

**Vivid!**

FRIDAY night's launch of Vivid, the lights, music & ideas festival, at Sydney's stunningly refurbished Museum of Contemporary Art, was a visual delight that lit up the harbour and surrounds and a who's who of guests from politics, tourism, events, and business.



Spotted amongst the 'high rollers' were Alan Joyce, Bruce Baird and Wendy Machin and recently returned to the Sydney, TAA Chairman, Tony North.

With his creative hand in the event was David Grant and the teams from Tourism Australia and Destination NSW, fronted by the always upbeat Sandra Chipchase who welcomed the guests.

Vivid runs until 11 June and is a don't miss Sydney event.

ALSO in today's issue we have the Ben on BEN column where inPlace Recruitment's Business Manager Ben Carnegie gives his observations on how to find the perfect job based on the recruiters perspective.

If there is anything that you want to ask Ben feel free to write in to *Business Events News* at [info@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:info@businesseventsnews.com.au) and we will send on your comments to Ben.

He'll be able to respond to specific individual questions in upcoming editions of his exclusive *BEN* column. - Jill.

**Flight Centre does Saigon**

WHEN Flight Centre Australia held their marketing conference in Saigon recently, bringing together the marketing managers of each state and Flight Centre head office, Travel Indochina was responsible for making all the ground arrangements & organising the event at the Caravelle Hotel.

According to gm marketing for Flight Centre Australia, Robert Crack, the event was a real success.

"Since we endeavour to hold our annual conference in popular, core destinations and/or rapidly growing ones, and with Australian traveller numbers to Vietnam doubling over the past six years, it seemed logical to choose Vietnam as the location for Flight Centre Australia's marketing planning conference," he said.

"We were very pleased to have Travel Indochina, who has operated in Vietnam for almost twenty years, showcase the

essence, character and vibe of Saigon/HCMC and the Mekong Delta, to our marketing leaders.

Flight Centre's attendees were Kelly Nicholson, Monica Baker, Timothy Hayden, Monique Van Gelder, Kimberley Saddington, Saxon Templeton, Robert Crack and Deana Puglisi.

Travel Indochina's host was Maxine Wiggs, national sales & marketing manager, who's **pictured** above with the team.

**Rice joins All Seasons**

PETER Blackburn, general manager of All Seasons Cairns Colonial Club has announced the appointment of Susan Rice as the hotel's new director of sales and marketing.



Rice, who comes to the role with more than 20 years experience in administration and hotel sales and marketing, said she relishes the challenges ahead and is very optimistic about the future of tourism in Tropical North Queensland.

Blackburn said Rice has been a key member of their team for a number of years, and during that time has shown an in depth understanding of the industry at all levels of its operation.

"I am absolutely delighted to announce her in this role," he said.

**Ben on BEN**

Each month Business Manager for inPlace Recruitment, Ben Carnegie, writes his observations from the recruiters perspective to help job hunters find the perfect job.

Ben has over 15 years working in 5 star hotels and the MICE industry and has worked on some of Australia's biggest events.

**EDUCATIONAL**

institutions are busting at the seams with students crying out for a hand in finding their first opportunity.



The old catch 22 is: "How do I get a job without experience? But how do I get experience without a job?" - this is something that graduates are facing every day.

Is volunteering the solution? From the industry professionals I have discussed this with, graduates need to be targeted in their approach when volunteering.

I would suggest the following:

- Attend industry association networking events and find out what sector of the events industry really suits your skills.
- Then research appropriate companies, who to contact within these organisations and introduce yourself to them at the next event. A confident introduction in person is a more memorable experience and should be commended!

Do you remember when you first joined the industry? The more we encourage this, the greater the talent pool will become.

**Mackay for MICE**

THE Mackay Convention Bureau is again featuring the Queensland region's array of business tourism products and services via **page five** of today's issue of *BEN*.

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## crumbs!

### TRULY booked!

Italian police have arrested the director and the curator of the oldest library in Naples, the Girolamini, for stealing hundreds of books and manuscripts from their own collection.

It turns out they have been stealing the books "over a long period of time."

The public library founded in the 16th century, the victim of a criminal plot, has lost 257 titles from its collection of musical scores and books covering the 16th-19th centuries.

**PERHAPS** it's the economy, but Italy seems to be set by white collar crime - this time it's the head of The Vatican's bank.

Ettore Gotti Tedeschi is being investigated in a money laundering case, after receiving a unanimous vote of no-confidence from bank overseers.

The Holy See cited Tedeschi's failure to fulfill the "primary functions of his office" as the reason for his dismissal.

## Yoga on the go

**BUSY** travellers checking into Sydney's Fraser Suites can take advantage of in-room yoga instruction from one of Sydney's leading practitioners.

The means to unwind and de-stress, comes about through the hotel's partnership with Insight Yoga who offer tuition for every level, from beginners to advanced instruction and can even offer the service as part of a meeting or conference to bigger groups.

Guests can choose to either have their class in their spacious suite or in the 200sqm, state of the art gymnasium.

According to gm Fraser Suites Sydney, Matthew Rubie, yoga is one of the best activities for travellers and guests to relax, unwind and refocus the mind.

The Yoga package from \$304/rpn, includes one night accom in a Deluxe Suite with a one hour private yoga training session.

Based on single or double occupancy, it is valid until 30 Dec.

## Trouble with the G20

**JEREMY** Liddle who launched his first company, RioLife, at the age of 24 and went on to be awarded Australia's Fastest Growing Small Business in 2010 and was again a finalist in 2011, has just been nominated as head Australian delegate to the G20 YES conference in Mexico commencing 2nd June.

The G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance (G20YEA) organises the G20 Young Entrepreneur Summit (G20 YES), a gathering of young entrepreneurs and the organisations that represent them, to convene, network and discuss the policy and regulatory changes needed to foster entrepreneurship.

However, there appears to be a problem.

With less than three weeks to put together a 13 strong delegation of Australia's hottest young entrepreneurs, awareness about the G20YES in Australia is lacklustre at best, he says and the delegation has no external funding for flights, accommodation and travel expenses.

"Young entrepreneurs are critical in the promotion of economic growth, creation of jobs, promotion of innovation and are drivers of social change.

"The Australian government spent \$40 million sending politicians to the G20 summit in 2011, but Australia's Entrepreneurs are yet to be funded and fully represented at such an important event on the global stage" said Liddle.

Jeremy Liddle is seeking corporate sponsorship, government engagement and more media exposure.

If you can help - please contact Jeremy Liddle (below) on LinkedIn.



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## Western Sydney's big win

**LAST** Friday saw the official opening of the upgraded Sydney Showground Stadium at Sydney Olympic Park,



ahead of Greater Western Sydney's first home game at the ground on the Saturday night.

Opened by NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney Barry O'Farrell and Minister for Sport and Recreation Graham Annesley, O'Farrell said: "The NSW Government's investment has created a multi-purpose facility in the heart of Western Sydney.

"Western Sydney residents are the big beneficiaries of this upgrade, with the establishment of yet another first class sporting facility in the region," he said.

O'Farrell said the stadium redevelopment had been jointly funded by the NSW Government (\$45 million), the Australian Football League (\$12 million) and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (\$7 million).

Key features of the upgrade include: a new grandstand to the North East and South East of the Stadium; an increase in capacity from approximately 13,000 to 25,000, with all additional capacity seated and 40,000 capacity in concert mode; and, upgraded corporate hospitality, bars and function space, as well as new media facilities and improved audio and sound systems.

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) ceo Michael Kenny said the new Stadium will enable the RAS to retain and attract a larger breadth of events well into the future.

"Sydney Showground already has an enviable reputation as a leader in the events industry and this upgrade will only strengthen its position and generate

significant economic activity in Western Sydney and for the state of NSW," he said.

It was a big week for Western Sydney sports fans, with Graham Annesley also opening the revamped Sydney Motorsport Park at Eastern Creek.

**Pictured** is an artists impression of the new Homebush stadium.

## Stay and Play at Fairmont

This week, *Business Events News* is giving readers the chance to win a 'Stay and Play' package consisting of one night accom in a Fairmont deluxe room and breakfast for two plus a game of golf and cart hire at Leura Golf club courtesy of **Fairmont Resort MGallery and Leura Golf Club**.

The newly renovated and rebranded **Fairmont Resort MGallery** has unparalleled leisure and conference facilities and offers the perfect setting for romantic getaways in the Blue Mountains, weekend escapes, weddings and cutting-edge business retreats in world-class conference venues in the heart of Greater Sydney.

The most creative answer will win: [comp@businessesnews.com.au](mailto:comp@businessesnews.com.au)

**Tell us in 25 words or less what you love about winter and golfing in the mountains?**



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## Queenstown's new initiative

LAST week, Destination Queenstown's Convention Bureau hosted 20 corporate and PCOs from around New Zealand, with the potential to bring millions of dollars of business to Queenstown.



The group on the four-day familiarisation, which took in hotels, venues and activities suitable for conferences or incentive trips, were also able to experience the resort town's range of offerings firsthand.

The Convention Bureau which regularly hosts industry famils and site inspections said this invite-only group is a new initiative and involves 20 Queenstown operators for whom the C&I sector forms a core focus of their business.

The new format saw each invitee receive a personalised itinerary with activities and site inspections tailored to suit their needs.

It also included networking functions and a mini tradeshow to facilitate business opportunities with participating local operators through a series of individual appointments.

Destination Queenstown's Convention Bureau manager Kylie Brittain believes the new experiential program, which replaces an annual domestic roadshow, will significantly enhance the way Queenstown showcases its offerings.

"There's no better way to convert interest to business than bringing people here to experience our world-class operators, spectacular alpine setting and diversity of experiences.

"It allows us to demonstrate what can be done for conference and incentive groups rather than rely on sales calls and imagery."

Whitney Davis, from incentive

conference and event management company ICEWorks Auckland, has found the trip invaluable so far.

"It's my first visit to Queenstown and I've been blown away. It's a stunning place and ticks all the boxes as a destination with easy flight access, quality accommodation and venues, and a huge range of activities and dining," she said.

"I've gained a much greater understanding of what Queenstown has to offer for conferences and incentives and will definitely be recommending it to my clients."

Pictured above at Millbrook Resort from left are: Terri Growcott, Conference Innovators; Carla O'Neil, Avenues Event Management and Ashleigh Cox, Konica Minolta.

## KUL still up there

KUALA Lumpur has retained its position as the Top 10 Meetings Destination in Asia Pacific, jumping two places in world convention city rankings and three places in Asia Pacific ranking.

These figures are based on the number of international association meetings held in 2011, the ceo of Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau Zulkefli Hj. Sharif, said.



## MCVB plans for the future

A plan which centres on the Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau's (MCVB) vision of Melbourne becoming globally recognised as the world's premier city for business events and aims to have MCVB acknowledged as a thought-leader, an innovator and driver of significant economic impact to the city, state and country, was officially launched at IMEX by ceo Karen Bolinger.

Bolinger said the multi-layered strategic plan had been developed in consultation with clients, stakeholders and staff at all levels of the organisation.

"We have reassessed who we are as an organisation and what we want to achieve, and in line with this we have worked hard to establish what we are doing well and what we want to do better," she said.

"As the economic and competitive landscape changes, the strategic direction of MCVB needs to move with it and this new plan has been developed to identify how we can remain competitive on a global stage.

"The six strategic projects provide us with a platform on which to build a focused organisation with a set direction.

"We've got rid of the clutter and in some instances redirect our resources in order to streamline our activities to deliver us better conversion across the board and ensure our clients, stakeholders and staff are all engaged."

## Chan joins Raffles

JANET Chan has been appointed as assistant director of sales for Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor, Siem Reap in Cambodia.

Originally from Hong Kong, Chan grew up in Sydney and was previously with Hotel de la Paix, Siem Reap.

She brings with her a wealth of international sales and marketing experience and will further strengthen Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor's position within the Siem Reap hotel scene.

Gareth Walters, director of sales & marketing for both Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor and Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Phnom Penh said: "Janet's impressive background in tourism and hospitality speaks for itself and her expertise will bolster our already dynamic sales team at Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor."

## 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/Mel to Port Vila, and five nights accommodation in a Harbour View 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.7: How many rooms and suites does the Grand Hotel and Casino have?

Hint: [grandvanuatu.com](http://grandvanuatu.com)

Email your answers to: [vanuatu@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:vanuatu@businesseventsnews.com.au)

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### Donaghy says, consider Oman

**GEOFF** Donaghy, the director of Convention Centres for AEG Ogden which manages the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, scheduled for completion in 2016, spoke at IMEX last week that highlighting the beauty and “must-see” aspects of Sultanate of Oman is good news for the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, which is scheduled for completion in 2016.

Global recognition should not be understated as a tool to promote venues to prospective customers, he said.

“Oman and its capital city Muscat recently being acknowledged by both Lonely Planet and National Geographic for its range of attractions was very timely.”

“Oman has been trading with the world for more than 5,000 years and is an active global community member so it comes as no surprise that our preliminary research and promotional activities has

uncovered strong interest in the Sultanate as a destination,” he said.

Donaghy went on to say that Oman’s diverse landscape, natural attractions, pristine coastline and rich heritage and culture had contributed to its emergence as a business events destination and becoming the Arabian Tourism Capital in 2012.

“AEG Ogden has been working in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Oman’s key stakeholders in introducing the world to Oman and as the new hub for major international conventions, meetings and business events.

“Many international and regional organisations have already expressed a strong desire to hold future or expand events in the sea side city of Muscat.

“Our message to these decision-makers is consider Oman not only for the world class venue that will be there but the diversity of attractions at their disposal”.

**PARTICIPANTS** on a recent PCO familiarisation to Port Douglas were treated to a “sneak peek” of the new Mossman Gorge Gateway Centre prior to its official

opening, as well as attending the launch of the sparkling new marketplace-style Bazaar restaurant at the recently-rebranded and refurbished QT Resort Port Douglas.

The famil, hosted by Port Douglas Incentives and Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef (BEC&GBR), a collective of 15 incentive specialist suppliers who operate in the Port Douglas region, were especially keen to promote their What’s New in Port Douglas, a list of creative activity options for conference and incentive planners.

En route to Port Douglas, the group visited the five star Thala Beach Lodge, before sunset cocktails and canapés in Sugar Wharf Park, on Port Douglas’ Dickson Inlet.

This was followed by dessert at stylish Bistro 3 and an opportunity to meet all the Port Douglas Incentives members.

Day two got off to a literal flying



start with Breakfast with the Birds at Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas followed by exciting helicopter transfers to Silky Oaks Lodge.

The guided walk at Mossman Gorge Gateway Centre was a highlight as was cocktails in the spectacular rainforest location of Flames of the Forest.

Accommodation was provided at Sea Temple Resort, Sheraton Mirage and QT Port Douglas.

Relaxing massages, a day trip to the reef with Quicksilver, cocktails at the new QT Port Douglas and dinner at Sheraton Mirage maintained the excitement factor and a finale brunch with an array of interesting tropical critters at Hartley’s Crocodile Adventures ensured the memories would be lasting ones.

### CWT meetings move

**CARLSON** Wagonlit Travel today announced the appointment of Floyd Widener as senior vice president Global of CWT Meetings & Events.

Widener takes up the newly created role effective from 01 Jun, and will report to Cathy Voss, executive vice president of CWT Global Program Solutions and Meetings & Events, who said the move recognises the importance of the meetings/events sector.

“We see the significance of this market and we are putting into place a global structure that will best address expanding business opportunities,” she said.

The move will see the consolidation of existing meetings and events teams under the leadership of Widener, with clients to benefit from access to “an even broader range of global services such as data consolidation, safety and security and world-class tools and processes”.

### MICE plague in Hong Kong

**ACCORDING** to the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), Hong Kong received more than 300,000 overnight MICE visitor arrivals in the first quarter of 2012, 4.6% more than in the same period last year.

HKTB executive director Anthony Lau said: “Despite the fact that many corporations tightened their budgets on meetings and incentives in the face of global economic uncertainties, overnight MICE visitor arrivals to Hong Kong increased steadily in the first three months, with growth recorded in almost all visitor source markets,” Mr Lau continued.

“During this period, nearly 70 large-scale MICE events were staged in Hong Kong.

“These included the Hong Kong International Jewellery Show, which generated record-breaking

attendance of 38,000; the Asia Top Gallery Hotel Art Fair; the International Congress of Cardiology; and TOC Container Supply Chain Asia, which was held in Hong Kong for the first time.

“These events, along with the strengthening of most major currencies against the Hong Kong dollar, contributed to the gain in overnight MICE arrivals.

“Looking ahead, we project that the growth momentum will continue.”

In the latter half of this year, Hong Kong will host numerous mega international MICE events, including the Asian Attractions Expo and the 2012 JCI Asia-Pacific Conference Hong Kong in June, as well as the NU SKIN Greater China Regional Convention and the FDI World Dental Congress, which are expected to bring about 20,000 and 10,000 visitors to Hong Kong respectively.

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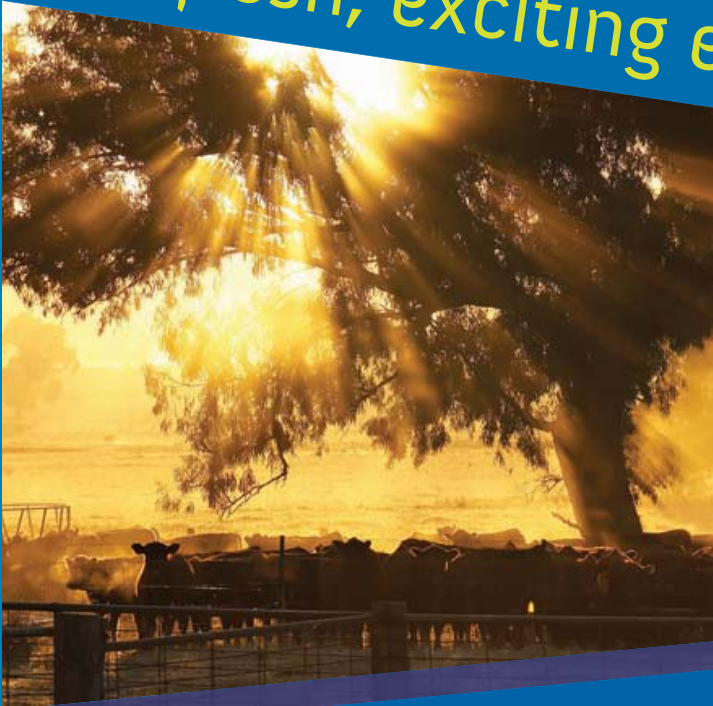
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