



Way to go

I'M still a little starry-eyed from meeting Insight Vacations ambassador, actor Lisa Ray and my first experience of the lounge at the InterContinental Double Bay.



I kid you not, the canapés served prior to lunch were exceptional – crispy bites with a dhal-like centre, and the combination of sweet and savoury macrons were standouts.

The Barossa chicken breast with butterbeans was also excellent but it was the Valrhona chocolate dessert tasting plate to share that tipped us over the edge.

The Insight invite included the option of taking a private water taxi to Double Bay Marina, from where it's just a short stroll

to the hotel.

What a way to go.

The use of water transport from Circular Quay, or from

wherever on the harbour, will certainly give an event the wow arrival factor.

Sydney Ferries also run an irregular ferry service with more in peak hours.

This, I am sure, will change as the Double Bay gets back into its stride.

In fact, I think it's already there with so many new cafés, restaurants and shops opening up.

And as busy as he is, hotel general manager Frederic Brohez popped by during pre lunch drinks to say hello – he looked as pleased as Punch with his new fiefdom.

Jill



Geelong convention centre

THE Victorian Coalition government has said if it is re-elected, it will put \$5m towards site analysis and early works on a Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre, expected to pump \$106.6m annually into the regional economy.

A four to five star hotel was also expected to be part of the complex, accommodating delegates and tourists, Premier Dr Denis Naphthine said.

Possible sites already identified for the Centre include land to the west of Deakin's Waterfront Campus and Limeburners Point, Naphthine said.

The Centre would include a conference venue with capacity for up to 1,000 delegates and 3,000 sqm of space, including a business centre and retail outlets, Naphthine said.

The development had the potential to create more than 1,000 jobs for the region, he said.

Enterprise Geelong estimated other benefits would include a "major boost" for Avalon airport, as well as the opportunity for an architectural landmark for central Geelong and the waterfront.

"We want to work closely with the City of Geelong, with the local community and with potential



Photo: Barton van Laar

investors to get this job boosting Convention and Exhibition Centre built."

Business Events Victoria chair Brendan Maher said there had been talk of such a project for 15 years and the organisation "strongly supported" the announcement.

"It will put Geelong, and regional Victoria, on the map as a host of large scale conferences and exhibitions, and allow Geelong to compete with other major regional cities.

"The economic benefits far outweigh the investment and go beyond Geelong and the local community."

Thai-ed up with Radisson Blu



THIS year Thailand has had its martial law problems but now it's back to business and to get things moving right along, the five star Radisson Blu Plaza Phuket Panwa Beach has released an offer for groups who book a minimum of 10 rooms from now until 31 Mar.

The offer at TBH3000 (about AUD\$106) per room per night is inclusive of 15% commission.

The deal also includes a complimentary plenary room and free WiFi.

Contact Lisa Bacon at
lbacon@carlsonrezidor.com.

Four pages today

BEN has three pages of editorial including a **photo page** from Fraser Island plus a full page from (**click**):

- AIME

AACB report to Productivity study

THE Association of Australian Convention Bureaux (AACB) has submitted its commissioned report into the economic benefits of the international business events sector (**PD** 21 Nov) to the Productivity Commission's study of Australia's international tourism industry.

AACB executive director Andrew Hiebl said it was critical AACB took a consistent and professional message to government.



“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



MEA Awards open

ONLINE submissions are now open for the Meetings and Events Australia (MEA) Industry awards which recognise excellence and best business practice in the meetings and events industry. **CLICK HERE** to register.



MAIKO Zenki, director of the Japan National Tourism Organisation, gave BEN readers the perfect Japanese phrase to learn for conferencing delegates in her Face to Face (**BEN** 03 Nov), but not everyone is so kind.

For instance, you probably wouldn't want to ask friends to teach you phrases in a language you don't understand, given the opportunities for mischief.

Instances of misfortune include Walking Dead actor Norman Reedus' prank on co-star Andrew Lincoln, teaching him the phrase 'It's nice to be here' to try out on interviewers, only to be told later it means 'Where's the toilet?'

CLICK HERE to view.

Then there's the immortal Monty Python sketch, where the Hungarian phrase book editors obviously had a little fun, translating 'I would like matches' into 'My hovercraft is full of eels'.

CLICK HERE to view.

An insight into Insight

THE setting for the launch of Insight Vacations' Gold Luxury 2015 program was held on Thursday, appropriately in the luxurious setting of the InterContinental Sydney Double Bay.

Guest of honour was Insight's first global brand ambassador Lisa Ray, an internationally acclaimed actress and star of the Oscar nominated film 'Water'.

Insight Vacations Australia managing director Joost Timmer (pictured left with Ray and Insight Vacations head of marketing Maureen Van Metter) said that this year, its six Insight Gold itineraries had been upgraded to be all-inclusive journeys, which meant guests did not need to dig into their wallets but could focus on the rich destinations.

The success of Insight's Indian Signature Experiences, journeys beyond the standard tourist fare, has been built on and expanded across four categories: hotels, dining, evening and experiences.

Timmer said over the years, travel exploration had changed to what people wanted to see, who they wanted to meet and what they ate.

"They're after inspirational



experiences such as a demonstration of glass blowing, gourmet dining, meeting local people and a total immersion into a destination."

When it comes to incentives, reward programs and small group touring, Timmer assured **BEN**, "We can customise tours and pretty well bolt on anything they want to do."

Anchorage Port Stephens dining



THE \$6m redevelopment of Anchorage Port Stephens resort is underway, with its new dining venue The Galley Kitchen now open.

The venue offers indoor and outdoor dining with a menu including Port Stephens oysters.

The redevelopment has seen an upgrade of function and conference facilities, and a new function marquee with a capacity for up to 180 guests set to open in January.

Hiragana Kiyomi

A NEW restaurant and bar, Kiyomi, opening in mid-December, will be part of Jupiters Hotel and Casino's \$345m transformation.

It will be headed up by Chase Kiyomi, who has led kitchens for Nobu in Las Vegas, London and Los Angeles.

600 delegates for Sydney conference

THE INS/ASSBI fifth Pacific Rim conference in Sydney, the convention for the brain impairment community, is expected to see more than 600 delegates attend, organisers have said.

Business Events Sydney helped MERS Events secure the three and a half day conference, due to be held from 01 to 04 Jul at Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, organisers said.

ben Events Calendar

BEN's calendar details events at various venues across Australia.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@businesseventsnews.com.au.

30 NOV-2 DEC

PCO Association 2014 Conference; National Convention Centre Canberra; www.conference.pco.asn.au

7-12 DEC

Royal Australian Chemical Institute National Congress; Adelaide Convention Centre; www.racicongress.com

8-9 DEC

ACTE Global Corporate Travel & Meeting/Events Education Conference - Sydney; Sheraton on the Park; www.acte.org

6 FEB

Perth Convention Bureau's (PCB) 2015 Aspire Awards workshop luncheon; Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre; enquiries email aspire@pcb.com.au

16 MAR

Ni hao WA 2015; Aravina Estate, Yallingup; www.tourism.wa.gov.au

4 MAR

NT Muster; Ivy Ballroom, Sydney; enquiries email trade.tourismnt@nt.gov.au

5 MAR

NT Muster; Park Hyatt Melbourne Ballroom; enquiries email trade.tourismnt@nt.gov.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.

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

Deputy Editor: Alex Walls

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Katrina Ford advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@businesseventsnews.com.au

Travel Daily

CRUISE WEEKLY

travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy DAILY

Travel Daily

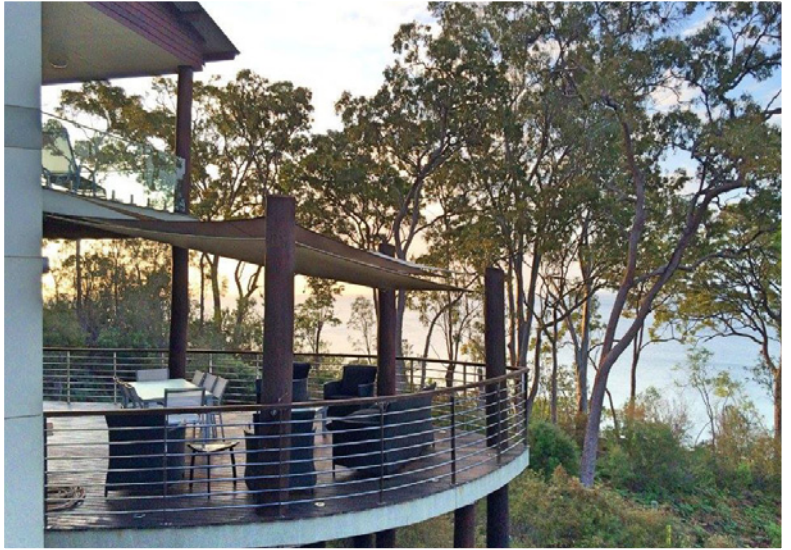
Fantastic Fraser Island

A GROUP of executive and personal assistants from some of Australia's foremost companies enjoyed a famil on Fraser Island with Mercure Kingfisher Bay Resort and Spa.

It was an adventure that included a whale watching cruise, a personalised 4WD tour of the island, a bush tucker talk and

taste, massages and Segways on the beach, sunset drinks at the jetty and dinner at the Dingo Den, minus the dingos!

For more photos of the trip to Fraser Island, visit **BEN's** Facebook page www.facebook.com/BusEvNews or **CLICK HERE**.



ABOVE: The executive and personal assistants arrive to experience their first taste of Mercure Kingfisher Bay Resort and Spa.

CENTRE: Building the team's spirit with a Segway race on the beach.

BELOW: Up and over the island on a Fraser Island Scenic Flight.



ABOVE: Kingfisher's five star accommodation overlooking Hervey Bay.

BELOW: The wreck of *The Maheno* near Eli Creek, struck by an out-of-season cyclone in 1935 while being towed to Japan for scrapping.



LEFT: The group enjoys a surprise white linen, rainforest picnic with Mercure Kingfisher's Leonie Belbin.

RIGHT: Poolside Mercure Kingfisher Bay Resort and Spa.



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

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



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

AIME IS OWNED BY MCB



AIME IS MANAGED BY RTE

