



Iron lady

LOVE her or loathe her, Margaret Thatcher's passing does bear acknowledgment.



The UK's first and so far, only woman Prime Minister, she certainly hewed her place in history.

Dubbed the 'Iron Lady' by the Soviet Union, it is a moniker she reportedly wore with pride.

I am no particular fan but I do believe we give women leaders whether of the political persuasion or those in business a much tougher time than their male counterparts.

Any wonder they have to toughen up.

So vale Baroness Thatcher, history will be the judge - *Jill*.

It's all a bit fishy

A proposal to salvage the supporting structure of Sydney's Exhibition Centre could lessen the blow of its demolition felt by distinguished architect, Phillip Cox who described it as an "unnecessary act of vandalism" and a "serious blow for 20th century architecture."

According to Monday's *SMH*, the structure supporting the building which won the Sulman Medal for public architecture and comprises a series of steel masts and cables could easily be dismantled and be used as part of Sydney fish market's plans to redevelop its waterfront boardwalk.

A spokeswoman for Infrastructure NSW said a study



commissioned last year found dismantling and reassembling the steel structure was "technically feasible", but the walls and roof could not be reused.

A viable reuse project "would need to be firmed up with funding in the next six months," she said.

Stewart joins Heritage Queenstown

DONNA

Stewart has been appointed to the role of general manager of Heritage Queenstown.



Previously general manager of Peppers Beacon Queenstown for the past seven years, Stewart comes to the Queenstown property with a wealth of hospitality experience in Queenstown, having held management roles with several other local hotels, as well as working in the United Kingdom and Australia in her career.

Memories, of the way we were



TIME to dig deep and go through your memories of the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre as the call goes out to the events industry to share images from its past in preparation to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Centre director of marketing and sales Amanda Anker said the venue was compiling a collection of memorabilia to mark the milestone.

"Over the past 25 years, there have been many exciting and colourful events held at the Centre.

"We're hoping that some of our industry colleagues will have photos, videos or DVDs of those great events, which they can share with us for our trip down memory lane," Anker explained.

She added the Centre would acknowledge the most impressive contribution made before 30 April, with a prize of lunch for two in the Bayside Lounge.

Anyone with suitable items can email jpeg images to 25years@scec.com.au or call 02 9282 5051 to discuss postage and handling of items.

Glamour at the top end of town

A multi million-dollar room refurbishment at the Sofitel Brisbane Central has seen the luxurious yet minimalistic interior of the hotel lobby replicated throughout each of the 433 rooms including 81 club rooms, and 21 luxurious suites.

"We're the largest luxury hotel in the city and our clients demand a high level of service and surroundings.

"When I arrived at the property in 2012 the owners and I identified that our rooms provided an opportunity to enhance our offerings and create

a unique product for the business and leisure market," says Marcus Hanna general manager.

"We commenced the process mid last year and I'm pleased to announce that all 433 rooms of the property have now been completed, with the Prestige and Opera Suites undergoing complete remodelling."

The hotel is celebrating the refurbishment of the property with a Magnifique Romance package which includes a stay in a Parisian inspired room, French champagne, and much more from just \$315 per night.

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Rent a kitchen

HERE'S a nifty idea for those in the food and catering business, for wannabes or for small corporate events.

It's a temporary kitchen in the heart of Sydney that can be rented.

The idea of Gus Weinberger, who has been in the food business for 30 years, the Temp Kitchen Rent provides access to a quality affordable licensed commercial kitchen on an hourly rental basis.

"Our aims are to provide an opportunity to start a food business, a quality venue for new product development and testing, a temporary or regular food production facility to increase capacity, replacement temporary kitchens for expanding or relocating businesses, a venue for cooking classes, for food photography, television and advertising, a venue to showcase new equipment and new products, a venue for small corporate events (20-25 people) and an emergency kitchen.

The idea creates opportunities to new start businesses and for creative individuals who would find it almost impossible to start a food business due to the high set up costs.

"We offer quick access for emergency situations when your kitchen is incapacitated due to fire, floods etc," Weinberger said.

For more information on the rent a kitchen visit the website online at - www.tempkitchenrent.com.au.

MEETINGS hot's up

MEETINGS, New Zealand's premier business tourism exhibition, has put together an extensive social program to give those attending the chance to network informally in some of Auckland's hottest venues.

There will be a welcome function at the Aviation Display Hall at the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT), home to an impressive Australasia collection of aircraft and a perfect venue for social get-togethers.

Urban Gourmet will be catering the welcome function hosted by the Conventions and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) team.

"The welcome function will be a great chance for people to catch up with old friends and make new ones before everyone gets down to business," says MEETINGS event manager Jeanette Stanton.

A Speaker Showcase, a joint initiative of MEETINGS and Celebrity Speakers will include Ant Williams, a world-class free diver and leadership expert, and Cam Calkoen, who has overcome insurmountable odds to become a champion athlete.

Soul Mystique, dance and magical costume transformation artists will perform.

Day buyers will attend informal networking at the Millennium Hotels and Resorts' gourmet lunches in the historic surrounds of St Matthew in the City, while a networking dinner will be hosted by the Auckland Convention Bureau.

"This sit-down event will give hosted buyers the opportunity to sample some of the best food and wine in New Zealand and to experience another of Auckland's fabulous venues," Stanton said.

On the final night the social action shifts to Auckland's Queen's Wharf in the city's hottest new venue, the restored Shed 10.

"Buyers, exhibitors and guests are in for another treat.

"We are moving on from the 'Shuffle' club style with a new format - an organic layout in a New York loft style, with spaces for sit-down dining, comfortable bar eating and intimate lounge areas.

"This will be an experience of cutting-edge design, culinary delights and exciting entertainment," Event Impressions director Jacqui Alexander said.

MEETINGS is being held in Auckland 26-27 June - see www.meetings.co.nz.



WITH the iPad continuing to be the most popular handset for searching hotels on through Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH) website - slh.com, the latest data on global browsing and booking trends, reveals how significant the mobile economy is to the luxury travel industry

Analysis for SLH's online activity for January, reinforces the growing trend for mobile browsing and booking, but also underpins the growing demand for luxury travel in the emerging markets.

In January 2013 hits in China were up by 406% year on year; Brazil saw an increase of 104%, followed by Russia with a more moderate 22% increase.

The UK saw a very positive increase, up 15% while other more developed travel markets such as the USA and Germany saw slight increases of 1% and 4% respectively, compared to the same month last year.

Metro Bank Place styles up

IN a bid to maintain its reputation for providing stylish yet affordable inner city accommodation, Metro Apartments Bank Place, in the heart of Melbourne will complete a major renovation in May.

The renovation to the unique 100-year old Victorian building complete with rough hewn bluestone façade, commenced in September 2012 and on completion will see the installation of new kitchens and bathrooms in all apartments as well as new lighting, carpeting and furnishings.

According to George Bedwani, chief operating officer of Metro Hospitality Group, this particular property continues to defy the economic climate, maintaining strong occupancy despite a downturn in leisure and



corporate travel to Melbourne over the last few years.

"The Apartments are very popular and enjoy significant repeat business, largely due to their central location and competitive rates," he said.



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Tiger lands in the Alice

TIGER Airways launched flights to Alice Springs from Sydney and Melbourne yesterday, the fifth new route added this year.

The new services will provide 3,000 additional seats benefiting the entire region.

At the official reception in the Alice Springs terminal, the commercial director for Tiger Airways, Carly Brewer said the airline's return to the Red Centre comes after growing demand from both local and international visitors.

"The low cost lead-in fares, \$109.95 from Melbourne and \$119.95 from Sydney will effectively halve those previously available," she said.

"An advantage for the incentive



market is the new 'group booking services' available for groups of ten or more."

Northern Territory Minister for Tourism, Matt Conlan, welcomed the new service.

"With four flights a week from both cities, Tiger now offers a low cost opportunity for Australians who haven't yet explored the area.

"Certainly the Alice Springs Convention Centre, with a capacity of 600 will benefit," he said.

So too will Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia with its superb facilities and activities at Ayers Rock Resort.

"With the completion of the \$30 million refurbishment at Sails in the Desert and the new conference centre it's a perfect place to experience the magnificence of the resort and the Red Centre," said Voyages managing director Koos Klein.

Darwin's technology triumph

IN their latest coup, the Darwin Convention Centre is to host the second Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Solar and Hybrid Technologies: WorldHybrid2014, next year.

This gathering of Asia-Pacific's great minds and industry leaders in solar and hybrid technologies is thanks to a joint effort with the Global IDN and the Northern Territory Convention Bureau (NTCB).

The event, which is being held in Malaysia this September is set to become the top solar and hybrid technology event in the region.

"Hosting WorldHybrid2014 further defines Darwin's status as a thriving hub for innovation," says Malu Barrios, general manager of the Darwin Convention Centre.

"We're thrilled to be hosting this event, another opportunity to showcase that we are 'a powerhouse of ideas'."

Up to 700 delegates are expected to attend and as many as 50 exhibition booths will feature as part of a world-leading technology showcase.

Qantas Classic Award

IN a further expansion of the popular Qantas Frequent Flyer program, members can now also redeem points on Jetstar flights to more than 20 new Jetstar Classic Award destinations across Asia through the Jetstar Japan and Jetstar Asia networks.

The new Classic Award points pricing, enables members to book Jetstar flights for 20% less.

Trials begin on internet connected glasses

GOOGLE has picked out 8000 people who will be given a chance to don a pair of internet-connected glasses and make a fashion statement likely to be envied by gadget-loving geeks around the world.



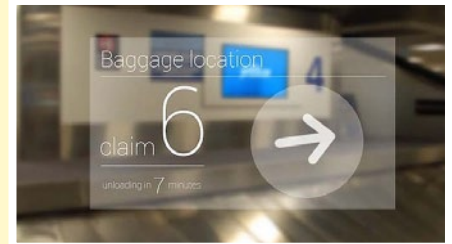
The pool selected by Google won a contest conducted last month requiring US residents to submit 50-word applications through Twitter or Google's Plus to explain how they would use a technology that is being hailed as the next breakthrough in mobile computing.

The excitement stems from the belief that 'Google Glass' is at the forefront of a new wave of technology known as "wearable computing".

Google, Apple and several other companies also are working on internet-connected wristwatches, according to published reports that have cited anonymous people familiar with the projects.

Google Glass is supposed to perform many of the same tasks as smartphones, except the spectacles respond to voice commands instead of fingers touching a display screen.

The glasses are equipped with a hidden camera and tiny display screen attached to a rim above the right eye.



The engineers who have been building Google Glass tout the technology as a way to keep people connected to their email, online social networks and other crucial information without having to frequently gaze down at the small screen on a smartphone.

The hidden camera is designed to make it easy for people to take hands-free photos or video of whatever they are doing, whether it be bicycling, running, skiing, skydiving or just playing with friends and family.



Story adapted from an Associated Press article.

To check out the latest tech news for small business visit Tony Wragg's TechTalk at - www.tonystechtalk.com.au.

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