



Welcome to Oz?

THERE'S nothing like Australia may be our tourism catch cry



but there's nothing like visitors to Sydney who choose to take the carbon-friendly option and train it from the airport, only to find themselves in the morning crush hour.

The effort to get on an already crowded train is hardly the sort of welcome we had in mind - Jill.

IMEX Invitation

AUSAE is offering outbound conference organisers wishing to attend IMEX in Germany - 22nd to 24th May 2012 - the opportunity to be hosted.

Tony Steven, president of AuSAE the famil organiser which will take the 10 qualified participants, said IMEX can be a great opportunity to reward staff and network on the world stage.

"They will also be able to attend the new revamped "Associations Day" which is a mini Not for Profit sector conference," Steven said.

If accepted IMEX will host airfares, accommodation and some onground costs.

"Many times we find attendees end up developing close links with overseas organisations," he said; for more information or to discuss further call Tony Steven on 0409 219 368.

TAA urges MCEC extension

THE Victorian government is being urged by Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA); to support the "much needed" 12,500sqm extension of the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC), in the forthcoming State budget.

Citing the MCECs ability to generate a strong financial stimulus for Victoria, the extra construction related jobs it will create and its long term employment benefits, president of TAA (Vic branch), Peter Crinis, stated: "Melbourne hotels are both a partner and major beneficiary in this business generated".

He said the expansion would have a major economic impact on the hotel sector, and act as catalyst for many additional jobs, new hotel developments and refurbishment of existing hotels and help keep Melbourne's competitive position in events and tourism infrastructure."

He went on to say that attracting expos, exhibitions and business events is vitally important to Victoria's economy - with business events contributing \$1.2 billion.

"While Melbourne and Victoria have a great reputation in the conference and exhibition sector, our state cannot rest on its past successes, as MCEC's availability has reached capacity and it will miss out on new business and



larger exhibitions in the future.

"Expanding the MEC is essential to securing business events that require more space than presently available, as well as enabling multiple events to run concurrently, and will help us stay ahead of our competitors within Australia and the greater Asia-Pacific region who are also expanding," he added.

If approved by the state government in May 2012, the construction could commence in June 2013 and conclude around December 2016.

Virgin Atlantic winners

CONGRATULATIONS to Elyse Hebblewhite, Harvey World Travel Dapto and Louisa Debono, Cooper Grace Ward who have won a pampering gift pack of Cowshed skin products courtesy of Virgin Atlantic and **Business Events News**.

Sophie Ham, Adina Apartment Hotels; Dana Broekhuizen, Peter Rowland Catering Melbourne Museum and Shelly Page, The Events Authority are also lucky winners of our weekly competition spot taking home a copy of Richard Branson's newest book 'Screw Business as Usual'.

Business Events News readers are being given the chance to win a double pass to the new ghost tour of a haunted mansion in the historic Macarthur region courtesy of Visit Macarthur & The Crystal Shop in Camden - see **page 2**.

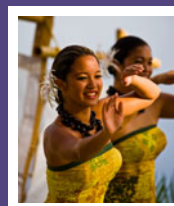
WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO HAWAII



During April and May, **Business Events News** is giving one lucky reader the chance a win an amazing holiday for two people to Hawaii, courtesy of **Hawaii Tourism, Hawaiian Airlines** and **The Kahala Hotel and Resort**.

The prize includes Hawaiian Airlines return airfares from Sydney to Honolulu, and five nights accommodation in an Ocean View Room at The Kahala Hotel and Resort.

Over 6 weeks, we will feature a different question in every **Business Events News** issue. There will be 15 questions in total, which will also be posted on our website. At the end of the month the subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this fantastic holiday to Hawaii.



Hawaii is home to six main islands providing six uniquely special meeting experiences. What are the six main islands?

Hint! Visit www.businessaloha.com

Email your answers to: hawaii@businessesnews.com.au

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business events news

2nd April 2012



LOCK up the kids...

The *Courier Mail* reports that police were called after two children aged between three and eight from the same family repeatedly disobeyed orders by the captain and flight attendants to stop running in the aisles and to fasten their seat belts on a plane.

They were travelling with their parents on an Alaskan Airlines operated SkyWest flight from Long Beach to Portland, US.

When the plane landed in Portland, police came on board to lecture the family on airline safety and regulations.

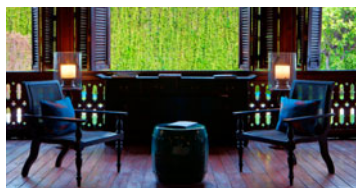
Dest. Asia set to tee off

BOB Guy and the Destination Asia team will be at the first Asia Golf Tourism Convention at The Mines Resort and Golf Club in Kuala Lumpur from 22-25 April, to showcase the latest golf and leisure offerings provided under the Destination Asia umbrella.

"We look forward to meeting valued clients at this unique event to share our specialist knowledge and information about the golf products we provide across 11 Asian countries," Guy said of the event which has been organised by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO), of which Destination Asia is a member.

They are the first DMC to be owned by its own employees, and operate from the company's head office in Bangkok.

Colonial style meetings



137 Pillars House in Chiang Mai, Thailand, which specialises in personalised meetings and events, say its modernised meeting facility, The Drawing Room, in an old colonial teak house, provides an ideal venue for a small private function or meeting.

Described as charming with heaps of atmosphere, the venue offers gourmet food and an extensive beverage selection which can be customised to suit any occasion.

IMEX America show

BUSINESS Events Australia has the prospectus available for those wishing to join the Australia stand at the second IMEX America tradeshow.

Being held in Las Vegas from 11-13 Sep, registration is now open to promote your business to more than 2,000 hosted buyers from America and beyond.

Applications close 27 April.

Email Alicia Hutchinson at - ahutchison@tourismaustralia.com.



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South Africa's chukka



SOUTH African Tourism hosted guests at the South African v Australia Polo match at the Windsor Polo Club on Saturday.

The weather was stunning with guests enjoying a taste of

South African sunshine, entertainment and two exciting Polo matches.

Pictured above the South African Colts team is being congratulated by the South African Tourism team: Eric Lewanavanua, Sarah Hoyland, Jacqui Walshe and Lalie Ngozi.

Hospitality conf debut

REGISTRATION opened today for the first Australian Hospitality Conference (AHA).

Convened by the Tasmanian Hospitality Association (THA) to coincide with their National Awards for Excellence, it will be held in Hobart, 3-5 Sep.

General manager of the THA, Steve Old, said the theme for the conference being staged at Wrest Point is: 'Improving profitability in your changing world.'

"The chance to use the AHA's National Awards for Excellence as a platform to convene a national conference in Hobart was too good an opportunity to pass up," he said.

In a bid to attract in excess of 250 senior representatives from the Australian hospitality industry, the conference will feature high profile international, national and local presenters.

"There are many tourism conferences and summits across Australia, but our conference will be the only one of its kind because of its focus specifically on the hospitality industry."

An unforgettable party is being promised at MONA, while the event will also celebrate Hobart's finest restaurants and provide social and business opportunities for delegates - for details see hospitalityconference.com.au.

Do you scare easily?



This week, **Business Events News** is giving readers the chance to win a double pass to the new ghost tour of a haunted mansion in the historic Macarthur region courtesy of The Crystal Shop in Camden and Visit Macarthur.

New adults-only ghost tours have been launched at the historic and haunted convict-built homestead of Gledswood in the Macarthur region just one hour from the Sydney CBD. Ideal for groups, the 90-minute torchlight tours run every Friday night and end with a light supper at Gledswood's old cellar door to help brave, ghost-busting souls calm their nerves.

To win a ticket for the scary experience be the first to answer: comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

What can you possibly hear playing in the pet cemetery during the ghost tours?

Hint: thecrystalshop.com.au.

