



Truffled!

WHILE many of us may not know too much about truffles, let alone have eaten one, Canberra & Capital Region Truffle Festival, kicking off on 21 June, should put paid to that.

Sounds like a good excuse to build an event around with some of the best restaurants, wineries, bars, cafes, food markets and truffleries on board.

Imagine getting involved in activities such as truffle hunts, master classes and cooking demonstrations, led by esteemed chefs, truffle inspired menus, tasting sessions and educational truffle growing experiences and talks. It runs from 21 June-31 July.



Abu Dhabi is smoking!

ABU Dhabi has been chosen to host the 16th World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH), a triennial gathering of international advocacy, public policy and health research experts.

The WCTOH will mark its Middle East debut at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) in March 2015, when the five-day conference will convene 3,000 specialists from governmental and non-governmental organisations collaborating on medical, public health, and public policy agendas related to global tobacco control.

Fending off rival bids from seven other countries, HE Mubarak Al Muhairi, director general, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority said, "Our multi-faceted bid brought together so many attributes – from the UAE capital's prime geographical location, which is easily accessible to delegates, to its philanthropic promise to expand the international reach of the conference."

Details about the 16th WCTOH will be posted - as they become available - on the conference website: www.wctoh2015.org.

Pegasus acquires Six Senses

THE Bangkok-based ultra-luxury resort and spa business, Six Senses Resorts & Spas, in a binding agreement with one of the affiliates of Pegasus Capital Advisors L.P., a US-based private equity fund manager, has been acquired for an undisclosed sum.

Under the terms of the deal, expected to close in three months time, Pegasus will acquire all of the Six Senses and Evason branded resort and spa management contracts and related intellectual property rights and operate them under the new company.

Current president of Six Senses Bernhard Bohnenberger, will be continuing his role and heading the Six Senses' Bangkok office.

Craig Cogut, founder, Pegasus Capital Advisors said, "The brand has a great heritage, and we believe it is strongly positioned to grow.

"Going forward, the new Six Senses will be a debt-free company with committed capital for expansion into new and within existing international markets.

"We are confident that our president Bernhard Bohnenberger and our strong



management team will continue to build on its legacy as a recognised leader in luxury."

The Soneva brand and resorts, as well as the company's real estate assets and holdings, are not included in the transaction, and will continue to be led by Sonu Shivdasani, the former founder and CEO of Six Senses, who will serve as chairman and CEO and principal shareholder of The Soneva Group.

Brisbane mkt in China

TO ensure Brisbane Marketing is well positioned to take a piece of the sizeable Chinese incentive market, the organisation's Ashley Ng attended the recent Business Events Australia Showcase in Guangzhou last month.

As Brisbane is a growing incentive destination, the Convention Bureau team has a good understanding of the motivations and expectations of Chinese incentive planners.

The visit has resulted in Brisbane Marketing creating a range of experience rich 3-4 day incentive programs that offer the vital mix of Australian culture to Chinese clients.

A typical itinerary they say includes a Brisbane city experience, an excursion to the marine sanctuary of Moreton Bay and its idyllic islands, or the rustic charm of Brisbane's Scenic Rim.

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO HAWAII



During April and May, *Business Events News* is giving one lucky reader the chance to 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.



What is Hawaiian Airlines generous baggage allowance per person?

Hint! Visit www.hawaiianairlines.com.au

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

Click here for terms & conditions





SOUTHERN Germany has a new hotel - the notorious World War 11 prison Colditz.

Made famous in the 1955 film 'The Colditz Story', which tells of the exploits of Allied officers repeated breakout bids from the prison camp.

For just \$31 a night guests can stay in this Nazi castle where more than 30 prisoners escaped before US troops came to the rescue in 1945.

The hotel, configured as a youth hostel (adults welcome), has 161 beds installed in the guards & officers quarters, while meals are served in the canteen used by wartime staff.

Included is a three-hour tour of tunnels and hidden rooms used by the prisoners of war in ingenious escape attempts.

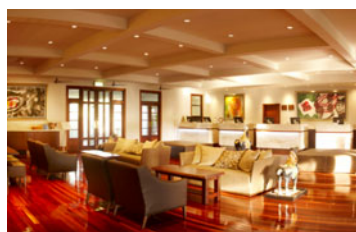
Cable Beach's free ride

AFTER upgrades in February, Cable Beach Club Resort & Spa with its enhanced conference and incentive space is offering conference & incentive organisers a free cocktail reception at the new Okari Deck and a free camel ride for each delegate.

The new deck which accommodates up to 70 guests for sunset cocktail receptions and improved catering facilities make the Ocean Pool ideal for outdoor dinners on a balmy night.

As part of the renovations there's a new look reception area and business centre in addition to free Wi-Fi throughout the resort.

Conference and incentive groups are offered a specially negotiated run of house rate on a mix of rooms and with direct flights from Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Darwin to Broome making access easy.



Discovering the Real Singapore



IN a challenge to dispel misconceptions that the real Singapore is not only about shopping malls on Orchard Road and chilli crab, the Singapore Tourist Board took 18 key MICE professionals from Australia and

New Zealand on a hosted, three day 'Discover the Real Singapore' MICE famil this month.

In keeping with the board's new 'Get Lost and find the real Singapore' campaign, the group visited a number of the destination's hidden gems, such as a cooking School on Pulau Ubin and newest offerings relevant to the MICE industry, including the Singapore Flyer breakfast experience.

The group were also lucky enough to undertake a hard hat tour of the new Gardens By the Bay project (**see p3**), with the first phase of this stunning creation scheduled to open on 29 June.

Pictured is the group at Marina Bay Sands' infinity pool set against Singapore's towering city backdrop.

Murder by design

AFTER reading Robert Kyosaki's 'Rich Dad Poor Dad', Peter Eedy, director of 'Host A Murder' realised that one of the best ways to teach people to interact with each other is through games.

"The most important team building games are those that bring out the human side of people," he said.

It was after observing people playing 'Host a Murder' that Eedy witnessed shy, introverted people become more extroverted when interacting in a group.

"Host A Murder is a game that allow teams to let go of their roles and titles in an equal, fun & open environment that encourages employees to relate to one another with respect," Eedy said.

"Putting people together to solve the murder means they have to exchange viewpoints and observations and hopefully come to an agreement as to who the murderer is," he added.

Playing a simple game, Eedy believes is something that can help a team become more harmonious and work together.

Switched off!

AS we reel from the news that electricity costs are set to rise again, the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, in a move designed to reduce power consumption and exhibition costs, has installed dedicated electricity outlets for cleaning in its main halls, enabling exhibition organisers to switch off all other power at night.

The new system was trialed at the Reed Gift Fair - the biggest trade show in Australia - during February and was instrumental in reducing power consumption at the event by an impressive 12%.

Centre ceo Ton van Amerongen said the new power reduction option would now be offered to all exhibition organisers.

"The latest initiative is part of our ongoing drive to reduce our carbon footprint and set the benchmark for the events industry."

THE LUCKY ONE

In celebration of the yet to be released movie The Lucky One, Warner Bros. Pictures, Village Roadshow



Pictures and **Business Events News** is giving readers the chance to win a double pass to the movie!

The Lucky One, starring teen heart throb Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling and Blythe Danner is based on the bestselling Nicholas Sparks novel which tells the story of a man whose brush with death lead him to the love of his life.

For your chance to win, be the first to answer the question to - comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

What is the release date for the movie in Australia?

Check the Classification





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LA Inc repositions

THE Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau has changed its name to the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board.

In unveiling the new name and new identity, Mark Liberman, president and CEO of Los Angeles Tourism said, "We spent a great deal of time discussing the merits of reframing our organisation's name to make it more consistent with our strategic goal of capturing more convention, meeting, and leisure tourism business.

"Our former name, LA INC., did not reference the industry that we serve, nor did it clearly delineate our Los Angeles geography to our growing number of international visitors," he added.

Los Angeles attracts 43 million visitors annually with a new record of 45m expected in 2012.

Buyers get the jump on S. Africa



FOLLOWING Meetings Africa in February, the annual Incentive Show supported by South African Tourism, a carefully selected group of buyers were hosted to a South Africa experience.

The three day event was hosted by Margi Jansma of Grosvenor Tours and Tracey Thomas, South African Airways, and began at the Palace Hotel at Sun City.

This was followed by a game drive in the Pilansberg National Park.

From Sun City they stayed in Sandton, visited other hotels &

held a farewell dinner in the Westcliffe Hotel.

Then it was on to Soweto and a flight to Cape Town.

Here they rode vintage motorcycles and visited Flase Bay on their way to the Cape of Good Hope.

Their last day in Franschoek was followed by a stay at Savanna Private Game Reserve before being chauffeur driven to Cape Town.

The group is **pictured** enjoying their time during a stop at Cape Point on the Cape of Good Hope.

GETTING TO KNOW: Gardens by the Bay

With Singapore's extraordinary 'Gardens by the Bay' project due to open 29 June, a vertical display of towering 'supertrees' and themed gardens, *BEN*, on a recent 'Discover the Real Singapore' famil, donned a hard hat for a sneak peek at this 21st century, botanical tour de force.

Presenting a unique alternative to conventional function spaces, the Gardens occupy 101 hectares of prime land in Singapore's new downtown and all within a walkway of the Marina Bay Sands.

Within this lush setting and verdant environment stand two arresting glass domed structures, further transforming the Singapore skyline.

The 1.2 hectare Flower Dome replicates the cool-dry Mediterranean climate and the 0.8 hectare Cloud Forest with exotic plants from the cool-moist Tropical Montane region will house a man-made mountain and waterfall to create the ambience of the tropical highlands.

We walk through the great expanse of the Flower Dome, gaze through the windows of the special function rooms with their sea facing outlook and marvel at the diversity of plants that surround us.

Here is a row of Baobabs, there olive trees and date palms while colourful swathes of exotic orchids and floral displays bombard the senses.

We crick our necks to take in this immense space with its vast domed ceiling and imagine the scope of events that can be created here with up to 1,000 people.

Beyond the domes, you enter a 'brave new world' of colossal man-made Supertrees over whose height spill vertical gardens of orchids, exotic ferns and vines.

The tallest Supertree contains an elevator that transports visitors to a subtending aerial walkway that links the lesser trees and at 050m above the ground contains a bistro and chill out bar.

Amid the Supertree Grove there is an immense space with standing room for up to 14,000 people or theatre-style seating for 4,000.

At their feet are the Horticultural themed Heritage Gardens where plants intricately linked to Singapore's culture show how the British chose Singapore as a trading post, or how the indigenous Malays lived in pre-colonial Singapore.

Circumnavigating the Gardens is the River of Life with its Dragonfly Lake and Kingfisher Lake. The lake also serves as a natural eco-filter, where water is cleansed by aquatic plants before flowing in to the Marina Reservoir.

