



## Where's the food?

I MUST say we are privileged to attend many splendid industry functions and events, at venues that seamlessly showcase their facilities and expertise.

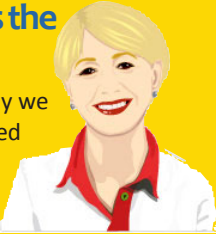
But not all.

One in question I attended recently clearly doesn't understand this very demanding industry.

Sure there was plenty of free flowing alcohol at this 6pm event but where was the food?

My advice is if you want to impress your guests make sure you have plenty of food.

Getting drunk by 7pm is not a good look! Jill



## Weaver, Geldof & Suzuki in Mel

IN a world first, a major Melbourne business event "Corporations, People & The Planet" will be addressed by actress and environmentalist Sigourney Weaver (right).

Organised by Max Markson, Weaver will be joined by the internationally acclaimed humanitarian Sir Bob Geldof and Professor David Suzuki who will speak on 26 April at the Melbourne Convention Centre, from 8.30am.

Attendees will also hear from international Professor Hunter Lovins about how to maximise opportunities, as well as highlighting the dangers, when moving forward in business.

This ground breaking events high profile speakers will discuss the future of business on Planet Earth, will provide answers, solutions and strategies for individuals and companies to properly plan and prepare for the future.

The event will also present a



Image provided by collider.com

trade show in the Plenary foyer, featuring companies and organisations leading in corporate citizenship and sustainability.

Two further days on 27 & 28 April, to be held at Story Hall, RMIT University, and associated venues will feature an in-depth analysis of future sustainability with numerous workshops and presentations given by the United Nations Global Compact Cities Program as well as Prof. David Suzuki and other world leaders in sustainability.

Ticket packages for businesses and individuals range from \$255pp to a Platinum Table of 10 for \$9,950.

The organisers say that all tickets and related costs are tax deductible for companies and businesses - more information on [events@marksonsparks.com](mailto:events@marksonsparks.com).

## Surf's up in Sydney

THE eyes of the surfing and skateboarding world will be firmly on Manly Beach next week, with the inaugural Australian Open of Surfing kicking off tomorrow.

The Novotel Manly Pacific is making the most of the event, creating a "Pop Up" Bar in partnership with Surfing World Magazine and Coastal Watch.

The surfing competition also includes a massive skate bowl, and will take place 11-19 February.

## BEN Bitton winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Michael Eggers, gm of Mercure Resort Gerringong by the Sea, who is the lucky winner of an autographed David Bitton cookbook.

Michael was the first of many BEN readers to answer the question in Wednesday's issue, telling us that Bitton started his Australian operations in 2000.

Keep reading *Business Events News* for more chances to win, including our Medina competition which closes today (see page 3).

## New Spicer's spas

SPICERS Retreats Hotels & Lodges has launched two new day-spas at Spicers Peak Lodge and Spicers Tamarind Retreat.

The group said the additions would transform conferences and meetings from "staid boardroom affairs to enticing getaways".

## Starwood Luxury debuts in Australia

STARWOOD Hotels and Resorts Worldwide is putting Australia on the upmarket events map, with the announcement yesterday of its first Luxury Collection properties in Australia.

The Lillianfels and Echoes resorts in the NSW Blue Mountains west of Sydney will join the Sheraton fold effective next Monday, with Starwood Sean Hunt saying the signing celebrated the properties' "distinctive character, indigenous charm and unparalleled service that allow guests to experience the scenic Blue Mountains in a unique way".

Formerly operated by Orient Express Hotels, Lillianfels boasts meetings and events space for up to 100 guests, along with 85 rooms and a wide array of fine dining options.

For some quality down time there's also a Spa and Health Club as well as breathtaking vistas, with a team of experienced event managers eager to assist with any requirement.

## Olympic internet

ACCOR's three Sydney Olympic Park hotels - the Pullman, Novotel and Ibis - have upgraded their internet to 100Mbps Fibre Connection to provide fast cabled and wireless connectivity in conference and function rooms.

## Sales & Marketing Assistant

HAYMAN

This is a fantastic opportunity to join one of The Leading Hotels of the World. Award-winning Hayman seeks a Sales & Marketing Assistant to join its Sydney based team. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing administration processes and providing support and assistance to the Sales & Marketing team.

Ideally, you will have experience in a tourism or hotel sales environment, excellent customer service and presentation skills, effective time management skills, strong Microsoft Office skills and a high attention to detail.

You will be able to manage multiple tasks, prioritise effectively and provide a high level of support to a successful team.

Hayman offers a fun, dynamic working environment in harbour view offices located near Circular Quay in Sydney.

Please email your application to: [careers@hayman.com.au](mailto:careers@hayman.com.au)  
Applications close Friday 17/2/12



## 2012 AIME Update

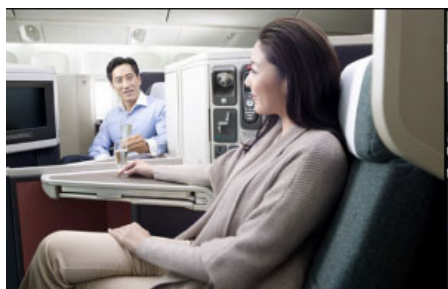
### Cathay ideal partner for MICE

THE Cathay Pacific team will be at the Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo (AIME) to talk about their new Business Class and their soon to launch new Premium Economy and Economy cabins.

Cathay Pacific will join 33 other Hong Kong exhibitors

on the massive 270 square metre "Meeting and Events Hong Kong" (MEHK) stand.

Commenting that the airline is an ideal partner for organisations



in the business events market, Richiko Olrichs, Cathy Pacific's marketing communications manager, said Australia was the first market in the world to enjoy their new highly-acclaimed flat bed in business class on the Sydney-Hong Kong route.

"Soon other ports around the country will see the stylish new seat," she said.

"We fly into and out of six major cities in Australia including Cairns and with over 70 flights a week; we have the flexibility in our schedule to offer a breadth of flights to suit passengers' needs. Beyond Hong Kong, we have a network of over 145 destinations including those across Asia with our sister airline Dragonair.

Cathay Pacific operates 400 weekly flights out of Hong Kong.

### Winning Singapore

SINGAPORE Tourism Board and their partners are offering delegates a tasty treat with a 'SingaporeXpress' hawkers market being set up at the Globe 2 restaurant during this year's AIME industry event in Melbourne.

Designed to reflect Singapore hawkers hotspots such as Chomp Chomp, Lau Pa Sat and Maxwell Road, SingaporeXpress, will take delegates on a culinary journey through its sights, sounds and smells, representative of Singapore's innovative and diverse cuisine scene.

Then, from 4.30pm on 21 February, delegates can also take part in an afternoon of cocktails and canapés as the STB reveals the hidden gems and unique experiences of this enigmatic destination.

In addition, two lucky buyers will win a journey to experience the Real Singapore.

RSVP by Tuesday 14 February to [Mathew\\_webb@stb.gov.sg](mailto:Mathew_webb@stb.gov.sg) to secure your place.

### Silversea entices

KAREN Christensen, Silversea's general manager Australia and New Zealand says the cruise line will launch a new range of corporate packages and incentive group products at AIME.

"We have had a very successful 3-4 years, with many full ship charters for corporate & incentive groups from this market.

"Our all-inclusive fares make Silversea perfect for incentive groups. Depending on which ship and destination clients choose, we can cater for 132 to 540 guests".

### BNE Convention Centre

BRISBANE's new \$59 million convention and exhibition centre will be launched at AIME on Wed 22 Feb with details on Stage one of the \$2.9b RNA Showgrounds Regeneration Project.

The 15 year project is said to be the most "significant urban renewal project in Brisbane since Southbank."

The convention centre will take "pride of place" in the 22 ha site that will be able to host world-class festivals, exhibitions, shows and conferences all year round.



Less than 3 Hours from Sydney for your next conference or Incentive.

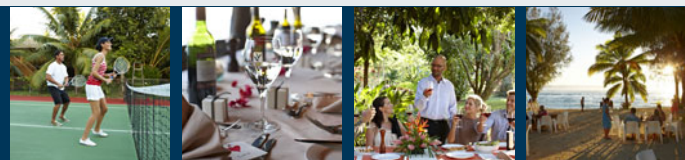
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# business events news

10th February 2012

## Shoal Bay wins gold

**SHOAL** Bay Resort and Spa was the Gold Award winner for the second year running for the Best Tourist Pub in New South Wales, at the annual NSW Tourism Awards last week at The Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Darling Harbour.

The resort was also a Gold Award Winner in the Meetings & Business Tourism category, and Bronze Award winner for Deluxe Accommodation.

Shoal Bay's Whitesands

Convention Centre includes the Sun, Sea and Star conference rooms, which when combined create the spacious Whitesands Conference Room. The conference centre also features a large lobby suitable for break areas or trade-show displays and an adjoining executive boardroom.

With a sleeping capacity for 600 guests in studio, one, two and



three bedroom suites, self-contained apartments and villa's, three pools, five bars and four restaurants, they also have dedicated conference coordinators are on hand to professionally tend to all requirements.

Pictured with the awards is a delighted Rebecca Smith, marketing manager for the Shoal Bay Resort and Spa.

## Turning back time

**STEPPING** things back a notch is Zest Waterfront Venues who are celebrating the launch of their new venue at The Spit with 1980's conference prices.

The heavily discounted day delegate package of \$69pp, (normally \$89) runs up to 31 July and is valid at Zest, the Spit and Zest, Point Piper.

For bookings contact: Zest, The Spit: 02 9932 4600

## Art HK coming up

**THE** Mandarin Oriental in Hong Kong has been named as the official hotel for Asia's leading art fair, Art HK.

The event takes place in May, and the property will host a range of special activities including an art-inspired lunch in the Michelin-starred Mandarin Grill + Bar.

Special accommodation deals are on offer including tickets to the fair - +852 2820 4202.

## HRG event restructure

**CORPORATE** services and travel management company Hogg Robinson Group has announced a rejig of its Events and Meetings division into three distinct areas: Meetings, Groups and Events.

The company said the move "makes it easier for clients to understand the lines of separation between services and helps them focus on the most manageable aspects of meetings on both the global and local level".

According to a statement issued this week, HRG Meetings will deliver strategic management programs and venue sourcing for meetings and conferences of any size; HRG Groups helps clients book cost effective air and hotel arrangements and coordinates reservations from multiple departure points; and HRG Events handles project management for content, theme, design, production and on-site support on a local country by country basis.



**THE** organisers of a major snow-sculpting competition in Canada have had to resort to desperate measures this week to ensure the event could go ahead.

The annual Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is suffering from an unusually dry winter meaning there just isn't enough of the white stuff to go around.

Weather reports confirm that Winnipeg enjoyed a "relatively balmy" average temperature of -10.8°C during January - but it wasn't accompanied by snow.

Instead festival officials have had to bring in more than 200 truckloads of artificially made snow from a nearby skifield to ensure that snow sculptors from around the world can ply their creative craft.

## 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

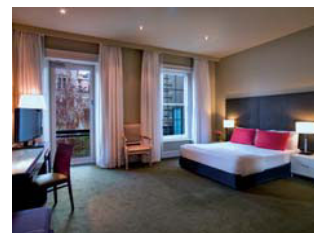
Medina apartments offer guests their own private space

and each has been designed with elegance and style.

For more information about Medina Apartment Hotels or to book, visit: [www.medina.com.au](http://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](mailto:medinacomp@businesseventsnews.com.au).

The most creative answer will win!



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

## MAGNIFIQUE EVENTS AT SOFITEL FIJI RESORT & SPA

FROM INTIMATE INCENTIVES THROUGH TO SOPHISTICATED WORLD-CLASS CONFERENCES, SOFITEL FIJI RESORT & SPA HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY CAPACITY TO ALWAYS DELIVER INSPIRING EVENTS.

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[WWW.SOFITELFIJI.COM.FJ](http://WWW.SOFITELFIJI.COM.FJ)





## Medina Opera jv

**MEDINA** Apartment Hotels has partnered with Opera Australia to become the official partner of the HANDA Opera on Sydney Harbour - La Traviata for its three week season set to begin on 24 Mar.

Medina said it will offer exclusive accommodation and ticket packages which can be booked through [showbiz.com.au](http://showbiz.com.au).

## Mercure Gerringong

**ACCOR** has taken over the management of the South Coast NSW property, Mercure Resort Gerringong by the Sea, in Oct.

The former Bellachara Boutique Hotel offers 52 king rooms featuring four room types, and three conference and events rooms consisting of the 40sqm Boardroom, 200sqm East Terrace and 100sqm West Terrace.

## Saigon saver

**PARK** Hyatt Saigon, a "premier residential address in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City" is offering special savings for meetings and events contracted by 30 April and arriving 01 May to 30 September.

Book from 20 to 100 plus rooms on a nightly basis and enjoy options such as 15% off full or half-day meeting packages, complimentary secretariat room, 1/25 complimentary rooms, free site inspection, waived room drop fee, 50% off business centre fees, 30% off a la carte treatments at Xuan Spa, complimentary "relaxing" meeting break with chair massage stations, one-hour beer and wine welcome drinks and 1/30 upgrades to the next room category.

For more information call +84 8 3824 1234 or email [sales.saiph@hyatt.com](mailto:sales.saiph@hyatt.com).

## Fiji scores travel group

**FIJI** Tourism regional director Paresh Pant says he's delighted to hear that home-based travel agency network TravelManagers has decided to hold its 2012 National Conference in Fiji.

It's the first time the group has taken its event offshore and more than 200 people are expected to attend, with more details to be announced in the coming months.

## DMS special deals

**DMS** Destination Marketing Services, is promoting a range of 2012 special offers to kick start its 20th anniversary year.

Deals include a Crunch Events and Catering offer in which clients who hold a conference worth over \$6000 will receive a free Nespresso coffee machine.

There's also a conference package at the Nirwana Gardens Resort on Bintan Island, starting at about A\$197 per person twin share Monday-Friday including return ferry transfers from Singapore, full day use of meeting rooms, breakfast, a buffet lunch, a buffet dinner and much more.

For details call 02 9331 1311.

## Hyatt's VIP guest

**THE** president of French Polynesia Oscar Temaru, was the VIP guest of resort owner Professor Clive Palmer at a dinner, at Hyatt Regency Coolum Golf Resort and Spa, last night.

The president's visit and special dinner in Elizas put the culinary talents of chef Gareth Collins firmly in the int'l spotlight.

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**Business Events News** is part of the Travel Daily group of publications which also include: Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly & Pharmacy Daily.

# GETTING TO KNOW: The Legian Bali

For stunning luxury accommodation and upmarket events in Bali, there's nothing quite like The Legian hotel.

Located on Seminyak Beach, with stunning Indian Ocean views, the all-suite Legian is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World and offers 67 stunning rooms and one very special Beach House for the ultimate celebration location.

The ultra-plush accommodations start with the 99 square metre Studio Suites, moving on to the 110 square metre Deluxe Suites which include large exteriors for some private sunbathing and well-appointed dining areas for "en-suite entertaining".

There are also two-bedroom suites and three top-level designer suites which come with butler service and a private car with driver.

Everything has the latest technological touches including high speed internet, a Bose sound system and even two iPods preloaded with a range of music to set the holiday vibe.

But there's more - just across the road is the exclusive The Club at The Legian, which features ten one-bedroom villas and a three-bedroom villa for the ultimate in luxury.

Each free-standing villa has a completely private compound complete with a swimming pool as well as luxury bathrooms with ornamental ponds, huge bathtubs and enormous living areas.

During a visit last week *Business Events News* was struck by the stunning solitude in the villas, which also offer neat touches such as a daily laundry service, a fully stocked minibar which is replenished daily - and if you can drag yourself away from your private oasis there are also refreshments and snacks served in the Club Lounge.

For enquiries contact [legian@ghmhotels.com](mailto:legian@ghmhotels.com).

