



## Caps off!

IN response to **BEN's** Breaking News, (Friday 2 August) about the Government temporarily scrapping the education cap, Linda Gaunt MEA ceo said, "My view is it is a start and I do hope that the government uses this time to do their homework, listen to those of us in the know and ensure it is permanently scrapped."

"This policy was not well thought through and would have impacted not only on the education industry, the conferencing industry, it would have impacted on the Business Events industry making it all but impossible to conference in or out of Australia."

"Congratulations to all associations for working together and collaborating on this one."

"It should NEVER have had to occur..."

On another note one reader will win a stay at Pelican Waters Golf Resort & Spa see **pg 2 - Jill**.



## Accor reveals how sweet it is



**MICHAEL** Issenberg, Accor Asia Pacific's chairman and chief operating officer speaking at a gathering prior to the World of Accor Expo on Thursday night, described the Asia Pacific as the fastest growing region for the Group with a current total of 38,000 hotel rooms.

Accor, he said views China, Indonesia and India as three of the fastest growing markets in the world today, with 52% of Accor's hotel pipeline in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Our goal in Asia Pacific is 700

hotels by 2015."

Issenberg went on to say that having a strong brand and distribution in the region is the way to get people to stay in an Accor property, an achievement that saw 185 million bookings made over the past 12 months.

"Its our ability to offer a comprehensive portfolio of hotels, from luxury to budget, to cater to the needs of a vast range of travellers, that sets us apart from our competition."

The Group's record-breaking expansion has seen their Pullman 5-star hotel brand as the fastest upscale hotel brand in the Asia Pacific, with 12 Pullman hotels in Australia and New Zealand.

Also speaking at the meeting was Simon McGrath chief operating officer Accor Pacific, who talked about the Accor Group reinforcing its global "asset-light" strategy – focusing on management contracts and franchise agreements over hotel ownership.

"The Group is looking to Asia-Pacific, which has led the way with asset-light operating models."

Over 80% of Accor's network in the region represents either franchised or managed hotels.

"Geographically," he said, "Australia sits in a sweet spot in the world."

**Pictured** above is the Accor team: Graham Wilson, Michael Issenberg, Gaynor Reid and Jean-Luc Chretien with Human Nature.

## Edmonstone appoints Pedroni

**DARREN** Edmonstone, executive vice president and managing director, Asia-



Pacific of Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, has announced the appointment of Tony Pedroni (**pictured**) as general manager of Thailand's Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort.

An Irish national with 23 years experience in hospitality, Pedroni will report to William Visser, vice president operations, Asia-Pacific, Outrigger Hotels and Resorts.

Prior to joining Outrigger, Pedroni was with Marriott International, most recently as general manager of the JW Marriott Resort, Phuket.



Delicious cuisine  
made for your  
business events



Executive  
Heiner Chef  
Volgens  
will feature at:

**AUSTRALIAN**  
**businessevents**  
 14-15 August expo2013

STAND D12

## Meet with adventure on True North

**AN** end-of-year celebration doesn't come much cruiser than sailing on Sydney Harbour on the aspirational True North, Australia's premier luxury adventure cruise ship.



Their four-night 'Sydney Rocks' itinerary is described as the prefect venue for a meeting, conference or incentive this festive season, to experience the buzz surrounding Sydney Harbour.

Setting sail Christmas night, guests will experience the pre-race tensions of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race before taking flight in the ship's helicopter for wine tasting in the Hunter Valley.

A bush walk along stunning Jerusalem Bay and another heli-flight to the Blue Mountains ensures one of a kind incentive.

Alternatively, choose an unforgettable cruise to the unspoiled waters of Papua New Guinea on True North's five night 'Archipelago Adventure' which sets sail on December 12.

Find out more about these cruises and other short duration adventures.

Email - [cruise@northstarcruises.com.au](mailto:cruise@northstarcruises.com.au).





# business events news

5th August 2013

## Two reasons to choose Malaysia

**CARVING** another significant milestone for the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) is the launch of their Malaysia Twin Deal ++ (MTD++).

The offer is aimed to support Tourism Malaysia's objective to welcome 28 million tourists to the country under the Visit Malaysia Year 2014 campaign.

Targeted at international corporate meeting and incentive groups, MTD++ entitles groups of 50 delegates and more to enjoy various value-added support.

The privileges in Deal one range from limited edition welcome gifts and a cultural showcase to complimentary dinners.

Deal two applies to planners who bring in an accumulative 500 participants and includes a vacation for two in Malaysia and an iPad mini.

Ho Yoke Ping, gm of sales and marketing said, "Our aim is to provide more interesting options and ideas for the meeting and events planners, which would facilitate them to influence their clients in choosing Malaysia as their next destination to organised corporate incentive programmes."

Bookings will need to be made before 31 December for group arrivals in 2014.

Email - [Jackie@myceb.com.my](mailto:Jackie@myceb.com.my).

## New hotel for Cypress Lakes



**WITH** the acquisition of Cypress Lakes Resort in the Hunter Valley by Oaks Hotels & Resorts, comes the possibility of developing the resort and talks of a new hotel and additional villas.

However, for now Oaks Hotels & Resorts say they will concentrate their efforts on managing the existing resort and villas.

Previously managed by Grand Mecure Apartments, the acquisition by the leading accommodation provider, under the direction of Thai-based parent company, Minor International PCL, is targeted to be completed on 17 September when the resort will be rebranded as Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort.

Commenting on the acquisition, Oaks Hotels & Resorts' ceo Brett Pointon said "This marks an exciting milestone for our company as our property expansion strategy continues on both a national and global scale.

"The iconic resort's



Visit us at ABEE on stand B42

Go in the draw to win a night at the Sebel Pier One, Sydney including breakfast for two and a bottle of Champagne.



crumbs!

**LAST** week 15 passengers were removed from a Swiss flight to Geneva after the plane was deemed too heavy to take off from London City Airport.

With one single 4,900-foot runway it is one of the smallest in the country, which means many larger aircraft models cannot use it.

By comparison Gatwick's runway is 10,879 feet and Heathrow's are 12,008-12,799 feet.

Airlines have admitted it is a recurring problem that has been exacerbated by a recent heat wave.

In hot weather it often takes longer for a plane to take off, meaning passengers may need to be offloaded to reduce the aircraft's weight.

"Due to weather conditions, the take-off weight of the aircraft had to be reduced due to safety reasons," said a spokeswoman for Swiss.

"In very high temperatures it usually takes longer until the aircraft can actually take-off, and since London City Airport has a short airstrip the take-off weight needed to be reduced.

ideal location and existing accommodation and facilities present us with strong potential to attract a broad range of travellers across various markets and complements our existing portfolio of hotels and resorts perfectly."

The sale comes at a busy time for Oaks Hotels & Resorts, last week opening its fourth and brand new Melbourne property Oaks on William.

Additional expansion opportunities are also in the pipeline for the coming year, with properties in Gladstone, Milton and China currently being negotiated.

The 100-hectare property is a popular choice for conference groups with its impressive selection of onsite venues, exquisite backdrops and superior facilities, including tennis courts, swimming pools, gym and spa.

## Playing with fire

A group of PCOs recently experienced the Gold Coast's newest transfer option in a fleet of four authentic fire trucks each seating up to 10 delegates.

The novel transfer option for small groups is the bright idea of Fire4Hire who also conduct daytime and sunset tours of the City.

The experience, which is held as the sun settles across the Hinterland and the city's lights come to life, includes



complimentary drinks (wine, beer and non-alcoholic varieties).

For more information and details about the transfer visit - [www.fire4hire.com.au](http://www.fire4hire.com.au).

## WIN A 4 NIGHT WINTER ESCAPE TO PELICAN WATERS GOLF RESORT AND SPA



**PELICAN WATERS**  
GOLF RESORT & SPA  
CALOUNDRA



This week **Business Events News** and Pelican Waters Golf Resort and Spa is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a fabulous four night getaway in a stunning one bedroom suite, including breakfast for two.

Located on Queensland's beautiful Sunshine Coast, with breathtaking views of the Glasshouse Mountains and Pacific Ocean, the 4.5 star Resort offers a totally unique meeting and conference experience to make your event an outstanding success.

To be the lucky winner of this prize:

In 25 words or less tell us why you deserve a Winter Escape  
email: [pelican@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:pelican@businesseventsnews.com.au)

Hint: [www.pelicanwatersgolfresortandspa.com.au](http://www.pelicanwatersgolfresortandspa.com.au)

[Click here for terms and conditions](#)



# business events news

5th August 2013

## CONTACT US:

Publisher  
Bruce Piper  
Editor  
Jill Varley  
Contributor/Coordinator  
Chantel Housler  
Advertising:  
[advertising@businessesnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@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 and  
Pharmacy Daily.

Disclaimer: While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Business Events News* 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.

## BEST WESTERN x2

**TWO** former properties operated by Accor's Mercure group in Tasmania have been rebranded as the BEST WESTERN Hobart and BEST WESTERN PLUS Launceston.

The rebranded hotels take Best Western's total of Tasmanian properties to seven, with several more Tasmanian hotels set to join the group in the future.

Rob Anderson, Best Western Australasia ce said the hotels are ideally located in the heart of each city's CBD precincts and will undergo a series of refurbishments.

"The BEST WESTERN Hobart has a large refresh planned, with all 140 guest rooms to receive a soft refurbishment and its eight meetings and events spaces to be completely refurbished and due for completion in the second half of 2013."

## Novotel Christchurch reopens

**THE** Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square was just over a year old when the earthquake hit in February 2011, and while many of the buildings around the hotel had to be demolished, the Novotel sustained only minor structural but considerable interior damage.

Now, on the anniversary of the first earthquake - 4 September - the Novotel will have an official opening ceremony and will re-open its doors on Monday 19 August.

Giving a significant boost to the city's tourism industry, the hotel's re-opening not only opens up crucial tourism infrastructure but it will also play a key role in the revival of Cathedral Square, following the removal of the Red Zone cordon around the city centre.

The reincarnated 154-room hotel with extensive conference and meeting facilities will play a major role in central Christchurch's ability to host large tour groups, as well as major conferences.

Employing more than 50 Cantabrians at the hotel, the



general manager Carl Braddock, said that the re-opening of the Novotel would mark another significant step in the recovery of the city's tourism industry.

"When we open the Novotel it will be instrumental in easing the critical shortage of central city accommodation and provide much-needed employment for local residents in Christchurch.

"We are fully committed to ensuring that the city is firmly back on the tourism map and deserved of a prominent place on business and leisure travel itineraries," he said.



## Getting to Know: Banyan Tree, Bintan

by: Bruce Piper

**BANYAN** Tree is renowned for the exceptional standards and service offered in its more than 30 luxury properties across Asia, and the Banyan Tree on Indonesia's Bintan Island is no exception. A recent short break at this resort left *BEN* feeling so relaxed it was difficult to contemplate returning to the office, with the property offering a fabulous mix of pampering, great food and activities as well as amazing accommodation in a stunning setting.

Easily accessible by a 45 minute boat trip from Singapore, Bintan Island features a range of resorts including Banyan Tree's sister property, Angsana Bintan, all surrounded by spectacular jungle and overlooking the South China Sea.

The "Emerald Service" option aboard the Bintan Island Ferry is a great idea, with pre-departure lounge access, comfortable seating on the top deck and an on-board facility for the simple and easy issuance of Indonesia's Visa on Arrival.

Banyan Tree guests are whisked in comfort via a private transfer once the ferry docks, with luggage seamlessly loaded by helpful staff, and upon arrival after a welcome drink it's off to your villa, with guests ferried around the resort by a fleet of on-demand golf buggies.

There are 64 villas in total, and every single one has its own pool set on a private terrace with amazing views. If you just can't quite get away from it all, Banyan Tree Bintan allows you to keep in touch with what's going on at home via free wi-fi throughout the resort.

Dining options abound, with several on-resort restaurants including Banyan Tree's signature Saffron Thai eatery, and the property also offers "Destination Dining," where a table is set for a couple or a group in one of several stunning locations. Banyan Tree guests can also access the eateries at the neighbouring Angsana Resort, and it's possible to venture further afield on Bintan, with options including the Kelong over-water seafood restaurant which is accessible through the neighbouring Nirwana Gardens precinct. For guests who would rather just luxuriate in the privacy of their villa, Banyan Tree staff can provide a fully catered barbecue which is a fun and delicious option.

Activities include the nearby Laguna Bintan Golf Course, designed by Greg Norman, and of course the legendary offerings of the Banyan Tree Spa which includes a huge variety of treatments. The Angsana resort also offers a range of more adventurous action including jet-skis and quad-bikes.

Banyan Tree Bintan is a great option for a group getaway, providing an intimate, exotic setting with fantastic service in a stunning location.

