



Engaging Mary

THERE are enough stories, both sad and uplifting, about Marysville around the Black



Saturday fires that already fill several books, such as the naming of the town by surveyor John Steavenson in 1863-64 after his wife, Mary; rumour has it she never set foot in the place.

His name is immortalised in the Steavenson Falls, a local beauty spot, lit at night to great effect and one of the many activities available to engage delegates.

Aside from the splendid Vibe Hotel Marysville, there are a number of easy-on-the-tooth cafes and restaurants such as Fragra's, where the Buxton trout and brie baguettes come highly recommended.

There's the Buxton Trout and Salmon Farm, where some 40 tonnes of fish was lost in the fires.

Restored with the help of generous locals, you can fish for trout and salmon and also take some home.

In a picture-perfect setting is the Buxton Ridge Winery, a fire survivor with two exuberant and welcoming dogs.

Not to be missed is Bruno's Art and Sculpture Garden, burnt to the ground during the fires and today restored to spellbinding effect by the eccentric and very talented Bruno Torfs. *Jill*

Marysville feels the Vibe

EXPECTATIONS

were high when the 4.5 star Vibe Hotel Marysville, the largest hotel and conference centre to ever be located in the revitalised town, opened its doors in February after the Black Saturday 2009 bushfires, injecting scores of jobs and millions of dollars of investment (**BEN** 04 Feb).

Prior to the fires, Marysville and the surrounding areas had some 3,000 beds, but afterwards only one hotel, the Tower opposite Vibe, remained.

Featuring 101 rooms with conferencing and function space for up to 380 guests, the hotel has seen 3,970 guests since February, with 1,300 attending conferences at 12 events and more than 900 expected to attend conferences over the next six months.

At Tuesday's official launch function, TFE Hotels ceo Rachel Argaman (pictured above left with TFE Hotels' Charlotte Vidor) said she was proud the hotel group joined forces with the local community and key strategic partners to re-establish tourism into Marysville.

"Vibe Hotel Marysville is



passionate about collaborating with the local community, for example, 85% of all the produce for our food and beverage

outlets is sourced from within 100 kilometres of the hotel.

"We see ourselves as being very much part of the region, and connected to the local community."



CLICK HERE for more photos.

Pictured from left is Craig Sargent, Corporate Meeting Planners and Chris Porter, Business Events Victoria.

Today's issue of **BEN**

Business Events News today has three pages of news plus a full page from (**click**)

- Tangalooma Island Resort

Win an Apple watch!

THE outstanding response to **Travel Daily's** inaugural industry salary survey has prompted a last minute push to get even more people to participate, with the prize pool now extended to include an Apple Watch.

Have the opportunity to be among the first people to sport one of these coveted items by completing the survey which is now open until next Wed 29 Apr.

[Click for salary survey](#)

ibtm china buyer registration open

HOSTED buyer registration is open for ibtm china 2015, due to take place in the China National Convention Centre, Beijing, from 05 to 06 Aug - **CLICK HERE**.

Editor Pharmacy Daily & Deputy Editor Business Events News - Epping, NSW

- Leading online B2B publications
- Influential role
- Competitive salary

The Travel Daily Group is looking for the services of a proactive candidate to serve the positions of Editor for **Pharmacy Daily** and Deputy Editor for **Business Events News**.

You have the overarching responsibility to prepare, write and edit copy for the daily publication of news in addition to ensuring deadlines and quality standards are achieved. You will manage coverage, suggest angles and leads, conduct interviews, source leads and participate in events in the pursuit of unique content generation.

If you have three to five years' experience in journalism and a sound understanding of desktop publishing and want to be a part of a growing organisation, this could be your next long term role.

To apply, email your confidential CV with Cover Letter to jobs@traveldaily.com.au before Thursday 30th April 2015.

Director of Catering & Conventions

Sheraton on the Park is seeking a Director of Catering & Conventions who shares our passion for delivering an unrivalled level of service. You will need to be highly motivated in an environment where exceeding the expectations of our customers is the minimum standard.

Reporting to the Director of Sales and Marketing, The Director of Catering and Conventions is responsible for the management of all conventions, meetings and incentives, from initial contact to completion ensuring maximum profitability and client satisfaction.

The successful candidate will possess exceptional communication and interpersonal skills and proven experience in leading developing and leading a team of people. A minimum of 5-8 years of experience in Catering or Event Management is essential.



Sheraton
On the Park
HOTEL

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



business events news

Pharmacy
DAILY



- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy



For details call us today 1300 799 220

Four Points tower to go to 27 storeys



Source: Cox Richardson

TWO storeys could be added to the new tower building that will house Four Points by Sheraton Sydney's expansion, according to a proposal on public exhibition.

This would increase the commercial floor space by 1,620 sqm, with a driving factor being the wish to increase the overall commercial floorspace in the tower to make it more attractive to future tenants, the report said.

Sheraton has said its expansion will add 4,800 sqm of meeting space (**BEN** 27 Feb).

CLICK HERE for the report.

Pictured right is the proposed modified tower.

Vivid's new conference

VIVID has launched a conference on the future of work as part of the Vivid Ideas program this year.

To be held on 04 Jun at Google's headquarters in Pyrmont, and held in partnership with the Centre for Workplace Leadership, 'The Future of Work' would look at the methods of tech entrepreneurs and "design innovators" to help businesses prepare their workforces and places for the future, Vivid said.

About 300 delegates were expected to attend, Vivid Ideas curator Jess Scully told **BEN**, with 150 of the delegates consisting of leaders in emerging industries and the social enterprise sector participating via a live two way stream, and 150 delegates comprised of ceos, HR heads and leaders in industries.

Scully said the conference had been organised to address a conversation many different



industries were having about the different ways people were working and the ways business places were changing.

Tickets start from \$449.

ICC Sydney on track after storm

DESPITE a section of perimeter scaffolding for the Theatre building becoming dislodged during the storm on Monday, there has been no impact on the construction program, a Lend Lease spokesperson has said.

No one was on site, there were no injuries, and no damage to the building, and the scaffolding would be removed once the wind stopped, the spokesperson said.

Victoria Hotel refurbishment



THE Victoria Hotel in Melbourne completed its \$3m refurbishment last month, which saw new carpeting for the meeting rooms and new furnishings for the Mezzanine, as well as new bathrooms and high quality WiFi, while retaining the property's heritage character, the Schwartz Family said.

New ICCA members

THE International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) inducted five new members and re-instated one in April.

This includes the Metz Metropole Convention and Congress Bureau and Hala Abu Dhabi.

CLICK HERE to read more.

WIN an Apple Watch, Samsung Galaxy Tablets & HOYTS Movie Vouchers



Take part in the industry's BIGGEST Salary and Employment Survey

Have your say now ➔

Open till 29th April

Travel Daily



business events news



business events news

24th April 2015



crumbs!

NEXT time you're washing your hands in an Accor hotel bathroom in Victoria, consider the bar of soap you're holding - it could be on its way across the world shortly.

Accor says it has partnered with not-for-profit Soap Aid, which looks to recycle soap and provide it to children in disadvantaged communities.

More than 40 hotels in the state will contribute their used soap to the organisation, with more than 1,000 kg expected to be stockpiled each week, the company says.

It will then be reprocessed, packaged and sent off to areas where it is needed, with the aim of improving hygiene and decreasing landfill, Accor says.



In celebration of soap, we offer the ultimate in cleansing product awesomeness, the Old Spice ads.

CLICK HERE to view.

Granite Island marine tourism venture



Credit: Fleurieu Peninsula Tourism

GRANITE Island could see a new marine tourism venture in its waters, with the South Australian government considering an unsolicited proposal.

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Ian Hunter said the proposal could reinvigorate the island.

Presented by Oceanic Victor Pty Limited directors Tony Santic and Michael Dyer, and advisor Emma Forster, the proposal would see an underwater observatory, swimming with marine life and hand feeding fish, the Minister's office said.

The group was interested in diving using a structure to be relocated from Port Lincoln, and on-shore facilities including the kiosk and penguin centre, *Victor Harbor Times* reported.

The proposal was through the first stage of the process with the next step to consider a business case, the Minister said.

MyCEB launches 'WeChat' for China

THE Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) office in China has a WeChat account.

The text and voice messaging service for mobiles was first developed in China, and MyCEB said it hoped to connect with industry partners who used the application, which allowed more than 30 members for group messaging.



Follow us on social media

Just one click away from keeping up to date with all the *Business Events News* as it comes to hand



CONFESSIONS OF A COMPULSIVE CONFERENCE-GOER

Andrew Klein, professional MC and presentation skills speaker and director of SPIKE Presentations, presents his front line observations on conferences in a regular feature in *BEN*.



Questionable Behaviour?

YOU'LL see it on most conference run-sheets following a presentation. "Q and A" or "Question Time". Presenter speaks. Presenter or MC invites audience questions.

Yet despite spending much of my working life at conferences, I rarely see question time work.

What I usually see is this: the presenter speaks longer than their allocated time so things are running late. The MC says "We've only got time for a few quick questions". And then one of two things happens. Either an audience member grabs the mic and gives their long-winded opinion that no one is interested in hearing, followed by an often convoluted question, the answer to which is of interest to only the question-asker.

Or the more likely scenario, silence. Tumble weeds. Chirping crickets. Or possibly someone from head-office asks a pre-written Dorothy Dixier (if you've always wondered where this phrase comes from, I've Googled it for you. The term derives from American advice columnist Dorothy Dix's practice of making up her own questions to allow her to publish more interesting answers).

So the planted question is asked and answered. Time runs out and delegates head out to afternoon tea. Q and A has achieved little.

Here's my simple solution:

Ditch question time. It rarely has any point. Ask the presenter to stick around during the break and those who genuinely have a question should feel free to ask it, one on one. Most delegates aren't interested in hearing the answer to another delegate's question - so why put us through the painful process?

A good presentation should end on a high. Answering questions afterwards deadens this impact. And asking for questions and not getting any is embarrassing for everyone. Through no fault of the speaker, audiences are often reluctant to pose questions, either because a good presentation has covered the key issues already, or the audience is tired or hungry or ready to move into the next session.

I know we are striving to make conferences more interactive, but I'm not sure whether a few questions at the conclusion of a presentation serves this purpose (whether asked 'live' or via an app).

So unless you're Tony Jones, I would consider ditching formal Q & A sessions altogether, unless there's a compelling reason to do otherwise. Panel sessions or "Ask the CEO Anything" panels are a different thing altogether and I'll offer my thoughts on those in a future column.

Until then, if anyone has any questions.....sorry, we're out of time.



If you are looking for an MC for your next conference or a speaker/trainer on presentation skills or pitching skills, email andrew@lunch.com.au or visit his website at www.andrewklein.com.au.



ACTE registrations now open

REGISTRATIONS for the Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) Global Corporate Travel Conference, to be held from 14 to 16 Oct at the Pullman Paris Montparnasse, are now open.

CLICK HERE to register.

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.businesseventsnews.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@businesseventsnews.com.au

Deputy Editor: Alex Walls Contributor: Bruce Piper

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdzik advertising@businesseventsnews.com.au

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



THIS IS TANGALOOMA

CONFERENCES : EVENTS : TEAM BUILDING : FUNCTIONS

WWW.TANGALOOMA.COM



TANGALOOMA ISLAND RESORT



FULL DAY
CONFERENCE
DELEGATE
PACKAGE
\$39 pp
inclusions: venue hire, full catering,
basic conference equipment



REGISTER NOW
corporate@tangalooma.com
tangalooma.com/conferences

CONFERENCES : EVENTS : TEAM BUILDING : FUNCTIONS



A TRUE ISLAND EXPERIENCE



TANGALOOMA ISLAND RESORT

Offer valid for residential conference bookings for period 1st June to 31st August 2015. Minimum 20 paying guests.