



Coming up roses

AN airline that serves green tea (and isn't Asian) and hot



chocolate after dinner, can't be all that bad, can it?

Clearly it would appear, at least on the flight from Bangkok to Sydney, the Qantas crew in economy have been re-programmed.

Not a scowling, grumpy face in sight.

Friendly, smiling and jolly Virgin-like interaction with passengers, breezy Aussie style announcements - food, comme ci comme ca but entirely edible and we especially like that they serve wine by the bottle, which is not something one sees in economy on most other airlines.

Keep it up Qantas.

Today **BEN** is in New Zealand attending day one of MEETINGS 2012 being held at SkyCity, Auckland Convention Centre.

Welcome function pics are on page four and more conference news in Friday's edition - Jill.

Hop to it

YOU can now explore Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour on a new Chinese junk boat, the *aqualuna*.

The 'Harbour Discovery Cruise' runs from 12 pm to 5 pm each Tuesday and Friday, picking up and dropping off passengers every 15 minutes at four key spots: Tsim Sha Tsui (TST), Central, Wanchai and Hung Hom.

Passengers buy a Day Pass (HK\$100 adults / HK\$80 children), on the hop on, hop off service which allows them to stay on and see the sights as many times as they like.

Christchurch flags bright future

EXPECTATIONS about where Christchurch's planned new convention centre will be located should be known in the next few weeks, according to Christchurch & Canterbury

Convention Bureau manager Caroline Blanchfield.

When constructed, the Centre is expected to clear the way for new investments in hotels, restaurants and cafes and

provide opportunities for business tourism in the region.

Blanchfield says the new convention centre, which she

hopes will be built within a couple of years, will give Christchurch enviable state-of-the-art conferencing facilities.

"All indications suggest this new



convention centre will be bigger and better than the one before and that means we will be able to bid for bigger international conferences and events.

"Put the new convention centre together with our existing venues like the CBS Canterbury Arena and Air Force Museum and the potential for Christchurch as a business tourism destination is huge.

"Add in our regional venues and the choices for conference and event organisers become endless," she said.

Blanchfield went on to say that Christchurch's success in securing the Conference Centre sends a clear message to the business tourism industry that Christchurch is still in the game.

"Our plan now is to build on the momentum and actively pursue more international conferences for our city," she concluded.

Fairmont winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Ann Byrne, Composites Australia who is the winner of the Fairmont Resort MGallery and Leura Golf Club competition that featured in *Business Events News*.

Byrne is about to experience a night in a Fairmont deluxe room plus breakfast for two and a game of golf and cart hire for her creative answer to the question: What (do) you love about winter and golfing in the mountains?

Mountains in winter, brisk golfing round

Crisp fresh air, views to admire.

Then after breakfast, where am I found?

Relaxing happily by the cosy fire!

UNWTO tourism growth

IN spite of challenging economic conditions, the UNWTO tabled a report during the 'Seizing tourism market opportunities in times of rapid change conference, in Dead Sea Jordan, that first results of 2012 indicate international tourism continued to show sustained growth.

International tourist arrivals worldwide grew by 5.7% in the first two months of the year with demand strong in both advanced and emerging economy destinations.

Growth was positive in Europe with a continuation of an already solid 2011, when international arrivals increased by 6% overall to more than 500 million.

Africa was the fastest-growing region with an increase of more than 7% in international tourists, Asia and the Pacific saw a 7% rise.

There was also growth in most regions, with the exception of the Middle East (-1%) with encouraging signs of recovery, such as Egypt (+32% in the first quarter).

South-East Asia and South Asia (both at +10%) led growth by subregion.

Worldwide, international tourist arrivals surpassed 131 million in the first two months of 2012, up from 124 million in the same period of 2011.

The Plaza joins Preferred

HAVING undergone a complete redesign in 2010 as a luxury boutique hotel, The Plaza in Seoul South Korea has become a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts, a brand of the Preferred Hotel Group, a collection of more than 250 of the world's most desirable properties.

SILVERSEA

Inspire | Indulge | Intrigue

SILVERSEA CRUISES CORPORATE & INCENTIVE PRESENTATION AND COCKTAIL EVENING

Karen Christensen, General Manager, Director of Sales & Marketing, cordially invites you to a Corporate & Incentive Presentation and Cocktail Evening on Wednesday 18 July, 6pm to 8pm at the Museum of Sydney, Bridge St, Sydney NSW 2000. Please register your interest by calling

1300 306 872 (press 3, press 1) OR email apevents@silversea.com





business events news

13th June 2012



TANGALOOMA ISLAND RESORT QUEENSLAND

Conferences: Corporate Team Building:
Events: Management Retreats

corporate@tangalooma.com

Tel 61 7 3637 2158

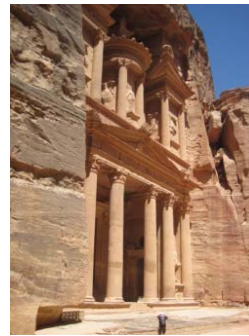
Petra visitors up

THE number of visitors to Petra, one of the seven modern wonders of the world increased by 20% in May compared to the same month last year, according to the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA).

A total of 65,858 people visited the Nabataeans city last month, compared to 47,498 last May.

The site's tourist revenues also increased in May by 24%, standing at JD942,328 compared with JD760,236 in the same month last year, the PDTRA said.

Pictured right: Petra's majestic Treasury building.



One for the style meisters

THE Philip Starck designed, J Plus Boutique Hotel, in the heart of Hong Kong's Causeway Bay has launched a stylish penthouse meeting facility for conferences, workshops and events.

The hotel is offering an irresistible 'J Plus Meeting Experience' for the remainder of 2012, priced at HK\$2,000 a day, or HK\$1,000 for half day gatherings of four hours.

In addition, for HK\$2,900, the package includes a night's accommodation in a studio room adjacent to the meeting space for preparation and storage.

Colleagues or clients can enjoy a further 20% off the best available rate for any extra rooms booked.

The promotion also includes complimentary continental breakfast, afternoon tea with cakes, and free wine in the lobby during cocktail hour to unwind.

Cairns is ropeable

YOU won't find the world's first challenge ropes course in a bush clearing or in the grounds to a country hotel, but in the Wildlife Dome, on the roof of the Pullman Reef Hotel Casino in Cairns.

The only centrally located wildlife park in the Cairns region, home to a challenging wildlife immersion exhibit, it is to open in July with the exciting new Cairns ZOOM attraction.

The new attraction will consist of more than 50 elements of crossings and ziplines, including one that takes participants directly over Goliath, a four metre crocodile.

Throughout June, major construction and maintenance work is continuing in preparation for the new attraction, with Goliath restrained whilst staff cleaned out his enclosure several weeks ago.

Cairns ZOOM & Wildlife Dome gm Michael Woodward said "A soft adventure component called the DomeClimb will allow participants to walk along an external walkway around the perimeter of the Dome, whilst internal walkways will provide a unique birds-eye view of the layout of the Dome," he said.

"The HiZOOM will consist of more complex crossings and ziplines and will appeal to the more adventurous, as will the PowerJump, where participants jump off a 13m high tower attached by rope, with a fan device ensuring a gentle and smooth landing."

The entire ropes course will utilise a continuous belay system, with participants connected via a harness to a safety cable system that they are unable to disconnect themselves from whilst traversing through the elements.



ACCORDING to the Texas Tribune there are national convention scams in Texas invented by convention bureaux and political parties and the travel industry.

They wonder how it is that both sides of political parties during the remaining political season are holding their conventions in the only two places where major league baseball teams are playing: the Astros in Chicago, and the Rangers in San Francisco.

DESPERATELY seeking a sugar daddy?

Then head over to the US of A because a survey by SeekingArrangement.com says the airline with the best chance of meeting a millionaire is Delta Air Lines; for the airline flown by most generous millionaires choose American Airlines; while United Airlines is the airline flown by the wealthiest millionaires.

Brandon Wade the founder and ceo of the SeekingArrangement website cautions, "If you have an appetite for wealthy men, stay away from peanut airlines such as Frontier, Spirit and Allegiant."

InterCon's fleet gets wifi

FOLLOWING the recent installation of a new wireless service to all its rooms, suites, meeting facilities, public areas and even the beach,

InterContinental Bali Resort is also offering complimentary wifi in its entire fleet of vehicles.

The private fleet of modern vehicles, available at competitive rates, means clients can enjoy the convenience of being connected during airport transfers as well as touring the island at no additional charge.

The initiative is an extension of the Resort's aim to anticipate the needs of its in-house guests by introducing innovative services and keeping abreast of the very latest in technology.

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO VANUATU



During the months of May and June, **Business Events News** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing holiday for two people to Vanuatu, courtesy of **Air Vanuatu and the Grand Hotel and Casino**.

The prize includes Air Vanuatu return airfares from Syd/Bne or Mel to Port Vila, and five nights accommodation in a Harbour Deluxe Room including continental breakfast daily at the Grand Hotel and Casino.

Air Vanuatu offers daily flights from Australia, just over 3 hours away. Complimentary inflight service and the friendliest smiles in the Pacific!

Grand Hotel and Casino offers a relaxing yet sophisticated French style setting, in a prime waterfront location in the heart of the shopping, business and entertainment district. 74 rooms with floor to ceiling windows, own private balcony, Internet access in all rooms and 24 hour room service. We also cater for conferences sizes between 10 - 80 delegates and for groups up to 130 people.

Q. 13: Bislama is an official language of Vanuatu. What does "Tankyu tumas!" mean?

Hint: vanuatu.travel

Email your answers to: Vanuatu@businesseventsnews.com.au

Click here for terms & conditions





Aqaba's vision to reality

AQABA in southern Jordan, with the only Jordanian beach on the Red Sea, has seen much new development in the past 10 years.

Now the construction of a new residential tourist resort, covering an overall area of approximately 460 hectares overlooking the Gulf of Aqaba, is set to radically transform the region.

The objective of the huge project is to offer a high profile alternative to other Red Sea destinations such as Sharm el Sheik and Hurgada in nearby Egypt.



The new complex will feature a series of lagoons and artificial islands, five luxury hotels (1540 rooms), 3000 residential units, multiple private moorings in addition to many commercial units, entertainment and recreational facilities

Many of the new residences and hotels will have private moorings and independent access to the Marina (a tidal lagoon); other units will overlook two upper lagoons with white sandy beaches and used exclusively for swimming and recreation but not for boats.

By 2015, the developers, the Ayla Oasis Development Company plan to have a 300-room Hyatt Regency Hotel, a Central Marina Village Souk featuring a variety of commercial and residential properties as well as two small boutique hotels in operation plus an 18-hole golf course designed by Greg Norman and a nine-hole Academy golf course.

Novotel BNE airport

KATRINA Dovey, Virgin Australia; David Pearson, IHG and Lauran Hofman, Business Events Sunshine Coast are the three big winners of last weeks Novotel Brisbane Airport competition.

These lucky winners and a friend are about to spend a night in a standard room at the Novotel Brisbane Airport and enjoy breakfast the next morning.

Today we are giving away a copy of The Descendants DVD and a dinner for four at the Grace Hotel during the Hawaiian Food Festival courtesy of Hawaiian Airlines.

Enjoy the tastes of Hawaii in Sydney



This week, *Business Events News* is giving readers the chance to win a copy of The Descendants DVD and four tickets to the Hawaiian Food Festival at The Grace hotel on 22nd June in Sydney courtesy of Hawaiian Airlines.

Hawaiian Airlines flies daily from Sydney to Hawaii and 11 destinations on the US mainland. All fares from Australia include meals, drinks, on demand entertainment system and a generous baggage allowance of two checked items, each up to 32kg. HawaiianMiles and Virgin Australia Velocity points can be earned flying Hawaiian.

To win be the first to answer: comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

What is the Australian toll free number for Hawaiian Airlines?



Hint: hawaiianair.com



NSW prefers LinkedIn to Facebook

FACEBOOK may be Australia's most popular social media website, but NSW users are the least likely to be connected.

Professional networking site LinkedIn is the most popular in NSW, the Yellow Social Media Report (published recently by Sensis) revealed.

The report also stated that NSW residents rank second behind neighbours in the ACT in using Twitter, but have fewer Facebook friends than Victorians, South Australians and Tasmanians.

LinkedIn and Twitter have seen their growth almost double nationally from 2011 to 2012, but NSW ranks behind only WA in using Google+.

Of NSW's social media users, 95 per cent use Facebook, the lowest in the country, compared to 100 per cent in the ACT and Tasmania, and have an average of 218 Facebook friends.

Nationally, users aged 40 to 49 are the most likely to use LinkedIn, while Twitter is most popular with users aged 20 to 29.

The report authors surveyed 1015 Australians about their internet and social media usage – of that, 606 used social media.

Nationally, 33 per cent said they check social media first thing in the morning and 40 per cent said they checked it as the



last thing before bed.

Of the 409 internet users surveyed who did not use social media, overwhelmingly, their reason was that it didn't appeal to them or they weren't interested.

Interestingly, 47 per cent of users aged 14 to 19 said they expected to cut back their social media use over the next 12 months, compared to just 8 per cent aged between 30 and 39.

A little more than 30 per cent of social media users said they had increased the amount of time they spent social networking in the past year.

And something to ponder: five percent of users said they had accessed social media in the bathroom, and another five per cent said they had used it on the toilet.

To check out the latest tech news for small business visit



Tony Wragg's TechTalk at: www.tonystechtalk.com.au.

Story adapted from an article in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Wellington has good taste and fun

POSITIVELY Wellington Tourism is showcasing its good taste and sense of fun at the MEETINGS conference in Auckland this week.

Buyers are being shown that the New Zealand capital can offer creative 'wow-factor' events by taking part in a giant paint-by-numbers of Cuba Street's famous Bucket Fountain and a high tea courtesy of Restaurant Associates.

MEETINGS is also an opportunity for the Tourism board to release its 2012/13 Wellington Meeting & Incentive Guide which offers a dedicated

section on trans-Tasman conferencing for the first time.

Positively Wellington Tourism Convention Bureau Manager Martin Boland said: "while there's fun and games, there's no question Wellington means business.

"In the first quarter of this year Wellington saw an 18.5% increase in delegate days, with the trans-Tasman market really starting to ramp up as we start to reap the rewards of contracting a dedicated Business Development Manager in Sydney late last year," Boland added.



A welcome MEETING in Auckland

AFTER a journey across the ditch with Air New Zealand, accompanied by hosted buyers and media from Australia and the triumphant New Zealand Warriors, a 'welcome on the sea,' at the Hilton Auckland, proved a lively kick off for MEETINGS 2012. **Pictured** below from left are: Joe Wojcik, executive gm, 212oF, Alan Trotter ceo CINZ & Lyn Simmonds, Air New Zealand.

Joburg's impressive wins

THE Johannesburg Convention & Events Bureau (CEB) – a division of the Johannesburg Tourism Company say they are aggressively focused on promoting the city as a leading global destination for business tourism.

The team at the Bureau report that they have increased in their capacity significantly over the past 18 months, securing an impressive array of bids for forthcoming international meetings and events in the next three years.

Recent bids secured include: The International Small Business Congress (2012); The Europe Africa Business Summit 2012; One Young World Summit (2013); The World Anti-Doping Congress (2013); The 18th Agility World Championships (2013); The 21st World Orchid Conference (2014); The 21st General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association (2014) and the World Congress on Healthy Ageing (2015).

Dark Sky brightens



NEWS that Christchurch's Mackenzie Basin has been designated an International Dark Sky Reserve is expected to bring stargazers from around the world to the region and significantly boost tourism in the area.

Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism chief executive Tim Hunter, described the news as the outcome everyone had been hoping for.

"It's wonderful finally to have recognition in both national and global terms for this premium asset," he said.

"It puts the Mackenzie Basin on the map as a destination of international significance and sends a clear message to people that if they want the ultimate dark sky experience then this is the place to come."



ABOVE: Maxine Walsh, SKYCITY Auckland Convention Centre and Ian Walsh G1 Group enjoy a few jars at MEETINGS 2012 welcome function in New Zealand.

Scenic World invests in its railway

THEY'RE breaking records in Sydney's Blue Mountains with a \$30m redevelopment of the world's steepest incline railway and the largest tourist attraction investment in the regions history.

Said to be Australia's most visited privately-owned tourist attraction, it is being upgraded with works including a new Swiss designed train (the fifth to operate on the former coal mine

track since 1945) to transport visitors down to the ancient rainforest floor in the Jamison Valley.

The new railway experience, set within a World Heritage listed region beneath the iconic Three Sisters, is scheduled to open in December and will include new top and bottom platforms with historical interpretation and a new rail track.

The existing train (pictured) with a history of nearly 25 million passengers will continue to operate during the upgrade.



All Seasons says 'I do'

NEWLY engaged couples can now choose from 'improved' Wedding packages at All Seasons Port Stephens Salamander Shores following the relaunch of new deals.

Packages start from \$59pp and with the help of Katie Pain, wedding coordinator guests can enjoy high quality catering with generous portions, beverage packages, longer room hire at affordable rates and discounted room rates for all attendees of the brides big day.

"In the last 2 months, since the revamp, we have already achieved the same number of wedding bookings we would normally achieve over a full year period", Pain said.

"The response from the market is extremely positive. We look forward to seeing this trend continue", she added.

CONTACT US:

Publisher

Bruce Piper

Editor

Jill Varley

Contributors

Bruce Piper, Chantel Long

Advertising:

[advertising@](mailto:advertising@businessesnews.com.au)

businessesnews.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 & Pharmacy Daily.