



Ever lovin' Adelaide

BEN spent the past weekend in Adelaide on an IHG famil with a group of conference and event planners from Melbourne and Sydney.



It was an eye opener for those who hadn't been to Adelaide for some time and a delight for the first timers.

Top marks to IHG who hosted us at the InterContinental Adelaide and the Crowne Plaza Adelaide and showcased not just their accommodation but an excellent array of what Adelaide can offer the C&I planner.

Taking part in everything from wine and cheese tasting at the National Wine Centre, a visit to Jurlique's biodynamic flower farm in the Adelaide Hills and making pasta in an Italian cooking course, to drinking more wine in the Barossa from where exports worth \$110 million reign supreme over every other wine region in Australia.

Right now Adelaide's sky is home to almost more building cranes than are usually visible in Dubai as construction continues on the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, the new Adelaide Convention Centre, the new Adelaide Oval, the new South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute building, the new South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, Bowden, the new pedestrian bridge over the Torrens River, the new University of Adelaide and UniSA buildings, new works in the Botanic Gardens and new works at the Adelaide Zoo.

I'll fill you in with more news from IHG and Adelaide over the coming weeks, there is so much to tell - *Jill*.



Artist's impression of the pedestrian bridge.

BESydney launches Advisory Board

BESYDNEY is launching its inaugural International Advisory Board (IAB), this week at a forum that will play a vital role in helping to position the state as a leading global location for international business events as it gears up for the much anticipated development of the International Convention Centre (ICC Sydney).

The IAB will meet approximately every six months in Europe, North America or Sydney, and will be facilitated by leading international meetings consultant and ex-president of the Vancouver Convention Centre, Barbara Maple.

Maple comments, "This is a fantastic initiative by Sydney to establish a global advisory board in the lead up to the opening of ICC Sydney in 2017."

This week nine of the 17 IAB members will travel to NSW to meet with key government and industry stakeholders.

During the week they will gain an insider's view of the multi-million dollar infrastructure projects set to transform Sydney, including ICC Sydney, and learn more about the economic strategy and priority sectors set to drive growth in NSW over the next 10 years.

Six members of the group will spend a day in the Hunter Valley, Australia's oldest wine region.

"It's vital these influential IAB members understand our regional strengths, as well as Sydney's standing as Australia's global city, said Lynne Lewis-Smith chief executive officer of BESydney.

"The regions are a key consideration in the NSW Visitor Economy action plan.

"DNSW is developing a regional event strategy that BESydney will support.

"A strategy that will encourage greater dispersal of visiting



delegates from Sydney to our regions, including the Hunter Valley, Wollongong, the Blue Mountains and Port Stephens," she said.

MEANWHILE the local event industry will have the opportunity to engage with three members of the IAB at a public forum to discuss international trends, on the morning of Wednesday 25 September at the Sheraton on the Park.

Those interested in attending can register at www.businesseventssydney.com.au.

A prod from the NT

A reminder from Scott Lovett director - Business Events at NT Convention Bureau that the NT Business Events industry will be on the road in October with operators from across the Territory visiting a city near you.

It promises to be another standout event at which there will be product updates on what is new and exciting in the NT while the opportunity to win some amazing travel package prizes in each location, will add further icing on the cake - see **page four** for further details.

The team will be in Canberra, Adelaide and Perth on 8, 9 and 10 October.

For these cities RSVP to www.ntconventions.com.au/PlanYourEvent/NTRoundupLunches2013.aspx.

While for Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne 22, 23 and 24 October you will need to RSVP at www.ntconventions.com.au/PlanYourEvent/NTMeetingsMuster2013.aspx.

Early Birds get a deal

ONE year on from the ground breaking partnership between Emirates and Qantas comes their biggest joint commercial offer with Earlybird airfares in all cabins for travel in 2014.

The highly competitive Earlybird return airfares to Europe start from just \$1754 to the UK, \$1559 to Amsterdam, \$1554 to Milan, \$1634 to Frankfurt, \$1548 to Barcelona, \$1592 to Paris and \$1547 to Copenhagen.

Business Class fares to Europe start from \$7598 to Barcelona.

"In just four months time between April and July this year, some 850,000 Australians have travelled to and via Dubai on Emirates and Qantas services," said Bryan Banston, Emirates vice president commercial operations, Australasia.

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Kriel joins Reed

DELWIN Kriel has been appointed sales manager at Reed Exhibitions Australia.

Formerly head of sales and marketing with the Cheeky Food Group, in his new role Kriel will be selling exhibition floor space, sponsorship and value added packages to new and existing exhibitors, while maximising revenue potential across AIME and the IBTM Portfolios.



WIN A 1888 HOTEL PACKAGE



This week, **Business Events News** and **1888 Hotel** is giving you the chance to win a 1888 Hotel Picture Perfect Package valued at \$239.

The prize includes one night in a King Room, an 1888 antipasto plate and two glasses of wine, internet connection and use of an iPad plus breakfast for two people.

1888 Hotel is Sydney's newest hotel and the world's first Instagram hotel.

Situated in Pyrmont, the boutique lodging offers Instagram-friendly walking maps, a 'selfie-space', plus plenty of photo-worthy design features.

For your chance to win, email your answer to the question below by Friday 27 Sept to:

comp@businessesnews.com.au.

In 25 words or less what kind of themed event would you host at Hotel 1888 in Sydney?

Hint: www.1888hotel.com.au

*Voucher will be valid for 6 months and bookings are subject to availability.

From Russia with love



VODKA Bloody Marys and Vodka with fresh berries set the scene for perestroika at an evening co-sponsored last Thursday evening by Four Seasons Sydney and Sydney based travel representation company Nemonic Concepts.

Guest at the event, Natalia Anikeeva, from Russian destination management company Rusmice and Nemonic's client, was in Australia to re-introduce Russia as an aspirational incentive destination.

The timely event fitted in with the recent opening of Four Seasons Hotel St Petersburg, an outstanding hotel set within a 19th-century Russian royal palace.

"It's Four Seasons newest hotel in Russia and in April/May next year we are opening the Four Seasons Hotel Moscow, right on Red Square - the former Hotel Moskva," said Cathy Favaloro of Four Seasons Sydney.

Sue Wallace from Nemonic Concepts, said they are already seeing a spike in Russian incentive business especially as the Gulf carriers are making it easier to get to Russia.

"It's just four and a half hours from the UAE and it's in the same time zone," she said.

Pictured from left are: Michelle O'Donohoo, Sane Events, Barry and Sue Wallace, Nemonic Concepts, Robin Mould, Egencia

and Cathy Favaloro, Four Seasons Sydney.

In the front row are: Natalia Anikeeva, Rusmice and Serap Kara, Eventscape.

Taking Flight, Centre stage



A proposed change by Flight Centre, to amend its name to Flight Centre Travel Group Limited, has been announced.

Subject to approval by shareholders at this year's Flight Centre annual general meeting, it is to highlight the company's "diversity and growth in corporate travel and in niche leisure travel sectors".

MD, Graham Turner said "FLT is now the holding entity that sits behind more than thirty brands, in addition to the iconic Flight Centre brand.

"While the Flight Centre brand remains a key part of our business, we are also Australia's largest corporate travel manager via the FCm, Corporate Traveller, cievents, Stage & Screen and Campus Travel brands," he added.

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HONG Kong Disneyland Resort, has issued a 'Scream No-More' Challenge during their Haunted Halloween period, 4-31 October.

Guests are invited to keep their screams at bay, whether it's a scream of exhilaration on the RC Racer, horror at the Principal Teaching at the Graves Academy or trepidation riding the Big Grizzly Mountain Runaway Mine Cars.

Don't do it!

You'll have to try even harder when night falls and the all powerful demon of the night Chernabog awakes or visit Sideshow Carnival Extraordinaire in Adventureland and witness an unusual and amazing band of sideshow performers ready to reveal their true appearance and abilities to all who are game.

Bet you can't last a whole visit without screaming!



Fiji & IHG scores golf

FOR the next five years Fiji will be the first South Pacific Island nation to host the Fiji International Golf Tournament, through the signing of a memorandum of agreement by the Fiji Government and PGA Australia recently.

To be held at InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa's, Natadola Bay championship golf course in August 2014, it will have a minimum prize of US\$1 million.

"The four day tournament will be broadcast to over 40 countries and 400 million households, and is a great opportunity to showcase our golf course, luxurious resort and Fiji's position as one of the world's greatest golf destinations," said gm Scott Williams.



Hands-on with Victor



VICTORSFOOD has introduced a one-hour version of their Interactive Catering experience that allows venues to offer their guests 'something different' while keeping their internal F&B teams on side.

The hands-on experience lets guests get involved as little or as much as they like in the cooking of a range of street food dishes in advance of a meal provided by the venue.

According to Victor Pisapia, executive chef and founder of VictorsFood, a number of venue event sales people wanted to use their service, but were getting grief from their F&B teams.

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

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"Our one hour version lets the venue offer their guests a unique experience without making changes to their internal operations."

Shannan Lane, sales manager of Mercure Sydney said, "We're really excited to have something different to offer our clients without torturing our F&B team, who get to do what they do best."

Blu identifies a niche

THE five-star Radisson Blu Hotel Sydney has identified their forte to service the niche pharmaceutical market by creating a number of catering packages specifically tailored for pharmaceutical meetings.

Acknowledging the AMA code of conduct, their day delegate and dinner packages are competitively priced in recognition of the industry's conference and function needs.

A Radisson Blu spokesperson said we have done quite a lot of research into the wants and guidelines of the industry and as a boutique property feel we are perfectly suited to this sort of business.

The hotel's inventory of contemporary or heritage style meeting rooms, with more than 500 square metres of space are ideal for corporate business meetings, board meetings, social events or private dinners.

The largest room can accommodate 200 delegates in a theatre style set-up or 140 guests for a gala dinner.

Potent symbol reopens

THE Heritage Christchurch set in the site of the former Old Government Building, has been a part of the Christchurch hospitality industry since its opening in 1996.

Sequestered behind the red zone cordon for two and a half years, the building emerged lovingly restored last Friday when the Governor-General of New Zealand, Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, performed the official reopening.

Highlighting the building's strategic location, he said, "The reopening of the Old Government Building is a potent symbol that Christchurch will be rebuilt, and that after the devastation and heartache of recent times, there is a brighter future ahead."

Hosting the official event was Heritage Hotel Management's managing director, Jeffrey Tang who acknowledged the



Pictured is His Excellency, Lieutenant General The Right Honourable Sir Jerry Mateparae, Governor-General of New Zealand and Jeffrey Tang, md, Heritage Hotel Management at the Heritage Christchurch.

importance of the hotel's building in Christchurch's architectural heritage and as part of the regenerating hospitality industry.

"We are delighted to celebrate Christchurch's 'Heritage' and the reopening of our beautiful century old hotel building, restoring it to the city's priceless inventory of working historic buildings," he said.

Copsey Tunes in

NATHAN Copsey, 29 has been appointed by International hotel brand Tune Hotels to the new Tune Hotel Melbourne in Swanston Street, Carlton.

Their youngest general manager within the group, the hospitality management professional brings to his role 11 years experience working in hotels across Australia and the UK.

Tasked with overseeing operations and around 20 staff, the hotel with a "pay-as-you-use" concept is set to open 1 November.

"This concept is something Australia is really crying out for at the moment," he said.

"It has been very popular throughout the UK and Asia and I believe it's going to take off also in Australia."

Millbrook hole in one

WITH the completion of the final stage of an accommodation upgrade, Queenstown golf and spa resort, Millbrook Resort, has been announced as the venue for the NZ Open Golf Tournament to be held 27 Feb - 2 March 2014.

Business development manager MICE, Jillian Miller who was in Australia as a member of the Destination Queenstown Roadshow, said the resort that features a 27 hole championship course and covered driving range, is within minutes of the resort accommodation, and an ideal venue for a corporate retreat.

What a gem

THE only luxury boat available for lake charter in Queenstown is a modern, high-performance motor yacht, Pacific Jemm, the epitome of Italian design.

It comes fully equipped for the most extravagant of hospitality and provides the perfect solution for business or pleasure with onboard catering and facilities, and a range of options.

With four stylish cabins each with its own ensuite, a small corporate group can spend an evening or a weekend on Lake Wakatipu, New Zealand's longest lake and one famed for its scenic beauty.

They can assist with fishing, supplying a professional fishing guide and obtaining fishing licences, take people ashore for bush walks, join with parasailing and combine with jet boating trips.

Overnight excursions run from 5.30pm to 9.30am and cost \$3,000 - visit www.pacificjemm.co.nz for more information.



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VENUE

BRISBANE:

TIKI BAR - ALFRED AND CONSTANCE

Tuesday 22nd October 5.30pm

130 Constance Street

Fortitude Valley,

Brisbane

SYDNEY:

SUN ROOM - THE IVY

Wednesday 23rd October 5.30pm

Level 3, 330 George Street

Sydney

MELBOURNE:

RIVERS EDGE

Thursday 24th October 5.30pm

World Trade Centre, 18 - 38 Siddeley Street

Melbourne

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