



## Workshop this!

IN an attempt to inspire radical thinking and business practices and principles, two entrepreneurial Sydney men, Chad Zani and Julio De Laffitte, have posted on their Facebook page an invitation to be part of a conference in Antarctica with a difference.



The post reads: "Hands up if you want to join 117 amazing Entrepreneurs in Antarctica.

"This is the personal and business awareness experience of a lifetime.

"Find out how to get on board!"

According to a report in last weekend's *Sydney Morning Herald*, participants will become foundation members of the Unstoppables Club with a mandate for a new, more sustainable plan for business and industry.

The far-reaching conference entitled 'Fire on Ice – Entrepreneurs in Antarctica' are looking to take "kick-arse people somewhere to kick-arse."

The men say they are not environmentalists but are concerned that business practices in Australia and around the world are unsustainable.

"Antarctica is a place that everyone who has been...has come back much more self-aware and much more planet-aware," said Zani in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

For the venture, the men have secured Quark Expeditions' Sea Adventurer, a four star exploration ship.

Prices for the 11 day journey from southern Chile range from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported the pair had already committed \$1.2m of their own money to the trip.

"The perfect person would be someone who has achieved success, but who has realised there's more to life than individual success," Zani said.

Jill

## Accor supports ACT



WITH hotels in Canberra including Novotel Canberra, Mercure Canberra, ibis Styles Canberra and ibis Styles Canberra Eaglehawk, Accor has strengthened its position as a key partner in the nation's capital tourism industry with Novotel Canberra signing on as the official accommodation partner for the Canberra Comedy Festival, for the

second year running.

The inaugural festival was held last year as part of Canberra's centenary year celebrations.

This year, the Festival returns with a bigger line-up of over 50 shows from 04 to 09 Mar and is slated to put Canberra on the comedy map.

## New LHW head

CRAIG Adamson has been appointed by The Leading Hotels of the World (LHW) as director Australia & New Zealand.



A results-oriented leader who brings over 15 years of luxury hospitality sales experience to LHW, Adamson will lead LHW's established Australian division in developing and executing strategic sales and marketing plans to generate hotel revenue from the travel industry, direct clients, corporate and MICE segments across both Australia and New Zealand.

Most recently he held the position of director of sales & marketing at The Langham Sydney.

## It's footie tippin' time

RADISSON on Flagstaff Gardens is inviting readers to join its AFL Tipping competition.

Have fun picking your favourite team and players and every week, you will receive a weekly update on the Radisson with highlights of recent matches and confirmation of the week's top tipper.

Weekly prizes include bottles of wine, Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens food and beverage and accommodation vouchers.

First, second and third place winners, and special prizes, will be announced at end of season drinks at HQ's Restaurant.

**CLICK HERE** to tip some footie.

## Hong Kong hotels

AUSTRALIANS visiting Hong Kong between 01 May and 31 Aug this year can nab a free night when staying for three at the Harbour Grand Kowloon's Superior Courtview Rooms or Harbourview Rooms.

Those who stay a minimum of three nights get upgrades from the Courtview to Harbourview rooms when travelling on selected dates, including 01 to 18 Apr.

Group and MICE packages are also available on application.

## Inspire EX etouched

ETOUCHES, a leading provider of event registration software, has been chosen by Exhibitions and Trade Fairs as registration partner for Inspire EX 2014.

To be held from 18 to 19 Aug at the Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island, etouches vp and general manager Asia Pacific Region Alan Ivory said the company was delighted to be working with Inspire EX.

The partnership will provide first time buyers and exhibitors with a seamless real-time event registration process.

"We look forward to working with the Inspire EX team to enhance the shows appeal by showcasing our cutting edge event registration technology to the attending 6000 plus buyers from the corporate and events community."

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## Novotel Darwin is Next



A \$5m guest room refurbishment to Accor's Novotel Darwin Atrium hotel has been completed in time to celebrate its 26th anniversary.

Boasting the contemporary Novotel Next generation room concept launched in 2011, it is the brand's archetype 'future room' design.

The appeal of the Next room is its impression of spaciousness and freedom of movement through the use of transparency.

The guestroom no longer has physical separators, instead featuring an open plan that

encourages guests to create their own spaces and atmosphere.

Novotel Darwin Atrium general manager Ajay Vaid said, "The Novotel is already one of Darwin's favourite hotels with a great location overlooking the water, but our recent Next guestroom update has provided a welcome update and new design that we hope will re-humanise the travel experience and reenergise our guests."

The hotel has 140 large rooms and two-bedroom suites and conference facilities for up to 110 people.

## Client Relationship Manager/ Team Leader

**Travel Daily** is Australia's leading travel trade publisher, with a portfolio of publications also including **Business Events News**, **Cruise Weekly**, **TD Cruise Update** and **Pharmacy Daily**.

A unique opportunity has arisen for a Client Relationship Manager/Team Leader to join our fun friendly team based in Epping, NSW. This is a diverse role with hands-on responsibilities as well as client interaction and staff management.

### Responsibilities:

- Lead our advertising team
- Maintain and develop relationships with our loyal clients
- Oversee promotional activity and trade show participation
- Help prepare client proposals for advertising and other activity
- Grow business for our portfolio of publications

### Requirements:

- At least five years experience across sales and management
- The ability to multitask across different publications
- Excellent relationship management skills
- Strong written and verbal communication ability
- A passion for excellence and an eye for detail
- A strategic thinker who can inspire and develop the team

A generous salary package will be provided, commensurate with experience. If you would like to join the leading industry publications please send a covering letter and your current resume to [jobs@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:jobs@traveldaily.com.au) by Wednesday 12th March 2014.



## AIBTM growth

**ALMOST** 18,000 pre-scheduled appointments are pointing to an increase in hosted buyers for the Americas Incentive, Business, Travel & Meeting Exhibition (AIBTM) 2014.

The number of appointments was a rise of 20% from last year, AIBTM said.

The exhibition said last year buyers placed US\$250m in business globally with an 182% increase in corporate buyers and a 24% increase in the total number of hosted buyers whose meeting spend combined was more than US\$9b.

AIBTM 2014 will be held from 10 to 12 Jun in Florida.

## Corporate camping

**AFTER** previously owning and operating an electrical business for 26 years on the Gold Coast, Mike Roberts turned his attention and his lifestyle to two large sand islands, North Stradbroke and Moreton Islands, and started Corporate Camping.

A dab hand as a fisherman, camper, cook and walking encyclopaedia, his new venture is off and running, recently taking a group of 13 people from Abbott Pharmaceutical to North Stradbroke Island for their national sales meeting.

Some of the participants on the three day camp didn't want to be there and weren't happy campers.

Roberts said by day two they had changed their minds.

"They didn't know camping could be so luxurious.

"At one stage they were 'Webexing' on the internet with a trainer in Sydney, when someone in the group yelled, "whale!"

"Everyone stood up in wonder while the trainer was overheard to say, 'Oh, I want to be there!'"

Corporate campers need only bring their own clothes and toiletries and are accommodated in comfortable tents with raised camp beds and provided with hot showers, toilets, gourmet cooking and a generator to power their laptops.

Past clients include Virgin Mobile, Juice FM, Abbott Pharmaceutical and ESL Language School who have been twice and have booked two more trips.

For more, visit [www.corporatecamping.com.au](http://www.corporatecamping.com.au).



**A SELF-GUIDED** walking tour app which highlights the city of Sydney's Irish heritage will go live four days prior to St Patrick's Day.

Old Irish Sydney is a free self-guided one hour walking tour which can be broken into two half hour walks that highlight the city of Sydney's rich Irish heritage.

Compiled by staff at the Dictionary of Sydney, with the assistance of a group of local Irish and Irish-Australian historians, the tours contain more than 40 images (historical and contemporary) and 13 audio recordings written and narrated by local Irish actors Aine de Paor and Maeliosa Stafford.

Each tour is simple to follow with a GPS-enabled map of the route with historical moments frozen in time including The Irish Famine memorial in the Hyde Park Barracks plus the St Patrick's Day Riot, which took place in Hyde Park in 1878.

Funded by the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Program, Consulate General of Ireland Consul General Caitriona Ingoldsby said the aim was that, through the app, more people would become aware of the very strong Irish heritage and history of the city.

As an aside, there is no truth in the assumption that a tour of Irish pubs is next on the Irish app agenda!

The app is available for both Apple and Android devices from 13 Mar.

## Sonaisali changes

**FIJI'S** Sonaisali Island Resort is now offering WiFi for guests across the whole island, and has finished a soft refurbishment on the conference rooms.

The internet plans start from two hours access with 250MB of data.

The conference rooms had been repainted, with new carpeting laid and a new room set up introduced, the Resort said.

The conference room can host 90 delegates and the executive boardroom has seating for 16. The meeting room can seat 10.





# business events news

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## IT&CMA numbers

**ALMOST** 700 spm of space at Incentive Travel & Conventions, Meetings (IT&CM) Asia and Corporate Travel World (CTW) Asia-Pacific has already been booked, bolstered by what the show said was its best ever early bird booth sign ups within three months after last year's event.

Exhibitors who have signed up include first-time exhibitor Ministry of Tourism Cambodia, Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO) and Tourism New Zealand (TNZ).

KTO director of incentive & exhibition Seo Bong Sik said 2013 had been "extremely fruitful" for the show.

"We achieved over 220 leads through our business meetings at the event."

The event had attracted 240% more MICE tourists than 2012, and will be held from 30 Sep.

# Peakpoints loyalty

**LEADING** independent upscale hotel group Worldhotels has announced the launch of its loyalty programme for 24 Apr, Worldhotels Peakpoints.

Available at the group's almost 500 hotels in 65 countries worldwide, Worldhotels Peakpoints is one of the first all-virtual global loyalty programmes in the hospitality industry.

Members of the programme can follow their transactions, manage their personal profile and customise their virtual membership card via the Peakpoints website or the app 'Travel Guide by Worldhotels'.

Free of charge, Peakpoints members receive two points for every Euro spent on room revenue.

Points can be exchanged for vouchers, which can then be redeemed at all hotels of the group.

Enroll online at [worldhotels-peakpoints.com](http://worldhotels-peakpoints.com), the group's website [www.worldhotels.com](http://www.worldhotels.com), through the Worldhotels social media channels, by downloading the app or by requesting a membership directly at the Front

Desk of the affiliated hotels.

Complete programme details can be found at Worldhotels' website, [www.yourbenefits.worldhotels-peakpoints.com](http://www.yourbenefits.worldhotels-peakpoints.com)

## Heritage scores a 4th

**A FOURTH** South Island hotel, Lake Rotoroa Lodge, has joined the Heritage Boutique Collection.

Heritage Hotel Management group development manager Ronnie Ronalde described the lodge as for both leisure and corporate guests.

"The lodge is the most expansive property in our inventory, covering over 1,500 hectares."



Built in the 1920s, it is surrounded by rivers rich with brown trout while other activities include bike or horse riding and white water rafting.

The lodge can supply full sets of wading and fishing equipment.



## Getting to Know: Bendigo, Victoria

by: Jill Varley

It stands to reason that you're likely to get a better financial deal and a broader experience if you meet in one of Australia's regional areas. Bendigo, centrally located in regional Victoria is a city that ticks all the meetings and events boxes with its 3,500 accommodation venues and outdoor concert spaces for 17,000. A feature that makes this gold mining town a standout is the enduring historic architecture of its public buildings, survivors from the boom of the gold rush days.

An easy 100 minute drive from Melbourne's CBD or just under two hours on the shuttle bus service, it has an hourly V/Line rail service from Melbourne's Southern Cross Station and private charter air links.

With more than 4,000 beds, including motels, hotels and serviced apartments, Bendigo supports a 5000m space at the Exhibition Centre, seating for 3,500 at the Bendigo Stadium and a capacity of 15,000 campers at the Elmore Events Centre.

A modern day attraction currently under development is the Bendigo Theatre Project, a \$25.8m state of the art community theatre on the site of the old Bendigo Gaol, a significant part of which is to be retained.

With a completion date of late 2014, the Ulumbarra Theatre will feature a 1,000 seat theatre, music, dance and drama studio spaces and general learning areas available for education, arts, entertainment, tourism and for business sectors.

Well known for attracting major events, Bendigo has stolen a march by hosting many major exhibitions including the Grace Kelly: Style Icon Exhibition and The Golden Age of Couture.

The city also stars in unique experiences that include prospecting for gold in nearby Whipstick Forest, underground adventure tours at the Central Deborah Gold Mine, pottery classes at the famed Bendigo Pottery, events in the fascinating Golden Dragon Museum with its priceless collection of Chinese artifacts or in the fabulous ballroom of the Bendigo Town Hall.

There are unique wine and shopping experiences as well as cafes and restaurants including Rocks on Rosalind, Masons with their French and English cuisine, the Brewhouse for great breakfasts and the Public Inn in nearby Castlemaine. You won't be disappointed.

