



Enliven Pittwater

NOT for nothing do they call it the 'insular peninsular' and for many who live on this prime piece of northern beaches real estate that runs from the northern side of Narrabeen Bridge to Palm Beach, it's how they prefer it.



But for those who live outside of the area, it's an attitude that doesn't encourage new business.

Enter Pittwater Council who, while looking after the interests of the residents, has created 'Enliven Pittwater,' a partnership between business leaders to increase vibrancy in the town.

As a Pittwater Council spokesperson said of the initiative, "Enliven Pittwater is a place management strategy.

"It's about people making the place to improve the vibrancy around the village centre – something that's happening all the time."

The fact that the Pittwater area has any number of golf, yacht and surf clubs with function and conference spaces together with its close access to the Sydney CBD makes it worth revisiting.

One of these, the Avalon Beach Surf Life Saving Club, which has been undergoing a major renovation that includes a sizeable function room, is due to open this month.

Taking up the business tourism cudgel, Newport Mirage hotel, now under new ownership and currently undergoing a soft refurbishment, organised a tradeshow last Friday to re-awaken the four star property to Sydney event organisers.

The 47 room waterfront hotel with four conference rooms must have one of Sydney's great Pittwater outlooks across an armada of yachts to the Kuringai National Park - ideal for the smaller meetings market and for team building exercises, especially the nautical kind.

More about the Newport Mirage tradeshow on Wed. *Jill*

Airlie Beach opens venue



THE Palm Beach is set to open in August in Airlie Beach as the area's newest meeting and event venue.

Developed with a \$250,000 grant from the Tourism Industry Regional Development Fund, matched by owners the McKinnon family, the new build venue will have a capacity for 170 seated or up to 250 standing.

The venue will have the option of self-catering accommodation onsite at the BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort, owned by the McKinnon family.

Construction began last September, costing \$650,00 in total and an additional \$200,000 on interior furnishings, with \$100,000 spent on the palms and garden surrounds, a spokesperson for the Palm House said.

The venue had employed a designated groups co-ordinator to market the function space to business, schools, weddings and the incentive industry, the spokesperson said.

"It is expected that the target market will be regional Queensland businesses."

Owner Greg McKinnon has said the Palm House would be a "real asset" to the Whitsundays meeting market.

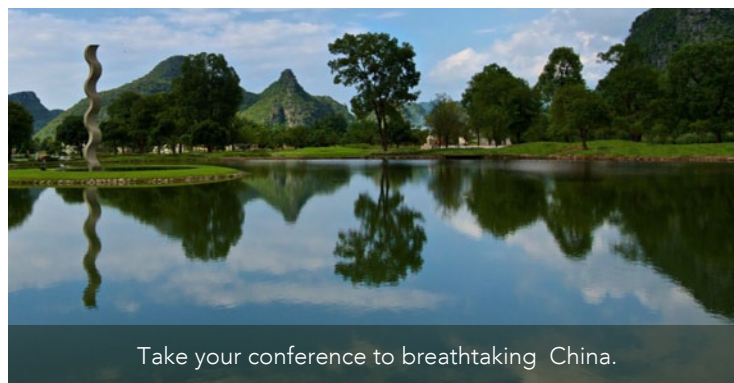
Mantra grows green

MANTRA Group said it has planted 433 trees as part of its Green Conferencing solution, which pledges a tree is planted for every delegate that attends a Green conference.

With 10 hotels in the Group now part of the program launched in March at Mantra Mooloolaba Beach, the more than 400 trees were planted as a result of 10 events held at Mooloolaba.

The program is operated in conjunction with Carbon Neutral.

Mantra Group director of MICE Paul Wilson said he was pleased to see the program's uptake and expected more hotels to come on board with it over the next six months.



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Marriott invite

MARRIOTT International is inviting readers to join them for breakfast during its global sales mission to learn more about its hotels and resorts and to meet hotel leaders from The Ritz-Carlton, JW Marriott, Marriott, Renaissance, Autograph Collection, Courtyard by Marriott from Asia Pacific, Europe, MEA and the USA.

Breakfast Around the World events are being held on 29 Jul from 7.30am at the Melbourne Marriott Hotel and on 31 Jul from 8.00am at Sydney Harbour Marriott.

To register, email gsoaustralia@marriott.com

Sea World complements

THE forthcoming multimillion dollar Sea World conference centre (**BEN** 26 Jul 13) was the "perfect complement" to the resort's six existing venue options, Sea World and Sea World Resort general manager Bikash Randhawa has said.

While the resort has kept mum on an exact opening date, saying only that it was due to be finished next year, Randhawa said the new centre would allow the company to host much larger conferences; the centre is projected to have capacity of up to 1,000 people.

The Village Roadshow Theme Parks Conferencing and Events team were experienced professionals who hosted "hundreds of conferences and events each year" and the company wanted to expand its capabilities by building one of the best conference centres in Queensland, Randhawa said.

"We believe there is significant demand for these types of conferences who require a one stop package including accommodation and event options right next door and we will facilitate this amazing client experience to meet this market opportunity."



business events news

28th July 2014



THE 2014 Defence and Industry Conference has kicked off today at the Adelaide Convention Centre (ACC) and is expected to see 1,000 attendees over its two day program.

One thing that might be under discussion by the various speakers (including the Minister for Defence David Johnston and gm submarines David Gould) and attendees is the Department of Defence's tender for the provision of swords.

It was published on Austender's website, where a tender for the provision of event management services for the Australian Export Awards generated a great deal of interest from the business events industry (**BEN** 07 May).

Titled 'Swords and Accessories', the tender's description states that it is a request for tender (actually, a Request for Tedner [sic] for 'Swords, Scabbards, Cases, Covers, Sword Knots, Slings and Belst [sic] - possibly Belts? - and Refurbishment Services'.

The mystery is soon solved, however, in that the tender says the swords would be used by Navy, Army and Air Force personnel for ceremonial purposes.

Jasper conf packages

THE Jasper Hotel Melbourne is offering overnight conference packages from \$189 per delegate.

The offer includes breakfast, lunch, room and equipment hire.

CLICK HERE for more.

Movement at Daydream

SCOTT Wilkinson has been appointed ceo of Daydream Island.

He replaces Phil Casey, who moved to a new role as owner's representative for Daydream's owner Vaughan Bullivant.

Wilkinson joins Daydream from TFE Hotel Group where he was general manager of the five star Rendezvous Grand Adelaide.

He has also held senior management roles with Hyatt Regency, Peppers Retreats Resorts and Hotels and Rydges Hotels and Resorts.

World's largest Novotel

MADRID is set to see the world's largest Novotel with the news that Accor and Hotel Convencion have signed an agreement to refurbish and redesign the building by 2016.

Accor said it would be operated under a franchise contract under the Novotel brand and would see its 2,400 sqm of meetings space outfitted with the latest technology.

This would make it a preferred meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions destination able to host up to 1,500 people, Accor said.

Other new amenities included broadband WiFi and business floors, Accor said.

The 790 room hotel would be the fourth Novotel in Madrid, Accor said.

Barossa boss tour



NOVOTEL Barossa Valley Resort and Mount Lofty House hosted a group of PCOs on a three day tour of South Australia.

Participants included representatives from Kentera Events, Events with Moore, Choice Conferencing and Connect Entertainment.

The tour started in Adelaide with a visit to the ibis Adelaide, set to open next month, before heading to the Mt Lofty Ranges for cheese and wine tasting at Shaw and Smith winery, followed by an animal encounter at Cleland Wildlife Park.

The next two days included a tour of Jurlique Farm and a surprise visit from Elli Beer, owner of The Farm Function Centre, at dinner in The Tasting Room at Novotel Barossa.

Director of sales and marketing Andrew Houey said it had wanted to show it took less time to be in an amazing wine region than those living in Sydney and Melbourne to get to work.

Fairclough joins MCEC



HELEN Fairclough has been appointed by the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) as the new director of people and culture, to join the venue in September.

MCEC ceo Peter King said Fairclough's role would be instrumental in MCEC's ongoing focus to provide a culture that employees could continue to embrace with pride.

While current strategies were producing results, Fairclough's role would see MCEC develop further opportunities to grow the business through its employees, he said.

Flag this offer

MELBOURNE'S Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens is offering a discounted Conference Day Package of \$60pp when booked before 30 Sep including an upgraded morning and afternoon tea with free data projector hire. Call 03 9322 8198 for more.

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