



EDITOR: BONNIE TAI



WENTWORTH'S HALF CENTURY

IT'S been a platform for Prime Ministers' victory speeches and a long-time base for world leaders, but last night Sofitel Sydney Wentworth put its own team on the stage as it celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Having opened in 1966 as Sydney's first international hotel, the landmark property has amassed a guest list that includes Hollywood greats like Marlon Brando and Audrey Hepburn as well as world figures like the Queen, Princess Diana, George W. Bush and the Dalai Lama.

The hotel's gm Craig Reaume recounted tales from the hotel's past and paid tribute to long-standing staff including Frenchman Claude Stein who has been an institution in the Garden Court restaurant for



more than 40 years.

"We're very proud of this hotel's unique history," Reaume said.

"A significant part of our history is our people, who make this more than bricks and

mortar," he said.

Last night's ballroom soiree included champagne from Veuve Clicquot and a performance by *My Fair Lady* singer Mark Vincent.

The menu was a showcase of culinary highlights from past decades, while a centrepiece birthday cake stood 1.3 metres tall beneath a 1.4 metre gold-gilded chandelier.

Pictured at the event are host Melissa Doyle with gm Craig Reaume, and, inset, the hotel's director of MICE sales Julie van

Kampen, AccorHotels director of sales for meetings and events Charlotte Gutte and the hotel's conference and events manager Emma McLean.



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

Crown Towers Perth opening

FOUR years in the making, the Crown Towers Perth has officially opened.

WA Premier and Tourism Minister Hon Colin Barnett was on hand to cut the ribbon last night, cementing the arrival of the city's newest hotel.

Barnett said with the opening of Crown Towers Perth and the development of the Perth Stadium and Elizabeth Quay, "the state was now well placed to increase the value of tourism".

ICC Sydney launches with Urban



THE International Convention Centre Sydney debuted its main theatre to the public for the very first time last night, with country artists Keith Urban and Carrie Underwood taking to the stage to entertain thousands of screaming fans as part of the ripCORD World Tour.

Urban - ever the charmer - gave fans exactly what they were looking for, playing a catalogue of his classics, and upon his closing number, giving one lucky fan an autographed guitar.



Nu Skin Korea picks Gold Coast

THE Gold Coast has secured the bid to host the Nu Skin Korea BDMS Success Trip in Apr 2018, bringing approximately 1,300 delegates to the seaside city.

The five-day incentive program comprises an educational forum and also provides the opportunity for the company's top independent distributors to experience some of the city's most iconic venues and attractions.

Commenting on the win, Gold Coast Business events director Anna Case said: "We're delighted to be selected as the host city for this important event and offer our full support to Nu Skin Korea to execute an inspiring and motivating incentive program".



BET releases promo video

BUSINESS Events Tasmania has created a new video highlighting all the reasons why event organisers and PCOs should pick the state to host their events.

"There's a lot to be said about Tasmania's great drawing power for deciding delegate attendance," said Stuard Nettlefold, ceo, Business Events Tasmania.

"This captivating video is certain to get delegates excited about coming to Tasmania."

CLICK HERE to view the vid.

15th December 2016



Explore the new ICC Sydney in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**

GAMES SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

A **4,000** strong security team, the largest seen in Australia this decade, has been appointed to ensure visitors heading to the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast stay safe during the event.

Employed by the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC), the taskforce comprises four specialist companies: MSS Security, Wilson Security, SecureCorp and SNP.

GOLDOC chief executive officer Mark Peters said he was confident the primary security contractors would provide effective, professional, friendly and helpful security services for all GC2018 participants and visitors.

"The security workforce model



has been carefully tailored to the needs of the Games to ensure we have considered global risks, local risks, past major event experience and the local environment, while also drawing on the strengths of our Australian security workforce," Peters said.

Most recruitment and training of security personnel will commence in 2017.

Museum Spaces website launch



MUSEUM Spaces has launched a new website which showcases an array of unique venues located within the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne Museum, Scienceworks and the Immigration Museum. Check it out **HERE**.



■ **AV1** has jumped on the bandwagon, this week sharing its very own mannequin challenge in celebration of the silly season.

The video is dedicated to "our fabulous clients, our unbelievable staff, our amazeballs crew and our rocking suppliers".

CLICK HERE to view.



Partner Up

The low down on tech in the events world



How to stretch your event budget

WHEN planning events you are usually required to adhere to a strict budget. Even huge events have had to be planned and executed with the budget in mind. These days, however, there are so many great ways you can get creative when planning an event that help you save money.

Some great ideas for planning events on a budget are:

Be flexible

Where possible, when choosing a date for your event, be flexible. Some venues might be able to offer a day of the week at a cheaper rate than another. The time of year can also determine costs sometimes, so consider working around peak seasons if you can.

Look for venues with reputable services

When choosing a venue, consider not only the room or space of the venue, but also the extra things you will need done for the event, and whether or not it can be provided within that venue.

Things such as catering, decor and audiovisual support are all services that a venue will have very reputable contacts for, so it's worth looking into this before deciding on your venue.

Use lighting to theme your event

Great lighting can be a cost effective and impactful way to theme your event. Some themes sound great in theory but can be very difficult to incorporate into an event without spending large amounts of money. Lighting can be inexpensive and one of the most effective ways of adding vibrancy and colour, creating a unique and impressive event experience.

Use technology

There is so much promotion that can be done online for your event that costs very little, or nothing at all! There's also a huge range of apps that can help in many ways with event planning such as ticket registrations or table seating arrangements.

Ryan Taylor is the Partner at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre 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



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