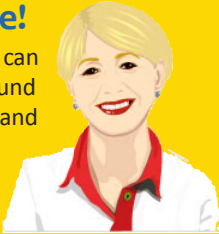




## Surprise!

**SURPRISES** can appear around any corner and none more so than the unique functions



facilities I found at Kingsley's Australian Steakhouse.

Located in a laneway off King Street, halfway between Kent and Sussex Sts, it is housed in an extraordinary heritage building.

A former candle factory and the oldest industrial building in Sydney, it has a spacious first floor function room while below stairs in the surrounds of coarse, unpicked sandstone is a very clubby private dining room - Jill.

## RSVP Melbourne "postponed"

**THE** residual effects of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) have taken their toll on Melbourne's Event Showcase, originally known as RSVP Melbourne.

An announcement yesterday by the owners and organisers, Exhibition and Trade Fairs (ETF) said it will be postponed in 2012 to take time to reconsider the format of the show.

Impacting the momentum and success of the on the floor show, ETF cites the ill-timed 2009 crisis and the resultant consolidation of event suppliers and reduced marketing budgets as making a significant dent in operations.

After the 2010 tradeshow, the ETF conducted extensive

consultations with industry representatives and visitors to seek feedback on the future direction of the show.

Led by Jodie Richmond, general manager & CEO, the ETF took the recommendations from the industry and made significant investments in changing the brand, the venue and the dates of the show.

"We are committed to Melbourne's special event industry and have worked hard to build on the strength of 'Party After Dark' and the 'Event Master Class' elements, including making major changes for the 2011 show.

"However, the overall show format still doesn't appear to be fully resonating with the industry.

"Therefore, we have taken the decision to postpone the show for this year and focus our energies on better understanding the challenges and specific needs of Melbourne's event industry.

"We want to ensure the show is valuable and relevant in helping Melbourne's event industry rise to meet those challenges, now and in the future," said Richmond.

Consultations with industry members will occur later in the year to pave the direction for 2013 and beyond.

For now, the ETF team will focus on managing the Sydney's Event Showcase and the co-located Australian Business Events Expo which will take place 15-16 Aug.

## Rockford's multi-use

**THE** Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour is launching a new multi-use café space in its lobby area next month.

Described as flexible, it will service "on the go" guests for a quick coffee or breakfast, corporate lunches and small business meetings.

It also has the ability to expand capacity for conference and banquet dining when combined with nearby Ceezens Restaurant.

## Sebel Yarra packages

45 minutes from Melbourne's CBD, the Sebel Heritage Yarra Valley with 10 versatile spaces and a capacity to cater for up to 400 delegates, has a special Day Delegate Package and a Residential Conference Package.

With rates starting from \$75pp for the day package it includes morning and afternoon tea, buffet lunch plus audio equipment & more.

The residential conference package starts from \$350pp and includes the day delegate package, dinner, overnight accom in a deluxe room and breakfast - see [events@tshyv.mirvac.com](mailto:events@tshyv.mirvac.com).

## WIN A SHOAL BAY - PORT STEPHENS GETAWAY



This week, **Business Events News** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an overnight Shoal Bay escape, courtesy of **Shoal Bay Resort & Spa**.

This fantastic prize includes one night stay in a Poolview Room for 2 people including full Hot & Cold buffet breakfast (conditions apply); complimentary access to Aqua Spa- Wellbeing facility and complimentary under cover parking.

For your chance to win, simply send in your answer to the following question to [comp@businessesnews.com.au](mailto:comp@businessesnews.com.au)

**In 25 words or less, tell us why you deserve to win an island style resort getaway at award winning Shoal Bay Resort & Spa**

The most creative answer will win!



## Production Editor/News Reporter

Would you like to join Australia's favourite travel publications? *Travel Daily* and its associated titles *Cruise Weekly* and *Business Events News* are looking to appoint a Production Editor/News Reporter who will be a key part of our ongoing growth.

We are looking for someone who will enjoy being part of our busy, fun team, working to daily deadlines and continuing our passion to be "first with the news" in travel, cruising and business tourism.

This is a newly created full-time role. The successful applicant will be responsible for the production of our Business Events News title. They will also be required to report on the news for our other titles. You will also be required to represent the company at industry functions and events.

### Requirements:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Travel industry experience. and/or experience in the MICE industry.
- Ability to work to deadlines, with an eye for detail.
- Friendly, well presented and outgoing.
- Knowledge of desktop publishing would be a distinct advantage.

The position is based in our office in Epping, NSW with an attractive salary package on offer for the right candidate. Previous applicants need not apply.

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be made in writing to [jobs@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:jobs@traveldaily.com.au) by Mon 5th March 2011.





# business events news

29th February 2012

tony wragg's

## TECHTALK

Technology made simple for small business

### The 'wearable' computer

Story adapted from an article in the New York Times.

THE invention of the smartphone has created a world where millions of people stroll through life constantly staring into a mobile device – like Narcissus at the edge of a pond.

People are not going to put these devices down in the near future.

Realistically, we will become only more absorbed by the screen.

Technology will have to solve this problem.

It will do so by creating wearable computers.

Wearable computing is a broad term.

Technically, a fancy electronic watch is a 'wearable' computer.

But the ultimate version of this technology is a screen that would somehow augment our vision with information and media.

Over the past year, Apple and Google have secretly begun working on projects that will become wearable computers.

In Google's secret Google X labs, researchers are working on peripherals that – when attached to your clothing or body – would communicate information back to an Android smartphone.

Apple has also experimented with prototype products that could relay information back to the iPhone.

These conceptual products could also display information on other Apple devices, like an iPod, which Apple is already encouraging us to wear on our wrists by selling Nanos with watch faces.



One idea being discussed is a curved-glass iPod that would wrap around the wrist. People could communicate with the device using Siri, the company's artificial intelligence software.

Researchers note that the smartphone is almost never more than one metre away from its user. It is often just centimetres from the bed during the night as well, and has replaced the alarm clock for many people.

As a result, the smartphone is going to be the hub for our information sharing and gathering. Think of it as a force field that will engulf us wherever we are, transmitting power and Internet access to sensors and screens that are tacked to our clothing.

Tony Wragg, a self-professed gadget fan with a serious passion for technology, writes a regular blog, TechTalk.

To check out the latest tech news for small business visit Tony Wragg online through his blog at [tonystechtalk.com.au](http://tonystechtalk.com.au)



### Rendezvous' new DSM

RENDEZVOUS Hospitality Group who are currently implementing a multi-million dollar refurbishment and rebranding initiative uniting Rendezvous Hotels and The Marque Hotels into one Rendezvous brand, have announced the appointment of Manoj Raveendranath as director of sales and marketing of Rendezvous Stafford Hotel Sydney and The Marque Hotel Sydney.

Raveendranath, with a strong sales background was most recently director of sales and marketing at Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport.

He takes over the role of DSM from Glenn Shoebridge, who has transferred to the role of director of sales & marketing at Rendezvous Hotel Perth and The Marque Hotel Perth.

MEANWHILE Rendezvous has also today announced that the Rendezvous Hotel in Christchurch will not be opening tomorrow as previously planned.

The building's owners have engaged engineers to recheck the 171-room property to ensure that the 23 Dec earthquakes have not compromised the building.



If you are scratching your head planning an incentive or conference in Japan or its neighbouring countries, MWT

– Mandarin World Tours - have a comprehensive Japan, Korea and Taiwan 2012-2013 brochure to make the decision easier.

MWT cites their immense buying power and strong relationships with major airlines and hotel groups, and can handle group sizes up to 1500 delegates.

A comprehensive range of tours & itinerary ideas are also included for pre or post conference trips.

### Warwick Fiji MICE

THE Warwick Fiji Le Lagon Resort and Spa says its new conference centre in Port Vila is on track to be completed by June.

The conference centre will have 1000 sqm of space and the latest audio visual equipment, and will be able to cater for up to 700.

### WIN A 2-NIGHT ULURU ENCOUNTER



To celebrate the \$10million redevelopment of Ayers Rock Resort's Uluru Meeting Place conference centre Voyages is offering a great prize to **Business Events News** readers.

The Uluru Meeting Place will feature striking contemporary interiors that reflect the Indigenous heritage of the location. Facilities include a new ballroom that can comfortably seat 420 people as well as a second ballroom that seats over 300. These two rooms combined can create a large area that is ideal for events and trade shows.

The prize includes two return economy airfares to Ayers Rock Resort from the winners nearest Australian capital city, return airport transfers, two nights accommodation in a newly refurbished room at the Sails in the Desert Hotel, dinner at the intimate Tali Wiru fine dining experience and a Desert Awakenings Small Group Sunrise tour.

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 on Friday 30th March to: [voyagescomp@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:voyagescomp@businesseventsnews.com.au)

The most creative answer will win this fantastic prize.

In 25 words or less tell us what Uluru means to you



business events news

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IHG flair with Blair

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has appointed a new gm area manager for Vic, Blair Roxborough who will oversee the operations of four hotels within the state - InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto, Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn on Flinders, and the Holiday Inn Melbourne Airport.

Time & cost drive industry change

THE business events industry is seeing shorter lead times and is becoming more cost conscious said Victor Pisapia, director of VictorsFood.Australian, "We hear it more and more from industry colleagues, and clients.

"They need to deliver company conferences in a shorter timeframe, with more focus on value-for-money and they still want a 'Wow' factor," Pisapia said.

Scott Cooper, conference sales & mkt manager at SMC in Sydney, echoed this change and said, "Delegates are time poor, yet organisers would still rather maintain valuable face-to-face engagement that comes from a traditional physical event, rather than digital alternatives such as webinars.

"We developed new formats for our team cooking events," including the Power Pizza which delivers in 2.5 hours, and the MasterChef Stage Show.

According to Pisapia, the shorter timeframes help keep the costs down and, "we still have to deliver top results".

2012 AIME Wrap Up

Ita goes salty



Ita Buttrose pictured with the Mantra conference & events team - Nicky, Lee O'Neil, Tennille Miller & Brooke Stewart

ENJOYING something of a rebirth since her story was dramatised in TV's Paper Giants, media icon Ita Buttrose, fresh from her appearance at AIME, travelled to northern NSW as a guest of Mantra on Salt Beach in Kingscliff.

The much sought after guest speaker was reportedly impressed by this seaside resort that caters for up to 300 delegates in its pillarless ballroom and offers a variety of outdoor and poolside meeting spaces, all within an hour's drive of Gold Coast airport.

Part of the Salt village precinct, the Mantra on Salt Beach joins Peppers Salt Resort & Spa and Peppers Balé Salt who together provide the largest conference facilities in Northern NSW.

Catering for up to 500 delegates, they collectively offer a range of 700 accommodation rooms.



ABOVE: PCO's at the Mantra Group's Veuve Clicquot function: Kent Davidson, Mantra Group; Tricia Durrant and Libby Lane, InHouse Event Solutions; Stephen Poole, Current Events; Anne-Maree Grady, Mantra; Julie Allen, The Full Pretzel; & Dee Nicholas, Corporate Incentive Solutions.

AIME hosts buyers

AIME created the perfect opportunity for the industry to network and catch up with old friends and the chance to make new ones.

A group of buyers are pictured below enjoying some much needed rest and relaxation during one of the scores of hosted events held during AIME.



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Image of people at a beach resort