



The hills are alive

WITH Sydney's Hills district such a thriving urban area close to the geographic centre of the greater Sydney region, the announcement by the Hills Shire Council Mayor Andrew Jefferies to host a Summer Series of events is, he said, "Better than anything we've done before in our Shire".



To be held at Bella Vista Farm Park, there's quite a program to attract locals and visitors alike, with events such as the Sydney Country Music Festival, Shakespeare in the Park, The International Sand Sculpting Exhibition, Australia Day celebrations featuring Kate Ceberano and the Convict Footprints.

The Castle Hill Main Street will also be lit up like never before, with the first ever Sydney Hills Christmas Sky Show and New Year's Eve live site.

MEANWHILE if you are thinking of attending the ICE Conference 2014, you'd better get a wriggle on with your booking as there is just weeks to go before the event takes place from 12 to 14 Nov at The Stones, Legian Bali.

Jill

NTIA 2015 new venue



THE Australia Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has confirmed the Dockside Pavilion Darling Harbour as the 2015 National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) venue.

To be held on 18 Jul next year, AFTA said it would be introducing new award categories, with details to come.

Credit: *Inlighten Photography, Scott Eher and George Drivas.*

NZ BE advocate program



TOURISM New Zealand (TNZ) and the Auckland Convention Bureau have launched a business events advocate program to partner with sector leaders to champion business events.

Announced at the NZ Business Events Awards dinner this week, attendees of the dinner had won 29 international events in total, pumping about NZ\$41m into the country's economy, TNZ said.

International business events manager Bjoern Spreitzer said much of NZ's success when it came to bidding for international conventions was thanks to the efforts of sector leaders.

The program would engage these people so they could continue to bid for international conferences, he said.

Regional programs would be developed by regional bureaus, starting with Auckland in March next year, with TNZ managing the national strategy, it said.

These programs would involve

a calendar of activity to leverage professional networks of advocates, targeting potentials through universities, research institutions and associations, and providing support through the bidding and post bidding processes, a spokesperson said.

"The regional chapters will have discretion over how they define an advocate and the selection criteria they adopt."

DMS takes Cancun & Vegas



IT WAS an action packed trip when DMS escorted a group of Australian and New Zealand buyers on an educational trip to Mexico prior to attending IMEX in Las Vegas.

The program, organised by Tropical Incentives, included a Caribbean yacht cruise to Zama and a visit to Chichen Itza.

Immersed in Mayan culture throughout the trip, they took part in Mayan rituals and ceremonies, then following IMEX, Hosts Global Alliance in Vegas provided interactive site inspections of new venues and activities.

Pictured third from left is Marissa Fernandez of DMS with the group in Cancun.

The Christmas Venue Guide

BUSINESS Events News has launched a Christmas Events guide for all your end of year function venue needs - check out **page three** for the best Christmas function venues in the business.

The last few issues of the Guide are coming up so get in while you can to highlight your venue's unique features, like the ability to host a karaoke battle of 'We Three Kings - The Reggae Remix', to the business events industry and **BEN's** readers and social media channels by emailing advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au.



MOVEMBER will see multitudes of males growing mo's to raise funds for the Movember Foundation's programs and to encourage community awareness and support around men's health.

Amadeus IT Pacific men are putting out the challenge to the travel industry to raise funds for the cause. The person who raises the most money will win a **Shaving Brush Travel Kit**.

If you are game, register at au.movember.com (add your company name after your name and choose to join the **Amadeus IT Pacific team**) by the end of October.

Email your before and after pics and progress updates to mocomp@traveldaily.com.au and we will showcase them on **Facebook** and in **BEN**.

Get involved as an Amadeus Mo Bro! Click **HERE** to learn more about the program.

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business events news

24th October 2014



What is jito



Talking up 25 years

MARKING their 25th year as a provider of speakers, MCs and entertainment to corporate events in Australia, New Zealand and beyond, Celebrity Speakers managing director Louise Ryburn has said that the occasion is a momentous accomplishment, and in her 13 years with the company, she has never had a dull day.

"It's so diverse.

"In just one morning last week I spoke to an opera singer, a TV presenter, a person who's climbed Mt Everest, a convicted murderer and the ceo of a major company."

Celebrity Speakers' milestone birthday is being celebrated with a new website and a rebrand of its logo, which is an adaptation of the speaking forum found in an ancient amphitheatre.

ATE applications open



SELLER applications for the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) 2015 are now open.

ATE 2014, held in Cairns, saw 1,800 delegates, with an economic impact calculated to be about \$10m (**BEN** 16 Jul).

Next year's event will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 22 to 25 Jun.

Seller applications are open until 25 Nov.

Buyer applications will open on 13 Jan 2015.

CLICK HERE to apply.

EIBTM Club success

EIBTM has said the launch of its My Association My Club program this year has seen association buyers with average budgets of between US\$1m and US\$5m join.

The program aimed to give a more flexible option to an association planner's networking agenda at the event, held in Barcelona from 18 to 20 Nov, the organisation said.

Twenty countries would be represented in the program, which had been designed in consultation with association planners through research and focus group meetings, the organisation said.

The research found that flexibility was a priority for planners, with the result that they could now control their itinerary, EIBTM said.



crumbs!



THE Penny Arcade Expo (PAX 14) is almost upon us, and the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (**BEN** 10 Oct) (MCEC) can expect to see be-costumed delegates attending dressed as Thor, Spider Man or [Hunter Gathers from the Venture Brothers](#).

So the MCEC may have to prepare to step in, in the event of a Batgirl versus Mr Incredible fight - yes, you read that right.

The costumed heroes brawled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and were separated by Chewbacca, the *Telegraph* reported (we're not sure a better sentence has ever existed) - **CLICK HERE** to view.



Getting to Know: India's Golden Triangle

by: Jill Varley

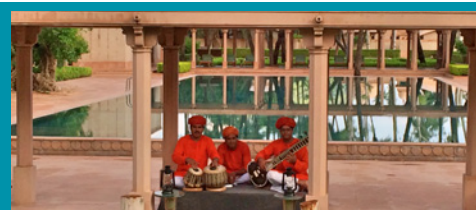
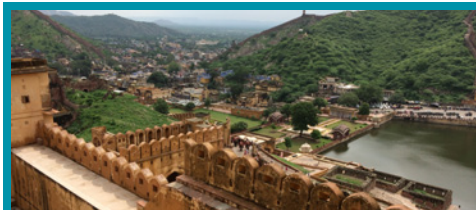
INDIA'S Golden Triangle is the essential introduction for the first time visitor to this land of 1.1 b people. It's a circuit that starts and ends in Delhi and includes Agra and colourful Rajasthan.

Connected by air, train, bus and car, Agra is home to India's most exalted edifice, the white marble mausoleum of the Taj Mahal. Best seen at sunrise, the Taj is a short distance from the newly refurbished ITC Mughal, a Luxury Collection hotel set in 35 acres of landscaped gardens. Providing respite from the crush of the crowds, it is perfectly suited for conferencing groups, with meeting rooms that take up to 750 guests.

The journey continues to the Alwar region of Rajasthan and the Amanbagh Villas, where the bedside tables don't contain bibles but copies of the Kama Sutra! The Mogul-inspired architecture and the Amanbagh's palatial elegance makes it a very desirable setting for a whole of resort buy out or for a polo match on the front lawn. Here, a visit to the Bhangarh, a city established in 1573 by a Rajasthani king and abandoned in 1630, is a must.

Some of Rajasthan's finest fortifications and most luxurious palaces are found in Jaipur, know as the Pink City. Principal among these is the Amber Fort, which can be accessed via elephant if you choose; the Jantar Mantar, a set of incredibly accurate and colossal astronomical observatory instruments constructed in 1734; and the lavish City Palace. For accommodation in the heart of Jaipur, the ITC Rajputana, a five star business hotel, has 218 guest rooms and suites and world-class conference facilities for up to 500 people.

Back in New Delhi, Dusit's first hotel in India, the Dusit Devarana New Delhi, offers 50 elegant living spaces while its lush gardens and location 10 minutes from the New Delhi airport are a magnet for hi-end incentive and corporate gatherings.



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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)

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Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Jill Varley info@businessesnews.com.au

Deputy Editor: Alex Walls

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

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

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Christmas Venue Guide

Looking for a Christmas venue or staff celebration?
Business Events News guide to 2014/15 Christmas venues is the place to showcase!
To feature here email advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au.

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www.tangalooma.com



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