



Strewh!

HAS the Ettamogah Pub had its day?

It seems the one at Palmview on the Sunshine Coast, which opened at the Aussie World theme park in 1989, has.



Originally built at the cost of \$4.5m with a 1927 Chevrolet sitting atop, not too many people today would know that the car paid homage to a cartoon story in the now defunct *Australasia Post* magazine about a flood that left the car on the roof and which the owners couldn't be bothered to remove.

Rebranded and now known as The Pub, the new facility has had half a million dollars spent on moving it up a level.

It can be used for up to 200 guests, while out the back is The Shed with a stage and dance floor, used for themed events.

Recently Aussie World invested more than \$2m into infrastructure development and introduced four new attractions; thrill ride Redback; water ride Plunge; fun Giant Slide; and water play area Leak'n Logs.

The Fairground can be hired in part or for up to 3,000 guests.

Then there's the Aussie World Café, with space for up to 100, or Bluey's Bar and Grill for banquets or cocktails and with room for 100 pax.

Fair dinkum! Jill

AVANI Oz debut in Perth

PERTH is set to see the debut of the AVANI brand in Australia with a 4.5 star, 250-room hotel within the \$5b Perth City Link project.

The development would create an international hotel and entertainment precinct adjacent to Perth Arena, the WA government said.

WA Minister for Planning John Day said hotelier Minor International PCL would also develop a second lot in the precinct into an AVANI Residences property of more than 200 serviced apartments.

The development was an investment of more than \$110m, Minor said, with construction due to start in late 2016 and completion of the hotel in the last quarter of 2017.

Minor said the hotel would feature a public space for events in front of the property, with both buildings intended to use graphics and lighting as part of their facades.



The company foresaw Perth as a "key strategic market", it said.

A spokesperson for the Minister's office said as part of the new precinct, an open space area adjacent to the Arena would be developed to host events of several thousand people at one time, with the ability to place marquees or stages.

WA Tourism Minister Kim Hames has said demand in Perth was traditionally driven by the corporate market, and new hotel development was critical to reaching the state goal of \$12b in contribution from tourism to the economy by 2020 (**BEN** 27 Feb).

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Events
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.

3-7 MAY

Business Events Australia South East Asia Showcase 2015; Jakarta, Indonesia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Singapore, www.businesseventsaustralia.com

24-26 MAY

MEA Conference 2015; Hamilton Island; for more visit www.meetingevents.com.au

9-11 JUN

ibtm america; Chicago, USA; visit: www.ibtmamerica.com

10-11 JUN

CINZ MEETINGS 2015; Auckland, New Zealand; register as a hosted buyer: www.meetings.co.nz/Buyers

18-20 JUN

This Is Gold Coast Business Exchange 2015; for details: www.visitgoldcoast.com

21-25 JUN

Australia Tourism Exchange (ATE15); Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; visit: www.tradeeventsaustralia.com

1 JUL

Asia Meeting & Incentive Travel Exchange (AMITE); Marina Bay Sands, Singapore; more info at: www.questevent.com/AMITE/2015/

16-17 JUL

Travel Industry Expo; Luna Park, Sydney; more info at: www.travelindustryexpo.com.au

18 JUL

2015 AFTA NTIA Awards; Dockside Pavilion Darling Harbour, Sydney; visit: www.afta.com.au

6-9 SEP

Luxperience; Australian Technology Park, Sydney; see: www.luxperience.com.au

10-11 SEP

MICE Asia Pacific Exhibition 2015; Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, Singapore; visit: www.miceasiaexhibition.com



business events news

20th April 2015



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EEAA gets proactive

THE Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) Melbourne Member Forum will meet tomorrow to give members insights from its Business Events Forum in March, as well as identify areas where both members and the EEAA can give assistance.

EEAA ceo Joyce DiMascio said the forum in March, involving facilitated discussions between 60 people, had shown that business conditions, including the closure of the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, as well as general business conservatism, had provided challenges for the expo sector.

The event tomorrow, to be held at the Melbourne Showgrounds, was an example of the EEAA being proactive, providing members with market intelligence and facilitating discussion, she said.

It would look at current business conditions, as well as areas where EEAA could help, and where members could help themselves.

Hilton's first showcase

IT WAS a first on Wednesday when the Hilton Worldwide Showcase, together with hotel and brand representatives, held a tradeshow and cocktail reception at the Hilton Sydney.

Attended by representatives of the travel trade and business events industry, Hilton Worldwide Sales Australasia director of sales Bradley Moody said much development was happening in this part of the world, including the opening of six hotels in Australasia in the last 12 months and the growing of the DoubleTree brand.

Introducing the new Hilton Sydney gm Ronald van Weezel and in from Singapore, Dominic Sherry, head of sales Asia Pacific, Moody went on to say that with around 140 hotels opened in Asia Pacific and 4,400 globally, it was not about size.

"It's my role to make sure we are servicing our customers and



working out solutions together in Asia/Pacific."

Tasty canapés, a dessert buffet and a prize of a USA holiday for two including return airfares, courtesy of Delta, kept the sizeable crowd captivated.

Pictured from left is van Weezel; Sherry; and Moody.

Novotel Yangon Max

ACCOR has opened a third property in Myanmar, the Novotel Yangon Max.

Suitable for both business and leisure travellers, the new hotel has 366 guest rooms and two ballrooms, individually accommodating 400 and 700 guests.

Free site visit

IF YOU are considering a Fiji conference anytime between 01 May 15 and 31 Mar 16, Sofitel Fiji is offering two return economy flights from Australia or New Zealand on Fiji Airways, full site inspection of the resort's facilities, two nights' accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis and a hosted dinner by Sofitel management.

To qualify, the proposed conference value needs to be at least FJD\$100,000.

CLICK HERE to enquire.

Tonetto's Macao move

FORMER Starwood Hotels and Resorts sales and marketing regional director and Pacific region Starwood sales organisation leader Daniella Tonetto has been appointed the sales and marketing gm of the St Regis Macao, Cotai Central and the Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central.

Tonetto began her career with Starwood in 1993.

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HAVE you considered how the 18 metre tall, 15 tonne head of Nefertiti, that dominates Sydney's Mrs Macquarie's Point and features in the latest production of Aida by Opera Australia - Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, was constructed and brought to life?

It's all down to designer Mark Thompson and the crew at Staging Rentals, who created the visually arresting spectacle at their Alexandria warehouse over three months.

It required a whole team effort from their CAD designers through to their carpenters, welders, sculptors, painters, scenic artists and project managers.

Roughly eight metres wide and weighing more than 15 tonnes, it is made out of a combination of polystyrene, plywood and aluminium and rests on a custom 10 metre revolve, which they also built.

The head is made up of approximately 80 individual sections and David Comer, md of Staging Rentals said "We've overcome a number of logistical challenges to deliver this fascinating feature that now looms large over the harbour."

Get your skates on because you've only got until 26 Apr to see both the Nefertiti head and Aida on Sydney Harbour.



Hobart wins int symposium



HOBART has won the bid to host the Fourth Symposium on the Ocean in a High CO₂ World from 03 to 06 May 2016, expected to be worth between \$1.5m and \$3m to Tasmania's economy.

Between 500 to 1,000 delegates from more than 37 countries were expected to attend the event, set to be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, with various side meetings and offsite events to be held during the symposium, Business Events Tasmania (BET) said.

The organisation worked with CSIRO and The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies to win the bid, beating out China.

BET ceo Stuart Nettlefold said the win was an example of the state's ability to host larger international conferences.

Estimates were for 500 delegates, but talks with CSIRO contacts had suggested this could be boosted to up to 1,000, he said.

Winter warmer

HOLD a winter corporate event with Peter Rowland Catering at the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel between May and August for the special price of \$55 per person, per day, and also receive 25% discount on daily venue hire.

CLICK HERE to enquire.



Face to Face

Jessica Beyeler
Head

Business Events Wellington



Business Events News recently caught up with Jessica Beyeler, head of Business Events Wellington, and Positively Wellington Tourism events and partnerships manager, who has experience in the travel, airline, events, tourism and hospitality fields.

What's the best trick for walking in Wellington's winds?

Some would say lean forward and brace yourself, I say lean back and enjoy the ride!

The Wellington Convention Centre is set to open in 2017 – what kind of enquiries have you had?

There was a flurry of enquiries initially, with many a large conference and PCO excited that Wellington will now have a state of the art venue capable of holding over 1,500 pax.

How many potential clients think The Hobbit is a documentary about New Zealand? How often have you had a cup of tea with Peter Jackson?

It is, isn't it?! Both the Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit trilogies have provided New Zealand with some not-so-typical conversation starters when meeting new potential clients/visitors. When I am asked about how Wellington fits in, quite simply, we are the city where the magic is created.

Tea with PJ – not as often as I'd like!

What one thing does Wellington offer that no other city can?

Wellingtonians, for a start.

We're always getting comments from visitors about the friendliness and 'can do' attitude of the locals.

A lot of people are following a creative or entrepreneurial passion in this city, because it's a place where you can make things happen locally, and have an impact globally. That creates a

positive energy.

How many confused calls did you get about the 'Wellington' sign? Any upswing in vampiric convention bookings?

The Transylvanian Haemoglobin Appreciation Society did bring 250 delegates to the city last month.

Not a lot of daytime activities, but they did enjoy the nightlife. Funnily enough they flew out with 300...must've picked up a few converts along the way.

What can Wellington do to better appeal to the Australian business events market?

Build the new convention centre and improve the frequency of our direct air services into Wellington. Currently we have 60 direct flights a week out of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

How much co-operation is there between Australian and NZ business events organisations? Do you have to avoid mentioning the rugby?

Our colleagues in Australia are fantastic people and we get along great.

I think the sporting books have been balanced for a while with the Cricket World Cup, although the Hurricanes are in mighty fine form at the moment.

Honestly though, the working relationships are very good and all the trans Tasman ribbing just goes to show what good mates we are. It's especially been brought home to us this year on the ANZAC centenary.

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

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