

**DISCOVER THE EXPERIENCES THAT WILL MAKE YOUR EVENT SPARKLE.**



**5 DAYS  
TO GO**

### **NEWS FLASH**

**Hollywood star event planner to headline Inspire EX seminar program:  
John Daly is commonly referred to as the 'Guru of Special Events Design'  
- He has worked on events for celebrities including Tom Cruise and brands  
including Porsche and MasterCard.**

**Don't miss your chance to hear his approach for taking events from  
concept to reality.**



**18 & 19 August 2014**

**Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island**

**For more info and free registration visit [www.inspireex.com.au](http://www.inspireex.com.au)**



## Splendour in the grass

**THE** passage through India continued as we reluctantly left behind the splendour of Amanbagh Villas and the memory of an early morning drive in one of the resort's safari vehicles, to Bhangarh, an abandoned city, way beyond the lifestyle of the simple villagers that surround it.



Established in 1573 by a Rajasthani King, it was abandoned after the death of the next ruler in 1630, supposedly after a magician cursed it.

It was like walking through an Indian version of Pompeii under restoration, its stone cobbled streets bordered by tumbled down shops, magnificent temples, enormous bathing pools and walled gardens.

As for Amanbagh itself, the surprise is that it appears as an oasis in a verdant jungle, once the staging area for royal hunts.

The extensive gardens and the Mogul inspired architecture evoke the palatial elegance of the era, making it a very desirable setting for a whole of resort buy out.

Considering the local roads were awash and potholed after the monsoonal rains, we made it to the pink city of Jaipur and the splendor of the Amber Fort in good time.

Here too, we were treated to a Royal Rajasthan Repast, consisting of 11 curry, rice, roti and sweet dishes at the ITC Jaipur Sheraton, as guests of the general manager Sunil Gupta and DSM Arun Sodha.

We left feeling like royalty ourselves. *Jill*



## NZICC concepts confirmed

**DESIGN** concepts for the New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC) have been approved and released.

With its full year results, SKYCITY Entertainment Group Ltd released the concepts and the news that it would also build a 300 room five star hotel and pedestrian laneway as part of the NZICC.

This would feature four levels, containing multiple day meeting rooms, a dedicated plenary theatre with capacity for up to 3,000 people and an exhibition floor able to accommodate two Dreamliners side by side, NZICC gm Simon Jamieson said.

The Centre would have a total gross floor area of 85,000 sqm and was expected to generate



NZ\$90m in economic benefit annually, Jamieson said.

SKYCITY said there was strong interest from PCOs in booking the NZICC.

The total cost of the NZICC development would be in excess of NZ\$400m, the company said in 2013.

In return, the government agreed to extend the Group's casino license for 35 years and to various regulatory reforms.

The next step for the Centre would be the development of a design and the lodging of resource consent, expected for the fourth quarter of this year.

The "success factor" of the Centre was its integration into the city and the pedestrian laneway, with the plaza entry and hotel, would provide a "significant differentiated offering for the international business events market," Jamieson said.

It is set to open in 2017.

## Tourism WA plans

**TOURISM** Western Australia is hosting a series of webinars about its international and domestic marketing plans for this year.

Managers from each market would give a "snapshot" of activities and participants could ask questions, Tourism WA said.

Participants can dial in for specific markets if they wish.

These include domestic (03 Sep 3.30pm AWST), China (09 Sep 11am AWST) and Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia (23 Sep 9am AWST).

**CLICK HERE** for more.

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## Five pages today

**BEN** has three pages of editorial plus full pages from (*click*):

- The Ether Conference Centre
- Inspire EX

## BEN at Inspire EX

**BUSINESS Events News** has a full front page from Inspire EX today, the event for the business events industry.

Held from 18 to 19 Aug at the Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island, the event features the Guru of Special Events Design, John Daly, as a headliner for the seminar program.

Come say hi at stand 4112 and be in the draw to win a prize - best **BEN** pun wins a high five.



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## EEAA to intro Hall of Fame

**THE** Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) has said it will introduce a Hall of Fame at its Awards for Excellence to recognise repeat winners.

Entrants who had won their category three years in a row

and demonstrated a consistent level of excellence and achievement would be inducted into the Hall of Fame, EEAA ceo Joyce DiMascio said.

This applied retrospectively, so winners this year who also picked up awards in the same category in 2012 and 2013 would be inducted into the Hall of Fame and receive a special trophy, DiMascio said.



EEAA winners that picked up awards in the same categories in 2012 and 2013 include Diversified Exhibitions Australia for Best Consumer Trade and Consumer Shows Over 10,000 sqm and Best Show Team, Sydney Exhibition and Convention Centre for Best Venue Team and ExpoNet for Best Custom Stand.

The award had been introduced to reward consistent achievers and give other entrants a chance to win, DiMascio said.

"These companies have an excellence culture which should be celebrated."

She said the Hall of Fame practice applied in other awards such as the National Tourism Awards.

Awards entries close on 12 Sep. **Pictured** are the 2013 EEAA Awards for Excellence winners.

## Tourism Portfolio Nordic appt

**TOURISM** Portfolio has been appointed the exclusive Australian sales and marketing representative for DMC Nordic.

DMC Nordic designed and delivered incentives, events and group travel experiences across seven northern European destinations including Denmark, Sweden and Norway, which were well positioned to meet the needs of the MICE market down under, DMC Denmark ceo Jens Elers said.

Tourism Portfolio director Donna Kessler said there was already strong local interest in the Scandinavian and Baltic regions.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

## The God connection



**WHEN** it comes to organising sizeable events, the 33rd Kalachakra 2014, held from 03 to 14 Jul, was a triumph over adversity.

Not so much for the Ladakh Buddhist Association and various other bodies which organised the event in Ladakh, but to the casual onlooker.

This high altitude desert town with a fairly unforgiving, mountainous landscape presents its own challenges.

The event, headed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, welcomed 160,000 adherents from across the globe, including actor and Buddhist Richard Gere.

Locals from miles around came by bus, car and foot, others drove over high mountain passes, with the more well off flying in to Leh on two daily flights.

Lacking the big hotels to accommodate large numbers, people were housed in more than 1000 makeshift camps, home stays and small hotels.

To protect the adherents from the fierce sun, it took 18 trucks four days to carry canopy material from Delhi to cover the stage and the 200,000 sqm site.

With sustainability foremost in mind, tea and refreshments were served throughout the event with

## EIBTM trade reg open

**TRADE** visitor registrations are now open for EIBTM 2014.

The event will be held from 18 to 20 Nov in Barcelona.

Pre-registering included free fast track entry and discounted travel and accommodation, organiser Reed Travel Exhibitions said.

For more information or to register, visit

[www.eibtm.com](http://www.eibtm.com).

the proviso that people brought their own cup, while those who brought their own food were asked to avoid tinned and packaged food and to buy fresh, local products.

Senior staff at the luxury Chamba Camp Thiskey who attended the event as VIPs said the organisation was remarkable.

## Marriott mobile expands

**TEN** more brands have signed on to provide Marriott International's mobile check in and check out.

The feature involves push notifications, alerting guests when check in and rooms are available, a dedicated mobile check in desk and emailed bills.

Marriott said with the 10 new brands, including the Ritz-Carlton, Courtyard and JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts, the service was available at 1,200 properties globally and would be available at more than 4,000 by the end of the year.

## CHC's crim conference

**CHRISTCHURCH** will host the Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis annual symposium next year in June.

The conference would see about 100 delegates attend, with support for the bid provided by groups including the New Zealand Police, the Ministry of Justice and Tourism New Zealand, the Christchurch and Canterbury Convention Bureau said.

Manager Caroline Blanchfield said it was heartening to see another conference of international delegates choosing to meet in the city.

This Friday and Monday we will be releasing a special edition of **Business Events News**, which will be printed and distributed to industry staff attending the premier NSW-based Business Events Exhibition, Inspire EX 2014.

If you would like the opportunity to showcase in this edition, we have limited availabilities on offer at special rates. For booking enquiries **CLICK HERE**.





# business events news

13th August 2014



## crumbs!

### TAJ tips.

The Taj Mahal, one of India's most visited historic sites, is a love story that draws millions to its gates. Built by Shah Jahan for the love of his third wife, it's a destination writ firmly on many a traveller's bucket list. However, with so much at stake security-wise, such a treasure comes with its own set of rules.

For the curious traveller, good advice goes a long way to make the experience more memorable.

Go early in the morning and experience sunrise at 5.30 am if you want to avoid the crowds.

Use the South Entry gate in case of long queues at the East and West gates.

The entry fee of around A\$12 includes shoe covers, to protect the marble floors of the mausoleum, half a litre of bottled water and a guide map of Agra.

Eating, smoking and wearing headphones, using video cameras and carrying extra batteries is not allowed.

Mobile phones are to be kept switched off but still cameras are permitted after security.

Leave big bags, books, or tripods back in the car or hotel as these items are sure to increase your check in time at security.

As they say, tread carefully.



## Passage through India



**IF YOU** are looking for a carefree way to wind your group through India then the most relaxed and luxurious train, The Deccan Odyssey, makes a memorable inclusion in an incentive program or later to capture the romance of a bygone era, pre or post event.

Each of the train's 21, elegantly designed Royal coaches, each with four cabins and a common lounge, are named after significant regions of Maharashtra.

Additionally there are four Presidential Suites, the pinnacle of style and sophistication as well as two gourmet restaurants Peshwa 1 and Peshwa 2.

If there is work to be done or a private dinner to be held, the train comes with a well-equipped conference car, the 'Samvad'.

Then, when it comes to chilling out after a long day of exploration, the train's spa, the Plumeria, has well-trained masseurs to sooth and relax the body for the adventures that lie ahead.

For more information or to book, visit

[www.coxandkings.com](http://www.coxandkings.com).

# Geraldton's conf facility

**AS PART** of the draft Mid West Tourism Development Strategy, headworks and planning pre-approval for a conference-function facility in Geraldton have been identified as key tourism opportunities.

The Strategy said an opportunity existed to encourage the development of a conference-function facility in Geraldton, "ideally colocated with a hotel-resort facility or within a hospitality/service oriented precinct".

This would come as part of the strategic aim to attract more high yield visitors, the Strategy said.

Investment in the development would range from \$2 to \$2.5m, it said.

While the city had undergone upgrades enhancing its appeal to the business market, challenges regarding headworks at potential sites remained, with installation or overhaul costs being prohibitive, it said.

"Appropriate pre-planning and the installation of headworks at a suitable site would be expected to result in new facilities and significant growth in the conference-seminar market in Geraldton."

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## Gray's Say

Peter Gray, an independent Motivation Consultant, presents a regular *Business Events News* feature on current issues in the Conference and Incentive industries.



## SMOKE & MIRRORS

**A NUMBER** of hoteliers I have spoken to recently have told me that the number of enquiries they are receiving directly from end-users has increased markedly. Some of this increased activity can be explained by end-users availing themselves of 'cloud computing' event management software products which, at a single keystroke, can send RFPs to countless numbers of hotels, venues and goodness knows what else...and often do. But this doesn't fully explain the increase.

Pushing some of my contacts further, it seems that some end-users are losing faith in meetings and incentives industry professionals and are taking this resource in-house, the reason apparently being that end-users find it cheaper for their own staff to make mistakes rather than paying inflated fees for so-called experts to make the same mistakes, which according to some, is their experience.

I've been in the meetings and incentives industries for a long time and know many who, like me, would be affronted if this was suggested of their companies. These companies set high standards for their people and stand or fall by them. However, attending trade shows around the world I am always amazed by how many industry professionals - according to their business cards - there are who seem not to know much about what they're supposed to be experts at.

Both the PCO Association and MEA provide training and, more importantly from an end-user's perspective, accreditation of its practitioner members. The Incentive

Association, too, has this high on its agenda for its practitioners. But it's not so much the accreditation itself as communicating to end-users that accreditation is available and advising them that they should only use an accredited practitioner.

So far as I know, neither MEA nor the PCO Association actually back their accreditation process with professional liability insurance but individual practitioners should have this as a matter of course. End-users should always require this as a matter of course.

Independent professional associations such as those I've mentioned here - ISES too - serve a valuable purpose in setting standards and offering training and advice to their practitioner members. They don't compromise either their standards or their accreditation processes by trying to amalgamate totally dissimilar industries into one large entity.

They are not influenced by the self-interest of their officers and the funds they receive are used solely for the purposes of developing and promoting their own industries.

From an end-user's perspective the independence of these associations is the guarantee that their accreditation processes will always safeguard the standards of their members.

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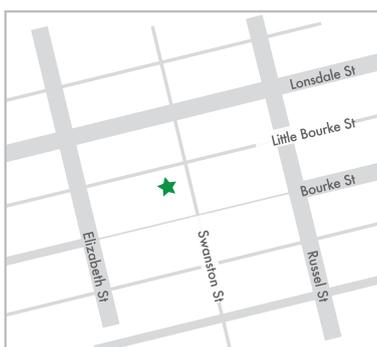
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