



Rubbish!

WHEN a Jehovah's Witness conference is up for the bidding, Melbourne's experience says this is an event worth winning.



Such was the city's experience last year when more than 70,000 of the faithful poured into Etihad Stadium for the largest gathering of Jehovah's Witnesses in Australia.

Taking the premise that cleanliness is next to godliness, one member of the flock explained their reputation in the events industry was to leave a venue in a better condition than they found it by bringing their own food and carting away rubbish.

"Jehovah our God likes a clean environment and likes to get things done in order."

True to cleanliness form and in preparation for the three-day conference, 10,000 disciples rotated through the Docklands stadium in shifts, mopping, scrubbing and sweeping.

"The floor has never shined so bright," Etihad spokeswoman Alicia Sabato said.

"We do a post clean after A-League, but they're very particular.

"They cleaned the entire place." Insider information reveals that it's single people who are encouraged to volunteer for the cleanups, allowing the opportunity to meet, mingle and marry into the faith! *Jill*

Travel expo to Crystal Palace

THE 2015 Travel Industry Exhibition will be held at Crystal Palace, Luna Park, relocating from the previously announced Sydney Exhibition Centre at Glebe Island (SEC@GI) (**BEN** 08 Oct 14).

The dates for the show would stay the 16 to 17 Jul, Exhibitions and Trade Fairs (ETF) said, meaning it will run just prior to the National Travel Industry Awards which will take place at Dockside's new Darling Harbour Pavilion on 18 Jul.

Supporters of the exhibition include **BEN's** sister publications **Travel Daily** and **travelBulletin**,



while the Australian Federation of Travel Agents is also involved.

An ETF spokesman said the decision followed "extensive feedback from exhibitors and show partners," with Crystal Palace more suited to the travel industry as one of Sydney's most iconic tourist attractions.

Visitor access would be easier, and ETF had partnered with Luna Park across other shows, he added.

SEC@GI gm Malu Barrios said the venue was advised of ETF's "comprehensive" review of its shows and as a result of careful business analysis, the event had been remodelled into a smaller format, resulting in the move.

"SEC@GI respects the decision made by ETF," she said.

The ETF review also saw the cancellation of Entech and Inspire EX (**BEN** 27 Feb), the latter of which was set to take place at SEC@GI as well.

Luna Park sales manager James Granter said the trade-focused Travel Industry Exhibition was a "perfect" fit for the location.

Worth bottling



OVERWHELMING support was received from clients and industry representatives when global meetings procurement company, HelmsBriscoe, partnered with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service on a blood/plasma drive.

Held in Sydney on 13 Feb, this inaugural 'HB Cares' event allowed the plasma to be used to treat a number of potentially life-threatening conditions including burns, creating immunisations and helping haemophiliacs.

With a global presence of more than 1,200 associates in 55 countries, regional vice president Susette van der Linden said 2014 was HelmsBriscoe's best year ever.

"In 2014 alone we booked more than 5.3m room nights, more than 40,000 programs, and annually contributed more than \$1.7b in gross meeting spend to the hospitality community."

Pictured are participants after donating blood.

New events campaign in Japan

DESTINATION NSW and Qantas are set to launch a campaign promoting major events as a key reason to travel to the state.

This was part of a \$30m three year partnership, Destination NSW ceo Sandra Chipchase said, announced in April 2013.

The campaign would run from 01 Apr until 30 Jun with advertising in trains on the Keikyu Narita Airport and Haneda Airport access line.

CLICK HERE to read more.

New Pullman for Fiji



ACCOR has said a new-build five star Pullman, the Pullman Nadi Bay Resort and Spa, is slated to open in 2016.

The opening will be the brand's debut in Fiji, with four other Accor properties in the country.

Developed by the Gokal Group of Companies, the multi-million dollar resort would have four meeting rooms with the capacity for up to 400 people theatre-style, and would be located on the beachfront of Nadi Bay, Accor said.

NCC vid kicks off 2015

THE National Convention Centre (NCC) has released a video showcasing the Centre's natural lighting, meeting spaces and food and beverage offerings.

The video was shot during the PCO Association Conference held late last year and was created with media company Screencraft, the NCC said.

Keep an eye out for industry cameos and **CLICK HERE** to view.



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business events news

6th March 2015



ATTENDEES at the Northern Territory Convention Bureau function on 24 Feb will know all about the NT 'finger wave'.

For those not in the know, NT 'Mate' and chef at Pei Modern, where the event was held, Lynton Tapp spoke about the index-finger salute used to acknowledge and thank other people in the NT, generally while driving.

The packed event saw NT flavours served, including buffalo ricotta croquettes, and **BEN** discussing the gesture with some of the more than 120 guests.

We infer it's much like the 'Force wave' used at pedestrian crossings, to thank Sydney drivers for not mowing you down, and the thumbs up in Western society (although not in Roman society, obviously).

Get the inside story

MEA Professional Development is offering the opportunity to hear the inside story about the IUCN World Parks Congress on 16 Mar in Sydney.

Attendees will hear how stakeholders worked together and the logistics of co-ordinating the meeting space in the venue.

Speakers include John Schryver of Staging Connections and Christine Kotsis of ExpoNet.

Costs start from \$30.

CLICK HERE to register.

Apology

BEN would like to apologise to Voyages for using an incorrect advertisement on 04 Mar.

\$6m NSW conference plan

THE NSW government has made a pre-election commitment of \$6m for the development of a Regional Conference Strategy.

Slated to be complete by May and developed by Destination NSW, the strategy would see a new business unit formed with a remit including building industry capability, developing promotional campaigns and providing support for conference bids, according to NSW Deputy Premier Troy Grant.

The funding boost is estimated to deliver about \$24m in economic benefits across the state.

Grant said most regional cities had an airport, numerous hotels and conference venues that could host up to 400 delegates.

More conferences in regional NSW would boost economic activity and jobs, he said.

Industry groups have welcomed the announcement, with Tourism Accommodation Australia acting ceo Carol Giuseppi saying the decline in business travel, particularly meetings, over the past three or four years had affected many regional towns mid-week.

"Regional centres are well-served by airports and in many areas have outstanding facilities

Jacques to Langham

ANDRÉ Jacques has joined The Langham Melbourne as director of sales and marketing.

Most recently with the Sheraton Melbourne, he was also responsible for the sales and marketing of the Middle East's first St Regis property, the St Regis Doha, as well as launching the luxurious St Regis Washington D.C. in the USA.

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– such as the new Hunter Valley Conference & Events Centre – and we believe that with greater promotion and support that these destinations can attract many more major conferences."

Inland NSW chair Rodger Powell said the strategy would deliver economic benefits to key towns such as Tamworth, Armidale and Broken Hill.

"Dispersal to regional areas is an important contributor to their economic wellbeing and conferencing plays a significant role in driving visitation and increasing expenditure."

Mantra Lorne spends \$1m on upgrades



MANTRA Lorne, the former Mantra Erskine Beach Resort, is to undergo a \$1m refurbishment, slated to start in April and finish at the end of May.

Already \$35,000 has been spent on the property's Heritage Ballroom, including new lighting and window treatments, air conditioning and structural work, while carpets and state of the art conferencing panels are slated for Heritage rooms two and three.

Work is also being done on the Heritage and Private Dining rooms, including a new bar and an extension to the size of the restaurant.

Ben on BEN

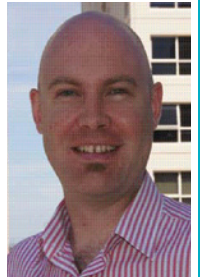


Each month Business Manager for inPlace Recruitment, Ben Carnegie, writes his observations from the recruiter's perspective to help job hunters find the perfect job.

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

How to get your mojo back!

SO THE time to change your job has come. But what do you do when there aren't the right roles out



there for you? You can't just quit. You need to leave on a high note and maintain the high level of work you are known for. Here are a few tips to help you get your mojo back whilst you wait.

1. Mix things up in your diary – you may get different results.
2. Find a mentor outside your company – external mentors keep you accountable for your future goals and are impartial sounding boards.
3. Change location – if you're desk bound, set up your laptop elsewhere in the office, in the park or by the pool. A change like this provides new perspective.
4. Surround yourself with people who can help get you to where you want to be. Nuff said!

Motivation comes from within and a few simple changes can be all it takes.

Business Events News is Australia's newest online publication dedicated to the vibrant meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

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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)

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Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Jill Varley info@businesseventsnews.com.au

Deputy Editor: Alex Walls

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

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

