



## A fascinating subject

THE 'Cup' may be over for another year but talk of a strict dress code at the UK's Royal Ascot means the preponderance of fascinators, thigh-high and strapless dresses during Melbourne Cup week, often more appropriate to a nightclub than a racecourse, wouldn't cut the mustard there.

The style guide for Royal Ascot's Derby early this year was re-introduced after they unveiled a list of sartorial rules in 2012, which included banning fascinators within the Royal Enclosure and forbidding anyone from wearing strapless dresses anywhere in the park.

In the Grandstand enclosure women may wear fascinators and full-length trouser suits, but no strapless dresses, shorts, branded clothing or fancy dress.

Sheer strap dresses and tops are not permitted, and if jackets or pashminas are worn the dresses underneath must adhere to guidelines.

Midriff must be covered.

In the Royal Enclosure rules are even stricter, with women forbidden from wearing fascinators.

Hats must be worn at all times, but only 'a headpiece which has a base of 4 inches (10cm) or more in diameter is acceptable'.

Even children 17 and under should be dressed for a formal occasion.

Coming to a racecourse near you, perhaps? *Jill*

## TNZ business win

**TOURISM** New Zealand says winning the Asian Patent Attorneys Association council meeting 2017 will bring \$4 million in economic benefit to NZ.

An estimated 1600 intellectual property lawyers from across the region will gather in Auckland for the event, which was won with the support of TNZ's Conference Assistance Programme in partnership with the Auckland Convention Bureau.

## Cap scrapping welcomed

**ORGANISATIONS** across the business events sector have hailed a move by treasurer Joe Hockey to reverse the proposed \$2000 cap on self-education expenses (**BEN** breaking news).

Some had warned of dire flow-on effects of the move, with meeting and conference attendees unable to claim tax deductions beyond the \$2000 cap.

Linda Gaunt, ceo of Meetings & Events Australia said she was absolutely delighted that the new government has seen the cap as not worth pursuing.

"This is something that we had been hoping for and enables us to now concentrate on more worthy causes," she said.

"This previous policy would have hindered an industry already threatened with a skills shortage...furthermore, it would have adversely affected the competitiveness of Australian workers in the global marketplace."

The executive director of AACB, Andrew Hiebl said they believe the Treasurer got it right.

"There is a direct link between the benefits of individuals funding their own work-related education and valuable innovation and productivity outcomes for Australia...AACB agrees that people should continue to be encouraged to invest in their own professional development."

Similarly, BECA executive manager Inge Garofani said: "We applaud the government's approach to business events and we are keen to start working with them to achieve greater success for the industry," she said.

**HOWEVER** amid the excitement Ed Bernacki of the Ideas Factory told **BEN** he feels there is "a lot of smoke and mirrors about this announcement."

"I looked at this as part of my role on The Incentives Association."

"While the proposal was for a \$2000 limit, the average actual deduction is in the \$800 range."

"This impacts very few people."

"They refer to 170,000 people being impacted on about perhaps 12 million tax payers - so much talk for so little benefit," he said.

## Willy Wonka at the Westin

**MORE** than 300 VIP guests attended the Westin Melbourne Cup Day Brunch, held in the hotel's glamorous lobby.

French champagne flowed freely from a Moet Fountain while spring themed maidens bearing delicious food morsels roamed (**right**).

The bountiful menu was described by one of the guests as "a luxurious, grown up version of Willy Wonka's edible garden."

The creative kitchen staff demonstrated their culinary skills with dishes that went from savoury offerings to amazingly decorated desserts.

**Pictured** above from left are Sue Ryman-Kiernan, Wise Connections md; Kerrie Mulholland, DOSM at The Westin Melbourne; Nick Berry, Starwood; and Ian Ryman-Kiernan.



## Act today for ACTE

**TODAY** is your last chance to join some 150 registered attendees of the corporate travel community and to take advantage of the super-sharp Early-Bird registration pricing for the upcoming ACTE Corporate Travel Education Conference.

Being held 5 & 6 December at the Sheraton on the Park Sydney, **BEN** can exclusively announce that the most successful female surfer in history, Layne Beachley, completes the impressive keynote presenter line-up, joining other speakers such as Craig James, chief economist, Commsel Scott Gillespie, founder, Gillespie's Guide to Travel+Procurement; and Peter Harbison, executive chairman, Centre For Aviation.

Contact [akelly@acte.org](mailto:akelly@acte.org) or go to [www.acte.org](http://www.acte.org) for more info.




### What does \$20 mean to you?

To your delegates it could mean experiencing one of these...



CIRCUS ADVENTURE



LASER SKIRMISH



GPS NAVIGATION CHALLENGE



SEGWAY PARK



OUTDOOR YOGA



LASER CLAY SHOOTING

**Simply add \$20 to any Day Delegate Package (only \$65pp) and choose one of the above activities for your delegates to enjoy...**

T&C's For new bookings only, not available in conjunction with any other offer. Minimum and maximum numbers apply per activity. Round robin style applies to activities if necessary. Subject to availability.



## Shangri-La's vision splendid



**THE** Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney's newly refurbished Grand Ballroom was a 'vision splendid' when it was launched on Wednesday evening to an admiring industry gathering.



And it wasn't only for the magnificence of all its 668 square metres and the four ornate crystal chandeliers in a series of oval recesses, each bordered with more than 2,000 glowing crystal rods, hand-crafted from alabaster.

Nor just for the fact that the design was conceived to create the illusion of natural light where 1600 colour and contrast variations can be adjusted for individual events and occasions, or that the lighting, sound and audio-visual system is controlled through a wireless iPad, while 69 LED ceiling lights can be individually remote controlled to highlight table centrepieces or specific areas of an event.

But also for the fact that the room was wreathed in magnificent displays of red roses and lilies, food stations groaned with oysters, prawns and seafood, others with melt in the mouth salt crusted beef, desserts of hand-crafted chocolate creations, strawberries, popcorn and pink, pink fairy floss.

"We're very excited about our new Grand Ballroom which is rich in detail and reflects the

story behind The Rocks, one of Australia's most historic districts," said general manager Franz Donhauser.

"It is wonderful that we're able to combine the elegance that Shangri-La is known for around the world with a special venue that truly reflects our iconic position along Sydney harbour."

**Pictured** above at the event are Fiona Pascoe & Glenn Baines from Staging Connections with Jenny Williams from Shangri-La.

### Van Dijk Four Seasons

**RUDOLF** van Dijk has joined Four Seasons Hotel Sydney, as its fourth general manager since the hotel opened in 1982.

Previously general manager at Four Seasons Hotel Hangzhou at West Lake, China, a hotel he successfully opened and managed for four years.

Van Dijk is an avid cyclist and self-confessed foodie, and his appointment follows the move of former general manager Vincent Hoogewijs, who will take up the position of general manager of Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok.

## ACCOMMODATION SPECIAL AT SHANGRI-LA SYDNEY

\$295 per night

Available on 27/28/29 November 2013 only  
To make your booking click here. Enquiries : 03 6234 7844  
Rate includes free Wi-Fi and broadband

### PAICE a sellout

**THE** Pacific Area Incentives and Conferences Expo (PAICE 2013) being held at SKYCITY Auckland Convention Centre (level 5) on 13 November report that all exhibition space has been taken and buyer numbers are building steadily a week out from the show.

The Expo has attracted exhibitors such as Fiji Airways, Adrenalin Fiji, Club Med, Exotissimo Travel Asia and Gold Coast Business Events, while new exhibitors include Conference Speakers Direct, Dive Fish Snow Travel and Hawaiian Airlines.

"A key attraction of PAICE is that suppliers can meet with business event organisers, corporate travel managers, wedding planners and other key buyers under one roof on one day," said the organisers.

Event manager Allyssa Eastaugh says, "The catering breaks have again been sponsored by Business Events Australia and it's fantastic to have BEA back for the sixth year."

The PAICE exhibition, seminars and other associated events are free to bona fide event and travel organisers.

Visitor registration is open now: **CLICK HERE** for details.

### Chedi to Anantara

**THE** rebranding of The Chedi Chiang Mai to Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa, has been announced by Minor Hotels.

The 100th property in the group's portfolio, the new Chiang Mai Resort blends cosmopolitan city elements, ancient history and thriving local traditions.

A four-hour drive from Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort, it is nestled along the picturesque Mae Ping River and offers 84 sleekly designed guest rooms and suites with river facing balconies and double daybeds.

Business facilities comprise The Meeting Room and The Boardroom for gatherings of up to 200 guests inside a charming colonial building, on the expansive river facing balcony.



### SNAKE on a plane.

Passengers on board an easyJet flight to London last week flew into a panic after one of their fellow travellers released a pet snake from his luggage at 30,000 feet.

The man apparently bought the 60cm-long baby reptile while on holiday in Israel, and managed to sneak it through airport security in Tel Aviv.

He said that during the flight he wanted to give the snake a drink of water, leading to panic.

"I had advised the passenger sitting next to me on my left that I was about to feed my snake and that he shouldn't be alarmed," the man said.

"He said to proceed, and as I did the female passenger next to him got up and started screaming," he added.

Cabin crew confiscated the creature from the 24-year-old.

### CONTACT US:

Publisher  
Bruce Piper

Editor  
Jill Varley

Advertising:  
[advertising@businessnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businessnews.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 **Travel Daily** no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. **BEN** takes no responsibility for the opinions of its contributors. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed.