



## Jupiters gets the brush

IN CASE you hadn't heard, Jupiters



Hotel & Casino, a popular venue for conferences and events, is undergoing a \$345m transformation.

Right now, abseiling painters attached to the roof floor with anchor points are transforming the exterior of the property.

It's the first time it has been painted since its construction in the '80s, with more than 12,000 litres of 'Grand Piano Quarter' white paint already applied over 8,000 hours.

Jupiter Queensland md Geoff Hogg said the redevelopment was being handled carefully, while causing as little disruption to guests as possible.

When complete, the project will include a new six star luxury hotel tower and the complete transformation of all existing facilities. *Jill*



## InterCont Welly



The third phase of the InterContinental Wellington's refurbishment is now complete, with the Lobby Lounge (pictured), Chameleon Restaurant and reception open for guests.

The refurbishment of the meeting rooms, the last phase of the multimillion dollar make over, is due for completion in January, the hotel said, which would finish off 18 months of work.

## Tas biz ev numbers up

VISITORS travelling to Tasmania to attend a conference or convention were up 7% for the year to June.

The latest Tasmanian Visitor Survey data found visitors were up to 34,600, compared with 32,300 visitors for the year to June 2013.

Interstate visitors for conferences or conventions were up 8% to 31,600, the Survey said.

Overall visitors to the state increased 10% to 1.06m, with total nights spent by visitors up



12% to 9.44m.

Visitor expenditure overall increased 18% to \$1.73b, the snapshot found.

Business Events Tasmania ceo Stuart Nettlefold said the figures reflected ongoing destination bid activity and messaging that Tasmania was seen as an attractive alternative to having a conference outside capital cities.

"It also shows, based on our figures, that Tasmania is continually attracting larger conferences from 500 to 1,100 delegates where feedback from clients has been extremely positive."

**Pictured** is Cataract Gorge. To read more, **CLICK HERE**.

## Combo visitor guide

**MACKAY** Tourism and Whitsundays Marketing and Development Limited have launched a combined visitor guide, the 2014-15 Visitor Guide for the Mackay Region and the Whitsundays.

Mackay Tourism gm Stephen Schwer said distribution had increased "exponentially" for the region.

## WIN WITH O'REILLY'S

This week, *BEN* and O'Reilly's are giving away one night's accommodation in a Mountain View room with private balcony in the Rainforest Retreat, including morning and afternoon tea, complimentary wine tasting at Canungra Valley Vineyard and an early morning bird walk.

O'Reilly's can tailor a corporate Christmas function to your needs from sunset drinks at a breath-taking cliff top lookout to Christmas-themed dinners or a BBQ by the bonfire in the rainforest. The location of O'Reilly's within the World Heritage Lamington National Park coupled with its legendary hospitality means it creates events to remember. Ideal for groups up to 200 guests, O'Reilly's offers flexible accommodation options including the Retreat and luxury Mountain Villas.

The most creative response to the question will win. Send your answers by COB 10 Oct to: [comp@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:comp@businesseventsnews.com.au)



Tell us in 25 words or less how your team would celebrate your corporate Christmas party at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat.

Hint: [www.oreillys.com.au/conferences-functions](http://www.oreillys.com.au/conferences-functions)



## Events ben 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](mailto:info@businesseventsnews.com.au).

### 29 SEP-3 OCT

International Society for Cultural and Activity Research Congress; Allphones Arena, Sydney Olympic Park; [www.iscar2014.com](http://www.iscar2014.com)

### 1-3 OCT

Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN) National Conference 2014; Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads; [www.acen.edu.au](http://www.acen.edu.au)

### 12 OCT

Mental Awareness Foundation 'Walk for Awareness'; Captain Burke Park Brisbane; [www.mentalawarenessfoundation.com.au/about-wfa/](http://www.mentalawarenessfoundation.com.au/about-wfa/)

### 21-23 OCT

Walk21 International Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities; Luna Park Sydney; [www.walk21sydney.com](http://www.walk21sydney.com)

## The Christmas Venue Guide

*BUSINESS Events News* has launched a Christmas Events guide and it's booking out fast, so get in while you can.

The events guide promotes venues perfect for holding Christmas events and festivities, whether it's a decorous cocktail party to farewell the year or a karaoke sing-off of 'Jingle Bells'.

To highlight your venue's unique features to the business events industry and *BEN*'s readers and social media channels, email [advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au).



# business events news

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## crumbs!



**GENERALLY** at conferences or exhibitions, there aren't really any qualms from business events organisers to put their names on cups of free coffee.

It's an easy way to find out they're not spies, apparently, because according to *The Washington Post*, the regulars at the CIA Starbucks (yes, reportedly it exists) were getting uncomfortable with the practice.

Apparently, the coffee shop is nicknamed the 'Stealthy Starbucks' and even the baristas go through security checks and interviews, and are escorted by minders to leave work, the publication reports.

Located in the CIA's Langley compound, which appropriately is an island (although we're not sure if said island is in the shape of a skull), the shop had a "special mission" to humanise the environment for employees, the publication reported.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

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## Deaths and entrances



**BEN** was in Harris Street, Ultimo near the intersection of Fig Street recently and decided to take the stairs to walk into Darling Harbour and beyond to Town Hall Station, a route that included the pedestrian walkway on the Western Distributor.

From this heightened position the road offers a bird's eye view of the progress taking place at the convention, exhibition and entertainment site, photos of which we reproduce for your information and edification.



**Pictured** above is a shot of what is left of the now defunct Monorail at Darling Harbour – a station that leads to nowhere.

## India Travel Mission

**NEARLY** 50 trade industry representatives attended Tourism Australia's India Travel Mission in August, which the organisation said was a new record, and where Restaurant Australia launched.

## Dot Sydney in 2015

**FROM** 2015, businesses will be able to purchase .sydney web addresses.

The launch of .sydney domains was part of a program initiated by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, and would give businesses a highly targeted channel to communicate to Sydney-based customers, NSW Finance and Services Minister Dominic Perrotet said.



# FACE : FACE

## Sue Sullivan CEO

## Conference and Incentives NZ



*Business Events News* recently caught up with Sue Sullivan ceo of CINZ. Sue has more than 23 years' experience in the tourism industry. She has worked extensively in market and product development in the core traditional markets of Australia, North America, Europe and the UK. She has worked in sales, marketing and operations, both in New Zealand and Australia.

### What does a typical day look like?

There is plenty of contact with members discussing how CINZ can assist with progressing their business along, and working with sponsors on maximising their relationship with CINZ.

### What analogy best describes CINZ, and being ceo, and why?

It is hard to pick one. The role varies as I move through dealing with MEETINGS, the annual CINZ Conference, updates to members, talking to media, and sponsors.

### Do NZ's incentive offerings overcome its geographic distance for international visitors and if so, how?

I see the distance as part of the attraction, particularly for those that are one flight away. There is something magical about leaving one country at night and arriving at the most magical place on earth, Aotearoa New Zealand, in the morning.

### How many potential clients think *Lord of the Rings* is a documentary about NZ? How many of CINZ's pitches or advocacy actions involve *LOTR/The Hobbit*?

Most people who are aware of it, realise it is a film, part of a trilogy. The industry as a whole forms part of the discussions when we move into regions; it is critical that we talk about what is happening in the clusters, for example Wellington and the success with film-making, and the Hamilton Waikato region with the Hobbiton Movie Set.

### What is the incentive market looking like in NZ in the next year?

The market is looking good as the DMCs deliver exceptional programs and service. The challenge is to convert the enquiries into business. Those that travel here become great advocates for the destination.

### What is Christchurch's convention market looking like in the next year?

There is lots of talk about the new Convention Centre, such an exciting

development. As accommodation comes on line, smaller conventions are returning as one would expect.

### What has been a highlight in your time with CINZ?

A big highlight has to be MEETINGS, such a fantastic event with real business being transacted, and lots of marvellous feedback.

### What Maori words/phrases do you think delegates should learn for attending conventions in Aotearoa?

As in any country, daily greetings are a good way to start. Kia ora (Hi, G'day) is a favourite.

### What is the most unusual incentive CINZ has been involved with/heard of?

I heard of a wonderful one traversing the back country of the South Island in 4WDs. Not so unusual if you are from the South Island as I am, but more for how magnificently the DMC delivered a wonderful experience.

### How much co-operation is there between Australian and NZ convention and incentive associations? Do you have to avoid mentioning the rugby? How often do sheep come up?

We have an Australian office and I'm looking forward to forging more relationships when I speak at the PCO Conference next month, and meet with the Incentive Association. Somehow we get around the rugby – and we don't have as many sheep these days!

### What would be your dream convention?

Well, there are too many to mention, and of course they would all have to be in Aotearoa New Zealand.

### Will robots eventually take over the world?

Technology is wonderful and to be embraced, however humans will continue to need human contact, be it a warm smile, touch on the arm or loving embrace. Our industry is built on relationships.