



## Big hair and lots of tears

THERE have been lots of bittersweet moments over the last few days at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.



Last night's EEAA gala dinner (see main story) was the venue's swansong and provoked plenty of emotion amid the celebrations.

And Meetings and Events Australia evoked the SCEC's proud history with a big farewell Christmas bash reliving the life and times of the fabulous 1980s last Thursday.

MEA's Linda Gaunt had a stunning "big hair" bouffant, garnered, we are assured, directly from her classic wedding photos, while there were also lots of mullets, shoulder pads, pop icons and even fully gym-gear clad Olivia Newton Johns getting physical.

A photo booth saw everyone enjoy posting themselves on Facebook, while guests were also treated to make-up and hair fix-ups.

They ate tasty treats from the balcony barbecue and ice-cream in the appropriately named "chill-out room" and danced the night away to the best of the pops of the eighties.

One of *BEN's* favourite outfits was that worn by the boys from inPlace Recruitment, who revealed a dangerously misspent youth in front of video screens with their very realistic Super Mario Bros costumes (below).



## And so it ends for the SCEC

IT may have been a night of celebration when the EEAA Awards for Excellence Gala Dinner were held last night at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, however the evening also marked the end of an era and a farewell to the Centre.

Joyce DiMascio, ceo of the Exhibition & Event Association, was clearly moved, saying "The Centre's story is our story.

"Over 25 years our businesses have prospered, so allow us to honour our friends," she said in a voice filled with emotion.

EEAA president Dominic Genua described The Centre as both a part and an extension of the team.

"We gather here with a heavy heart to celebrate together."

And celebrate they did, with Diversified Exhibitions Australia cleaning up with awards for *Best Consumer Show Over 10,000m<sup>2</sup>* - the Good Food & Wine Show Melbourne; *Best Trade Show Over 10,000m<sup>2</sup>* - Australasian Oil & Gas Exhibition and Conference; *Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign (Trade)* - Australian



*Fitness & Health Expo; Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign (Consumer)* - Good Food and Wine Show Melbourne; and *Best Show Team* for Security Exhibition and Conference Team.

Harry The Hirer's gong for *Best Supplier Team* - Sydney International Boat Show, won *BEN's* best speech award with their quick "Thanks," while we also loved MC James O'Loghlin's comment, as the winner picked up the award for the Dog Lovers Show by Event Management International in the *Best Consumer Show Under 10,000m<sup>2</sup>*, with a "Who's a clever boy then?"

**Pictured above** at the event are Ton van Amerongen and Helen Mantellato, SCEC; with Joyce DiMascio and Domenic Genua from the EEAA.

## Toowoomba update

TOOWOOMBA in Queensland has launched a new website to help organisations planning business events in the city, which features more than 80 meeting venues.

Spokesperson Janet Kieseker said Toowoomba is the gateway between east and west Qld, "and is somewhere fresh to consider as an alternative to the usual urban and beach locations."

The site features venues, accommodation and suppliers available as well as the many activities on offer, with key attractions being value for money, accessibility and range of services.

Planner's guides are also available by calling 07 4632 1988.

The new site is accessible at [toowoombaconferences.com.au](http://toowoombaconferences.com.au).



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# business events news

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## crumbs!



**LUXURY** train travel is one of the most pleasant modes of transport and Abercrombie & Kent have named their top 10.

**Russia's Golden Eagle** - Russia's only fully en suite private train, it travels to remote regions including Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia and China.

**Northern Belle** - enthusiasts can travel from London on a weekend trip north to Scotland and the Military Tattoo.

**E&OE** - the Eastern & Oriental Express with its freshly pressed linen and antique brass fittings, travels on different journeys through Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Laos.

**The Royal Scotsman** - with just 36 guests, the State Cabins all have private facilities and steward service.

**VSOE** - the legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is best known for its London, Paris and Venice route.

**Rovos Rail** - two beautifully rebuilt classic trains each carry a maximum of 72 passengers on a combined train and safari journey in Africa.

**The Ghan** - travels from Adelaide through Australian's dramatic outback to Darwin.

**The Andean Explorer** - from the shores of Lake Titicaca via the Andes to Cusco and the winding route from Cusco to Machu Picchu, lost city of the Incas.

**Toy train Darjeeling** - one of the most atmospheric ways to get to the Himalayas on the narrow gauge toy train.

**Shinkansen Japan** - Japan's high-speed bullet trains are the best way to get around the Land of the Rising Sun.

## New SEC@GI team

**MALU** Barrios, general manager of Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island (SEC@GI) has announced the appointment of new operations staff, Captain Cook Cruises as the ferry service provider and Dockside Group as the food and beverage supplier for the exhibition facility.

Staff appointments include: Adrian Slingsby as manager - events, formerly with Reed Exhibitions and SCEC.

Steve Mitsos is the new financial controller who joins from Darwin Convention Centre, while Johnny Naofal is facility manager, bringing with him 13 years at Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre as security manager.

"Each individual brings a wealth of experience that will have a positive impact on the successful management and operations of the facility," Barrios said.

**MEANWHILE** Dockside Group will offer a mix of catering options for the venue tailored to suit specific event requirements.

MD Christopher Drivas said SEC@GI provides a "very strong and competitive option for the event and exhibition industries in Australia."

**AND** the 3 year appointment of Captain Cook Cruises will see free special event ferry services from Darling Harbour to SEC@GI, with the operation to commence with the first event in Feb 2014.

A temporary ferry wharf is being built, while special event buses will also run from Central Station to Glebe Island via Darling Harbour, and the site will also house a taxi rank.

Special event transport schedules will be tailored for each show, with details online at [sydneyexhibitioncentre.com.au](http://sydneyexhibitioncentre.com.au).

## Pine-ing for New Caledonia



**THIS** group of senior pco's were hosted by New Caledonia Tourism and Aircalin, together with partners, Arc en Ciel Voyages, New Cal Events, GLP Hotels, Chateau Royal Beach Resort & Spa and Le Meridien Noumea, on a New Caledonia famil.

Highlights of the trip included gourmet food and a range of activities on land and the lagoon, with snorkelling on the reef, Segway riding, acrobanching and helicopter rides.

All this was complemented by delicious French food enhanced with local Melanesian flavours.

The Isle of Pines with its pure fine white sand, and abundant selection of fish in its turquoise waters, proved a favourite with the group.

The Australian Consul General, Heidi Bootle and Jean-Michel Foutrein, New Caledonia Tourism joined the group for the final dinner.

**Pictured** above from left are Julia Barnard, This Space Events; Elise Bestulic, DCIM; Ros Barrett-Lennard, Magic Touch Consultancies; Megan Isles, Axis Events; Justine Jones, Errol Jones Productions; Heidi Bootle, Australian Consulate-General; Pam Conway, Key Conference Solutions; Tai Lennon, cievents;

Danielle Flegg, New Caledonia Tourism; Nick Giannaras, GTS Travel Management; Sandi Adam, Aircalin; Suzanne Kenyon, New Cal Events; and Jean-Michel Foutrein, New Caledonia Tourism.

## WIN NIGHT TRAIN TO LISBON TICKETS

This week, **BEN** and **Pinnacle Films** are every day giving one lucky winner the chance to win a



double pass to the new movie, *Night Train to Lisbon*, due for release on 5th December.

After a chance encounter with a Portuguese woman, Swiss professor Raimund Gregorius quits his job and embarks on an adventure to Lisbon that will take him on a journey to the very heart of himself.

Check out the trailer here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ds5L7qS85s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ds5L7qS85s).

To win, be first person to email the correct answer to the daily question below to: [comp@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:comp@businesseventsnews.com.au)

What country is Lisbon in?

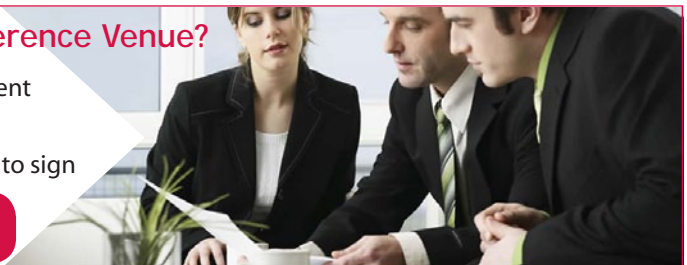
Monday's winner was **Katie Boone** from **MCI Australia**. The answer was **Switzerland**.

## Looking for a Quick Solution to Source your Next Conference Venue?

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## A room with a view!

**FROM** \$595 a night, the Four Seasons Hotel Sydney has unveiled their new Harbour View Junior Suites, each offering a spectacular sight of the Sydney Opera House and the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge.



In addition, the suites come with exclusive privileges including complimentary Executive Club access for guests and up to three friends, as well as luxurious Appelles amenities from certified organic Australian ingredients in

the marble bathroom. The Full Harbour View Junior Suite - **pictured above** - features an open-concept living area that includes a lounge area, oversized sleeping and relaxation spaces, and a generous executive business station.

### Fraser Place's ace

**WITH** the Australian Open tennis season set for 10 – 27 January, Fraser Place Melbourne is offering one of the best rates in town with overnight packages at the stylish laneway property starting from \$250 per night.

The package, for two people, includes overnight accommodation with buffet breakfast, a glass of Moët & Chandon, free Wi-Fi plus a choice of cocktails at Seamstress Restaurant Bar.

To find out more email [reservations.melbourne@frasershospitality.com](mailto:reservations.melbourne@frasershospitality.com) and quote the code AOP.

### MEA bargain KL fares

**MEMBERS** planning to go to the MEA Annual Conference in Kuala Lumpur being held between 14-17 May 2014, can take advantage of extraordinary Air Asia X airfares from the Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney to Kuala Lumpur at only \$169.

The booking period is until 1 December for travel 5 May 2014 – 31 January 2015.

### Sun shines on Hunt

**IN** what is considered something of a coup, former Tourism Australia board member Grant Hunt has been appointed chair of Sunshine Coast Destination Limited (SCDL).

The highly credentialled Hunt, best known for developing the Voyages Hotels and Resorts brand and the Anthology Collection, will replace Barrie Adams, who has been chair since 2012, and on the Board since 2010.

Hunt's new role follows two other key appointments - new ceo Simon Ambrose (from the Margaret River Tourism Association) and new head of marketing, Laughlin Rigby (from the Irish Tourism Board).

These appointments come as the region hails a strong year, with a 17.6% growth in day trippers in 2012-2013 saw overall visitor numbers rise to a record 8.9 million, an increase of 8.7% on the 2011-2012 financial year.

\$2.8 billion in revenue was generated from tourism visitation in 2012-2013, up 15.9%.

Outgoing chair Barrie Adams hailed the result amid a period of major transition for SCDL.

## MCI chosen for ITS World Congress

**THE** 23rd Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) World Congress and Exhibition to be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, has appointed global events company MCI Australia to manage and market the event.

To be held 10 to 14 October 2016, it's expected to attract more than 5000 global delegates and generate more than \$23.5 million income for the city.

ITS Australia chief executive officer Susan Harris said the 2016 ITS World Congress will bring the world's leading transportation, infrastructure and Intelligent Transport Systems academics and executives to Melbourne.

"MCI is a good strategic fit because they are also working with ITS Europe (ERTICO) on the

2014 European ITS Congress in Helsinki, Finland and on the 2015 ITS World Congress in Bordeaux, France," she said.

MCI Australia managing director Stephan Wurzinger said of the rapidly growing high technology industry, "In addition to ITS businesses, the industry links strongly to academia, business and private users, and government."

### MCB Planner's Guide

**MELBOURNE** Convention Bureau ceo Karen Bolinger today officially launched the 2013-14 edition of the *Melbourne Planner's Guide*.

The guide is a comprehensive manual for planning a business event in Melbourne and regional Victoria, with a director of the state's premier business events products and services.

Bolinger said the 2013-14 edition featured many new and improved local products, such as The Park which has reopened a "versatile and contemporary events space to accommodate over 1000 people overlooking one of Melbourne's most picturesque assets, Albert Park Lake".

The guide is available in hard copy as well as searchable PDF format by **CLICKING HERE**.

Following the website's relaunch in Feb 2014 it will also be offered as an "interactive online hub".

### Research bodes well for Europe

**AN** optimistic outlook for 2014 was predicted when IBTM Global Research presented at EIBTM 2013 recently.

Sally Greenhill of The Right Solution Ltd revealed an increased level of optimism from European buyers and suppliers, with 93% of all buyer respondents predicting that conference and events business in Europe would either increase or stay the same over the next 12 months, compared with 86% in the last 12 months.

54% of the buyers surveyed forecast an increase in conference and events business over the next 12 months.

And 93% of European suppliers predict that the volume of events will increase or stay the same over the next 12 months and that new technologies and use of social media becoming even more prominent in meetings and events.

### Luxperience deadline

**A** reminder that it is getting dangerously close to close off for exhibitors planning to participate in Luxperience 2014.

Time is now limited to take advantage of early booking incentives, with opportunities closing on 29 Nov.

See [www.luxperience.com.au](http://www.luxperience.com.au).

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