



Game on!

IT was an exciting conclusion to a great tennis match when Bernard Tomic won the APIA



International Men's Finals on Saturday night.

BEN was delighted to be a guest of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority at the event, which was catered for by in-house caterers, the Gema Group.

The match saw us grazing from wicker baskets groaning with delicious goodies as we watched the game.

High-end dinners, cocktails, presentations and product launches can also be organised on Centre Court and guests 'wowed' as they enter via the Player's Tunnel to arrive on Centre Court to dine in a marquee under the stars - *Jill*.

New event venue in ACT Arboretum

THE national capital's newest attraction, the National Arboretum Canberra, will have an events venue with five star facilities for gala dinners, weddings and corporate events, when it opens on 2 February.

The Arboretum, set on 250 hectares and just 6km from the city centre features 100 forests and 100 gardens including different types of threatened and symbolic trees from around Australia and the world.

The Arboretum represents the realisation of Walter Burley Griffin's 1915 plan for Canberra to include a 'Continental Arboretum and Eventual Botanical Reserves'.

The Arboretum contains a visitor centre, cafe and pavilion housing the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia.



Wrest Point marks 40 yrs

FOUR weeks of celebrations are to mark the 40th birthday of Wrest Point, an icon in Tasmania's tourism, entertainment and conference industries.

Commencing this week, the '4 Decades in 4 Weeks' celebrations kicked off with a free Wrest Point community barbecue breakfast in the rooftop car park on 14 January, and culminates with the highly anticipated Red Hot Summer Tour Concert with Jimmy Barnes, Chocolate Starfish, Dragon and Ian Moss on the Wrest Point lawns on 10 February.

"Rather than just celebrate on the official birthday date (10 February), we decided to put together four weeks of activities that truly capture what Wrest Point is all about – from its early history to its current role as an integral part of the Hobart entertainment and tourism landscape," Wrest Point marketing manager Matt Mellor said.



When Wrest Point Hotel Casino (as it was then known) opened on the banks of the Derwent River on 10 February, 1973, it not only received national and international acclaim but also put Tasmania on the global map.

"Wrest Point plays a significant part in Australian history, being the country's first legal casino," Wrest Point general manager Mike Davey said.

"The property also opened up Tasmanian tourism to a new level of sophistication and customer service.

"In its first five years of operation, Wrest Point entertained more than five million visitors and held more than 100 conventions and trade gatherings," he said.

Tourism Fiji appoints new ceo

FROM Monday this week, Rick Hamilton took up the role of Tourism Fiji's new chief executive officer.

The result of an extensive global search that attracted a number of high-calibre candidates, Hamilton comes with more than 17 years of experience in the travel industry and joins Tourism Fiji after five years as managing director of Flight Centre New Zealand.

With a wealth of industry knowledge and experience, Hamilton also held roles as retail leader for Flight Centre South Africa and as retail leader for Student Flights Australia.

"Fiji is one of the most unique and beautiful countries on earth and I look forward to enhancing world-wide awareness about Fiji, its people and its many amazing attributes," Hamilton said.



ICCA Forum takes AIME

Extra features have been added to this year's packed ICCA Forum for Young Professionals (FYP) during AIME in February.

This includes the MeetTaiwan's award-winning "Shake to Share" event networking program, which joins other interesting meeting industry case studies from Singapore, China PR, Melbourne and the United States.

FYP participants have been extended an invitation to attend ICCA's members networking reception where they will also have the opportunity to enter a competition to win a registration to the ICCA Congress 2013 in Shanghai.

ICCA Board member Martin Winter, has joined the

FYP 2013 faculty which now features a total of 18 speakers over two days.

"This year we have a record eight overseas speakers combining with ten leading Australian industry speakers to deliver a program focusing on new approaches," says Forum manager,



Forum for Young Professionals

Elizabeth Rich.

"We aim not only to leave the attendees better informed and better connected, but also stimulated and impassioned about the meetings industry."

Spaces are still available so for full details on AIME or ICCA see their websites or email elizabethrich@agenda.net.au.



Macau's meeting offer

A meetings deal by The Venetian Macao Resort Hotel, 'The Venetian Macao Meetings Sale,' has been launched for meetings booked before 30 April.

The offer includes a selection of added-value benefits according to the individual needs of the event.

Available to groups who book a half-day meeting package or banquet dinner for events to be held between 1 March and 30 September, or between 1 and 31 December,

they will be able to enjoy a MOP 200 (approx. RMB 150) bonus credit per room night to spend on their choice of a meeting package discount; Streetmosphere or live entertainment; Hotel accommodation; wi-fi access; Macao discovery tours; Cotai Water Jet ferry tickets; coach service or shopping & dining vouchers.



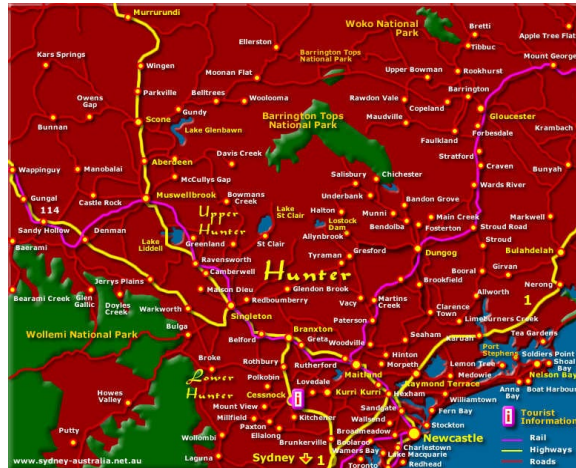
Hunter Valley's Corporate Social Responsibility

A Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, designed to help organisations meet their CSR goals was launched this week in the Hunter Valley.

Aimed at supporting local

charities, community and environmental programs, the Hunter Valley Convention Bureau has introduced the initiative to provide opportunities to conference organisers to incorporate activities into their conference or incentive program that will leave a legacy in the Hunter Valley long after delegates have departed.

"We have observed that organisations are increasingly



looking for these type of opportunities as team-building exercises" said Ruth Appleby, Business Tourism marketing manager at Hunter Valley Convention Bureau.

"They seek out opportunities to contribute to the sustainability, greenness and welfare of the local community in which they are meeting.

"Instead of spending the afternoon playing golf or tasting wine together, some organisations may prefer to participate in programs such as the Wyndham Estate Riverbank Rehabilitation project by planting trees or carp fishing or 'Tikes on Bikes' - where a team of participants assemble new bikes which are then donated to a local charity to distribute to needy children.

"Instead of giving costly gifts to guest speakers or promotional gifts to delegates, as has often been the practice in the past, organisations now look for opportunities to make a donation to a local charity instead", she said.

"We anticipate that the program will be flexible with various projects being added or deleted as needs change" said Appleby.

"We believe that this offers a 'win win' to both organisers holding an event in the Hunter Valley and to local charities.



ONE for the birds!

Anything but ordinary, according to conservationists.

An island the size of 25 football pitches has emerged from the violent waters of the North Sea, over the past few years.

Composed of sandbanks, it lies 24 kilometres off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein in Germany's far north, in a marine national park.

The appearance of Bird Island, named after the seabirds that rest, nest or feed has sand dunes that are almost five metres high.

49 species of plants have been detected; generated by seeds blown there by winds from across Europe.

AHICE 2013's final call

IF you are a leader in your field with a dynamic leadership story to share, the AHICE 2013 conference with the theme 'Leadership Matters - we need leaders of today and the future,' is welcoming submissions on the following topics:

Leadership; Service Excellence; Measuring success – how to ensure repeat visits from your guests; Franchising; Social Media; Environmental Management/ Sustainable Operations; Challenges for emerging resort destinations; Branding; Supply Chain and Stakeholder Relations.

The AHICE is a conference firmly focused on the management and operation of accommodation hotels throughout Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific region.

The fourth annual Australasian Hotel Industry Conference and Exhibition is set to be held in Melbourne on 16 May with applications scheduled to close on 18 January.

For additional information or for further details about the conference visit the AHICE website at www.ahice.com.au or call 1300 789 845.

Win a stay at Furama Resort Danang, Vietnam



This week **Business Events News** is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a three night stay in an Ocean Studio Suite at Furama Resort Danang plus breakfast for two people and one Vietnamese body massage per person courtesy of **DMS - Destination Marketing Services and Unique Venues**.

Unique Venues offers a range of deluxe international hotel options which are ideal for conferences, incentives,

meetings and events.

To enter, answer each question this week and submit your creative answer on Friday.

Today's question is: *Which Unique Venue Property will be present at the 2013 DMS Annual Workshop?*

Email: comp@businesseventsnews.com.au

Hint: uniquevenues.com.au
Click here for terms and conditions





Hawaiian flies to Auckland



COMMENCING 13 March Hawaiian Airlines is opening a new international gateway to New Zealand with nonstop service, three-days weekly, between Honolulu and Auckland.

Hawaiian will be the only US carrier flying into Auckland and will operate the route using its largest aircraft, the Airbus A330-200 seating 294 passengers.

Round-trip fares are available for flights between Auckland and Maui, with convenient one-stop connections in Honolulu, avoiding the need to change airlines or terminals.

In addition this summer, Hawaiian Airlines will offer for the first time, twice-daily nonstop service between Los Angeles and Maui.

Both flights will offer the comfort and roominess of Hawaiian's wide-body, twin-aisle Boeing 767-300ER aircraft, seating 264 passengers.

Macau's Heritage Soul



OSC (Off-Site Connections) Macau brought Macau's Heritage Soul to life at the Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central, where a magical dinner at Albergue was held at a stunning off-site dinner venue.

Bringing it to life was the lighting design, countless candles and candelabras hung in a 100-year-old tree, the tailor made entertainment and the stunning table concepts.

m/v Tere Moana launches in Marigot

PAUL Gauguin Cruises, operator of luxury cruises in the South Pacific, have christened its new luxurious ship, the m/v Tere Moana, in an official ceremony held dockside, in Marigot, St. Martin, christening the ship with a bottle of Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame Champagne.

After the ceremony, the ship set sail on its inaugural 7-night Caribbean voyage to the French West Indies, British Virgin Islands, and St. Kitts & Nevis.

In January and February, The Moana embarks on 13- and 14-night Panama Canal cruises.

From April through November, the ship operates a variety of 7-night European voyages.

During spring and fall, 14-night transatlantic crossings are available between Europe and the Caribbean.

At 330 feet long and 46 feet wide, The Moana has a draft of 11.5 feet, and accommodates 90 guests with a staff of 60.

Hilton Hawaiian Village renovation

THE Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort has completed a \$25.5 million renovation of its Ali'i Tower.

The project included the refurbishment of all 323 guest rooms in the tower, corridors, lobby and reception desk with the final phase expected to be completed in May.

This includes upgrades to the tower's second floor Ocean View Terrace.

Thai's good MICE year

IT'S been a buoyant year for Thailand's MICE industry with visitor numbers in 2012 reaching 895,224, exceeding Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau's (TCEB) target for the year.

For the year ahead, the TCEB expects to generate more than US\$2.1 billion, or 63.2 billion Baht.

Give yourself a 'lift' for the New Year

PEOPLE making New Year's resolutions can now turn to an app that aims to help them achieve their goals.

Lift, a free iPhone app, is designed so users can track progress on their goals—whether it's losing weight, improving relationships or doing better at work—by breaking their goals into manageable parts.

"We've always been interested in how people become good at something, and how good people become really great," said Tony Stubblebine, the co-founder and chief executive of Lift. "What makes great musicians, athletes or entrepreneurs become great? And can it be trained?"

When users maintain their habits they can mark their progress on the platform. Progress can be tracked over time, providing insight into which habits are having the most influence towards their long-term goals.

Rather than focusing on tracking calories burned or consumed, if someone is trying to lose weight, the focus is on creating and tracking daily habits, such as a no sweets or low-carb lunch.

"That's the fundamental feedback loop in Lift — being honest with yourself about how much progress you're making. Did you really avoid sweets this month or did you only do it two or three times?" said Stubblebine.

"It's much more maintainable," he added. "Can you imagine looking up every meal you ever eat for the rest of your life in a food database? It's unbelievably hard."

Stubblebine said the company drew inspiration from David Allen's book 'Getting Things Done', which popularised the concept of taking the next step towards achieving a desired outcome.

The app also helps to connect people with similar goals and looking to build the same habits and support each other to stay on track.



Story adapted from a Reuters article.

Tony Wragg, a self-professed gadget fan with a serious passion for technology, writes a regular blog, TechTalk. He sources his material from newspapers and technology websites around the world and shares stories he feels may interest small business operators like himself. Visit Tony Wragg's TechTalk at: www.tonystechtalk.com.au.



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