



Fishy story

WHO knew that the air conditioning at the Sydney Opera House is fed by seawater?



Probably not high on a need-to-know basis as long as it works during concerts and events, however, in an energy saving bid, the Opera House has changed the way the seawater cooling is used by the installation of a small, efficient air conditioning chiller, allowing the large chillers to be turned off when not required.

According to my sources, what is of interest is that the water is not just drawn up from the House's east side, passing through the cooling system to run out in the west, but when it does, it enters the harbour warm, apparently making it a great place to catch fish!

MEANWHILE a brand new event, Women on Top, is launching at Paddington Town Hall in Sydney on 07 Mar.

The aim is to create a growing community and network to inspire, educate and support women to cultivate their business careers and in turn their personal success.

It's described as "unlike any other event designed for women" with an impressive speaker lineup of women including Mia Freedman and Lisa Messenger who will share insights, secrets and priceless shortcuts for getting ahead and on top.

For more information, call 0409 548 124.

Jill

\$300k NAIDOC Awards tender

THE Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is seeking an event management company to deliver the NAIDOC national awards ceremony and ball.

The budget guidance for the event services was between \$220,000 and \$300,000, the tender document said.

Set to be held on 10 Jul in Adelaide, the event was expected to see some 1,200 attendees, with the tender calling for submissions from companies capable of providing AV and staging services, broadcast management, catering, production of event material, and venue selection and contracting.

Tenderers needed to show experience in delivering high



profile, complex events, including a gala dinner and awards ceremony with multiple entertainment acts for more than 500 guests, the document said.

The Awards highlighted outstanding contributions that Indigenous Australians made to improve the lives of people in their communities, the National NAIDOC Committee said.

Submissions close on 23 Feb.

Pictured is the 2014 National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony.

CLICK HERE to read more.

New MICE bdm for InterContinental Fiji

INTERCONTINENTAL Fiji Golf Resort and Spa has appointed Vara Natuilaigilagi as its new business development manager - Meetings, Incentives, Conference and Events (MICE).

Natuilaigilagi has been with the resort since 2011, moving into the MICE area from her previous role as bdm leisure and now taking responsibility for the daily management of the MICE and Weddings sales team.

Natuilaigilagi said the role was a pivotal one, and she looked forward to driving results in MICE markets for the resort.

Florence Law has also been appointed as InterContinental Fiji's marketing and e-commerce coordinator while Vaiete Teannaki is now the resort's conference and weddings coordinator; Jane Madden-Lesavua has taken up a role as business development executive - weddings.

Tassie events grants

EVENTS Tasmania has announced the recipients of a series of grants under the Marketing Tasmania scheme, which aims to assist events to "increase awareness and attendance through funds to expand their PR and marketing programs".

Successful applicants include the Women on Water Franklin sailing festival and the Coles Bay Half Triathlon.

CLICK HERE to read more.



why book a conference room
 WHEN YOU CAN BOOK A RESORT?

1 800 258 263
 www.clubmedgroups.com.au

Club Med
 GROUPS & INCENTIVES



YOU'RE INVITED
TO SPEND AN EVENING
WITH THE NT@AIME

Join the NT exhibitors for
 an evening of cocktails, canapés
 and casual conversation.

Pei Modern
 Collins Place, 45 Collins St, Melbourne
 Tuesday 24 February 2015
 6:30pm- 8:30pm
 (transfers from AIME provided)

**REGISTER
 NOW**





business events news

9th February 2015



crumbs!



ALWAYS double check before hitting the send button.

Romanian officials have been forced to apologise for an email invitation sent by the country's embassy in Paris, which also unfortunately included an attachment containing unflattering descriptions of some of the attendees.

The event was part of a visit by new Romanian president Klaus Iohannis to France, with the attached spreadsheet saying some of the proposed guests were "undesirable" and described at least one of them as "ghastly".

The foreign ministry hastily issued a statement saying that "annotations on the document for internal use do not reflect the opinion or assessment of the Romanian embassy.

"The responsible person was sanctioned," the ministry said.

FUNCTIONS held at a new hotel in Japan will hopefully run like clockwork - because the property is being mainly staffed by robots.

To open at the Huis Ten Bosch theme park outside Nagasaki in the coming months, the Hen-na Hotel (which translates roughly as 'strange hotel') will feature "female uniformed androids" who will work at check-in, clean the rooms and serve meals in the hotel restaurant.

The hotel's robotic workforce will be complemented by ten human staff members.

Because robots don't get paid, the hotel's pricing comes in at about a third of its competitors.

Gala Dinner a first for AIME

THE Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) is keeping mum about the venue and format of the inaugural AIME welcome dinner (**BEN** 12 Dec 14), but promises it will be "strictly 'wow' and a not-to-be-missed show".

Clearly this year's AIME is set to go out with a bang, not a whimper, and while an air of mystery surrounds the event, it will be held at a "distinctly Melbourne, yet-to-be-revealed waterfront events hub," according to MCB ceo Karen Bolinger.

ACC West bldg opens

THIS week will see a series of business and arts community events to mark the official opening of the Adelaide Convention Centre's (ACC) West Building.

Thousands of South Australians were expected to tour the new building and attend events, the ACC said.

The Premier will host a cocktail reception on 13 Mar to mark the official opening, it said.

Advertise with us

- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy



be top of mind

For details call us today 1300 799 220



Events Calendar

BEN's calendar details events at various venues across Australia.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@businesseventsnews.com.au.

12-13 FEB

CEO & Chair Symposium; Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart; for any enquiries please email kristine@associations.net.au

18-20 FEB

Fundraising Institute Australia Conference 2015; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; visit www.fiaconference.org.au

20 FEB

DMS Workshop; Doltone House Hyde Park, Sydney; enquiries email sydneysvp@destinationmarketing.com.au

23 FEB

DMS Workshop; Crown Towers, Melbourne; enquiries email melbournersvp@destinationmarketing.com.au

23 FEB

Women in Leadership Event; Crown Towers, Melbourne; enquiries email melbournersvp@destinationmarketing.com.au

24 - 25 FEB

AIME 2015 Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more visit www.aime.com.au

4 MAR

NT Muster; Ivy Ballroom, Sydney; enquiries email trade.tourismnt@nt.gov.au

5 MAR

NT Muster; Park Hyatt Melbourne Ballroom; enquiries email trade.tourismnt@nt.gov.au

16 MAR

Ni hao WA 2015; Aravina Estate, Yallingup; for more visit www.tourism.wa.gov.au

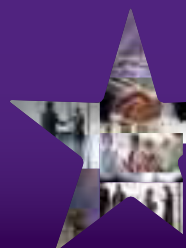
WIN a tropical holiday!

Visit us at stand E500 to enter.

Cairns & Great Barrier Reef
Business Events

COME VISIT US AT

AIME
Melbourne, Australia





business events news

9th February 2015

MEA's peachy event



AFTER the summer hiatus, Meetings and Events Australia (MEA) NSW was back into the swing of things on Tuesday night with a networking event at STUDIO @ Sydney Tower.

MEA national events manager - branches Annabel Norris said the buzz around the room was intense as members and guests caught up with one another whilst sipping on peach bellinis and sampling food provided by Trippas White.

Pictured getting up close and personal with members is chair of the board Simon Baggs with the team from Trippas White Group and Lauren Hayward (second from right), Forum Group Events.

Qatar's luxury and incentive travel

QATAR Airways has announced it will add an all-Premium Class Airbus A319 to its Qatar Executive fleet, to cater to the rising demand for charter luxury group and incentive travel.

The 40-seat Premium One A319 would be available to charter from 17 Feb and was able to connect destinations through the Middle East with major cities in Europe, Africa and South Asia, the airline said.

NSW event boost

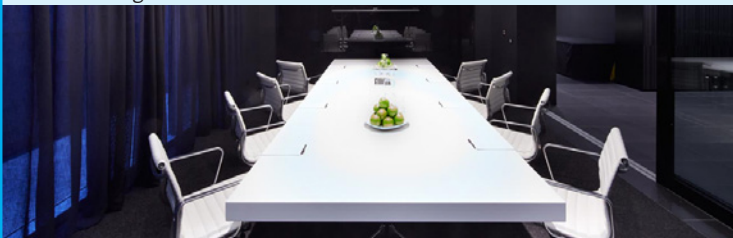
NSW saw a 9% increase in total visitor spend for 2014 to more than \$150m, compared with 2013, with 136 events held.

These included Vivid Sydney and the Major League Baseball Opening series, NSW Deputy Premier Troy Grant said.

Regional NSW saw more than 40 events - **CLICK HERE** for more.

WIN WITH HOTEL REALM & THE CONFERENCE SHOP

This week **BEN**, The Conference Shop and the 5-star Hotel Realm Canberra are offering one night's accommodation for two in a suite, a two-course dinner with a bottle of wine, a full buffet breakfast, a late check-out and parking at the award-winning Hotel Realm.



The Hotel Realm offers understated elegance, impeccable service and world-class and sophisticated function rooms. Canberra is one of the many regions embraced by the new, free website service, The Conference Shop - www.theconferenceshop.com.au - which is dedicated to helping companies organise regional business events.

For your chance to win, answer all three questions featured in **BEN** this week and send your answers to: hotelrealmcomp@businessesnews.com.au

1. In what years did the Australian Hotels Association name Hotel Realm as the best meeting and events hotel in Australia? Need a hint? [Click here.](#)

For more information visit www.hotelrealm.com.au and www.theconferenceshop.com.au. Prize courtesy of Hotel Realm Canberra and The Conference Shop - a new, free website service designed to assist companies to plan business events in regional areas. Prize is a Kingdom Getaway Package and valid for one year, subject to availability. Contest open to all BEN readers.



Face to Face

Robert Coates General manager Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley



Business Events News recently caught up with Robert Coates, gm of Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, who commenced his role in April 2014. The new Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley Conference and Events Centre is a key focus this year for the Altogether Perfect campaign which promotes the Hunter Valley, Newcastle and Port Stephens as business events destinations.

What is the first thing you do when you get to work?

Go for a walk around the resort and check in with the team and say hi. I follow the customer journey to ensure the resort is ready to roll for the day ahead.

What analogy best describes being a general manager of a hotel and why?

A conductor in an orchestra, because you are conducting and coordinating multiple activity across the resort and it's all about ensuring a seamless guest experience to flow in symphony, with all departments aligned.

The Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley Conference and Events Centre opened at the end of January - what has been the most interesting piece of feedback you've received so far?

The sheer size of it! It's so large and we have so much space to work with inside and outside of the conference centre.

Why has Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley invested in a business events centre? What will be the main benefit of having such a facility in the Hunter Valley?

We have invested in the conference centre because we believe there are more great opportunities within the Hunter Valley and regional NSW for business events. The main benefit is that it puts the Hunter Valley on the map as a business events destination - enabling us to drive

a whole spear of opportunity to host elaborate events across the Hunter - working as a team and as a destination.

What's the most important thing when it comes to hosting a business event?

Understanding the clients, their needs and executing to great detail on their expectations.

How can hotels better appeal to the business events market?

Really understanding the client, creating point of difference itineraries and really creating some WOW.

Where do you stand on free WiFi for guests?

We reward and recognise our loyal guests during their stay with us. All IHG Rewards Club members can stay connected with complimentary high speed internet.

What's the weirdest hotel myth you've ever heard?

Ghosts! I worked at a very old hotel that was previously a residence. The stories floating around were that the hotel was haunted and the presence of the original resident was felt throughout the place.

If you could create any animal hybrid, what would it be and why?

Half rabbit (hare) and half turtle (tortoise) would be my hybrid animal. Sometimes we need speed and at other times we need absolute consideration and attention to detail.

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.businessesnews.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@businessesnews.com.au

Deputy Editor: Alex Walls

Contributor: Bruce Piper

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdrik advertising@businessesnews.com.au

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

Travel Daily

CRUISE
WEEKLY

travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy
DAILY

Travel
DailyTV