



On the QT...

THE 'bit of shoosh' column (*BEN* 13 Aug) elicited a number comments from our readers.



CINZ's ceo Sue Sullivan who instigated the 'shoosh' during MEETINGS 2015 to silence the noisy people who talked when she was speaking, said of her experience, "I was talking to a colleague afterwards and said next time I'll bring a sheep or my dog whistle hung around my neck with my pearls or better still put my fingers in my mouth to whistle up the crowd. They didn't think it a very becoming thing for me to do. Clearly, they don't know me that well," she joked.

Weighing in to the issue, ICMS Australasia md Bryan Holliday suggested his solution might be worth considering.

"Many years ago when an audience was becoming too talkative during an awards ceremony, I started playing the national anthem...the MC quickly regained control."

MEANWHILE many readers will be surprised to learn that today is my last as editor of *BEN*.

It has been a wonderful ride and I am proud to have been at its birth and to have been part of the publication's growth.

The time has come, however for me to move on to a new role.

Bye bye *BEN* and all the crew, it's been wonderful working with you all! *Jill*

DMS showcase to expand

DESTINATION

Marketing Services (DMS) today announced a major game changer to its annual Sydney

and Melbourne workshop program that will see it for the first time untethered from the timing of AIME.

DMS managing director Marissa Fernandez said instead the popular event will take place in March - and will expand to cover Auckland and Perth as well as Sydney and Melbourne.

Fernandez told *BEN* she believes the "more effective" March period will improve opportunities for networking, sales meetings, trade education and relationship building within each marketplace.

"The new standalone four-city DMS Connect format will bring senior executives from a wide range of well-accredited DMCs to meet a targeted audience of our business events and high-end



leisure clients," Fernandez shared.

"This is an opportunity in which we can also thank our

very loyal clients in New Zealand and Perth - we are literally living up to our motto of 'connecting you to the world' - except now we are bringing the world to our Australasian clients in their home markets", she said.

DMS Connect - the largest portfolio of global DMCs will be held between 7-10 March 2016, with confirmation of final details expected next month.

Mackay cooperation

MACKAY Tourism and the Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre say they received a combined seven leads for new business and two potential return conferences via their first-time combined participation at last month's Convene Q trade show in Brisbane.

A successful pre-show program saw more than 36 qualified visitors come to the stand, with a number of associations and organisations indicating they will be adding Mackay to their conference bidding rotation.

Key attractions included Mackay's unique Beach Horse Races event, while the stand included produce tastings from the Sarina Sugar Shed.

A giveaway of a trip to the Mackay Airport Beach Horse Racing Festival was won by Aimee Du Toit from Arinex, while Lisa Hilton, events manager from the Master Plumber's Association of Queensland won a gift pack from the Sugar Shed.

PSst...Auckland wins

AUCKLAND has won the bid to host the PST 2016: International Conference on Privacy, Security and Trust.

The three day conference will attract over 250 delegates, with the conference secured using support from Tourism NZ's Conference Assistance Programme bid fund.

Christmas ideas?

THERE are still opportunities to participate in upcoming editions of the *BEN* Christmas Venue Guide which showcases options for the upcoming festive season.

See **page three** for today's venue guide; enquiries for future placements to Magda Herdzik on 1300 799 220.

BEN business as usual

BUSINESS Events News founding editor Jill Varley is moving on to a new role, but it's business as usual for us here with the rest of the team continuing to produce *BEN*, now Australia's favourite online MICE publication.

We wish Jill all the best, and in the meantime keep sending all your news and updates to info@businesseventsnews.com.au.



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Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news and the latest *BEN* Christmas Venue Guide on **page three**.



business events news

17th August 2015



crumbs!

CHOCOLATE alert - the Embassy of Ecuador is set to showcase the country's sweetest wares in an Australian "chocolate master class".

It's part of an international *Exquisite Ecuador* roadshow, which has seen the South American country also host events in Miami, Madrid and London.

Ecuador will participate in the Fine Food Australia event at Sydney Olympic Park next month.

Just in case you were wondering the nation is the world's top exporter of premium "Fino de Arriba Cacao" cocoa beans and products including fine chocolate.

But that's not all - other major exports include Ecuadorian coffee, prawns, hearts of palm and beautiful roses.

The mission also aims to explore commercial partnerships with Australia and the Asia-Pacific region - but who cares about that stuff? Those with the right priorities can check out the choc via Xocolatl Brokers Australia at www.xocolatlbros.com.

Win with HOYTS

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To win, be the first person to answer the question correctly. Send your answers to comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

What date is the movie *Spectre* released in cinemas across Australia?

Congratulations to Thursday's winner, Jenny Teo from Australian Tours Management.

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

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Singapore celebrates its 50th

IF you could name an Asian country that has reinvented itself by embracing cutting-edge modernity yet has nurtured its own multi-cultural heritage roots, you'd be hard pressed not to say Singapore.

Now, 50 years after gaining independence this city-state (one of three with such a designation including Monaco and Vatican City), is celebrating its 50th birthday with VIP special events and packages some of which include: the opening of the National Gallery Singapore in November, housing the world's largest Southeast Asian art collections; a "live like a local" Far East Heritage Food Trail which runs through to the end of December and allows travellers



to uncover Singapore's local flavours and delicacies; as well as a So Singapore SG50 Sentosa Tourist Pack which includes six of Sentosa's attractions.

Last week the Singapore Tourism Board held an industry celebration with executive director John Gregory Conceicao, executive director international group planning & Oceania John Lionel Yeo, and STB's area director Sharon Lam on hand to cut a celebratory Merlion cake (above).

Alila's Solo debut

THE first luxury hotel of international standard in the city of Surakarta in Indonesia's central Java, the Alila Solo, is to open in October.

A hub for meetings, special occasions and events, it will offer 15 city-centre spaces, two ballrooms that combined will create a 3,500 capacity Grand Ballroom which at 2100sqm is the largest in the city, together with an unmatched Executive Lounge.



Events Calendar

BEN's calendar details upcoming MICE events across the globe.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@businesseventsnews.com.au.

24-26 AUG

IAPCO EDGE Auckland, Pullman Auckland Hotel; more info at: iapcoeducation.org/event/edge-auckland

26 AUG

Gold Coast Connect Melbourne, Crown Promenade Melbourne; details: www.visitgoldcoast.com

31 AUG-3 SEP

PCMA Global Professionals Conference; Melbourne; see: www.pcma.org

1-2 SEP

The Event Show; Sydney; for more details email: info@eventshowsydney.com.au

3-6 SEP

Alice Stampede '15; Alice Springs; for more info go to: ntconventions.com.au

6-9 SEP

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

9 SEP

Show Me Wellington 2015; TSB Bank Arena and Convention Centre, Wellington; details at: www.pww.co.nz

10-11 SEP

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

21-23 OCT

ITB Asia; Marina Bay Sands, Singapore; details at: www.itb-asia.com

18 NOV

Pacific Area Incentives & Conferences Expo (PAICE); SKYCITY Auckland Convention Centre; Auckland; more info at: www.paicexpo.co.nz

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Christmas Venue Guide

Looking for a Christmas venue or staff celebration?
Business Events News guide to 2015/16 Christmas venues is the place to showcase!
To feature here email advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au.

Aussie World Palmview, QLD

Aussie World is the ultimate FUN destination for your next Christmas function. Whether it's rewarding your team with an intimate dinner or a special function for your clients, Aussie World is sure to impress. With a wide range of unique spaces, quality food and extraordinary Christmas theming throughout our precinct, Aussie World is guaranteed to deliver a memorable and entertaining event. Contact our experienced functions team today to arrange a site visit.
www.aussieworld.com.au



Sharks Events Centre Southport, QLD

Whether you are looking to cater for 10 people or 1000, Sharks Events Centre has the facilities and professional staff to ensure a seamless event. In addition to a range of Christmas packages, including 2-course, 3-course, cocktail and buffet options, Sharks Events Centre will host its annual Corporate Christmas Ball on December 5. All of the hard work has been done; decorations, food, entertainment... your colleagues only need turn up!
www.sharkseventscentre.com.au



Swanston Hotel Grand Mercure Melbourne, VIC

Located in the heart of the city and featuring options for any budget and number of guests, the Swanston Hotel Grand Mercure is the perfect place for your Christmas function. With delicious grazing dishes, canapés and a range of impressive event spaces on offer, we will have you and your colleagues as merry as the festive season.

Relax and let us take care of the details so you can join in the festivities!

www.theswanstonhotel.com.au



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