



A stylish lunch

HOSTED by global technology company Amadeus, a function at the Art Gallery of NSW this week was a reminder of what elegant spaces this venue has available for events.



Together with a variety of impressive galleries, the lunch was held in The Restaurant with its floor-to-ceiling windows and magnificent views over Woolloomooloo and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

In addition to dining, the Art Gallery of NSW is one of Sydney's most prized event venues, catering for up to 1000 guests in the magnificent Grand Court.

Giving added depth to an occasion, a guided viewing of one of the Gallery's exhibitions is highly recommended, such as the current Eugene Atget Old Paris photographic exhibition which runs until 4 November- *Jill*.

Qatar into oneworld

QATAR Airways, named Airline of the Year for the past two years by the Skytrax independent airline quality rating agency, is to join the **oneworld** airline alliance.

It is the second airline based in the Middle East, alongside Royal Jordanian, to join any of the global alliances.

The Doha-based airline's implementation into **oneworld** is expected to take between 12 and 18 months.

Turning up the heat at IMEX

PENNY Lion, head of Business Events Australia says US business events are hot on their radar during IMEX America 2012, with Tourism Australia committed to assisting US business event organisers to send their clients to Australia.

The news comes as Business Events Australia takes its largest ever contingent to an international trade show this week, with 20 partners joining Tourism Australia to showcase the country's energy, enthusiasm and options for business meetings, incentive travel, conferences and events.

Up from 16 stand partners in 2011, Australia's presence coincides with a significant increase in visitor numbers from the United States to Australia and is evidence of Australia's commitment to the US business events market.

In the year ended July 2012, the US market delivered an 18% increase on the previous year, which was the highest business arrival boost of any of Tourism Australia's key markets.

This result was achieved by 120,249 US business arrivals and 20,686 convention and conference arrivals to Australia, thereby cementing the US's position as second largest source market for business events visitors to Australia after New



Zealand.

"We are seeing strong interest and confirmed business from the United States for Australia's luxury incentive and large conferences destinations," said Lion.

"The market is definitely recovering from the impact of the economic downturn and, as we can see from the size of our presence at IMEX America, Australian suppliers are eager to invest in the United States."

Major conferences won by Australia include the G20's 2014 Summit in Brisbane, the Gold Coast hosting of the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and Melbourne's 2014 AIDS Congress, expected to attract up to 14,000 delegates.

Tourism Australia's vice president and regional general manager, Americas, Jane Whitehead said, "Australia is not only committed to delivering world class events – we're also committed to having world class infrastructure."

Tourism Australia's global 'There's nothing like Australia' business events marketing campaign with new advertising creative, will be seen in the US market from October.

Supported by the new businessevents.australia.com website, it focuses on providing the information and inspiration needed to create winning proposals.

Tourism Australia and partners will be hosting a daily prize draw to win an iPad, as well as a daily lunch for buyers and media on the Australia Stand #841.

Maui's Aloha Pavilion's new look and feel

THE Westin Maui Resort & Spa on legendary Kaanapali Beach in Hawaii offers creative themed parties and exotic luau experiences amidst the surroundings of their newly-redesigned Aloha Pavilion.

Set oceanfront, the indoor space with two new meeting rooms commanding unrivalled ocean and neighbour island views, opens into two hexagon-shaped pods with pillared columns and the expanse outdoor space featuring cascading waterfalls, swaying palms and koi pond gardens.

For additional information or to book the creative experiences for an event, visit the website at www.westinmaui.com.

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business events news

12th October 2012

Win with Peppers new website

A COMPREHENSIVE conferencing website has been launched by boutique accommodation and venue provider, Peppers.

The dedicated conference website is a 'one stop shop' for regional conferencing options across Australia and New Zealand, focusing on exceptional conferencing experiences at 19 properties across Australia's East Coast and seven properties in New Zealand's North and South islands, under the banner "Where can I...?".

Paul Wilson Pepper's director of MICE said that traditionally conferencing has been about location but more and more they encounter conference organisers seeking an experience.

"So the questions changed from 'Do you have a property in...' to 'Where can I go that I can take people out on the water' or 'Where can I go to create a great murder mystery setting'; or



simply 'Where can I go that is all about food' – hence the reason to focus the website on not only highlighting our fantastic regional venues, but also what we can offer once you get there."

To launch the new look website, Peppers are inviting meeting planners and conference organisers to enter the draw to win a two night stay at Peppers Salt Resort & Spa in Kingscliff, including return flights from Sydney or Melbourne plus a two hour spa treatment at Gold Door Spa.

The winner will also enjoy a three course dinner for two at Season Restaurant enjoying the menu of Chef Reuben Radonich.

To enter a vote for your favourite Peppers Retreat or Resort visit peppersconferences.com.

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Rae's got-ta-gos

BYRON Bay's exclusive beachfront hotel, Rae's on Wategos, is on the market for the first time in 20 years.

Set for auction, Friday 26 October at 2pm, founder and owner Vinnie Rae said, "Rae's is a hotel with the genuine feel of a beautiful home, it's a magnificent building and lifestyle however after 20 years, it's time for me to move on and pursue my overseas interest."

To be sold as an ongoing concern, a major DA is approved for a new underground carpark, cocktail bar, lift, new sub penthouse, larger spa and 200sqm entertaining terrace and gardens overlooking the ocean with direct beach access.



ACCORDING to a survey by online travel agent ZUJI.com.au, one in four Aussies confess to holding parties in their hotel room, almost a quarter have run naked in public areas of a hotel and 70% admit to taking ten minutes to figure out how to turn on a hotel shower.

Half the respondents say they choose where they stay based on price and value over reviews or location.

One in ten Australians say they won't stay anywhere that doesn't have free breakfast & free Wi-Fi.

Early checkouts and breakfast finishing too early were the most unpleasant things about staying in a hotel.

40% admitted to smuggling in friends and family into a room booked for one or two people.

70% admitted to taking 'abnormally' long showers, while 23% opt for clean towels every time they bathe.

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business events news

12th October 2012



The Heart. The Soul. The Centre.

CENTRAL Australia is The Heart, The Soul, The Centre of all your business event needs!

Alice Springs Convention Centre, with an abundance of natural light and spectacular views of the MacDonnell Ranges, is a fresh alternative for conferences and incentives for 10 – 1200 delegates.

The Centre boasts great facilities, professional friendly service and the essence of the true outback.

Crowne Plaza Alice Springs can seat between 12-300 guests in its five meeting rooms.

The pre-function area is perfect for greeting clients. Impress with an idyllic poolside party or a dinner in the high-ceilinged ballroom.

Chifley Alice Springs Resort is the perfect solution for your small to mid-sized conference.

Facilities range from the 14 seat Spinifex Boardroom, to the 40 seat Coolibah Meeting Room or the poolside Gumtree Room.

Plan your next event at The Uluru Meeting Place.

With the mighty silhouette of Uluru on the horizon, Ayers Rock Resort inspires delegates with high impact events and once in a lifetime experiences.

Central Australia offers a unique destination and is the home of unforgettable conferences and events.

Call Tourism Central Australia 08) 8952 5199 or go to the website at www.visitcentralaustralia.com.au

Create a Rendezvous

RIGHT now Rendezvous Hotels has some Smart Meetings Hot Offers in Australia and New Zealand all offering a 25% discount when you confirm a Smart Meeting Residential Conference Package.

In New Zealand the Rendezvous Grand Hotel Auckland has rates that start from NZ \$269 single occupancy and NZ \$178 twin share occupancy.

In Victoria, the Rendezvous Grand Hotel Melbourne's rates start from \$249 single occupancy and \$169 twin share occupancy

And, in Western Australia, Rendezvous Hotel Perth packages start from \$285 single occupancy and \$185 twin share occupancy.

Bookings must be confirmed between 01/11/12 and 31/12/12 and held by 31/12/13.

Offer is only applicable to new bookings with a minimum of 30 room nights and cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other special offer or promotion.

The discount will be applied to the customer on payment of the final invoice.

The offer is subject to availability, rates can change and blackout dates may apply.



We will remember Bali

ROYAL Darwin Hospital first held their War and Disaster conference at the Darwin Convention Centre in 2010.

This year the conference which focuses on the many and varied demands and crises faced by the hospital

not only from local events but also from its Asian neighbours, was held in the first week of October.

Adding poignancy to the event was the marking the 10th anniversary of the Bali bombings in which the hospital, together with Bali's Sanglah hospital played a remarkable role in attending to the hundreds of people injured in the nightclub blasts of 12 October, 2002 - in which 200 people, including 88 Australians were killed.

John Howard, the Prime Minister of Australia at the time of the bombings, was the guest speaker at the conference's Welcome Gala Dinner which



raised funds for the Sanglah Hospital.

Established following the Bali bombing, the War and Disaster conference is an initiative of Darwin's National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre.

Howard, in his address reminded the audience of the close ties that have been developed with Bali's Sanglah Hospital, paying tribute to the staff of the Royal Darwin Hospital for their treatment of those injured in the bombings.

"The response was a triumph of what I think can be described as the gentle efficiency of Australians when faced with a great crisis," he said.

Howard is **pictured** above with Darwin Convention Centre general manager Malu Barrios.

MEA announces EGM and AGM

THE Meetings Industry Association of Australia Limited will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting and its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 1st November in the Grand River Ballroom East, Pan Pacific Perth, 207 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, WA commencing at 4.30 pm.

The meeting is convened to consider, and if thought fit, pass a special resolution which will see current directors of the organisation included in the MEA Electoral Council.

The Electoral Council comprises one person elected or appointed by each branch plus five other persons elected by Members - and if the EGM resolution is passed this would also be expanded to include "existing directors who are part way through their elected term".

The full constitution is available to be viewed by **CLICKING HERE**.

The Annual General Meeting commences at 5pm and will consider the minutes of the previous agm and receive reports from directors and auditors.

It will also announce the three directors elected for the 2012-2014 term of office.

WIN A WEEKEND AWAY FOR 2!



This week **BEN** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a weekend away for two adults in a One Bedroom Apartment at an Adina Apartment Hotel of their choice across Australia and Europe, courtesy of **Adina Apartment Hotel Norwest**.

The brand new Adina Apartment Hotel Norwest is located within one of Sydney's thriving commercial hubs, Norwest Business Park at Baulkham Hills. Situated just 45 minutes' drive from Sydney's CBD, Adina makes doing business with some of Australia's most prominent businesses easy by offering pleasant, affordable meeting alternatives for your next conference or event. Adina Apartment Hotels are the small meeting specialists.

For your chance to win this great prize send in the most creative response to the question below to comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

In 25 words or less tell us what makes Adina Apartment Hotel Norwest a great destination for meetings & conferences.

Hint! Visit www.adinahotels.com Click here for terms and conditions



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