



editor: Jill Varley

info@businessesnews.com.au

www.businessesnews.com.au

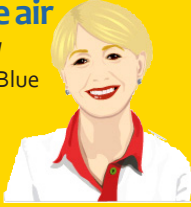
1300 799 220



Taking the air

TODAY BEN

is in the NSW Blue Mountains, experiencing Starwood's Luxury



Collection at two of the region's finest properties, the Lilianfels grand country house and luxurious boutique hotel, Echoes, both perched at the very edge of the Jamison Valley at Echo Point.

Popular with the high end small conference and corporate retreat market, they have all the right moves and ambience for an intimate incentive.

We will also learn more about this global brand leader at a dinner tonight at the newly refurbished Darley's restaurant.

It's hard to imagine how they can improve on perfection.

MEANWHILE rumour has it that a range of redundancies are occurring at MCI offices across Australia.

We await further news - Jill.

GTI's Anderson finalist

SARAH Anderson, founder and managing director of GTI Tourism, has been announced as a NSW finalist in the 2012 Telstra Business Women's Awards.

Anderson who is among six finalists in the 'Marie Claire Young Business Women's Award' category, says the announcement recognises her company's contribution to the tourism industry and conservation efforts.

The news follows three new client wins for GTI Tourism in recent months including Lord Howe Island Tourism Association, Starwood Hotels and Wild Bush Luxury, and coincides with the launch of a new site for the firm.

Anderson says it's a privilege to be recognised among such an impressive group of business leaders.

"The Telstra Business Women's Awards are a great showcase of women who have achieved a level of success and are passionate about their work," Anderson said. GTI also represents AIME.

AIME 2013 offers 10% discount

SIGNIFICANT savings are being offered to prospective buyers who wish to join the Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo's (AIME) Hosted Buyer Program.

The 10% 'Early Bird' discount applies for Hosted Buyer applications submitted before 26 October.

AIME's 21st anniversary expo at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC) will be held 26-27 February 2013, an event that allows buyers to make



business connections with the estimated 800 international exhibitors expected at the show.

In addition, buyers can receive a range of exclusive benefits only

available to those in the Hosted Buyer Program including flights, accommodation, pre-touring itineraries in regional Victoria

and access to AIME's exclusive Hosted Buyer lounge and networking program.

To maximise the two-day event, Hosted Buyers will 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 about AIME 2013 visit aime.com.au.

QF & EK partnership

A NEW global aviation partnership was announced yesterday between Qantas and Emirates.

The new alliance, they say will give customers a seamless Australian and international network, exclusive frequent flyer benefits and world-class travel experiences.

Under the agreement signed by Emirates president Tim Clark and Qantas Group ceo Alan Joyce, Qantas will move its hub for European flights to Dubai and enter an extensive commercial relationship with Emirates.

The 10-year partnership that goes beyond codesharing, includes an integrated network collaboration with coordinated pricing, sales and scheduling, also includes a benefit-sharing model.

Neither airline will take equity in the other.

Qantas will launch daily A380 services from both Sydney and Melbourne to London via Dubai, meaning that together Emirates and Qantas will offer 98 weekly services between Australia and Dubai.

Qantas will be the only other airline operating to Terminal 3 and the new purpose-built A380 concourse at Dubai International Airport.

Win MICE millions



SIGNATURE Hilton Experiences is offering the top regional event booker in Australia, New Zealand or Fiji, the chance to win one million Hilton HHonors points.

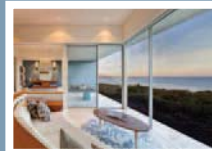
What's more, they can earn an additional two million Hilton HHonors points as the top event booker in Asia Pacific.

The *From MICE to Millions* challenge is a new bookers' project that will offer more incentive to create exceptional events.

To be in the running, book a new event between 1 August and 31 December, at any participating hotel or resort in the Hilton Worldwide Asia Pacific portfolio.

See - www.hiltonevents.com.au.

Win a luxury stay at Southern Ocean Lodge



During the months of August and September, *Business Events News* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing two-night stay at the exclusive Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island courtesy of *Baillie Lodges*.

The prize includes two-nights accommodation for two people in a Flinders Suite with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, open bar with premium wines and spirits, in-suite bar, signature experiences and return island airport transfers.

To be in the running simply answer the 17 questions and the final creative answer which will be featured in *BEN* on 21 September.

The person who answers ALL the questions and has the most creative response will win.

Email your answers to:

baillielodges@businessesnews.com.au

Q12: How many square meters in size is the two bedroom Ocean Family?

Hint: www.southernoceanlodge.com.au
Click here for Terms and Conditions



business events news



crumbs!

THE Jade Dragon restaurant in Macau's 'City of Dreams' is so particular, each handmade dumpling has exactly 22 folds.

Not only that, customers with dietary issues can consult with Dr Lam lat Cho who will prescribe special herbal Chinese soups, especially made by their Chef Tam.

For instance - double-boiled Herbal Winter Melon for those with dampness, gastrosplenic problems or to increase appetite, or Iron Buddha and Dendrobium for the stomach.

Egypt warning lower

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade this morning reissued its travel advisory for Egypt, with the welcome news that it's no longer telling Australians to "reconsider their need to travel" to the iconic destination.

Egypt has pretty much been off the radar for MICE groups over the last 18 months, since the popular revolution in Feb 2011 which overthrew the former President Mubarak.

Some areas of the country are still off limits but the main tourist areas are now at the second-lowest "Exercise a high degree of caution" level.

DFAT also recently lowered its travel advice for Bali, with the move also seen as highly significant for the MICE market.

Hyatt out of Sanctuary

MULPHA Australia, the owner of the Sanctuary Cove Resort, has announced the amicable termination of its contractual relationship with Hyatt, meaning the property will no longer be managed by the international hotel group effective 05 Dec.

It's been the Hyatt Sanctuary Cove for the last 24 years, and Mulpha said it expects to announce a new "established international hotel operator" for the property in due course.

Dragonfly & Taj event



ONE of southern Africa's leading destination marketing companies Dragonfly, together with Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces and DMS Destination Marketing Services, hosted a gathering of industry guests on Tuesday night, at the Sydney Blue Hotel's Water Bar.

Addressing the group, Yolanda Woeke-Jacobs, director of sales & marketing for Dragonfly Africa said, "We always go beyond the brief for our clients.

"Southern Africa is able to offer our market fantastic value for money at the moment, with 15% more affordability than before."

Woeke-Jacobs went on to say that Dragonfly is committed to embracing South Africa's environment, communities and wildlife as an imperative.

"We do believe in corporate social responsibility and we can organise for corporates to get involved with communities.

"There is such a huge need," she emphasised.

MEANWHILE South African Tourism's chief executive officer, Thulani Nzima, has announced the retirement of the organisation's chief marketing officer, Roshene Singh.

Singh leaves the tourism body after a very successful tenure of nearly 10 years.

Her career is one that culminated in Singh being named an 'Internationalist' in February this year for her leadership in global destination marketing work and 'outstanding thinking in brand communications.

Nzima said, "We will work with Roshene on planning her exit from the organisation, as well as on a business continuity plan for her to hand over to her successor."

Advertising in BEN:

• cost-effective • targeted • easy

For details call us today

1300 799 220



Edgewater hosts VIPs

RAROTONGA's Edgewater Resort & Spa played host to a large number of delegates who attended the 43rd Pacific Islands Forum, held from 28-30 August.

Attended by heads of state and governments of the Pacific Region, a large number of the dignitaries stayed at the resort including New Zealand's Prime Minister, John Key and Australia's Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, in addition to other leaders and delegates from 20 other countries.

The Edgewater's staff and management say they were both proud and excited to host the VIPs and their delegates, and to showcase their world-renowned hospitality.

Several rooms were transformed into efficient meeting and conference area and the Resort was abuzz with suited bodyguards and motorcades moving through the grounds, something many of the staff had not witnessed before.



Sheraton's silver lining

AFTER 25 years of being the setting for some memorable events both big and small, the Sheraton Mirage Resort & Spa Gold Coast, in celebration of reaching this milestone and the completion of their \$26 million refurbishment, is offering a great deal.

This includes delegate standard in-room wifi access, daily delegate rates from \$79, including buffet breakfast for up to two with accommodation from \$30 per room, beachfront poolside dinner from \$85pp, including buffet with BBQ and a bonus 25% extra Starwood Preferred Planner Points. Offer applies from 1 November to 30 June 2013.

See sheratonmiragegoldcoast.com.

Eyeing Abu Dhabi



هيئة أبوظبي للسياحة

ABU DHABI TOURISM AUTHORITY

ABU DHABI's meeting industry credentials took a major leap forward this year when Abu Dhabi hosted the World Ophthalmology Congress at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

The congress attracted upwards of 10,000 delegates and was the largest convention ever staged in the destination to date.

Now, after beating off competition from Paris, Milan, Macau and Boston, Abu Dhabi is to host the International Conference on Neurology & Epidemiology (ICNE), in November.

The win, which will see 600-800 eminent medical practitioners arrive in the UAE, will be the event's first showing outside of Europe.

"This is very good news and the result of joint efforts between our own Business Tourism department, the Emirates Neurology Society and the Health Authority-Abu Dhabi," said His Excellency Mubarak Al Muhairi, director general, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi).

WIN YOUR AMERICA FIX ON ROUTE 66 WITH COSMOS!

Share your celebrity moment with us & you could win a trip for two to America including a 16 day tour & flights, courtesy of Cosmos.

See facebook.com/BusEvNews or businesseventsnews.com.au for more details on this great prize and how to enter



Ashlee Simpson, Australian Travel Centre is pictured with

the Packed to the Rafters stars
Terms & Conditions apply



business events news

7th September 2012

CONTACT US:

Publisher

Bruce Piper

Editor

Jill Varley

Contributor/ Coordinator

Chantel Long

Advertising:

[advertising@](mailto:advertising@businessesnews.com.au)

businessesnews.com.au

P: 1300 799 220

F: 1300 799 221

PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW, 1710

Business Events News is part

of the Travel Daily group of

publications which also

include: Travel Daily, Cruise

Weekly & Pharmacy Daily.

Disclaimer: While every care has

been taken in the preparation of

Travel Daily no liability can be

accepted for errors or omissions. **BEN**

takes no responsibility for the

opinions of its contributors/columnists.

Information is published in good faith

to stimulate independent

investigation of the matters canvassed.

World's Best discount

THE World's Best Hotel is offering **Business Event News** readers a 10% discount off the cost of registering for the 2013 Awards program.

Registrants just need to submit the discount code **BEN3237** when booking online between 01 Sep-30 Nov 2012.

See theworldsbesthotel.com.

MEA last chance today!

IN accordance with the Constitution of The Meetings Industry Association of Australia, elections are being held for the Electoral Council and for the Branch Committees in each state.

Nominations for the Electoral Council and State Branch Committees close today at 5pm.

For the form visit - <http://secure.meetingevents.com.au/documents/item/221>.

AHA NSW Awards

THE 2012 AHA National Awards for Excellence were announced in Hobart on Wednesday night and included in the 15 category winners are - *Best Restaurant (Metro)* – Est. Restaurant at Establishment; *Best Restaurant (Accommodation division)* – Glass Brasserie (Hilton) / Echoes Restaurant (Echoes A Luxury Collection resort Blue Mountains); *Best Redeveloped Hotel* – Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney; *Best meeting and events venue* – Hilton Sydney; *Best mid-range accommodation* – Crowne Plaza Norwest (Baulkham Hills); *Best superior accommodation* – Fairmont Resort MGallery (Leura); *Best deluxe accommodation* – Park Hyatt Sydney; *Best Environmental initiative* – Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa; *Best Entertainment venue* – Ivy (Sydney); *Best marketed hotel* – Merivale Group; with the Hilton Sydney taking out the overall *Hotel of the Year (accommodation division)*.

AHA (NSW) ceo Paul Nicolaou said it was great to see NSW hotels honoured in an industry that directly employs 75,000 people state-wide.

InterConti Hua Hin offer

THE InterContinental Hua Hin Resort in Thailand, has launched an Early Bird Business Package.

Meeting planners and delegates are invited to experience the 5-star resort's meetings spaces, services and facilities.

A luxurious beachfront resort, styled after the legendary King Rama IV Summer Palace or 'Palace of Love and Hope,' the exclusive offer can be accessed by booking before 21 December to enjoy a range of complimentary luxuries for delegates.

Rates start from THB5,000 per room per night, for a minimum of 10 room nights.

By confirming a booking 30 days in advance of check-in, groups will also receive either a free team-building activity or pre-dinner cocktail, complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi internet in all guest rooms, complimentary use of audiovisual equipment and complimentary room upgrade for VIP members of the group.

Other inclusions include one free room with daily breakfast and many other benefits.

For more information on the deal email - nattapun.runyasewa@ihg.com.

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

GETTING TO KNOW:

IT IS a 14-hour flight away, but for an experience in what seems like another world entirely, consider the United Arab Emirate of Dubai, the global headquarters of Emirates, to leave your clients or guests in awe.

Dubai is still considered by many Australians as little more than a stopover on the way to a main destination - a preconception the emirate is keen to cast aside. Having recently visited the destination, it is not difficult to see why. The region as a whole has been undergoing tremendous change for a number of years now, and although hit somewhat hard by the global financial crisis, is again resuming its momentous climb for the skies.

Literally...as the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, claims Dubai's already impressive skyline as its own, and at 163 floors and nearly one vertical kilometre in height, is disputed by nobody.

The city of Dubai is essentially built along the length of Sheikh Zayed Road, which runs primarily parallel to the Arabian Gulf. The drive along the, in parts, sixteen lane highway (eight each way), for as long as the city lasts, consists of a stretch of impressive buildings, with the Burj Khalifa dominating others and maintaining its place as the lion among the pack. Turn off the main road and there is a near endless myriad of things to see and do.

To a modest westerner, Dubai is very much a land of excesses, boasting such unbelievable attractions as man-made islands, Vegas-style dancing fountains, expansive water parks, the world's largest shopping mall, and even an indoor skiing and snow-themed wonderland there to enjoy. For all of the western influences however, Dubai has not lost its Arabian backbone, and is still an Islamic state, whose customs and traditions must be respected by the thousands of tourists who visit each year.

There is no end to the number of highlights available to visitors, and if you are seeking a traditional experience, look no further than the budget outdoor shopping malls, known as souks, for what you seek.

The Emirati people are among the most friendly and welcoming you'll find anywhere on the planet, but as you would if you were visiting a friend's home, you must respect their culture and you will have an amazing holiday. The facilities on offer are second to absolutely none, with all of the world's elite hotel groups holding presence here.

During our visit **BEN** stayed at the Jumeirah Zabeel Saray which, albeit a bit of a drive from the centre of town, is positioned on the wingtip of one of the fringes of the Palm Jumeirah, home to some of the most expensive real estate in the world.

Don't let the well documented excess of luxury put the idea in your mind that Dubai is outside of the everyday person's price range. For all of the amazing extremes, Dubai is definitely an extremely affordable destination, and undoubtedly one that must be seen.

