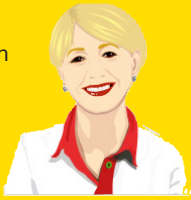




## Do try it

WITH so much ink about the celebrities, fashionistas and wannabes who make



it into the 'Birdcage' area at the Melbourne Cup, there is one high profile company and its founder that may have slipped under the radar with the paparazzi, but not, it appears, with the race crowd.

It is the Dilmah Tea commercials and the presence of "do try it" Merrill Fernando in the Dilmah Tea marquee that made him a very recognisable figure.

"He is a genuine personality," said Pan Pacific Hotels Group area director of sales Oceania global sales Keren Southgate, who, together with her business events guests and top suppliers, was entertained in the marquee.

"I can't begin to tell you how many people wanted a photo with him."

Pan Pacific Hotels has an exclusive partnership with Dilmah to use the tea in all its hotels and has also worked with Dilmah's ambassador Peter Kuruvita to host a special Dilmah 'Tea Appreciation' masterclass at the Pan Pacific Perth.

In pride of place directly in front of the winning post, Dilmah guests drank Tea Cocktails, described as totally lethal, while a pop up in the courtyard served live music and Pimms.

It is the second year that Dilmah has been a sponsor at Flemington.

Earl Grey, anyone? *Jill*



Pictured is Southgate with Dilmah founder Merrill Fernando and his son, Dilhan Fernando.

## Gilmore gets Bennelong

**EXECUTIVE** chef of Quay Restaurant, Peter Gilmore, will take over the Bennelong restaurant, after the Sydney Opera House signed a 10 year agreement with The Fink Group.

The appointment follows the demise of the Bennelong by Stokehouse restaurant, due to open in May (**BEN 12 Mar**), with a new two stage tender process undertaken by the Opera House in July.

Gilmore would remain as executive chef at Quay but would dedicate the majority of his time to Bennelong, which would have a more casual restaurant and bar

setting on the upper level, a private dining area and a chef's table in the kitchen, the Opera House said.

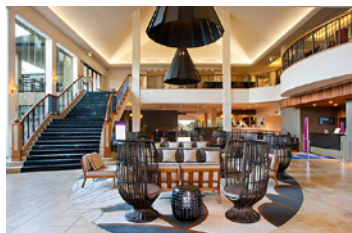


The restaurant is due to open in June after a multimillion dollar refurbishment starting in mid-January.

Opera House chairman John Symond said the organisation had wanted an operator who could deliver a dining experience to match the setting.

"We were extremely impressed with The Fink Group's vision and professionalism."

## Mercure GC refurb complete



**MERCURE** Gold Coast Resort has completed its three million dollar hotel upgrade and is celebrating the relaunch with a conference offer.

The refurbishment, which started in April, included the rooms, the soft furnishings and AV in the conference space, and, in response to demand from conference groups, a private dining room overlooking the pool, and new walls and banquette seating in the restaurant, the resort said, which catered for more intimate dining options.

It has seven conference rooms, with a total capacity for up to 700 delegates.

For its relaunch, the resort is offering an 11th delegate package free for organisers who book and pay for 10 conference packages.

The offer is valid for bookings made before 23 Dec for events next year.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## ICC Sydney managers



**TWO** new business development managers have been added to the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) team.

Tina Eggers (**pictured left**) would be the national business development manager with Michelle Nahas (**pictured centre**) with business development director Beverly Parker) as the corporate, government and events business development manager, AEG Ogden said.

## Langham Syd to reopen in Dec

**THE** Langham, Sydney will reopen on 02 Dec after its \$30m make over.

The hotel closed in July (**BEN 25 Jul**) for the refurbishment.

## Three pages today

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

- AIME

## BEV joins AACB

**BUSINESS** Events Victoria (BEV) has joined the Association of Australian Convention Bureaux (AACB).

This brought it in line with the other 14 convention bureaux across Australia, BEV executive officer Chris Porter said.

BEV had grown its bureau services in the past few years, and its AACB membership highlighted its vision for quality and reassured clients they were dealing with a professional bureau, Porter said.



“

even if you're not actively looking for a job, make sure your future employer can find you by uploading your profile and resume now

”

[view jobs](#)

[post a job](#)

over **250 HOT** jobs in travel, hospitality and tourism available

[jobs in travel online](#)  
[www.jito.co](http://www.jito.co)



# business events news

14th November 2014



## crumbs!



IT'S not all lock downs, lockouts and snipers on rooftops in Brisbane during the G20 Leaders' Summit, which will be held from 15 to 16 Nov.

Cheeky Queensland humour has risen to the fore as enterprising local businesses celebrate the visit with special events and limited edition culinary specials.

How about the Obamarama Tiki Party being held at popular Brisbane bar, Alfred & Constance until today, in honour of President Barack Obama?

The bar is dedicating 'The Big O' pineapple cocktail to his Hawaiian roots and the Obamarama burger to his love of burgers.

In the absence of the President's attendance, a life-sized cardboard cut-out and plenty of Obama masks will be available for photo ops.

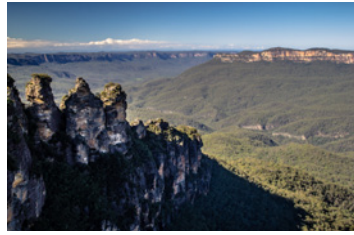
At the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre where the G20 takes place, London-born executive chef Martin Latter will have churned out 100,000 meals during the Summit.

Sourcing ingredients from Queensland, Latter says he has created a very special menu showcasing all the flavours and textures of Queensland.

Meanwhile, in the heart of Brisbane, Mitchell Ogilvie, a premium menswear store that stocks Obama's favourite brand of suits, Canali, has dressed the boutique to be 'Obama friendly'.

Rumour has it an appointment has been made by one of the G20 leaders, but mum's the word.

## Parks Congress starts



THE International Union for Conservation of Nature World Parks Congress has kicked off at Sydney Olympic Park.

The seven day conference, which started on Wednesday and will finish on 19 Nov, is expected to pump \$34m into the NSW economy with 5,000 delegates attending.

Tourism and Transport Forum ceo Margy Osmond said hosting the event reflected well on Sydney, and Australia's, reputation as a large conference and convention destination.

A team led by Business Events Sydney (BE Sydney), and the NSW and Federal governments lobbied for the event, with BE Sydney ceo Lyn Lewis-Smith saying it was one of the most lucrative business events staged in Sydney this year.

It was an example of the business beyond tourism such an event brought, she said.

## Barangaroo pop up venue

A POP up venue will be built at Barangaroo in May next year for the musical 'Here Lies Love', NSW Minister for Regional Tourism John Barilaro has said.

Part of Vivid Sydney, the venue will be called the Millennium with capacity for 550 people.

Destination NSW said it could not comment on whether the venue would be used outside the production.

## IBTM buyer prog open

REGISTRATION for the IBTM America hosted buyer program is now open.

The show will be held from 09 to 11 Jun 2015 in Chicago.

CLICK HERE to register.

## TA KDP webinar

TOURISM Australia (TA) will give an overview of the Key Distribution Partners (KDP) program in China in a free webinar on 25 Nov.

Register by CLICKING HERE.

## Novotel Vines Resort events manager

NOVOTEL Vines Resort has a new events manager in Elizabeth Hvalgaard, effective immediately.



Hvalgaard had worked in the Perth hospitality industry for 14 years, holding managerial positions at the Resort and most recently at Sandalford Estates, a spokesperson said.



## CONFESSIONS OF A COMPULSIVE CONFERENCE-GOER

Andrew Klein, professional MC and presentation skills speaker and director of SPIKE Presentations, presents his front line observations on conferences in a regular feature in BEN.

### Ahhh memories - seems like it was only yesterday (oh, it was)

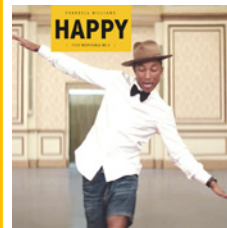
I HAVE a confession to make. I genuinely love watching those conference highlight video compilations that get played towards the conclusion of the conference.

You know the ones I'm talking about. The hard-working event photographer or video dude spends the whole conference following the action, busily filming or snapping away, then stays up all night editing it into an entertaining five minute package (with a bouncy backing track), which we watch the next day.

I'm not kidding. I love them. They add to the sense of camaraderie and fun that make good conferences memorable. And I'm not alone. I notice the murmur when the photos from the team-building activity start to appear, or the applause that emanates when they view the photo of the burly Queensland state winner proudly holding up his Award Night trophy. Or the giggles of laughter over the inevitable shots of Fitzy from the Newcastle office attempting the worm dance on the dance-floor the previous evening.

Conference audiences sit entranced (often waiting expectantly for a photo of themselves) while experiencing an odd form of conference nostalgia as they fondly look back and recall events that only took place a day earlier.

It's an age-old conference tradition, but it rarely fails.



My only gripe - more of a plea actually - to the AV guys who compile these highlights is, let's have some original music to accompany the vision. A few years back it was Flo Rida's "Good Feeling" (YouTube it if you can't recall), last year it was Coldplay's "Paradise" and any song by Avicii. And in 2014, it seems every highlights package is screened to the bouncy sounds of Pharrell's "Happy".

But to be honest, after sitting through countless highlights compilations at conferences all year, I'm no longer Happy, as I've heard that once catchy but now annoying song too many times. So video guys, make us all Happy by coming up with some different backing tracks. That aside, thanks for the memories.

Nostalgia...it ain't what it used to be.

If you are looking for an MC for your next conference or a speaker/trainer on presentation skills or pitching skills, email [andrew@lunch.com.au](mailto:andrew@lunch.com.au) or visit his website at [www.andrewklein.com.au](http://www.andrewklein.com.au).



Business Events News is Australia's newest online publication dedicated to the vibrant meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

Sign up for a free subscription at [www.businesseventsnews.com.au](http://www.businesseventsnews.com.au).

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Business Events News is a publication of Business Events News Pty Ltd ABN 80 153 775 449. All content is fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. BEN takes no responsibility for the opinions of its contributors/columnists. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Jill Varley [info@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:info@businesseventsnews.com.au)

Deputy Editor: Alex Walls

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Katrina Ford [advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au)

Business Manager: Jenny Piper [accounts@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:accounts@businesseventsnews.com.au)



# WHERE WILL YOU BE NEXT YEAR?

*WE KNOW.....*

**AIME MELBOURNE, 24-25 February 2015**



## TOP REASONS TO ATTEND AIME 2015

93% of Exhibitors agree AIME offers a good return on investment



94% of Visitors agree AIME is a must attend event

98% of Hosted Buyers agree AIME is very important to their business



### What to expect at AIME 2015



Total Visitors: **3000**

Total Hosted Buyers: **550**

Total Exhibitors: **750**

### MANAGE ALL YOUR EVENT NEEDS IN ONE PLACE

Achieve a year's worth of business in just two days

### MEET AND NETWORK

Make invaluable business connections

### BE THE FIRST TO KNOW

Discover innovative solutions, event trends and new suppliers

### GAIN INVALUABLE INSIGHTS & KNOWLEDGE

Immerse yourself in a year round event planning community

### AIME KNOWLEDGE

Attend AIME's education program

**GAIN KNOWLEDGE - BE INSPIRED - NETWORK & CONNECT - GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

You can attend AIME as a Hosted Buyer, an Exhibitor or as a Visitor. Find out more at [aime.com.au](http://aime.com.au)

AIME IS PART OF THE REED TRAVEL EXHIBITIONS MEETINGS, EVENTS AND BUSINESS TRAVEL INDUSTRY PORTFOLIO

AIME IS OWNED BY MCB

AIME IS MANAGED BY RTE



THE GLOBAL MEETINGS & EVENTS EXPO  
18-20 November 2014 • Barcelona, Spain

