



Out & about

If you are out and about on the foreshores of Sydney Harbour you may be surprised



to find on Mrs Macquarie's Road at Fleet Steps, a floating, giant mirror-like stage with a 9-metre Swarovski crystal chandelier suspected above.

All part of the spectacular Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour - La Traviata starts a three week run from 24 Mar.

The event's glamour and spectacle and can be shared with groups of 10+, and includes discounts and priority seating.

Interval drinks can be taken in the exclusive Platinum Lounge, a luxurious bar and bespoke dining area.

BEN will be there to report on the occasion - weather permitting - Jill.

PAITC Indigenous conference

PAITC (Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference), a joint initiative of ATEC, Tourism Northern Territory and the Pacific Asia Travel Association, will hold their inaugural conference at the Darwin Convention Centre, 28-



30 March.

Under the title of *Tourism and Indigenous People - Enriching our Future Together* - the role of and future of Indigenous tourism, a powerful line up of speakers with insights into some of the trends, opportunities and challenges of indigenous tourism in the region, will be under discussion.

"PAITC will be a truly inspiring event that offers the tourism industry an opportunity to engage with and expand the profile of Indigenous tourism, particularly in the Pacific Asia region," ATEC Chairman, John King said.

"This conference is not only for Indigenous tourism operators, but for organisations representing Indigenous peoples, governments and government agencies, tourism organisations, operators, NGO's, Universities and research bodies".

Virgin Atlantic comp

DON'T forget to check out page three for the chance to win Richard Branson's new book 'Screw Business as Usual' by being the first to answer today's question.



crumbs!

A Sri Lankan man died after he buried himself with the help of family and friends, in a trench sealed with wood and soil.

He had made two previous attempts - for two and a half hours and six hours respectively.

His mother said he had enjoyed performing usual acts since childhood.

It is unclear whether there is an official world record for the longest time buried alive.

ONE for the insomniacs.

The Swissôtel Berlin is offering stressed business executives with sleeping problems the chance to try their DeepSleep Package.

Costing €60.00 on top of the regular room rate, the DeepSleep Package, assures healthy sleep - and may even help guests lose weight.

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Industry appointments

Chris Sedgwick has been appointed as Accor's regional general manager - Queensland Hotels.



He brings with him more than 19 nineteen years involvement within the hospitality industry, commencing with Accor Hospitality in 2006 as general manager Novotel Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast before taking on the dual role of general manager at Novotel Atrium Darwin Hotel and regional manager for NT/SA in 2008.



Crowne Plaza has appointed Steven Greenwood as its new area general manager NSW and ACT Regional,

covering properties in Canberra, Newcastle, the Hunter Valley and Central Coast.

He also replaces David Bark as gm of Crowne Plaza Terrigal, who moves to a new role as gm of Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley.

Scott Walton who many will remember from his time at Vomo Island and Radisson resorts, has returned to Fiji in the role of Treasure Island Resort, group general manager.

He brings to the role of gm of both the popular Treasure and Bounty Island resorts, a wealth of hospitality industry knowledge.

Bill Whiting, chairman of Treasure Island Ltd said, "Scott is a highly qualified and respected professional who has a deep passion for the marine environment.

Ringo stars at the NCC

FOR 11 years Ringo Fung has been at Canberra's National Convention Centre (NCC).

Ever since his first role as the food and beverage manager, he has spent the majority of his working life in customer service, assisting the likes of former prime minister, John Howard, Kevin Rudd, Olivia Newton-John and members of Hi-5.

His role as client services manager was specifically created for him in 2007 after overwhelming feedback from conference delegates and Professional Conference Organiser's who praised his incomparable dedication to service.

Born in Hong Kong, Ringo refers to himself as the NCC's personalised butler.

Ensuring that every expectation is fulfilled he will head off on a round-town search for an exotic and hard-to-find coffee supplier to ease the cravings of a delegate, to sitting with a ceo keen to learn to tie an intricate ribbon around his wife's anniversary gift, to sourcing specific bottles of wine for a delegate that forgot his ceo's birthday.

Ringo laughs that his most popular request is to turn cloth napkins into works of art such as

a lily, candles, the Sydney Opera House and Egypt's Pyramids.

The NCC's go-to guy for problem solving and unusual requests, he says, "My car has



turned into a NCC emergency kit that contains everything from birthday candles for last minute celebrations to safety pins for the common wardrobe malfunctions," he laughed.

The 2010 BMW Sydney Carnival's hospitality

THERE will be plenty of colour and movement opportunities for corporate hospitality, when the 2010 BMW Sydney Carnival, when it commences on 24 Mar.

The event begins with Myer Ladies Day Rosehill Gardens and finishes with the Sydney Cup Day Royal Randwick.

ATC Chairman John Cornish said there were exciting times ahead for Sydney racing as the Club was overseeing major developments.

One of these, the largest super screen in the southern hemisphere will be ready for Rosehill Gardens in time for the AAMI Golden Slipper on the 7 Apr and the \$150m redevelopment of the "Theatre of the Horse" at Royal Randwick, will be ready in time for the 2013 Carnival.

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

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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The Texan's comes to town



THE state of Texas, together with the Dallas CVB and DFW International airport 'rode' into the Quay Grand's ECQ Bar last

night, to host a travel industry gathering.

Phillip Jones, president/ceo, Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau said Dallas had America's 6th busiest convention market.

Dallas Convention Center which recently underwent a US\$60M expansion and restoration is now connected to a brand new 1001 room, Omni Dallas hotel.

Jones said that since Qantas chose Dallas/Fort Worth as their American hub, visitor arrivals from Australia had risen by 90%.

Dallas, he revealed had the largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies, one of the lures that is attracting two to three Australian conferences a month.

Pictured from left at the event from left are: Mike Osbourne, Sandra Tiltman and Phillip Jones from Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Peppers \$1000 offer

A *Get on with Business* package is being offered by Peppers Bluewater Resort Tekapo which gives \$1000 towards coach transfers from Christchurch.

The package also offers a host of other benefits for conference bookings of at least two nights' accommodation for a minimum of 40 delegates from \$466 pp.

In addition groups have the choice of two complimentary activities, from a unique star gazing tour to Mt John Observatory, a horse riding trek, or a spa and massage as well as a High Country barbeque.

Win Richard Branson's new book



This week, *Business Events News* is giving



readers the chance to win a copy of Richard Branson's new book: 'Screw business as usual' courtesy of Virgin Atlantic.

For over 26 years, Virgin Atlantic has been one of the world's leading long haul airlines. The carrier's dedicated Groups Sales team offers tailor made solutions to meet the needs and objectives of its clients.

For your chance to win, simply be the first to answer the following question to - comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

How many adults make a group in Economy Class?

Hint: www.vsflyinghub.com



Tech tips for presentations

IT's every presenter's nightmare. Arriving at a venue only to find your presentation looks like rubbish.

Sometimes this is due to faulty equipment, but more often than not it's because the presenter hasn't thought through the technical aspects of their presentation.

Here are a few tips that will help things run smoothly.

Check your presentation

While your presentation may look good on your computer screen, don't assume it will look the same when projected.

Colours can change dramatically on a big screen – orange and yellow may become greenish and greys may disappear altogether.

Avoid using these colours where possible. Also, keep a generous margin around the screen as words and images too close to the edge might also disappear.

Check your equipment
Use a break prior to your presentation to set up your computer and make sure everything works properly. This includes making sure you have the right cables to connect to the venue's projection and audio equipment. If you have a Mac, you may need a special adaptor (eg Mini DVI to VGA). Don't assume there will always be audio available (check) and don't forget to take your power adaptor with you when you're finished.

Check your animations

If you are presenting from someone else's computer, make sure you check your animations. Some don't work between different versions of PowerPoint and Keynote. Keeping it simple is the best bet here. Saving your



presentations in an earlier software version (eg PowerPoint 2003) is always a safe option.

Check your batteries

Even if you are running your laptop off power, make sure the batteries are fully charged. The same goes for your bluetooth/wi-fi remote and Smartphone if you are displaying/advancing your slides using these devices.

Optimise your screen resolution. Most PCs perform best at 1024 x 768, but with new widescreen projectors and LCD TVs being used at many venues these days it's best to check. For optimal viewing, it might be best to create your presentation in 16:9 (widescreen) format, but check with the event organiser first.

Take a backup

It might seem obvious, but always carry a backup of your presentation on a USB stick and have it pre-loaded into a spare show computer (if possible). This way you can pick up from where you left off fairly quickly if the main computer dies unexpectedly.

And this does happen!

To check out the latest tech news for small business visit Tony Wragg's TechTalk at:

www.tonystechtalk.com.au



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