

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



**WE'RE  
OPEN**

**NEWS FLASH**

**What's Hot Right Now?**

**From theming to catering and corporate event ideas, to entertainment and team building and venues - event trends are always changing.**

**Discover the ideas and industry trends that are hot right now, and keep your events current and exciting.**

**Inspire EX is open today and tomorrow. Don't miss out.**



**18 & 19 August 2014**

**Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island**

**Free to attend, register today: [www.inspireex.com.au](http://www.inspireex.com.au)**



## How different is this?

HERE we are on Glebe Island in the surrounds of Sydney Harbour in this incredible, tented pop-up exhibition building for Inspire EX.



While the options to get here include car, bus and taxi, what a joy it is to arrive by ferry from Darling Harbour.

Don't forget, we are on Stand #4112, so be sure to drop by.

After being hosted in an outstanding range of accommodation in India, from the colonial style of The Imperial in New Delhi, the tented splendour of Chamba Camp Thiksey in Ladakh, the quality of the ITC Mughal Sheraton and ITC Rajputana Jaipur Sheraton and the elegance of the Amanbagh, our final night was spent at the uber modern Dusit Devarana New Delhi, Dusit International's first hotel to open in India.

Already an award winner after less than a year in operation, it is designed by renowned architect Khun Lek Bunnag and truly has to be seen to be believed.

More will be written on this hotel and the other Indian properties in later editions of **BEN**.

In the meantime, welcome to Inspire EX!

Jill



*The oh-so-modern Dusit Devarana New Delhi - stay tuned for more on this hotel later.*

## Three pages today

**BEN** has two pages of editorial plus a full page from (click):

- Inspire Ex

## Hoteliers bring Tas \$500k

THE Best Western Australasia Convention is set to pump an estimated \$500,000 into Tasmania's economy when it welcomes up to 180 delegates to the Best Western Hobart from 23 to 27 Aug.

The five day conference would also include touring and sight seeing activities, such as Bruny Island, Port Arthur and wine tasting, Best Western Australasia ceo Rob Anderson said.

A Business Events Tasmania spokesperson said the organisation provided a letter of



support for the event to be held in Tasmania.

The economic benefits estimate was accurate, as business events presented the highest yielding return in terms of visitor economy, and \$500,000 represented a "great stimulus return" for the state, which spread widely from the venue, the spokesperson said.

On average, delegates stayed an extra two and a half days for pre-and post-touring, the spokesperson said.

## Malolo group deals

FIJI'S Malolo Island Resort has launched new themed wedding and special event packages.

The move follows the island's recent \$5.5m refurbishment which has seen its Treetops restaurant provide an exclusive venue with flexible menu and floor plan options.

Malolo has 46 rooms and can be taken over in its entirety for groups of over 50 and up to 100 people, subject to seasonality, for a minimum three night stay.

## Brisbane's new tours

GEARING up for the G20 Summit in November, Brisbane has developed a number of new tours.

These include the Xwing tours, which take place on a mini Segway and range from 15 minutes to a 60 minute Adventure Tour along the South Bank foreshore.

There's the Discover South Bank Combo Pass, including a River City Cruise, a turn on the Brisbane Wheel and lunch.

For the anglers, there's the River City Fishing Tours.

MEANWHILE the city is also set to see a new hotel with the Wyndham Worldwide's TRYP Fortitude Valley, slated to open in the next two months, which will feature a new bar, UP, with capacity for 240 people.



Special offer : save up to 40%<sup>(1)</sup> for your 2015 event

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## ben Events Calendar

**BEN's** calendar details events at various venues across Australia.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:info@businesseventsnews.com.au).

### 18-22 AUG

29th International Horticultural Congress; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; [www.ihc2014.org](http://www.ihc2014.org)

### 20-23 AUG

11th Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) Conference 2014; Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre; [www.gin2014.com.au](http://www.gin2014.com.au)

### 25 AUG

Tourism Fiji 'Product Updates'; The Menzies Hotel, Sydney; for enquiries email [lfniasi@tourismfiji.com.fj](mailto:lfniasi@tourismfiji.com.fj)

### 26 AUG

Tourism Fiji 'Product Updates'; Park Hyatt Melbourne; email enquiries to [lfniasi@tourismfiji.com.fj](mailto:lfniasi@tourismfiji.com.fj)

### 27 AUG

Tourism Fiji 'Product Updates'; Hilton Brisbane; email enquiries [lfniasi@tourismfiji.com.fj](mailto:lfniasi@tourismfiji.com.fj)

### 27 AUG

Asia Pacific International Education Forum (APIEF) 2014; WACA Ground, Perth; [www.acpet2014.com.au](http://www.acpet2014.com.au)

### 28-29 AUG

ACPET National Conference; Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle; [www.acpet2014.com.au](http://www.acpet2014.com.au)

### 8-12 SEP

Join International Symposium on the Nutrition of Herbivores/ International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology; National Convention Centre; [www.herbivores2014.com](http://www.herbivores2014.com)



# business events news

18th August 2014

## Eyes on Auckland

**AUCKLAND** has won the bid to host the Retina International World Congress 2018, which will see more than 500 delegates attend with an estimated contribution to the city's GDP of more than NZ\$900,000.

The Auckland Convention Bureau said it worked with Retina New Zealand and the University of Auckland, with support from the Conference Assistance Program bid fund, to win the bid.

Retina NZ president Fraser Alexander said delegates had voted unanimously to host the conference in Auckland.

Bureau manager Anna Hayward said Auckland was well placed to secure a larger piece of the lucrative international conference market, given the launch of its first 10 year business events plan last week (**BEN** 15 Aug).

This specifically targeted Australia, saying Auckland could be included in the state rotations of major conferences.

A study of the Australian market had estimated more than 316,000 business events were held annually, attracting more than 22m attendees, the plan said.

"If Auckland can capture one per cent of this market, it would boost Auckland's activity by more



than 10 per cent."

The Bureau would work in multiple ways to achieve Auckland as an inclusion in conference rotation, including leveraging existing relationships and working directly with associations, PCOs and more, Hayward said.

A new position for a Bureau representative based in Australia would be created to strengthen networks and contacts in the main cities, and it was currently recruiting for this position, with one person set to be in market by November, she said.

A gap existed in the Australian market to pursue small to medium sized business events and larger convention business, she said.

**CLICK HERE** to read the plan.

## Four Seasons catering



### FOUR SEASONS HOTEL Sydney

**FOUR** Seasons Hotel Sydney has launched a new "independent catering website," which aims to give event planners key details such as sample menus, special offers and information about off-site catering options.

The new site is now live at [FSSydneyEvents.com.au](http://FSSydneyEvents.com.au), with the hotel also introducing the hashtag #FSSydneyEvents on Instagram and Twitter to "spark the imagination and creativity of event planners."

The best #FSSydneyEvents photo uploaded to Instagram by 15 Oct will win a night's stay at the Four Seasons Sydney in a Full Harbour Junior Suite.

## QME in Mackay



**WHEN** the Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition (QME) was held recently at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) and at the Mackay Showgrounds, it drew thousands of attendees and more than 600 exhibitors.

The largest convention and banqueting facility between Cairns and Brisbane, the MECC was also the venue for the Queensland Mining Contractor Awards Gala Dinner, which attracted 500 guests.

REEDMININGEVENTS director Paul Baker, who organised QME, said the power of face-to-face business and the opportunity to conduct business in such a manner could not be underestimated, which was why QME 2014 received highly positive feedback from exhibiting suppliers and attendees.

"There has been a noticeable increase in the capacity and quality of accommodation available in and around Mackay.

"With the recent introduction of new hotels, there will be even greater opportunities for the region to support business events, conferences and tradeshow."

## NZ biz spend down

**THE** spend of international business visitors to New Zealand was down 22% in the year to June, compared with last year.

The latest quarterly International Visitor Survey showed business visitors had a total spend of NZ\$459m compared with NZ\$585m in the year to June 2013.

The year to March 2014 saw international business visitors' spend at NZ\$498m, itself down from the year to March 2013 figure of NZ\$573m.

By comparison, the holiday/vacation market spend was up 23% to NZ\$4.37b compared with NZ\$3.56b.

Total visitor spend was up 11% to NZ\$7.1b, driven by the holiday/vaction sector.



**THE** riding on elephants is a vexed and controversial issue in any country and in Jaipur, the largest city in Rajasthan, they are part of the experience of visiting the Amber Fort.



Painted with traditional designs, the elephants almost effortlessly transport visitors up the steep slope to the fort, in a trudging, swaying ride that means you need to hang on.

The problem is, elephant numbers have grown through tourist demand so responsible tour operators won't use them for rides as there is a danger of them slipping on the dung that covers the steep incline.

However, incentive tour operators do use a small number of elephants for groups in a flat area nearby, away from the crowds.

## Welly puts on a show



**WELLINGTON** showed off its conference capabilities last week when 30 potential conference organisers were given a private tour of Show Me Wellington.

They included association ceos and University heads of school interested in hosting international conferences in the city.

The group was introduced to Show Me Wellington exhibitors and hosted at a networking function to speak with the Tourism NZ business events team.

Positively Wellington Tourism ceo David Perks said the organisation was pleased to hear from the group that the city's compact landscape, food and incentive options, along with an interconnected business events community made it a highly attractive potential conference destination.

## Thai 'Dream meeting'

**THE** Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) has partnered with Thai Airways International to produce a new online "Dream Meeting" activity to highlight the country's inspirational locations.

The Business Events Thailand website features the campaign, allowing participants to upload photos of themselves and their friends on TCEB's choice of backgrounds showcasing a variety of meeting venues.

They then share the image on Facebook for an opportunity to win a "dream-come-true" trip to Thailand.

For details or to enter, see [www.businesseventsthailand.com](http://www.businesseventsthailand.com).