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ROYAL HALL OF INDUSTRIES SYDNEY

“ The 2014 Travel Industry Exhibition
promises to be the industry must-do
event ~ put it in your diary now. ”

Jayson Westbury / Chief Executive, AFTA

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Comp this!

THE iconic event space and bar at the top of the Westfield Sydney Tower needs a name, so the Trippas White Group has launched a competition to find one to coincide with the million dollar refurbishment, to be completed late August.



Forget Sky Venue for Sydney's highest event space - it's been used before.

Come up with something original and you stand to win a VIP cocktail party to the value of \$2,000, to be used by 30 Oct 2014.

With elements of the modern New York loft inspired design, it will include timber panelling and furnishings, mood lighting and window lounge seats that offer 220 degree penthouse views over Sydney's skyline.

Competition entries are open until 22 Aug with a shortlist announced on 25 Aug.

Finalists will be invited to an exclusive launch party in early September where the venue's new name will be unveiled.

The re-vamped space will accommodate all styles of events for up to 200 people.

Events include conferences, cocktail functions, formal dinners, team-building activities, weddings, celebrations, ticketed events and bar nights.

"The competition guidelines are simple: we want a punchy name fitting for a Sydney icon," said Rebecca Skeete, GM sales and marketing at Trippas White Group.

For competition details and terms and conditions, visit www.trippaswhitegroup.com.au/whatsmyname.

Jill

SITE's new look scores

site

Society for
Incentive
Travel
Excellence

THE Society of Incentive Travel Executives has a new name and logo, launched last week, and the response so far has been "overwhelmingly positive", the organisation has said.

Now the Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE), it said the "subtle but necessary" changes were made following feedback from surveys and focus groups with members and industry professionals globally.

The re-brand comes as part of a move to grow and strengthen the association and the incentive travel industry, it said.

Market positioning had been identified as the top strategic priority for 2014 by the board of directors, SITE said.

"With a stronger brand position, we are better equipped to help accomplish the goals and growth outlined as part of our three year plan, which include growing our membership and advocating for the use of incentive travel."

The feedback had found that there was confusion between SITE and the SITE International Foundation, with the result that SITE would now be an umbrella brand for all activity, it said.

A SITE spokesperson said feedback to the change had acknowledged the now unity of the two organisations.

Changes to the logo include the raising of the 'i' and 't' which SITE said was to "help represent our industry and members better," with a circular 'i' rather than a square, symbolising a globe.

The new tagline reads 'Incentive travel. Business results.'

"This tagline helps get our story told in as few words as possible

– connecting incentive travel with its primary purpose which is to drive business results for the companies that properly invest in it."

The change from 'Executives' to 'Excellence' better represented members and told SITE's story of rewarding excellence and excellent performance, it said.

SITE said each chapter would be provided with new logos, available for download from today.

Mackenzie 4 Hanmer



NEW Zealand's Heritage Hanmer Springs, a 90 minute drive from Christchurch, has appointed Duncan Mackenzie as the new general manager.

Mackenzie joins Heritage Hotels from his current role as manager of the Hanmer Springs Forest Camp.

He takes up his new role on 28 Jul.

The rainbow connection

THERE was an array of island-inspired pou pous (pronounced poo pous – so no giggling please) last Thursday evening at the Hilton Sydney's Zeta Bar when the Hilton Worldwide Portfolio of Hotels and Resorts in Hawai'i, together with Hawaiian Airlines, Hawai'i Tourism Oceania and the Oahu Visitors Bureau, presented a 'Taste of Hawai'i'.

Created and presented by Hilton Waikiki Beach executive chef James Aptakin, the dishes fused

together the island's distinctive ethnic flavours and ingredients.

Hilton Hotels and Resorts regional director corporate communications Hawaii Cynthia Rankin said a lot was happening in Hawaii, especially at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on Oahu.

The resort's busy lobby area and desk had received a complete makeover, while repair of the

iconic Rainbow Tower mural, originally built in 1968, was completed in June at a cost of \$4.25m after a nine month project, she said.

MEANWHILE also on Oahu, the legendary Kahala Hotel & Resort is celebrating its Golden Jubilee



this year with the Kahala Spa developing a Gold Treatment and special 50th anniversary room and suite packages for stays this and next year, while the owners of Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa are planning to spend more than \$100m on all 1,230 guest rooms, a renovation expected to take 18 months.

Three pages today

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

- The Travel Industry Exhibition



business events news

9th July 2014



crumbs!

FOR your next corporate incentive or famil in Queenstown, you could consider Dart River Jet, who appear to be touched by the gods of luck - and love.

The company managed to re-unite a couple honeymooning in the adventure capital with the husband's wedding ring, lost on a jet boating trip.

In what the company has since called a "perfect parody" of Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, Dart River Jet driver and guide Rod Spackman spotted the ring in the Dart Valley bush the next day, while stopped to discuss the surrounding forest.

Unlike in Tolkien, however, Spackman didn't keep the precious, and was not hence turned into a skeletal and split personality creature, but instead carted the ring back to home base, where Dart River Jet had a Chinese-speaking staff member ring (every pun intended) Elaine and Rong Hua to give them the good news.

Apparently, this is the third wedding ring Spackman has found in his eight years with the company, but no word yet on any sightings of a Nazgul or, indeed, a wyrm with a punny name.



Beautiful partnership

PIER One Sydney Harbour has signed on as an accommodation partner focusing on lifestyle luxury for Luxperience, the travel trade show which will be held in Sydney from 31 Aug to 03 Sep.

The hotel was undergoing a "beautification project" that included the lobby, bar and new restaurant, it said.

The partnership showed Pier One's support for the luxury and adventure tourism market and allowed the hotel to showcase what it had to offer to the global buyers travelling to Sydney for the showcase; rates for delegates would be offered, a spokesperson for the hotel said.

Pier One gm Kim Mahaffy said Luxperience delegates staying with the hotel would get a sneak peek of the concepts being implemented over the next several months of upgrades.

Spring in Mercure

RESIDENTIAL conferences booked in October at the Mercure Hunter Valley Resort will have a complimentary garden party included in the package, valued at \$35 per person.

With full day conference packages starting from \$64 per delegate, the offer also includes lawn games such as croquet and a Hunter Valley Wine reception.

The resort has nine meeting and conference facilities and the capacity to cater for up to 200 delegates.

For more, contact the events team on 02 4998 2000.

LANGHAM
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Sydney 23rd July Doltone House Hyde Park from 4.30pm
Melbourne 24th July The Langham, Melbourne from 4.30pm

RSVP jacqueline.stephenson@langhamhotels.com
(limited availability)

doltone house
HYDE PARK
SYDNEY NSW

SI Tourism Forum

THE Solomon Islands Visitor Bureau and Ministry of Culture and Tourism has announced the first National Tourism Forum (NTF), to be held on 29 Aug at the Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara.

The Forum is projected to see 200 attendees.

Telecommunications company Our Telekom has announced sponsorship of the Forum, with exclusive naming rights.

Ceo Loyley Ngira presented the NTF organising committee with a cheque for SLD100,000 (A\$14,761).

Les Mis adds options

COMMENTING on the business events opportunities inherent in Sydney's hosting Les Miserables again (**BEN** 07 Jul), Business Events Sydney said the city offered a strong line up of major sporting, cultural and creative events that contribute to an "outstanding" experience for international visitors, here for both work and play.

"Business event delegates want to experience the many facets of Australia's global city, and the more options they have the better."

TONY WRAGG'S
techTALK
Technology made simple for small business

Airlines to allow 'gate to gate' use of electronic devices

PASSENGERS on domestic Qantas and Virgin Australia flights and most other local airlines are likely to be using their iPads, Kindles and other personal electronic devices on a 'gate to gate' basis by the end of this year.

With the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) this month issuing guidelines to allow tablets, e-book readers and smartphones in flight mode to be used during a flight's taxi, take-off and landing stages, Virgin Australia will next month submit a proposal to CASA aimed to certify its fleet and operating procedures as gadget-friendly.

This would include the use of Virgin's WiFi entertainment system which broadcasts movies, TV shows, and music directly to a traveller's tablet, laptop or smartphone.

The move will see Australian airlines fall into line with the experience on US and European flights, which permit passengers to use devices up to the size of

a tablet from the moment they reach their seat until leaving the aircraft.

However, laptops will still need to be stowed during take-off and landing, and travellers will still need to follow the instructions of the crew at all times.

This includes watching the inflight safety demonstration and securing your gadgets during turbulence if requested, rather than leaving them on the seat next to you.

Hopefully, it won't be long before inflight internet is added to the mix, if Telstra's Sydney-Melbourne 4G trials are anything to go by.

Article adapted from a story in *Australian Business Traveller*.

To check out the latest tech news for small business visit Tony Wragg's TechTalk online at tonystechtalk.com.au.



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