



Reef & rainforest

WHAT'S not to love about Port Douglas, surrounded as it is by



two world heritage icons: the rainforest and the Barrier Reef.

BEN is on a Port Douglas incentive educational, staying in the splendour of a two bedroom apartment with rooftop spa and deck, at the Pullman Sea Temple Resort & Spa, while others in our group are similarly accommodated at QT Port Douglas and the Peninsula Boutique Hotel.

Day one began with a warm PD welcome at Cairns airport from the team at Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef and Tourism Port Douglas.

From here Sun Palm Transport, masters at moving groups of all sizes, took us to Hartley's Crocodile Adventures for a seafood spread and a boat ride through croc infested waters.

From Hartley's helipad we flew over the magnificent sweep of Batt Reef into Port Douglas, a sight to behold from the air.

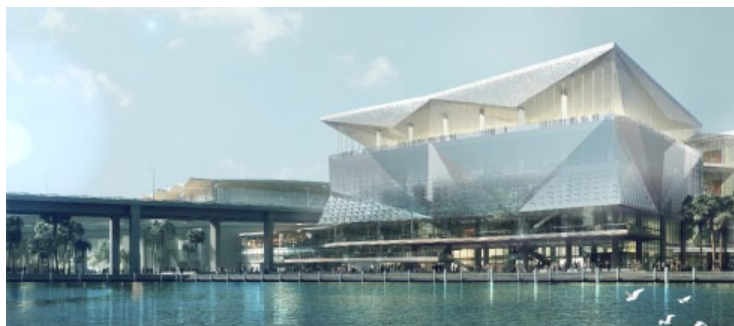
We have enjoyed sunset drinks on the old Sugar Wharf, one of PD's most sought after venues, had breakfast with the birds at the Wildlife Habitat, visited the Mossman Gorge Centre, walked the gorge to the Mossman River, and had lunch at Silky Oaks Lodge Resort & Spa, where an 80 person conference will give you a resort buyout, before returning to the Pullman and QT for a relaxing spa while others chose an electric bike tour.

Last night it was drinks at rainforest dining venue, Flames in the Forest, and dinner at QT's fabulous Bazaar Marketplace.

Today, the Reef awaits. *Jill*



ICC construction begins



WORK has begun on the International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney.

Construction was announced by NSW Premier Mike Baird (pictured on the left) and Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner (pictured on the right), as part of the \$2.5b redevelopment of Darling Harbour.

The ICC itself will be built to the tune of \$1b, with the construction project slated to employ 3,700 people and 4,000 at completion.

Baird said once completed the convention, exhibition and entertainment facilities would ensure Sydney remained the first choice in Australia and the Asia Pacific for the "lucrative" business events industry.

Projected to open in 2016, the ICC has already landed 11 events (**BEN** 19 May).

Stoner said the redevelopment of Darling Harbour would bring an estimated \$5b in economic benefit over the next 25 years.

"While the revitalisation of Darling Harbour is underway, Sydney will continue to play host to a range of major conventions.

"Up to 20,000 delegates from more than 150 countries will attend the 105th Rotary International Convention which begins this weekend at Sydney Olympic Park."

The Premier and Deputy Premier also announced that a time capsule would be buried on the site with artefacts and information about the area's history.

Exhibition and Events Association

of Australasia (EEAA) ceo Joyce DiMascio said it was good the project was on-time and that preparation of the site for the start of construction was on track.

"There is no doubt business events are on the radar of the NSW

Government and both the Premier and Deputy Premier have been committed to supporting the industry during the three years of disruption caused by the redevelopment."

Credit for ICC

photo: HASSELL + Populous and Darling Harbour Live



Pullman Magenta Shores

MAGENTA Shores, with eight conference rooms, has rebranded to Pullman Magenta Shores Resort.

Previously a Quay West property, the hotel has also undergone refurbishment of its 59 rooms and villas, with refurbishment of the resort's bar and restaurant set to follow.

Accor Pacific chief operating officer Simon McGrath said the upgrade would provide a boost to the Central Coast's hotel sector.

This followed Pullman's re-brand and refurbishment program in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane over the past year, he said.

"The next evolution of the brand is to expand this experience into sought after areas with strong feeder markets that are destinations in themselves."

GCT ceo honoured

GOLD Coast Tourism (GCT) ceo Martin Winter has been awarded an IMEX Academy Award.



GCT said the award was presented annually to high achieving individuals who had made an outstanding contribution to the global meetings, incentive, convention and exhibition sector and Winter had been recognised for his "spirited commitment" as director of the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA).

IMEX 2014 was held last week in Frankfurt.

Pictured from left is Winter and IMEX Group chairman Ray Bloom.

Conference complete



NOVOTEL Sydney Central has completed its refurbishment, including of its main conference centre.

The main conference centre, pre-function area and private bar had been redesigned, with new furnishings, re-painting of fixtures and upgrading of all floor surfaces, the hotel said.

The centre had also upgraded its AV systems and conference rooms would have access to the 'SeeMeNow' tablet interface, which allowed delegates to send through control requests, such as for temperature, to the hotel staff events team, an Accor spokesperson said.

Total refurbishment costs for both phases was about \$8m, the spokesperson said.



business events news

30th May 2014



crumbs!

IF you have a penchant for fine art and you happen to be in Paris, you might need an upgrade to Etihad's First or Business Class to behold lithographs from the Marina Picasso Legacy Collection, with the airline showcasing the exhibition in its premium lounge at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport.

This collection of the art of Pablo Picasso's granddaughter, Marina Picasso, was created from original paintings inherited by Marina and include a selection of the artist's most treasured works, recreated by master chromist, Marcel Salinas, who worked closely with Picasso during his lifetime.

At €5,000 each, six of Marina Picasso's limited edition lithographs are available for guests to purchase.

Previous works displayed in the airline's Paris lounge included bronze Salvador Dali sculptures.

Nearly all DoubleDutch

HAMILTON Island has launched an event app, Events@HI, that allows event delegates to access up to date event documentation such as programs and location maps, as well as speaker, and exhibitor information.

Social media integration allows delegates to share posts from within Events@HI to Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

The app is a partnership between AVPartners and American mobile event app developer DoubleDutch.

Light up the night



WITH Vivid Sydney, the annual event of light, music and ideas, in full and glorious production, the Star held its inaugural Vivid installation 'The Thrill of Sydney' on Tuesday evening for invited guests including Soccerroos captain Tim Cahill.

The facade of The Star's Astral Tower, The Darling hotel and Sky Terrace rooftop was transformed into a massive light show, developed by Australian company Electric Canvas, which specialises in large-scale projection.

The light show, visible from vantage points across the city including the Barangaroo-Darling Harbour-Pyrmont precinct, can be enjoyed throughout Vivid until 09 Jun, with the Sky Terrace open to the public to sip on a Vivid-inspired cocktail and to enjoy The Star's accommodation and dining packages.

MEANWHILE the festival has broken its record with 270,000 visitors in its first weekend.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events Andrew Stoner said this was up 170% on the previous year, which pumped more than \$20m of new money into the state economy.

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Taste is a social enterprise, our profits are invested into community initiatives.

Creswick transfers

THE Novotel Forest Resort Creswick is offering free return coach transfers to and from Melbourne Airport for events.

Its \$79 per person conference day package includes a buffet lunch and WiFi for all delegates.

The resort has 10 function rooms; for more, email meetings@forestresort.com.au.

"Vivid Sydney is also a huge hit with retailers, with many reporting double and triple the takings of a normal night."

Stoner said Gelato Messina at Martin Place sold an extra 1,000 gelato sundaes on Saturday night, going through about 900 kgs of gelato over the weekend.

The festival is on until 09 Jun.



Pictured from left: Cahill, fresh from Monday night's friendly match against South Africa, being interviewed by Channel 9's Richard Wilkinson at the Vivid party.

MEETINGS in CHC

CHRISTCHURCH and Canterbury have a new stand and five new exhibitors at MEETINGS.

Held from 18 to 19 Jun in Auckland, the trade event will see Rydges Latimer Hotel, Moveable Feasts, Mashina Functions and Entertainment venue, Sensational Selwyn and Hurunui Tourism exhibit for the first time.

The Christchurch and Canterbury Convention Bureau said Australian buyers had been quick to sign up for the three day pre-MEETINGS familiarisation, with eight taking part.

Manager Caroline Blanchfield said the region's large presence at the trade event reflected the change occurring in Christchurch and the growing interest in Canterbury as a destination.

Ben on BEN



Each month Business Manager for inPlace Recruitment, Ben Carnegie, writes his observations from the recruiter's perspective to help job hunters find the perfect job.

Ben has over 15 years working in 5 star hotels and the MICE industry and has worked on some of Australia's biggest events.

SO you've decided it's time to change your job. Whether it's because you are trying to



escape management or have reached your learning peak, you're ready... but what's next? You can't just get up and leave. Where will you go? Now realising that moving on isn't as straight forward as you thought, here are a few points to consider when you reach this stage. What do you want from your new job? Is it more money? Is it a higher level of responsibility? Do you have the skills you need to get into the job you want? By defining what you want and preparing for your next role, you'll find yourself staying positive as you are working towards something better. Don't get caught up in office gossip and live outside the office. Stay focused on what you are trying to achieve, set some goals and go for it!

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