



Watawieh!

WELCOME to Norfolk Island, extraordinarily beautiful one day, but now a little drizzly.



Still, its beauty and its terror shone through as we speed out on *Advance 2*, Fishing & Cruising's boat from historic Kingston pitching and rolling through the sea, which we were assured would settle once we got in the lee of Phillip Island.

A mass of sea terns circled and called from the crags of the steep island and masked bobbies followed alongside the boat.

This journey was a daily work trip through calm seas and rough for some of those twice-convicted inhabitants on this once remote and brutal penal settlement.

History, seabirds, stunning seascapes and rolling green hills, Norfolk is down home friendly.

Oncoming cars wave and you wave back as you tootle up and down the along at the 50km/h speed limit, people are curious, ask questions, and free roaming cattle, chickens, ducks and geese act as nature's grass clippers.

There is an amazing serenity and some unique, out of the way venues ideal for corporate retreats.

There are bigger places for conferences and some stunning outdoor spaces and when the sun is out, which is more often than the rain, everything sparkles.

All in all it's one hell of an island to visit with the troops. *Jill*

Hooray for Tropical North Qld!

PEPPERS

Beach Club in Port Douglas recently hosted part of Tourism Tropical North Queensland's annual *Sell TNQ* showcase, which brought in 29 top PCO's and meeting planners from across Australia.

Participants (**pictured**) included representatives of MCI Australia, ICMS Australasia, Incentives & Conventions International, Business Retreats Australia, Impact Organisation and CiEvents.

The TTNQ *Sell TNQ* itinerary included a professional cooking class hosted by Peppers Beach Club head chef, Karl Wulf, where they learnt how to prepare a meal replete with local North Queensland produce.

Peppers area sales manager, Judd Rabbidge, said delegates gave great feedback on Peppers Beach Club.

"The facilities are perfect for small incentive groups and senior executive meetings, and together with our affiliations with local tourism operators we can ensure our guests and clients meet their conferencing objectives," he said.

TTNQ's *Sell TNQ* also included visits to the Cairns Convention Centre, Sheraton Mirage, QT Port Douglas and the Pullman Port



Douglas Sea Temple Resort & Spa.

33 exhibiting partners took part in the showcase and the group were also treated to a range of local activities including the Flames of the Forest Experience, visiting the Great Barrier Reef courtesy of Quicksilver and meeting some of the hungry locals at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures.

What to do for dinner

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has released the second in its series of *Insider Guides*, with this edition giving tips for the "perfect business dinner".

Collating the best of IHG insider knowledge as well as industry perspectives, the 28 page manual includes "the five essential ingredients that need to be taken into consideration when planning, hosting or attending a business dinner".

It includes practical tips as well as do's and don'ts that take into account cultural nuances in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

There's advice on the various ways of greeting, general rules of conversation and the value that people place on gifts and attire in different countries.

The InterContinental *Insider Guide to the Perfect Business Dinner*, which also includes advice from local business professionals plus event specialists and InterContinental concierges, will be available in IHG hotels and resorts across Australia.

Blurring the lines

PULLMAN says it's reinventing meetings with the introduction of the *Business Playground*, a room created by designer Mathieu Lehanneur.

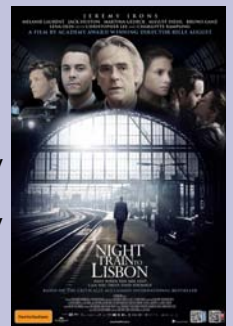
Reflecting the brand's "Work hard, Play hard" motto the room combines performance and pleasure with a fresh take on the traditional aspects of a meeting.

It features a poker-table style meeting table, a private area for informal conversations or breaks, and a cabinet of curiosities – all designed to stimulate creativity and reinvent international hospitality codes.

The Pullman London St Pancras is premiering the room this month before it is gradually rolled out across the network next year.

WIN NIGHT TRAIN TO LISBON TICKETS

This week, **BEN** and **Pinnacle Films** are every day giving one lucky winner the chance to win a



double pass to the new movie, *Night Train to Lisbon*, due for release on 5th December.

After a chance encounter with a Portuguese woman, Swiss professor Raimund Gregorius quits his job and embarks on an adventure to Lisbon that will take him on a journey to the very heart of himself.

Check out the trailer here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ds5L7qS85s.

To win, be first person to email the correct answer to the daily question below to: comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

What country is Jeremy Irons' character from?

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business events news

25th November 2013

\$30k in GCCEC Linkage Grants

THE Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre is calling for applications for its GCCEC Linkage Grant program.

Run annually, the program's international scholarships are designed to support individuals who are prepared to actively research and participate in their trade or professional association with the aim of nurturing future convention hosts prepared to bid for conferences for the GCCEC.

In all there are six linkage grants worth \$5,000, aimed at assisting professional and personal development.

GCCEC general manager Adrienne Readings believes the Linkage Grant Program serves a two-fold purpose: to attract more international business events to Gold Coast and the Centre, whilst also benefiting grant recipients – the community's top minds.

"As a venue we are able to invest in the professional development of local academics through grant assistance to

attend international conferences and at the same time identify conferences that have the ability to be held at the GCCEC in the future."

Applications close Friday 28 February 2014 and winners will be announced in April.

For info see www.gccec.com.au.

LVS kicks a goal

SOCCER star David Beckham, described as "one of the world's most iconic men," has launched a new business partnership in Asia with Las Vegas Sands Corp (LVS).

The pact will see Beckham work with LVS "integrated resorts" in the region, including Singapore's Marina Bay Sands and the Cotai Strip Resorts in Macau.

LVS said the partnership unites one of Asia's most dynamic businesses with a "global star who enjoys unrivalled popularity" and will revolve around the development of dining, retail and leisure concepts at the hotels.

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CLE gets the key



CORPORATE & Leisure Events (CLE), under the direction of Deborah Vaughan, celebrated 21 years in business this month with clients at Southport Yacht Club.

They took part in a corporate sailing activity, learning to sail in 23ft Blazers and followed this by joining in the Gold Coast's Wednesday evening sailing race.

Since the company's inception, CLE has established itself as a "pre-eminent venue finder and event management company," and also has a hotel/product representation division.

Sharing the success, clients who send CLE a request for proposal before 31 Jan will go into a draw to win a pair of Maui Jim sunglasses - info@clevnts.com.

MCB is a Star

THE Melbourne Convention Bureau has raised over \$28,000 for the Starlight Children's Foundation charity, through its participation in the Great Adventure Challenge last week.

The challenge was a full-day corporate adventure race, with ten teams taking part.

"I am exceptionally pleased to announce that MCB was awarded first place for the highest fundraising team in Victoria," said MCB ceo Karen Bolinger.

It was the inaugural year for the event in Victoria, with seven race legs (running, kayaking and cycling) as well as two 70km team challenges.

"There was mud, marshes, kangaroos, flat tyres, aching muscles, laughter, sunburn and wrong turns but most importantly there was camaraderie, determination, passion and a true sense of satisfaction knowing we had completed the race for such an exceptional cause," Bolinger said.

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crumbs!



NORFOLK Island, home of the original Pitcairn islanders and later a brutal penal settlement, where most people have two and even three jobs and sport the strangest nicknames you have ever heard.

Take the security guy you met at the international airport (you need a passport to get here) - he turns up again serving nips of golden Convicts Curse at Norfolk Liqueurs.

Steve, aka Ratguard who drives our bus is also a longboard rider; Elizabeth who likes to scare people on ghost tours, also runs a local pub, The Brewery.

While Heidi with her extraordinary hands runs Healing Hands Massage and also operates the Bedrock Café from her home set on the top of the sea cliffs.

Then there are the extraordinary nicknames which most of the locals appear to support.

So many that the local telephone directory lists people both by their proper name and under a section called *Faasfain 'salan bail dems nikniem* which translates from the local language to "Fast find a person by their nickname".

It is peopled with names such as Cowboy, Gotty, Poon, Pusswah, Sputt, Gumboots and Doodus.

Visit Arthur's 'History in the Making' enterprise and you find he goes by the name of Onion, while down at the butcher shop by the airport there's Slick's Butchery.

You'll also find that Les Quintal, the marketing & tour manager at local tour operator Baunti Escapes, is known as Lettuce, while Glen Buffet, the general manager at Norfolk Island Tourism, is also commonly referred to as Spud!

Delegates dig Jupiters Townsville

THIS year's annual Queensland Mining Health & Safety Conference saw Jupiters Townsville support a unique offsite event.

It took place at the Ross River Dam Quarry Site, with the hotel and local suppliers bringing in everything from water, toilets, furniture - and of course lots and lots of cold beverages.

The night was attended by 600 delegates and was a huge success, with Jupiters saying it became the talking point of the conference.

Jupiters also hosted the annual Institute of Quarrying Australia Conference for the first time in Townsville which saw 300 national delegates attend over 4 days.

Social components also showcased the city, with trips to Magnetic Island, Reef HQ, a golf day and other tourist destinations.

MICE key for Qatar

THE Qatar Tourism Authority will have a significant presence at GIBTM 2014, with the meetings sector a key part of plans to boost the country's visitor numbers.

Multibillion dollar infrastructure investments are taking place in Qatar, including the planned opening of the new Doha Exhibition & Convention Centre in the first quarter of next year, with 29,000 sqm of conference space.

GIBTM takes place in Abu Dhabi from 24-26 Mar 2014.

Peninsula shows off its peonies

HOTEL-WISE

'Tradition well served' was evident when The Peninsula Hotels held a lunch at Sydney's Arras restaurant last week.

Not only for the signature Bollinger and Arras' fine cuisine but for the colourful peonies displayed in stylised Peninsula bellboy hats - the flowers reminiscent of those found in Chinese paintings.

There was much to learn from host Robert Cheng, the group's Hong-Kong based vice president of marketing, with three Peninsula hotels - Hong Kong, Shanghai and New York - all celebrating milestones.

Flagship property The Peninsula Hong Kong celebrates its 85th birthday on 11 December, after a \$65m renovation which includes the introduction of touch-screen panels in the hotel rooms.

In Shanghai, the Peninsula is being transformed to its past glory, while in New York the Pen is celebrating its 25th birthday.

Meanwhile in France, The Peninsula Paris, built in 1908 it is being painstakingly restored with an opening in August 2014.

And, as a teaser of things to come, London is to get a



Peninsula on a 1.5 acre site that overlooks Buckingham Palace.

Cheng, commenting on the business events market said, "We are seeing lots of very high-end incentives in Hong Kong and through our Peninsula Academy Program.

"We utilise the knowledge and connections of the Hong Kong to give them a virtual key to the city."

In Shanghai, Cheng said the Peninsula has a rooftop, helipad and a 1920s style helipad lounge, even though they don't have a helicopter licence.

"It'll be ready for when the Government lifts restrictions on private helicopter use."

"In the meantime, we use the lounge for lots of group incentives. It's a unique meeting space," he said.

Luxperience earlybird

SUPPLIERS wanting to participate in next year's Luxperience show in Sydney have until 29 Nov to register in order to take advantage of special earlybird rates.

It's on 31 Aug-03 Sep 2014 - see www.luxperience.com.au.

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Craig James



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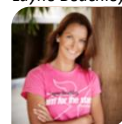
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