



Spirit of Christmas

IT WOULD be remiss not to mention the siege that took place in the heart of Sydney and what could be seen as an alarming start to Christmas.



Our hearts and thoughts go out to the families and friends who lost loved ones and to the survivors who have so much to deal with.

Let's not go into the New Year in fear, blame and distrust against any one group of people.

Historically, fundamentalism/religious fanaticism/mental instability, call it what you will, in its many guises knows no ethnicity, colour or creed.

May 2015 heal hearts and injured psyches and move us into a bright, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Jill

Aquis EIS approved

QUEENSLAND'S Coordinator General has approved the Aquis Resort's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Previously, the Coordinator General called for more information about the Statement, including transport impacts and ongoing management of the proposed lake (**BEN** 26 Sep).

The resort's proposal includes a 23,000 sqm convention and exhibition centre, 7,500 hotel rooms and entertainment facilities, and is slated to cost \$8.15b in total.

Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney said the approval was another step in the process of making the "exciting proposal" a reality.

"This is a world-class proposition that could draw



hundreds of thousands of domestic and international visitors to Far North Queensland, and spread economic benefits right across the Cairns community."

A gaming license was being considered separately, Seeney said.

Once this was approved, construction could begin next year, Aquis said.

World Conference on Tourism and Culture

THE United Nations World Tourism Organisation with UNESCO will hold the first World Conference on Tourism and Culture from 04 to 06 Feb in Siem Reap.

The organisations said the conference would provide a global platform for policymakers, experts and practitioners in tourism and culture to identify the challenges and opportunities for stronger cooperation between these interlinked areas.

Merry Xmas and a happy New Year!

THE *Business Events News* team would like to wish all our readers a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

BEN will return on 05 Jan with the latest news from the business events sector.

Until then, happy and safe holidays.

TFE Hotels to offer free WiFi

TFE Hotels has said from 01 Jan, guests checking into any TFE hotel in Australia and New Zealand will have access to free WiFi.

Up to 100mbs data would be offered per 24 hours per room.

Novotel opens in Geelong

AFRICAN drummers lined the driveway for the launch of the 109-room Novotel Geelong last week.



Attending the event, City of Greater Geelong Mayor Darryn Lyons said the international brand would give a boost to the local tourism economy.

Accor Pacific chief operating officer Simon McGrath talked of his confidence in Geelong's tourism and hospitality scene and congratulated Novotel Geelong's gm Bryan Dennis and his team for an outstanding launch.

The Novotel's six flexible function spaces with breathtaking views across the bay include the Peninsula Room, for up to 250 guests, while the Bellarine and

Ceres rooms have capacity for to 100 people.

A special opening package with rates starting from \$225 per night includes

overnight accommodation and complimentary WiFi.



“even if you're not actively looking for a job, make sure your future employer can find you by uploading your profile and resume now

”

view jobs

post a job

over 250 HOT jobs in travel, hospitality and tourism available

jobs in travel online
www.jito.co



WISHES ITS VALUED CLIENTS AND PARTNERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR!

PillowMint | info@pillowmint.com.au | pillowmint.com.au



business events news

19th December 2014



crumbs!



IF YOU'RE driving these Christmas holidays, we hope you'll be extra safe, even following the news that a safe driving campaign has been cancelled in South Dakota for being too risqué.

Apparently, the 'Don't Jerk and Drive' ads, aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of jerking the steering wheel on icy roads, also raised eyebrows, but intentionally, *Associated Press* reported.

The Department of Public Safety's message was that people should keep their cars out of a ditch and their minds out of the gutter, Highway Safety Director Lee Axdahl told the publication.

However, his boss pulled the ads, saying he didn't want innuendo to distract from saving lives on the road, the publication reported.

Ticked off in Kenya



THE week DMS, with Dragonfly Africa and South African Airways, hosted an exclusive group of incentive buyers on an educational to Kenya in East Africa was described by participants as an assault on all the senses.

This physical and sensory mugging included activities such as hot air ballooning over the Masai Mara, holding an event at Mount Kenya Safari Club which, located on the equator, allowed one to party in the Northern and Southern Hemisphere in a matter of milliseconds, and game drives on which they were able to view wildlife - events which helped tick a number of items off the group's bucket list.

Bend it like Bender

IT'S the business event industry's most sought after event, Bender's Bash, and it's held each Christmas at Sydney's Malaya Restaurant.

Not aligned to any one organisation, the idea was born a decade ago during a Christmas lunch between World Corporate Travel's Gary Bender and Ripe Learning's Lynne Schinella.

Starting with just a few industry stalwarts, today people fly in from interstate and NZ to be there and, as one hotel DOS



remarked, "Anyone who is anyone is here, it's the greatest networking opportunity."

Pictured from left is David Addison, Sane Event Group, with Anthony and Karen Jepson, CVBC.

CLICK HERE for more photos.

Online Chinese visa

A PILOT program to streamline the visa process for Chinese visitors by making application available online has kicked off.

The trial started on 01 Dec and was aimed at making sure Australia could capture the Chinese tourist market, Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb said, with Chinese outbound tourist numbers expected to hit 200m by 2020.

AIME visitor reg open

VISITOR registrations are now open for AIME 2015.

A new knowledge program would be on offer and new initiatives on the show floor included social networking events and business and networking areas, organisers said.

More than 700 exhibitors were expected to attend the event, due to be held on 24 and 25 Feb.

CLICK HERE to register.



SHEER INSPIRATION

Oliver Sheer, managing director of BeChallenged Team Building, gives insight into the team building industry in a regular feature in *BEN*.

How Many Friends Do You Have?

I WAS recently watching a segment about Facebook on *ABC* and, as you can imagine, there were a number of differing views and opinions on the position that social media plays in our lives. The discussion point that got me thinking was around the number of online relationships/friends and the time that we have to spend on these people. In this increasingly technological world, are these online relationships fulfilling our human need for companionship, interaction and stimulating discussion? Or does your online community take up so much of your time that you are actually losing contact and understanding with the people that give you meaning and sustainable happiness?

You might ask yourself why this topic hit home with me. I have always been mesmerised by people and relationships and always will be. It's the reason I became passionate about team work and it's the reason BeChallenged will continue to help build better working relationships and therefore hopefully a better quality of life for individuals.

For me, without good friends and fun working relationships, there is no one to celebrate with, no one to care for or help and so, there is not much meaning to life. It was only recently a colleague was expressing their concern for potentially neglecting the people that meant the most to them.

Are we all losing touch of real relationships and real meaning? Are we all content with D-grade online relationships and happiness that lasts for five minutes or do we actually crave an A-grade friendship? The opinion being pushed on the *ABC* segment was that we don't have time for both, and I tend to agree. I recently signed back up to Facebook after being offline for three years and it's been great - I spent Saturday night next to my wife chatting to other people.

Don't get me wrong, the online world is here to stay, but this is the reason we need to be sure that we are being true to ourselves with our time spent on our friends and relationships. Are we better off with four real friends or 400 online friends?

At BeChallenged, we are all about real relationships and genuine conversations. You need to spend time and effort to build relationships and this is no different in the work place.

Take time to understand the people you are working with. Is your time better spent sitting by yourself on social media for 30 minutes or in a one-on-one conversation with someone? What do humans crave and need to sustain happiness?

Where are you spending your valuable time? Keep a social media diary, I dare you!

For more information about

Oliver and BeChallenged's team building offerings, see www.bechallenged.com.au.



Business Events News is Australia's newest online publication dedicated to the vibrant meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

Sign up for a free subscription at www.busesseventsnews.com.au.

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) **F:** 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Business Events News is a publication of Business Events News Pty Ltd ABN 80 153 775 449. All content is fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. **BEN** takes no responsibility for the opinions of its contributors/columnists. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Jill Varley info@busesseventsnews.com.au

Deputy Editor: Alex Walls

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Katrina Ford advertising@busesseventsnews.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@busesseventsnews.com.au

Travel Daily

CRUISE
WEEKLY

travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy
DAILY

Travel
DailyTV