



Oh mio!

AFTER another magnificent Opera Australia production of *Madama Butterfly* was staged



on Tuesday evening in Sydney, with the lead of Cio-Cio San sung by beautiful Japanese soprano, Hiromi Omura, comes the news that Handa Opera on the Harbour will stage *Carmen* next year from March 22 to April 12.

Believe me, you don't have to be an opera buff to appreciate the music and the spectacular harbour setting, which like *La Traviata* earlier this year will see *Carmen* play in grand scale over 18 shows; positioned off the Royal Botanic Gardens on a tilting stage and backed by an orchestra and fireworks.

What an amazing experience - bring it on! *Jill.*

Business events give boost to Sarawak

AS business events in Sarawak encourage economic growth and development, the state in Malaysian Borneo is undergoing numerous infrastructure improvements said to benefit the community and in turn deliver a beneficial impact on local industry and the growth of Sarawak as a competitive business events destination globally.

Among this growth is Sarakraf Pavillion, a Sarawak arts and crafts heritage centre which recently launched a Homestay and Tribal Lodge with 20 beautifully decorated and furnished rooms.



This eco-design lodge, located near the Kuching waterfront, has a mix of private and dormitory style rooms, complimentary handicraft lessons and Halal breakfasts.

The property can accommodate up to 400 theatre style for events. Additionally there is The Raneer, a boutique hotel situated along the waterfront and a stylish rebuild of an old-style shophouse.

It has 24 suites, each with its own individual character and design; while finally the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) has announced the construction of a new RM60 million Majestic Tower Hotel which is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2014.

Located next to the Riverside Majestic Hotel, it will offer 263 rooms, and additional to all this, the SEDC is currently upgrading its existing properties: the Damai Golf & Country Club to be completed by June 2013; Damai Beach Resort to be completed by the third quarter of 2013.

SEDC is also involved in the 'Golden Bridge' project, a pedestrian bridge linking Kuching Waterfront to the Dewan Undangan Negeri building.

No BEN on Monday

THE next issue of *Business Events News* will be published on Wednesday 03 November, due to a public holiday next Monday in much of the country.

We know you'll miss us, but hope you enjoy the long weekend.

A happy BEN winner

"I **CAN'T** believe I have won this," said Laura Richards from The Conference Business when told she had won the *Business Events News* Southern Ocean Lodge competition.

The prize, courtesy of Baillie Lodges, includes a two-night stay at this aspirational Kangaroo Island property.

Laura has won 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.

"I've wanted to go there for ever," she enthused.

"It's perfect timing. I was just about to put in a proposal for a group here. It's made my day!"



Bid Manager - Corporate

Sydney is one of the world's top business event destinations. Business Events Sydney (BESydney) intends to stay on top and is seeking a passionate professional to join its Bidding and Strategic Partnerships team.

As a Corporate Bid Manager you will secure corporate events and incentives for Sydney and NSW with strategic, creative and innovative bid proposals that profile Sydney and NSW, BESydney and our strategic partners. You will be commercially astute with strong writing and negotiating skills, and the ability to manage projects independently.

Qualifications

- Degree from academic institution or substantial industry experience
- Advantageous if bilingual in English and Chinese (or other Asian) languages

Experience

- 5+ years experience in project management, account management and/or marketing role
- Marketing background an advantage
- Relationship management skills

Applicants must have the right to work in Australia. No recruiters please. Previous applicants need not apply.

Applications close Friday 12 October 2012 by Close of Business.

[Click here to apply now](#)

NT MEETINGS MUSTER 12
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BRISBANE CANBERRA SYDNEY
 MELBOURNE ADELAIDE



A SURVEY conducted recently by lastminute.com reveals just how light-fingered some hotel guests can be - they even steal the Gideon bibles!

It's a problem that is costing individual hotels many thousands of dollars a year.

A Starwood gm from a property which shall remain nameless reports that the grand piano was stolen from the hotel lobby by three men dressed in overalls who wheeled it out of the lobby - never to be seen again.

Then there's the 5-star Dubai hotel where the mini bar fridge and a sofa was stolen; and a 3-star Dubrovnik hotel where every piece of cutlery and cooking equipment from the kitchenette was taken, or the Las Vegas hotel where the carpet was cut from one of the rooms.

And little did the Bible thieves know but the Bible Society would be more than happy to give them a copy of the good book!

Big win for Barry

IT was champagne all round when the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre's executive manager of Human Resources, Raelene Barry, was awarded the AIM (Australian Institute of Management) Professional Manager of the Year Award for the Gold Coast.

One of six nominees in this category, the award automatically enters Raelene as a finalist for the AIM Queensland State Manager of the Year Award which will be held later this year.

ASpa conf @ Q

ASPA'S annual conference 'Spavolution - Embrace Change and Inspire Opportunity' is being held 24-26 October at Manly's Q Station in Sydney.

The conference will provide tools, insights and knowledge to spa owners, managers, therapists, educators and others in the spa industry - for more details see www.aspaassociation.com.au.

NT beats the drum for kids



THE upcoming NT Meetings Muster roadshow will enable a generous corporate social responsibility contribution to be made to a key Northern Territory community organisation.

The showcase will see the Northern Territory Convention Bureau and its ten industry partners provide a donation of \$5,000 to children's drumming group Drum Atweme (pictured).

This is in lieu of promotional gifts being given to attendees at the five Meetings Muster events to be held in Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide between 22 and 26 Oct.

Drum Atweme was formed in 2004 to meet the needs of at-risk Aboriginal town camp youths, and now has about 50 core performance group members.

Clifton's winning suites

CANBERRA's Clifton Suites on Northbourne, winner of AHA's 'Best Suite Apartment Hotel' nationally for 2012, is inviting conference planners to take a look at its newly refurbished suites.

Minutes from the heart of Canberra's premier shopping, dining and entertainment district, and close to other government and business hubs, the hotel provides an excellent alternative for business and leisure visitors.

Clifton features four dedicated functions rooms, filled with natural light, with options for a guest list from four up to 100 guests - cliftonsuites.com.au.

The group has performed at over 300 community, conference and festival events, and works to keep the kids attending school.

The Meeting Muster funds will help support an interstate trip in 2014 for five members of the drumming group who have never been to a city or even see a beach.

To participate in NT Meetings Muster 2012 register online at www.ntconventions.com.au.

AV1 expands to Vic

AV1 is expanding its operations into Victoria after seven successful years as a leading provider of audio-visual production services to the Australian events industry,

Offering its full suite of services to the Melbourne event community, md Keith Wootton is excited about taking the company into this next phase.

"We've been supplying production for events in Melbourne since our inception but mostly for Sydney-based clients choosing Melbourne as their destination", Wootton said.

"With a local presence, we now have the ability to collaborate more with our Melbourne-based clients, allowing us to be an extension of their team for the entire event production process."

Long serving senior staff member, Charlotte Moscrop, has relocated from Sydney to head up the South Melbourne office.



Account Manager MICE - Sydney

The Walshe Group, appointed representative for Hawaii Tourism Oceania in Australia/NZ, is looking for a committed and energetic individual for our small, busy team, to develop and implement strategies to increase MICE business from Australia to Hawai'i.

Applicants must possess the following:

- A tertiary qualification in marketing and/or tourism;
• Minimum 3 years experience in a relevant travel industry sector;
• Established relationships with MICE industry;
• Experience with the coordination of trade shows & events
• Experience with CRM reporting an advantage

Salary range \$47,000 - \$50,000.

For a detailed JD, and/or to submit an application, email applications@walshegroup.com no later than Monday 08 October 2012.





business events news

28th September 2012

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Business Events News is part of the Travel Daily group of publications which also include: Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly & Pharmacy Daily.

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SWISS adds Singapore

SINGAPORE is to be added to Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) route network next May.

The new long-haul destination, will receive daily non-stop service from Zurich, with easy connections from across Australia with carriers such as Singapore Airlines.

"This is a major development", says Anil Rodricks, manager Australia for SWISS, "and one that we, our customers and our trade partners have long waited for. It demonstrates the confidence that SWISS has in the Australasia region."

SWISS will operate the new route with Airbus A340-300 equipment offering 219 seats.

The new flights mark a return to the city-state, with the airline having served Singapore from its foundation until spring 2009, although this previous service was routed via Bangkok.

Showground takes Flight

FLIGHT Centre's gala dinner, held in The Dome at the Sydney Showground and attended by 1,900 people, has been recognised at the 2012 NSW Savour Australia Restaurant and Catering Awards for Excellence, as "Best Caterer at a Major Event".

Sydney Showground gm Peter Thorpe said the accolade is a great honour as the judging process not only focuses on the dining experience, but also the sales process, service and wow factor on the night.

"Our team demonstrates real passion for the events industry and is committed to delivering outstanding results for our clients," Thorpe said.

Mandarin special

THE Mandarin Oriental, Singapore, which opened its doors in 1987, is *Celebrating 25 Years* with a package priced at SG\$3,888 for two.

The luxury deal includes round trip Mercedes limo transfers, two nights in the Oriental Suite, a six course wine pairing dinner, a VIP couple's spa experience and more - www.mandarinoriental.com.

Bali guests speak out

NEWLY re-configured room categories at Holiday Inn Resort Baruna Bali have been specifically tailored around guest feedback.

Together with the new room categorisation, pricing has also been reviewed and the resort offers very competitively priced room and suite options as well as more diverse options for groups. See www.bali.holidayinn.com.

Spring into St Kilda

MELBOURNE'S famous beachside suburb has a range of accommodation and dining deals throughout October as Luna Park celebrates its 100th birthday.

Hotels such as Novotel St Kilda, Quest Bayside Apartments or Easystay St Kilda, all within walking distance of the Esplanade and Acland and Fitzroy Streets.

A Novotel St Kilda offer includes six bottles of wine to the value of \$200 with the booking of a standard, non-Bayview room at \$179pp - with car parking and full breakfast for two thrown in.

Or stay two nights in a one bedroom apartment at Quest St Kilda at \$140pn, and get two DVDs plus discount vouchers.

GETTING TO KNOW: The Blue Mountains

THERE'S a lot going on in the Blue Mountains West of Sydney, starting with more than \$1 billion being spent to upgrade roads in the region.

Over at Echo Point where the vast canyon below spreads out to reveal the renowned Three Sisters, there's the new Koomurri Aboriginal Centre with a spectacular viewing platform to the Jamison Valley and extensive workshop and seminar spaces.

In Katoomba, Scenic World is undergoing serious changes spending millions of dollars renewing and upgrading its facilities, including building a new scenic railway. Here they offer a range of event packages from cocktails on an outside deck to fine dining for 200 delegates.

Exclusive options include gliding 270 metres above the Jamison Valley to arrive by Skyway, or descending to the valley floor for a Twilight Tour.

These upgrades, public works and property developments are occurring throughout this World Heritage listed area and are giving back to the Blue Mountains the cachet it lost through adverse hotel publicity and the closure of the historic Hydro Majestic at Medlow Bath.

Assisting in this resurgence is the management take-over of the Fairmont Blue Mountains Resort by the Accor Group earlier this year, its extensive \$12 million refurbishment and its induction into Accor's MGallery brand.

More recently, award-winning properties such as Lilianfels and Echoes were welcomed into the Starwood's prestigious Luxury Collection, an ensemble of hotels and resorts offering unique, authentic experiences in exciting and desirable destinations.

The other good news is that the historic Hydro Majestic, looking forlorn, neglected and fenced off, has been acquired by the long time owners of Lilianfels and Echoes - George Saad and Huong Nguyen - who are awaiting Heritage approval for a development proposal.

"Starwood is helping drive international business to the Blue Mountains and giving a better guest experience," said Lilianfels and Echoes general manager Brian McHenry.

While much of this development is centred on the easily accessed areas of Leura and Katoomba there is much to discover in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage region that extends out to the Jenolan Caves, Lithgow and Oberon.

Prime among these is Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, set between two National Parks and perfectly suited for a corporate retreat or for a small high end meeting with its 40 individual suites - and then there's the spectacular Jenolan Caves, a vast natural reserve where the day's activities centre on the iconic Jenolan Caves House.

Here, in this area custom-made for team building, is a range of accommodation options. Jenolan Caves House was designed in 1897 in the Federation Arts & Crafts style as a retreat for the wealthy.

Included in the design is an enormous grand dining room (completed in 1924) and now the newly renovated Chisholm's Restaurant where it's not hard to imagine a grand, themed ball.

