



Mabuhay!

THE annual Philippine food festival, *Flavours of the Philippines*, held last night and hosted by Philippine Airlines, the Philippine Department of Tourism, San Miguel & The Grace hotel was quite a gala occasion.



The event, attended by Philippine Consul General Anne Jalando-on Louis, featured food created by four Filipino chefs and led by celebrated Manila chef Fernando Aracama who will create Filipino menus for Philippine Airlines.

Consuelo Garcia Jones, Philippine Tourisme Attache, Aust & NZ, commented that, "Filipinos' live to eat and we think the best way to promote our destination is to eat the food."

Which, we did with gusto.

Brett MacDougall, Philippines Airlines gm said the new culinary project coincides with the deployment of the carrier's flagship, the B777-300ER, on all flights from Sydney & Melbourne.

The food festival runs at The Grace until 26 August - Jill.



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Pictured is Mark Gamble from The Events Authority with Spice Girl Mel B

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EIBTM gets interactive

AN interactive lounge where visitors have the opportunity to contribute their thoughts on important issues in business events to an ideas wall, "New Ideas for Business Events" will be an extra feature in an interactive lounge at this year's EIBTM in Barcelona.

The new Business Travel Pavilion is a direct result of post research following last year's Expo, which will extend the show profile beyond the meetings and events industry to incorporate business travel with a specialist exhibitor pavilion on the show floor and a stream of dedicated education sessions provided by the Association for Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE).

The Pavilion will provide a dedicated meeting area for exhibitors to showcase their products to visitors and Hosted Buyers with a responsibility and proven budgets for corporate and business travel, plus there will be bite-size education sessions within the same area that will be



free to attend.

Graeme Barnett, Reed Travel Exhibitions, EIBTM event director commented, "The incorporation of Business Travel to EIBTM is a logical extension to the current show profile and we are very excited about the new possibilities and increased return on investment that it will deliver for our exhibitors already operating in this field, as well as introducing new specialist buyers and suppliers to the event".

EIBTM has also formed a strategic partnership with ACTE, who will deliver cutting edge education content with a dedicated seminar stream focused on professional corporate travel management for all of those involved in the Business Travel industry.

EIBTM 2012 takes place 27-29 November, with applications for Hosted Buyers now being taken at eibtm.com/hbreg.

Lake Tahoe idyll



THE blend of Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa and Casino's \$20 million renovation of the guestrooms, Sierra Café and the Spa Terrace Conference Center with its remarkable lake and mountain views, make for an unbeatable incentive destination – summer and winter.

Indoor and outdoor meeting facilities include the only lakeside ballroom in Tahoe with more than 4,645m² of function space.

The complete redesign of the property's 398 rooms has created a, contemporary and luxurious "Grand Lodge" style look.

Come and meet BEN

THE Star just happens to be the most happening place in town and the venue everyone wants to experience.

Now *Business Events News* is giving everyone who visits the BEN stand C31 at ABEE next week (15-16 August) the opportunity to win dinner for two, up to the incredible value of \$500, at one of The Star's line up of top restaurants.

Choose from Milanese inspired Balla, the sleek Sokyo and the traditional meets contemporary Australian grill at BLACK by ezard and bliss out!

We'd love to see you at ABEE so please call by at our stand - and see the **last page** of today's issue for some extra enticement!

Wolgan Valley winner

CONGRATS to Clare Condos, Arinex who is the lucky winner of last months *Business Events News* competition to Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa.

Condos has won a two night stay with a friend at the exclusive resort in a Heritage Suite plus breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, non alcoholic beverages with all meals and selected regional wines and beer with lunch and dinner as well as two outdoor activities each day.

Clare won the prize for her creative answer to: what makes the resort the perfect venue for the event.

Decadent facilities, within a striking environment, surrounded by Australian heritage, leading sustainability and conservation efforts in the region – the makings of a truly memorable event!

Rent a Resort For Exclusive Events



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crumbs!

BUYER beware!

Its well known that cosmetic surgery in Thailand and recuperating in a resort afterwards is one way to have your op and holiday too.

A little more unusual is the news of the newlywed couple who headed to Thailand on their honeymoon where the new bride elected to undergo liposuction.

Her adverse reaction to the procedure incurred extensive medical expenses for her hospitalisation.

Expenses that were declined as liposuction is an elective surgery and not a medical emergency.

FURTHERMORE, a couple on a hunting tour in North Queensland sought a quick escape when they felt they had become "the hunted" by their tour guide.

The insured's claim for the cancellation of the remainder of the tour was not paid as there was no evidence to indicate that they were in any danger.

Revealing Byron survey

WHETHER it's for a holiday, corporate retreat or conference, heading to a natural environment for a getaway is, according to a recent survey conducted on behalf of Byron at Byron Resort and Spa, conducive to our well being.

The survey revealed Australians are 60% more stressed than ever with over half acknowledging that holidays are crucial to mental wellbeing and 80% believing that holidaying in a natural environment is paramount to feeling relaxed and managing stress.

Lyn Parche, gm at The Byron at Byron Resort and Spa, explains; "With research showing that Australians need a break more than ever before, we work hard to ensure that our guests experience a relaxing break with nature right on their doorstep."

Complimentary daily yoga classes, a Wellness Centre with rainforest spa menus and a unique meditation walk that meanders along a boardwalk through the rainforest bring Byron's guests closer to nature.

Visit **BEN** at ABEE next week
Stand C31, SCEC 15-16 Aug 2012
Or contact us on
1300 799 220



Thailand hots up

TAKING business events up a notch - two of Thailand's coolest new hotels - the Pullman Bangkok Hotel G and Pullman Pattaya Hotel G are spicing up meetings and events with a refreshing blend of chic contemporary style and creative venues.

Funky restaurants, bars and parties are used to complement their alternative events experience, from gourmet burgers and Michelin-quality fine dining in Bangkok to Pattaya's liveliest beach club.

"In Bangkok we've set new benchmarks for cool and funky style while our fashionable Pattaya resort is a premier events venue with a relaxing tropical ambience - design and service that reflect our distinctive, peerless hospitality," said Guy Poujoulat, general manager of Pullman Bangkok Hotel G and GCP Hospitality director of operations for Thailand.

The Pullman Bangkok Hotel G in Bangkok's business and

entertainment district on Silom Road, has exclusive venues such as 'The Retreat' which offer well-equipped, light and airy meeting rooms while The Library' has four contemporary-styled rooms.

'Ballroom 38', is their largest venue, an elegant 411 sqm venue accommodating up to 350 guests on the 38th floor with spectacular views of the stunning Bangkok city skyline.

Beachside, the resort-style Pullman Pattaya Hotel G has its own private beach where their renowned Beach Club holds beach parties like no other.

Some of Pattaya's largest and most flexible event venues can be found here, including their grand 'Infinity Ballroom' with theatre capacity for 420, banqueting for 340 and cocktail receptions for up to 600.



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@businesseventsnews.com.au.

How many versatile conference and function rooms are at the resort?

Hint: pacificbayresort.com.au

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Wow factor After Dark

THE social highlight of the co-located exhibitions Sydney's Event Showcase and Australian Business Events Expo, Party After Dark, promises to be something special this year with event sponsor, Staging Connections providing a glamorous red carpet entry for attendees into Cargo Bar, King St Wharf.

The event's creative lighting provided by Staging Connections, will allow them to showcase their ability to turn imaginative concepts into realistic, engaging events via the use of integrated digital styling techniques.

As Jodie Richmond, ceo of Exhibitions and Trade Fairs said, "The synergy between the expo's foundation of event ideas and inspiration and the renewed vision of Staging Connections, meant their involvement in the industry's biggest networking event made perfect sense."

Staging Connections will be exhibiting at stand J24.

Debating the future

THE Hotel School Sydney, part of Southern Cross University, is to hold their next Hotel School Sydney Industry Futures Forum series debate, "Is Australian Tourism Lost in Transition or Beating the Odds?"

To be held at The Hotel School Sydney, 60 Phillip Street, Sydney on Monday 20 August, the distinguished panel will include: Geoff Dixon, chairman of Tourism Australia; Simon McGrath, chief operating officer of Accor Pacific; Dr Genevieve Lovell, THSS academic; Jenna Abramowitz, 3rd year Bachelor of Business in Hotel Management student with the moderator THSS academic Stephen Shaul.

Presenters will speak for seven minutes on the current state of Australian tourism, in the light of the current high dollar, minimal government and stakeholder investment, and speaking with one voice.



The Hotel School Sydney's Industry Futures Forum is held every semester with the aim of asking controversial questions, encouraging robust debate and highlighting issues of concern.

The school is part of Southern Cross University, and is a unique partnership with Mulpha Australia's portfolio of five star hotels and lifestyle properties which include Hayman Great Barrier Reef, Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove and of course InterContinental Sydney.



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ACC named finalist

ADELAIDE Convention Centre has been named as a finalist in the prestigious national Restaurant and Catering Australia Awards, for Australia's best Function/Convention Centre.

To be held in Brisbane in October, the winning of the state award at the South Australian Restaurant and Catering Awards for Excellence dinner last week, qualified the Centre for the award.



Adelaide Convention Centre chief executive Alec Gilbert said the Centre prided itself on providing guests with an intimate experience and making each guest feel special, whether dining at a function for 20 or 3000.

Malaysia's GainingEdge



EXPECT to hear more and learn of the exciting prospects Malaysia has to offer the meetings and incentive industry with the appointment by Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) of international business events industry specialists, GainingEdge as their sales and representatives for Australia/NZ.

On joining forces with MyCEB, Gary Grimmer, ceo of GainingEdge said, "GainingEdge is very excited to represent MyCEB on our home turf so that we can realise Malaysia's full potential as a business events destination".

Jackie Caldwell and Faye Langley, no strangers to the

business events industry are GainingEdge's go to team in Australia and New Zealand.

"MyCEB's decision to increase its presence internationally is to build on its current success," he said.

The year 2011 saw them providing support towards 198 international business events, including 130 conventions, 62 corporate meetings or incentives and six exhibitions.

These events accounted for 150,935 delegates with an estimated RM1 billion (AU\$344m) in economic impact.

ABOVE are the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau team from left: Edward Lim, Ping Ho, Faye Langley and Jackie Caldwell.

GETTING TO KNOW: Singapore

TRY telling people you plan to spend more than two days in Singapore and it will elicit comments such as, "Why would you spend that much time there? "There's not that much to see and do." The answer is clearly that they haven't been to Singapore in a long time.

So, forget the preconceived ideas because this is one happening and remarkably reinvented place. Derided once for pulling down so much of its ethnic heritage, today many of its colonial buildings are being restored, while reclaimed land is throwing up some of the world's most unique structures.

These, together with other new developments such as Resort World Sentosa, the eclectic mix of shopping along Orchard Road and an amazing restaurant and bar night scene, have created a destination 'on steroids.'

The newly opened Gardens by the Bay occupying 101 hectares of reclaimed land, behind the Marina Bay Sands complex, needs to be seen to be believed. The lush Gardens sprawl along 6kms of waterfront promenade, offering many unique locations to hold an event.

These include the Garden's central locale which has a surreal grove of colossal Supertrees and three enormous garden conservatories. Some can take up to 1,000 guests while others are perfect for private cocktail functions, product launches and company dinners. Much has changed too on Sentosa Island with the opening of the S\$6.59 billion Resorts World Sentosa where 5-star hotels include the newly refurbished Shangri-La Rasa Sentosa Resort.

Guests here are greeted with smiles and flowered leis and the feeling is very much a tropical island resort. Sentosa has more than 60 restaurants including the world's most decorated Michelin star chef's Joel Robuchon Restaurant, then there's Universal Studios Singapore with its Transformers The Ride and the Maritime Experiential Museum & Aquarium, among its many delights and distractions.

Here too are a versatile choice of venues both indoors and out able to host more than 35,000 delegates in 30 function rooms and 20 unique event venues.

Likewise, Marina Bay Sands, is a city within itself with its own dedicated convention centre, celebrity restaurants, shopping, museum and theatre. You'll need two days just to experience all it has to offer, including the three tower, 5-star hotel whose extraordinary Sands SkyPark, elevated 200 metres above the sea has a must experience infinity pool.

In Marina Bay you can hop on a Bumboat and explore the waterway's different quays and experience the highlife of the city or climb aboard the world's largest giant observation wheel - the Singapore Flyer and glimpse neighbouring Malaysia as you breakfast or hold a cocktail party in one of the roomy capsules.

Or for something completely different you can hold a private dinner with 900 nocturnal animals, as special lighting allows diners to have close encounters with the wildlife on Singapore Zoo's Night Safari.





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Stand C31
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