



## Impressed!

**PRIOR** to heading to the Sunshine Coast on an update famil this week, I spent a night at Radisson Blu Sydney and thought they deserved brownie points when Tamara at reception said, "I see you have stayed with us before, welcome back."



Its no big deal but it's something I have mentioned before because its not a greeting that happens too often on return visits to hotels. So thanks Radisson Blu because it's often the small gestures that leave the biggest impression!

**MEANWHILE BEN's** visit to the Sunshine Coast just happened to coincide with the third annual Social Media Tourism Symposium (SoMeT) designed to bring together tourism professionals from across Asia Pacific.

There to learn, collaborate, network, and discuss the future of social media in the destination marketing industry. The two day event, attended by many tourism industry friends and colleagues saw much hash-tagging, blogging and tweeting going on at the waterside event.

The famil included a two night stay at Novotel Twin Waters Resort which had just said farewell to 600 delegates of a major sports retail company, leaving in their wake a massive, 350sqm big top tent set up in the hotel grounds. Also on the itinerary was visits to many other Sunshine Coast venues - more to come in future issues. *Jill*

## Qantas flies into Sunshine

"YOU little beauty," exclaimed Sunshine Coast Councillor Tim Dwyer, in discussion with Sunshine Coast Development Ltd ceo Simon Ambrose and Sunshine Coast Airport general manager Peter Pallot, when he heard the news that Qantas is to recommence regular air services between Sydney and the Sunshine Coast six days a week from December 2015.



Initially targeting leisure guests, the new service will evolve to a regular business flight schedule commencing on 8 February with flights departing Sunshine Coast for Sydney at 0640 (arriving 0915) and departing Sydney at 1740 and arriving on the Sunshine Coast at 1815.

Ambrose said the reintroduction of Qantas services was great news for the Sunshine Coast.

"The eyes of the world are looking at the Sunshine Coast as it has never done before. It means for the first time ever you can fly from anywhere in the world with Emirates and Qantas straight into the Sunshine Coast and for international business it will open up all sorts of opportunities such as being able to book say from London via Sydney to the Sunshine Coast."

Jetstar and Virgin, he said, have been great ambassadors for the Sunshine Coast in the domestic market, having consistently increased services from Sydney

and Melbourne - but the Qantas expansion will help contribute significantly to growing business travel and conferences.

"Last year we attracted 9.2% domestic growth, and with major infrastructure development happening throughout the region, as well as increases in conference and events capacity, the Qantas services will find an instant market, as well as encouraging more international travellers to connect to the Coast."

All this augurs well for the development of the new airport said Sunshine Coast Airport's Peter Pallot.

"We are in the advanced planning stages now. Our EIS is being considered and by 2020 we will have a new runway capable of servicing any aircraft - that means in terms of destinations we will be able to get into those Asian hubs that I think are very much part of our emerging markets."

Pallot and Ambrose are **pictured** above at the Social Media in Travel event at Caloundra yesterday.

## Today's issue of BEN

**Business Events News** today has two pages of news, the latest **BEN** Christmas Venue Guide on **page three** and a full page of MICE jobs from: (**click**)

- AA Appointments


## ICESAP accreditation

**THE** Incentive, Conference & Event Society Asia-Pacific (ICESAP) has confirmed details of the new industry accreditation scheme, which will formally launch at the group's upcoming conference in Hong Kong from 30 Aug.

ICESAP President Nigel Gaunt said the accreditation move would be a 'game changer' for the industry, putting incentive, conference and events agencies "on the same if not a better footing than advertising agencies or IATA travel agents".

He said ICESAP members, 40% of whom are corporate buyers, were seeking a way to distinguish between the "well qualified professional agencies and others offering what on the surface appeared to be similar services, but at a lesser price".

Key elements of the scheme include an industry fund to guarantee client deposits and supplier payments in the event of agency insolvency; financial integrity standards; staff qualifications and experience; and a Code of Conduct including customer service standards "and other key elements essential to a professional and ethical intermediary agency business".



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# business events news

23rd July 2015

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## SEC@GI welcomes new ferry

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises yesterday inaugurated Sydney's first mobile passenger terminal pontoon.



To be initially based at White Bay, the pontoon named "Beatrice Bush" will see the operation of a long awaited charter ferry service from the city to service the fast-growing cruise market.

Beatrice Bush - named after a colourful local identity - will allow a 15 minute ferry service as an efficient transfer option for cruise ship passengers and crew.

However the flexible facility will also improve accessibility to the temporary Sydney Exhibition Centre & Glebe Island facility which is opposite White Bay.

The pontoon will be put to immediate use transferring visitors to the Sydney Boat Show which takes place at SEC@GI from 30 Jul-03 Aug.

**Pictured** above at the formal

christening ceremony yesterday are, from left: Father Michael Ryan; Malu Barrios, AEG Ogden; Anthony Haworth, Roz Jackson and Lester Coombes, Captain Cook Cruises.

## A Christmas story



**CLIENTS** and guests experienced a taste of 'Christmas future' when they dined festively at a Christmas in July function at the Four Seasons Hotel Sydney, last week.

Staged with all the Christmas décor and centrepiece trimmings, the event showcased the corporate and office function offerings in their Christmas Events 2015 packages.

Packages start from \$110 and include Christmas bon bons and table centrepieces with white linen, personalised menus and complimentary room hire.

The offerings are available from small intimate gatherings to 1000 in the Grand Ballroom.

## Hyatt Place arrives

**MELBOURNE'S** Essendon Airport precinct will play host to Australia's first Hyatt Place hotel, with Hyatt winning the contract for the previously announced newbuild (**BEN 25** May).

The 160-room "select service" property will also include the new Larkin Events Centre - a 1700 square metre event space with flexible and sub-divisible column-free areas and capacity for 1000 seats conference-style or banquets of 700-seats.

## Thailand bid wins

**THE** Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) has won bids for eight MICE events through to 2018, which it says are expected to attract over 5,000 delegates to the country.

Wins include engineering farming, medical, educational and hospitality conferences, which will complement several upcoming "international festivals and mega-events" such as the Photo Bangkok Festival and UFI Open Seminar in Asia 2016.



## Should you purchase your own projector?

AT AVPartners we are often asked whether it is best to own a projector or rent one.

Most companies prefer to rent a projector as part of a fully outsourced AV offering, avoiding the worry of failure on the day.

However, with projectors now more affordable, it is becoming more common for companies to opt to purchase their own projector for events and meetings.

Like all things in life there are pros and cons to purchasing your own:

### Pros

- projectors are smaller, more portable and more cost effective than ever
- when used in conjunction with the same laptop, you can ensure that the two will be compatible
- puts the control in the user's hands

### Cons

- one size doesn't fit all when it comes to technology - every venue is different and your AV representative will be able to offer the best projector for the specific

room you use

- technology is advancing exponentially, so it is likely your projector will date quickly, whereas if you rent a projector you'll get the latest technology
- puts the burden of getting the AV right in your hands

Whichever you decide - rent or purchase a projector - we recommend working closely with your AV representative to ensure the best results. They will advise on the most suitable technology to support your event from the outset - as well as provide technical support throughout your event - ensuring your event runs smoothly.

Michael Clarke is the partner at Softitel Gold Coast with AVPartners, which creates integrated event experiences through combining state of the art audiovisual technology, unrivalled expertise and a highly tailored approach. [www.avpartners.com](http://www.avpartners.com)



**A PICTURE** is worth a thousand words - and perhaps even more when the image is taken by a drone!

The Taj Group has begun using camera-equipped robotic helicopters to take aerial shots & interior footage of its properties - providing an inspirational birds-eye view which helps give a true insight into what to expect.

Check out some of the stunning imagery featuring the Maldives' Taj Exotica Resort & Spa at [businessesnews.com.au/videos](http://businessesnews.com.au/videos).

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

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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).

## Quay West Suites Sydney Sydney, NSW

Quay West Suites Sydney Has The Quay To Your 2015 End Of Year Festivities!  
Quay West Suites Sydney 's festive packages start from \$89 per person\*.

We can cater for an intimate dinner party in our Essex or Gloucester Room.  
To an indulgent cocktail party utilising our entire function floor for up to 200 guests.

To book call: +61 2 9240 6014

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

\* Terms & Conditions : Minimum numbers apply.



## Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre Broadbeach, QLD

Take the stress out of organising this year's Christmas party and leave the hard work up to us at GCCEC's iconic Centre of Christmas. Sit back and enjoy a decadent evening of seasonal festivities or celebrate in style with live entertainment, premium beverages, award-winning catering and so much more! Tickets are available online for \$135 per person or \$1,300 per table of 10 but be sure to get in quick, seats are selling fast for the 4 December event!

[www.gccec.com.au](http://www.gccec.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.

With an absolute waterfront location, a stunning deck bar, and breath taking views of the ocean.

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)



## Luna Park Venues Sydney, NSW

Organise your Christmas function early this year and you could be in for a treat with some exclusive offers from Luna Park Venues. With an incredible amount of versatility available across our thirteen venue spaces, Luna Park Venues can cater for any scale of celebration. Plus, as an added incentive to book now, we're offering a luxurious Goldwell hair care hamper to the booking contact for any Christmas Party confirmed between now and 31 Aug 2015. In addition, all bookings made before 31 Aug will have access to special accomm rates for attendees at the Harbourview Hotel in North Sydney.

[www.lunaparkvenues.com](http://www.lunaparkvenues.com)



# AA APPOINTMENTS

## RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS



### LIKE MICE?

Here is your chance to create unique incentives, conference & event experiences both nationally & internationally for a wide variety of clientele. Break away from boring itineraries today!

#### ALL THINGS MICE – LEADING TOURISM BOARD BUSINESS EVENTS MANAGER SYDNEY - \$85K PACKAGE

An exciting new role for a recognised tourism board to promote business events to a leading destination. The role offers variety with ongoing excitement and new challenges to promote a great destination to the market. If you have a passion for MICE and you are well connected in business events, then this role will reward you like no other job in the market. Be part of a great team based out of Australia with interstate travel and inspirational leadership. A very unique role that is not worth missing!

#### LOVE ALL THINGS MICE GENERAL MANAGER - MICE

SYDNEY – FROM \$120K BASE ++ DOE

This company has future growth on the horizon so don't miss out on heading up their MICE team and joining them on this journey. They create innovative events on the largest scale with creative solutions for event management. As General Manager of the global MICE team you will manage the strategy of the complete M&E portfolio. You will drive new relationships and the retention of their client base. Do you possess leadership and senior event sales experience? Apply Now!

#### GROUPIES WANTED – SHARE YOUR TALENT GROUP RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANT SYDNEY – circa \$60K PACKAGE

This global company is looking for a talented and motivated consultant to join their fast growing group's team. This company offers superior job training and excellent career progression. Work in bright offices located in North Sydney. No two days will look the same. Book a sporting group to watch the Ashes, romantic wedding on a beautiful beach in Tahiti, groups are general 10 – 300 persons, you will be working in a close knit team who are extremely successful within the brand. Your TALENT is needed now!!

#### INCENTIVE, CONFERENCE & EVENT TRAVEL EVENT TRAVEL MANAGER MELBOURNE - TOP SALARY PACKAGE DOE

A rare opportunity has become available with one of Australia's top conferencing and events companies. Servicing large scale conferences of up to 2000 people you will be responsible for the end to end management including budgeting, group flight movements, website design & client management just to name a few. You must have a min. 3 years exp. as a group and event manager with strong time management skills. An excellent salary package is on offer, career progression and ongoing training and support.

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