



Cheers to winter!

MUCH was happening in Sydney last night.



The Sheraton on the Park launched their Sheraton wide, 'Social Hour' in the Conservatory Bar, a guest enhancement program while the Sofitel Wentworth hosted a function for their Biennale 'Artist in Residence' before guests headed off to Cockatoo Island for the launch of the 18th Biennale of Sydney - Jill.

Globetrotter – Telstra Finalist announced

A leading Western Australian independently owned travel management company, Globetrotter Corporate Travel (GCT), has been recognised as one of six finalists for the Commonwealth Bank WA Medium Business Award.

Acknowledged for their passion, innovation and customer service as well as their adoption of social media & embrace of technology, they are the only travel industry finalist in the Telstra Western Australian Business Awards.

GCT hopes to add the Commonwealth Bank WA Medium Business Award to their collection of accolades on 17 July when category winners are announced at the Hyatt Regency Perth.

If successful in their bid for the award they will become part of an exclusive national business alumnus and proceed to the national Telstra Australian Business Awards in Sydney, on 29 August to compete in their category.

MCI challenges a new world

MCI, a globally integrated Association, Communication and Event Management Company, welcomed its president, Asia Pacific and ceo of their Association Division, Robin Lokerman to Australia to share insights with association leaders and the Australian events industry from his highly successful and expansive career.

During his time here he and other MCI Association experts hosted more than 200 influential associations throughout a roadshow that took in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne over the past week.

Speaking during a breakfast at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Lokerman spoke of the innovative strategies for maximising revenue potential and increasing the brand value of associations and their events.

Identifying five emerging global trends relevant to the Association market - including the changing worldwide demographic of a "hugely growing middle class", he said, "right now 50% of the world is in the middle class and it's a massive influencer and a huge challenge."

Another trend was connecting with different age groups and sexes.

"How do we connect among the generations such as the baby boomers, old timers, Gen X & Y, male and female?

"Gen X & Y are not interested in conferencing like grey audiences are, we need to engage them".

Lokerman went on to say how things had changed after 9/11 with a shift towards the East,



Pictured at the event in Sydney on Wednesday are: MCI's Stephan Wurzinger, David Addison & Robin Lokerman

predicting that this decade would see a further move towards Asia.

"Shanghai international arrivals in 2010 were 7 million, domestically it was 230m, so there is a massive domestic market that are currently getting to know their own country but in the next 10 years they will be travelling to other destinations."

MCI regional director for Associations in Asia Pacific, Stephan Wurzinger, said the costs & time involved for Associations in lobbying for their members is especially difficult if they don't have the budget or the staff, "something that can be done through MCI," he said.

Trainer joins BESydney

A former journalist, lawyer and public sector executive, Gabrielle Trainor has been welcomed as a new independent director to Business Events Sydney (BESydney) Board of Directors.

Trainor, who joins as a non-executive director brings to the Board a vast amount of experience as a director of a range of public, private and not-for-profit entities including government businesses and organisations in the finance, hospitality, sports and arts sectors.

Emirates makes history

EMIRATES will be the first airline to land its Airbus A380 double decker aircraft at London Gatwick Airport on 06 Jul, which will also mark 25 years of service to the destination.

The United Arab Emirates carrier first flew to the UK on 06 July, 1987 with a daily service to Gatwick.

Today, the airline offers 16 daily flights from UK airports to Dubai.

Be creative & win a 2 night stay at Novotel Melbourne St Kilda



This week, **Business Events News** is giving readers the chance to win two night's accommodation in a superior bayview room for two adults plus full buffet breakfast and car parking courtesy of **Novotel Melbourne St Kilda**.

Novotel Melbourne St Kilda, located opposite St Kilda beach and 6km from the city centre is a venue in a class of its own. Choose from 12 versatile function spaces which can cater for up to 300 delegates.

Featuring state of the art facilities, modern decor & pillarless layouts the venue and its location make Novotel Melbourne St Kilda the perfect choice for your next event.

To win send your creative answer to: comp@businesseseventsnews.com.au

In 25 words or less tell us what makes the Novotel Melbourne St Kilda a great destination for meetings & conferences...

Hint: novotelstkilda.com.au
Click here for terms and conditions



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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

29th June 2012

A whale of a conference

THE calm safe waters of Platypus Bay in the Hervey Bay Marine Park is known worldwide as a prime whale watching area from August to October and Peppers Pier Resort and Mantra Hervey Bay are offering conference packages that include a half-day whale watching cruise to get conference groups up close with these majestic creatures of the sea.

Both properties have special whale watching/conference packages, Peppers Pier Resort is \$327pp++ while Mantra's is \$270pp++ available 01 August-31 October - details at mantragroup.com.au.



Progress on Matavai

AFTER a number of shipping delays and an extensive refurbishment and building program, Matavai Resort on Niue Island reports that 10 of the 20 superior oceanfront rooms will open today, 29 June.

The ten rooms are set on the waterfront, while the remaining rooms are now expected to now open 20 July.

The resort added that walk bridges will join all the rooms from the deck of the main facility and wind through the trees and give the resort a magical feeling with its soft lighting.



In addition, the resort has a five duplex accommodation complex, 1.7km from Matavai with self-catering for small groups.

Go to matavaioresort.com.

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Accor sallies forth

IN preparation for the biggest change in its Pacific network since launching in Australia more than 20 years ago, Accor has announced changes to its executive management with Garth Simmons, former regional gm, NSW and ACT moving to NZ for a new posting as VP, New Zealand and Fiji, replacing former VP Paul Richardson who moves to Shanghai in the role of coe for China.

Stepping into Garth Simmons' shoes is Scott Boyes, formerly regional gm for Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

His role will be filled by Adrian Williams who was regional gm for Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Completing the restructure, Matthew Young, a new gm, previously at IHG Hotels, is taking the helm in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Simon McGrath, Accor's chief operating officer – Pacific said the new changes ensure the best person is assigned to each role as the company moves forward with its much larger portfolio following the acquisition of the Mirvac hotel group.

"We are focused very strongly on succession planning at Accor to ensure that our general managers enjoy the mobility and development that come from being part of one of the largest hotel groups in the world," he said.

"These executive appointments have been designed to recognise the input of our key staff and put the best available people into the best roles."

IHG region-wide offers

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotel Group (IHG) has launched a region-wide promotion offering up to 30% off bookings at three of its brands, InterContinental, Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Hotels & Resorts.

The offer includes free breakfast to guests in hotels for all stays across Asia, Middle-East & Africa.



BRING it on!

It has been said that in seven to 10 years, we will be able to breeze through airports without the usual security checks and scans.

If that is the case, then Dallas International Airport is ahead of the game, already making inroads for passengers to move non-stop from carpark to plane using fingerprints and iris scans.

But before that happens biometric data - a scan of your eye and fingerprint, needs to be given and the annual fee is \$179.

It will be akin to "walking down a hall," reassure security experts.

No need to take off your coat, shoes & belt and your computer can stay in your carry on.

Dusit maximiser offer

DUSIT International are offering their Best Available Rate at any of their participating hotels or resorts to MICE groups with their 'Maximizing Meetings with Dusit International' promotion.

Valid until 30 September, organisers receive 20% off the first night's rate as credit against additional privileges such as dining and delegate packages.

James Ramage, Dusit Int'l's asst. vp - global sales said the offer give delegates increased value and more privileges.

QLD incentivises

LOOKING for inspiration?

Tourism Queensland has launched a new Queensland Incentive brochure filled with new experience ideas to motivate the fussiest incentive group.

No matter if the group size is 20 - 5,000 people, there's something for everyone, from pristine beaches and ancient wilderness; food and wine served with sophistication and style to events and activities planned with professionalism and executed with imagination.

To find out more visit: queenslandincentives.com.

WIN AN ESCAPE TO EMIRATES WOLGAN VALLEY RESORT & SPA



During the months of June and July, *Business Events News* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing two-night stay at the exclusive Emirates **Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa** in the Blue Mountains.

The prize includes a two-night stay for two people in a Heritage Suite with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Non-alcoholic beverages with all meals and selected regional wines and beer with lunch and dinner are also included, as are two outdoor activities each day.

Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa is located on a 4000-acre nature reserve adjacent to the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains and only 190kms from Sydney. The resort offers 40 stand-alone luxury suites, each with its own private verandah & swimming pool.



To enter simply email your answers to each question by 27th July 2012

Q.6: Name at least 2 of the native fauna species that call Wolgan Valley home

Hint: wolganvalley.com

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

[Click here for terms & conditions](#)





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Big Pineapple invite

IN celebration of the historic and much loved venue, the Big Pineapple on the Sunshine Coast is re-opening its Function Centre and readers are invited to attend.

You'll enjoy complimentary hospitality, entertainment, learn of the Big Pineapple's vision and meet the venue managers.

Guests will have the chance to win a \$1650 team building program for 10 people.

It's on Thursday 19 July between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

On hand to officially open the venue will be special guest Mayor Mark Jamieson.

To RSVP to the event email - functions@bigpineapple.com.au.



Gotye, Madden & Higgins at the SCEC

THERE was music in the air at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre last month when it hosted the Song Summit and APRA Music Awards, A range of music workshops, gigs and master classes were held and delegates spontaneously jammed throughout the Bayside Convention Centre, with the baby grand piano proving a popular focus for sessions.

Held over three days from 26-28 May, the summit included dozens of well-known musicians, songwriters and industry experts including performers Gotye, Missy Higgins and Joel Madden.

In addition, there were live performances each evening across five venues, as well as the staging of the APRA 2012 awards in the Parkside Ballroom.

APRA corporate events manager Jana Gibson praised the Centre for its role in delivering a successful event.

"This was the first time we've held our evening performances at the same location as the daily workshops and sessions and it worked really well.

"There was no noise spill and

we maintained a vibe without being in a music venue," Gibson said.

From the Centre's perspective, the Song Summit had some different requirements including the simultaneous live music



events and the need for almost 40 headset mikes to accommodate the large number of interview-style sessions.

While the event attracted more than 500 delegates each day, the Centre Video Production Unit played a role in sharing the key sessions with those who couldn't attend, recording key lectures and editing and uploading them to the Song Summit website within the hour.

Auckland

GETTING TO KNOW:

There's something very cosy and inviting about Auckland, a world-class city that climbs up a hill and falls down to the harbour.

It's a waterfront that by day is alive with boats, yachts and ferries scurrying or gliding hither and thither, adding to its moniker of 'The City of Sails.'

Auckland is one of the few cities in the world to have three harbours, so there's plenty of water to mess about in.

At night the harbour foreshore is a happening place, sparkling with a myriad of lights that beam out from the many restaurants, cafes and bars, as well as a new waterfront development at Wynyard Quarter which houses some very funky new venues including the Viaduct Events Centre.

This purpose built facility is the perfect location for a conference, banquet, function or exhibition and its position; right on the water's edge, gives it added appeal.

With more than 6,000 accommodation rooms in the central business district alone, organisers will find many of the major hotels are there, including the Hilton, Sofitel, Langham, Pullman, Crowne Plaza, Rendezvous and Rydges, in addition to the excellent SKYCITY Grand, Heritage, Copthorne and Quay hotels.

Pre and post conferencing ideas and team building exercises are easy to locate in the Auckland Convention Bureau's 'From Mild to Wild' brochure of 50 group activities.

There is everything from a tailored tour on Waiheke Island with its award-winning wineries, to cruising on a luxury super yacht or traditional Maori waka (canoe).

You might like to try your hand crewing on an America's Cup yacht, snorkel at Goat Island Marine Reserve or walk through Tiritiri Matangi Island wildlife sanctuary.

And, if you want to get out of the city for a night or two, check out Auckland's Waitakere Estate, set amongst the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Park, they have three conference rooms and 19 accommodation rooms.

Auckland's possibilities you will find are as endless as a welcoming New Zealand smile.

