




**Grace & coffee**  
**REAFFIRMING** a commitment it has had for 11 years to be a responsible business in the communities it operates in, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, together with its employees, participates each September in a range of activities under its Responsible Business Action initiative.



On Blu day in Sydney this Friday, should you be in the area of the Radisson Blu Sydney from 7am, it will be giving away free barista-style Vittoria coffee from the hotel's Pitt Street entrance.

For this, it is encouraging everyone to donate anything from \$1 to \$5 to Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT).

Jill

## New panel for SA tourism



**THE** South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) board is to be replaced with an industry panel which will include the Adelaide

### M&E Oz spend lift

**DESPITE** a forecast for a small dip in meetings and events total spend for the Asia Pacific region, Australia has seen a small boost in the new financial year.

American Express Meetings and Events Asia Pacific director Danielle Puceta said despite the company's forecast of a 3.6% dip in overall meeting spend per organisation, Australia had seen a small rise, with the number of leads in the last month or so "significantly increasing"; Puceta would not give an exact figure.

This rise could be due to people re-budgeting in the new financial year, with results in hand, she said.

For the region, the 3.6% decline in spend was "close" to what American Express had seen in the past year, with budgets managed more tightly, she said.

In Australia, the meetings and events market was starting to evolve, with clients asking about meetings and events as a strategic category, an area towards which European and North American markets were moving, she said.

This included looking at improving return on investment across an entire business, and better data about meetings spend in a year and across a business, Puceta said.

Trends in the market included an awareness and discussion about virtual attendance, she said.

Convention Bureau.

Following a government audit which recommended the abolition of 105 state government boards and committees, and reform of a further 194, the SATC board would be replaced by a panel designed to give all members of the tourism industry a "strong voice" on decisions, Minister for Tourism Leon Bignell said.

The exact make up of the panel was yet to be finalised but would also include the Australian Hotels Association, with the \$200,000 a year saved from the reform spend on marketing the state, Bignell said.

Tourism would also be included in the Economic Development Cabinet Committee, meaning tourism issues would be heard directly by the Premier, Treasurer and other committee members, he said.

The Bureau said it was not in a position to comment at this stage on whether it had lobbied for its place on the panel and what its focus would be for the panel.

**MEANWHILE** the Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) has said the SATC board should remain.

In a statement, acting ceo Trent Zimmerman said the board had been appointed to ensure the agency fulfilled its marketing tourism marketing role.

"Removing it will leave the minister of the day responsible for all the agency's activities and remove the expertise and knowledge the board provides.

"Put simply, government ministers should not be in charge of designing advertising campaigns."

## 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 Guide is booking out fast, so get in while you can to highlight your venue's unique features, like a karaoke battle to the death of 'We Three Kings - The Reggae Remix', to the business events industry and **BEN's** readers and social media channels, email [advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au).

## Sydney in summer



**A MAJOR** tourism and events campaign has been launched to promote Sydney as a summer destination.

More than \$1.9m had been invested in the campaign by industry and government, and in the supporting It's ON! events campaign, Minister for Tourism and Major Events Andrew Stoner said.

"In addition to this investment, Destination NSW is working with industry partners including airlines, hotels and online travel agents to develop a program of co-operative campaigns aimed at encouraging travel to Sydney over summer."

Destination NSW said media familiarisations would be part of the activity.

**CLICK HERE** for more.



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# business events news

24th September 2014

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## Hotel Kurrajong reno



**THE** Hotel Kurrajong Canberra is undergoing a significant renovation, which pays homage to its original design by the Commonwealth's chief architect John Smith Murdoch, also responsible for the design of Old Parliament House, and is set to be completed this December.

The restored hotel will retain many of its finest historic architectural features including pavilions and deep verandas.

For meeting and conference needs, the hotel has five rooms plus a private dining room.

## Jet Park conf centre



**JET** Park Airport Hotel in Auckland has announced it will open a conference centre in 2015.

Slated to open in spring, the multi-storey conference centre would have capacity for up to 250 people, located "close to the existing hotel", Jet Park said.

A pond and wetland area adjacent to the centre, with an outdoor area for teambuilding activities, would also be developed, the hotel said.

An additional 60 rooms were also planned, it said.

Conference  
**central coast**  
One Hour North of Sydney

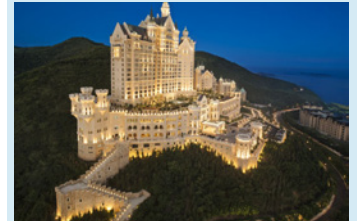
**HOT OFFERS**  
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**WANT** to conference in a castle? Starwood Hotels and Resorts has got you covered for business events in China, with the launch of The Castle Hotel, owned by the Falian Yifang Group.

A Bavarian-style, well, castle, the hotel sits on Lotus Mountain in Dalian and has a grand ballroom, seven function rooms and a 4,000 sqm garden.

We assume the experience is better than the average medieval one a la *Monty Python*, however.



## Getting to Know: Ladakh & Chamba Camp, Thiksey

by: Jill Varley

**THE** first thing to know about Ladakh and the Chamba Camp, Thiksey experience is that from your first night's stay at The Imperial Hotel in New Delhi, to the Chamba Camp itself, it's luxury all the way.

Ladakh in India's northwest is set between the Kunlun Mountain range in the north and the main Great Himalayas to the south and is inhabited by people of Indo-Aryan and Tibetan decent.

The first day in camp is spent acclimatising to the rarefied altitude of India's highest desert region.

This allows the opportunity to recline on the deck of your well-appointed African safari tent with its en-suite bathroom and bespoke colonial furnishings and take in the surrounds of craggy, snow-capped mountains and the majesty of the Thiksey Monastery that rises in all its Tibetan glory above the camp's boundary.

Everything here is purposely imagined, from the copper vanity basins in the tented bathrooms to the ceilings of the Kashmir hand embroidered reception and restaurant tents.

Chamba is one of a number of Ultimate Travelling Camp (UTC) nomadic luxury camps conceived two years ago by the UTC with the premise of environmental sustainability. The camps are sited seasonally in carefully selected locations, in the mountains, deserts, jungles and unexplored countryside and can be customised for events and small groups.

Currently there are 14 luxury safari tents and as the demand grows, 10 more are expected in time for next year's Chamba Camp, from June to late September.

Beyond the camp there is much to explore, with everything from trekking and rafting down the Indus to customised visits to medieval palaces and monasteries, including participating in the sunrise prayer ceremony at the Thiksey Monastery.

Here too you can picnic in an orchard overhung with apricot trees by the Indus River and meet and take part in a ceremony with a famous oracle.

You leave Ladakh in the knowledge you have been in a special place.



# 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).

## Fairmont Resort

Leura, NSW

Eat, drink and be merry!

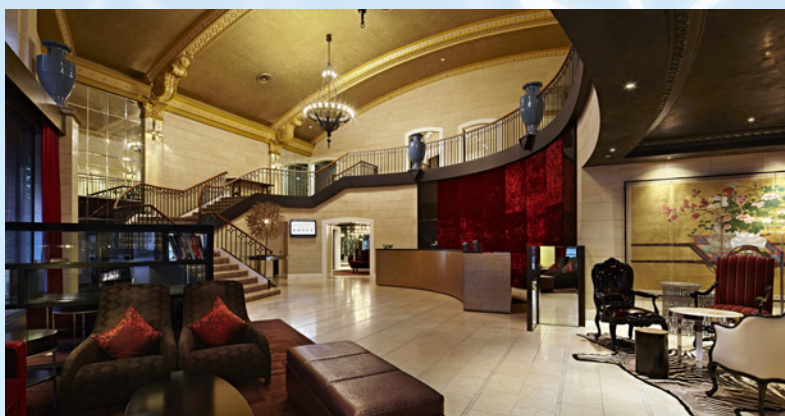
Celebrate your fabulous festivities at Fairmont Resort this year with an all-inclusive package of four hour venue hire, four hour standard beverage package, and Christmas theming with bon bons and centre pieces.

Talk to our Event Elves and tailor your own event package today.

Don't forget to ask us about our preferential room rate from only \$149.

Book now on 02 4785 0000.

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



## Royce Hotel

Melbourne, Victoria

Celebrate your Christmas function in style and experience.

Melbourne's chic five star designer hotel, ideally located next to the Royal Botanic Gardens. Four venues to choose from – amberoom bar, dish restaurant, Royce function rooms or the hotels private outdoor courtyard.

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tel 03 9677 9931.

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

Ask about the complimentary gift certificate you may be eligible for.

## Bayview Eden Melbourne

Melbourne, Victoria

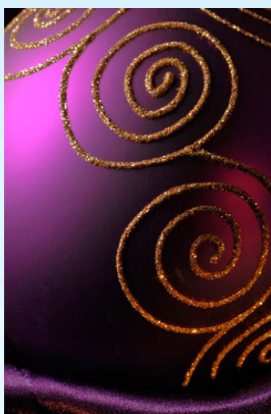
Book your festive networking lunch or the company Christmas party now! Bayview Eden Melbourne covers it all!

Choose from a variety of Christmas Packages that can be tailored to suit your every need! Packages include complimentary bon bons, parking, dance floor, room hire & more!

Bonus - Book an event from Monday–Thursday and receive a 10% discount or take advantage of our \$135.00 per room offer!

Terms & Conditions apply.

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Sydney, NSW

The historical and grand Menzies Hotel in the heart of the CBD has just completed a full refurbishment of its Grand Ballroom, and the results are spectacular!

With stunning chandeliers the grand ballroom has real personality that is simply stylish, and seats up to 400 guests. Or for something smaller, book an intimate but atmospheric lunch in One Four Kitchen that won't blow the budget.

Christmas Party Packages from just \$30 per person.

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