



Shonky deals

AH, the power of the collective consciousness!

After writing about the games budget airlines play (*BEN* 09 Jul) that trip you up into buying add-ons you don't want or need when booking your ticket on-line via the "automatic opt-in" tick, comes the news of a trans-Tasman alliance of consumer groups.

CHOICE and Consumer NZ have joined forces to campaign against the practice that can see travellers paying up to 67% more than the advertised price when booking flights.

They invited consumers to send a message to the ceo of one of the worst offenders – Jetstar.

"We think Jetstar's ceo David Hall needs to hear from consumers. No matter what side of the Tasman you're on, this practice is shonky," fumed Matt Levey, director of campaigns & communications at CHOICE.

Just as I experienced last week, Jetstar's options include baggage, insurance, meals, a charity donation and more.

The campaign comes on the back of research from CHOICE showing that over 26% of travellers have experienced problems with booking travel online.

A similar push by the NZ Commerce Commission saw Air NZ remove its auto-tick options, so hopefully this will work...

Man the barricade! *Jill*



ICC ceo re-elected to AIPC

INTERNATIONAL Convention Centre Sydney ceo Geoff Donaghy has been elected for a second term as President of the International Association of Convention Centres (AIPC), with the AIPC annual conference to be held in Sydney in 2017.

AIPC represents a global network of more than 175 centres in 58 countries, and involves more than 900 managers across the globe.

Speaking at this year's conference in Boston last week, Donaghy said he was thrilled to once again lead the organisation.

"AIPC is committed to encouraging and recognising excellence in convention centre management, while at the same time providing the tools to achieve such high standards through its research, educational and networking programs.

"It is a great honour to be recognised and trusted by my global peers to continue working in such a unique position," he said.

The conference raised a range of key issues, including the need for centre managers to play a "much more powerful role" in the priorities and affairs of their cities - even to the extent of economic policy setting.

AIPC also discussed the



need to work effectively with key stakeholders such as the association, accommodation and exhibition communities.

Centre safety and security was also on the agenda, along with "cost-effective responses to new technology demands".

MEANWHILE ICC Sydney is also expanding its team, this time appointing Lynell Peck as its new Director of Culinary Services.

Peck joins ICC after four years as Executive General Manager for Hospitality, Events and Operations at the Australian Turf Club.

Her appointment is part of the venue's Culinary Plan to deliver world-class, creative cuisine including seasonal, locally supplied food and beverages.

Today's issue of *BEN*

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

To be part of the guide email ads@businesseventsnews.com.au

Christchurch's new centre

A NEW, purpose built conference and event facility- The Tait Technology Centre - that embraces the principles of innovation, sustainability and collaboration has opened close to NZ's Christchurch airport.

The 7000 sqm award winning architectural structure and the global HQ of local company Tait Communications is equipped with an aquifer-based heating and cooling system and the company's commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency has already seen the building acknowledged with the receipt of a prestigious EECA award last year.

Already attracting a number of forward bookings for a multitude of events, the flexible and natural lit conference and meeting rooms offer comprehensive audiovisual equipment and numerous spaces in multiple configurations, from an intimate meeting for 35 to cocktails for 400.

THE LANGHAM

MELBOURNE

Director of Catering & Conventions

The Langham, Melbourne is currently looking for a Director of Catering & Convention Services to join our team.

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 Kim Peatling, Human Resources Manager on
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For more information or to apply, [click here](#)

FIND YOUR CAREER ON



HAMILTON ISLAND



business events news

16th July 2015



crumbs!

SHOULD you be keen on looking at houses and you find yourself in London between 25 July and 27 September, why not visit the Queen?

Buckingham Palace is offering the ultimate in site inspections by opening its imperial doors to all and sundry during the northern summer season.

In the grandeur of the State Rooms' displays is a recreation of the settings for the 62,000 guests who the Royal Family welcomed in the past year to state visits, receptions, garden parties, investitures and private audiences.

Get tips on how they transformed the Palace Ballroom for a State Banquet with glittering silver-gilt from George IV's grand service.

Go behind the scenes to see the display of the important 'tools of the trade', from the copper moulds used to create 'chocolate bombe' desserts to the red leather seating-planner, as well the food and selection of wine to the choice of Her Majesty's outfits, and porcelain chosen for a State Banquet.

With plenty of pomp and circumstance on offer, you can check out the knighting stool and a sword used to confer knighthoods and, for the first time – feel a bit regal as you enter the State Rooms through the Grand Entrance, used by those who come to the Palace at the invitation of The Queen.

Australia doesn't miss either with the Australian State Coach, in which Her Majesty departs and returns to Buckingham Palace for ceremonial processions, stationed at the Grand Entrance portico.

Sponsorship webinar

THE PCO Association will host another webinar later this month covering the basics of selling sponsorship.

Taking place online on Thu 30 Jul 2015 from 1.30pm Sydney time, presenter Warwick Merry will discuss the art of positioning your event to those who may not even be in your industry.

Sponsor retention, how to sell increases in regular sponsorship and how to get sponsors to refer others to you will also be on the agenda - to register for participation [CLICK HERE](#).

Adina for Auckland

TFE Hotels has announced that its newest NZ property will open mid-Oct this year.

The Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland, Britomart will offer 128 apartments and is located a short stroll to the waterfront.

Meeting facilities will include two conference rooms - one for 45 people theatre style and the other a boardroom for 12, while the property will offer wifi and locally sourced food & beverage.

Come and visit us!

BUSINESS Events News and our sister publications Travel Bulletin, Travel Daily and Cruise Weekly are all on show in Sydney today and tomorrow at the second annual Travel Industry Exhibition.

Free to enter for trade visitors, the show at Luna Park features 80 exhibitors including destinations, technology firms and other suppliers, while there's an extensive free seminar program focusing on social media.

It's open tomorrow (Fri 17 Jul) from 9am - for more details see travelindustryexpo.com.au.

WIN A TRIP TO DUBAI, ISTANBUL & FRANKFURT

when you book a meeting or event, with a minimum of 10 rooms, at Frasers Hospitality Australia



Indonesian option

THE new Best Western Premier Hotel in the Indonesian city of Solo Baru has become the tallest hotel in the area, and is set to become a key MICE venue, attracting events from across the region.

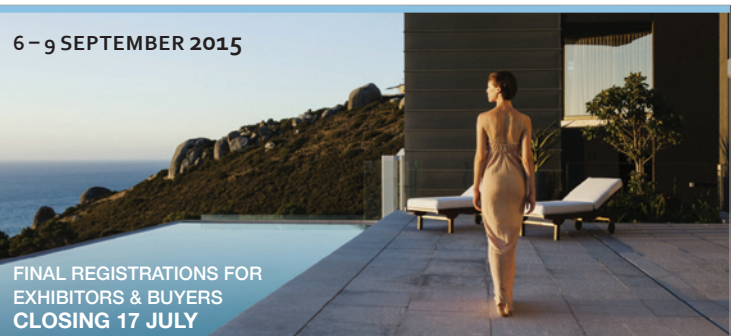
The hotel's Ruby Convention Hall has capacity for up to 2,500, with eight other versatile spaces each accommodating up to 300.

Port Stephens venue

GROUND has broken on the construction of the \$3 million golf and country club at the Pacific Dunes golf course in Port Stephens on the NSW north coast, with the venue to include a 200 seat event centre.

The project is scheduled for completion over the upcoming Christmas-New Year period.

6-9 SEPTEMBER 2015



FINAL REGISTRATIONS FOR EXHIBITORS & BUYERS CLOSING 17 JULY

THE VALUE OF MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

After many years of caution, the MICE market is once again showing increased budgets and a willingness to spend. Research from East & Partners Asia, one of the region's leading market research and analysis firms, has found that corporate spending on travel and entertainment will continue to grow in 2015, with an average increase of 5.2 per cent across Asia. And with a global MICE spend of over US\$1.18 trillion in 2014, that's a significant hike.

But these companies aren't just going to give their money away. The research also found that corporates are tightening control over their travel spending and want to maximise return on investment. This all boils down to value for money – and that's where the travel specialist comes in.

At Luxperience, we believe you can't underestimate the importance of the connection between the consumer and the service supplier. This relationship isn't just restricted to leisure travel – establishing meaningful connections enhances the experience for corporate travellers. The expertise, knowledge and individual service from a supplier ensures that clients get the best value for money. Luxperience seeks to help educate business owners in the luxury travel space on the best ways to connect with their market for long term results.

An increased budget doesn't mean that corporate buyers are willing to lose sight of value for money. A solid relationship between consumers and travel providers means that they can work together to make every dollar count.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE CONNECTED IN THIS GROWTH MARKET REGISTER NOW

EVENTS BY LUXPERIENCE

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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.

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Melbourne, VIC

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