



## ACTE 2016/15 officers

**THE** Association of Corporate Travel Executives has unveiled its 2016/17 officers.

Treasurer-elect Lori O'Connell, senior director of U.S. Travel and Meeting & Event Services at PricewaterhouseCoopers, will become treasurer on 01 Jan.

Executive director and secretary Greeley Koch's employment contract was extended and association president Kurt Knackstedt, will continue in his current post.

**MEANWHILE**, ACTE and CAPA have announced the Brisbane Education Forum will be held on 12 Feb at Pullman Brisbane King George Square - register [HERE](#).

## Govt events funding under fire

**A PROPOSAL** to cut tourism marketing and events funding has been slammed over the weekend by Queensland's Tourism and Major Events Minister Kate Jones.

A Productivity Commission report recommended state and territory governments analyse the costs and benefits to funding destination marketing or major events, both before and after the event or campaign.

The report advised that funding be pulled if the program or event could not prove government funding would provide net benefits to the Australian community.

Jones urged Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to "show his support for Queensland tourism

and rule out any cuts to funding," saying cuts would harm Qld's growing tourism industry and threaten local jobs.

"We know that our investment in tourism and events is already reaping rewards with record visitors from Australia and overseas choosing to come to Queensland," Jones said.

"Major events is a highly competitive market and we remain committed to attracting the best events to Queensland that drive visitation and showcase our state to the world."

For the Commission's report, see [www.pc.gov.au](http://www.pc.gov.au).

## James Packer packs it

**JAMES** Packer has resigned as a director of Crown Resorts Limited, effective immediately.

Packer will remain as a majority shareholder & intends to "devote" his "energies into a number of key development projects in Sydney, Melbourne and Las Vegas as well as Crown's online platforms".

Over the weekend, Packer vented frustration over delays to his casino in Barangaroo, which he said will struggle to meet its original 2020 deadline.



Queenstown-based tourism company Ziptrek Ecotours has made sure dinki-di aussies won't feel left out on their tours and has put together an Aussie version of its new audio tour app.

Using the STQRY app, guests can have a bonza zipping between treehouses on Bob's Peak with Aussie 'translator' Steve Marchment in their ear.

Ziptrek Ecotours director Trent Yeo said Marchment is "a fair dinkum Aussie who actually does hail from the land of thongs, shrimps and schooners, but he took his job very seriously and watched all the old Crocodile Dundee movies before he recorded his tour!"

At each treehouse, guests are prompted to start up the relevant audio information as they reach each platform.

This is us going above and beyond to make sure no-one's left out," Yeo said.

## Tumbalong park ICC

**TUMBALONG** Park in Darling Harbour has reopened as part of a \$3.4 billion redevelopment to make way for ICC Sydney.

New turf has been laid, open space levelled and pathways reconfigured for easier movement around the precinct, with an additional hectare of open space and a new adaptable event space yet to come in Darling Harbour as part of the transformation.

## DoubleTree Ningbo

**THE** 220-room DoubleTree by Hilton Ningbo-Chunxiao, Zhejiang Province has opened, featuring a 823m<sup>2</sup> pillar-less ballroom - the largest in Beilun and Chunxiao.

The hotel also offers 10 meeting rooms equipped with the latest in audio-visual technology and a team of meetings planners and a 24-hour business centre is available.

## IHG Fiji MICE team

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Fiji Golf Resort & Spa has promoted three members of the Meetings, Incentives, Conference & Events (MICE) team.

Ranshu Malini has been appointed to the role of business development manager - MICE; Sue Gavid-Lealea has been named Acting Conference and Events Manager and Risiva Vuetibau will take on the role of Conference and Events Executive.

## NZ ICC AIME drive

**THE** New Zealand International Convention Centre will be out in force at AIME, where it will officially start bidding for large-scale, int'l conference business.

In the heart of Auckland, the \$470 million centre will be NZ's largest conference and exhibition space, capable of hosting conventions of 3,000 delegates and one-off events of up to 4,000 people on the exhibition floor.

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