



Touchdown!

LAST week ended on a high note with the arrival of Air India, touching down in Sydney and Melbourne on Friday, the first time in 22 years, followed by a launch dinner at the Four Seasons Sydney.



This week is shaping up to be a busy one also (although are there any quiet ones?).

Kicking off today is the luxury experiential travel and events tradeshow, Luxperience, which is being held at Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal for three days, so I am expecting to run into a lot of **BEN** readers.

It's also a week crowded with invitations from various venues - Moreton Hire at the new Australian Garden Show; Vacations & Travel; the Renaissance to Goya Exhibition at the NSW Art Gallery; and Dedes on the Wharf at Pier 2.

And, don't even try to get hold of us on Friday afternoon, it's **Travel Daily's** (which includes **Cruise Weekly**, **Pharmacy Daily** and **BEN**) Strategy Day and dinner at the Amora Jamison Hotel in the city - what's more we're staying the night! - *Jill*.

Important ACTE deadline

SAVINGS of up to €270 on your registration fee can be had if you register by 6 September for the ACTE Global Education Conference being held in Barcelona, 20-22 October.

Also, a reminder, don't forget to make your hotel arrangements at the W Barcelona, which also has a cut-off date of 6 September.

There are special room rates for ACTE Global Education Conference attendees, who also get access to the Daily Health Club, Wet Deck pool, and breakfast included in the special room rate.

For details see www.acte.org.

Gold Coast's best in show

A PLAN to develop a new showground and facilities for the Gold Coast Show, at the Gold Coast Turf Club's Bundall precinct, has been agreed upon by the Show Society and the Turf Club.

The amicable arrangement for a new-look event at brand new premises, was welcomed by the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games Jann Stuckey.

"A masterplan for the new showgrounds, prepared by international urban design consultants Populous, featured a multi-million dollar exhibition hall, show ring, woodchop arena and extensive infrastructure,"

GCCEC's world first honour

AN EarthCheck Gold Certification has been awarded to the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) making it the first convention centre in the world to achieve this environmental badge of honour.

The golden achievement comes after five years of continuous advancement of both environmental and business performance underpinned by the science and integrity of EarthCheck, the world's most recognised and largest environmental management program, designed specifically for the travel and tourism industry.

GCCEC general manager, Adrienne Readings said that the historic accomplishment is reflective of the Centre's culture and unwavering commitment to operating at the world's highest environmental standards.

"Environmental sustainable practices are at the Centre's core values and therefore integral to our overarching strategy and operational practices which help the GCCEC retain its competitive edge in the meetings and events industry."

Stuckey explained.

The need for the new premises arose when the current show site had to be vacated to make way for the athletes' accommodation for the Commonwealth Games.

"The Gold Coast is the big winner, with the community getting two newly-developed precincts at the athlete's village and the new showgrounds, which will add to the social and economic vibrancy of our city," she said.

The Show Society and Turf Club are now working towards project completion in time for the 2014 show, to be held on Friday 29 August.

Work over the coming weeks will further develop the master plan.



CIBTM powers ahead

THE China Incentive, Business Travel and Meetings Exhibition (CIBTM) has kicked off today at the China National Convention Centre (CNCC) in Beijing.

Attendees include nearly 400 regional and international buyers who have been accepted into the CIBTM Hosted Buyer program.

In addition to delegates travelling from Australia, Germany, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Spain, Thailand, the UAE, UK and USA, regional buyers also hail from most of the major cities in China.

The show, which continues to grow in size, has more than 90 main stand holders signed up and over 500 exhibitors attending from 30 countries and regions of the world - a 25% increase on attendance from CIBTM 2012.

It's going to be busy, with 9,227 appointments having so far been pre-scheduled to take place.

For more information visit www.cibtm.com.

Sell TNQ 2013

Apply now to join the Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef annual Famil.

Sell TNQ provides an exclusive opportunity for qualified event and incentive planners to visit the Cairns & Great Barrier region and experience first hand our ability to host successful business events.

This year's program will be hosted 1 - 4 November in Port Douglas followed by an optional post-touring program visiting Palm Cove and Cairns 4 - 6 November.

During Sell TNQ, meeting planners and conference and incentive organisers are given the chance to meet with the region's premier business event operators, and enjoy Australia's ultimate year round conference and incentive destination.

With a large variety of meeting venues and spectacular offsite locations, participants will enjoy an eventful program of networking opportunities, touring and events.

For more information or to apply, visit www.businesseventscairns.org.au.

APPLY NOW!

Applications close
September 17

BUSINESS EVENTS

CAIRNS & GREAT BARRIER REEF

The natural place to meet

SELL TNQ

CAIRNS & GREAT BARRIER REEF



Rock on the green

CORPORATE entertainment at its best is promised at Rochford Wines – A Day On The Green



- starring former lead singer of Powderfinger, Bernard Fanning.

The event that heralds the beginning of the summer music festival, is being held on 9 November and is the only chance to see Bernard Fanning (pictured) perform his #1 new debut album "Departures" in Victoria.

You can experience this Day On The Green in true rock star style with Concert & Dining packages from \$325 per person that include: three course meal in the Rochford restaurant, Isabella's, matched with their award-winning wines, express show entry and reserved seating area directly in front of the stage.

See www.rochfordwines.com.au.

Eat/drink/buy a shirt

THINK you know Sydney pretty well – oh yeah?

Catch a two feet ride with a group of up to 12 or combine the walk with a visiting partner program and 'Two Feet and a Heartbeat' will take you to Sydney bars and laneways you never knew existed.

The tour visits three bars and points out many others en-route. It's all about discovery and camaraderie so if you are thinking about getting hammered, it is not for you.

Tours start at 6.30pm (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays) and run for approximately three hours.

They take from just one person to a maximum of 12.

It's top value at \$50pp and along the way you get to sample the house specialities, which can range from mulled wine in teapots, espresso martinis (pictured), cocktails, single malt



whiskey, homemade corn chips and guacamole or dumplings.

You'll meet some of the fascinating characters that run the bars and learn of the buildings history - you might even pick up a bespoke shirt - but that's another story!

See www.twofeet.com.au.



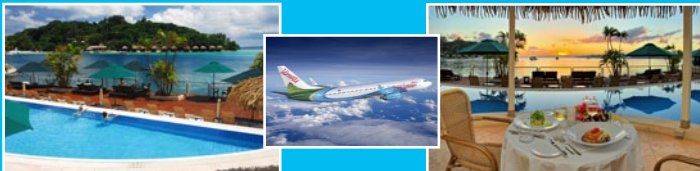
SAFETY reasons and the costly cleanup after the event will see the tiny, cash-strapped town of Penol, where the annual Tomatina tomato throwing festival is held, charge participants for the privilege of getting smeared in puree.

Up until this year the Spanish festival had been free to enter.

But, with the cost of several million euros to host the madness, officials now want more control over those who want to get messy.



WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO VANUATU



During the months of August and September, **BEN** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing holiday for two people to Vanuatu, courtesy of **Air Vanuatu and the Grand Hotel & Casino**.

The prize includes Air Vanuatu return airfares from Syd/Bne/Mel to Port Vila, and five nights accommodation in a Harbour View Room including breakfast daily at the Grand Hotel and Casino.

Air Vanuatu offers daily flights from Australia, just over 3 hours away. Complimentary inflight service and the friendliest smiles in the Pacific!

Grand Hotel and Casino offers a relaxing yet sophisticated setting, in a prime waterfront location in the heart of Port Vila. The hotel is central to Port Vila's business and entertainment district and just 200 metres to the markets. The Grand's business facilities cater well for small groups and conferences. With water views from every room, the hotel also features an outdoor pool, Aromessence Day Spa, Crystals Restaurant and Hemisphere Bar. The Grand Casino also offers the very best in gaming facilities.

Q10. How far are the markets from the Grand Hotel and Casino

Email each of the daily questions and the final creative response by Friday 20 September to:

vanuatu@businessesnews.com.au

Click here for terms & conditions Hint: www.grandvanuatu.com



Bright ideas

THERE were many and varied ideas at ABEE this year – we have listed a few that caught our eye.

The Cuban Place Restaurant, 125 York Street, Sydney – a venue where the vibrant heyday of 1950s Havana is recreated, including cigar tasting and salsa lessons.

Available for private functions, it takes in excess of 400 for a cocktail and canapé event or 200 for a sit down dinner.

Visit thecubanplace.com.au.

In Macquarie Street, there's the prestigious **Royal Automobile Club of Australia**, with all the ambience and glamour for a stylish function or event.

With seven function spaces for meetings and private dinners, they can cater to groups from 10 to 300.

ABEE delegates receive 10% off room hire when they confirm an event or function before 15 September - www.raca.com.au.

Then there's the **Pop Up Picnic** service available for collection or delivery across Sydney.

It includes a full three-course picnic menu for two, picnic rug, plates, cutlery, water, and stemless champagne flutes.

Qantas highlife



BEN presents a preview of the new interiors that will feature on the Qantas Airbus A330 fleet from late 2014, for international and domestic customers.

A key point of difference, unique to the Marc Newson-designed Business Suites, in a 1-2-1 layout with fully flat beds and direct aisle access, is that they can be left in a recline position for take-off and landing, maximising the opportunity for rest particularly on red-eye flights.

Ten A330-300s for Qantas

International will feature new Economy seats and 20 A330-200s for Qantas Domestic will have their Economy seats refurbished.





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Populous master plan

AN example of how Queensland businesses are leading the way internationally has been confirmed by Queensland company Populous securing the Master Plan and Design contract for a major Convention Centre and Trade Zone at Bhubaneswar in India.

“So many great trade opportunities exist between Australia and India and this proves Queensland businesses are ahead of the rest,” said Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeney, who was on a Trade Mission to India last week.

It will include 4,000 square metres of indoor exhibition space, a multi-use Convention Hall, 250-room hotel, world trade tower and a large open exhibition space.

Venue for free!

THE Concourse, at Chatswood on Sydney’s North Shore is turning two this month and they want to share the joy.

One of Sydney’s leading entertainment venues, it is home to a dynamic range of live arts and entertainment as well as meeting spaces, concert hall and a theatre.

As part of the birthday celebrations, if you book a two-hour cocktail package in the Concert Hall Upper Foyer, for a minimum of 100 people, during the month of September, they’ll give you the venue for free.

You will also go in the draw to win two tickets to the exclusive season of “Brief Encounter” and receive a twin-pack of Scotchman’s Hill wine.

Bookings are limited so pick up the phone and reserve your birthday present.

Email - romy@centuryvenues.com.au.



WIN a \$100 prepaid Visa Card

This week *Business Events News* has teamed up with **inPlace Recruitment** to give three lucky readers (one each day) the chance to win a \$100 prepaid Visa Card to spend online or in a store of your choice!

For your chance to win, be the first to send in the correct answer to the question below.



What is the name of the column Ben Carnegie writes for the BEN publication?

Hint! www.inplacerecruitment.com.au.

Email:
comp@businessesnews.com.au



Getting to Know: New Zealand’s ‘Wellywood’

by: *Jill Varley*

IF it had nothing else going for it, Wellington’s thriving film industry, home to Peter Jackson’s Miramar filmmaking empire, would be a major drawcard.

For this fact alone New Zealand’s capital city is fondly known as Wellywood, but in reality the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Set on a harbour above which rise green hillsides dotted with colonial villas, reminiscent of San Francisco, Wellington has a stylish, funky vibe and is celebrated for its culture and vibrant food scene. Its then you get the drift why it has such an attraction for the film industry.

For the conference market it has much to recommend it, not the least is Jackson’s Weta Cave, which showcases the creativity of his Weta workshop and is available for tours and for private bookings for up to 60 people standing – after 6pm.

Nearby, in the movie-making town of Miramar, is the Roxy Cinema. This re-created, modern day marvel, has a theatre, Grand Lobby and Grand Lobby cocktail bar, ideal venues for special events, conferences and seminars.

The city itself hugs the waterfront so hotels like the 5-star InterContinental and the quirky Museum Art Hotel, have sweeping harbour outlooks. As the country’s political and art’s capital its not short on fabulous event spaces such as the Te Papa Tongarewa Museum, considered one of the best interactive museums in the world and the waterfront’s newest venue, Shed 6, one of six iconic and award winning venues managed by Positively Wellington Venues (PWV). The others include the Michael Fowler Centre, TSB Bank Arena, Academy Galleries, St James Theatre and the Opera House. All add unrivalled ambiance to a variety of events ranging from conferences to tradeshows, and performances to gala dinners.

Beyond the city proper is Zealandia, a natural safe haven for over 30 species of native birds and reptiles and a stunning location for a cocktail function or team building exercises. 30 minutes out is Boomrock Lodge perched on 250m cliffs with breathtaking views over the South Island.

Here extreme golf, clay target shooting, archery, skirting the cliffs in a rally car, and scenic helicopter flights are on offer.



The Wellington cable car



Wolfing down breakfast at Floriditas



Gandalf presides in the Weta Cave