



## Open up to a new cultural experience at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

MALAYSIA boasts a rich heritage in traditional arts and crafts. Honed from its ethnic diversity, nature, spiritual beliefs and ancestral roots, these cultural practices not only tell a tale of her people, but shed light on the influences that have shaped the nation.

In keeping these traditions alive, the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (the Centre) offers eight not-to-be missed cultural experiences at all international and regional conferences held at the Centre.

Comprising *batik*-painting, basket-weaving, wood carving, *songket*-weaving, pewter smithing, henna painting and Chinese calligraphy presented to the haunting sounds of the *gamelan* (traditional Malay orchestra) – a cadence of bronze instruments only found in South East Asia and comprising metallophones, xylophones, drums and gongs, bamboo flutes, and bowed and plucked strings - the complimentary Cultural Showcase gives international visitors a peek into Malaysia's thriving cultural roots.

The experience is completed with a bird's eye view of modern Kuala Lumpur with 10 complimentary tickets to the Sky Bridge of the iconic PETRONAS Twin Towers.

For further information, visit - [klccconventioncentre.com](http://klccconventioncentre.com).

## AIME 2013 rescheduled

THE organisers of next year's Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo have today announced that next year's event will take place almost a month earlier than previously advised.

Initially planned for 19-20 March, Reed Travel Exhibitions says that the dates have been advised because exhibition space at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre became available in February, when the show is usually held.

The new dates are 26-27 February 2013, with AIME

director Sally de Swart saying the change had been "well received" after discussions with key buyers.

"February best suits the industry diary and allows AIME to remain the first meetings and incentives event on the year's calendar," she said.

MCEC ceo Karen Bolinger backed the move, saying AIME had been traditionally held in February since it was founded, "so we are delighted that the revised dates will ensure the show is consistent with previous years".

De Swart said that bookings are already being taken for space at the exhibition, with more than 50% of the floor space already committed.

For more information on AIME 2013 see [www.aime.com.au](http://www.aime.com.au).

## PARKROYAL's award

PARKROYAL Melbourne Airport has been named Best Airport Hotel Australia/Pacific at the 2012 World Airport Awards.

The hotel which provides a direct connection to the airport via a sheltered sky bridge, says they are proud to celebrate their first year of operations with the accolade since the hotel's rebranding to a PARKROYAL in April last year.

Winning the accolade in the 2012 World Airport Awards "is testament to the hotel's commitment to delivering PARKROYAL's brand promise through providing a modern, comfortable and supportive environment to all its guests," a statement said.

## The last Lucky One

CONGRATULATIONS to Laura Brookes, The Sebel & Citigate Albert Park Melbourne, for being the final winner of a double pass to The Lucky One movie courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures and Village Roadshow Pictures.

*Business Events News* readers will have the chance to win an overnight stay plus breakfast for two at the Novotel Northbeach Wollongong every issue this week. For details see **page 3**.

## BEN welcomes Ben

WE have another column written by

Ben Carnegie from inPlace Recruitment who will give readers the inside running on finding that perfect job.

We also have MEA head honcho Linda Gaunt who opens up on everything you wanted to know but were too afraid to ask her.

She fesses up to **BEN** that she currently owns 127 pairs of shoes, which if my memory serves me right, is down on what she said she had in her cupboard a few years back.

Still, who are we to judge when she says her shoe collection 'is how I relax', and everybody needs to relax at some point - *Jill*.



## 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 fares 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.



Where will Hawaiian Airlines start flying to in the USA from 4<sup>th</sup> June?

Hint! Visit [www.hawaiianairlines.com.au](http://www.hawaiianairlines.com.au)

Email your answers to: [hawaii@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:hawaii@businesseventsnews.com.au)

Click here for terms & conditions





**EVER** been irritated by receiving a steak that is not quite cooked the way you like it?

Captain Cook Restaurant at the Stamford Grand Hotel in Sydney has introduced menus on Apple iPads, enabling diners to relay any special meal requests directly to the kitchen via one of 15 interactive menus.

The order application also recommends an appropriate wine to match any meal.

**POKING** fun at the country's president, a South African airline is offering a free flight to any man with four wives.

The deal, inspired by VIP travellers with sizable spousal entourages, coincides with the marriage of President Jacob Zuma to his fourth wife.

## Lantern, lights the way

**CONSIDERING** the snow country this year?

The Lantern Property Group has added new Elevation Penthouse Apartments to its portfolio that are idea for small groups.

"Elevation offers large, luxurious penthouse apartments right in the heart of the Thredbo Village," said Ian Foster, gm of the Lantern Property Group which looks after Lantern Apartments, Lhotsky Apartments and Snow Stream Apartments amongst others.

"The penthouse apartments are great for a small group or family looking to share a Thredbo experience together," he said.

Featuring a private terrace with BBQ and panoramic views of the Thredbo mountains and valley, they come with a cosy gas fireplace, spa bath, covered parking, easy access, modern luxurious furnishings, and they're just a three minute walk from the Thredbo Village Centre.

"Right now we have special offers available with up to 30% off the nightly rates for 5 night stays or longer," Foster continued

Details are available online at - [lanternapartments.com.au](http://lanternapartments.com.au).

## Passage through India

**RUPESH K Rai**, TCI's associate vice president, Leisure Travel (Inbound) visited Australia recently to meet with the group's new representatives in Australia and NZ, the Unique Tourism Collection - and he also caught up with **BEN** on his visit.

Rai explained that TCI, a leader in the Indian Inbound tourism industry with 12 offices in India and seven worldwide, specialises in MICE travel, focusing on culturally rich experiences.

With TCI now a subsidiary of Thomas Cook, Rai said, "Australia is a market that offers business from both the bottom and top of the pyramid."

"We can offer phenomenal value at the base of the pyramid for US\$500 with an affordable seven night train journey that touches all the key parts of India at US\$4,000".

The most popular tour, he said is the Golden Triangle which takes in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, however he lamented that there are so many better places in India.

"The three top incentives, in my opinion are - gourmet, architecture, Bollywood and wildlife," he said, adding with a smile, "we cater to the masses and the classes."

In honour of the new alliance, TCI are offering **BEN** readers one free berth for every 15 paying cabins on the luxury Indian 'Maharaja - Deccan Odyssey, 'in addition to privately guided tours in exclusive vehicles, on the published tariff.

This privately managed luxury train which draws inspiration from the private railways and the stately saloons of the Royal families in India is described as, "an exquisite way to explore the Indian sub-continent."

Travelling at night, guests can awaken to a new destination

each day.

The train is equipped with an onboard spa, beauty parlour, gym, bar, library, business centre and round the clock butler service.



Services are provided by the internationally renowned Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces.

Contact: Unique Tourism Collection on 02 9211 6590.

## Sofitel Hanoi tempts

**BOOKERS** of high-volume room nights at the Sofitel Plaza Hanoi are being lured with trendy tech toys and luxurious rooms.

Meeting planners booking 50 to 150 room nights will take home Apple's iPod Touch Generation 4, and planners securing 30 to 50 room nights will receive a free one-night stay in a luxury room with breakfast for two.

Valid for events before 30 September, the SoConnected meeting offer rewards event planners with their choice of Apple's iPad 3G or iPhone 4 as the top prize for bookings of more than 150 room nights at the historic hotel.

Meanwhile, after coming online in a big way as the star of the hotel's re-launch party last month, the refreshed Plaza Ballroom is now one of the Hanoi's most modernised conferencing venues, with 420 square metres of vibrant sunset-hued carpet, elegant dark wood and leather paneling, polished marble walls and enormous sparkling chandeliers.

For reservations and inquiries email - [H3553-sb1@sofitel.com](mailto:H3553-sb1@sofitel.com).

## Ben on BEN inPlace RECRUITMENT

Each month Business Manager for inPlace Recruitment Ben Carnegie will be providing observations from the recruiter's perspective to help job hunters find the perfect job.

Ben has more than 15 years working in 5 star hotels and the MICE industry & has worked on some of Aust's biggest events.

April has proved to be the month that positions with event companies are really starting to come through.



There has been a significant increase in the number of event coordinators and event managers roles available, particularly across the NSW and Victorian markets.

One area that constantly proves a challenge for recruitment is finding experienced professionals in business development and sponsorship sales. If you have previous experience in this field, you are highly sought after!

I am often asked the question 'should I apply if I don't have the exact experience that is outlined in the job ad?'

If you have the skills required to perform the duties of the role and can demonstrate similar experience to what the company is asking for it is definitely worthwhile to apply.

You will however need to clearly show how you can transfer your knowledge and experience to this particular role.

Happy job hunting!

## The Fleming's pkg deal

**THE** Fleming, a chic 'urban lifestyle' hotel, located in a quiet side-street in Hong Kong's Wan Chai's business & entertainment district, has a 'Super Summer' package from HK\$1,180/night.

Just a five-minute stroll from the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, deals are also available on other room types, with the package available for stays from 01 Jun -31 Aug.



## Hawaii pre Pow Wow famil

A pre-Pow Wow famil run by Hawaii Tourism Oceania's new Australian MICE manager, Rebecca Wall included a two night stay at The Modern Honolulu and Kāhala Hotel and Resort.

The group of corporate planners did a site inspection of the Starwood Hotels and Resorts Waikiki properties followed by dinner at Azure Restaurant at the Royal Hawaiian.

Highlights of the famil included a tour of Pearl Harbor, USS



Missouri and the Pacific Aviation Museum, they also enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast at The Waikiki Beach Marriott and an Outrigger canoe ride thanks to Waikiki Beach Services.

**Pictured** back row from left are: Sherilyn Robinson from Hawaiian Airlines, Susan Brandie from Simply Great Ideas, Julia Barnard from This Space and Joanne Smythe from The Mayo Group Front row are: Rebecca Wall from Hawai'i Tourism Oceania, Justine Abood from CiEvents and Judy Sheehan from Quintessentially.

This photo was taken at dinner at Morimoto Restaurant Waikiki at The Modern Honolulu.

## Mirage meetings deal

**THE** Sheraton Mirage Resort and Spa Gold Coast is offering a group deal following the completion of its \$20million refurb of the beachfront resort.

The celebration group offer is priced from \$240 per room per night and includes free breakfast for two people.

As an added bonus you can choose from either free internet in guest rooms, a 2% rebate from the Master Bill (rooms only) or a bonus of 2,500 Starpoints for every 50 room nights booked when hosting a meeting at the Sheraton Mirage Resort and Spa Gold Coast before 31 May.

For more information visit - [sheraton.com/goldcoast](http://sheraton.com/goldcoast).

## Stay at Novotel Northbeach



This week, **Business Events News** is giving readers the chance to win one night accommodation in an Ocean View Balcony Room and buffet breakfast for two people courtesy of the Novotel Northbeach Wollongong.

Novotel Northbeach Wollongong is a 4.5 star luxury hotel located on the beach and is within easy walking distance of the city centre, shopping malls, cinemas, restaurants, sporting grounds and tourist attractions of the beautiful Illawarra region.

To win the one night stay be the first to answer the question to:

[comp@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:comp@businesseventsnews.com.au)

**How many function rooms are there at Novotel Wollongong Northbeach?**

Hint:[novotelnorthbeach.com.au](http://novotelnorthbeach.com.au).



## Face to Face with Linda Gaunt, ceo MEA



**Business Events News** caught up with Meetings and Events Australia's chief executive officer Linda Gaunt at last week's MEA conference in Sydney. Gaunt has been with the independent not for profit organisation since September 2005 and enjoys "association engagement and assisting people create and meet their career goals".

### What does your role entail?

As chief executive officer of MEA I oversee all areas of the association on a state and national basis. This includes staffing, corporate governance, membership benefits, retention and growth, education, professional development, networking, accreditation, recognition, the annual national conference and much more.

### What's the first thing you do when you get in the office, in the morning?

I visit the 'to do list' that I would have made the evening before.

### What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

The differing needs of each state as 'one size does not fit all'.

### How do you inspire your team?

I believe that my passion and drive is contagious and could inspire. I get in amongst the staff and show I am prepared to do what it takes.

### Dealing with new technology - bonus or headache?

Both... It is pointless putting it in the *too hard basket* as it won't go away and you get behind. I refuse to be frightened of it and will continually remain inquisitive.

### What would you be doing if you weren't ceo of MEA?

I would be ceo of another association. I really enjoy the challenges of association management.

### Who has inspired you?

My grandmother. An amazing woman years ahead of her time who taught me that there are no prizes for second! I don't necessarily agree but she was an inspirational woman.

### How do you relax?

Taking my car for long drives, arguing with my GPS, by shopping anywhere but a supermarket and burning fragrant candles at home.

### What makes a great conference?

Understanding who your audience is, leaving nothing to chance, being realistic in what you can achieve and not creating false expectations.

### What is the most inspiring event you have been involved in?

The American Society of Association Executives.

### How many conferences have you attended in the last 12 months?

1 international and 2 domestic and our fabulous MEA Conference.

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