



Skyjacked!

LOST luggage, flight delays, security screening checks and being restrained by small seats – we've all had inflight experiences that could send us into flight rage.



Sometimes it's the person seated behind who constantly kicks the back of your seat, or the one in the seat in front who reclines theirs just when you are being handed a hot drink or when the tray table is down and you are using your computer.

One traveller, Mun Yee, on a flight to Australia last month from Singapore found herself on a budget airline in what she described in an online blog as a "hellish position" and penned a note on-line to the passenger in 15A, the seat behind her.

It's a less confrontational means of getting pent up resentment off your chest as opposed to going ballistic and being ordered off the flight.

In addition to seat kicking Mun cited loud and raucous laughter, noisy snacking throughout the flight and a passenger's smelly feet which drove her nuts.

In my experience there's the rather large bloke in the middle seat who takes over the shared armrest, and people who dress inappropriately in sleeveless t-shirts, boob tubes and other items of undress.

Apart from the body odour issue, who wants to sit in a seat has been sweated all over?

Then there's the crying children, drunk passengers, rude cabin crew, the chatty stranger in the next seat, inedible in-flight meals, air turbulence – the list goes on. Arrgh! Jill

Phuket industry deal

OUTRIGGER Laguna Phuket Beach Resort is offering an industry rate of THB1,999+++ per room per night (about A\$75+taxes) valid from 01 May-31 Dec 15, including brekky, valid industry ID required - email salesco.phuketbeach@outrigger.co.th.

ICCA 2014 rankings released

THE International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) has released its statistics for last year, with Paris once again coming in as the top global destination for major meetings with the city having hosted 214 qualifying events during 2014.

Interestingly the rankings haven't changed significantly year-on-year, despite a major review by ICCA of historical data which removed all meetings from the statistics "which no longer met the strict three-country rotation criterion".

ICCA ceo Martin Sirk stressed that the nature of the business is that the organisation continues to identify many qualifying meetings - taking place in different nations regularly with 50 or more participants - long after each annual release of the figures.

"ICCA's rankings are a snapshot of a moment in time, of a database designed for sales & marketing purposes, for a very specific segment of the market... where decisions are made three to six years in advance," he said.

Australian cities didn't appear in the top 20 of the list, with Europe's Vienna (202 meetings), Madrid (200), Berlin (193),



Barcelona (182) and London (166) rounding out the top five.

Singapore was in sixth place with 142 events, while other Asia-Pacific cities in the rankings included Beijing in 14th place with

104, Seoul in 15th spot at 99 just ahead of Hong Kong with 98.

Country-wise the USA was top ranked with 831 meetings, significantly ahead of Germany in second place with 659, Spain at 578 and the UK with 543.

Australia was in 13th place in 2014 with 260 meetings.

ICCA also published statistics on the 50 year growth pattern in the number of international association meetings, which is online at www.icca50.com.

BEN Christmas guide

BUSINESS Events News will once again run its popular Christmas Venue Guide in the coming months, with special opportunities to highlight your property to the meetings industry now available.

Believe it or not, it's coming up to the time when people begin to think about booking their end of year parties so don't miss out.

To book in now or for more info email us on advertising@businessesnews.com.au.

Truck yeah!

AS many as 40,000 visitors from Australia and overseas visited the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre on the weekend for the 2015 Brisbane Truck Show.

The massive event kicked off on Thu, showcasing more than \$100m worth of big rigs, tankers, trailers and technology.

Organised by the Commercial Vehicle Industry Association of Queensland, the biennial event occupies more than 35,000 square metres of space.

BCEC has been confirmed as the show's venue through to 2021.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news plus a full page from ([click](#))

• Pullman Hotels & Resorts

Get to Paris with Pullman Hotels

EVERY meeting booked at Pullman Hotels & Resorts in Australia before 31 Jul, to be held by 30 Sep, will come with an entry into a draw to win a trip for four people to Paris.

The incentive also includes a complimentary Pop Up Bar for every event along with a selection from Pullman's Justin North-designed Tapestry menu.

See **page three** for details.

Darwin's new Rydges

AMALGAMATED Holdings is to grow its NT hotel network with the addition of a new-build, multimillion dollar development in Palmerston, a satellite city of Darwin.

The mid-market Rydges Palmerston Darwin will have 200 rooms, suites and apartments along with extensive bar, restaurant and meeting facilities.

AHL group md David Seargeant said the new hotel is ideally situated to cater for the rapidly growing corporate, military, government, gas and construction markets in the Palmerston area.

Scheduled to open in August 2015, Grant Melville has been appointed as the hotel's gm.

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business events news

18th May 2015



ATTENDEES at IMEX this week are certain to be offered lots of exhibitor largesse, but this is one of the best we've heard of.

A lucky visitor who meets with the Croke Park Meetings & Events team, exhibiting on the Ireland stand (F420) will win a trip to Dublin with a guest.

But it's more than just a visit to the Emerald Isle - the prize comes with tickets to one of the summer's hottest events in which pop star Ed Sheeran will be performing live at Croke Park on Fri 24 Jul.

Croke Park is the flagship stadium of the Gaelic Athletic Association, and its inter-county games generally attract crowds of over 80,000 screaming fans.

To enter the competition you have to be a little imaginative - they have a number of jerseys available and you have to don your favourite, take a photo and tweet it with the Croke Park hashtag #Letsmakethisbrilliant.

Whoever gets the most retweets or likes will win the VIP package - so we're looking for some good efforts from all the Aussies attending IMEX.

BESydney exchange

2013 Australian of the Year, Ita Buttrose AO OBE, will be the keynote speaker at Business Events Sydney's upcoming annual Business Events Exchange.

The invitation-only event will take place on Thu 04 Jun at Dockside's Pavilion at Darling Harbour, with front row access to the Vivid Sydney festival of light.

Attendees will also hear about the latest developments from the under-construction International Convention Centre Sydney.

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

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A Broome-ing lovely famil



BROOME, in the southwest Kimberley and home of the South Sea Pearl, was the setting earlier this month for a famil hosted by Perth Convention Bureau and Cable Beach Club Resort & Spa for 10 invited meeting planners.

Accommodated at Broome's premier hotel, Cable Beach Club Resort & Spa with its 231 studios, bungalows, villas and suites, it began with a Broome town tour with Adams Pinnacle Tours at Gantheaume Point (where at low tide 130 million year old dinosaur footprints can be seen) and continued to Chinatown for an inspection of Sun Pictures, an original outdoor cinema and a distinctive setting for an event.

Following this, lunch and a beer tasting was held at Matso's Café & Brewery, part of the Kimberley Accommodation Properties group which includes the luxury Berkeley River Lodge.

There was an iconic camel ride along Cable Beach with Broome Camel Safaris, a site inspection of the new Hamptonesque, 60-room Mangrove Hotel at Roebuck Bay with four function venues and in one of the best locations to view the Staircase to the Moon phenomenon, dinner at the 72-room Kimberley Sands Resort &

Spa, and a pearling and cruise experience at Willie Creek Pearl Farm.

A lunch at Zanders Cable Beach with a capacity to host functions for up to 300, a Broome Hovercraft sunset adventure, where cocktail parties can be held on the tidal flats; and a farewell dinner at Cable Beach Resort's Japanese restaurant, Zensai - an intimate dining venue for 30 guests - topped off a great trip.

Ich bin ein Berliner

TFE Hotels is offering an incentive of a trip to Germany to encourage event bookings made before 31 Jul.

Valid for bookings in a choice of hotels including the Adina, Medina Rendezvous, Vibe, Travelodge and Hotel Kurrajong Canberra brands (with capacity ranging from 10 to 800 delegates) there's a chance to win return Business Class flights + 7 nights at Adina Apartment Hotel Berlin.

TFE recently re-launched its 'Events With Benefits' program, which rewards bookers with a range of rewards based on spend, from services at the hotel through to Visa Card vouchers.

Email meet@tfhotels.com.

Events ben Calendar

BEN's calendar details events at various venues across Australia.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@businessseventsnews.com.au.

24-26 MAY

MEA Conference 2015; Hamilton Island; for more visit www.meetingsevents.com.au

9-11 JUN

ibtm america; Chicago, USA; visit: www.ibtmamerica.com

10-11 JUN

CINZ MEETINGS 2015; Auckland, New Zealand; register as a hosted buyer: www.meetings.co.nz/Buyers

18-20 JUN

This Is Gold Coast Business Exchange 2015; for details: www.visitgoldcoast.com

21-25 JUN

Australia Tourism Exchange (ATE15); Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; visit: www.tradeevents.australia.com

1 JUL

Asia Meeting & Incentive Travel Exchange (AMITE); Marina Bay Sands, Singapore; more info at: www.questevent.com/AMITE/2015/

9 JUL

ATAB Business Builders Conference; Pullman Hotel Hyde Park Sydney; details at: www.atab.net.au

16-17 JUL

Travel Industry Expo; Luna Park, Sydney; more info at: www.travelindustryexpo.com.au

18 JUL

2015 AFTA NTIA Awards; Dockside Pavilion Darling Harbour, Sydney; visit: www.afta.com.au

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