



## Dry nights!

**DRY** July and we were faced with the SCEC 25th Anniversary bash on Wednesday night, an evening that promised extraordinary entertainment and copious quantities of excellent food and wine.

Alcohol abstinence was a topic of some concern among a group of the guests.

Questions were asked, game plans formed, negotiations with consciences sought.

What to do when the executive chef Uwe Habermehl's confit of ocean trout cured in wildbrumby sour apple brandy with pressed chilli cucumber and osetra caviar, has been paired with the 2005 Tyrrell's belford semillon, Hunter Valley or the slow-roasted wagyu beef tenderloin and braised wild boar pie with rosemary-poached quail egg is served with the 2010 Tyrrell's Lunatic Shiraz, Heathcote, Victoria?

This doesn't take into consideration the cool looking, iced-thingy swirling in French champagne and the after dinner vintage Port.

Do we drink water, coke, orange juice?

Perish the thought!

After some deliberation, micenet's Helen Batt-Rawden's take on the situation suited us to a tee, "We'll drink dry red, dry white and dry sec champagne," she said with a laugh.

Problem solved!

Now, turn to **page 4** to see the good time that was had by all.



## EIBTM sustains award

A **SUSTAINABILITY** Stand Award is to feature again this year at EIBTM, the global event for the meetings and events industry.

Part of a wider strategy to encourage exhibitors to take a sustainable approach to their participation in the show, which takes place in Fira Gran Via, Barcelona from 19-21 November.

The award judged by an expert independent panel, recognises exhibitors placing the most emphasis on sustainability.

Switzerland Convention & Incentive Bureau was named as the winner of last year's Sustainability Award whose stand was created using sustainably sourced wood and low energy lighting, and had been recycled at



exhibitions for the previous three years, with a view to it being in use a further five years.

Staff on the Switzerland Tourism stand were also encouraged to attend sustainability related education sessions and bring less literature during the event.

For further information on Sustainability education available from EIBTM visit [www.eibtm.com/sustainablecorner](http://www.eibtm.com/sustainablecorner).

## Westin's Easy over

**WESTIN** Hotels & Resorts was the first hotel company to sell a signature retail line with the unveiling of the Heavenly Bed in-room catalogue in 2000.

Now, the Westin is once again changing the game in the travel industry by becoming the first hotel brand to take its bedding from the hotel room to the skies with the Westin Heavenly bedding, designed and manufactured exclusively for Delta Airlines.

It is available in all of the airline's BusinessElite cabins on international flights, as well as BusinessElite flights between New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle, and between Atlanta and Honolulu.

## Frangipani becomes a Mantra

**WITH** a commitment to developing further into regional Western Australia, the former Frangipani Resort now known as Mantra Frangipani Broome, has been added to the Mantra network.

Located a few minutes' walk from the world famous Cable Beach, the property consists of 62 apartments - all with a private courtyard; two large designer swimming pools with flowing waterfall; BBQ facilities; and open air showers in apartments to utilise Broome's temperate climate.

The resort will be headed up by new general manager, Michelle Spinks, who is making a welcome return to Broome having previously worked in the region for Oaks Hotels & Resorts.

Rates for a one-bedroom apartment on a three night package start from \$259 per night (\$777 total minimum spend) valid until 31 August; or from \$199 per night (\$597 total minimum spend) valid 1 September to 17 October.

## PCO's get catty at Intercontinental

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Sanctuary Cove Resort hosted a group of conference and event organisers from Sydney and Adelaide to a first class famil that included a number of unique Gold Coast activities.

Jayne Cuttriss, director of sales and marketing, said the famil was a fabulous way to showcase the resort and some off site venues which "makes their jobs a lot easier when planning conferences and events for their clients".

The highlight for the group was an evening at Dreamworld, which included a visit to Tiger Island (pictured above).

Other activities included cocktails at the Bali Pavilion, a helicopter trip over McLaren's Landing, a golf picnic at Sanctuary Cove Golf Club and many opportunities for some great meals.







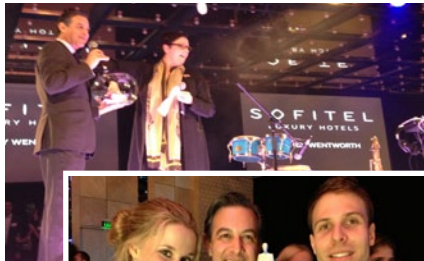
## Sofitel's Hot Right Now

**THE** Sofitel Wentworth was the venue last Tuesday night for a glamorous pco 'So Hot Right Now' cocktail party, which showcased some of the experiences that can be created in Sydney's largest pillarless ballroom and in its many other venues.

Hosted by general manager, Erkin Aytekin, precariously placed on a stage centred in the middle of the ballroom, he introduced his new team to the gathered guests, sipping diligently on flutes of French champagne.

They included Jenifer Dwyer-Slee, director of sales (MICE), Stephanie Humphries, business development manager (MICE) and Geoffrey Webb, director of sales and marketing.

Sponsors and organisers



who assisted with the event included - Valiant Event Hire, EP Entertainment, Creative Lighting and Audio, the amazingly talented Sofitel team and Carla Zampatti, whose designs were displayed on static stages around the room and some worn by the Sofitel staff.

Prizes worth waiting for included an overnight at Sofitel Sydney Wentworth in a Prestige Suite with Club access, overnight at Sofitel Gold Coast including full breakfast, two nights at Sofitel Melbourne with full breakfast and the grand prize - five nights for two at Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa including flights.

**Pictured** Erkin Aytekin draws the Hot Right Now prizes with Jenifer Dwyer-Slee and **inset** Aytekin with two of the guests.

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### Inflatable technology

A revolutionary air-powered and easy-to-transport system for trade shows and events has been announced by Skyline WindScape - a designer and producer of display systems.

The first system to use inflatable technology in trade show exhibit structures, the system is available from the company's Australian head office in Brisbane, in 46 standard exhibit shapes, from small overlays and back wall displays to large hanging structures and 4.8 metre tall towers - even as an entire inflatable conference room.

Made of durable & lightweight materials and easy to set up and take down, a full 3 metre back wall display transports in a single carry-on case.

### Accor adds Ibis Styles

**THE** addition of the Ibis Styles brand in Canberra has grown the Accor hotel network there to 5 hotels - a move following a managerial takeover of Rydges Canberra Eagle Hawk Resort.

10 minutes from Canberra CBD the 151 room hotel rebranded to Ibis Styles Eagle Hawk, is set amongst 30 acres of natural landscaped native gardens, and offers a number of facilities for both business & leisure travellers.



**IF** you can't make it to London but you are a bit of a Harry Potter fan, Google has added Diagon Alley, the main shopping district in the Harry Potter universe, to Google maps Street View.

What you see from the comfort of your desk is a big piece of the film franchise's set from the eight "Harry Potter" films.

However, if you want to see Diagon Alley and much more Harry Potter paraphernalia in person, head to London and take the Warner Bros. studio tour.

Then, you can also explore Dumbledore's office and the Great Hall, and check out some important props like Harry's broomstick, the Nimbus 2000.



## Adelaide Convention Bureau's 'six pack'

**IN** the past few months, the Adelaide Convention Bureau has earned South Australia an impressive \$18.3m in potential economic benefits with its winning of six major international conferences.

The wins mean the Bureau has the potential to bring to the State \$100m and represents a remarkable 100:1 return on investment to the State Government.

The value of events actually held in SA in the 2012/13 financial year has topped \$160m.

Damien Kitto, ceo, Adelaide Convention Bureau said "In the challenging times we are facing in Adelaide with reduced resources, to win the right for Adelaide to host these six events is testament



to the strategic direction and sheer hard work being undertaken by the Convention Bureau team, Team Adelaide industry partners and our "Conventions Adelaide Ambassadors".

The six conferences are: the four-day, International Convention of Asian Scholars in August 2015 with 1250 delegates; International Symposium

on Supportive Care in Cancer - four days in June 2016 with 1500 delegates; Asia Pacific Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition - five days in October 2014 with 600 delegates; an international food based symposium - four days in May 2017 (200 delegates); and STEMFEST 2014, Global 29 STEM three days in September 2014 (250 delegates); plus an international science based conference - four days in July 2015 (700 delegates).

 MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE



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# business events news

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## Teeing off in Oman

A new five-night luxury Oman Golf experience featuring the Greg Norman designed Al Mouj golf course has been unveiled by Gulf Ventures, for the Australian market.

Represented in Australia by Sydney-based Tourism Portfolio, the Gulf Ventures land only package is priced from US\$935 per person twin share and includes five nights at the five-star Al Bustan Palace, daily breakfast, private transfers, and 18 holes at the Al Mouj Golf fairways and the Muscat Hills Golf & Country Club.

As well as the challenging holes – described by Norman as some of the best he's ever designed – players enjoy breathtaking views of the Sea of Oman and the Al Hajar Mountains.

For more information visit -  
[www.tourismportfolio.com.au](http://www.tourismportfolio.com.au).

## Hawaii paradise

**HILTON** Worldwide & Hawaii Tourism's - 'A day in Paradise' breakfast at the Hilton Sydney's Glass restaurant last week was an intimate affair, hosted by Hilton Hawaii's Cynthia Rankin and Christina Yumul from the Grand Wailea in Maui.

Yumul described the Grand Wailea as the ultimate Maui getaway with 22 elegant banquet, meeting and boardrooms and able to accommodate meetings of any size.

It boasts spaces that range from the splendour of their 28,000 square-foot ballroom and 17 well-appointed breakout rooms.

Hilton Hawaiian Village's Rainbow Murals which adorn the mauka (mountain) and makai (ocean) ends of the Village's Rainbow Tower and are among the world's tallest ceramic murals, climbing 31-stories, are to undergo a 16,000 tile renovation convincing in August.

Expected to take a year to execute, Warner Bros who are



currently filming a remake of Godzilla, the giant lizard franchise at the resort, will also feature the Rainbow Tower.

In other Hilton Hawaiian Village news, a \$25 million renovation is being undertaken to the Ali'i Tower, while on the Big Island the Hilton Waikoloa with more than 235,000 square feet of meeting space and the largest on the outer islands is focusing this year on locally sourced food.

"Being so isolated and cut off from the rest of the Hawaiian Islands we need to be more self-sustaining," explained Cynthia Rankin.

**Pictured** above at the Sydney roadshow are Christina Yumul and Cynthia Rankin.



## Getting to Know: The Gold Coast

by: Jill Varley

The Gold Coast may be famous for fun but its also famous for events.

Pick any month or any week and there's something happening on which to hang a conference or business events hat on.

Take July and August and you'll count 20 different events as diverse as a Kokoda cross-country challenge to the World Surfaris Coast-of-Origin Interclub Series, to the Great Barrier Reef Masters Games and the Broadbeach Jazz Festival.

Renowned for its first class conference and meeting facilities, the Gold Coast Highway between Broadbeach, Surfers Paradise and Parkville, where the new light rail system is currently under construction, will allow delegates a rapid six-minute ride to the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre at Broadbeach.

It's at Broadbeach that the mega shopping plaza, Pacific Fair is about to undergo a \$580 million redevelopment.

Along the light rail route is the Crowne Plaza with the only revolving restaurant in Queensland and 14 light filled, pillar-free conference rooms, the Watermark with conference facilities and a ballroom able to accommodate 150-200 theatre style, the Marriott Gold Coast which has undergone a \$24 million facelift, and where delegates can arrive on jet skis, the former Gold Coast International with a retro 1950s facelift for those who like their meetings on the edgy side and the Sheraton Mirage all glammed-up after a \$20 million refurb to the hotel and landscaping.

Then 10 minutes from Surfers Paradise is the Sharks Events Centre, a multi-purpose facility boasting adaptable rooms that allow them to cater for groups of 10 to 1000 guests.

With more diversions than organisers can poke a stick at, including transfers in fleets of coaches, vintage cars, stretch limos, Harley Davidson motorbikes, helicopters and boats, theme venues such as Movie World, Sea World, Dreamworld and Wet & Wild, to staging functions on islands like McLaren's Landing on South Stradbroke - the Gold Coast truly is a one stop MICE shop.





# Silver Celebration - SCEC marks 25 Amazing Years

IT was a night of celebration and nostalgia when business event leaders from around the nation helped the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre mark its 25th anniversary in spectacular style.

Reflecting the venue's reputation for delivering world-class events, the Centre's team staged an evening filled with surprises last Wednesday.

More than 400 guests enjoyed entertainment from popular singers Timomatic and Samantha Jade as they dined on a superb meal featuring confit of ocean trout, marron tail and slow-roasted wagyu beef tenderloin.

Earlier in the evening, after cocktails amid a photographic display of highlights from the past 25 years, ABC radio presenter Adam Spencer led a lively panel discussion with industry leaders who reminisced on the Centre's exceptional contribution to the events industry.



**Above:** Ian Stuart, Tony and Lyn South and Ton van Amerongen.



**Above:** Rodney Cox, Leigh Harry, Ton van Amerongen and Alec Gilbert.

**Right:** John Caldon, Lyndey Milan and Ton van Amerongen.



**Below:** Jim Delahunty, Ian Stuart, Kate Smith and Adam Spencer.



**Above:** Ton van Amerongen and Ros McLeod OAM.

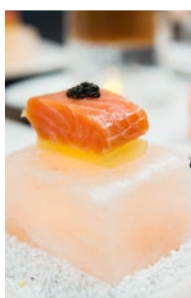


**Above:** Gary Daly and Catherine Gallagher.



**Above:** Joyce DiMascio, Julia Erben, Stephen Steenson, Robert McIndoe.

**Right:** Sue Joseph, David Comer and Margaret White in front of displays noting their connection to the Centre.



**Right:** Some of the delicacies of the night included confit of ocean trout cured in wildbrumby sour apple brandy with pressed chilli cucumber & osetra caviar.

