



## What lies beneath

"I'M not sure about the 'kissing lions'," said Giovanna Lever, eying the two lion statues sitting huddled inside the entrance of the Intercontinental Sydney Double Bay with mild suspicion, as she and Jasmine Cook took me, with hard hat perched, on a peek of the emerging interior.

The lions, previous occupants of the Ritz Carlton, are awaiting their 'to be or not to be' fate stoically.

As strictly no daggy photos or selfies were allowed inside the hotel, I was left to hunt around outside for something I could capture, finally inveigling a very busy yet willing gm, Frederic Brohez, for a photo.

Privileged to be one of only two publications yet to take a look at the hotel, I learnt that it took 160 hours of elbow grease to bring the Grand Staircase back to its sparkling best, that the meeting and function rooms are named Keltie Cove (the original name for Double Bay) and Parsley Bay and that the pillarless Grand Ballroom has a capacity for up to 495 pax.

What's more, there will be no hovering around the kitchen door in order to get your hands on a canapé during a function, as three doors at the back of the ballroom lead directly into the kitchen, out of which waiters will emerge to circulate their wares to everyone. Yes! *Jill*



## ACB profit up 19%

**THE** Adelaide Convention Bureau (ACB) saw net profit up 18.8% to \$34,259 for the financial year.

This was on revenue of \$2.2m, down from \$2.3m in 2013, but the Bureau also saw reduced business events and administrative expenses compared with the year prior.

The Bureau secured 138 events for the year, with \$116.5m of future business generated, set to attract 37,308 delegates.

This compared with 139 events secured in 2012-13 and an estimated \$103m in economic

benefit.

In its annual report, Bureau ceo Damien Kitto said the number of bids submitted was up 30% on the target, and there was a \$201m pipeline of activity.

The Bureau completed 11 Conventions Adelaide bids which were forecasted to generate \$22.4m in economic benefit, the report said.

This compared with 14 Conventions Adelaide bids in 2012-13, generating an estimated \$34.2m in economic benefit.

Eighteen new organisations joined the Bureau in 2013-14.

Kitto said a "significant win" had been the government's introduction of a two year bid fund to attract large conventions aligned to key economic sectors.

Chair Phil Baker said the board was finalising a three year plan exploring sustainable funding models with government and industry - **CLICK HERE** for more.

## Newcastle expo



**THE** first Altogether Perfect Business Events Expo was held on Wednesday with 70 registered attendees.

Feedback from operators had been positive and there was good potential for leads from the event, Danny Eather of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association said.

**Pictured** from left is Georgia Lazzari, Newcastle Convention Bureau, Eather and Rebecca Morley, Destination Port Stephens.

## Putting on the Ritz

**THE** teasers and hype surrounding the opening on 15 Nov of the Intercontinental Sydney Double Bay lived up to the rhetoric as **BEN** went on a site inspection of the hotel yesterday.

With a predominant colour pallet of greys and charcoals, this Double hostelry is putting on, or more precisely, reinventing, the Ritz.

Sure, it has kept some of the Ritz Carlton's retro features such as the original Italian marble which figures through out, and the two heritage fireplaces, one in the yet-to-be named bar and restaurant, which will be fired up in the winter months, and the other in the reception area.

It has polished up the grand staircase and restored the two grand pianos.

There will be no such thing as lead-in rooms with all offering spectacular eye-arresting outlooks, whether they be the French provincial courtyard, leafy

## The Christmas Venue Guide

**BUSINESS Events News** has launched a Christmas Events guide.

Check out **page three** for the best end of year function venues out.

The Guide is booking out fast, so get in while you can.

It will highlight your venue's unique features, like the ability to host a karaoke battle to the death of 'We Three Kings - The Reggae Remix', to the business events industry and **BEN's** readers and social media channels.

To book in now or for more information about the guide, email [advertising@businessesnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businessesnews.com.au).



village or bay vistas - however, expect to be blown away by the bay view!

Uniquely, there will be a high-end bakery at the hotel entrance with the pavement in front decked out with chairs and tables.

The Grand Ballroom has all the top range whistles the industry loves while the spectacular roof terrace is available for hire for up to 100 for cocktails.

**Pictured** is gm Frederic Brohez with **BEN's** Jill Varley.



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# business events news

26th September 2014



**THINKING** locally and supporting Victorian suppliers has come up trumps again for the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), with a win this week of the champion trophy at the 2014 Royal Melbourne Fine Food Awards for its house-made very berry sorbet.

This follows on from a gold medal win in July.

A tour de force for executive chef Tony Panetta and his team, MCEC ceo Peter King said the champion trophy was a great example of how the Centre's chefs were breaking the mould that surrounded traditional business events catering, competing against some of the leading producers in the country.

MCEC chefs were also awarded two silver and two bronze medals at the awards for a selection of their house-made ice creams, sorbets and yoghurt.

It's the second champion trophy win for the MCEC, taking out the prize for its house-made vanilla yoghurt in 2012.

Now, to celebrate the win, **BEN** thinks the Centre should send out samples of its sorbet to the entire industry - surely a berry good idea!



## Brisbane on show



**STAGE** two of the \$2.9b Brisbane Showgrounds regeneration project has begun, which will include construction of a new \$50m four star Rydges international hotel.

The project would generate more than \$300m a year for the Queensland economy, Premier Campbell Newman said.

The Rydges hotel would have 208 rooms and conference facilities, co-developer Phillip Wolanski said.

Stage one of the project began in 2010, and the hotel is slated to open late next year.

*Credit: The Denwol Group*

## Next TTF chair

**THE** Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) has said that Katie Lahey will take over as chair when Bruce Baird's term finishes in November.

Lahey is Korn/Ferry International Australasia managing director.

She was one of Australia's pre-eminent business leaders with an "extraordinary" record of achievement over many years, Baird said.

She would bring a fresh perspective, he said.

# More info sought for Aquis



**MORE** information on Aquis' Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed \$8b Aquis Resort has been called for by Queensland's Coordinator-General.

The resort proposal includes a 23,000 sqm convention and exhibition centre, designed for large scale conferences.

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeney said the request involved further information about transport impacts and ongoing management of the proposed constructed lake, which had been raised during the public consultation period.

A spokesperson for the Minister said the request was a common process and showed response to community input.

Aquis was comfortable with the government's process and happy to develop the additional

information, a spokesperson said.

"We are currently scoping the amount of work required and will get it to the government as quickly as possible."



Each month Business Manager for inPlace Recruitment, Ben Carnegie, writes his observations from the recruiter's perspective to help job hunters find the perfect job.

Ben has over 15 years working in 5 star hotels and the MICE industry and has worked on some of Australia's biggest events.

## Redundancy – Where to from here?

**FOR** some redundancy is a welcome surprise, for others it may come as shock - a terrible blow to the ego, put unwanted pressure on



your finances and cause emotional stress and uncertainty for the future. So where do you go from here?

1. Deal with the financial worry – talk to a financial advisor as it may take time to re-start or change your career and a structured financial approach will give you peace of mind and allow you to think about the next step in your career.

2. Re-vamp your resume. Highlight your skills and achievements in each role. Keep it to a maximum of three pages, relevant and concise - don't go back decades to your first roles.

3. Network – let people know you are available & looking.

4. Register yourself with a specialist Recruitment Agency so they can advise you of opportunities in your field and market your skills out to potential clients. They can also help you brush up on interview skills.

Finally, remain positive & enjoy this transition to the next step in your career.

## HKCEC conf up

**THE** Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) hosted 32 conferences in the year to July, compared with 30 in 2013.

However, the Centre's total number of events was down, from 1,180 to 1,086, as were exhibitions, down slightly from 115 to 112.

The Centre said the total number of attendees at these events was nearly 5.9m, up from 5.2m in the previous year.

## No tram zone 4 MCEC

**THE** Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has been left out of the Victorian government's Free Tram Zone, the Victoria Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) has said.

Ceo Dianne Smith said the zone excluded many key attractions vital to visitor economy and VTIC had recommended the government expand the zone to include other attractions such as the Melbourne Museum and Melbourne Cricket Ground.

### CONTACT US:

Publisher Editor Deputy editor  
Bruce Piper Jill Varley Alex Walls

For advertising enquiries email Sean Harrigan & Katrina Ford:  
[advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au)

P: 1300 799 220 F: 1300 799 221

PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW, 1710

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# Christmas Venue Guide

Looking for a Christmas venue or staff celebration?  
**Business Events News** guide to 2014/15 Christmas venues is the place to showcase!  
To feature here email [advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au).

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