, which includes a Genius Bar where delegates will be able to sit down with an expert and pick their brain on topics of interest.

The 'A LIST Open House' will showcase event suppliers and boutique venues, including caterers, photographers,

entertainers and stylists.

This year's event also provides the opportunity for registered visitors to pre-arrange business appointments with their choice of exhibitors, via online Visitor Appointment Diaries.

This complimentary system aims to ensure that those attending the show can maximise their time at AIME - see www.aime.com.au.

Trade show magic!



YOU may have met or used David Welzman at an event - a Sydney based corporate magician known as The Infotainer, offering a blend of live entertainment with marketing messages.

Later this month he is to be presented with a Merlin award for Best Trade Show Magician in Australia, from the International Magicians Society (IMS).

Voted by 37,000 of his peers across the globe, he will also be featured as the only Australian on the *Great Magicians* US TV show.

He's in impressive company, with previous winners including David Copperfield, Siegfried & Roy, Penn & Teller and Criss Angel.

EEAA 2013 next week

THE Exhibition and Events Association of Australia annual conference kicks off at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre next Tue 26 Nov, with a top line array of marketing talent signed up as presenters as well as the EEAA awards that night at the Parkside Ballroom - the venue's last ever gala dinner.



STAMFORD SWEETENS THE DEAL FOR EVENTS

Find out how your next function at Stamford Grand or Stamford Plaza Adelaide can be sweetened with extras.

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for further information.

Sheraton adds in Fiji

STARWOOD is set to expand to a fourth Fijian property, with the addition of the new Sheraton Fiji Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island.

Not to be confused with the upmarket Tokoriki Island Resort on the same island, the Sheraton property was formerly the independently operated Amanuca Island Resort & Spa, which has undergone a \$20m renovation after being devastated by Cyclone Evan in Dec 2012.

Due to open in April 2014, the upscale Starwood property will feature a total of 101 guest bures, rooms and suites, while its conference and meeting amenities will be consistent with Sheraton's reputation for high standards, offering a relaxing and striking alternative for a world-class event for up to 140 guests.




What does \$20 mean to you?

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T&C's For new bookings only, not available in conjunction with any other offer. Minimum and maximum numbers apply per activity. Round robin style applies to activities if necessary. Subject to availability.



business events news

22nd November 2013

Getting the health Vibe



THE good news is that Vibe Hotel Rushcutters in Sydney's east is not going to be converted into apartments as was previously proposed,

This means the hotel and the staff can get on with the business of running this well located hotel.

It was here early on Thursday morning a yoga class was to be held in the nearby Rushcutters Bay Park.

However, the recent rain and a soggy ground put paid to that.

It did go ahead on the rooftop of the hotel itself, on a morning that could only be described as an Indian summer – unseasonably warm and dry!

It was all part of Vibe's *stayfit... even when travelling* promotion.

Australian yogi master, Kate Kendall is their Yoga@Vibe guru who bent and stretched everyone through their exercises.

Kendall can bring the power of yoga right to your hotel room or quickly whip a group into conference mode, all through the

power of breath.

Blink and you might miss this hotel, which backs onto Rushcutters Bay Park, but it is one certainly worth checking out.

Not just for its outlook across the harbour and the yachts of the Cruising Yacht Club, but for its outdoor spaces and its 245 stylish rooms, including 14 suites and seven conference rooms.

A bonus is the fact that the park provides the perfect option to hold team-building events, while the nearby yacht club is ideal as an offsite venue.

Vibe's stay in shape program includes: overnight accommodation for two people, breakfast from Vibe's 'Fit Food' menu, a 'VibeFit' drink bottle, exclusive Vibe Yoga DVD, Vibe Guide (Fitness Edition) featuring healthy options around each of the Vibe hotels and a suggested 5km running track, unlimited access to pool and gym facilities, plus yoga mats available for guests to use during their stay.

An arinex revolution

AN innovative cloud-based application designed to significantly improve the conference lifecycle has been developed by Australian based PCO arinex.

The eOrganiser synchronises registration data to facilitate follow up, communication and reporting more effectively.

Roslyn McLeod, arinex managing director, said "As more organising committees are collaborating internationally, they need to conduct real time program updates to get to market quickly to reach and engage the maximum number of potential delegates.

"The idea behind eOrganiser was to give program committees, reviewers and authors a chance to directly manage their engagement in the conference."

By using the cloud, users save weeks' worth of time normally associated with traditional program management through spread sheets, the company said.

The software is available and a demonstration may be requested - see www.eorganiser.com.au.

Kirkton Park role

IN something of a tree change, Belinda Paterson, the former general manager of the Pullman Quay Grand Sydney Harbour, has joined The Sebel Kirkton Park in the NSW Hunter Valley.

The hotel is about to embark on a redevelopment program, with plans to refurbish and rebrand.

It starts with sharing your story



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crumbs!



FORGIVE us if it offends, but the biggest sex show on the planet is about to take place.

The scuba diving fraternity along Queensland's coast is gearing up for a busy few weeks as the world's largest living organism, the Great Barrier Reef, prepares for the annual coral spawning season.

Conditions are reportedly perfect for conception, with water temperatures hovering above the magic 26-degree mark.

And to really kick off the romance a late November full moon is expected to slow tidal flow to twice a day, reducing the chance of sweeping the spawn out to sea.

Marine scientists believe the 22-24 November spawn will be the most spectacular in years.

Cairns based dive operators, Tusa Dive and Quicksilver's Silverswift, have packaged special night diving tours specifically around the event.

According to Russell Hore, a veteran marine biologist with Quicksilver, "coral spawning is the Everest of seeing reproduction in nature and should be on every diver's bucket list."

"You know when it is happening.

"There's a slick on the surface and the smell on one hand, while on the other, most of the fish life are sitting on the bottom with distended stomachs," he said.

"It's like they have stuffed themselves with Tim Tams."

8 reasons to Meet Somewhere Fresh

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Congrex Switzerland buy-out

FOLLOWING on from the collapse of Congrex Sweden, the largest professional congress organiser in Scandinavia (**BEN** 21 Oct) the management of sister operation Congrex Switzerland have successfully acquired the shares of Congrex Schweiz AG and Congrex Travel AG, as well as the Congrex Brand.

The acquisition will be completed in the next few days.

The company will merge the two operations to become Congrex Switzerland Ltd before the end of 2013, with the firm continuing to provide consultancy and management services in the areas of association and conference management, including accommodation handling and flights.

The 40 staff members and management are based in its current premises in Basel, with md Alain Pittet saying most of them previously worked for AKM, founded in 1982, which was bought in 2007 by the Congrex Group.

“Fortunately, the major part of our clients were already clients of AKM and have worked with our staff for many years.

“And exactly these clients encouraged us to offer for a management buy-out”.

Congrex Switzerland is currently developing its new corporate identity and plans to launch its branding early next year.

Pittet said the team can be contacted via the website at www.congrex-switzerland.com.

Pitch perfect

BUSINESS Events Australia is offering an “online pitching toolkit” to help organisers with everything from travel information, handy hints, images, videos, program suggestions and proof points on why there’s nothing like Australia for business events.

CLICK HERE for details.

BCEC provides speedy connection

OVER 400 practitioners and researchers from Australia’s eResearch community converged on the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) for the eResearch Australasia Conference 2013 - a first time event for BCEC.

The international conference focuses on technological platforms to assist researchers on how to collect, manage, share, process, analyse, store, find and reuse information.

The BCEC partnered with Australia’s Academic and Research Network (AARNet) to facilitate the extreme requirements of the conference, with AARNet providing the BCEC with a whopping 10 Gigabit per second internet connection for the event.

This increased internet capacity can be made available in the future for AARNet connected research sectors and education communities who choose to have their event at BCEC.



Face to Face with...

Janet Hamilton, General Manager Darwin Convention Centre



Business Events News recently caught up with Janet Hamilton, recently appointed as general manager at the Darwin Convention Centre. She brings with her 25 years’ experience in major and special events, marketing, communications, sponsorship and place management. Program Manager for the Sydney Olympic Games, she managed over 300 special events, and has held positions that include Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, VicUrban and Volvo Event Management.

What does your role entail?

As general manager of the Darwin Convention Centre, I am responsible for ensuring that the Centre runs smoothly and clients are very satisfied. Customer service, sales and operations are our priorities.

What’s the first thing you do when you get in the office?

If I can, I like go for a walk around the Centre and have a chat with everyone to see how the events went overnight and how activities are progressing for the day ahead. It is a great chance to communicate with the team.

What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

Well, at the moment, I am new in the job, so I am keen to get up to speed with all aspects of the Centre as soon as possible.

How do you inspire your team?

I am still getting to know the team, but I hope to inspire them by open and transparent communication. I think it is important to empower your team so they can get on with their job and provide clear guidance when needed.

Dealing with new technology - bonus or headache?

Probably both, it is exciting to see how much technology changes, but the practical challenge for us is to keep up with technology and predict what we will need for conferences we are selling 3-5 years from now.

What would you be doing if you weren’t in your current role?

At the moment, because I am so delighted to be in my new role, I couldn’t imagine doing anything

else. I am working in a modern conference centre in one of most beautiful locations and to top it, I have a great team who are passionate about what they do - what more could you want.

Who has inspired you?

I have been lucky in my life to have some great influences and probably I could pick out some famous person who has done amazing things, but I want to say the people who I am most grateful for are my family and my husband, they give me an “inner circle” of protection, inspiration and support I cannot do without.

How do you relax?

I love to immerse myself in a good book. We also like cooking for friends and just “hanging out” in Darwin - it is a pretty relaxed place and we like to make the most of the easy and friendly lifestyle.

What makes a great conference?

A relevant and well thought out programme which meets the delegate’s objectives - a balance of business, networking and well organised activities.

What is the most inspiring conference?

I think the most inspiring conferences I have attended have well thought out programmes, with presenters who really challenge your thinking. It is great when you learn and have an opportunity to reflect on how you can improve your business.

How many conferences have you attended in the last 12 months?

I attended the ICCA Conference in Shanghai – it was a brilliant chance to network and learn.

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