



Corporate 7s tickets

HOT on the heels of the Sydney Sevens rugby tournament, Platinum Pass, a division of the Danmor Group have announced a limited supply of corporate packages are still available for this year's Hong Kong Sevens tournament held 8-10 Apr.

Packages offered include corporate seats, premium ticketing, functions and other bespoke tailored options.

For details call 1300 766 332 or info@platinumpass.com.au

Hawaii emergency

A STATE of emergency has been declared for Hawaii Island due to an outbreak of dengue fever.

As of yesterday, 252 people on Hawaii island have been infected over the past five months - 24 of whom were visitors.

Despite this, DFAT has not updated its advice levels or issued any warnings against travelling to the island.

NZ event arrivals spike

THE number of Aussies crossing the ditch to New Zealand for business events spiked 10.4% in 2015 exceeding 40,000 visitors, compared to 2014, according to latest figures released by Statistics New Zealand.

Conventions and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) chief executive Sue Sullivan says "the latest growth puts New Zealand in a strong position" as the group heads to the Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo (AIME) in Melbourne this month.

CINZ will be hosting the only buyers breakfast at AIME this year, where guests will be welcomed by Maori Cultural ambassador Ngahihi o te ra Bidois.

"New Zealand's success comes from creating meaningful and

authentic experiences and that's what Ngahi will be helping us to share at AIME" said Sullivan.

The buyers breakfast will be held Wed 24 Feb.

For more information about CINZ visit www.conventionsnz.co.nz.



Vivid lights up zoo

IN CELEBRATION of Taronga Zoo's 100th birthday, the annual Sydney lights festival, Vivid, will illuminate the zoo grounds for the first time in history.

Giant sculptures will be installed on site, representing the 10 critical species the zoo is committed to protecting, which includes the Corroboree Frog and the Asian Elephant.

Vivid Sydney will run from 27 May to 13 Jun this year.

Today's issue of BEN

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

- AA Appointments

Team WA to AIME '16

THE Perth Convention Bureau (PCB) will unveil a brand new look for the Western Australia stand at AIME this month, to promote destination Perth and Western Australia to key MICE buyers.

Located at stand #3932, PCB will be joined by 13 of its members including: AccorHotels, Hyatt Regency, Explanade Hotel, Duxton Hotel Perth and AVPartners.

The latest edition of the Meeting Planners Guide 2016-18 will also be launched, with PCB encouraging expo-goers to pick up a copy from 12pm-2pm.

AIME is hosted at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 23-24 Feb.

For more on the exhibitors visit www.aime.com.au.

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business events news

11th February 2016



WITH Valentines Day just around the corner, a snack manufacturer has found the way to any woman's heart - with a bouquet of roses made from Doritos chips.

Doritos released a limited offering of 12 long-stemmed roses overnight, created with petals made of ketchup-flavoured Dorito chips (formerly discontinued).

Unfortunately, the free bouquets were only available in Canadian cities Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, and have since been swooped up.

But fear not, as Doritos have since released a handy DIY guide on how to construct the tasty-yet-romantic Valentines gift.

Impress your valentine by **CLICKING HERE**.



CINZ hosted buyers

CONVENTIONS and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) will be sending out invitations to hosted buyers this week for the 20th MEETINGS exhibition in Auckland.

Hosted buyer applications close 18 Apr, to apply **CLICK HERE**.

IACC: Future proofing

THE International Association of Conference Centres has unveiled a new initiative aimed to "transform the meeting experience through a global collaboration of leaders in conference room design".

Dubbed IACC Meeting Room of the Future, the new initiative aims to research solutions on what is needed "for tomorrow's meeting rooms".

"As the only global organisation representing smaller meetings and venues, IACC is singularly-positioned to spearhead this initiative," commented IACC's ceo, Mark Cooper.

"These environments profoundly influence people, behaviours, companies, politics and ultimately economies," he added.

IACC will partner with Meeting Professionals International (MPI) on a survey involving 1,000 of the association's members.

Results of the study will be

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published globally and presented at the IACC-America's Connect conference this Apr.

Currently, researchers and contributors to the project include: Microsoft, Dianne Devitt, Corbin Ball Associates, Sli-do, Benchmark Hospitality International, MGSM Executive Hotel & Conference Centre and PSAV.

Show me paradise

TOURISM Port Douglas &

Daintree are inviting visitors to send in their best holiday snaps and videos of the region to

be into win over \$4,000 in cash prizes.

The best entries collected will be used to promote the Port Douglas & Daintree region.

Up to three images or a 30 second clip can be submitted.

To enter, or for more information visit tpdd.com.au/showmeyourparadise.

AIME event sell-out

TICKETS for the anticipated Asia Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo (AIME) are being snatched up by an "unprecedented" number of MICE, travel and tourism professionals.

"We have experienced a surge in ticket sales and I encourage everyone who hasn't yet purchased their ticket to get in quick," remarked Karen Bolinger, chief executive officer for the Melbourne Convention Bureau.

"Our ambitious One Year in Melbourne in One Night theme has pushed our event partner Event Management Group (EMG) to take the event to new heights".

The AIME welcome event kicks off on w22 Feb, the evening before the two-day trade expo.

IHG appointments

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group (IHG) has appointed Yvette Peverell as its new director of communications, Australasia and Japan.

Peverell will be based at the Sydney office.

Hawaii MICE boom

HAWAII welcomed 333,998 Aussie visitors in 2015 - a 7.8% increase year on year, according to latest figures released by Hawaii Tourism.

The report indicated one of the largest growth areas observed, was the number of Aussies visiting the islands for corporate meetings or conferences, recording a 44% hike in 2015 over the year before.

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Accor flies rainbow flag



ACCORHOTELS has penned an open letter, pledging its support of Australian Marriage Equality.

"An equal society, free of discrimination allows our employees to function at their best and have genuine connections and emotional experiences with our guests," commented chief operating officer AccorHotels Pacific, Simon McGrath.

"We are serious about providing our people with equal opportunities and openly pledge our support for marriage equality in Australia.

"Just like our 10,000 employees come from all walks of life, so too do our guests.

It's our number one priority to ensure that our hotels make every person feel welcome, valued and equal regardless of their gender, race, religion of sexuality," he continued.

Team members from The Swanston Hotel, Melbourne Grand Mercure and Mercure Melbourne are **pictured** above "flying the rainbow flag" at a pride march in Victoria held at the end of January.



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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**.

"Kale, Cous-Cous & Carrot Crumbs"

In my role as a conference MC I often attend conferences and stay in hotels for several days in a row. And given that I'm on the go from early in the morning till late at night, it means I live on hotel food.

I'm usually in the conference room an hour before the morning session kicks off, so a quick breakfast is all I have time for.



Then comes lunch-time and more often than not I'm still in the conference room, getting ready for the afternoon session, updating notes, meeting the presenters, refining things with the conference organisers etc. All part of the job.

Problem is by the time I finally dash out to grab some lunch from the buffet table, I'm often too late and all that's left at the buffet is the stuff no one wanted. That dodgy sandwich with too much sweet potato; a bit of rice and curry sauce with a few sinewy pieces of chicken that no one served themselves because understandably they preferred the appetising pieces. And there's always the final, lonely, sad slabs of salad - the unwanted pieces of kale or quinoa, the discarded crumbs of cous-cous or carrot.

So that culinary flotsam and jetsam becomes my lunch. First world problem?

Absolutely. But as regular readers of this column will know, most of my petty gripes about conference food, faulty air con, uncomfortable chairs and so on, are classic first world problems. If I'm being paid to stay in a beautiful hotel, meet lots of fascinating people, talk a bit and have fun, then any downsides are likely to be first world problems.

So kale, quinoa and carrot crumbs are frequently my staple conference lunch diet.

That said, the listless, leafy leftover "loser" lunch is sometimes counter-balanced for me by that incredibly exciting part of some multi-day day conferences (and one of my favourite parts of any conference agenda) the 'Free Night'.

Occasionally I have dinner on the free night with my client, but every now and then I get the indulgent opportunity to kick off my shoes, get out my laptop loaded with TV shows or movies that I never have time to watch - and to spend the night winding down while indulging in the bliss of room-service. Ahhhhh.

A medium-rare grain-fed wagyu beef steak, a mixed salad and thick-cut chips dinner is my reward for a kale, cous-cous and carrot leftover "loser" lunch. It provides a little compensation for having to be away from my family for a few days.

And each time my in-room dining experience ends and I obediently place my tray and stainless-steel hemisphere lids in the corridor outside my room (wedging my foot firmly against the door to ensure I don't get locked out in my daggy jammies) I check my dinner plates to ensure I haven't left behind any kale, carrot or cous-cous scraps - because that would be the ultimate irony.

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.



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This well-established travel company seeks an experienced group travel consultant to assist their long standing clients with all domestic & international group travel arrangements. Minimum 2 years international travel consulting experience, strong fares knowledge, experience with group travel coordination & the ability to work under pressure is essential! You will benefit from an exceptionally great working environment, uncapped earning potential, Monday to Friday hours & benefits including free gym use! Apply today.

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This well-established global company are expanding! Recently winning new accounts within the sports & entertainment industries, they now need their next sales superstar to join their professional team. You must have a min. 2 years corporate experience & have the ability to work well under pressure. A top salary package is on offer including uncapped commissions, in addition to famil offerings, invites to exclusive events, in house gym facilities & a great city fringe location with a bright & vibrant office.

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This award winning organization is looking for an experienced group's consultant to join their already well-established team. As a group specialist you will utilize your time management and organizational skills in coordinating bookings of 10+ passengers. Deal directly with airlines and suppliers, use your negotiation skills, and build strong industry relationships. Great opportunity to get out of face to face, and NO MORE WEEKENDS! If you are looking for that next opportunity in the industry APPLY NOW!!!

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