



## Hot tickety

### UNACUSTOMED

as I am to booking my own flights - and it's not an elitist thing but being in the media, as I would see many of you nodding furiously, we do tend to get looked after.



On this occasion I had won a flight voucher on a budget airline, and as it was to a destination that **BEN** was keen to cover - the Sunshine Coast - I set about to book my ticket online.

Cheap flights they may be but they're sure going to take their pound of flesh and walk you through a minefield of options before you take to the skies.

So, if you want to keep the ticket cost as advertised, you need to start ticking and as it happens - untick too!

Beginning with the tick.

No, I don't require priority boarding or to reserve a priority seat. I don't want text confirmation, I don't require a hot meal, a cold meal, a snack or a hot or cold drink. No, I don't need a hotel and nor a hire car.

When at last it came to the final payment I couldn't work out how I had occurred an extra charge.

After so much time wasted I figured it was easier to cough up. I was then informed that a copy of the ticket would be sent to my email address.

And guess what? The first email to pop up was surprise, surprise, a Travel Insurance Confirmation. I had neglected to untick this option to opt out!

In quick succession I had another email offering me all sorts of hotel deals... but there's no sign of the actual ticket yet.

It's just another good reason to use a travel agent! *Jill*

## Qantas SFO tick

**QANTAS** will shortly release fares and schedules for its new services to San Francisco, after the ACCC this morning granted interim approval for the expanded Qantas-American Airlines alliance.

AA also plans to launch non-stop Sydney flights on 19 Dec.

## Auckland seeking events

**MAJOR** event organisers and promoters planning activity from 2016/17 onwards are being invited to apply for sponsorship from Auckland Tourism Events & Economic Development (ATEED).

The annual sponsorship "window" has opened earlier than usual this year, and for a longer period, to allow potential applicants more time to submit proposals for consideration.

ATEED said the criteria, decision making process and funding levels won't change, with about \$1.5m up for grabs.

Priority will be given to events which align with the city's Major Events Strategy and in particular their ability to generate new

economic activity for Auckland.

Potential applicants will also have the opportunity to attend workshops in Auckland on the Major Events Strategy and the applications process on 20 Jul.

Applications will be assessed by a panel including representatives from the NZ Association of Event Professionals, with outcomes to be announced from Dec this year.

ATEED targets for the 2016/17 major events portfolio is for a regional return on investment of \$49 million and 171,000 visitor nights, the organisation said - see [aucklandnz.com/sponsorship](http://aucklandnz.com/sponsorship).

## We are now in print!

**THE** July issue of **BEN's** sister publication *travelBulletin* was released this week, with a special new section on the business events sector.

*travelBulletin* and **BEN** are both part of the Travel Daily group and *travelBulletin* is a highly respected monthly magazine which provides analysis and commentary on trends across the wider travel and tourism sector.

Given the importance of business events to the overall industry we have decided to include a **BEN** section in every issue of *travelBulletin*.

Subscriptions to *travelBulletin* cost \$50 a year, but **Business Events News** readers can subscribe for the specially reduced price of just \$30 by using the coupon code BEN2015 when signing up for a subscription at [www.travelbulletin.com.au/shop](http://www.travelbulletin.com.au/shop).

To view the issue online see [www.travelbulletin.com.au](http://www.travelbulletin.com.au).

### Today's issue of BEN

**Business Events News** today has two pages of news, the **Christmas venue guide** plus a full page from (*click*)

- Travel Industry Exhibition

## BEN Christmas guide

**IT'S** Christmas in July today, with the first list of venues promoting their festive options for those planning events between now and the end of the year being showcased in the **Business Events News** Christmas Venue Guide.

A regular feature to be published in **BEN** over the coming months, the inaugural 2015 edition is attached as **page three**.

For more information on participating in the guide, which is also suitable for promoting team-building activities and attractions, contact our team on [ads@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:ads@businesseventsnews.com.au).

## Orange is the new pink!



**AS** guests sipped on orange cocktails and nibbled on orange macarons, Shaun Campbell general manager of Langham Place Hong Kong was with director of sales and marketing Maxine Howe and the team at the Langham Sydney to spread the news that in two months time Langham Place would become the Cordis, Hong Kong - the first Cordis hotel in the world.

Latin for heart, Cordis has a mantra that promotes a holistic concept focusing on the core pillars of intuitive service, connectivity, sophistication and a sense of community.

Thanking guests for the substantial support from the Australian market Campbell said, "As a result we continue to be in the top ten on Trip Advisor, an incredible outcome in a hotel city

like Hong Kong.

"As the first Langham branded hotel in the world we knew we had a great formula, certainly great leisure product, great location, great MICE product and a great business product.

"We also realised that as the Langham brand was becoming more luxurious and more boutique, the original hotel wasn't quite fitting the mould.

"So while we are not talking so much about a brand change it is a name change. Going forward, many of the new hotels we have in the pipeline will eventually be the start of the Cordis brand".

In the meantime, the Langham brand will continue with plenty of the Langham pink while Cordis will go with a touch of orange.

As Maxine Howe described it, "Orange is the new pink!"



# business events news

9th July 2015



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### Meet Hawai'i

**HAWAII** Tourism Oceania will hold its inaugural "Meet Hawai'i" roadshow for business events industry professionals later this month.

Taking place from 27-30 Jul in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney the events will include daily workshop sessions together with an evening networking event.

Attendees will gain in-depth destination and product training from 12 industry partners and the Hawai'i Convention Centre with one-on-one "speed dates".

There will also be a chance to win a trip for two to Hawai'i on offer at each event.

Register to attend by tomorrow at [meethawaiiroadshow.com.au](http://meethawaiiroadshow.com.au).

### Urban off-premises

**URBAN** Purveyor Group has launched a new "off-premises" catering service which complements its range of eateries in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne such as Sake, Ananas, The Cut and Bavarian Bier Cafe.

The new catering service will tap into the "unique multi-cuisine and Michelin-starred credentials" of Urban Purveyor Group culinary director Martin Heierling and Corporate Executive Chef, Damien Brassel.

An expansive catering menu will offer over 300 dishes ranging from cocktail party bites and dessert tapas to shared style dinner options and plated menus - see [www.urbanpurveyor.com](http://www.urbanpurveyor.com).

### Travel show next Thu

**THE** second annual Travel Industry Exhibition in Sydney next week will showcase a range of unique destinations, some of which are dipping their toes into the Australian market for the first time.

Exhibitors at the Luna Park event on Thu and Fri will include places as far afield as Turkmenistan and Cuba - not to mention Mauritius, Japan, Korea and even Mexico.

Register to attend, and you will also be able to take part in the free seminar program which includes presentations from TripAdvisor, DFAT's Smartraveller and Facebook.

See **page four** for details.



**CANBERRA** is going to the dogs.

Or at least it will be on Sat 18 Jul when the inaugural "A Pooch Affair" takes place at Exhibition Park in the nation's capital.

The event will feature an indoor pop-up Doggie Diner - complete with "bespoke sausages shaped like dog bones".

A special *High Tea with Dogs* during the event is almost sold out, while the show will also feature a Doggie Mall with plenty of trends, treats and educational toys.

And there's also a spa - for dogs - where pampered and primped pets can also enjoy a photo shoot.



*Win an incentive travel package to Taiwan valued at \$50,000 USD plus a \$5,000 donation to the charity of your choice! The 'Asia Super Team: Team Up for Good' competition is now open for all Australian businesses to enter and runs until 30 August 2015, with the Australian finalist attending the grand final in Taiwan. Public voting opens on 3 August 2015 and voters can win round-trip tickets to Taiwan.*

*Visit this website to enter: [asiasuperteam.meettaiwan.com](http://asiasuperteam.meettaiwan.com)*

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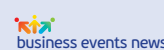
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# Christmas Venue Guide

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](mailto:advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au).

## The Lagoon Seafood Restaurant

Stuart Park North Wollongong

The Lagoon is located on the foreshore of North Wollongong's beach where the Fairy Creek Lagoon meets the Pacific Ocean.

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There are 5 extraordinary function rooms to choose from, catering for 30 to 450 people, each with their own alfresco terrace. Offering packages to suit every budget, private room packages include a DJ & Dancefloor.

[www.lagoonrestaurant.com.au](http://www.lagoonrestaurant.com.au)



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[www.smcfc.com.au](http://www.smcfc.com.au)

## Accor Hotels Sydney Olympic Park Olympic Park, NSW

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## Tangalooma Island Resort

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