



Wendy's garden

SUNDAY in Sydney and we were at the Kirribilli Club in Lavender Bay for a Christmas lunch, also one of the best harbourside locations for a function.



With Wendy Whiteley's extraordinary, landscaped garden spilling down to the water nearby, we were keen to take a look.

Whiteley is the one-time wife of the famed artist Brett Whiteley and the garden created over 20 years out of a derelict public space, is where Brett and Arkie Whiteley's ashes are buried.

This beautiful sanctuary and secluded picnic spot with free entry, is an anthem to 20 years of loving restoration and we were lucky enough to meet and talk with Wendy outside her home which sits at the top of the garden.

Psst, don't tell too many people about the garden; let's just keep it between ourselves! - Jill.



JC Travel winner

CONGRATULATIONS to

Jennifer Robertson, Insolvency Practitioners Association who is the winner of a luxury spa weekend courtesy of JC Travel Professionals, La Sante Medi Spa and Crowne Plaza Norwest.

Robertson and a guest will be able to enjoy a 1.5 hour couple spa treatment at La Sante Medi Spa before checking into the Crowne Plaza Norwest and relaxing in a balcony room.

The prize also includes buffet breakfast and sparkling wine.

This week **BEN** is offering readers the chance to win a two night stay at Mercure Clear Mountain Lodge Spa and Vineyard with plenty of extras see **page 2** for more details.

SICEEP to 'blow away' MCEC

THE NSW Tourism Minister has declared the redeveloped Sydney Convention + Exhibition Centre (SCEC) will not just rival that of Victoria's prime conference venue, but "blow Melbourne out of the water" when it opens by 2017.

Speaking with **BEN**, George Souris - who is also the Minister for Major Events - referred to the size of the project as "humongous", enabling Sydney to offer greater competition to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

"It's going to be a long year, but we are building something twice the size of what we were initially planning," Souris said.

Facilities include what's billed as Australia's largest exhibition space, at 40,000sqm, and the country's biggest convention hall capacity for 10,000 people over four different spaces.

While the Sydney International Convention, Exhibition & Entertainment Precinct's design is still to be finalised, the Minister confirmed the project was likely to result in events being turned away during the rebuild stage.

Questioned if the substitute Glebe Island facility - along with other alternative venues across the city - would result in conferences being hosted intrastate, Souris said "I'd say so." "We're hoping to make sure we cover the bases, but there will be events that will say 'We'll be back in a years time'".

He said the SICEEP would take the better part of two years to construct, with the existing SCEC closing from Dec next year.

Classed for all intents and purposes as a 'pull down, start again' project, Souris believes the SICEEP design will integrate some of the existing halls of the SCEC during its redevelopment.

Within the project is a brand new build hotel for Sydney, sitting just below the 5-star standard.

Souris was unable to comment on which hotel group was linked

to the project, but confirmed it would not compete against The Star's '6-star', The Darling.

As detailed in the November update on the SICEEP website, a "hotel use" site is earmarked for the Northern Sector of the precinct near the water at the existing Convention Centre.

Two groups of companies have submitted bids to design, plan and operate the new facilities, Destination Sydney and VeNuSW.

Among VeNuSW's partners (via a joint venture with Plenary Group) is Hilton Worldwide.

Back in June, Hilton Worldwide announced plans to debut its DoubleTree by Hilton brand in the Australian market with a new build property in Karratha, WA, saying at the time the DoubleTree brand has potential growth prospects in Australasia.

Melbourne to host Business Events Week

MELBOURNE will host Australia's inaugural Business Events Week in February, Minister for Tourism and Major Events Louise Asher announced yesterday at the Exhibition & Event Association of Australasia conference.

The event, to be held from 25 Feb - 1 Mar, will provide activities that are designed to showcase the value of business events.

"Business events generate extensive economic wealth for the local, state and national economy. In Victoria alone, business events inject more than \$1.2b annually," Asher said.

Karen Bolinger, ceo Melbourne Convention & Visitors Bureau said the convention and visitors bureau's sole function is to bid for the right for Melbourne to host business events.

"Having a week dedicated to business events is a major coup for our industry and we firmly believe it will assist us in communicating how valuable the industry is to the Australian economy".

Good neighbor Byron

A freestanding house, adjacent to The Byron at Byron Resort and Spa, Domain 7 is now available for private and exclusive rent.

The two-storey home would be ideal as luxury conference/corporate retreat accommodation with its four bedrooms, plunge pool, private gardens and a separate guesthouse.

It features state of the art kitchen appliances, wi-fi internet access and original artworks, while large glass sliding doors open up to the outdoor entertaining area complete with built in BBQ and fireplace.

There's also a one bedroom pool house and ensuite.

Access to the Byron at Byron and all of its facilities can be arranged via a passkey - email vicky@byronbaysales.com.au.

SCEC's online program

THE Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre has launched a new online program that outlines the latest changes to work health and safety laws which aim to harmonise regulations across all states of Australia.

The new SCEC program also provides key work health and safety information to the Centre's many and varied clients.

The first online modules for organisers, exhibitors & performers as well as Centre contractors were introduced in November, with the Centre planning to launch a further two modules for agency staff and event-engaged contractors in December.

Under the new system, organisers, exhibitors and contractors will be able to complete a simple online health and safety induction, with the Centre maintaining a record of compliance for all future events.

Centre chief executive Ton van Amerongen said, "By bringing the induction online, we're aiming to save our clients and contractors a lot of time and improve efficiency all round."

To enrol in the courses, log on at www.inductee.com.au/scec.



crumbs!



IN a sterling effort to keep jet fuel costs as low as possible, American Airlines has redesigned their food and beverage carts and the new prototypes are said to be 12 pounds lighter.

The company claims that when multiplied across the 19,000 carts used in their fleet of aircraft, the lighter weight reduces jet fuel consumption by about 1.8 million gallons over the course of a year, which in turn, equates to nearly \$5 million a year in savings.

Other fuel-saving efforts AA is working on include lighter seats, bins and TV monitors, and more tugs to help move their planes to and from gates.

Passage to India

BOOK your Mumbai accommodation and event at Sofitel Mumbai BKC and avail yourself of Sofitel's InspiredMeetings exclusive package.

Book a minimum of 10 rooms and get the tenth room free of charge, book an event with a minimum of 10 delegates and the 10th person will be complimentary.

For reservations or enquiries, email - H6451-RE@sofitel.com.

... and the winner is

SHOULD you be confused by the Luxperience/LETE "who's got the Overseas Passenger Terminal" uncertainty for both events currently being held on 2-4 September 2013," Luxperience have confirmed that they do.

What's more buyers and sellers who register before 31 January to attend the event will be entered into a lucky draw to win a 16 night Zegrahm Expeditions Cruise of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea commencing 10 March 2013 in Singapore - valued at \$11,400.

Additionally, exhibitors confirming participation before 31 January will receive First Class Access to choose their preferred positioning on the show floor.

They will also receive a banner ad on the Luxperience buyer registration web page.

Luxperience ceo Helen Logas defined the buyer standards that Luxperience insists on.

"We are only interested in the the most experienced achievers, she said.

"We seek buyers with a proven track record in creating bespoke itineraries that include unique, authentic, unusual and out of the box travel for discerning clients."

Find out more info on the website at - www.luxperience.com.au/early-bird-registration.

Advertise in BEN

1 300 799 220

For details call us today or email:
advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au

Hamilton Island hits a hole in one



HAMILTON Island dazzled six corporate clients from Sydney and Melbourne as well as **BEN** last weekend during a two night fam.

Those lucky enough to attend the first Hamilton Island and Jetstar partnered educational were spoilt with perfect 29 degree weather, crystal clear aquamarine water, gourmet cuisine and luxury accommodation.

Jetstar's 177 all economy seat A320 aircraft took a mere two hours to reach Hamilton Island, the only Whitsunday Island to have its own commercial jet airport, direct from Sydney and three hours for the Melbourne guests.

The airline offers group fares for 10 or more people travelling together and allows organisers more flexibility with payment, free and unlimited name changes, no booking and service fees, 20kgs of baggage included, pooled luggage allowance, and exclusive support, as well as a dedicated email address groupsreservation@jetstar.com.

With the conference peak season coming to an end for this year, Hamilton Island boasts 120 events between June and November, up 20% year on year.

Group sizes commonly attending Hamilton Island vary from 100-200 people but up to 1000 people can be accommodated.

Hamilton's luxurious gated resort, qualia is popular for incentive groups and the Reef View Hotel is perfect for conference delegates.

The Hamilton Island events team offers plenty of support to conference organisers including theming, team building activities and location ideas.

Some options for events, meetings and conferences include the Hamilton Island Convention Centre, Yacht Club, The Outrigger, Bougainvillea Marquee, the main pool and many more picturesque locations overlooking Catseye Beach or Dent Passage.

The Convention Centre can accommodate up to 1000 people theatre style or it can be closed off to create a room size that is perfectly matched to the number in your group.

Located behind the Reef View Hotel the Centre offers a main stage, as well as a portable platform that can be rolled out.

Team building and activities include a dinner and Marina Village street parade and party, a Buggy Rally using golf carts for an "Amazing Race" style challenge, an afternoon at Whitehaven Beach, golf days at the championship golf course on Dent Island and so much more.

Pictured above on a stunning day at Hamilton Island Golf Course from left are: Carla Teixeira, Hamilton Island; Donna Gleeson, OnePath; Amanda Callaway, FC Business Solutions; Kerryn Gonsalves, Jetstar; Leisa Coppinger, Terumo; Lani Booth, Yahoo!7; Jade Henningsen, Lend Lease; Julie Romania, Esanda; and Chris Bailey, Hamilton Island Golf Club.

WIN a two night stay at Mercure Clear Mountain Lodge Spa and Vineyard



This week **BEN** is offering one reader the chance to stay at **Mercure Clear Mountain Lodge Spa & Vineyard** courtesy of Mercure.

Perched in cool, clear mountain air north of Brisbane, the Lodge enjoys sweeping views of the Glasshouse Mountains, CBD & Moreton Bay.

The prize includes a two night stay in a Spa Privilege room, breakfast for two, one 3 course dinner at Mandy's on the Mountain, late check out and much more.



To win tell us in 25 words or less what getting out of the city and having an event at Clear Mountain Lodge Spa & Vineyard would mean to your delegates

Email: comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

HINT! www.clearmountainlodge.com.au Click here for terms and conditions



Fuji Xerox's Daydream experience

THE Whitsundays continues to be a drawcard for corporate events, with Daydream Island Resort and Spa recently farewelling leading business and document management services enterprise, Fuji Xerox Australia after their successful annual Managing Director's High Achievers Club incentive.

The three-day event was a reward for a group of the top performing sales employees, agents and dealers selected by the Fuji Xerox's managing director for high achievement in the past six months.

MEANWHILE Vaughan Bullivant who has owned Daydream Island since 2000, has put the island up for sale as he signals his intention to retire.

Bullivant said the recent sales of Lindeman, Bedarra and Dunk

Islands suggested that there was strong investor interest.



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Ripple into these

TWO of Ripples stunningly positioned restaurants – Ripples at Chowder Bay (Mosman) and surfside Ripples Whale Beach, have a waterside solution for corporate Christmas functions.

Their Christmas package includes a cocktail on arrival, three course set menu, four hour beverage package, individually printed menus and return bus transfers from Sydney CBD for \$120 per person.

Valid in December only, Monday-Friday (lunch or dinner), for group bookings of 15 people or more, a minimum spend of \$2,000 per group, is required.

Contact: Ripples Chowder Bay chowderbay@ripplescafe.com.au or Ripples Whale Beach whalebeach@ripplescafe.com.au.

Alternatively, Aqua Dining has group gift vouchers valid for 12 months for lunch or dinner at any of the five Aqua Dining Group's waterfront venues.

Cairns, roping them in

THE world's first Challenge Ropes Course inside a wildlife immersion exhibit officially opened last Thursday in Cairns Wildlife Dome on the roof of the Pullman Reef Hotel Casino.

The new attraction ZOOM consists of 65 elements of crossings and ziplines, including one that takes participants directly over Goliath, a 4 metre crocodile.

On the eve of its unveiling, 10 players from Richmond Football Club took time out of their week long, pre-season training camp to experience the adrenalin highs of ZOOM for themselves.

In another first for Far North Queensland, AFL's Richmond Football Club chose Cairns for its pre-season training camp that saw a squad of 75 players, coaching staff and corporate members arrive in Cairns on Monday, 26 November.

The group remained in the region for a week, departing yesterday Tuesday, 4 December.

Singapore's newest icon

A new hotel scheduled to open at the end of the year in Singapore, the Parkroyal on Pickering, is not just head-turning in its design, it has already achieved through its sustainable project design and green efforts, the BCA Green Mark Platinum, Singapore's highest green rating, as well as the Solar Pioneer Award for its innovative solar energy system.



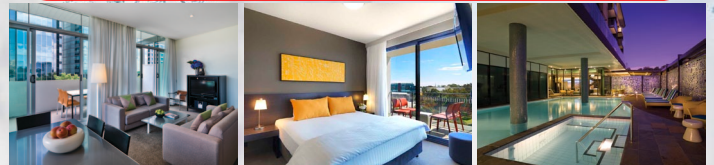
Festooned in an array of green features including lush sky gardens and cascading vertical greenery, the 367 room hotel-in-a-garden concept, incorporates energy-saving features throughout the property.

Catering for meetings, weddings and events from 12 to 500 and strategically located at the key gateways to Singapore's central business district, this unique

hotel has some 15,000 sq metres of lush gardens, waterfalls and planter walls, which constitutes more than twice the hotel's total land area.

Amongst other luxury features, a dedicated wellness floor set amidst landscaping and waterfalls, features a state-of-the-art fitness centre that overlooks the city, specially designed cabanas as chill-out spaces and a 300-metre garden walk.

Send in your Christmas photos & win a weekend with Toga Hotels - Events with BENefits!



Business Events News is offering its first ever Christmas photo competition in partnership with Toga Hotels.

Our good friends at Toga Hotels are asking you to send in your office/event Christmas party

photos over the next three weeks for your chance to win two night's accommodation for two adults in a Toga Hotel of your choice across Australia and New Zealand.

Pictured above is an example of some of the pictures we would love to see you send into us: Santa, Santa and Santa.

To enter email us your favourite Christmas event/party photo (including names of the people pictured) to: xmas@businessesnews.com.au



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