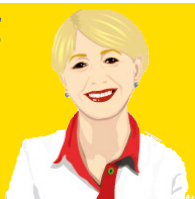




Learning curve

A FEW words of advice if travelling to Singapore: forget your



Visa credit card because taxis don't accept them in the Lion City, something I learned the hard way travelling from the Crowne Plaza Changi Airport to the Sands Convention Centre.

It's all to do with Visa wishing to have transactional charges included and taxi companies wanting to pass this on to consumers - you've been warned.

MEANWHILE with ITB Asia closing today, many of the city's hotels went all out to entice buyers and media to a range of events last night, with bus-loads of people heading to Sentosa Island, while others were variously dined at Raffles, entertained at the Carlton City Hotel or found themselves high above the bay at Sky on 57. Jill

MICE is half of biz travel

THE Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) has said the meetings, incentives, conferencing and exhibitions sector accounted for more than half the total business travel market in 2014.

ITB Asia kicked off this week in Singapore at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands, with a dual ribbon cutting ceremony by Messe Berlin ceo Dr Christian Goke (pictured left) and Second Minister for Trade and Industry S. Iswaran (pictured right).

At the show, expected to see more than 8,000 attendees, Goke said the business events sector was "very resilient", outpacing traditional corporate travel, and was growing "exceptionally".

GBTA had previously forecast the total business travel market to reach a global spend of US\$1.18t.

Asia Pacific would account for



40% of business travel spend in 2014, GBTA figures said.

Goke said the evolution of the region's business travel sector was leading industry players globally to focus more intensely on it.

Peek at AIME 2015

REED Exhibitions has released a new video showing a sneak peek of AIME 2015.

The video features interviews with industry representatives and a run through of the new community floor plan.

CLICK HERE to view it.



The Christmas Venue Guide

BUSINESS Events News

has launched a Christmas Events guide - check out **page three** for the best end of year function venues out.

The last few issues are coming up so get in quick by emailing advertising@businessesnews.com.au

ICE speaker line up

THE Incentive Conference and Event (ICE) Society conference from 12 to 14 Nov at The Stones, Bali, has locked in speakers such as Marriott International Asia Pacific md Simon Cooper, MCI group president Robin Lokerman, Amway AV and events production associate director Bert Li and Pacific World ceo Herve Joseph-Antoine.

CLICK HERE for more.

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business events news

31st October 2014



crumbs!



EVER unwittingly left your baggage at Sydney Airport, in a post conference haze the excitement of an incentive?

You may be able to get it back at the Sydney Airport charity lost property auction which runs next week from 04 to 14 Nov.

The auction will see thousands of items left at the airport up for sale online, a first for the event, Sydney Airport said.

Items include a scooter, a surfboard, ukuleles and various smartphones, the airport said, which is nothing compared with the *Telegraph's* list of the weirdest items confiscated by airport security, that includes 75 snakes a woman in Sweden tried to smuggle in her bra and 10 human eye balls floating in a jar.

CLICK HERE for more.

Bids for the Sydney auction start at \$1, with last year's raising more than \$130,000 for a number of charities, corporate affairs gm Sally Fielke said.

EEAA political update

THE Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) Gold and Platinum Partner Round Table heard about the current political landscape and its impact on business events last week.

Speakers included Barton Deakin ceo Matt Hingerty and Hawker Britton md Simon Banks, who provided a round up of the state of politics, EEAA ceo Joyce DiMascio said.

Business leaders Quest Serviced Apartments chairman Paul Constantinou and AEG Ogden ceo Harvey Lister also spoke, for an "extra layer" of commentary, DiMascio said.

Convention bureau for Fiji

FIJI Tourism has announced it will launch a convention bureau, slated to be up and running in time for the Fijian Tourism Expo (FTE) in June.

Events and MICE director Sally Cooper said the organisation had realised a neutral, unbiased source of information for the business events industry was required.

Previously conference, incentives and events, one of Fiji's larger yield markets, had been managed by resorts and inbound operators, she said.

The establishment of a bureau was long overdue and would take away much of the workload of general enquiries on inbound operators, Cooper said.

A new business events website would run off the Tourism Fiji site and was hoped to be operational by June in time for the FTE.



Fiji Tourism was speaking with airlines to try to organise a direct flight from Nadi/Melbourne so people could travel straight from the Australian Tourism Exchange to FTE, with the organisation encouraging Professional Conference Organisers to attend the last day of the expo, Cooper said.

Seller apps open

SELLER applications are open for a number of trade events next year, including Corroboree Europe, the North American Australia Marketplace and the Australian Tourism Exchange (**BEN** 24 Oct).

Corroboree Europe would be held in Adelaide from 26 to 29 Apr with 300 agents from around the continent, Tourism Western Australia said.

Applications close 07 Nov.

The North American Australia Marketplace would be held in Los Angeles from 18 to 20 Mar, and was a collaboration between Tourism Australia and state and territory tourism organisations, it said.

CLICK HERE for more.



What is
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Ben on BEN

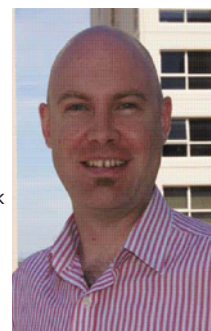


Each month Business Manager for inPlace Recruitment, Ben Carnegie, writes his observations from the recruiter's perspective to help job hunters find the perfect job.

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

Yes or No, I'd just like an answer!

THE biggest frustration that candidates face in finding work is simply knowing where they stand post-interview.



Clients can be so focused on finding the perfect person to fill their vacancy that they forget there are people's emotions hanging in the balance. Once a candidate reaches the second interview and reference checks are conducted, these potential employees are feeling exhilarated and that an offer is imminent. Then a few days go by and then two weeks and suddenly this excitement has turned to doubt. They start questioning whether they want to work for a company that takes so long to make decisions. The best way to avoid this is to manage their expectations. Advise when a decision will be made and stick to it. Once an offer has been accepted, advise the unsuccessful candidates. They will appreciate the closure, regardless of the outcome, and still see your company in a positive light.

Mantra benefits

MANTRA Group has said organisers who book a conference to the value of \$10,000 by 30 Mar, held by 30 Jun, will receive 5% back on the total spend, a gift voucher for two night's accommodation and value adds for the event.

Call 1800 074 437 for more.

PillowMINT appt

PILLOWMINT has been appointed the sales representative of Distant Frontiers in Australia and New Zealand.

DMC Distant Frontiers provided incentive programs and special interest traveller offers to India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, PillowMINT said.

Md Rebecca Easterman said the culture of the Indian subcontinent was in line with emerging trends in the incentive market.

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

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

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Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Jill Varley info@businessseventsnews.com.au

Deputy Editor: Alex Walls

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

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

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Christmas Venue Guide

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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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