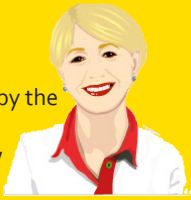




## Bits and pieces

PROMPTED by the Queenstown C&I Roadshow held on



Wednesday, our thoughts and good wishes go out to Air NZ group sales development manager Lynn Simmonds, who we learn has just left hospital after undergoing bi-pass surgery; we wish him a good rest and a speedy recovery.

Having just returned from a Starwood Hotels & Resorts famil in Bangkok, I was asked what I thought was the difference between Starwood's St Regis brand and its W hotels.

I need go no further than the explanation provided by Allen Howden, director of sales & marketing, W Bangkok.

"St Regis, steeped in tradition, is Hermes and W, with its cutting-edge design, is John Paul Gaultier.

"Where we compete is in the MICE market.

"As we always say, we have one hotel brand that will meet all your needs."

MEANWHILE when it comes to Christmas functions, Gary Bender's unofficial industry bash invite has gone out this week and a little bird tells me the registration site is smoking!

It is being held at 12.30 pm on 17 Dec at The Malaya.

With exclusive use of the Spice Room, there's a limit of 120 pax so to register, contact Gary at [garyb@worldcorptravel.com.au](mailto:garyb@worldcorptravel.com.au).

Jill

## Push for MCEC expansion

THE Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) has backed the push to fund the expansion of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

VECCI tweeted its followers on Thursday to contact candidates to show support for the issue.

And last week, VECCI ceo Mark Stone said the release of Tourism Research Australia's International Visitor Survey (**BEN** 08 Sep) highlighted the need for both major parties to commit to expanding the MCEC.

The survey numbers had shown that international visitors to Victoria had increased 11% to 2.05m and that expenditure had



increased 8% to \$4.89m, growth which Stone said had "exceeded that of the nation as a whole."

Growing business visitation needed to be a priority, he said, and VECCI's state election agenda called for both major parties to commit to expanding the Centre to take advantage of the business events sector.

It joins VTIC in calling for the expansion (**BEN** 26 Mar).

The MCEC recently had its most successful month on record in August (**BEN** 05 Sep), hosting more than 100 events with nearly \$10.5m in operating revenue and generating more than \$35m in economic benefit for the state.

## Mackay Airport hotel

AN IBIS is set for Mackay Airport following an agreement between Accor and North Queensland Airports/Mackay Airport Pty Ltd.

The 152 new build hotel was a multimillion dollar development and would be mixed use, Accor said.

It was set to open in the middle of next year, Accor said.

Accor chief operating officer Asia Pacific Simon McGrath said it would be a key development for Mackay as domestic air travel continued to grow.

The hotel would stimulate travel from a range of markets and cater to various sectors' needs, he said.

## Director of Client Services

The Darwin Convention Centre has a very exciting opportunity for a suitably qualified and experienced professional to join us as our Director of Client Services. You will report to the General Manager and will be a part of the Executive team.



You will be responsible for the event management and delivery of our client requirements for the Darwin Convention Centre, through effective management of the Centre's Food and Beverage, Event and Audio-visual Departments.

Some of the duties of this role include but are not limited to:

- Delivery of world class customer service for events to meet client's requirements.
  - Manage the department's budgets and ensure revenue targets are achieved and costs are controlled, which includes negotiation of supplier contracts.
  - Through effective leadership maintain a highly motivated team.
  - Consistent and dedicated focus on Workplace Health and Safety Compliance.
- You will have a minimum of 3 - 5 years' experience in a similar role with experience in food and beverage and event management preferably within Convention Centres.

If you think your experience fits this role you can apply via the careers section on our website: [www.darwinconvention.com.au](http://www.darwinconvention.com.au)

Applications close 24 September 2014

The Centre is operated by AEG Ogden, who manages one of the largest networks of venues including the convention and exhibition centres of Brisbane, Cairns, Kuala Lumpur, Oman, and Sydney as well as major arenas and stadiums worldwide.

## The Christmas Venue Guide is HERE!

**BUSINESS Events News'** Christmas Venue Guide has launched, in all its festive glory.

To check out venues perfect for hosting Christmas functions, head to **page three**.

And to get in on the fun, highlighting your venue's unique features to the business events industry and **BEN's** readers and social media channels, email [advertising@businessesnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businessesnews.com.au).

## ACTE networking

THE ACTE networking receptions are coming up, with free registration for members.

The first reception will be held in Adelaide on 24 Sep.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## Sell TNQ 2014

Apply now to join the Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef annual famil.

Sell TNQ provides an exclusive opportunity for qualified event and incentive planners to visit the Cairns & Great Barrier Reef region and experience first-hand our ability to host successful business events.

This year's program will be hosted 7 - 10 November in Cairns, followed by an optional post-touring program visiting Palm Cove and Port Douglas 10 - 12 November.

Don't miss this opportunity to visit one of Australia's leading conference and events destinations and meet with the region's premier business events operators!

MORE INFO

APPLY NOW

Applications close  
September 19

Cairns & Great Barrier Reef  
Business Events  
The natural place to meet



# business events news

12th September 2014



## SHEER INSPIRATION

Oliver Sheer, managing director of BeChallenged Team Building, gives insight into the team building industry in a regular feature in *BEN*.

### Trust me... WE KNOW!

BECHALLENGED collaborates with 32 other team building partners around the world to be the leaders in creating, delivering and maintaining happy and effective teams so trust me, we know team building.

The world, economy, technology, and cultures are constantly changing. With this, team building has also changed, evolved and even revolutionised itself.

Team building has nothing to do with abseiling, rope courses or closing your eyes and falling backwards. Rather, new age team building must consist of three key elements:

1. Fun – this is your initial motivator or engagement element. It could be as simple as being outdoors and engaged by 'fun' activities such as building and racing a Flat Out Formula 1 Car. The fun element is important to ensure participants are engaged and displaying natural behaviours.
2. 100% inclusive – you need to be aware of your demographic and team make up. Every team is different and there are certain programs which will work better for each team. If your team building supplier is talking ideas, concepts and programs before they know your team make up, then unfortunately you are talking to the wrong person.
3. Objective or outcome – You need to answer the "Why", and most importantly make sure that this is passed on to the participants on the day. The program outcome could be as simple as 'to have fun', 'break up the day' or as complex as 'establishing inter-department communication.' Regardless, knowing what you are trying to achieve and sharing it with the team is vital to establishing a committed long term strategy or vision.

When it all boils down there is no one size fits all approach to team building. Build a relationship with a team building expert to ensure what you are delivering is fun, 100% inclusive and meets your objectives.

Team Building is powerful...trust me, we know!

For more information about Oliver and BeChallenged's team building offerings, see [www.bechallenged.com.au](http://www.bechallenged.com.au).



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## A win-win event



QUEENSTOWN came to Sydney this week for its annual C&I Roadshow and Sydney responded with capacity attendance.

Held at the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Destination Queenstown team, with 25 suppliers from across the Tasman, flew into Sydney, coming from events in Brisbane and continuing on to Melbourne.

Welcoming the guests, Queenstown Convention Bureau manager Kylie Brittan encouraged guests to get to know the product the region has to offer.

Donna Kessler from Tourism Portfolio, representing event and destination management company, HQ New Zealand, said the event had been encouraging.

"HQ already has strong business from Australia for 2015 and we even had inquiries for 2016."

**Pictured** from left is Brittain, Jana Kingston, BDM Australia and Louise Jennis, Destination Queenstown Western international marketing manager.



**MORE** on the theme of unusual hotels at which to hold your conference, there are actually underwater hotels available, and space hotels are reportedly coming (*BEN* 23 Jul), what about a combination of the two?

Okay, so it's not exactly a hotel, but one astronaut is sleeping on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean for a week, in preparation for future missions into space, *Orange News* reported.

Apparently sleeping in a bunk bed, Jeremy Hansen was 20m underwater with four others and was the exploration lead for NASA's extreme environment operations, the publication said.

You can follow the Canadian's adventures on Twitter; his handle is [@Astro\\_Jeremy](https://twitter.com/Astro_Jeremy).

He follows in the grand tradition of awesome Canadian astronauts established by Commander Chris Hadfield, now retired, who performed Space Oddity...in space, and became a YouTube sensation.

His latest offering on Twitter ([@Cmdr\\_Hadfield](https://twitter.com/Cmdr_Hadfield)) was a recommendation that we should all try to be at least as prepared for climate change as we are for the zombie apocalypse.

## Le Meridien rising



**STILL** under construction and with its first stage set to debut in November, *BEN* was among the first group to take part in a site inspection of the Le Meridien Suvarnabhumi Bangkok Golf Resort and Spa this week.

The closest five star resort to Bangkok International Airport, it will open with 223 rooms and when completed in January 2015, it is expected to be a major draw card for business events.

Set amidst the Summit Windmill Golf Club, it is the first

Le Meridien golf resort in Asia Pacific.

Designed in a chic contemporary style, all the rooms feature balconies with uninterrupted views of the golf course, whilst for meetings and events there is 740 sqm of indoor and outdoor venue spaces.

**Pictured** is the Le Meridien Suvarnabhumi Bangkok Golf Resort and Spa at its first site inspection hosted by general manager Martin Wuethrich seated front row left.

# 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](mailto:advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au).

## Tangalooma Island Resort

One hour from Brisbane, Queensland

Reward your staff with a beach themed Christmas party this year.

Yummy food, delicious cocktails, lots of fun activities for all the family and beautiful ocean breezes. Why not stay overnight and make this a truly great break?

Day cruises and overnight packages available. Come and hand feed our beautiful wild dolphins. Action starts at sundown.

Contact [corporate@tangalooma.com](mailto:corporate@tangalooma.com) for further information.  
[www.tangalooma.com](http://www.tangalooma.com)



## SMC Conference & Function Centre Sydney, NSW

Celebrate in style & allow SMC's dedicated event specialists to do all the work for you with our all-inclusive package. Your guests will enjoy for \$99:

- Room hire with stylish Christmas centre pieces, bon bons and chair covers
- A delicious traditional Christmas carvery with all the trimmings
- Continuous pouring of white, red and sparkling wines, beer and soft drinks for four hours
  - Dancing the night away with a DJ

[www.smfc.com.au](http://www.smfc.com.au)

## Victoria Park Herston, Queensland

Have a ball at this year's work Christmas party and challenge your work mates to a fun putt putt party at Victoria Park in Brisbane.

\$55 per person includes putting lounge or driving lounge venue hire, a round of putt putt or bucket of balls per person, choice of either share platters or a BBQ Grill Buffet, and bar tab allowance of \$10 per person.

[www.victoriapark.com.au](http://www.victoriapark.com.au)



## Dreamworld

Gold Coast, Queensland

Dreamworld offers a world of possibilities for your Christmas Party. Hold an exclusive event and choose one of our amazing themed event spaces including Tiger Island. Groups can enjoy a cocktail or seated style event with exclusive use of thrilling rides and attractions.

Smaller groups can join in the fun and choose one of Dreamworld's Christmas events:

*Dreamworld Corporate Christmas Party* - Friday 05 Dec & Saturday 13 Dec from \$120pp;

*Christmas with the Tigers* – Friday 28 Nov \$140pp.

Phone 07 5588 1124 or visit

[www.dreamworld.com.au](http://www.dreamworld.com.au)