



Opportunity out of adversity

FOREIGN

Affairs

Minister Julie

Bishop's vow

on behalf of Australia to help Vanuatu post-cyclone Pam, and her urging tourists to visit to support the economy, opens CSR opportunities for the business events industry, particularly for corporates and meeting planners with small to medium groups.

An estimated 166,000 people have been affected, and between 50% to 90% of infrastructure, including crops, destroyed, so there will be much help needed in rebuilding communities and supplying schools with necessities.

Right now, Vanuatu is calling on people with some expertise in agriculture, in cropping and in livestock health and management.

MEANWHILE for something completely different.

It's just a short stroll away from Singapore's Chinatown to Ann Siang Hill and Club Street, once the homeground of traditional Chinese clan associations and exclusive social clubs and now home to quirky outdoor cafes and bars of varying concepts.

Then out of left field there's Operation Dagger, where even finding the place requires insider information or knowledge of the Wesley Snipes film, Blade.

You enter via a darkened stairway into a room where thousands of lightbulbs hang cloud-like above you and bottles behind the bar are hand-written and non-branded.

More of a Heston Blumenthal apocathary than a watering hole, here astonishing presentations are on offer, such as the Egg (\$25) an indeterminate spirit infused in a glass bowl of trapped hay and smoke and the alluring Mulled Wine cocktail (\$22), connected with a blowtorch.

Worth checking out if (a) you can afford it and (b) you can find it! *Jill*



\$12m for Sydney Centre

THE NSW government has given a pre-election promise to invest \$12m in a new-build Western Sydney Community and Sports Centre, set to feature exhibition and event halls.

Minister for Sport and Recreation Stuart Ayres said the \$60m facility (artist's impression **pictured**) would host sporting events as well as trade shows and exhibitions.

The Commonwealth government would match the state contribution, with the remaining \$36m funded by the Penrith Panthers.

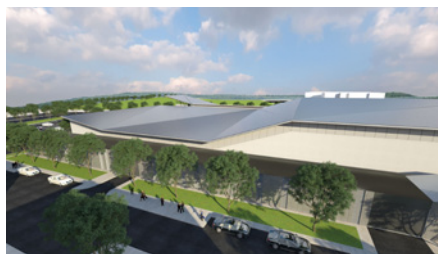
The Centre would also feature a large gymnasium and space for various indoor sports including netball and wheelchair rugby, the Premier's office said.

BEN understands the Centre would include 4,430 sqm of exhibition and event halls, with construction expected to start to early next year on a site on Mulgoa Road.

Ayres said the Centre aimed to provide a purpose built, multi-purpose facility that provided community, sports, exhibition and separate event spaces.

"Penrith is a growing regional city and this project is designed to specifically target major tradeshow and exhibitions and bring them to Western Sydney.

"Such events will have a direct impact on the Western



Sydney economy through accommodation, restaurants and local businesses."

Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia ceo Joyce DiMascio said with the growth occurring in Western Sydney, it was important that events infrastructure was refreshed and upgraded.

"The new facility in Penrith will provide a valuable addition to the inventory of events venues across Sydney."

Capri by Fraser sneak peek

THE public is invited to get a sneak peek of the Capri by Fraser, Brisbane on 31 Mar.

The open house would allow visitors to see the hotel's two event spaces, with capacity for up to 150 people and 20 people respectively, as well as hotel suites and the Capri Club Lounge, Frasers Hospitality said.

A gold coin donation on entry would go to Oxfam, the company said.

The hotel is taking bookings from 23 Mar, with an official opening on 01 Apr.

New Crowne Plaza in Hobart in 2017



INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group (IHG) has signed a management agreement with The Kalis Group for a \$45m, 187-room Crowne Plaza Hobart.

Slated to open in 2017, the hotel would be part of the mixed-use development, the ICON Complex, IHG said.

It would feature a 500 sqm ballroom divisible into two rooms, a boardroom, one meeting room of about 100 sqm, divisible into two rooms, and a 24 hour business centre, IHG said.

Kalis Group ceo Alexia Kalis said Hobart was growing in popularity as a meetings and tourism destination.

"Now is a great time to be developing an internationally-branded upscale hotel, as this is where the biggest opportunity is in the market right now."

The announcement follows Business Events Tasmania chairman Malcom Wells saying more accommodation was needed in Hobart (**BEN** 20 Mar).

Fiji Airways Platinum sponsor for FTE

FIJI Airways has been confirmed as the Platinum sponsor for the Fiji Tourism Expo (FTE).

Tourism Fiji said the Expo, held from 15 to 19 Jun at the Denarau Convention Centre, was expected to see more than 250 operators and businesses exhibit.

The organisation announced plans for a convention bureau for Fiji, as well as a new website, to be up and running in time for the Expo (**BEN** 31 Oct 14).

CLICK HERE to access the site.

LEAVE EARTH.

for your

NEXT CONFERENCE

MEETINGS | INCENTIVES | CONFERENCES | CHARTERS | EXECUTIVE RETREATS

Stand out from the crowd and book your next corporate event with P&O.

Choose from 58 itineraries starting from just 3 nights, including accommodation, main meals and venue hire with dedicated conferencing facilities. Step out of your office and into ours.

CONTACT | MICE@POCRUISES.COM.AU | CALL 1300 366 168 | POCRUISES.COM.AU



business events news

25th March 2015

ACCOR HOTELS.COM
15% WA HOTEL CATERING CREDIT
[LEARN MORE](#)



IF YOU'RE a lover of the TED Talks, you'll need to head to Vancouver in future to see the real thing, with the news that the city is set to host the annual TED conference for at least another five years.

Held at the Vancouver Convention Centre this year, TED curator Chris Anderson said while no contracts had been entered into, letters had been sent to the TED community with dates out to 2020, *Conference and Meetings World* reported.

This year's Talks featured Monica Lewinsky speaking about public shaming, particularly through digital channels, while other notable speakers include Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg and theoretical physicist (and recent Hollywood muse) Stephen Hawking.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a list of the funniest TED Talks.

MEA update

EARLY bird tickets for the Meetings and Events Australia (MEA) 2015 National Conference close this Friday (27 Mar).

This week also marks the first of MEA's state awards (**BEN** 16 Mar) culminating in the National Awards held on Hamilton Island on 26 May.

MEANWHILE the MEA 2015 National Conference program is out now with a more practical element to it, along with post-conference initiatives that will help attendees implement the tools they learn from the sessions.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

The 'accidental museum'

WITHIN Singapore's Peranakan community at Joo Chiat Terrace is The Intan, a Peranakan home-museum.

Owned by antique collector Alvin Yapp, this 'accidental museum,' started when Yapp was 12 years old, has grown into a fascinating fusion of traditions, beliefs and tastes that give an insight into bygone chapters of the Peranakan culture.

Yapp said apart from Singapore, Malacca and Penang, some of the pieces were acquired in India, China and England.

"With every piece, I learnt something new about my culture."

The museum's compact 90 sqm is also available for intimate Peranakan dinners and such things as cooking classes, wine appreciation evenings and themed events for up to 40 people.

"The more unlikely the event, the more excited I get," he said with glee.

A self-sustaining enterprise, totally unpaid and unfunded, it was awarded 'Best Overall Experience' in Singapore's Museum Roundtable Awards.

The affable Yapp, seemingly a dab hand at anything he turns to,



is also an accomplished musician who can pick out any tune you care to hum on his piano.

To wit, **BEN** sat cheek by cheek with him for a rousing Aussie singalong.

[CLICK HERE](#) to enquire.

Hilton digital check-in in Australasia

HILTON Worldwide's digital check-in and room selection is now live across its Australasian hotels and more than 4,300 hotels worldwide.

Guests could check-in and choose rooms from digital floor plans on desktop, tablet and mobile devices through Hilton HHonors accounts, the hotel said.

Guests could also request item deliveries through devices, it said.

QLD in China

A DELEGATION of tourism businesses is in China this week to showcase the state as a holiday destination.

Led by Tourism and Events Queensland, the sixth annual Greater China Mission involved more than 40 Queensland operators including Brisbane Marketing and Tourism Tropical North Queensland, Minister for Tourism and Major Events Kate Jones said.

The delegation will meet about 300 Chinese retail agents, airline representatives and more.

WA \$200k marketing campaign

THE Western Australia government has launched a \$200,000 marketing campaign to encourage holidays in areas affected by the Northcliffe fires.

Operators in the area, including surrounding towns such as Walpole and Nannup, had reported a "significant drop" in business following the fires, the government said.

Launched last week, the campaign would encourage visitors over Easter and throughout winter, it said.

Tassie breakdown

BUSINESS Events Tasmania has provided a breakdown of the economic and social benefits of business events to the state.

These include 34,600 delegates per annum staying for 5.65 days with an average daily spend while conferencing of \$572.57.

You can view it by [CLICKING HERE](#).

PillowMint DELIVERING DYNAMIC DESTINATIONS THROUGH A BOUTIQUE PORTFOLIO OF EXCEPTIONAL PARTNERS
info@pillowmint.com.au | pillowmint.com.au

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

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

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

