



Thanks Jack

IF it wasn't for forward thinkers like Emily Pankhurst and the suffragette movement, women might still be fighting for the right to vote.



Similarly, if it wasn't for the incredible foresight and extraordinary conservation campaign that redefined the development of Australia's major cities by urban warrior Jack Munday, Sydney's Rocks area may well be bereft of history.

At the time Munday, who emerged into the public eye during the 1970s as a leader of the New South Wales Builders' Labourers Federation (the BLF) and the figurehead of the famous "green bans" of the period, was reviled for his actions.

It was in the wake of the BLF's activities that the State government enacted heritage protection legislation that led, amongst other things, to the establishment of the Sydney Living Museums (formerly Historic Houses Trust).

The Institute of Australian Tour Guides (IATG) is presenting a special event with Jack Munday – father of the "green bans" movement – in Sydney on Monday 4 November for members and guests.

Additionally, there's a photo opportunity with Jack at 3pm at The Jack Munday Wall Sculpture in Globe Street, The Rocks.

A great time to celebrate the Rocks and its many event venues!

Australia targets US groups

A **STRONG** representation from Australia's business events industry has joined Tourism Australia at IMEX America, the worldwide exhibition for Incentive Travel, Meetings and Events which kicked off yesterday in Las Vegas.

This focus on the US market by Australian destination management companies has seen five represented at IMEX America, an event that provides the opportunity for the Australian business events industry to showcase the country's latest developments in meetings, incentives, conferences and corporate events.

The US represents the second largest in-bound arrivals to Australia for the year to 31 Aug 2013, with the International Visitor Survey results indicating



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total spend from the US has increased by seven percent year on year and is worth \$361 million to the Australian economy.

"Incentive trips and corporate meetings have distinct needs that influence the choice of a destination," said Business Events Australia head Penny Lion.

"Australia is well placed to deliver in both respects," she said.

Be in it to win it

COME and see us at the new office* show at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, today and tomorrow at stand A33 and be in the draw to win a great prize courtesy of Ramada.

Up for grabs are two nights accommodation in a one-bedroom apartment at Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre Marcoola Beach, on the beautiful Sunshine Coast.

The prize also includes buffet breakfast for two.

Drop in, we'd love to catch up!

Veuve Clicquot pops



SYDNEY-BASED restaurant and catering company, Trippas White Group recently launched the Bullion Bar Veuve Clicquot champagne pop-up bar at the heritage Mint in the CBD.

The new bar, which is located in the former Bullion Office of Sydney's Mint, is open Wednesdays to Fridays from 3pm-9pm until November and includes indoor and outdoor areas.

The Bullion Bar and The Vault area are both available for private corporate events and Christmas functions and for exclusive hire for events of up to 40 guests.

The Vault is ideal for intimate events with drink and dinner packages available for 10-16 people.

Contact: 02 9239 2219 or events@sydnemintcafe.com.au

office* reveals future

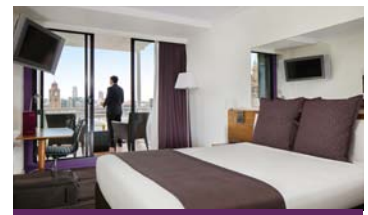
WELCOME to office* -

Australia's first trade show and professional development for those who manage offices.

Head on down if you are not already doing so and see design industry leaders futurespace, schiavello and Bolon who have collaborated to create a 9x4m futuristic, forward-thinking display.

Reconfigurable and multi-use, it offers flexible work settings such as team, breakout and hub spaces with tables, lounges, formal and informal seating within a defined area.

Angela Ferguson, managing director of futurespace, said the 'office of the future' display is a snapshot of some of the ideas they've been exploring for clients. See stand C10 at office*.



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business events news

16th October 2013

Concept hotel opens in Blacktown



A NEW concept hotel brand being rolled out across Australia over the next three years has been launched by Amalgamated Holdings Limited (AHL), which already operates the Rydges and QT Hotels & Resorts brands.

Dubbed 'Atura Hotels', the first one opened yesterday in Sydney's southwestern hub of Blacktown, next to the new Skyline Drive-in and Wet&Wild theme park which will open this summer.

With a concept that brings an innovative approach to urban accommodation in modern business and leisure travel, the Atura brand has an emphasis on delivering quality and service at affordable prices.

More Atura properties are planned for fringe city CBD suburbs and business parks.

Hotel designer Nic Graham known for his work on QT Hotels & Resorts, leads the charge of designing the first Atura Hotel in Blacktown to imprint the unique urban, industrial art inspired design style.

Day delegate, residential meetings and conferencing, as

well as wedding and celebrations will all be a part of the Atura offering.

"With modern, flexible, integrated spaces and first class cuisine and event management, Atura will bring levels of service and sophistication previously unavailable in this class," said AHL group md David Seargeant.

"The Atura brand is part of a growing global trend towards design-driven hotels offering guests a unique experience."

AEA workshops

THE Australian Events Academy (AEA) is running a range of one day specialist workshops in Sydney in Oct and Nov where participants can learn what works and what doesn't in today's events environment.

The specialist education and training academy for the events industry offers courses designed and delivered specifically for events industry professionals.

Details of the workshops can be found on the AEA website at: australianeventsacademy.edu.au.

ACTE conference

THE ACTE Australasia Corporate Travel Education Conference is being held 5-6 December at the Sheraton on the Park, Sydney.

Designed for professionals that partner with or have responsibility for the sourcing and management of an organisation's travel program, the ACTE conference continues to be the region's premier education and networking event for the corporate travel community.

The compact 1½-day event brings together corporate travel buyers, managers, advisors, media and suppliers by summarising the learning's of the past year, gaining insight into the year ahead.

Save the date; when regos open early-bird ACTE members will be able to access big savings on registration fees.

You had to be there

THERE were a lot of surprised and delighted Virgin Velocity members and customers on board Virgin Australia flight VA555 from Sydney to Perth with a unique high tea service at 40,000 feet.

In a first for an Australian airline, they were treated to a traditional tiered-tray high tea service specially designed by the airline's resident chef, Luke Mangan.

The special flight marked Mangan's three year anniversary with the airline and the arrival of the airline's seventh wide-bodied Airbus A330 aircraft, which from this month operate all Sydney-Perth and Melbourne-Perth weekday services and two out of three Brisbane-Perth weekday services.

The Airbus A330 aircraft include spacious interiors, international lie-flat seats in Business Class, dual-lane service, luxury leather seating in all cabins and LED mood lighting.



WITH Halloween in mind, Visit Britain has devised a list of great ghostly places to stay, or for that matter, to stay away from!

These are some of them:

The Mermaid Inn, Rye, East Sussex, southeast England, one of the oldest inns in the country, dating back to 1420 offers ghostly experiences in room 5 and room 10.

The Jamaica Inn, Bolventor, Cornwall, south-west England, is Cornwall's most famous smuggling inn, well-known to fans of author Daphne du Maurier, who named one of her most famous books after it. The sound of disembodied horses hooves and wheels turning outside the inn make it a popular place for regular ghost-hunting themed nights.

Tulloch Castle Hotel, Dingwall, Scotland, which dates back to the 12th century, is where the 'Green Lady' is seen so frequently that the hotel bar is named after her.

The Swan Hotel, Lavenham, Suffolk, east England is in the most complete medieval village in England. Dating back to the 14th century the ghostly resident is a young woman who worked at the hotel in the 19th century and hung herself in room 15 after being passed over for promotion.

In **Ballygally Castle Hotel**, Co Antrim in Northern Ireland, Lady Isobel Shaw, whose family owned the castle in the 17th and 18th centuries, is said to roam the building after being locked up and starved to death by her husband.

The Langham Hotel, London that opened in 1865 has seven alleged ghosts roaming the building. Fear-free ghost-hunters should book room 333, which has been the site of several paranormal apparitions.

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McEvoy moves into events

TOURISM Australia managing director Andrew McEvoy is set to depart the organisation he has led for the last four years.

He's moving into the events space, and will become managing director of Fairfax Events in January next year - with a brief to significantly expand the business.

Fairfax events is part of publishing giant Fairfax, and produces a portfolio of major events with the support of its various media outlets which include *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian Financial Review* and many more.

It won't be unfamiliar territory - before moving into tourism

McEvoy worked as a journalist, and in his time leading Tourism Australia and before that the South Australian Tourism Commission

he oversaw a range of events operations including Business Events Australia.

Events currently operated by Fairfax Events have a strong sporting bias, and include the Australian Running Festival, the Cole Classic ocean swim, Canberra Fun Run and of course the famous City 2 Surf.

There's also the Good Food Guide Awards and the NSW Wine Festival, along with a wide range of business media forums and conferences as well as regional events and field days.

Fairfax ceo Greg Hywood said that McEvoy was being charged to "rapidly develop what is already a core strength of Fairfax Media.

"Events are a growth sector in the Australian economy and Andrew's appointment will drive new revenue and greatly enhance Fairfax's performance in the sector," Hywood added.

McEvoy said he was excited at the new opportunity to "grow revenue in areas that capitalise on core strengths such as events and content creation".



MEANWHILE Tourism Australia chairman Geoff Dixon paid tribute to McEvoy's tenure at the organisation, saying he had overseen a return to growth

of Australia's inbound tourism sector.

"Andrew has been an outstanding ceo for Tourism Australia,

greatly strengthening the organisation both strategically and operationally, and putting in place a strong and committed management team," Dixon said.

Tourism Australia will immediately commence an "extensive search to find a replacement for Mr McEvoy".

Mantra cruises into new business

THE Mantra Group has developed a national program of land packages to cater for cruise passenger clients.

In recognition of the need to focus extra resources on this sector, Judd Rabbidge was appointed as dedicated cruise business development manager.

The program involves more than 50 of the group's Peppers, Mantra and BreakFree hotels and resorts across Australia's coastline providing pre and post itineraries, day trips and accommodation packages for cruise clients looking to explore beyond the ship's docking point, with plans to expand into NZ in 2014.



Bridging the gap to New Year



FOLLOWING on from the successful launches of Waterfront @ Pier One and the Harbour View Balcony Suites this year, Sebel Pier One located on Sydney Harbour will unveil the spectacular renovated Bridge @ Pier One early next month.

Bridge @ Pier One consists of a spacious clear marquee 8m wide x 21m long, erected on the connecting bridge between the hotel and Lower Fort Street.

This memorable event venue is able to hold an event for up to 120 guests in banquet setting.

With upgraded AV equipment, new artwork and bluestone pavers, Bridge @ Pier One provides outstanding views of the Harbour Bridge and Kirribilli.

A great place to celebrate this New Year in style, \$499pp will get you a six-hour beverage package including Taittinger French champagne all night (7pm – 1am), substantial cocktail canapés and a DJ to dance the night away.

Contact Sebel Pier One's events team on 02 8298 9999 to be amongst the first to enjoy this unique space.

BestCities resource

THE launch of the BestCities Global Alliance new 'Best Events Centre' online tool kit is making organising an international conference a lot easier for meeting planners and international associations.

A free information exchange resource, Best Events Centre brings together exclusive content and insider tips to help local hosts and international organisers navigate the myriad tasks required in planning and running an international conference or meeting.

Content is broken into three distinct areas: pre-event, during event and post-event, enabling users to fine-tune their search.

All phases of the process are included from selecting a destination, marketing, business planning, sponsorship and risk management.

There are checklists, templates and presentations as well as tips and guidelines on working with airlines, PCOs and CVBs.

BestCities managing director, Jane Vong Holmes said the model had been tested at Client Forums in Singapore and Melbourne, with lots of constructive feedback.

The resource is free for all international association meeting planners - see the site at bestcities.net/Best-Events-Centre.

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Cycling to raise hope

STAGING Connections' managing director Tony Chamberlain (pictured) and regional general manager Karsten Richert joined 20 of Australia's most dedicated non-professional cyclists to take on the gruelling ride from Brisbane to Sydney in the hope to raise \$150,000 to help seriously ill children in hospitals across Australia by supporting the Humpty Dumpty Foundation and the Children's Hospital Foundation.



Dumpty Foundation as a key supporter for the annual Balmoral Burn and Balmoral Burn Gala Dinner.

The Staging Connections team have also previously joined the annual Mount Kilimanjaro trek and just last year the 2012 Cradle Mountain Hike.

The team has already seen strong support, raising more than

\$175,000 and more donations are welcome - see the website at www.1200kmsforkids.com.

A 'Living' Xmas deal

SYDNEY Living Museums is offering their five unique historic venues in Sydney for Christmas parties.

From the elegance of Elizabeth Bay House and Vaucluse House Tearooms, to the striking architecture of The Mint and Hyde Park Barracks Museum, to the dark side of Sydney at the Justice & Police Museum.

Christmas packages start from \$85 per person and are valid from November to December.

Call the Venues team on 02 8239 2288 to book.

Regal HK promotion

REGAL Hotels Hong Kong has launched a Regal MICE promotion, available to meeting and events organisers for bookings made and confirmed by 31 December at the five hotels.

Offers include 15% commission on room rate or 5% on net rate, complimentary upgraded themed coffee break, free usage of 1 LCD projector, free internet access in meeting venue and room upgrades for two out of every 20 rooms booked.

Conditions apply - for info email winnie.keung@regalhotel.com

Anantara Dubai Palm

THE official opening tour of the new Anantara Dubai Palm Jumeirah Resort and Spa last Tuesday was attended by guest of honour, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, president of the Department of Civil Aviation and ceo and chairman of The Emirates Group.

The resort's five-star facilities are fronted by a private stretch of white sand beach.

The 293 room property includes 18 over water villas, a state-of-the-art gym, 33,000-square feet of temperature controlled lagoon pools, six dining and entertainment venues and an Anantara Spa.

The complex also includes an exclusive collection of 442 freehold luxury apartments and 14 penthouses with access to hotel facilities and the option for management on behalf of owners.

Clip and snap camera for your smartphone

THE line between dedicated camera and smartphone camera just got a bit more blurred. Sony's new QX camera series look less like traditional shooters and more like the lenses you would attach to them. In fact, they attach to smartphones.

Sony was able to achieve this unique form factor by cramming all the standard camera innards into their lens-shaped bodies.

The two cameras use the display on your smartphone as a viewfinder to replace a dedicated camera display.

Using Sony's PlayMemories Mobile, photographers can shoot photos and video, zoom, set camera settings, and set auto-focus.

The cameras sync to iOS and Android via Wi-Fi. And if your phone has NFC, it can be used to make that initial sync easier.

While the cameras will attach to smartphones via a spring-loaded clasp, they can also be used sans phone.

Both have physical shutter buttons and zoom controls on the body for blind photo taking.

The cameras come with SD card slots and a Sony Memory Stick slot if you still have a few of those lying around.

Both cameras will store photos on the memory cards and on your smartphone so you can share them on your favorite social site or just email them to your

friends.

Between the two, the QX100 sports a larger 1-inch 20.2MP Exmore sensor and has a 3.6x optical zoom Carl Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T lens.

The camera/lens also has a dedicated control ring for manual focus and zoom. It's basically the



Cyber-shot RX100 II, but without the rectangle body or display.

All that fancy glass will cost you US\$500 which is US\$250 less

than the Cyber-shot RX100 II. Your value determination may vary.

The QX10 has a 18.2MP Exmor sensor. Not as awesome as the sensor found in the QX100, but it has 10x optical zoom in a Sony G Lens and a smaller price tag of US\$250.

The lens and sensor are not nearly as nice. But for a fun way to take better resolution photos with your smartphone, it's an interesting prospect for under US\$300. The QX10 comes in black or white.

Both cameras are now available in the US and hopefully later this year in Australia.

Story adapted from an article in Wired.

To check out the latest tech news for small business visit Tony Wragg's TechTalk online at: www.tonystechtalk.com.au.



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