



For their CINZ

DID you know that most Kiwis have the Geonet Quakes app on their mobile phones?



Apparently, there are almost daily rumbles in one part of NZ or the other.

Although, as one local said with a wry smile, "In Auckland its more likely to be a volcano!"

Meanwhile how about this as a thought for groups with a sense of adventure - a campervan tour!

Born of an idea flung around at Wednesday's media conference with CINZ chief Sue Sullivan, we may well see a MEETINGS2016 pre or post famil head off in caravan of campervans to smaller and wholly viable NZ destinations to showcase their unique attributes.

At this year's MEETINGS there are some outstanding stands and none more than the Hobbiton stand - a replica of that found at Hobbiton outside of Hamilton.

Russell Alexander, on whose property this extraordinary movie set sits, said the stand took three days to build.

"Not something you want to do every day," he said dryly.

On Thursday morning hosted buyers were invited to a Hobbiton breakfast prior to the show's opening. Guests where greeted with a large table groaning with a feast of food and invited to rip into the rustic breads, sausages, ham on the bone, eggs, fruit, cheese, muffins and croissants - the like of which you can expect if you hold an event there.

Air New Zealand kept the early morning diners pepped up with copious amounts of barista coffee.

Another idea worth considering for planners looking for not only a unique venue but a unique means to getting there is to consider taking the train to Chateau Tongariro in the North Island's World Heritage Tongariro National Park on the Northern Explorer which operates between Auckland and Wellington.

All in all lots of inspiration for events in NZ! Jill

TA re-appoints Expertise

EXPERTISE Events has been awarded a contract to manage Tourism Australia's annual Australian Tourism Exchange for a further three years.

The company has been associated with the event since 1991, and has repeatedly won the contract which has been put out to tender every three years.

Expertise Events md Gary Fitz-Roy said "it's been an amazing journey to see a truly home grown Australian exhibition evolve and develop to become one of the most significant events on the calendar, for both the exhibition industry and particularly the tourism sector".

The company last year broke the mould by staging the event in Cairns where a temporary facility was created to accommodate the 500-plus exhibitors - requiring a new format of stand design.

Fitz-Roy said one of the most

exciting aspects of ATE had been moving the event and tailoring it to each location.

Tourism Australia gm Western Markets & Global Distribution Development, Katherine Droga, said the organisation was delighted to re-appoint Expertise Events to manage ATE.

"They have demonstrated a commitment to work with us and evolve the event to meet the industry's needs, and have forged relationships with major sponsors and supporters," Droga said.

ATE 2015 will take place later this month in Melbourne, while the 2016 show is scheduled to be held on the Gold Coast.

Alquemie rebrand

LONGSTANDING luxury DMC Wilderness Australia has relaunched as Alquemie, with the new identity unveiled at a launch in Sydney earlier this week.

Alquemie, founded by Charles Carlow in 2001, specialises in high end experiences and tailor-made itineraries - alquemie.com.au.

Ingram to TA in LA

CHRIS Ingram, formerly Tourism Australia's Auckland-based partnership manager responsible for business events, is set to relocate to Los Angeles.

He will join the Tourism Australia team there as a business events specialist.

Stamford departure

ANDREA Werner is leaving Stamford Hotels and Resorts after 18 months with the company as its Group Director of Sales MICE.

Today is her last day, with Werner moving onto "another exciting opportunity within the conference, meeting and incentive market".

ibtm off to Nashville

IBTM America has announced that its 2016 event will take place in Nashville, Tennessee.

It will be held 15-17 June at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Centre, a Marriott-operated property "showcasing some of the best meetings facilities that Nashville has to offer" - for more details see www.ibtmamerica.com.

HKTB loses Power

MIRYANA Power, long-time public relations manager for the Hong Kong Tourism Board, has left the organisation.

The move, which became effective as of Tuesday 9th June, was announced earlier this week by HKTB regional director Andrew Clark who wished Miryana all the best for her future.

Clark said Power was leaving after "15 years of dedicated service" with the organisation, with her replacement contact now HKTB Manager Consumer Communications, Jane Scribner on 02 9283 3083.

Auckland scores THETA 2017 event

AFTER a successful joint bid, Auckland is to host The Higher Education Technology Agenda (THETA) conference in 2017.

Auckland Convention Bureau (ACB) manager Anna Hayward said around 600 senior decision makers from Australia and NZ are expected to attend, with economic activity estimated to be worth \$826,000 to Auckland.

"With the introduction last month of the Bureau's Business Events Plan there's even more focus on growing the Auckland business events sector and we aim to double the contribution to the Auckland economy to \$43 million in 2023," Hayward said.

THETA 2015 recently wrapped up on the Gold Coast, with the conference supported by a high speed internet connection now permanently in place between the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre and Griffith University (**BEN** 15 May).

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business events news

12th June 2015



crumbs!



WATCH out - the Zombies are coming!

A "one-of-a-kind obstacle sports event" is set to take place in Sydney for the first time ever later this year.

Titled *Run For Your Lives*, participants apparently undertake a series of physical challenges, while at the same time the 5km course is infested by zombies.

You can choose to be either a 'Survivor' or a 'Zombie' for the 90-minute competition which concludes with an Apocalypse Party featuring dance music, entertainment and activities.

Run For Your Lives launched in Baltimore in the USA in 2011, and is now spreading across Asia courtesy of Singapore-based "sports entertainment company" Action X.

The inaugural Australian edition is set to take place from 6am on 5th September in Abbotsbury in western Sydney - check it out at www.runforyourlives.com.au.

Abu Dhabi operator joins ICCA

HALA Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital's destination management company and ground operator, has become a member of the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA).

Hala joins almost 1000 ICCA member companies and organisations in 90 countries, with Hala Abu Dhabi required to meet key criteria in order to be a part of the association - including the organisation of at least five international association meetings.

"Membership of ICCA will strengthen Abu Dhabi's position in the global MICE market," said Peter Baumgartner, who's chief commercial officer of Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways.

He said Hala Abu Dhabi had managed many events such as the World Economic Forum, the World Travel & Tourism Council's Global Summit and more, offering a full range of services and establishing itself as "one of the leading PCOs in the region".

Meetings at MEETINGS!

MEETINGS NZ may be all about the serious business of keeping New Zealand front of mind for meeting and event planners, but a good dose of "getting to know you" importantly creates memorable and lasting relationships too.

These pics show some of the concerted networking going on in Auckland this week.

RIGHT: A couple of hams: Andrew Whittaker and Maxine Hale on the Dunedin stand.



ABOVE: The MEETINGS welcome function took place at the Auckland Hilton, and pictured there are Carol Rothschild, House of Rothschild; Susan Ryman-Kierman, Wise Connections; Vivienne Hechenberger, Aria Technologies; and Christina Cregan of Kentera Events.



LEFT: How sweet it is! The team from Christchurch celebrating their win as Regional Stand of the Year at the Gala Farewell at Shed 10.



ABOVE: Enjoying lunch at the ASB showgrounds courtesy of Millennium Hotels are Maxine Walsh, Langham Auckland; Rhonda Norman, Show Plat Productions; Meg Boers, MCI; Ian Andrew, Walsh GI; and Heidi Heming of CINZ.

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NT targets Chinese MICE buyers

REPRESENTATIVES from several major Chinese companies are in the Northern Territory this week as part of a business events educational hosted by Tourism NT and Tourism Australia.

NT Chief Minister Adam Giles said the buyers were from the medical, pharmaceutical, finance, IT and manufacturing sectors, with Top End operators pulling out all stops to showcase their business tourism wares.

"The visit will include a tour of the state-of-the-art

facilities available at the Darwin Convention Centre and will allow the NT Convention Bureau to strengthen relationships with companies from China who are already looking to host events in Australia in coming years," Giles enthused.

The educational will also see the delegates experience Wildman Wilderness Lodge and SKYCITY Resort, as well as some traditional activities such as an Outback lunch at Litchfield Pub and of course Crocosaurus Cove.

Giles said China was an important emerging market for the NT, with aspirations to double visitation to 30,000 by 2020.

Hawaii goes Klick

SYDNEY-BASED communication and PR firm Klick Communications has expanded again, with the opening of a new office in Hawaii.

Klick has been the PR agency for Hawai'i Tourism Oceania in Australia since 2009, with founder Kim McKay saying there are a wealth of opportunities.

The business, which also operates in Los Angeles, has already welcomed 11 Hawai'i partners including the Hawai'i International Film Festival and a range of hoteliers.

ClubMEA next week

SYDNEY'S Crane Bar will host the next NSW ClubMEA gathering, taking place on Thursday 18 June from 6pm.

The event at the Potts Point venue will feature handcrafted cocktails, Japanese fusion cuisine and a live sashimi experience courtesy of Executive Chef Taichi.

For more information or to register **CLICK HERE**.



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Sitting Pretty

Philippine Airlines

Welcome to Sitting Pretty, our review of experiences up the front of the plane.

Manila-based Philippine Airlines operates two different aircraft types on 13 services weekly to Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin and Brisbane. The Airbus A330 wide-body jet flies five times weekly to Sydney and three weekly to Melbourne. **Business Events News** enjoyed the PAL Business Class product on an overnight flight back to Sydney from the recent Select Travel Group conference in the Filipino capital.

THE SEAT

In the ongoing quest for something different for its premium flyers at the front of the plane, Philippine Airlines has, rather than just raise the bar, completely reimagined where the bar is and instead deliver something different. On the A330 wide-body aircraft, Business Class is laid out in a 2-2-2 configuration. While this layout effectively only allows direct aisle access to four of the six seats in a row, the carrier has sidestepped this hurdle. Each pod of two seats offers a headboard for privacy in upright mode. But here's where it gets interesting. When reclining the seat back into lie-flat bed mode, the seat at the window remains high, while the seat at the aisle goes low, only a little bit off the floor, to allow the passenger at the window ample space to step over for easy aisle access as required. Both seats have space for storing shoes, and passengers are provided a pillow and blanket, making for a comfortable and undisturbed journey.

ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

Philippine Airlines offers streaming entertainment inflight. In Business Class, crew members hand out iPads pre-loaded and ready to go. In Economy, pax need to download the 'PAL InAir' app free of charge from the iTunes App Store or Google Play prior to take-off. This app opens up a decent range of movies - varying from the latest releases, to classic favourites and foreign language films. A range of episodes from popular TV shows, sitcoms, comedies and dramas are also able to be viewed, as well as music, e-books and much more.

SERVICE

While only an eight-hour flight from Manila to Sydney, two meals are provided. Prior to take-off, crew offer guests a selection of juices or champagne, with a light dinner service beginning once in the air.

A selection of warm breads and pastries were served once waking along with some juices and a warm towel to freshen up. On this occasion, the flight arrived an hour early, yet another pleasant note.



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