



Chui-ng the fat

SHOWING that it doesn't have to cost a fortune to entertain the troops,



albeit a small group of around 14, Visit Glasgow entertained some of their nearest and dearest at MissChu Underground Tuckshop, prior to attending the first screening in Australia of 'God Help the Girl' at the Sydney Film Festival last week.

The funky setting of Miss Chu, described as a modern day hawker takeaway with high-end food at a low price tag, dovetailed nicely with the youthful charm of the Scottish indie pop musical.

The Tuckshops, which also run Vietnam culinary tours, are located in various parts of Sydney and Melbourne, including the Opera House.

Nga Chu, the founder and creative director of MissChu, has plans to open other tuckshops in Queensland, Adelaide and Perth.



And now for something completely different.

James Nilsson, well known in the industry and with a blue chip background as an operations and client relationship specialist, is looking for a new opportunity.

His long history in hospitality and customer service has seen him working with corporate clients in industries including automotive, financial services and media.

Speaking with **BEN**, James said "I'm happy to look at short term/contract roles and would like to use my broad experience in the industry to help others develop their skills."

You can contact him on 0417 391 820. *Jill*

Mantra CBD expansion

MANTRA Group's CBD expansion continues with its first Peppers hotel in Canberra and the completed re-branding of two new acquisitions in Melbourne and Brisbane.

The Peppers brand will take over management of the Diamant Hotel, rebranding in July to Peppers Gallery Hotel Canberra.

The hotel will have 80 rooms and conference facilities, including boardroom style and other small meeting spaces for up to 40 people.

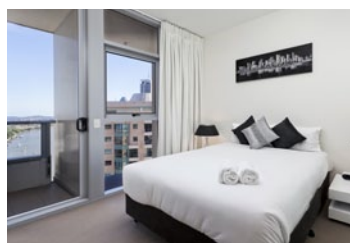
Previously owned by 8Hotels, the Diamant Hotel was sold in an off market transaction.

The Group had taken over the long term lease hold of the property and had a commitment from the owners that refurbishments and upgrades would take place over the next year, a spokesperson said.

"The property is in great shape, however, so at this stage we are confident that only minor changes will be required in the short term."

MEANWHILE the group has completed rebranding of two new acquisitions.

Mantra St Kilda Road Melbourne, with 159 rooms and opening rates from \$119, and Mantra on the Quay Brisbane (pictured right), with 185 rooms and opening rates from \$189,



were both formerly managed by Mint Hotels and Apartments and are further additions to Mantra's CBD expansion.

Mantra Group ceo Bob East said sustained increases in demand continued to outpace growth in supply in the Melbourne market.

"Brisbane continues to be a buoyant market - albeit not at the same heights of two or three years ago - but we predict a period of moderate but sustained growth post G20 Summit."

Powell to leave TAA

RODGER Powell will finish as managing director of Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) on 30 Sep after three years.

Announced by chairman Tony South, Powell will hand over to Australian Hotels Association (AHA) national ceo Stephen Ferguson.

South said Powell had built TAA into a leading national accommodation representative organisation as part of the AHA.

Powell said he looked forward to new opportunities in the industry.

Hocking retires

ROYAL International Convention Centre and Brisbane Showgrounds sales and marketing general manager venue Sue Hocking has retired.

Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA) ceo Brendan Christou said Hocking had joined the organisation in 2011 and had played a critical role in the success of the Royal ICC.

Royal ICC national business development manager Sally Pulford would take over from Hocking, Christou said.

Attracting events

THE Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) Australia and Mastercard have released their Tourism Industry Sentiment Survey for the first quarter, which found 88% of surveyed executives believed major events were of moderate to high importance to the visitor economy.

The survey was conducted online over two weeks in May and had 53 responses from TTF members, comprising ceos and senior executives across the tourism industry.

When asked what the three most significant impediments for respondents' business in the tourism sector were, 25%, or about 13 people, said the ability to attract business events was among the top three, up from 16% year on year.

Skilled labour shortage was identified by 28%, up from 16% year on year.

Other issues identified included reputation as a business events destination at 17%, up from 10% year on year, as well as lack of convention and exhibition facilities at 17%, up from 15% year on year.

When asked whether the respondents' business activities in the business tourism sector were impeded by difficulties in various areas, 29% said government support to win business events bids was of high impact, compared with 41% year on year.

To read the survey, **CLICK HERE**.



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business events news

11th June 2014



WHEN the global water industry's World Water Forum is held in Daegu Gyeongbuk in the Republic of Korea in April next year, some 35,000 visitors from 200 countries are expected to attend.

The largest international expo in the global water industry, it is organised every three years by the World Water Council and estimates were that it would bring in US\$242.8m in economic benefits, creating 2,500 jobs, chairman of the national committee Lee Jung-Moo said.

To ensure its complete success, the Daegu Convention & Visitors Bureau (Daegu CVB) has developed an enhanced event support package, which allows delegates to take advantage of the new online accommodation booking system, presented in English, that allows them to browse photos and read details of each accommodation venue.

Daegu CVB is offering free website assistance for organisers who want to build their own event website.

Daegu is aiming to become the linchpin city of the water industry and the centre of the water industry in Korea.



Glasgow's Big G

A SPECTACULAR 3D installation, affectionately known as the Big G, has been unveiled in Glasgow's George Square, as the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games take shape.

The installation is at the heart of a major program of activity to dress the city for Scotland's largest ever sporting and cultural event.

Taller than a double-decker bus, the gigantic structure, which has been designed to reflect the Games logo, measures a whopping 5.5m in height by 10.2m in circumference.

At four tonnes, it also weighs the equivalent of an African elephant.

The Big G will serve as an iconic welcome to Glasgow for visitors, spectators and a global TV audience of some 1.5b viewers, when the Games open on 24 Jul this year.

Crown appoints Shen

WENDY Shen, with more than eight year's experience in the luxury hotel industry and fluent in English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Taiwanese, has been appointed sales manager of Crown Melbourne, with a focus on the business events market, functions, weddings and events.

Shen's expertise in industry trends and strategies, as well as strong relationship building skills, makes her invaluable in tailoring Crown's events and conferences for guests, particularly in the Asian market.

Free stuff at Rydges

RYDGES Campbelltown is offering a free night in their executive spa suite for organisers who book an event in July, August or September; a minimum spend of \$1,000 applies.

Additionally, spend more than \$2,500 and receive a free DJ for the night.

The offer applies to Friday, Saturday or Sunday bookings and to new enquiries only.

If you are interested, contact functions manager Alison at alison_hamilton@rydges.com.

HTA RFP in Korea

THE Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) has issued a request for proposal for tourism destination representation services in Korea.

Organisations will need proven experience in destination management in Korea.

Uys for Heritage ZQ

JACO Uys has been appointed as Heritage Queenstown's new conference and events manager.

Starting his career as a restaurant manager, Uys has worked in the UK in events and corporate sales for a number of established hotel companies and after some international travel, he and his wife returned to Christchurch in 2013.

Northern exposure

SHANGRI-LA Hotel Tianjin, one of three new Shangri-La properties to be developed in North China and set to open 08 Aug, has opened its reservation lines for guest and event bookings, with an introductory rate of A\$152 single, A\$164, plus 15% service charge, including accommodation in a deluxe river view room and breakfast.



Apple announces new mobile operating system

APPLE has announced its new mobile operating system for iPhone and iPad – iOS8. Not a massive upgrade, but it has some interesting features all the same.

Unfortunately, the update won't be available to everyone though – only to users of iPhone 4s/5/5c/5s, the iPod touch 5th generation, and iPads going all the way back to iPad 2.

The iOS8 update is due out later this year (possibly with the new iPhone 6) and will feature the following enhancements:

Safari Desktop Option - In iOS 8, the browser will give you an option to see the desktop version of a website instead of the mobile version, a handy tool already found on the iOS version of the Chrome browser.

Camera App - In iOS 8, after you tap the screen to set the focus in the Camera app, you'll also have the ability to adjust exposure using a tiny slider right next to the onscreen focus icon. The updated app also includes a self-timer option, allowing you to put yourself in the photos you're taking, as well as a time lapse option that delivers a high speed compliment to the existing Slo-Mo option.

Photo App - In the sharing panel in the Photo app you'll be able to rearrange or disable the app icons and rearrange the activities icons (such as Copy, Slideshow, Assign Contact). Also, the Panorama photo option will also be available on the iPad.

Siri - The updated version of Siri will integrate Shazam music recognition, giving you the ability to hear a piece of music and say, "What song is

this?" and get an accurate answer. After Siri delivers the answer, you're also presented with a "buy" button, allowing you to purchase the song on iTunes. And in case you missed it, Siri will offer hands-free functionality — all you need to do to bring the assistant up in iOS8 is to say, "Hey, Siri."

Messages - In Messages you'll have the ability to set how long you want to save your messages: forever, 30 days or one year. You will also be able to send voice and messages from within the application.

Battery Usage - The updated OS will be able to show you your current battery usage by individual app. The amount of energy being used by each app is represented in number percentages. Battery hogs beware.

Location-Based App Suggestions -

Several users have reported that in iOS 8, when you have Location Services enabled, apps on your phone will be suggested on the lock screen via a tiny translucent version of the app logo. For example, if you're near a Starbucks the company's app may show up on your lock screen as an option.

Article adapted from Mashable.

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Out and about in Vietnam

WITH a good deal of interest and questions from people across the spectrum following **BEN's** reports from Vietnam on the InterContinental Hotels & Resorts, Vietnam Airlines and Destination Asia family, the enthusiastically embraced educational, a first for many of the organisers and planners, took in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Nha Trang, Hoi An, Da Nang, Hanoi and Ha Long Bay.

Vietnam's 4,000 year history, over which many valuable architectural monuments have been built, is one that embraces traces of its colonial French past and its rich, unique culture;

one that despite a rapid move towards modernity can still be seen in the rice paddies and villages no more than a stone's throw from some of its largest cities.

These images serve to whet the appetite further.

For more pictures, check out our gallery by **CLICKING HERE** or visiting our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BusEvNews

TOP RIGHT: The InterContinental Sun Peninsula's exotic conference centre.

BELOW LEFT: Jill shares a rickshaw ride with one of the group, Kamus.



ABOVE RIGHT: What a picture! The group enjoying Binh Quoi Village gardens.

RIGHT: A street seller in Saigon.



ABOVE LEFT: Heading into the limestone grotto on Halong Bay.

RIGHT: Fishing boats line up on the Cai River in Nha Trang

LEFT: The historic Po Nagar Cham towers.

