



Centre Stories

I AM sure I am not alone in being hesitant to stand 'bare

faced' in front of a camera and commit myself to YouTube eternity.



However, working with the team at the SCEC on their *Centre Stories* (page 1) was a lot of fun and indeed an honour to be included.

I relished the opportunity to be part of this commemorative project, which will no doubt become an historic document of a Centre that has been a large part of many of our lives.

I urge you to share your stories next week at ABEE - and don't forget to check out my effort at businesseventsnews.com.au.

Let me know what you think on jill@businesseventsnews.com.au.

Staging's winning way

STAGING Connections is inviting visitors to ABEE next week, 15-16 August, to come and say hi to the team on stand J245, where they are showing off the latest event styling and design techniques and where guests have the chance to win a plasma screen and an iPad.

They'll also be challenging event planners to think differently with their new webcasting platform and its ability to engage audiences from afar.

"Staging Connections has been reinvigorated over the past few months and we're excited to present our brand new look and vision.

"Sponsoring the showcase and the co-located Australian Business Events Expo, the team will be providing all audio visual services to both shows, in support of their sister company and organiser of the shows, Exhibitions and Trade Fairs (ETF)," said Fiona Pascoe, general manager sales.

Telling tales on the SCEC



DRAW on your memories, tell your story and trumpet your success at the Australian Business Events Expo (ABEE) this month when the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre (the Centre) ramps up its plans in celebration of their 25th anniversary next year, via a video commemoration project known as *Centre Stories*.

The Centre is inviting supporters from across the events industry to join this landmark video project.

It's open to anyone with an attachment to the Centre and the Australian events industry, including the venue's clients, suppliers and stakeholders.

Visitors are asked to share their favourite experiences at the venue with a video crew who will be on the ABEE stand.

They ask that you bring with you your most memorable events, greatest successes, funny tales and biggest achievements.

The best storyteller selected at the end of production will win a prize including two tickets to the performance of their choice at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, an overnight stay at the Novotel

Best at Kew

IN the heart of Melbourne's Kew, the newly opened Best Western Premier Hotel 115 Kew has launched its four conference and event spaces.

Conference and catering packages start from \$70 per person per day, with the largest of the four rooms accommodating 220 delegates cocktail style.

See sales@bestwesternkew.com.au.

Darling Harbour and lunch at the Centre's Bayside Lounge.

To launch the project, we were honoured when *Business Events News* editor Jill Varley was invited to share some of her own memories in a pilot video.

To view the video click on the logo at right or see businesseventsnews.com.au.



The Centre, which opened during the Australian bicentenary in 1988, will be celebrating its silver anniversary throughout 2013.

Centre chief executive Ton van Amerongen said the video project at ABEE is just the first of many initiatives designed to create excitement around next year's busy schedule of conferences, incentives and exhibitions.

"In almost a quarter century of operation, the Centre has been a pioneer in the Australian events industry and has had a major role in putting Sydney on the world stage," van Amerongen said.

"As Sydney looks to the future of its events industry, we want to take this opportunity to record some of the best memories from what we've already achieved and help inspire further progress."

van Amerongen said 2013 would be one of the busiest years on record for the Centre in the lead-up to its redevelopment in 2014.

"It's not just business as usual at the Centre, its business better-than-ever," he said.

To take part in the Centre Stories project, visit the Centre's stand (E20) between 11am and 3pm at the Australian Business Events Expo.

Krieger joins ETF

KAREN

Krieger has been named as the new Event Director and portfolio lead for the upcoming Australian



Business Events Expo and the co-located Sydney's Event Showcase which take place 15-16 Aug.

Krieger returns from the UK to take up the role, with ten years experience in managing B2B trade shows, large scale exhibitions, ecommerce sites and mobile applications both in Australia and abroad.

Krieger will also lead the team to Entech later in the year.

Rent a Resort For Exclusive Events



Club Med
GROUPS & INCENTIVES



crumbs!

AFRICA, South America and Antarctica have never hosted an Olympics but that will change in 2016, when Rio de Janeiro, in South America, hosts the next Games.

It will be just the third in the southern hemisphere (the first outside of Australia), and the first in a lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) country.

UK good to go

VISIT Britain report that the price of hotels has dropped significantly from those quoted earlier in the year for Olympic Games visitors.

Even the queues at major attractions like the London Eye and the Tower of London are shorter than normal with thousands enjoying the sports.

London hotels were reported to be just under 85% full last week, on par they say with expectations for this time of year.

This means there are still several thousand hotel and hostel rooms available, many offering great late booking deals.

On the QT

THE opening of QT Sydney hotel in September, set above two of Sydney's grandest and most prominent historical buildings - the State Theatre and Gowings on Market and George Streets, will make it the only Sydney hotel to be a member of Design Hotels.

Gushing with old world style, with a thoroughly restored exterior, the interior of the building will embrace new technology, distinctive art mediums and cutting edge design.

The bold design of the hotel is offset by the historical features of the building.

The QT Sydney will feature a unique designer space that celebrates an "eclectic mix of quirky artefacts, bespoke furniture, graphics and a daring use of colour and art".

TA's biz events Prospectus

BUSINESS Events Australia has released its 2012/13 Business Events Marketing Prospectus.

A range of marketing and trade programs in the international business events market, targeting corporate meetings, incentives and association buyers.

Andrew McEvoy, managing director, Tourism Australia said the main purpose of the document is to encourage the industry to join in a collective "One Voice" approach, presenting a compelling Australian story in conjunction with State and Territory convention bureaux.

"Tourism Australia will focus on the best growth opportunities for Australia and investing where we see the best returns.

"This competitive mindset is at the heart of our thinking as we work towards our industry's Tourism 2020 goal to increase overnight tourism expenditure to as much as A\$140 billion by the end of the decade.

"We believe the business events sector has the potential to contribute up to A\$16 billion of this total," he said.

"While Asia is leading the charge in terms of growth - and is a key focus for us in terms of the

allocation of our resources - our traditional Western markets of the United Kingdom and United States will continue to deliver consistent business to Australia.

"New Zealand remains our largest inbound business events market and a core focus of our marketing programs," he added.

To download the prospectus go to businessevents.australia.com or **CLICK HERE**.

Vale Richard (Dick) Smith

ONE of the icons of Fiji's tourism industry and philanthropist Richard (Dick) Sydney Smith died late last month, aged 81.

It was Smith's early interest in the Fiji islands that provided the catalyst that sparked development and transformed the Mamanucas into a hub of tourism activities.

The founding father of Fiji's tourism industry, after opening a number of well known resorts he chose to be at Musket Cove - casually known as Dick's Place, a resort he built on Malolo Lailai.

Resort representation

EVENT planners wanting venues for meetings or conferences in Asia should contact the newly formed Complete Travel Marketing, which has just been appointed to represent two major hotel groups in the region.

Complete Travel Marketing is headed up by Charlie Ridout and Jonatham Millburn, both ex Randall Marketing, who have a combined 40 years experience in the global travel industry.

The company is now the Australian and NZ representative for Centara Hotels and Resorts, which operates 55 deluxe and first class resorts across Thailand, the Maldives, Vietnam, Bali, Sri Lanka, Mauritius & the Philippines.

Complete Travel Marketing also represents Malaysia's Berjaya Hotels & Resorts - for details email charlie@ctmarketing.com.au.

Queenstown makeover

STARTING from September, the Heritage Queenstown's forest wing will be the first section of the hotel to undergo a makeover.

This will be followed by the lakeside wing and after that the waterfall wing.

All deluxe rooms and suites are to be transformed with new furniture including sofas, tub chairs and desks as well as wall coverings, art work and entertainment systems.

"We know we offer one of the best alpine settings for a conference and have a state of the art conference centre, so we are very excited to have fresh new rooms and suites to complement the experience," said gm Carey Norton.

The six Mandarins

THE Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group has announced six internal general manager appointments.

These include Paul Jones who has been appointed gm, Mandarin Oriental, Taipei; Christian Hassing who succeeds Paul Jones as gm of Mandarin Oriental, Singapore who in addition takes up the appointment of area vp, operations.

Anthony Costa will succeed Christian Hassing as gm of Mandarin Oriental Tokyo; Greg Liddell will succeed Anthony Costa as gm of The Landmark Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong; Andrew Abram will succeed Greg Liddell as gm of Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi, Chiang Mai and finally, Mark Bradford, gm of Mandarin Oriental, Manila, will succeed Andrew Abram as gm of Mandarin Oriental, Jakarta.



This week, **Business Events News** is giving readers the chance to win overnight accommodation for two in a Superior Resort room including full buffet breakfast, courtesy of Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort.

The Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort offers a beachfront location and is only an hour's flight from Sydney or Brisbane. The hotel offers 170 rooms and conference facilities to hold up to 800 people.

Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort is an ideal venue for your next conference or incentive group.

To win be the first to email your answer the following question to comp@businessnews.com.au.

How many kilometres is Coffs Harbour from the Resort?

Hint: pacificbayresort.com.au

Terms and conditions apply





IHG'S unique program

SIX Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander students from Walgett (north-west NSW) and Albury (far south-west NSW) recently took



part in a unique work experience program at three of InterContinental Hotels Groups (IHG) major Sydney hotels – including Holiday Inn Potts Point, Holiday Inn Sydney Airport and Crowne Plaza Cooee Beach.

The senior students, part of the state's Country Rugby League (CRL) program, where they study business services as part of their Higher School Certificate, spent three days experiencing a variety of hotel departments including food and beverage, house keeping and reception, at each of the properties.

As part of this course, the year

11 and 12 students also assist with organising state Rugby League events to help bolster their business and hospitality experience and ultimately garner an accredited Business Services Certificate.

The first time CRL has worked with a hotel or international organisation, the partnership is an extension of IHG's comprehensive national Reconciliation Action Plan – first introduced to the hotel industry in 2010.

This is in addition to the creation of an IHG scholarship program with Bond University and establishment of IHG's leadership development program for indigenous employees and employees who have come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Bishop returns

THE Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has welcomed its new general manager, Club Melbourne Ambassador Program, Suzana Bishop.



Suzana who returns to the MCEC team from MCI Australia, where she oversaw the strategic direction of the Australian PCO division as practice leader Institutional Division, has more than ten years' experience in the events and hospitality industry, specialising in business development, sales, event planning and marketing.

Involving members

AN enthusiastic turnout of members and stakeholders attended the Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) board meeting and a series of round table and networking events at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) last week.



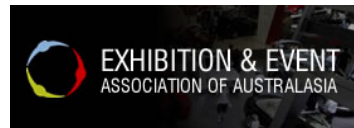
The meeting follows similar ones held in Adelaide and Perth as part of the EEAA's focus on connecting with members around Australia and discussing issues that impact upon member businesses.

With the BCEC hosting the G20 Conference in 2014, EEAA president Matthew Pearce urged members to become more involved in the Association and support the development of the Market Monitor to ensure a true picture of the Queensland industry could be built over time.

"Winning the G20 Conference is further evidence that Brisbane is a global player in the exhibition and events market and the Queensland industry needs to be strongly represented in the Association," said Pearce.

EEAA general manager Joyce DiMascio said after the meeting that the ideas generated from the member round table were extremely valuable.

"Getting this input from the people at the coal face is critical to the work we do on behalf of our membership," said DiMascio.



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Visit BEN at ABEE

AS well as reporting on all the goings-on at next week's Australian



Business Events Expo in Sydney, **Business Events News** will also be one of the exhibitors.

We'll be showcasing **BEN** and inviting even more of the industry to subscribe to what's becoming the indispensable way to keep up with what's going on.

Please drop in at our stand C31 and say hello - we'd love to get your feedback and maybe even take your photo to feature on our Facebook page and in a special ABEE issue of **BEN**.

AHICE conference

IF you want to know how the new Christchurch Convention Centre and the redevelopment of the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre and Sydney Entertainment Centre will affect your business and the subsequent affect on the industry, then register for the AHICE (Australasia Hotel Industry Conference & Exhibition) on 17th October at the Swissotel Sydney.

Guest speakers will include Tim Hunter, Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism chief executive, providing the latest update on Christchurch's new convention centre.

Hunter says the new convention centre will form the core of Christchurch's tourism and hospitality sector and to be a catalyst for further hospitality-related investment.

Another speaker, Lyn Lewis Smith, ceo of Business Events NSW will be updating attendees on the impact the redevelopment of the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre and Sydney Entertainment Centre will have on the industry.

See www.ahice.com.au.