



Nature's wonderland

THE news that Qantas is to launch direct flights between

Sydney and Gladstone from 4 March 2013 must be great news for the city and Heron Island which is reached by boat or helicopter from Gladstone.

Heron Island is the first name that pops into my head when asked, "What is your favourite destination."

In fact, right now they have a 15% special discount offer for stays on Heron or nearby Wilson Island.

The new QantasLink service will operate eight return flights a week – including twice daily on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.



Luxperience targets MICE

AFTER being bathed in luxury products and experiences for three days, Luxperience, the exclusive new high-end travel trade event hosted at Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal ended on Wednesday.

The show, which organisers report received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the 100 suppliers and 300 buyers, has announced that next year's event will return to Sydney from 2-4 September, 2013.

They say next year's show will be a radical departure from the traditional trade show format, where exhibition booths will be replaced with a stylish "business class lounge."

"It will essentially have the look and feel of a very glamorous airport lounge, which as well as being more relaxed, will also enable a much more cost-

effective entry price to the show for suppliers," said co-founder Rosemarie Sama.

"Suppliers will still be able to have their branding on display and various upgrade package options will be available," she added, also revealing that next year's show would target the MICE industry.

"We really feel that adding an 'experiential dimension' to meetings, events and incentives is where the industry is headed."

Participants were enthusiastic about Luxperience, with Wolfgang Hees of Brilliant Tours Australia saying "We've had a lot of positive interest from a broad range of countries."

"Our vision with the show was not just to put together an event, however fabulous. It was to create a community — one that will continue well beyond these few days," Sama concluded.

Win big with BEN!

DON'T forget to enter our Salamander Shores Resort competition for a chance to win a two-night stay with brekkie and a \$100 dining voucher.

Entries close today, so don't miss out - see comp box below.

Fancy a 16-day Cosmos tour to the US with flights?

Or a two-night stay at the exclusive Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island?

Turn to Page 2 to find out how!

EK Jordan boost

EMIRATES has announced it will add an additional flight to Jordan from 01 October, meaning the airline will fly to the popular tourism destination twice daily.

The 14th weekly flight, EK901, will leave Dubai at 0725hrs each Friday and arrive in the Jordanian capital of Amman at 0920hrs – a journey of just under three hours.

WIN 2 NIGHTS AT SALAMANDER SHORES RESORT



This week *Business Events News* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a two-night getaway in stunning Port Stephens, courtesy of Salamander Shores Resort and Port Stephens Tourism.

The prize, valued at \$558, includes two nights' accommodation for two in a Bayview Room, full buffet breakfast daily and a \$100 dining voucher to Shoreline Steakhouse.

To enter simply answer the question below in 25 words or less, the most creative will win! Email your response to portstephens@businessesnews.com.au

Describe the appeal of the vistas obtained from the Bayview rooms at Salamander Shores.

Hint! Visit www.salamander-shores.com



Concourse turns one

AFTER what they describe as an exciting and extremely busy 12 months, The Concourse in Chatswood is one year old.

First opened to the public on 17 September 2011, this state-of-the-art venue has confirmed its status as a popular destination for a range of business events including banquets, cocktail parties, expos, product launches and even television series shoots.

"We haven't been resting on our laurels" said executive director, Greg Khoury.

"The local community has embraced the venue as well as business and corporate hirers from further afield. We are delighted with the results and the future is looking bright with many repeat bookings," he said.

Over 28,000 guests have attended business events and a further 50,000 have attended concerts and theatre events.

For information on The Concourse venue bookings email venues@theconcourse.com.au

Sell TNQ 2012

Apply now to join the Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef annual Sell TNQ famil program.

Sell TNQ provides an exclusive opportunity for qualified event and incentive planners to visit the Cairns & Great Barrier Reef Region and experience firsthand our ability to host successful business events. This year's program will be hosted 2-5 November in Palm Cove followed by an optional post touring program encompassing Cairns and Port Douglas.

During Sell TNQ, meeting planners and conference and incentive organisers are given the chance to meet with the region's premium business tourism operators, and enjoy Australia's ultimate all year round conference and incentive destination.

With a large variety of meeting venues and spectacular off-site locations, participants will enjoy an eventful program of networking opportunities, touring and events set amongst the tropical atmosphere.

APPLY NOW!

Applications close
September 28

BUSINESS EVENTS
CAIRNS & GREAT BARRIER REEF
The natural place to meet

SELL TNQ
CAIRNS & GREAT BARRIER REEF



business events news

14th September 2012

Guests with a view

GUEST feedback and requests for specific rooms have been the driving force around the Holiday Inn Baruna Bali's newly re-configured room categories, of which there are 13. Changes that have been specifically tailored around returning business and leisure guests.

General manager Stephane Varoquier said they are proud of the high rate of return guests.

"One of the many advantages is the relationship we build with our guests and our ability to really understand what they need and what they are looking for."

Pricing too has also been reviewed with the resort offering competitively priced room and suite options for the business traveller as well as families.

In addition to the upgrades, guests can enjoy free high-speed Wi-Fi, connectivity in all rooms and public areas, the Tea Tree Spa and state of the art conference and meeting spaces.

Hawai'i surfs into Hilton

ADDRESSING conference and incentive industry guests on Tuesday at the Sydney Hilton's Zeta Bar, Helen Williams Hawaii's Tourism Oceanians country manager, said Australian MICE visitation to the Hawaiian Islands last year was a healthy 190,000.

"However," she said, "we expect this number to go up to 300,000 in 2013 when Hawaiian Airlines commences flights out of Brisbane in November.

"This additional service will alleviate pressure out of Sydney."

Hawaiian Airlines bdm, Hugh Twomey said the thrice weekly 767-300ER flights from Brisbane to Honolulu will commence from 28 November, giving them an extra 40,000 passengers.

The event hosts, Hawa'ii Tourism Oceania, Hawaiian Airlines, Hilton Hotels & Resorts and Maui Jim Sunglasses, gave away many prizes, including Maui Jim sunglasses and a trip for two to the Hawaiian Islands.

Advertising in BEN:

• cost-effective • targeted • easy

For details call us today

1300 799 220



Vic's mega famil

MICE and leisure agents from all over Asia are in Melbourne this week for the 2012 Asia Mega Famil and Workshop.

Hosted by The Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau (MCVB) and Tourism Victoria (TVIC), the event combines the sixth annual MCVB Asia Roadshow and ninth Tourism Victoria Roadshow to China.

The four-night program replaces the annual travelling roadshow to Asia traditionally undertaken by the organisation.

"In the past we have taken a group of key Victorian business events suppliers to Asia where they have pitched their individual products to prospective buyers.

"This year's approach will allow for more suppliers to become involved and give buyers the opportunity to physically see and experience the products for themselves," said chief executive officer of MCVB, Karen Bolinger.

Louise Asher, Victoria's Minister for Tourism and Major Events said, "The Asian market continues to be a key strategic priority for driving the ongoing growth and success of Victoria's tourism industry.

"We know major attractions, such as Phillip Island, Sovereign Hill, Eureka Skydeck and the Spring Racing Carnival, hold strong appeal for Asian visitors."

Grand Mercure NZ offer

AS Accor continues its Grand Mercure apartment expansion, the Grand Mercure Wellington Apartments Central City becomes the newest property in the brand.

The 54-apartment hotel offers suites ranging from metro studios to one-bedroom interconnecting suites that include a kitchenette, with the top floor featuring stunning city or harbour views.

It's located in Victoria Street, a few minutes' walk from The Civic Centre, Queen's Wharf and Wellington's restaurant precinct.

To celebrate the launch, the hotel has special rates from just NZ\$139 per night - for details see www.accorhotels.co.nz



POP on a pith helmet, strap on the desert boots, because archaeologists in Peru at the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, report an intriguing discovery.

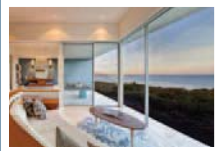
They have found a tomb, thought to belong to a high ranking member of the Inca Empire, in a cave at this archaeological complex.

American explorer, politician and professor, Hiram Bingham, rediscovered the site in 1911 and while specialists are examining the tomb, no bones or ornaments have been found inside, due to raiding that took place at Machu Picchu before the site was conserved and protected.

It is estimated that by the end of 2012 more than a million travellers will visit Machu Picchu, now regarded as one of the new Seven Wonders of the Modern World.



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@businesseventsnews.com.au



Q15: Kangaroo Island is often referred to as a 'zoo without _____'

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

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



Pictured is Jodie Payne, TravelManagers with Russell Crowe

Terms & Conditions apply



business events news

14th September 2012

CONTACT US:

Publisher

Bruce Piper

Editor

Jill Varley

Contributors

Bruce Piper, Chantel Long

Advertising:

advertising@
businesseventsnews.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.

Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed.

Air Pacific appoints

ANDREW Stanbury has been appointed as regional general manager of Australia for Air Pacific, to oversee its commercial operations in Australia.

With over 15 years of senior management experience in sales, marketing, customer service and airport management at Air New Zealand, Stanbury was based for the past four years in Australia as head of sales and head of corporate and alliance sales.

His new role commences on 02 October when he will take over from Victor Sharan.

“We are excited to have Andrew joining Air Pacific and our new management team - especially as we get ready for our new fleet of wide-body Airbus A330s and begin rebranding and re-launching our airline as ‘Fiji Airways’ next year,” said David Pflieger, director and ceo.

Peppers getting high

THEY are some of the most popular conference and meetings venues in the Southern Highlands - now Peppers Retreats have unveiled a variety of seasonal events and gourmet offerings promising corporate guests menus full of local produce and foodie-related activities.

Packages include a High Tea and Croquet experience, which features a classic high tea served in the Great Hall, guest lounges or in the courtyard on warmer days.

Peppers Manor House and Craigieburn are offering a conference package for spring, with a complimentary camp fire team experience complete with fireside hot chocolate and marshmallows for delegates.

Valid for events held before 30 October, the offer is based on new bookings only for conferences with a minimum of 20 room nights.

Day delegate packages are from \$65 per person and single share accommodation from \$179 per night at Peppers Craigieburn and \$199 per night at Peppers Manor House.

For more information on the offers email info@shce.com.au

Sawyers joins Hayman



ONE of the driving forces behind the evolution of Australian restaurants, Dietmar Sawyere, has been named Hayman's chef and director of restaurants.

With accolades including being named Chef of the Year in Sydney, London and New Zealand and a celebrity chef, long before anyone wielding a knife on TV was called a ‘celebrity,’ Sawyere will oversee 150 food and beverage professionals “building upon Hayman's long-standing reputation for quality food and wine in a beautiful setting.”

Hayman md Lloyd Donaldson said, “Dietmar brings to Hayman a wealth of experience, creativity and innovation which has contributed to the incredible success he has enjoyed”.

IF your perception of Macau isn't quite in focus, it is an island or collection of co-joined islands that lie on the western side of the Pearl River Delta, one hour from Hong Kong by a fast and frequent ferry service.

Like Hong Kong, Macau is a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China and is best known for its gaming and extraordinary integrated resort/casinos.

These gaming establishments currently number sixteen and include in the mix, Wynn Resorts, Las Vegas Sands, The Venetian, Crown's City of Dreams, the Galaxy Entertainment Group and MGM Grand.

Even if you have no intention of going anywhere near a gambling floor, the five star hotels that are integrated within the casino complexes are attractions in themselves. So too is the world-class entertainment, including the famous 'House of Dancing Waters', water-based extravaganza in the City of Dreams.

Worth mentioning is the new Jade Dragon Chinese restaurant located in the City of Dreams; stylish from its fine quality tableware to its real jade chopstick holders, where dishes are enhanced with truffles, birds nest and gold. Or there's Robuchon au Dôme, a three star Michelin French restaurant, situated in the dome of Grand Lisboa Hotel, with its superb cuisine, breathtaking dessert trolley and cellar of 9,000 wines.

Dine in Macau's eating houses, Portuguese taverns and the event-size Miramar restaurant by the lapping waters of Hac Sa Beach.

Also significant is Macau's Portuguese/Chinese history and culture, its World Heritage sites and museums, none more hands-on than the Science Centre, guaranteed to keep the group enthralled for hours.

Visit the Yellow pastel facades of 17th century churches and the 16th century A Ma Chinese temple, or simply wander the Chinese neighbourhoods, its 12 parks, narrow streets and black and white tiled squares.

On the south side of Coloane there is a superb golf course with fabulous views or, for something more exhilarating, you can also make one of the highest sky jumps in Macau, off the 338 metre Macau Tower.

All of this is perfect fodder for the conference and incentive market, where hotels like the Venetian Macao have a capacity for 10,000 delegates, and stylish boutique hotels like the 213-room Mandarin Oriental Macau, which sits alongside Cotai's major entertainment district, offering five meeting rooms with a capacity for 330.

It's a city where new land reclamation and Macau's newest mega project, the Sands/Cotai has 6000 rooms, split between the Holiday Inn, Conrad and Sheraton hotels and the new Banyan Tree Macau which is the city's first five-star, urban resort.



GETTING TO KNOW: Macau