



## Going for gold!

WE finally came up winning a slew of medals in the London Olympics - and Arinex's Claire Condos won her own gold in our most enthusiastically sought after prize, Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa competition.



Now we are girding our loins for the onslaught of entries expected for our newest competition, with a prize from Kangaroo Island's fabulous Southern Ocean Lodge.

Can you just imagine yourself, sitting in your suite cantilevered above the island's rugged coastline, with its mesmerising Southern Ocean views?

To find out how see page 2 of today's issue - Jill.

## Rent a Resort For Exclusive Events



**Club Med**  
GROUPS & INCENTIVES

## Chinese congress in Sydney

IN a first for Sydney last week, the city played host to one of the world's leading Chinese-speaking insurance sector events, the 2012 Worldwide Chinese Life Insurance Congress.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Stoner said the choice of Sydney as host location for the Congress was a show of confidence in the ties between New South Wales and China.

"This is the first time this Congress has been held outside Asia, and the choice of Sydney as host city is a significant opportunity for Australian and Chinese businesses to build valuable connections, closer ties and greater mutual understanding," Stoner said.

"The Congress also represents an outstanding outcome for the efforts of Sydney's convention bureau, Business Events Sydney, which pursued this strategic opportunity since 2005 and was instrumental in securing the event."

Finance and insurance, he said is the biggest business sector in NSW, generating \$60 billion for the State's economy each year and providing jobs for 170,000 people, adding that the NSW Government was actively building trade and investment relationships with China.

"My visit to Shenzhen and Shanghai in June this year saw a number of strong outcomes including an agreement between the Commonwealth Bank and China UnionPay to enable 3.1 billion UnionPay cards to be accepted at 170,000 terminals across Australia," Stoner said.

CEO of Business Events Sydney Lyn Lewis-Smith said, "BESydney saw value in the opportunities for our local industry and WWCLIC delegates to share knowledge, deepen understanding and build



mutually beneficial relationships.

"Some of Australia's largest trading partners are Asian countries, with NSW attracting US\$10.8 billion of Chinese investment over the past six years," she said.

## ABEE - will you be there?

WITH just two working days until the Australian Business Events Expo opens on 15 Aug at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, event director Rowan Marchingo says there will be a strong presence of new offerings and returning exhibitors bringing new products, services, venues and ideas.

"What will be really obvious is Australia's business event offering being world class; the show floor is a good demonstration of the strength and diversity of the industry," he said.

**BEN** will be there too - see p4!

## Sydney weekender

IT was an eventful weekend in Sydney with the opening of Opera Australia's *South Pacific* at the Opera House on Saturday night and the Mudgee Food & Wine Festival at Balmoral Beach on Sunday.

Despite the wild weather, a capacity crowd attended the premiere of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* which has played to sold out houses on Broadway and London's West End.

Showing their flair, Aria Catering at Sydney Opera House, fed and watered the after party guests who filled the Northern Foyers with unfailing quantities and ease, all the more remarkable considering the numbers.

It was a crowd who gave the *South Pacific* cast that included Lisa McCune, Teddy Tahu Rhodes, Kate Ceberano and Eddie Perfect, a rousing standing ovation at curtain call.

*South Pacific* is running for just four weeks before moving to Melbourne, so get your skates on!

This is one unmissable production.

**MEANWHILE** at Balmoral Beach, with the weather only revealing patches of sunshine, the Mudgee Food & Wine Festival put on a brave show, attracting a reasonable crowd considering the conditions.

Weather wise, one of the smartest exhibitors was Parklands Resort & Conference Centre whose three-sided tent kept out the chill breezes, while Mudgee's award-winning wines, olive oils, pickles, cheese, wine jellies and honey were winners with the visitors.

Setting its sight on broadening their conference market, Parklands with five versatile meeting and function rooms, catering from ten to 1200 guests is one of the largest conference and function venues in the Central West of NSW.

Set among Mudgee's scenic hills and boutique wineries, Lianne Murphy Parklands bdm said, "Our location offers convenient access to all local attractions including Glen Willow Sports Complex, AREC and Mudgee Airport."





## Rock stars set for Cape Town



**THE** Australian Geoscience Council hosted a special cocktail party in Qld last week, attended by guests from the 34th International Geological Conference (IGC).

The event was in celebration of the IGC's next chapter which will be held in Cape Town in 2016.

IGC, whose conference was held in Brisbane, is the peak body for the professional and learned

societies in the resource sector.

The next congress is expected to attract an estimated 10,000 delegates and will be the first major business event to be hosted in the new and expanded Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC).

**Pictured** above from left are: Phuti Ngoepe, Lalie Ngozi and Prof Richard Viljoen.

## Tell 'em they're Daydreamin!

**BOOK** your next conference at Daydream Island Resort and Spa for three nights and get the fourth night free.

The Whitsundays resort, with a choice of five conference rooms and a range of partner programs, team building activities, workshops, dining options and special events, says the offer is valid on all room types with a minimum booking of 25 rooms.

Subject to availability, it is available on events booked between 01 August to 31 August 2013, with the event to be held between 01 February 2013 - 31 August 2013.

## Christchurch set for hotel reopenings



**GOOD** news for Christchurch with the earthquake-struck city's first centrally located hotel to reopen on 4 September - Accor's Ibis.

The 155 room property, set adjacent to the colourful Re:Start retail and cafe precinct, features a restaurant, bar and meeting room.

Progress on the new Latimer Hotel is also reportedly going well, with restaurant, bar and conference rooms to open in November.

The entire accommodation wing will be ready for guests from 2013.

Further, the Heritage Hotel's Old Government building with beautifully restored suites, bar and restaurant, is due to reopen in early 2013.

A significant upgrade and refurbishment has been announced to the Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport, taking it to Qualmark four-star rating.



**BEEKEEPERS** are buzzing over a plan to bring beehives to public buildings in Austria.

The "bee hotels" would be housed in landmarks such as the Vienna opera house, the Austrian Chancellor's office and at the headquarters of Austria's biggest daily newspaper, *Kronen Zeitung*.

It is hoped moving the bees to urban areas will help the insects to prosper.

**AND** one last Olympics snippet, now that the Games are over for another four years before the 2016 Rio de Janeiro event.

During the Montreal Olympics in 1976, the flame was extinguished by accident during a rainstorm.

An official quickly relit it with a cigarette lighter - to the stunned embarrassment of organisers, who ordered that the sacred flame had to be rekindled from a back-up of the original.

## Langham arrives in Syd

**SYDNEY's** Observatory Hotel in the historic Rocks area has been acquired by the Langham Hospitality Group and renamed The Langham, Sydney.

The property which is to undergo a progressive refurbishment to put it at the top of Sydney's luxury hospitality sector, now gives the hotel group a strategic position for brand expansion in Sydney.

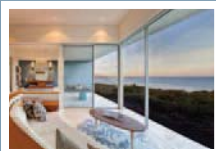
"The Langham represents a true legend in the history of luxury hotels since 1865," said Brett Butcher, ceo of Langham Hospitality Group.

"We are delighted to bring The Langham's enchanting hospitality to Sydney," he added.

"This acquisition signifies the group's plans for a long-term strategic expansion and be a major player in the quality end of the market in the Pacific region."

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Great Eagle Holdings, Langham currently has 29 member hotels open or in the pipeline across four continents.

## Win a luxury stay at Southern Ocean Lodge



During the months of August and September, **Business Events News** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing two-night stay at the exclusive Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island courtesy of **Baillie Lodges**.

The prize includes two-nights accommodation for two people in a Flinders Suite with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, open bar with premium wines and spirits, in-suite bar, signature experiences and return island airport transfers.

To be in the running simply answer the 17 questions and the final creative answer which will be featured in **BEN** on 21 September.

The person who answers ALL the questions and has the most creative response will win.

Email your answers to:

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

**Q1: Southern Ocean Lodge is located at \_\_\_\_\_ Bay on Kangaroo Island**

Hint: [www.southernoceanlodge.com.au](http://www.southernoceanlodge.com.au)

[Click here for Terms and Conditions](#)





# business events news

13th August 2012

## Radisson Chongqing

**THE** Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group has opened Radisson Blu Plaza Chongqing, the first



Radisson Blu hotel to be established in this emerging megacity with a population of more than 32 million.

“The opening of Radisson Blu Plaza Chongqing marks the steady growth of the Radisson Blu brand and Carlson Rezidor’s presence in China,” said Simon C. Barlow, president, Asia Pacific, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group.

Offering 308 rooms and suites with views of the city and the Yangtze River, the Radisson is conveniently located in the Nan’an District, close to Chongqing International Exhibition Centre.

The hotel also has its own extensive meeting facilities that include a pillar-less Grand Ballroom able to accommodate up to 1,000 people, in addition to conference rooms and a conference centre.

## Minor Group is major

**WITH** more than 80 properties across ten countries, the Minor Hotel Group (MHG) has announced the addition of a new property, the Bundarika Villas & Suites to its Phuket, Thailand portfolio.

The property at Layan Beach on Phuket’s north west coast features 77 villas and suites on 400 metres of secluded beach.

In addition the hotel group has five hectares of adjacent hillside land with panoramic views of the Andaman Sea, with plans to develop a high-end residential project.

With a total investment of approximately THB3 billion, which includes funds for a substantial refurbishment over the coming months, the property will be rebranded as Anantara Phuket Layan Resort & Spa in 2013.

Minor Hotel Group also has two upscale hotels on Mai Khao beach, namely Anantara Phuket Villas and JW Marriott Phuket, and the Turtle Village Shopping Plaza Phuket located adjacent to the two hotels.

In addition Anantara Vacation Club Phuket is scheduled to launch at the end of 2012.

Dillip Rajakarier, ceo Minor Hotel Group, commented, “We are very excited to announce this new addition to Minor’s portfolio and what will become a second Anantara resort in Phuket.

“Bundarika offers guests an exclusive retreat and is ideal to be rebranded to an Anantara next year after renovation and an operational improvement program,” he said.



## MyCEB wins three

**THE** Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) has announced that Malaysia is to host three upcoming international conferences this year and in the year 2015, with Kuala Lumpur chosen as the host city.

The conferences which will range from education, training and development to medical industries, include the East Asia Regional Council of Schools Leadership Conference (ELC) 2012 taking place from 1-4 November.

Held annually, the conference, with a confirmed attendance of 850 delegates, is estimated to generate US\$2.9m in economic impact for the country.

Two more conferences in 2015 are the 44th International Federation of Training and Development Organisations World Conference 2015 and Asia Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons 2015.

Commenting on Malaysia’s success in securing the events, Zulkefli Hj. Sharif, ceo of MyCEB said, “Hosting these conferences in Malaysia will give invaluable exposure and offer opportunities for knowledge sharing, engagement and collaboration between local professionals and their international counterparts.”

## Win a Southern Ocean Lodge experience

**BUSINESS Events News**, over the next six weeks, will again offer an amazing major prize this time to the luxurious Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island in South Australia courtesy of Baillie Lodges.

Following the conclusion of **Business Events News’** most successful competition to date, Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa, we are expecting our readers to be equally impressed by our new major competition which starts today (**see page 2**).

Baillie Lodges is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a two night stay for two people in a Flinders Suite with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily.

Also included is an open bar with premium wines and spirits, in-suite bar, signature experiences and return island airport transfers.

The prize can be used by the winner before 22 December and is valued at \$3960.



## Go Green in Germany

Germany is leading the way for “green meetings” as it represents a competitive edge for the country’s conference and events sector.

More than a quarter of the country’s event venues have already put systems in place to ensure their business is run sustainably.

500 advisors across the country are also being trained so they can share their knowledge on sustainability with Germany’s extensive range of venues.

Sustainability was identified as the future of the events industry at this year’s Meeting Experts Conference (Mexcon) in Berlin as well as “hybrid event management”, which refers to how conferences and conventions are evolving through the use of Web 2.0 and social media.

They are working to meet the challenge of connecting business and academic experts in whole new ways.

The Germany Travel Mart (GTM) was held earlier this year as a green event in Leipzig and focused on sustainability in business travel and MICE.

Germany hosts two thirds of the world’s flagship trade fair and has more than 6,000 quality event venues to choose from.

For more information on conferencing in Germany visit [www.germany.travel](http://www.germany.travel).

## Regal Furao Shandong

**THE** Shandong province in China is to get a new hotel – the Regal Furao Hotel, scheduled to open in the third quarter of 2015.

A member of the Regal Hotels International group, it will occupy a floor area of 36,000 sqm, and feature 300 well-appointed guestrooms.

An integral part of the Furao Times Square, a multi-purpose complex that comprises a commercial and financial centre, a shopping arcade and residential apartments, in Yantai, it is amongst the 14 approved coastal cities to be developed in China.

Yantai is described as one of the most robust cities in Shandong.



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