



Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News

today has two pages of news plus a full page from AA Appointments.

Xmas Venue reminder

BUSINESS Events News' annual Xmas Venue Guide will launch from next Thu.

Limited advertising spots are still available - refer to the **back page** for more details.

360° VR exhibition

HOBBYISTS and craft enthusiasts who missed out on the recent Craft and Quilt Fair held at the Sydney Exhibition Centre can now experience the event virtually with SEC@GI's 360 degree virtual reality photography.

The technique has been utilised recently by other venues to showcase their spaces, however SEC@GI say it is the first time it has been used to transport the viewer to an actual exhibition experience complete with exhibitors, visitors and show floor activities.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view.

Accor acquires FRHI

ACCORHOTELS Group has this week announced the successful acquisition of FRHI Hotels & Resorts and its three luxury hotel brands: Fairmont, Raffles and Swissotel.

Group chairman and ceo, Sebastien Bazin, called the acquisition of FRHI's 154 hotels and resorts a "historical milestone" for the firm.

"It will open up amazing growth prospects, lift our international presence to unprecedented heights, and build value over the long term," he said.

The deal sees hotels such as The Savoy, Raffles Singapore, Fairmont San Francisco, The Plaza New York and Le Royal Monceau Raffles Paris will be added to Accor's portfolio.

TNZ: wanted MICE bid mgr

TOURISM New Zealand is expanding its Australian team, yesterday revealing its intentions to bring on board a new Business Events Bid Manager.

The newly-created position will be based in Sydney, with the recruit sought to be tasked with promoting New Zealand as "the ultimate business events destination."

This will be achieved by developing and implementing marketing, media, trade and partnership strategies and working alongside TNZ's offices based all around the world.



The position has been advertised on LinkedIn and is calling for applicants with a "love of travel, a passion for New Zealand" and proven experience in the MICE

market within a sales or account management role.

Interested parties should send a cover letter and resume to tnzhr@tnz.govt.nz before the 25 Jul closing date.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the job ad.

Sheraton Saigon unveils function space

A FRESHLY refurbished ballroom and function space is set to debut at the Sheraton Saigon Hotel & Towers, following a three month long renovation project.

Available from this month, new meeting facilities include a Grand Ballroom and pre-function area which is capable of accommodating up to 1,200 delegates.

HTA Earlybird offer

HAWAII Tourism has extended its deadline for PCOs to take advantage of its discounted earlybird pricing fee to 31 Jul.

Converging in Honolulu in Sep, the conference will also include nine curated tours as well as networking sessions.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.



ICC Sydney has appointed four new chefs to its food and beverage team ahead of its official opening in five months.

Supporting ICC Sydney's new executive chef Tony Panetta in the kitchen is Constantin Kautz, Jack Astin, Michael Belcher and Dylan Sanding.

ICC Sydney director of culinary services, Lynell Peck, said the new recruits are already creating meals and menus for the venue and will be responsible for delivering the convention centre's industry-first Feeding Your Performance philosophy.

The fresh faces are **pictured**.

Sprintr technology

A NEW event technology solution is set to debut at the 2016 Events Uncovered showcase in Sydney on 19 Jul.

Named Sprintr, the new tool has been designed to streamline the registration and ticketing process; allowing for automated name badge printing, QR code scanning and sponsorship opportunities.

Sprintr is the brainchild of production company AV1 and event technology company Entegy, who teamed up to "revolutionise the event registration process".

"Sprintr is easy to setup and use, cost-effective and significantly reduces time costs associated with delegate management," said AV1 managing director Keith Wootton.



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business events news

14th July 2016



ABOVE: Event and hospitality company, iVvy, has taken home the coveted iAward, Australia's leading awards program for innovation in the digital space.

Group ceo and co-founder, Lauren Hall, said they were extremely proud to be chosen as an iAward winner.

"iVvy started as a vision to

help the events and hospitality industry save time, resources and costs...iAward is not just a recognition of the team's efforts in achieving this vision, but also a strong testament to our ability to innovate ahead of the curve," she said.

Pictured is ceo Lauren Hall and cto James Greig from iVvy.



crumbs!

YOU'LL never need to leave your furry friends at home again.

Fino Hotel and Suites in Christchurch has opened its doors to guests of both the two-legged and four variety this week.

"When we are travelling as a family, what often holds us back is having to accommodate for the dog, but if we had a hotel where we could take him, I would jump at that opportunity," general manager Dilan de Silva told *Stuff*.

He said they "can't wait to welcome some pampered pets through the doors".

Three suites out of the 48 are reserved for guests and their pets, with the special rooms to include water bowls, dog beds and kitty litter.

PCOA prelim program

REGISTRATIONS are open to attend the Personal Conference Organisation Association's (PCOA) 9th Annual Conference and Exhibition, held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Featuring six workshops, two full days of conference sessions, networking events and post conference famils, the PCOA Conference Exhibition 2016 will run from 27-29 Nov.

Register before 14 Oct to take advantage of discounted fees.

DMS clarification

MICHAEL Kater heads Compass Tours Incoming in Germany, not Araceli Dimeglio as reported on Tue's edition of *BEN*.

The group offer programs all throughout Germany.



Find out why this little guy is so excited about Perth as your next MICE destination in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read

travelBulletin

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*.

Shirt happens!!!

I HAVE a confession to make. I collect conference t-shirts. I don't mean "collect" in terms of going out of my way to accumulate as many conference t-shirts as possible, I don't spend any time on eBay searching for conference t-shirt bargains. I certainly don't attend Conference T-shirt Conventions looking to pick up vintage conference t-shirt bargains.



I mean that I 'collect' them in the same way that the top of my wardrobe collects dust or the manner in which my gutters collect leaves. Or the way that the middle drawer in everyone's office desk collects old batteries. I mean I simply don't get rid of them, I am unable to throw them out. I should. But I don't.

And this is a problem because as a conference MC and speaker I attend countless conferences each year, many of which give delegates a conference t-shirt (or for the more lavish conferences...a polo shirt). Sure there's no problem wearing it for the group photo or perhaps on the team-building day - but what about once the conference ends?

With respect to my darling, much valued clients, I'm simply never going to wear that orange (insert company here) 2014 Barossa Valley "Building Bridges" Conference shirt in public ever again. The key words here though are "in public" because - and here's the even bigger confession....while many of these collectables collect dust in my wardrobe, the truth is - in the privacy of my own home, quite a few of these t-shirts prove invaluable..... as pyjama tops.

Yep, for the last 20 years, I've slept in old, faded, thinning conference tees.

Wizard Home Loans may no longer exist but they were outlived by their 2008 Hamilton Island conference tee which continued life as a much-loved, cosy pyjama top until about a year ago when, like most of my old conference PJ tees, it started a new life as a laundry rag.

From the conference itself to my bottom drawer, to the bedroom, to the laundry, to cleaning up after the dog - that's the lonely life-cycle of my conference tees.

So to my clients and conference organisers and manufacturers of conference merchandise, please feel comforted that your t-shirts are keeping me warm at night and eventually helping clean my windows. And while other conference attendees may not admit it (because I know many other conference junkies do it too) I'm not afraid to tell you to 'keep your shirt on!!!'.

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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GROUPIES, THIS IS FOR YOU!

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Are you tired of working towards commission? Make the move to wholesale now! This award winning client is looking for a passionate, vibrant and dynamic wholesale reservations consultant to join their friendly team. You will be selling their extensive range of luxury packaged group tours, providing exceptional customer service & that high end touch! Be rewarded with guaranteed educationals, career progression & annual bonuses. Min 1 yr travel industry experience, great sales ability, GDS skills preferred & great attitude. Apply now!

BE THE FACE OF THE PRODUCT

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Boutique special interest touring agency wants a passionate & sales focused individual to drive the company forward. Identify new opportunities for growth & be responsible for nurturing new & existing relations. Oversee the coordination process, ensuring the itinerary is built on time & within budget. You will need prior on the road & pref groups exp, ability to develop partnerships & high attention to details. Be rewarded with top salary package, incentives, M-F hours only, an office closer to home & amazing team.

ARE YOU A JAPANESE SPECIALISTS?

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SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE STARTING FROM \$50K

Are you an experienced group's consultant passionate about all things Japanese? Fantastic opportunity to work for a leading Global company specialising in both inbound and outbound travel. One day you'll be organising group tours of the Cherry Blossom festival, another day book Mt Fuji. With modern offices in the heart of the CBD, 2min walk from public transport and close to shops. Currently interviewing, minimum 1 year in the Travel Industry, GDS required Sabre preferred, Proficient Japanese Language required.

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JOIN IN ON THE PRODUCTION

ENTERTAINMENT CONSULTANT

MELBOURNE (INNER) – SALARY PKG UP TO \$65K (OTE)

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TICKET TO THE MAIN EVENT

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Have you ever dreamed of being one with the stars, receiving VIP invitations to all the big events, meet the big names in both the sports and entertainment industry, and all this while making a name for yourself? Dream no more, we have the job for you! You will be servicing only VIP clients, working Monday to Friday hours and earn an incredible salary! Sound like the perfect opportunity for you? Apply NOW! Minimum 3 years travel consulting experience. Galileo experience favored.



business events news

CHRISTMAS VENUE GUIDE 2016

- ✓ Competition is high among those promoting their Christmas and New Years venues.
- ✓ Stand out from the crowd and generate leads with our Christmas Venue Guide.
- ✓ Showcase specialised offers, Christmas or Holiday themed activities, along with New Year functions to our readers.

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Christmas Venue Guide

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Business Events News guide to 2015/16 Christmas venues is the place to showcase!
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www.westinmelbourne.com



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Celebrate in style and allow SMC's dedicated event specialists to do all the work for you with our all-inclusive \$99.00 packages:
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• 4 canapés per person
• 4-hour beverage package
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Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre Broadbeach, QLD

Take the stress out of organising this year's Christmas party and leave the hard work up to us at GCCEC's iconic Centre of Christmas. Sit back and enjoy a decadent evening of seasonal festivities or celebrate in style with live entertainment, premium beverages, award-winning catering and so much more! Tickets are available online for \$135 per person or \$1,200 per table of 10 but be sure to get in quick, seats are selling fast for the 4 December event!
www.gccec.com.au



Each guide will feature four (4) different venues with an image, selected copy and contact details - all linked through to a website, PDF or email contact.*

This guide will be included in each Thursday edition of Business Events News from July 2016.

RATES:

- 1 Insertion - \$150+GST
- 2 Insertions - \$250+GST
- 4 Insertions - \$400+GST

Bookings can be made by contacting us at

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