



Summer in the city

DON'T you just love Sydney during summer?



Kicking things off is the month-long Sydney Festival, which held its official opening function last night at The Star, an event that promised an eclectic choice of events and happenings from which to choose.

Heading to the Opera House this week for the first opera of the summer season, La Boheme, starring soprano, Nicole Car (Mimi) and dashing tenor Ji-Min Park (Rodolfo), there was underwear hanging off a line draped across the Opera Bar!

A backpacker stunt you may suppose, but it's another part of the summer festivities where locals and visitors alike can enjoy a dinky-di backyard BBQ along with free gigs, homemade lemonade and a setting that'll make you feel right at home.



Everyone's welcome – grab a snag or a corn on the cob, check out the veggie patch and re-live your childhood with a giant game of Connect Four. Then every Wednesday to Saturday night and Sunday afternoon in January enjoy a special music program that will set the scene to hang with friends.

What are you waiting for?

Jill

Perth's new five-star



WITH research demonstrating that Perth hotels are the best performing investment grade in Australia, with total average annual returns of 14.6%, comes the news that the city is to get a new five-star hotel, The Westin Perth.

The signing of a management agreement with Starwood Hotels

& Resorts Worldwide, Inc. will mark the brand's entry into Western Australia.

To be located on Hay Street in the heart of Perth's central business district, and slated to open in 2017, it is the global hospitality group's second property in Perth, following the opening of Four Points by Sheraton Perth in June 2012.

"We are building on a strong reputation of quality and innovation in this market, which underpins Starwood's success in the region," said Sean Hunt, regional vice president, Pacific, Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

Meeting the growing need for high end accommodation in the city, Andrew Taylor, director, acquisitions & development, Pacific, Starwood Hotels & Resorts said, "Perth is undergoing a rapid transformation with the opening of new bars, restaurants and retail outlets, and this is a prime location for development and the Westin brand's entry into Western Australia."

IBTM India in Chennai

REED Travel Exhibitions IBTM Global Events portfolio has chosen Chola in Chennai for the 2014 edition of IBTM India.

To be held at the ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, from 03 to 05 Sep, Shinu Pillai, Reed Travel Exhibitions IBTM India project manager said, "IBTM India has now established itself as a key event in the meetings industry calendar in India.

"The launch edition, hosted in Mumbai, was a huge success and as part of our ongoing drive and determination to develop the meetings industry market in India we have chosen to move the show to another up and coming MICE destination."

IBTM India 2014 will assume the same exclusive table-top format as the launch event.

Limited to 100 international and Indian suppliers of product and services to the MICE industry, it is designed to facilitate pre-arranged meetings between international and Indian buyers with suppliers at a 1:1 ratio.

To find out more visit www.ibtmevents.com/ibtmindia

Marriott's tall order

THE opening of the tallest hotel in New York, the Courtyard New York Manhattan/Central Park, comprises a combined 378-room Courtyard hotel and 261-suite Residence Inn hotel in Midtown Manhattan.

The 68-storey building, just steps from Times Square and built at the cost of \$320 million, is located at 1717 Broadway.

"The new hotels' contemporary designs and stunning views coupled with our friendly associates will surely make the property a great ambassador for the bustling city," said Janis Milham, senior vice president of Modern Essentials and Extended Stay for Marriott International.

Offering 6,000 sq.ft of meeting space, it has some guestrooms featuring floor-to-ceiling windows and spectacular views of Central Park and the Hudson River.

"These new hotels, the Residence Inn Central Park and Courtyard by Marriott Central Park, are the most innovative hotels we've built to date," said Harry Gross, president & chief executive officer of real estate development firm, G Holdings.

Today's BEN issue

BEN has two pages of editorial plus a full page from:

- Australian Catholic Bishops Conference seeking a World Youth Day 2016 Official Tour Operator
- CLICK HERE**



Emirates Wolgan Valley
RESORT & SPA • AUSTRALIA

Sales Manager (MICE)

An amazing opportunity to join a creative, fun and challenging team environment and represent Australia's finest luxury resort! We are looking for a Sales Manager to look after the MICE market at Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa.

Applications close next Friday - 17th January.

If you are interested, please email your CV and Cover Letter to hr@wolganvalley.com



Vic's tourism Segway



Photo: Segway Victoria

THE Victorian State Government has allowed the use of Segway transportation for guided tours around tourist attractions on the perimeter of Melbourne City.

This boon for the Victorian tourism industry is one of a raft of reforms to ease the regulatory burden on Victorian business.

The decision now provides tour operators using Segways with an additional mode of transportation, and brings them in line with other Australian and

international cities.

"We welcome this change by the State Government as Segway tours will diversify the tourism experience and make Melbourne an even more enjoyable place to visit," says Victoria Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) chief executive Dianne Smith.

"VTIC advocated strongly for this change, and we are very pleased with this result."

Smith's comments come as the government announces a wide ambit of amendments under its plan to cut red tape by 25% to ensure Victoria continues to be an attractive destination for investment and employment.

Clarion hotel special

CLARION Suites Gateway is offering big value rates to those attending AIME.

The expo will be held from 18 to 19 Feb at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

The 4.5 star property is set on the banks of the Yarra and is a seven-minute walk from the MCEC.

The hotel features 24 hour room service and complimentary off-site gym access.

The hotel has rates that start at \$194.00 for a Studio Riverview room per night, \$214.00 for a one bedroom suite and \$234.00 for a one bedroom Riverview suite.

Book online: www.clarionsuitesgateway.com.au and enter Promotion Code: AIME

Alternatively email res@clarionsuitesgateway.com.au.

SA gains an edge

THE South Africa National Convention Bureau (SANCB) has appointed GainingEdge as its sales representative company for the European and Asian markets.

The organisation was formed in 2012 with the task of growing the business events sector in South Africa.

South Africa Tourism ceo Thulani Nzima said in Barcelona last year, "We are committed to improving South Africa's ability to attract large international business events."

"The appointment of GainingEdge, a world renowned consulting and sales representation firm, underscores SANCB's strategy to increase its market share of the world's meetings, incentives and convention business."

GainingEdge's ceo Gary Grimmer said the world's attention was shifting to Africa.

"There is no question that the meeting, convention and exhibition business will be growing exponentially there, and South Africa represents the most experienced, sophisticated and convenient staging place."

Take a Mira break



THE Mira Hong Kong has launched seven themed coffee breaks in a bid to court event organisers.

With the motto 'Take a Break, Get Inspired', the coffee breaks get delegates to prepare Hong Kong street snacks themselves.

The coffee breaks also have desserts hanging from trees and cocktails served in lightbulbs (the drinks are described as 'energizing').

Located in Tsim Sha Tsui, the hotel said it challenged event planners and corporate clients to take a break from the business routine by "offering an informal setting for sparking up new ideas."

It is also offering 30 per cent off its Full Day conference package when booking meeting spaces with room accommodation.

Sydney: G'Day USA

THE G'Day USA tourism summit has begun in the United States.

Sponsor Destination NSW will share details of Sydney's exciting developments such as The Barangaroo Project; Sydney's new White Bay Cruise Terminal and the new 20-hectare Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct (SICEEP).

Destination NSW ceo Sandra Chipchase said the world-class developments and events calendar additions would help NSW meet the goal of doubling visitor expenditure by 2020.

"Sydney and NSW have entered a bold new epoch."



FROM bubbles to basil.

Ever wondered what to do with the old bathtub after that bathroom renovation?

Take a leaf out of the Novotel Barossa Valley Resort's book who, after investing \$2 million in refurbishing their new guest bathrooms, has adopted a thoughtful means of disposing of theirs.

The tubs have been converted into a kitchen garden.

Not only have the tubs found a new use, but so too have the original tapware and showerheads.

General manager of Novotel Barossa Valley Resort, Sarah Henderson said:

"We are always trying to think of innovative ways to make the resort environmentally friendly."

"It has been a brilliant initiative and not only do guests have a brand new dining experience, they also have brand new contemporary bathrooms."

Supporting the new kitchen is the resort's flourishing worm farm scraps from the kitchen and conference centre to make soil for the gardens.

CONTACT US:

Publisher
Bruce Piper

Editor
Jill Varley

Contributor/Coordinator
Alex Walls

Advertising:
advertising@businesseventsnews.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.



Calling for Expressions of Interest

World Youth Day 2016 Official Tour Operator

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) is seeking to appoint an Official Tour Operator to coordinate travel and accommodation logistics for World Youth Day 2016.

The Official Tour Operator will enhance and support the Australian World Youth Day Committee's co-ordination of pilgrims to WYD, to be held in Krakow, Poland, from 25 to 31 July 2016.

The Australian World Youth Day pilgrimage will provide pilgrims with opportunities to experience WYD, visit the attractions and sights of Poland and greater Europe as well as share the spiritual experience with other pilgrims.

It is anticipated that Australia's Pilgrims, Leaders, Clergy and Bishops will total approximately 2000.

The ability to effectively manage the varying requirements of a range of key stakeholders is essential.

IMPORTANT

Interested parties should attend a Briefing Session in early 2014.

Date: Monday 13 January 2014.

Time: 10am to noon.

Address: Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Diocesan Office,
12 Victoria Road, North Parramatta.

To register for the Briefing Session and to request an Application Pack send an email to Mr Malcolm C Hart, Senior Youth Ministry Projects Officer: youthministry@catholic.org.au

Expressions of Interest close at 4pm on Friday 28 February 2014.

Send Expressions of Interest on email to:
Mr Malcolm C Hart, Senior Youth Ministry Projects Officer
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Secretariat for Pastoral Life
Email: youthministry@catholic.org.au