



Dig this!

THERE was everything at the Australian Garden Show Sydney for a wiz bang



garden including wall gardens spilling with herbs and exotic foliage, spectacular floral installations and even a palm tree suspended from a crane.

Held in Sydney's Centennial Park over the past four days it had all the hallmarks and panache of more to come.

The Millamolong Polo Lounge was a real standout and showcased the pastoral property between Orange and Bathurst, event teams expertise.

It also provided Morton Hire with the perfect opportunity to strut their stuff in the form of more than 2000 square metres of tents, as well as 100 Eurotops, a 20m x 40m exhibition space, full furniture, linen and tent fit out for two cafes and a restaurant, even custom-fitting its new Hexagonal model tent for the Garden Show's bookshop.

Felicity Holusa, Moreton Hire events manager, said this event provided the opportunity to seamlessly showcase premium event infrastructure and fit outs.

"All the marquees and furniture selected to build this event compliment the beautiful garden aesthetic and create a memorable visitor experience," she said, "we were thrilled to be part of building an iconic Show for the Sydney event calendar"

- Jill.



Coalition win gets TAA's vote

THE clear win by the Abbott lead Liberal Party of the Federal Election 2013, is music to the ears of many in the tourism and events industry, which has faced severe economic challenges in the past two years.

It is an outcome that the Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) has welcomed, believing that the Liberal's tourism-friendly policies outlined in advance of the election would benefit the industry.

With accommodation the second largest in the tourism and hospitality sector employing over 96,000 people directly and generating \$34 billion in Gross Product and Gross Value Add, TAA managing director Rodger Powell said the pledge to repeal the carbon tax would help businesses reduce costs, while planned changes to visa applications and the freeze on the passenger movement fee would actively stimulate travel to Australia.

"These measures will all benefit the industry in the long-run, but the biggest impediments to performance and job creation within the industry are the rigid work restrictions that have held back the industry for a number of years," he said.

While not seeking to reduce wages but to increase the flexibility of working conditions, he said current regulations made a disincentive to employ staff.

"Currently, there are major restrictions about mixing roles within a hotel, but that doesn't reflect how the business operates and the needs of employees and customers.

"For example, a hotel might need a staff member for the breakfast shift, but then the restaurant is closed till dinner.

"However, that staff member can't then work on front desk



or in housekeeping, which means they may only get a four hour shift instead of an all-day job, which doesn't suit either employee or hotel management, he said, adding, "Australia's competitiveness and professionalism in the hospitality industry is suffering as a result."

Welcoming the new Government's plans to reduce red tape, Powell continued, "We can't afford to ignore the future need for a second airport and a comfortable large-cruise ship terminal in Sydney – both of which are Federal matters."

Jetstar Mel to Phuket

EFFECTIVE from 14 December, Jetstar has announced the introduction of non-stop flights between Melbourne and Phuket, on Saturday and Sunday.

A third weekly service will also be introduced from March 2014, with Jetstar Group cco, David Koczkar saying it was the first direct low fares carrier to operate on the route.

"We see a lot of customers booking flights to Phuket via Sydney or Singapore so we've decided to add a non-stop flight for Victorians," he said.

Jetstar has also announced an additional Melbourne-Honolulu frequency during the peak season, with flights on the route to increase from three to four times per week from 19 December, while Melbourne-Singapore will also lift from five to six times weekly effective 18 Dec.

The expanded capacity on both routes will operate until the end of January 2014.

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



business events news

9th September 2013

McPharlin new gm and area manager

STEVE McPharlin has taken a new leadership role with the Mantra Group as general manager of Mantra French Quarter Noosa.



Currently Tourism Noosa chairman, as well as owner of renowned Noosaville dining establishment The Boathouse, McPharlin's role also includes that of area manager, overseeing Hervey Bay's Peppers Pier Resort, Mantra Hervey Bay, BreakFree Great Sandy Straits, as well as BreakFree and Mantra Rainbow Shores at Rainbow Beach.

PCOs experience Insider's Fiji

TWELVE Australian pcOs enjoyed a three-day famil that featured experiences from the InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa's Insider Collection.

It was an event that included breakfast at the picturesque fourth hole of the Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course, one of the resort's Insider Locations.

They explored Fijian cuisine with the resort's executive chef, preparing the traditional Fijian dish, Kokoda, in a Masterchef class.

As well as being taken on a heart-warming tour to the resort's Insider Communities, Batiri Village and Rahmatullah Memorial School where the group witnessed renovations to the school's classrooms and facilities, only made possible through donations given by



previous groups hosted at the resort.

The resort's Insider Speakers; in-house marine biologists, rounded out the experience by sharing intriguing information about Fiji's reef community.

The visit ended with a dinner inspired by the five signature elements of Natadola Bay, represented through the aromas, colours, and flavours of the dedicated cuisine.

"The famil not only gave us a platform to showcase the extraordinary MICE experiences Natadola Bay has to offer, but most importantly it gave us the chance to promote Fiji as an authentic MICE destination," said general manager, Scott Williams.

Rendezvous Sydney showcase

FORTY-FIVE EA's and PA's networked at a co-hosted event held by the Rendezvous Hotel Sydney The Rocks and Rendezvous Studio Hotel Sydney Central, in August to showcase both properties.

It was an evening that commenced at the Rendezvous Hotel Sydney The Rocks with a tasting of Wolf Blass wines by Treasury Estate and was followed by site inspections of the hotel with its harbour views and historic terrace houses.

They were then transferred to Rendezvous Studio Hotel Sydney Central to participate in a cocktail making class, canapés and a tour of the newly triple-glazed hotel and Executive rooms.

Guests who stayed the night at the Rendezvous Studio Hotel Sydney Central were offered the new \$40 Executive room upgrade which entitles them to; a high-



IF getting some shuteye on a plane eludes you and earplugs just won't do it, or you simply can't quiet your mind after a busy day, help is at hand in the form of new app called Airsleep.

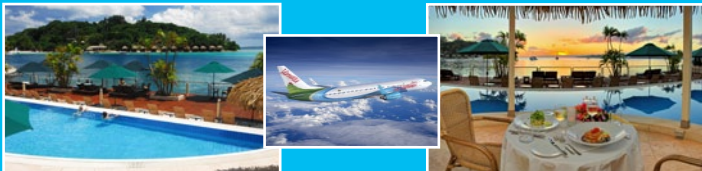
Available for iPhones, iPods and iPads, the idea is to transport you to dreamland with the sound of rain, waves and wind along with "dreamwave brainwave" technology that is said to alter your brain wave patterns to help you relax.

The app comes with three sounds (rainy day, beach sleep and desert wind) and if you download it now it's free until 31 December.

BEN is going to try it on our next long haul flight.

We'd also love some feedback from you to see if it worked, or indeed, if you have another solution, email - info@businessesnews.com.au.

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.

Q13. With a variety of culinary experiences there are over 40 restaurants in the Port Vila, true or false?

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.vanuatu.travel/





business events news

9th September 2013

Janene's one lucky winner

JANENE Wardrop, events manager from the Australian Medical Association of NSW is the lucky winner of an overnight stay in a new Harbour View Balcony Suite at The Sebel Pier One Sydney courtesy of Accor and **Business Events News**.

Wardrop was the card draw winner of **BEN's** competition at ABEE last month.

She was presented with her prize at an exclusive lunch last week at the hotel and Wardrop is **pictured** on the balcony of one of the suites with Mitchell Gunn, Associate Director of Sales for The Sebel Pier One Sydney.



Darwin flight for the time poor

A 45-minute air tour of Darwin has been created by Darwin-based operator Skytour.

Called the "Fighting Spirit of Darwin" it's a particularly good idea for time poor conference delegates and incentive groups.

The tour provides an overview of the history of the city, including times of war and natural disasters, as well scenic views of one of Australia's fastest growing cities.

With a capacity to carry up to 10 passengers per flight, the aircraft is fitted with special GoPro cameras to provide the very best views on the tour.

For more information visit - www.kakaduair.com.au.

Bonville retains Hat

FOR the second year in a row, Coffs Harbour's Bonville Golf Resort's Flooded Gums Restaurant has been awarded the one Hat status at the 2014 *Sydney Morning Herald* Good Food Guide Awards.

GM, Brad Daymond who also oversees Jonah's, Whale Beach said, "executive chef Mick Chatto, executive sous chef Darren Ryan and the brigade of Bonville chefs continue to do a wonderful job, incrementally improving our product offerings, consistency and quality on a daily basis."

"Their efforts, combined with the professionalism and friendliness of our front of house staff have led to a wonderful team environment & the awarding of a Hat recognises that."

Heritage promotes key staff

AS the Heritage Hotel Group expands its portfolio, Heritage Hotel Management have announced the promotion of a number of their senior management staff.

These include Gary Jarvis, the general manager of Heritage Christchurch for the past six years who has taken on the new role



of group operations manager.

Based in Auckland, he is a key member of the rebuild team of the Heritage Christchurch

Old Government Building in Cathedral Square, which will have its formal reopening on 20 September.

Jarvis will be responsible for the operations of the Heritage, CityLife and fast expanding Heritage Boutique Collection.

Vicki Bretherton, general manager of Heritage



Hanmer Springs, will now jointly manage both Heritage Christchurch and Heritage Hanmer Springs.



Ronnie Ronalde, general manager of the Heritage Boutique Collection for the past three years, has been

appointed group development manager for Heritage Hotel Management.

Ronalde has secured 13 properties for the Heritage Boutique Collection.

His new role will now allow the group to explore opportunities in New Zealand, Australia and in the Pacific for the three Heritage brands, Heritage Hotels, CityLife Hotels and Heritage Boutique Collection.

Accor Lounges around

HAVING successfully managed Qantas' First/Business Lounges in Sydney and Melbourne Airports for more than five years, Accor is furthering its hospitality expertise to take over the operations for the majority of Qantas domestic lounge portfolio in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Canberra and Perth, with a rollout from November this year.

To run under the auspices of the upscale Pullman brand, Accor's involvement extends to providing staff training, lounge management and food and beverage services across the six key domestic ports.

Accor is also managing Qantas' newly refurbished Lounge in Singapore which was launched earlier this year.

Simon McGrath, Accor's coo Australia and NZ said the deal brings together the two biggest names in tourism and hospitality in Australia to provide the best possible service to Qantas Frequent Flyers.

"Both Qantas and Accor put the customer first in their operations and we are proud to introduce Qantas flyers to the Pullman standards of hospitality which will see greater personalisation of services, enhanced dining experiences and the warmest welcome in the industry," he said.

Walton's Fiji happiness

BRINGING a wealth of experience in the travel industry, including senior positions in regional tourism, retail, wholesaling, airlines and hospitality industries, Carlah Walton takes up the role of regional director Australia for Fiji Tourism.

In welcoming Walton to the role, Tourism Fiji ceo, Rick Hamilton said the appointment reflected the importance of the Australian market to tourism in Fiji.

"We are confident Carlah will assist us in continuing to drive growth and enhancing Fiji's reputation as an ideal holiday destination with her proven track record in the industry," Hamilton said.

Walton expressed her delight to be representing Fiji and making a contribution at a very exciting time with its new marketing initiatives and branding: "Fiji – Where Happiness Finds You".

CONTACT US:

Publisher	Editor	Contributors/Coordinator
Bruce Piper	Jill Varley	Chantel Housler

For advertising enquiries email Christie-Lee or Chantel email: advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au

P: 1300 799 220 F: 1300 799 221

PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW, 1710

Business Events News is part of the Travel Daily group of publications which also include: Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly & Pharmacy Daily.

Disclaimer: While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Business Events News* no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. *BEN* takes no responsibility for the opinions of its contributors/columnists. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed.