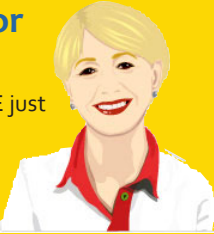




AIME for success

With AIME just around the corner we are posting regular AIME Updates to keep you informed of what's new, to take up special offers and attend the complimentary events and functions - check out today's AIME news on page 2.



Kirimaya corp. rate

KIRIMAYA Golf Resort & Spa, bordering on the UNESCO World Heritage National Park in Khao Yai, Thailand, is offering a corporate retreat package for groups of up to 120, that includes one night accom in a Plantation View Room with breakfast, the use of a meeting room from 8.30am – 5.30pm, two coffee breaks, one lunch and standard meeting facility equipment.

The 64 room resort has a choice of luxurious spacious accom including four tented villas and an 18-hole par 72 championship golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus.

Details at - kirimaya.com.

Hyatt Regency Coolum raises the bar



ICONIC Sunshine Coast resort, Hyatt Regency Coolum Golf Resort and Spa - which raised the style bar for resorts to come when it first opened - has once again set a new benchmark with its new facilities and rooms.

Set at the base of Mount Coolum and secluded within 150 hectares of sub-tropical bushland between a white sand beach and the outcrop of Mt Coolum, it offers world-class facilities for between 10 to 1200 people.

New investment at the resort has expanded its choice of venues and enhanced its luxury; while a selection of new conference packages provide anything from a small team-building event to a major international conference.

One of Australia's best locations for family-friendly conferences,

with its Camp Hyatt kids' club, PGA Championship Golf Course and the southern hemisphere's largest spa centre, has a new Dune Beach Club, an outdoor space of more than 644 sqm for dinners, cocktail parties and other corporate events.

The Club with its own swimming pool, terrace and manicured lawns can host up to 250 people for banquets or 500 for cocktail parties and joins the resort's existing range of indoor & outdoor venues including the 996sqm Pavilion for up to 1200 people.

It also offers a choice of four different banqueting lawns and marquee locations, plus a further 8 flexible conference rooms of 50 to 560sqm, each with the latest in presentation technology.

An initial 40 rooms have been completed, part of an ongoing program that has already seen the upgrade of Golf Villas, Lakefront Villas and the extensive health and beauty facilities of The Spa.

In all, the resort offers 324 guestrooms, including spacious suites and two-bedroom villas designed to make the most of their bushland, golf course or lake-side setting.

Also unveiled is a contemporary new look for its King Rooms, the latest in a series of stylish refurbishments. Details at - 07 5446 1234.

SYD's new \$68m hotel

A new 317-room four-star hotel, expected to be completed this year, is to be developed at Sydney Airport by the Denwol Group and operated by Rydges Hotels.

Destination NSW chief executive, Sandra Chipchase who participated in the official sod-turning ceremony with the NSW Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris, said the new hotel, located adjacent to the multi-storey car park flanking Terminal 1, is a welcome investment in tourism infrastructure for Sydney.

"Providing high-quality accommodation is an essential part of being able to attract and retain visitors to NSW," Ms Chipchase said.

"Amalgamated Holdings Limited, owners of Rydges Hotels, is one of several major hotel chains that have recently invested significantly in enhancing Sydney's accommodation stock.

"The accommodation industry contributes some \$3.3 billion, or 11.6%, to the State's total tourism value and generates nearly \$2.7 billion in international and domestic visitor expenditure."

Hamilton discounts

HAMILTON Island's Reef View Hotel is offering discounted group rates and free upgrades in their Coral Sea View rooms, based on groups of a minimum 10 rooms per night on new bookings only.

Aussies say Olé!

THE Spain Tourism Board says 56,320 Australians visited Spain in 2011 – an increase of 13.4% y-o-y.

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2012 AIME Update

Saxton's prestigious speakers

AN impressive 11 act line-up has been secured for Saxton Speakers Bureau Ultimate Event Experience, which is returning to AIME for the third consecutive year.

To be held from 8am to 10.05am on Wednesday, 22 February, the complimentary event will feature a mix of exceptional Australian and international presenters and include prominent businessman Rod McGeoch and popular media personality Ita Buttrose to inspire the audience with their thoughts on powerful alternative thinking and doing business better.

Winston Broadbent, managing director at Saxton Speakers Bureau said, "This year's event will offer guests an opportunity to experience fantastic entertainment, bewildering illusion, extraordinary talent and genuine achievers delivering compelling business and personal messages."

John Lees will again introduce the audience to the virtuosity of master drummer David Jones, mind-blowing illusion with Cosentino, an entertaining mathematical presentation from Lily Serna of SBS's *Letters and Numbers*, the inspiration and creativity of photojournalist Michael Coyne; and the unique vocal talents of Mr Percival.

The impressive international



acts include: Robyn Meredith, the author of *New York Times* bestseller *The Elephant and the Dragon: The Rise of India and China and What it Means for All of Us*, Kivi Bernhard, renowned keynote speaker, highly successful business entrepreneur and the author of the highly acclaimed *Leopardology: The Hunt for Profit in a Tough Global Economy*; and CrazeeHorse, a stunning acrobalance act who wowed UK television audiences to reach the final of *Britain's Got Talent*.

AIME attendees can register for this stunning showcase online at saxton.com.au/events/saxton-ultimate-event-experience-aime-2012/ - and make sure you're not late because it starts at 8.00am on the dot, with guests advised to assemble from 7.50am.

Attendees will also receive a special gift

For more information about AIME 2012, visit - aime.com.au

Dockside does deals

THE Dockside Group will launch a new deals website at AIME by which they say works in a similar format to "deal of the day" sites such as Groupon or Cudo.

Offering weekly deals across Dockside Group's restaurants, weddings, formals and business events, they will be released every Wednesday - on offer to buy for one week only.

El Kwang, Dockside's director of marketing and sales, said feedback from clients was that "the current market appreciates rate transparency and value-for-money deals like those seen on livingsocial.com.

"We took on their comments, researched and produced this user-friendly website," with Dockside continuing to uphold its reputation for offering value-for-money specials for the industry.

See docksidegroup.com.au.

Assoc.-only session

FOR the first time, the Australian Associations Projects in conjunction with Associations Forum will hold a one-off session exclusively for Australian association managers and leaders.

Held 8am to 9.45am, Tue 21 Feb, the session will bring to life the recently released toolkit - *Attracting delegates. Guidelines & tools for successfully marketing business events in Australia*.

The step-by step guide is available only through Australian convention bureaux and centres.

Attendees will receive step-by-step guides, tools and templates to help them plan and execute successful events.

To register call 02 9904 8200 or email hannah@associations.net.au.

Dolphin Fiji deals

THE newly relaunched Dolphin Island Fiji is promoting itself as an ideal location for an upmarket corporate retreat or exclusive incentive, accommodating up to four couples for exclusive use.

A sister property to the famous Huka Lodge in New Zealand, Dolphin Island is a 20 minute boat ride from Raki Raki and is also easily accessible by air from Nadi.

To celebrate its reopening, Dolphin Island is offering a 'stay 4 pay 3' or a 'stay 6 pay 4' package, with both deals including complimentary float plane transfers from Nadi.

The tariff includes all meals, a standard bar and attentive staff - more information from reservations@hukalodge.co.nz.

MCI on the lookout

GLOBAL meeting and event management agency MCI says it's continuing to look for more acquisitions across Australia, following the news that it has merged with Tasmania's Convention Wise.

Geneva-based MCI established operations here in 2010 by merging with Event Planners Australia, and last year also added Avanti Events.

It now has operations in Adelaide, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne and Sydney.

Stockton's new cabins

NEWCASTLE's Stockton Beach Tourist Park has great rates on two-bedroom cabins with the luxuries of a contemporary hotel suite starting from \$140 per night and three-bedroom from \$150, for a two-night minimum stay for travel up to 30 Apr.

For more details or to make a booking call 02 4928 1393 or visit stocktonbeach.com.



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business events news

6th February 2012



crumbs!

CONFERENCE rooms can have some pretty blah names but not so Poggled in the US, a company that focuses on nightlife and deals on bar tabs.

A number of events last year were hosted in rooms called "Its 5:00 somewhere" (think champagne for breakfast) and "Stay Thirsty My Friend" (because the drinks are on me).

Even better is Microsoft N.E.R.D in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

N.E.R.D. stands for the New England R&D Centre and it offers quirky room names such as: In-sane, In-Continent, In-Famous, and of course In-Capable.

Continuing the tech theme, the headquarters of networking giant Cisco in the US reportedly has a "beer building" where all the conference rooms are named after different beers - conducive to productive meetings?

The SCEC takes a bath

A 6m-diameter tank filled with 60,000 litres of water was set up inside the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre (SCEC) for last week's Pacific International Maritime Exposition, *Pacific 2012*.

The tank, a highlight display of the event, was used to showcase new technology and allow exhibitors to demonstrate the latest developments in unmanned systems, including the CSIRO's robotic submarine Starbug, one of the world's first autonomous underwater vehicles to use vision as its primary navigation tool.

A series of cameras in the water and overhead provided live feeds to a large viewing screen, giving attendees a fish-eye view of the underwater action.

After the expo the contents, equivalent to 400 bathtubs of water were recycled by the SCEC for agricultural irrigation and soil treatment purposes.

The biennial exposition was supported by the government and the Royal Australian Navy.

TechTalk with Tony Wragg

Tony Wragg, a self-professed gadget fan with a serious passion for technology writes a regular blog, TechTalk. He sources his material from a number of newspapers and technology websites around the world and reproduces stories that he feels may interest small business operators like himself. Tony also assists other small business operators in this space through his PlanetSOHO consultancy." Today Tony shares one of his tips with BEN's growing readership.



No more MICE - the eyes have it!

When the iPad came out, the mouse – long the king of all pointing devices – was dethroned by the power of the tablet's touchscreen.

But if looks could kill, then the touchscreen may be the next victim in the pointer war.

Tobii Technology's "gaze interaction" system enables users to control their computer screens with their eyes, scrolling through web pages and photo slide shows with mere glances, blowing up asteroids by staring at them and giving new meaning to the idea of looking something up.

The technology from the Swedish company is a descendant of a 2001 research project at Stockholm University, first conducted by Tobii's founders.

But gaze interaction may soon be going mainstream.

In a display booth at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, the company showed Tobii software hooked up to Microsoft's upcoming Windows 8 operating system.

Booth-goers could sit in front of a screen and optically swipe through Windows screens, "thumb" through photographs, or go into a Word document and "click" on even the tiniest buttons (think the "B" button for bold) using just their peepers.

On another computer, a man played a game of the arcade classic Asteroids. But instead of rotating his gun turrets with a

joystick or the keyboard, he simply looked at the asteroid he wanted to destroy, and a split second later it exploded into smithereens.

It was a feat worthy of Superman and his laser-heat vision. In a manner of speaking.

Tobii says it wants to expand beyond consumer applications and use the eye-tracking technology for medical purposes, such as allowing technicians to use their eyes to move through photographs, scans or X-rays, potentially while using their hands to operate medical machinery, make notes or physically examine a patient.

Source: LA Times and SMH.

WIN A WEEKEND AWAY AT MEDINA



To celebrate the launch of Australia's newest business tourism publication, **Business Events News**, as well as **Medina Apartment Hotels'** 30th birthday, we are giving one lucky reader the chance to win a weekend away for two adults in a one bedroom apartment at a Medina Apartment Hotel of choice across Australia!

A premier Australian brand, Medina is known and loved for its commitment to classic and sleek apartment hotel accommodation.



APARTMENT HOTELS Medina apartments offer guests their own private space and each has been designed with elegance and style.

For more information about Medina Apartment Hotels or to book, visit: www.medina.com.au

All you need to do to be in the running to win this great prize, is to email your answer to the below question by COB next Friday 10th Feb to: medinacomp@businesseventsnews.com.au.

The most creative answer will win!



In 50 words or less tell us your best travel memory?

CONTACT US:

Publisher

Bruce Piper

Editor

Jill Varley

Contributors

Bruce Piper, Chantel Long

Advertising:

advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au

P: 1300 799 220

F: 1300 799 221

PO Box 1010
Epping, NSW, 1710

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In 2012 Destination Marketing Services (DMS) is celebrating a very special anniversary – 20 years as a leader in the Australian/ New Zealand business events industry.

We are proud of our achievements and would like to thank our destination management partners in over 60 countries and our clients in Australia and New Zealand for their support over the last two decades.

Our aim: to connect our Australian and New Zealand clients with the world's most rewarding and exotic destinations.

Our Services:

- **Comprehensive website** - featuring destination profiles and information, sample itineraries and contacts for quality destination management companies in over 60 countries worldwide
- **Regular visits and updates** - our account managers can provide you with latest news on destinations, products and services
- **Liaison and follow up** - between our Australian/New Zealand clients and DMCs to ensure delivery of highly creative and customised programs - our guarantee of quality.
- **Familiarisation visits** - to key international destinations, new places are coming online all the time.
- **Participation in DMS Annual Workshops** - a one-stop opportunity for clients to connect with many of the best DMC companies from around the world
- **Access to latest market intelligence** - what's new, what's hot, what's not -in the international business events market.
- **Specialist advisory service** - we'll help you to win the business!



So when preparing your next business pitch contact the team at DMS – it's our anniversary year and together, we would like to celebrate our joint success.

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