



Hallowed halls

IF YOU happen to be at a conference or event in one of these US cities and are looking to do or see something out of the ordinary or totally weird, AP has compiled a list of unusual museums across the nation - from a funeral museum to one with an attraction devoted to wet wipes!



Yep, you'll find the wet wipes at the Moist Towelette Museum in East Lansing, Michigan, where more than a thousand, mostly unused, wet wipes from around the world, including Star Trek towelettes, are on display.

The museum said these had been collated because "Everybody just has an urge to collect something."

The National Cryptologic Museum, 40 km north of Washington D.C., offers a glimpse into the history of American spying, from code books used during the Revolutionary War to signal flags from the Civil War and decoding machines from World War Two.

The National Museum of Funeral History, Houston, is a serious museum which also has a sense of fun, illustrated by its trademark: "Any day above ground is a good one."

Here exhibits include artefacts from presidential and celebrity funerals, historical hearses and a full-scale replica of an embalming station from a Civil War battlefield. *Jill*

Scarborough function centre



THE draft Scarborough Master Plan has been released, proposing a \$57.4m redevelopment which will include a community and function centre.

The plan proposes a redeveloped Surf Lifesaving Club which would become the "primary anchor" of the redeveloped Beach Hub (artist's impression **pictured**) and would include a function centre.

The Hub itself would become Scarborough's best known destination and would feature a flagship bar or restaurant.

The Hub would be benchmarked against areas such as Darling Quarter and Sentosa Island in Singapore.

WA Planning Minister John Day said the plan encouraged private investment and development within the 100 hectare area.

Growing the local tourism industry was essential to local economic growth, with additional business events infrastructure potentially leading to increased overnight visitation and countering seasonal demand, the

plan said.

About 195 new rooms could be required from 2013 to 2031 in the form of small, high end boutique accommodation, with business visitors representing about 20% of the visitor market, it said.

The plan was open for comment until March and once adopted, works would begin in mid-2015, the Department of the Premier said.

CLICK HERE to view the plan.

Foreign Affairs Minister at G'Day USA

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop is set to attend G'Day USA, a series of events held in major US cities.

Bishop said she would attend events in Washington D.C. and New York among other duties.

About 200 Australian and 450 US companies were expected to take part with more than 15,000 attendees expected for the events, Bishop said.

The first event will be held on 21 Jan.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has three pages of news plus a full page from: (**click**)

- Novotel Wollongong Northbeach

QLD govt pledges \$60m for events fund

THE Liberal National Party has said if re-elected, it will invest \$60m over three years in a Queensland First Tourism Fund to attract major events to the state.

The fund would also work to attract films, TV shows and major cultural events, Premier Campbell Newman said, and would supplement support for Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) and other marketing by the government.

"It will be a competitive fund with the key criteria being potential for local jobs generation and economic growth for Queensland."

The announcement follows Queensland Labor's election promise to provide \$40m over four years to TEQ with a view to attracting new major events (**BEN** 19 Jan).

Tourism and Transport Forum ceo Margy Osmond said the Queensland First Tourism fund would provide a "shot in the arm" for the tourism sector, and the additional funding to support major events was of "particular interest", given these were a motivator for travel.



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business events news

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Adelaide Airport hotel plans

ADELAIDE Airport is set to see a 260 room hotel with conference facilities, following Federal government approval of the Adelaide Airport Master Plan.



The hotel, with function rooms and restaurants, was expected to be developed adjoining the office park area.

This was "broadly consistent" with a prior development plan approval which allowed for such a hotel to be "substantially underway" by October of this year, the plan said.

The hotel would be connected to Terminal One, with the airport looking for a four to four and a half star hotel.

Airport md Mark Young said the major pieces were now in place

for the airport to become a "top tier" airport business centre in the Asia Pacific region.

CLICK HERE for the plan.

Pictured is an artist's impression of the hotel.

Outrigger delegates can help community

OUTRIGGER on the Lagoon has said conference delegates can take time out from meetings to help build a traditional meeting hall at Conua School in Sigatoka Valley.

Supervised by Outrigger's engineering team, it was an opportunity for clients to give back to the community, gm Peter Hopgood said.

CLICK HERE to read more.

NT's hat yak off at AIME



ONE place worth heading to at this year's AIME will be the Northern Territory stand #F710, where an Akubra-fitting station will provide the stage for an NT 'Hat-Yak' competition.

Visitors will be invited to don a 'prop' Akubra hat and talk on camera about an event they would like to bring to the NT.

The best 20 responses made each day will win the presenter an Akubra hat of their own.

With 40 Akubras being awarded over the two days, there's plenty of time to get your yakking spiel into tip, top form.

DCC appoints director of client services

THE Darwin Convention Centre (DCC) has appointed Pietro Delpechitra as director of client services.

Most recently, Delpechitra was Auckland Live venue services and operations manager.

DCC gm Janet Hamilton said his skills and experience would be a "significant asset" in achieving strong performance outcomes from existing operations as well as in development moving forward.

Hilton leadership changes

HILTON Worldwide has appointed Paul Hutton as vice president for operations in Australasia, effective as of 16 Feb.

Currently regional gm for China South, Hutton would replace Ashley Spencer, who was retiring after 27 years with the company, Hilton said.

BE Tas at AIME

BUSINESS Events Tasmania has said advanced copies of its new Meeting and Incentive Planner's Guide will be available at AIME.

Properties including MONA and Saffire will join the organisation at its stand, F310.

WIN WITH CROWNE PLAZA HUNTER VALLEY



BEN, Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley & the Altogether Perfect campaign are offering one night's accommodation in a Deluxe Room with breakfast for two at Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley to celebrate the opening of the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley Conference and Events Centre later this month. Experience adaptable spaces that can be perfectly tailored for your next event at Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, which offers the largest conference centre in the region, nestled amongst the Semillon vineyards and majestic Brokenback Ranges. To enter, send your answer to the following question to comp@businesseventsnews.com.au.

5. What major airport services the Hunter Valley, Port Stephens & Newcastle with interstate flight?

Hint: www.altogetherperfect.com.au

For more information visit www.crowneplazahuntervalley.com.au and www.altogetherperfect.com.au. Courtesy of Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley and the Altogether Perfect campaign, promoting business events in the Hunter Valley, Newcastle and Port Stephens. Prize is valid for 12 months subject to availability. Contest open to all BEN readers.



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business events news

21st January 2015



IF YOU'RE looking for reassurance for your next business events trip, and following the tragic aircraft misadventures of recent times, AirlineRatings.com has collated a list of the top 10 safest airlines and top 10 safest low cost airlines for 2015.

The list takes into account a range of factors related to audits from aviation's governing bodies such as the FAA and ICAO as well as government audits and an airline's fatality record.

Qantas, with a fatality free record in the modern jet era, tops the list.



In alphabetical order the others are: Air New Zealand, British Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways, Emirates, Etihad Airways, EVA Air, Finnair, Lufthansa and Singapore Airlines.

AirlineRatings.com noted that during its 94-year history, Qantas has amassed an extraordinary record of firsts in safety and operations and is now accepted as the world's most experienced airline.

The top 10 safest low cost airlines are: Aer Lingus, Alaska Airlines, Icelandair, Jetblue, Jetstar, Kulula.com, Monarch Airlines, Thomas Cook, TUI Fly and Westjet.

CLICK HERE to view the list.

Hotel Happenings

AMARI Phuket

As Amari Phuket moves into its 30th year of operation, a new wing is to be unveiled with unparalleled views of Patong Bay.

The wing's 148 suites brings the hotel's room inventory to 345.

The extension also allows guests access to all the Amari Phuket resort facilities, including flexible meeting spaces.

INTERCONTINENTAL Double Bay

Making getting there half the fun, the InterContinental Sydney Double Bay has added a complimentary water taxi arrival for day delegate meetings.

To take advantage of the offer, book a meeting by 28 Feb.

BOOK n' Benefit

The Shangri-La, The Marina, Cairns has a 2015 'Book now Benefit Later' offer for meeting organisers that allows them to choose from a number of benefits when they book and confirm an event before 31 Mar.

These include a choice of a 30 minute canapé package, \$100 food and beverage voucher and 10 complimentary room upgrades.

To find out more information, email:

events.slmc@shangri-la.com.

SOFITEL Fiji

Increased commissions are being offered by the Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa for any new conference or events bookings that take place between now and the end of June.

In addition to the commissions, it is also offering one complimentary day delegate package for every 20 delegates and complimentary WiFi for all delegates.

To find out more, email:

event@sofitel.com.fj.



FACE : FACE

Ruth Lilian

Director and conference manager L&R Contract Business Services



Business Events News recently caught up with Ruth Lilian, who has been involved in the meetings and events industry for the last 40 years and is director and conference manager with L&R Contract Business Services. She was awarded an Order of Australia for her work in the industry and involvement with not for profit organisations.

How have business events changed since you first started?

Technology certainly didn't play a part and choice of venues – you took what you could. The word business and or event didn't exist; you organised a meeting or you had a function. It was an exciting day when I was given an electric typewriter rather than a manual one and an even more exciting day when the word processor arrived.

What do you think the future will look like for business events? Will robots take over?

I hope robots won't take over – we need to see a happy, smiley face. Robots will be with us, but I certainly wouldn't want a robot to hand me my satchel at a business event.

What's the strangest event you've been involved with in your time with the industry?

An international meeting done remotely comes to mind. I had to find a venue in a town no more than two hours out of Munich for a conference. This was done well and truly remotely by email and phone, and with clients, venues and suppliers who didn't all speak English. I did not attend the conference but it all worked.

What are some cardinal sins when managing an event?

Misreading contracts and signing off on what is not achievable with venues, hotels and other services. Overestimating numbers because appropriate research hasn't been

done. Not insuring events. Not allowing for contingencies when preparing budgets.

Poor proof reading – nothing worse than seeing the errors on a website or program.

Don't skimp on the audio-visual required for a successful event – people remember the bed they slept in; the food they ate; and how terrible the presentations were because of the AV.

I still use a "to do list" and everyone should – what a joy to see all that is required being ticked off.

There's been a bit of unrest in the industry about the 'MICE' acronym – what's your take on it?

The MICE acronym isn't my favourite.

I believe we are part of the meetings and events industry.

I would love to see it as the meetings and events profession – perhaps in time to come it will be.

MICE is very strong in Asia and so to try and change it would probably be very difficult.

I certainly don't think the acronym rings out in the corporate or not for profit sectors.

If you could create an animal hybrid, what would it be and why?

Most animal hybrids unfortunately are sterile, so I would want to set about creating an IVF program for them. I would certainly want it to be energetic and have a love for life as I do.

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

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