



business events news



Jill's wrap up

ON Friday, 1 February this year *Business Events News*

came into being, rapidly going on to become affectionately known as *BEN*.

11 months later, after being enthusiastically embraced by the industry, we can say *BEN* has truly arrived.

The first issue ran a full-page ad from one of our most enduring supporters, DMS, who were celebrating their 20th anniversary and also included stories on the Byron at Byron, Beachcomber Mauritius and Seychelles and the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre (SCEC).

In was the SCEC, whose 'grand design' for the future was featured in the first lead story.

The rest, as they say, is history.

May our joint histories be merry and bright and the New Year be one of unpannelled joy and success - Jill.



Glebe Island Expo winning tenderer

AS revealed in *BEN* Breaking News yesterday, Infrastructure NSW has announced *Sydney Harbour Expo@Glebe Island* as the winning tenderer to deliver and manage Glebe Island Expo.

Glebe Island Expo will operate during the three-year construction phase of the Darling Harbour, Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct (SICEEP).

Sydney Harbour Expo@Glebe Island is the company formed by leading event and equipment hire company, Pages and the Echo Entertainment Group.

Infrastructure NSW project director Tim Parker said Pages will be able to create a fully enclosed & fully serviced, marquee-style structure of 25,000sqm - almost able to replicate the current exhibition space at Darling Harbour.

"Previously, we asked tenderers for 15,000sqm of enclosed space, with the extra 10,000sqm to be available on a temporary basis for the larger shows," he said.

"The plan to have one large space undercover was developed in consultation with and enclosed by the major exhibition organisers that use the current facilities in Darling Harbour.

"It can be provided at the same cost to the NSW Government," he said.

The facility will have the ability to attract more than 500,000 visitors and generate more than \$100 million in economic benefit each year.

Also planned is a strong focus on public transport to Glebe Island Expo with shuttle services on event days - including ferries from Darling Harbour and buses from the Sydney CBD.

Welcoming the news, Joyce DiMascio, general manager of the



Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) said Pages had a proven ability to deliver a quality temporary infrastructure for major events and had the added bonus of designing and making their structures in Sydney.

"The space needed to deliver everything from the biggest to the smallest events is a most welcome outcome," she said.

EEAA president Matthew Pearce said "With the backing of the Echo Entertainment Group we have confidence that the delivery of hospitality services at the site will be well supported.

"The Pages Hire-led team was proactive in consulting with the industry in preparing their response to the Request For Proposal - this approach augurs well for the success of the site," he said.

EEAA board member and ceo of Reed Exhibitions, Debbie Evans said that Reed Exhibitions appreciates the efforts made by Pages Hire to understand the needs of the industry in developing the solution for Glebe Island Expo.

Similarly, Domenic Genua from The Sydney International Boat Show said, "Glebe Island Expo will complement our marina display very well."

In conclusion DiMascio said, "We close 2012 with greater clarity around the future of Darling Harbour and also around Glebe Island Expo."

BEN's last 2012 issue

TODAY is the last issue of *Business Events News* for 2012.

We have had a very successful first year promoting many great competitions, offering fantastic weekly and monthly prizes and meeting many great people in the industry at functions and lunches.

BEN will return as strong as ever in the new year with the first publication to be distributed on 9 January.

If you want to make yourself known to the events industry place an advert in one of the upcoming issues of *BEN*.

We are currently offering special deals between January and April when booked by 31 January.

To learn more about these deals or for a media kit email Chantel or Christie-Lee on advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au.

Otherwise email Jill with current news on what is happening in the MICE market to jill@businesseventsnews.com.au.

MEANWHILE today is your last chance to send in your Christmas party photos to xmas@businesseventsnews.com.au.

The winner, to be announced in January, will win a two night stay for two people in a Toga Hotel in either Australia or New Zealand.

See **page three** for more details.

Matsan joins GCCEC

CRISTINA Matsan with an integrated marketing background has been appointed as communications executive at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Matsan most recently worked as communications officer for global holiday giant RCI Pacific, and has managed public relations and member publications for the company.



Metro rises to the Ashes

WITH Australia set to battle England on home soil for the Ashes, with the first Test starting at The Gabba in Brisbane on 21 November next year and the fifth Test finishing in Sydney on 7 January, 2014, the five Test series is expected to be a boon for local tourism operators.

Metro Hotels' chief operating officer, George Bedwani, who estimates that 37,000 international visitors are heading to Australia for the Ashes Test series, said that Metro Hotels' in Perth, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney have started to receive bookings.

"Bookings are already extremely strong, especially group bookings, despite the series not commencing for another 12 months," he said.



business events news

21st December 2012



The team at BEN wishes you a very Merry Christmas & hopes to see you in the New Year



Jill, Bruce,

Chantel and Christie-Lee

Mantra's who dunnit?

THEY might be considered the perfect pairing for a MICE industry event - Agatha Christie's, 'The Mousetrap' & Mantra Hotels.

Continuing their partnerships with the Arts and Entertainment industry, the hotel group have joined with the acclaimed Diamond (60th) Anniversary Australasian Tour of the iconic play.

The Mousetrap's production team, cast and crew will make Mantra South Bank their home throughout the season as they did previously with Mantra on the Park in Melbourne and Mantra on Northbourne in Canberra during their seasons in the southern capitals.

As official accommodation partner, Mantra is offering Brisbane theatre-goers ticket and accommodation packages from \$241pp staying at Mantra South Bank or from \$180pp at Mantra on Queen – see mantra.com.au/themousetrap for details.

Sustainable Monaco

WORKING closely with the Convention Bureau & the Grimaldi Forum Monaco, the Monaco Tourist and Convention Authority has created a "Responsible Tourism" department entirely devoted to offering help, advice and information on "sustainable development for tourism."

As such Monaco Tourist and Convention Authority, in association with its partners in the tourist sector, has developed a one-day program with suggestions for green activities, demonstrating how the whole country has adopted this approach.

"MONACO.GREEN - A New Discovery" is a compilation of "Green" and organic offers from the Monegasque tourist sector.

It can act as an intermediary for the various touristic players involved in this approach, and also with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, which promotes sustainable development worldwide - www.visitmonaco.com/fr/Tourisme-responsable/Informations-utiles.

Volunteer win for Gold Coast

FOR a city that relies heavily on volunteer support for their multi-million dollar major events calendar, the Gold Coast fittingly won the bid to host

the 23rd International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) World Volunteer Conference and Youth Forum in 2014.

The successful bid by Volunteering Australia was announced in London last week.

Working closely with volunteer centres in Queensland, Volunteering Australia developed a strategy that bid selectors said exemplified the culture and spirit of inclusive volunteer practices, this coupled with the outstanding location tipped the scales in Australia's favour.

Gold Coast Tourism ceo Martin Winter says securing the IAVE World Volunteer Conference and Youth Forum is particularly timely in the lead up to the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

"Major events such as the 2018 Commonwealth Games spur billions in new tourism and city development, positively impacting jobs, infrastructure and the wealth of the community.

"The energy and passion of our burgeoning volunteer community makes a vital contribution to the successful delivery of these events."

Event Corp who worked with the Gold Coast Convention Bureau as part of the bid have been appointed as Volunteering Australia's pco to execute the staging.

Winter acknowledged the considerable benefits to be gained by the City as a host destination of an event so unique in the world of volunteering.

"The 1500 international delegates attending this six-day conference will bring in excess



of \$3 million to the city, further enhancing the Gold Coast's credibility as an international business events destination."

Since its inception in 1970, the World Conference has toured the globe; it was last hosted in Australia in 1986.

All a day's work, BCEC

THE Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre recorded one of its busiest December weekends on record recently.

The Centre's award winning kitchens were in overdrive with 9,000 dinner guests who used 180,000 items of table top equipment, 1,500 kilos of seafood, 15,000 freshly baked bread rolls, 60 tonnes of beverage stock, 200 chefs, 600 service staff and an heroic band of almost 200 stewards who worked in shifts manning the dishwashers for 48 hours straight.

What's more the 9,000 did not include daytime crowds of up to 3,000.

With 85 events on the Centre's December calendar, the weekend's peak activity was symptomatic of the Centre's frenetic agenda this year, which saw the hosting of 1,300 events and more than 730,000 people.

The Brisbane Centre said 2012 has been a momentous year for following the opening of their \$140 million expansion, BCEC on Grey Street.

It gives an indication of what the Centre can expect in 2013 and looking ahead to 2014 when Brisbane and the Centre host the G20 Leaders Summit.



crumbs!



WE owe this gem about the end of the world to The Huffpost's Eric Francis.

"Despite a number of recent setbacks, The End of the World was proceeding on schedule for 21 Dec, according to a long-standing plan previously known only to astrologers and people who ate a lot of mushrooms.

"The original proposal was set in motion 1,871,995 days ago by a tiny cabal of shaggy-haired coca-chewing aborigines with mathematical skills eminently superior to other local savages and all future civilizations.

"Speculation that The End might be preempted by global enlightenment, the New Age or a merger with the 5th dimension has turned out to be premature.

"The End will come as a relief to everyone who is in debt, regrets how apathetic they've been for so long, or who is envious of anyone young and successful.

Brisbane to host drug safety conference

THE Queensland Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is to host the 4th Int'l Global Drug Safety Conference and Exposition at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, from 14-16 October 2013.

The conference, with the theme *Revitalising Drug Safety – The Decade of the Patient*, will see Australian speakers presenting on a range of topics focussing on the rapidly changing environment of drug safety.

"That we were chosen to host this event is a very significant recognition of the high regard in which the work we are undertaking in Australia surrounding drug safety is held," said Queensland branch president of the PSA, Dr Lisa Nissen.

Government leaders, drug regulatory agencies, health and many other organisations are expected to participate in the significant event.

THE first internationally branded luxury hotel in more than two decades is scheduled to open in Wellington, in 2014.

The development will create the Sofitel Wellington, a NZ\$35 million project being constructed by property and hotel firm, CP Group, who also own Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour.

The 130-room hotel, Sofitel's third in New Zealand, is being developed out of the former post-modern, Apple & Pear Board office building, which will be stripped back and extra floors added.

"The development of the Sofitel will play a major role in further elevating Wellington's international profile," said Wouter de Graaf, area general manager Sofitel New Zealand. "It is a long time since a hotel development of this status and quality has been announced in



the national capital and it will help attract significant increases in tourism, business travel and conferences to the city."

Sofitel Wellington will feature extensive function and meeting rooms including a 120 square metre conference room and two smaller meeting rooms.

Hilton Residences open in Queenstown

JUST in time for the holiday season, the Hilton Queenstown has opened 42 one and two bedroom hotel residences with apartment style facilities.

Built to complement their existing facilities, the Hilton Lakeside Residences with elegant, open-plan spaces have a versatile design catering to the needs of both leisure and corporate visitors.

Andrew Nisbet, general manager, Hilton Queenstown, said, "I am thrilled that we are able to release these to the market in time for Christmas."

Positioned right on the lakefront, most of the north facing residences have panoramic views overlooking Lake Wakatipu.

The new development increases Hilton Queenstown's total inventory to 220 rooms, with the property ideally suited to executive retreats, corporate groups, sports teams, and leisure travellers and are especially targeted the family, golf and ski markets.

Visit Queenstown.hilton.com to view special opening rates.

NSW government accommodation plan

THE release of an accommodation supply plan being co-ordinated directly by the NSW State Government has been welcomed by the tourism and hospitality industry as a key plank of the Visitor Economy Taskforce Report (VET).

"We are very pleased that the NSW Government has supported the majority of the recommendations in the report and has taken a considered, whole of government approach in their response," TAA (NSW) director Carol Giuseppi said.

"In particular we welcome the NSW Government's commitment to delivering an Accommodation Supply Plan.

"We have strongly advocated the need to monitor the hotel market in Sydney in order to better understand the development cycle and how best to encourage a long-term, sustainable operating environment for hotels."

Giuseppi said there had been considerable investment in supply over the last year with the opening of the Star's 171 room The Darling - the first purpose-built five-star hotel since the Olympics - the 196 room QT Sydney and an additional 52 rooms at Four Points by Sheraton.

"The past couple of years have also seen up to \$100m spent on refurbishments in the Sydney market," Giuseppi said.

"There are also a number of planned increases to supply with the opening of the 317 room Rydges Sydney Airport mid next year, the 170 room Adina Royal Randwick racecourse in 2014 and the up to 900 room hotel at Darling Harbour.

"Our concern remains that supply is targeted to the particular need.

"Currently the Sydney market is undersupplied with 3 star accommodation - only 21% of the market is currently 3 star, which limits the ability to meet the needs of some of the more budget conscious travellers," she added.

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 & New Zealand.

Pictured above is the CGW Marketing team Lucy Oliver, Eleni Louca, Louisa Debono and Kate Goward and Caitlin Robertson at the Cooper Grace Ward Kids Christmas party.

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



Terms and conditions apply

CONTACT US:
Publisher
Bruce Piper
Editor
Jill Varley
Contributors
Chantel Housler
Advertising:
advertising@businessseventsnews.com.au

P: 1300 799 220
F: 1300 799 221
PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW, 1710
Business Events News is part of the Travel Daily group of publications which also include: Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly and Pharmacy Daily.

Disclaimer: While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Travel Daily* no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. *BEN* takes no responsibility for the opinions of its contributors. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed.