



## Bottoms up

**ELEPHANT** poo coffee might not be everybody's cup of tea, but it is regarded as one of the unique beverage experiences on the planet.



Be that as it may, Anantara Hotels, Resorts and Spas have introduced Black Ivory Coffee at its four resorts in the Maldives, as it has in Anantara Golden Triangle Resort in Thailand, in a hotel first.

Black Ivory Coffee is created when coffee beans are digested and "naturally refined" by Thai elephants.

During digestion, the enzymes of the elephant break down coffee protein and less protein means almost no bitterness.

Once it has passed through the pachyderm the droppings are picked through and the beans sun dried - and hopefully sterilised!

It retails for approx US\$1,100 per kilo and is one of the most expensive in the world - Jill.

## Village appoints Cullen

**VILLAGE** Roadshow Theme Parks have appointed Tony Cullen as manager – trade and tourism, responsible for the development and implementation of sales and marketing initiatives to grow domestic trade and international business for the Theme Parks group on the Gold Coast.

Previously he held the position of executive manager office of the ceo for the Rockhampton Regional Council.

# Tasmania's fit to burst

**BUSINESS** Events Tasmania report they are bursting at the seams this month with a massive 21 business events being held around the state.

In Hobart, 18 events are being held with an estimated 5,160 delegates on Tasmanian shores in the next four weeks.

Business Events Tasmania ceo Stuart Nettlefold said, "This is a bumper month for business events in Tasmania.

"The direct economic benefit is estimated at \$15.8 million but it's not just the accommodation and meeting venues that are going to see huge economic benefits.

"Restaurants and bars need

additional staff; transport operators will be constantly on the move and attractions, activities and tours will be in high demand."

Even local retailers should see a jump in sales, he said.

"20% of delegates bring a non delegate with them to a business event, so that's nearly 6,200 visitors utilising services and purchasing goods throughout the state."

Nettlefold also said research reveals that it's the friendliness of the people and the high quality of service that is responsible for the influx - plus 96% of delegates recommend Tasmania to friends and colleagues.

The largest conference being held mid month is the 15th National Family Law Conference in Hobart that has 900 delegates attending.

A 100 delegate event is also taking place at Cradle Mountain, 500 people are expected at the Launceston Country Club and a 150 delegate event at Launceston's Albert Hall.

## Earlybird special

**TODAY** is the last day to book a Forum Group Events, Water Blue @ Blue Corporate End of Year Party to receive a 10% discount.

The event has been created specifically to enable smaller companies and teams to celebrate the end of year stylishly, and network with a wide variety of other professionals.

Find yourself being serenaded by a surprise singer from 'The Voice', dance to the chill beats of DJ Martinez and be eligible to win one of a dozen great prizes.

Ticket prices start from \$100pp, with group specials of \$850 (10 people) & 10% off for earlybirds.

For enquiries contact Forum Group Events on 02 9212 6125.

## GCCC hosts Gartner

**GARTNER** has announced the final program for its annual flagship conference in Australia, at which time 1,500 technology executives gather at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, 12-15 November for the Gartner Symposium/ITxpo.

The symposium is Australia's largest and most important annual gathering of chief information officers (CIOs) and senior IT executives.

The agenda includes more than 200 sessions, workshops, how-to clinics, roundtables and is led by more than 50 Gartner analysts and executive partners from around the world.

With more than 40 leading technology and service providers exhibiting, delegates have the opportunity to book a one-on-one meeting with a Gartner expert to discuss their specific challenges.

## Our Cup runneth over

**WHERE** are you celebrating Melbourne Cup day this year?

Website Food-Wine-Sleep has a few ideas and some fantastic locations to celebrate the big day.

From a 50's retro themed event at the Brisbane Marriott, a three course lunch and spring fashion at Swissôtel Sydney to an oyster and champagne after party at Park Hyatt Melbourne.

The Dining Room at Park Hyatt Sydney includes a glass of Veuve Clicquot Champagne on arrival, a five course lunch and beverage package with a selection of sparkling, wines, beers, etc with tickets priced at \$225pp.

While at Bistro Bruno in Balmain, you get a three course lunch for \$55 including free entry into sweeps with a range of prizes on offer.

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## business events news

15th October 2012



**ANOTHER** TripAdvisor scandal has erupted in the UK, where the boss of a Glasgow Airport Hotel reportedly emailed his staff asking them to post "positive but not unreal" comments about the property on the popular online review site.

The move was a response to a spate of bad appraisals which had been posted by a number of disgruntled guests.

The hotel gm advised his staff on several techniques to avoid the fake reviews being detected, urging them to use a variety of email addresses, adding that using headings like "brilliant," "great," and "very nice," always read very well.

Telling the story to a newspaper, one staff member said, "he has been harassing people to do reviews for ages."

Needless to say, the hotel boss is under investigation.

### Accor to Hua Hin Cha Am

**NOVOTEL** Hua Hin Cha Am Beach Resort and Spa, a 243 room resort located on a prime beachfront between Hua Hin and Cha Am, has opened in Thailand and is offering an introductory deal priced from AU\$124 per night.

Patrick Basset, senior vp Accor Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines & Myanmar said they see the opening of the hotel as a great opportunity to expand their network and give greater hotel options in the beachside destination.

The hotel's facilities include a 576sqm ballroom, with a capacity for up to 400 people, and 10 small to medium meeting rooms.

All are furnished with innovative audio and visual systems and there's an experienced technical support teams.

Alexander Parry, the hotel's gm says, "Long renowned as a leisure destination, Hua Hin-Cha Am today also represents one of Thailand's top meeting and incentives destinations."

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## Jenolan Caves need help

**FOR** 21 years this December Jenolan Caves have been hosting Carols in the Caves, a fundraiser for the Westmead Children's Hospital's Oncology research.

It is an event that last year raised an amazing \$17,825.

This year the event, which is being held on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 December, is running low on financial sponsorship and raffle prizes and desperately needs both.

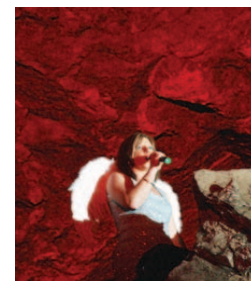
There's a host of activities throughout the two days with market stalls, performers and entertainment including Bandaged Bear, Santa Claus and a staff choir.

There's a matinee and evening concert in the Caves, a Christmas buffet lunch and dinner at historic Caves House and on Sunday a free, multi denominational,



underground church service in the Cathedral of Lucas cave limited to 70 people.

Why not make a weekend of it and if you can help, contact Domino Houlbrook-Cove, via email at [domino.cove@jenolancaves.org.au](mailto:domino.cove@jenolancaves.org.au) or call on mobile 0488 492 713.



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# business events news

15th October 2012

## Quay Grand Suites rebadged to Pullman



**QUAY** Grand Suites Sydney has been rebranded to the Pullman Quay Grand Sydney Harbour, joining two other Pullmans in Sydney - Pullman Sydney Olympic Park and Pullman Sydney Hyde Park - currently completing a significant upgrade following its re-branding from Sydney Marriott in May.

The Quay rebranding signals a dramatic expansion of Accor's 5-star Pullman brand in Australia.

These properties now join Pullman Reef Casino in Cairns and the recently rebadged Pullman Resort Bunker Bay in Western Australia's Margaret River region.

## Hard to beat Grand Hyatt's grand offer!

**GRAND** Hyatt Melbourne is giving event organisers three very good reasons to celebrate the festive season with them – namely a \$1,000 event AV package, a case of Champagne and free accommodation nights.

Available for new events booked and held before 31 December, their Grand Reward includes a six bottle case of Mumm Cordon Rouge Champagne NV valued at \$300, a Staging Connections audiovisual package valued at \$1,000 including lectern, microphone, data projection, up to two screens and table decorations and Double Hyatt Gold Passport points that can be redeemed for a luxurious suite upgrade at Grand Hyatt Melbourne or for a holiday with Hyatt hotels and resorts globally.

## Adults only mountain indulgence

A boutique, luxury collection of four historic Blue Mountains homes - Mountain Whispers - can be acquired for exclusive use.

The four properties, Varenna, Leura Rose, Strawberry Patch and The Gatsby, a vision of Lorraine Allanson, have been restored to their former glory and offer guests a taste of the decadent lifestyle of a bygone era.

For adults only, they are AAA 4.5 star rated and have received the Australian Government's T-QUAL quality benchmark accreditation.

What you get is a variety of in-house indulgences including massages by the fireplace, an in-house chef, chauffeur services and much more.

Bookings include a bottle of boutique wine from Orange, award-winning handcrafted Josaphan's chocolates, a full gourmet breakfast and fresh flowers.

Guests have the entire property to themselves, so even if it is booked for two people, they will have exclusive use of the space.

For more information see [www.mountainwhispers.com.au](http://www.mountainwhispers.com.au).

## Worldhotel's shipping news

**WHAT** an exciting proposition for an incentive or event!

The *ss Rotterdam*, once the flagship of the Holland America Line when it was inaugurated in 1958, has been acquired by Worldhotels, welcoming a truly unique hotel to its portfolio.

Granted a prime permanent berth at Katendrecht in the heart of Rotterdam 50 years later, the fully-restored liner welcomed its first guests as a hotel in February 2010.

The ship now features 254 modern hotel rooms, designed to reflect its 1950s origins.

Rooms accommodate up to four people with working desks, flat-screen TVs, internet access and air conditioning, while 14 different authentic banqueting rooms and 16 meeting rooms provide first-class facilities for events.

"Worldhotels offers more than 500 of the world's most unique independent hotels, and the *ss Rotterdam* is another fantastic first for us," says Roland Jegge, Worldhotels' executive vice president for Asia Pacific.



## Getting to Know: Maui

by: Guy Dundas

**MAUI** is a hub for water-based or land based activities, ideal for team building and pre/post conferencing. Choose from para-sailing, kayaking, snorkeling, sea turtle diving and whale watching, or golfing, ziplining, Haleakala volcano touring and downhill mountain bike rides.

An abundance of sun, sand, surf, adventure, thrills or just utter relaxation typify the Maui experience. Just a 40 minute flight away from Honolulu, visitors can be beach- (or pool-) side sipping Mai Tais at a world-class resort within an hour of arriving at Maui's primary gateway on the island's northside - Kahului Airport.

After collecting a set of US wheels at the airport, such as a Chevrolet Impala or Ford Mustang, track west across to the Lahaina/Kaanapali Coast, 45 mins away, or south to Wailea which is even closer, or take the twisty route to the sleepy town of Hana on the east coast.

Lahaina/Kaanapali is riddled with the big name resorts - Westin, Sheraton, Hyatt, Outrigger, Aston... they're all here, and why not. With an average year-round temperature of 28° and minimal rainy days it's a mecca for sun-seekers from around the world.

There's also an array of lesser recognised but still highly popular properties in the region, such as the luxurious Kaanapali Alii or Honua Kai Resort & Spa - currently rated by TripAdvisor as the "Number 2 ranked Hotel in Lahaina". It features five swimming pools, loads of activities for families and is home to more than 600 spacious studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom condos - [www.honuakai.com](http://www.honuakai.com).

For event planners, look to the massive 800+ room & suite Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa which has three ballrooms, the largest of which can accommodate receptions of up to 1,500, or banquets of 1,300 guests.

South Maui is recognised as the driest and sunniest part of the island, with stunning sandy beaches overlooking neighbouring islands of Molokai, Molokini and Lanai. Located in the districts of Wailea and Makena Beach are upmarket hotel operators like Four Seasons & Fairmont.

The 380-room & suite Four Season Resort Maui at Wailea offers the perfect setting for couples, families and conferences. With its nine meeting rooms & 11,000 square-foot ballroom, it easily handles incentive groups of 20 to 150 delegates. - [www.fourseasons.com/maui](http://www.fourseasons.com/maui).

For more information on Hawaii's business events offerings call Hawaii Tourism Oceania on 02 9286 8935 or see [www.gohawaii.com/au](http://www.gohawaii.com/au).





# business events news

15th October 2012

## Hotel Highlight Echoes

**ECHOES** is one of those rare hotels which cause you to stifle a gasp when you walk through the front entrance.

The former retreat for renowned Australian writer Thomas Keneally, contemporary interiors and stylish furnishings belie its country house ambience.

Perched at the very edge of the Jamison Valley at Echo Point in the Blue Mountains, it is with its next door neighbor, Lilianfels, which has been newly inducted into Starwood's Luxury Collection.

An award winning, eclectically designed building, it has 10 deluxe view rooms, two corner view suites, and two superior cliff view rooms with stunning and uninterrupted panoramas of the National Park, providing guests with ever-changing but always dramatic and breathtaking views.

Generous indoor and outdoor seating areas allow guests to soak in the views as well as the lush cool air of the rainforest valleys below.

Bushwalking in summer, lazing by the open fire places in winter, the retreat offers an ambient bar/lounge as well as a private spa.

Amid all this luxury are boutique conference spaces on the top floor of the hotel with well equipped presentation facilities and premium break-out and dining opportunities.

Conferencing venues include: Main Dining Room with a capacity of up to 50 people, a Lounge/Conference Room for up to 40, and the Restaurant Terrace for up to 35.

## AIME Earlybird rates going, going...

**THERE** is literally just a few weeks left for prospective buyers to take advantage of the 'Early Bird' savings offered by the Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo's (AIME) popular Hosted Buyer Program in 2013.

To qualify for a 10% saving, applications need to be submitted before 26 October.

The 21st anniversary AIME, which will be held on 26-27 February, 2013 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), allows ample opportunity for buyers to make important business connections with an estimated 800 international exhibitors expected at next year's show.

In addition, buyers can receive a range of exclusive benefits only available to those in the Hosted Buyer Program which include flights, accommodation, pre touring in regional Victoria and access to AIME's exclusive Hosted Buyer lounge and extensive networking opportunities.

Hosted Buyers also receive personalised Pre Scheduled Appointments (PSAs), which allows them to meet with the exhibitors they are interested in doing business with.

For more information visit the website at [www.aime.com.au](http://www.aime.com.au).



# Shopping for inspiration?

## WHAT

would you say if you could have your next meeting or event at Tommy Hilfiger, Gucci, Adidas or Saks Fifth Avenue off 5th?



Woodbury Common Premium Outlets in Central Valley, New York USA, located one hour north of New York City, can help conference organisers plan 'customised' events for MICE groups.

The outlet features over 220 stores with several able to provide pre-opening receptions offering refreshments and special discounts to shopper groups.

Over the past 12 months Premium Outlets have hosted thousands of Australian shoppers, as well as famil groups, with events expected to be a big focus in the future.

"We continue to communicate that we can host speciality tours" said vice president, marketing Northeast region, Jean Guinup.

"We are able to offer 'unique shopping events'...many times stores are willing to provide small gifts, extra discounts and/or receptions for groups at no cost.

"It is also possible to purchase gift cards that are redeemable at all stores in the centre which incentive groups might like to include in their special shopping tours", Guinup added.

A number of activities can be arranged for incentive groups including local dining options and tours to various attractions.

Conference organisers can send event requests online through the Premium Outlets online reservations system at - [www.premiumoutlets.com/tours](http://www.premiumoutlets.com/tours).

Surrounding Woodbury Common are a number of accommodation options ranging from economy to four star, including the Hampton Inn which can cater for groups and offer a complimentary breakfast and shuttle service back and forth between the Centre & the hotel.

The Thayer Hotel, located in the grounds of the United States Military Academy at West Point, is another property with a shuttle

service to the outlet, a good choice for the MICE market due to its ability to provide keynote speakers, meeting packages and team building activities such as tactical team training on a simulated battlefield and historic boat cruises down the Hudson River narrated by military historians.

For more information on the hotel visit the website at [www.thethayerhotel.com](http://www.thethayerhotel.com).

## AFA a sellout @ RACV

**FOR** the fourth year in succession, RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast will welcome financial advisers from around Australia shortly.

The Association of Financial Advisers (AFA) conference which counts politicians and sporting and business achievers among its keynote speakers is being held from 28-30 October.

Richard Klipin, the Association's ceo, said the conference, which is a sell out, has had to go further afield than Royal Pines Resort to accommodate delegates.

The conference's theme, 'Path to Excellence' will have its opening address by Senator Mathias Cormann, the Shadow Assistant Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation.

The Senator also chairs the Senate select committee on the scrutiny of new taxes, while other speakers will include ASIC commissioner Peter Kell and Commsec economist Craig James.

A team of sporting personalities addressing the event will include Jessica Watson, the youngest person to sail single-handed around the world, Layne Beachley, champion surfer, Max Walker, former international cricketer, and Tristan Miller, who travelled the world to run 52 marathons in 52 weeks.

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