



## The week begins...

**MONDAY**, can it be blue sky I see outside my window – well, at least in Sydney?



Many thanks for the enthusiastic and encouraging emails you have been sending.

We love to hear from you.

Don't forget to send in your breaking news, ideas and anything else you find amusing, strange or odd for our popular Crumbs column.

And those wanting corporate tickets for the Melbourne 2012 Formula 1 should get their skates on and turn to **page 3** to find out how to get them - *Jill*.

## Honour for Grant Hunt

**GRANT** Hunt, former Tourism Australia director, Voyages chief and founder of the Anthology tourism



collection, has received one of the Australian tourism industry's highest honours, that of Outstanding Contribution by an Individual.

The announcement, made at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards ceremony in Cairns last Friday night, noted that Hunt has earned a national reputation as an innovator with visionary

thinking and leadership, particularly in the areas of responsible & sustainable tourism.

Special recognition was made of the role he has played as a leader in sustainable tourism development, working closely with local communities and developing important initiatives to support the environment.

Hunt's company Anthology, is the embodiment of this commitment.

Cornerstone property of the Anthology collection, Wildman Wilderness Lodge, is a partnership with Indigenous Business Australia.

The Lodge was also recognised with a bronze award at the ceremony for Best New Development for 2011.

"We began Anthology with the dream of creating one of the world's finest experiential travel brands," Hunt said.

"We want to offer our guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature and heritage in rare and interesting locations."

## Win movie tickets!

**BUSINESS Events News**, together with the Australian Film Festival, is offering readers the chance to win a double pass to a number of showings of the 'Top Aussie Flicks' being run over 11 days from Wed this week.

The opening night of the Australian Film Festival will showcase the film *Swerve* at the Ritz Cinema Randwick at 7.00pm followed by *Hail, More4Me* and *Burning Man* over the following nights.

To be in the running to win a double pass to one of the films be one of the first four people to email the answer to the question - *Who stars in the Burning Man?* - [movies@businessesnews.com.au](mailto:movies@businessesnews.com.au)

**MEANWHILE** Sofitel Hotels is also giving away double passes to the Alliance Francaise French Film Festival which is being held in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide.

The Festival will be held in the Chauvel Cinema, Palace Verona and Palace Norton Street from 06 Mar to 09 Apr - see **page 2**.

## 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@businessesnews.com.au](mailto:voyagescomp@businessesnews.com.au)

The most creative answer will win this fantastic prize.

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



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## Conference chiefs all heart

**JOHN** Zaharakis, head of conferences & events for travel giant Jetset Travelworld Group, and Franc Lipovic from Francly Speaking, proved their hearts are in the right place



when they recently took time out from their day jobs and flew to Shanghai to volunteer for the local Heart to Heart charity.

The Heart to Heart outreach centre specialises in raising funds to help children receive heart operations and also donates monies to support regional and rural Chinese communities.

While on the trip the pair filmed their experiences and plan to make a documentary to help raise

awareness about Heart to Heart and opportunities to give.

They were generously hosted during their visit by the luxury Langham, Xintiandi hotel.

Pictured above, from left are the The Langham Xintiandi's Donna Campbell with John Zaharakis from Jetset Travelworld Group, Christine Cullen from Heart to Heart and Franc Lipovic from Francly Speaking.



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THE Hunter Valley Convention Bureau launched its Meeting Planners' Guide

to offer details on venues and services in the region for conferences, incentives and meetings. The digital flipbook can be found online at the HVCB website has been supported by the NSW Government through Destination NSW and its Demand Building Funding. To download a copy see [winecountry.com.au/conferences](http://winecountry.com.au/conferences)

**WIN TICKETS TO THE ALLIANCE FRANCAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**



This week, **Business Events News** is giving readers the chance to win one of three



double passes to the Alliance Française French Film Festival, courtesy of **Sofitel Luxury Hotels**.

This fantastic prize includes a double pass to any film during the Festival at a choice of cinemas across Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, Perth or Adelaide.

For your chance to win, simply be the first to answer the question, everyday this week to - [comp@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:comp@businesseventsnews.com.au)

**Sofitel is the only brand of luxury hotels on how many continents?**  
a) 5 b) 4 c) 3

## Melanesian's \$1 million upgrade

THE completion of a \$1 million refurbishment to Vanuatu's three-star Melanesian hotel is expected to increase its appeal to the budget conscious business traveller as well as to small and medium meetings of up to 130 people.

Included in the property's 69 room and 12 apartment fit out are new bathrooms, furniture and soft furnishings.

Just a few minutes' walk from downtown Port Vila, room rates at the Melanesian range from \$95, and include continental breakfast.

Very competitive conference room rates allow for the hire of

rooms for part day, full day or day and night functions.

General manager Hiro Osuka says the enhancements make the hotel a very attractive proposition for incentives and meetings from the middle market range.

"In Vanuatu spending \$1 million dollars will give you three or four times the extent of improvements you would get for the same money in Australia", he said, further adding that the Melanesian's incentive rates will appeal to family focused conferences that allow children to stay for free in their parents' room and eat for free when they dine with their parents.

## Very green pastures



THE historic four-star Camden Valley Inn, which won the award for the best pub-style accommodation in Australia at the Australian Hotels Association 2011 Awards for Excellence, has a new all-inclusive conference package.

Available for groups of at least 10 people, the deal is priced from \$125 per person, twin-share and includes a nights' deluxe accommodation for attendees as well as conference room hire, "country-style breakfast," working lunch, morning and afternoon tea, coffee and biscuits and use of standard audio-visual equipment.

The inn, nestled amongst the hills and dales of the historic Macarthur region offers an outdoor pool, award-winning gardens, a country-style restaurant, an English-style pub and a new mini vineyard.

"Beautiful Camden is just under an hour's drive from Sydney and 45 minutes from Sydney Airport so this conference package is perfect for companies keen to motivate and bond staff with a trip away from the office so they can plan and talk away from city stresses," said Camden Valley Inn business development manager, Louise Furlong.

## A Highland fling



THE Southern Highlands and Bowral in particular were the winners when the PR members of the ASTW (Australian Society of Travel Writers) took a sticky wicket at the annual Writers versus PRs Wine and Wickets clash in Bowral and won the day - PRs 4-169 v Writers 75.

Accor's PR boss and cricketing guru Peter Hook's decision for his team to bat first proved a masterstroke as the PRs went on to win by a "Bowral mile" at Bradman Oval.

The weekend, hosted by Southern Highlands Tourism and the International Cricket Hall of Fame with its Bradman Gallery and many other pieces of

fascinating cricket memorabilia, demonstrated that the 'hallowed' Bradman Oval and the Cricket Hall of Fame could be hired for corporate and team events.

During their stay in the region, players and supporters were treated to a scenic sightseeing tour along the Illawarra Fly tree top walk (for a spectacular bird's eye view of the South Coast), Fitzroy Falls and a sample of the region's tasty produce and wines from Tertini Wines, followed by a dinner in the Cricket Hall of Fame.

Pictured is the winning team: which includes Accor's Peter Hook (holding cup) next to World Trade Travel's Mike Smith who is holding the trophy.

## Sheraton Mirage deal

IN celebration of its recent refurbishment, the Sheraton Mirage Resort on the Queensland Gold Coast is offering special MICE packages, for delegates staying up to 31 Jul.

The deal, priced from \$240 per room per night, also includes free brekkie for two people.

Details at <http://bit.ly/yLnY7V>.



# business events news

5th March 2012



## crumbs!

**NOW** this is a hot destination.

A hotel in Huilo Huilo, a private natural reserve in the Los Rios region of Chile, has a hotel shaped just like a volcano.

Called the Magic Mountain, instead of molten lava it spews water, which cascades down the walls and windows.

Sporting antique doors and windows and a shaky wooden drawbridge, each of its nine rooms, named after bird species found in the area, overlooks the thick forest and wildlife outside, including toucans, iguanas, pumas and lizards.

And the real thing - the enormous Arenal volcano - can be also be seen in the distance.

**THE** Associated Press report that somewhere in Ireland, a burglar has the heart of a saint! D

Devastated church officials of Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin say their most precious relic, the preserved heart of St. Laurence O'Toole (patron saint of Dublin) was stolen on Sunday.

Ireland's national police force is trying to identify the forty people who walked out of the cathedral on Saturday morning.

## THAI means Business

**THAI's** Royal Silk Business Class seats are on sale with fares across their network to Thailand, Vietnam, China, India and Europe that include \$3,512 to Bangkok, \$3,922 to Shanghai and \$7,527 to Los Angeles.

Fly from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Perth and book and ticket by 11 March '12 for travel until 30 June '12, with savings also on a choice of THAI's most popular domestic destinations.

## Grand Prix tickets

**STEVE** Poole of Current Events has corporate events tickets to the 2012 Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix being held over 15-18 Mar.

The very classy facility with full corporate catering is at the end of turn 1 and 2 and offers the best vantage point on the track.

Available for any of the three days, fans at the Albert Park circuit will witness six world champs and, for the first time in Formula One history, two Aussies on the Melbourne Formula 1 grid.

During the event the Royal Australian Air Force will take to the skies above Albert Park with the Roulettes and F/A-18s in action - [steve@currentevents.com.au](mailto:steve@currentevents.com.au).

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## Incentive ideas

**DAVID** Addison, head of MCI Australia's corporate division, presents a new regular **BEN** feature on possibilities for corporate groups.



I recently came across a very special part of Italy that is attracting the Australian traveller for all the right reasons.

Nestled in the heart of Italy's Riviera, in Santa Margherita Ligure, is the *Grand Hotel Miramare*.

Owned by the Fustinoni family for 70 years, this hotel is quintessentially Italy.

Where is it you may ask? Liguria, four kilometres from Portofino on the Mediterranean coast, and just two hours south of Milan.

I have put together an enticing itinerary with this stunning hotel as the irresistible destination.

**Day one** – Depart Australia via Singapore or Dubai

**Day two** – Arrive either Nice or Milan and transfer to Liguria.

**Day three** – Business meeting at Grand Hotel Miramare - followed by a sports car transfer along the Via Ducca degli Abruzzi to Portofino. Along the way visit 10th century Castello Brown before lunch at Strainer Ristorante, overlooking the yachts in Portofino. Explore the village and return to Santa Margherita Ligure; evening at leisure.

**Day four** – Choose from shopping at Serravalle Designer Outlet; a visit to Camogli (a lovely fishing village with pastel coloured houses); hike in the Portofino Regional Park; laze at the hotel or take part in water sports, golf and horseback riding.

Late afternoon transfer by luxury boat to dinner to Abbazia di San Fruttuoso, an abbey built in the 11th century set in an idyllic bay. Return to the Miramare for a nightcap in the Piano Bar Barracuda.

**Day five** – Explore the Italian Riviera on a day trip to the Cinque Terre National Park, and later return for a sumptuous farewell dinner in a surprise location.

Now who wouldn't enjoy that?



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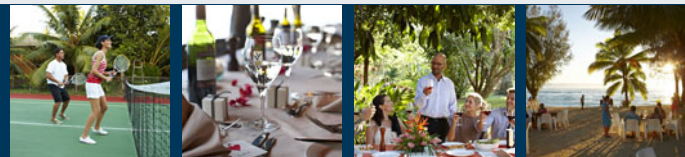
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