



Viva la France

THE French Mediterranean port town of Marseille, a far cry from its once underbelly reputation depicted in film noir and memorably in Borsalino, a 1970 gangster film directed by Jacques Deray and starring Alain Delon, Jean-Paul Belmondo, is in the throes of an unprecedented building program.

The world's leading contemporary architects are working on redesigning this vibrant ethnic melting pot.

Home increasingly to a number of contemporary art and avant-garde performances, it is here that exhibition spaces include the 2,000-seat Le Silo, a landmark granary that's been transformed into a theatre; the Panorama, an ex-tobacco factory now home to modern installations; and J1, a hangar on the old port that will host a number of events.

Stylish hotels abound like the 4 bedroom Casa Honoré or the new cheap chic Mama Shelter Marseille & the elegant Sofitel Marseille Vieux Port, in the very heart of the old harbour.

As they say, 'On the foundations of the past, Marseille is reconstructing the face of its future.'



The perfect high achievers



AS BridgeClimb works in 'super capacity' mode, fulfilling its biggest ever single corporate booking of 3,000 delegates from Chinese Health company, Perfect China, Victoria's peak events industry body, the Victoria Events Industry Council (VEIC), expressed frustration by the State's conference and events leaders about Victoria missing out on this major Chinese business convention.

VEIC chief executive Dianne Smith says, "Each week we are missing out on significant business opportunities simply as a result of lack of space to host these major events."

"We urge the Victorian government to commit to the expansion of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) as it is one of our most important tourism priorities,"

adding that the MCEC, which contributes approximately \$212 million each year to Victoria's economy, is being forced to turn away business due to a lack of exhibition space.

"The State Government missed an important opportunity in this year's state budget to invest in Victoria's future through funding the extension of this important Melbourne venue."

"Events held in Melbourne have a positive flow on benefit across Victoria, with international business visitors generally staying for a number of days and often travelling outside of Melbourne," she said.

Meanwhile, back in Sydney the high spending Chinese business tourists, who are expected to inject \$21 million into the state's economy, snake in unison along the Bridge's arch, in a feat that saw 40 of the visitors climb every 15 minutes.

KLCC's party all heart

THE Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre played host to 80 children from Living HOPE and Persatuan Kebajikan Generasi Gemilang at its annual breaking of fast event in the holy month of Ramadan, where the Centre's Culinary team held an 'express cupcake decorating course' for the young VIPs.

Dr Peggy Wong, founder and chairman of Living HOPE, said it is heartening to see corporates such as the Centre make an effort to reach out to the underprivileged.



Malu Barrios to head Glebe Island

IT'S welcome back to Sydney to experienced venue executive, Malu Barrios, as she takes on the role of general manager of the temporary Glebe Island exhibition centre.

Barrios has for the past five years overseen the opening and ongoing success of the AEG Ogden managed Darwin Convention Centre, which just last month celebrated its fifth anniversary.

Quickly installed by AEG Ogden following its appointment by the New South Wales Government to operate the facility, Barrios was general manager of Sydney Showground for five years and spent six years as events director of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, also operated by AEG Ogden.

The Sydney Exhibition Centre at Glebe Island will be open for the 2014 exhibition season and will offer 25,000 square metres of high quality, fully enclosed space specifically constructed for Sydney's exhibitions and tradeshow.



GENERAL MANAGER Darwin Convention Centre

- Based in Darwin, NT, Australia
- Full time position.

Due to an internal promotion, AEG Ogden, the leading venue management company in the Asia Pacific region and one of the world's leading convention and exhibition centre management specialists is seeking an experienced and dynamic General Manager for the Darwin Convention Centre.

Since launching operations in June 2008 as Darwin's flagship business events facility, Darwin Convention Centre quickly developed into the Northern Territory's multi-awarded venue of choice for major international and national conferences, association meetings, major exhibitions, and special events.

Located within the Darwin Waterfront precinct on the edge of the Arafura Sea, the Darwin Convention Centre is an iconic landmark of Australia's tropical harbour city.

The successful candidate will:

- Have demonstrated management, marketing and leadership skills at the highest level
- Be experienced in working at a similar venue or related industry
- Be highly motivated
- Have excellent communication skills
- Be a strong team player.

All applications to be submitted via email to hr@aegogden.com by **Monday, 5 August 2013**

The Darwin Convention Centre is a project of the Darwin Cove Consortium and the Northern Territory Government and is proudly managed by AEG Ogden www.aegogden.com

www.darwinconvention.com.au



business events news

17th July 2013

Malolo Island Fiji's F\$5.5m makeover



WITH an opening slated for 19 August, Malolo Island Fiji is close to completing an extensive F\$5.5m refurbishment project following severe damage by tropical cyclone Evan in December 2012.

In keeping with its colonial theme, the resort has undergone many improvements including a new restaurant complex comprising the 100 seat Terrace Restaurant, and Treetops, a 60 seater adults only restaurant, which provides a stunning breakaway dining experience and a perfect venue for small meetings and conferences.

Samoa's new resort

A NEW high-end \$60 million resort is being built on a manmade island - Taumeasina - near Samoa's capital.

Previously undeveloped, the new Taumeasina Island project will create a luxury resort for international guests.

Featuring 80 rooms and 25 low-rise villas, it has an expected opening date of early 2016.

Peter Sereno of Samoa Tourism Authority believes the development of a world-class facility will cater for the influx of tourists coming to the country especially from Australia.

With Australia's holiday and leisure numbers up 25.2%, an overall increase of 11.7% year on year, Samoa is forecasting this figure to rise even higher this year.

"We estimate between 200 and 300 extra rooms will come onto the market, and will include Aggie Grey's Hotel and two new properties set to open on the South Coast on the second half of 2013," he said.

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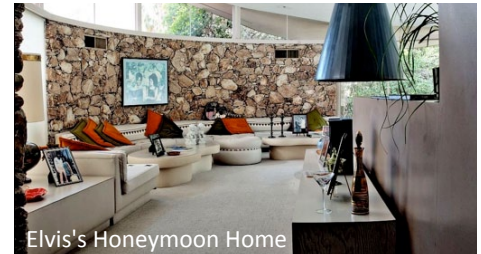


50's and 60's glamour

ALL the bygone glamour of the 1950s and 1960s in the desert playground of Palm Springs, California can be part of pre and post incentives and small meetings organised by Nemonic Concepts in conjunction with top North America destination management company, Wedgewood USA.

Custom-designed programs can be infused with the legacies surrounding The Rat Pack, Elvis and Priscilla, and Hollywood's golden stars from past and present, incorporating the whimsical roadside gas stations, public buildings and a number of private residences including Frank Sinatra's Twin Palm Estate, Elvis's Honeymoon House, The Presley Estate, the Frey 11 Estate, the Edgar J. Kauffman House and the Elrod House.

Frank Sinatra first began his love affair with the Southern



Elvis's Honeymoon Home

Californian desert in 1948.

His first home was at 1148 East Alego Road - known as The Sinatra Twin Palm Estate.

"Palm Springs is the ultimate California getaway destination for pre or post touring, hosting a think tank session or enjoying a cool, Oceans Eleven or The Rat Pack incentive experience.

"The city's close proximity to Los Angeles and its superb choice of spa resorts and shopping simply makes it one of the coolest and most affordable destinations on the West Coast," says Sue Wallace, senior partner, Nemonic Concepts.

Visit - www.nemonic.com.au.

THE ULURU MEETING PLACE

Immerse yourself in this timeless landscape and the ancient intricacies of the Indigenous Anangu culture. With the mighty silhouette of Uluru on the horizon, Ayers Rock Resort, home of Uluru Meeting Place, inspires delegates with high-impact events and once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

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ULURU MEETING PLACE AT A GLANCE

- 2 large ballrooms - 420 & 306 guests
- 4 additional breakout rooms
- Outdoor amphitheatre
- A permanent marquee - 280 guests
- A pre-function area
- A secretariat room
- In-house audio visual & creative event production
- Unique outdoor event settings - 300 guests



ID Events celebrates



ID Events Australia recently notched up 40 years in business with a party at the trendy Bar 100 restaurant in George St, Sydney.

More than 100 past and present staff celebrated the success of the event, conference and destination management company, which was hosted by managing director, Bill Wright.

"We were one of the first to recognise the potential of the inbound market and I want to thank everyone here who has played a part in building the ID brand" he said.

Recent past successes included ID Events winning sponsorship arrangements for the Sydney Olympics, and handling the ground arrangements for the Oprah Winfrey Australian tour.

Pictured are the staff including from left: Rhine Ball, Kelly Howard, Fiona Whelan, Claire Winn, Karen Mathieson, Bill Wright, Sam Ricotta, Joshua Hannah, Tamara Doyle, Mary Goldsack, Laura Pressley and Mark Annabel.

Crowne's zero to hero

CROWNE Plaza has announced the launch of Business Energiser, a program of activities to help business travellers keep active when travelling.

Running for a period of time during July in three hotels - Crowne Plaza Canberra, Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach Sydney and Crowne Plaza Newcastle, it aims to help both MICE groups and solo business travellers go from Zero to Hero and get the most out of their day.



The program consists of three key elements: Morning Energiser in-room wake-up guides, Morning Warrior wake-up exercise classes and Meet Aerobics seated chair exercises, each designed to help business travellers stay at peak physical and mental efficiency throughout their trips.



An estate of one's own

'**EXCLUSIVE** Use' of a country estate is being offered by Peppers Retreats in the Hunter Valley and Southern Highlands for groups looking for a bespoke and intimate gathering.

Their properties in the heart of the Hunter Valley and in the Southern Highlands are well known for their old world charm, extensive meeting facilities, expansive grounds for day or evening activities, excellent food and beverage options and stylish accommodation.

All the 'Exclusive Use' conference options are available at Peppers Guest House in the heart of the Hunter Valley; and Peppers Craigieburn and Peppers Manor House in the Southern Highlands and also include the exclusive services of a dedicated Peppers team, event manager and private chef.

For bookings contact sarah.redman@peppers.com.au.

Cool new calendar app for iPhone

APP developer Any.DO has launched a very smart looking calendar app for the iPhone.

It is designed to integrate with the company's popular task app, as well as sync with other mobile calendaring services, including Google, iCloud and Exchange.

Called 'Cal', it is unique in how it extends itself beyond being just an appointment scheduler.

It starts off by importing your calendar events and contacts from your iPhone, and then lets you log in via Facebook for additional social capabilities, such as the ability to see and respond to your Facebook friends' birthday notifications via phone, text or email.

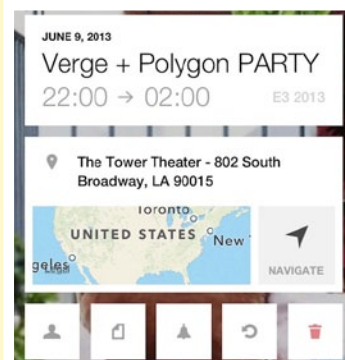
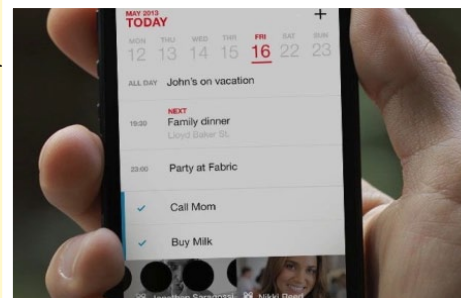
Cal also adds a layer of intelligence to the appointments themselves, automatically adding things like a map of the location (if provided the address), and a button you can tap to kick off navigation.

And when you add an appointment within Cal itself, the app will auto-suggest people from your iPhone contacts, displaying their name and thumbnail photos below the input field.

Plus, it can use your location to suggest nearby meeting spots.

The overall design has a clean, more minimalistic look and feel, giving your appointments a "theme" of sorts.

Those who also use the



company's task list app will be able to see those items displayed within Cal, too. You can find 'Cal' in the Apple app store.

I use it, and it's great.

Its only downside is that it won't list all of your upcoming events on one screen.

You have to scroll through each month to find them.

Story adapted from a

TechCrunch 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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