



Highly selective

THINGS are looking up at Qantas with the announcement that Select on Q-Eat - their meals pre-ordering option, available in Business Class has been extended to Premium Economy customers travelling on select international flights.



Qantas executive manager International Customer Experience, Alison Webster, said she was pleased to introduce Select on Q-Eat to customers travelling in Premium Economy.

"Our aim is to provide our customers with a personalised experience when they fly with us," she said.

What's more, in a trickle down effect, the offer is being extended to the back of the plane too, with the news that Select on Q-Eat will be offered to customers travelling internationally in Economy from late 2013.

The roll out comes since Select on Q-Eat was introduced last year to Business Class, allowing customers to confirm their meal choice prior to their flight, or to advise in advance of their priority to have their bed made up by Cabin Crew directly after take off.

The idea allows passengers more choice, including the option to order an additional dish only available as an online exclusive on select routes.

Customers can pre-order between seven days and 12 hours prior to departure via 'Manage Your Booking' at qantas.com. How sweet it is! - Jill.

Get with the office

DON'T forget to confirm your participation in Australia's first office dedicated trade show - office*.

Taking place in just five weeks, the countdown is on to the most significant event ever staged for the office community of Australia.

Being held 16-17 October at Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre stands start from as little as \$1,890 + GST - amead@divexhibitions.com.au.

100% Beyond Convention



THIS month, Tourism New Zealand launched a business events-specific strategy "100% Pure New Zealand – Beyond Convention", with key initiatives underway and the recruitment of a growing team of experts.

Yesterday they launched a newly revamped business events website.

It's a campaign that is focused on reaching associations, conference organisers and corporate decision makers in the key markets of the USA, China, Australia and South Asia.

International business events manager Bjoern Spreitzer said, "While our campaign communicates New Zealand's fantastic landscapes, welcoming hosts and world class venues, an additional focus is on talking directly to those sectors that NZ can deliver expertise & leadership to the rest of the world.

"These include marine, aviation, agribusiness, health science, high value foods, and earth sciences.

"It delivers the message that an event in New Zealand goes far beyond the usual – with a range of unique experiences, set against stunning landscapes and welcoming people ready to host any event you desire.

"The campaign is also tailored to target the lucrative incentives market, where large corporates reward staff with an overseas experience."

The additional activity comes after the NZ government committed an additional \$34m to Tourism New Zealand for the promotion of New Zealand as an international business events destination over four years.

"We have recruitment underway to build teams in Australia, China, Singapore and North America which will bring our new and expanded team to 14," said Spreitzer.

"Their focus is on building relationships internationally and generating new business prospects that can be worked on with the New Zealand industry to convert into actual bookings."

Tourism New Zealand is also taking its business events offer to market with a presence at key trade shows such as CIBTM in Beijing, IMEX Las Vegas and AIME in Melbourne.

Star hosts luxe guests

THE Star, an official sponsor of the annual Luxperience three-day tradeshow earlier this month hosted 300 delegates for an exclusive farewell cocktail party at their harbourside Cherry Bar.

The Star also hosted key buyers at The Darling, Sydney's newest 5 star luxury hotel.

A new addition to the 2013 exhibition, The Star crafted a special culinary experience following the cocktail event.

The 'Dine-A-Round The Star' program allowed guests to experience the culinary delights on offer throughout The Star.

Jakki Temple, gm sales and marketing said, "We're competing on the world stage when it comes to true luxury experiences.

"An event such as Luxperience offers the opportunity to showcase, to targeted and interested VIP buyers, what we have to offer and to gain insight from them on what they and their clients want to experience."

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.businessescairns.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



COMO's Cape Yamu retreat set to open

POINT Yamu by COMO, located on Cape Yamu, a peaceful peninsula on the east side of Phuket and overlooking the limestone karsts of Phang Nga Bay, is to open in November.

The new resort from COMO Hotels and Resorts comprises 106 rooms and private villas and is COMO's first resort in Thailand outside Bangkok and the first property designed for the company by Italian design talent Paola Navone.

Offering a complete event experience from flowers to music and a seafood feast, they have three meetings rooms for sit-down or cocktail events.

In addition there is a courtyard which can accommodate for up to 150 people.

For an exclusive, private celebration, the resort can be booked in its entirety.

A murderous strategy



WHEN the *Travel Daily* group (*Travel Daily*, *Cruise Weekly*, *Pharmacy Daily* and *Business Events News*) held their Strategy Day at Sydney's Amora

Jamieson Hotel last week, it ended in a murder most foul!

With work completed for the day, the group took over the hotel's Charr Restaurant for dinner and a Host a Murder team-building event.

Advised to dress in the style of 'Downton Abbey' and given the name of a flamboyant character, we received the shocking



news that our host had been mysteriously murdered and that we were all suspects.

Host a Murder founder Peter Eedy was our facilitator, moving things along to the final surprising conclusion.

"We have been hosting murder mystery games for 25 years, holding games with as little as 10 guests, up to a world record for the largest game ever with 300 players in one sitting," he told *Business Events News*.

Murder mysteries are a big hit with conference groups and have also proved to be a new and unique revenue stream for the Hotel Blue in the Blue Mountains, bringing \$25,000 worth of business to the hotel last year.

"All Peter asks of you is that you place a Host A Murder sign somewhere visible to passing car and foot traffic, and what you get in return is large groups of people ready to spend money and have a good time," said Chris, Hotel Blue's manager.

And as a special bonus, the winners from any of Peter's Host A Murder lunches, high teas or dinners for this year get to participate in a play off on 8 February at Hotel Blue in Katoomba.

The event will see the winners invited from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Gold Coast, and country areas, and those who guess the murderer will win a free holiday with five friends at Eedy's villa in Fiji at the Golden Palms Retreat.

Email peteredy@bigpond.com.



crumbs!



GOING, going, gone - as *Lonely Planet's* latest survey reveals in these extinct travel experiences.

Due to the threat of terrorism, London's famous landmark Big Ben is now off-limits to foreign tourists.

Overseas visitors are not able to take the trip up the Tower anymore, but they're welcome to pop next door to the Houses of Parliament.

It's not safe to climb to the



top of Egypt's Great Pyramid Khufu, and

many have died in the attempt.

Barriers and sentries now guard against temptation.

And no longer can visitors claim a certificate for climbing to the top of the Christchurch Cathedral tower



since the 130-year-old church, which had survived many shakes was destroyed by an earthquake on 22 February 2011.

The glacier on Chacaltaya mountain (5421m) in the Bolivian Andes was home to the world's highest year-round ski resort to which people would travel to brag that they had conquered the world's loftiest ski run.

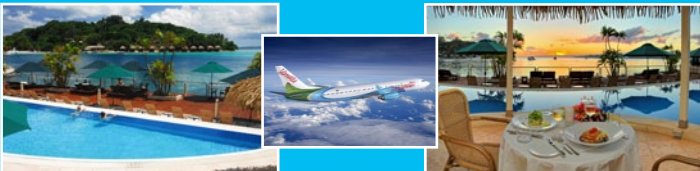
By 2009, the ice had retreated so drastically that only a few patches remained.

And it was once said that it was easier to get an audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth than a table at El Bulli.

Now it's impossible, since Ferran Adria's temple of molecular gastronomy in Catalonia, Spain, closed its doors for good in July 2011.

Voted the world's best a record five times, now we can only dream about popcorn clouds and parmesan marshmallows.

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.

Q15. Can Qantas Frequent Flyer Points be redeemed on Air Vanuatu International flights?

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

vanuatu@businessnews.com.au

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





Queenstown's game changer

THE prospect of a convention centre for the New Zealand city of Queenstown was one that Graham Budd (pictured) chief executive – Destination Queenstown touched on when the Queenstown C&I Roadshow came to Sydney this week.



"Some of you will be aware that we are currently in consultation and debate about building a convention centre in Queenstown.

"I wish I could give you an insightful update on that, but as of last week there were some 750 verbal and written submissions from our community.

"Council is now deliberating on that and in the next couple of weeks we will know what the next step is.

"We certainly believe that a

facility catering for a plenary session of 800 people will be a game changer for the Queenstown environment," he said.

He described Queenstown's proximity to Sydney as a close connection, and one that goes even further with a recent *Condé Nast Reader's Choice* survey voting Sydney number one and Queenstown as number two.

"It's meant to be that we are here together tonight.

"We may not be able to send a lot of people your way but what we can promise is that when you send delegates and clients to us we will do our very best to give them world class experiences."

The evening attracted around thirty suppliers including several new operators who made the journey across the Tasman to showcase their products to a sizeable number of members from Sydney's conference and events industry.

One for TNQ locals

TO launch their new boardroom facilities, TNQ based companies are being offered an exclusive 25% discount on a corporate catering package by Pullman Reef Hotel Casino.

Priced at \$39pp, the local boardroom-catering package provides a full day's catering and venue hire and is valid for new meetings held by 31 March 2014.

For bookings or further info email events@reefcasino.com.au.

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Sitting Pretty

Etihad Airways Business Class

Welcome to Sitting Pretty, our regular review of experiences up the front of the plane.

Etihad Airways is one of the world's fastest growing airlines, and has established a significant presence in the Australian market operating flights from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to the world via its global hub in Abu Dhabi.

Business Events News recently experienced the carrier's "Pearl" Business Class product on a quick trip between Sydney and Istanbul.

THE SEAT

Etihad's Pearl Business Class cabin offers fully lie flat seats in a staggered 1-2-1 configuration giving direct aisle access to every guest. The seats are exceptionally comfortable and you really feel like you're in your own cocoon, with a privacy shell and plenty of adjustments to get really cosy. All the bells and whistles are offered including lumbar support, adjustable headrests and a generous recline, as well as a large table for working or dining.

When it's time for sleep the seat adjusts to a horizontal bed which is 185cm (6 foot 1 inch) long, with bedding including a generous pillow & comforter, with socks and a padded eyeshade provided too.

On **BEN's** very short trip (to Europe and back within five days) there was ample opportunity to sleep on board and the Pearl Business Class seat provided an undisturbed haven.

ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

Etihad's E-BOX inflight system offers a wide range of new release and classic movies as well as TV shows, games, music and more, all accessible via a handset and extremely responsive touch screen system. Noise reducing headsets are provided, and there's a conveniently located USB port and power outlet which came in very handy to charge **BEN's** devices.

Etihad also offers inflight internet access, and it actually came in very handy to be able to quickly get online and check something urgent during the long-haul sector between Abu Dhabi and Sydney.

SERVICE

The best thing about Etihad's Pearl Business Class service is choice - passengers are able to decide when and how they'd like to dine. Menu options include a tasty, fresh and delicious a la carte range and there's also an "Anytime Kitchen" menu. **BEN** was trying to stay on Australian time, and it was great to be able to order breakfast when everyone else was eating dinner!

Etihad has onboard Food and Beverage managers who are happy to help match dishes with the range of boutique wines on offer.

It's not just about service in the air either - Pearl Business Class passengers are provided with limousine transfers to and from the airport in many destinations (including Australia) and of course there's lounge access. In Abu Dhabi the lounge also includes a Six Senses spa and showers to refresh during transits.

