



P&O SETS COURSE FOR EVENTS

P&O Cruises has put forward its new Australian-based ship *Pacific Explorer* in its latest move to lure conferences to sea.

The 77,000-tonne ship made its debut in Sydney last month after a 12-day dry dock in which a host of new features were added for the Australian market.

The ship is now available for corporate bookings, sailing year round from Sydney with capacity for up to 1,998 guests.

Its largest conference space is the Marquee Showlounge which caters for up to 540 delegates and doubles as an entertainment venue for on-board stage shows.

A second theatre, Black Circus, caters for up to 230, while other spaces can handle meetings of up to 50 delegates.

P&O Cruises corporate groups sales manager Rebecca Moutanen said *Pacific Explorer* had "all the right ingredients"



for conferences and incentives.

"P&O's sister ships *Pacific Eden* and *Pacific Aria* offer three dedicated conference venues whilst *Pacific Explorer* has two large theatres and smaller venues making her ideal for flexible conferences," she said.

"The ship is also the perfect incentive and we've already seen several large organisations secure their cruise for next year."

Pacific Explorer offers more

than 60 on board activities that can be integrated into team-building activities, as well as a rock music show and "Gatsby-themed" theatre production.

Conference cruise prices including accommodation, all meals, venue hire, AV and technical assistance start from \$529 per person twin share for a three-night cruise ex Sydney.

CLICK HERE for P&O's dedicated corporate website.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news plus the latest **BEN** Christmas Venue Guide on **page three**.

BNE connect

BRISBANE'S Airtrain is now offering a premium door-to-door service ideal for business events delegates on the Gold Coast.

The option includes an express train transfer to one of the stations on the Gold Coast plus a chauffeured private vehicle onward to accommodation or meeting venues.

Special conference rates and promotional codes to allow delegates to book discounted rates can be established by contacting marketing@airtrain.com.au.

New Torrens MICE training options

TORRENS University Australia has announced upcoming programs of study in

hospitality, with a particular emphasis on conferences, meetings, incentives and event management.

The Torrens courses are on offer at William Blue College of Hospitality Management in Sydney, as well as the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School and kick off in trimester 3 commencing in September this year.

The business events-focused programs include a Bachelor of Business (International Event Management), Associate Degree and Diploma of Event Management, and Bachelor of Business (Event Management), along with postgraduate programs in Global Business Management, according to Vice Chancellor, Professor Justin Beilby.

He said statistics from the Department of Employment indicate "excellent prospects for hotel, conference and event management professionals," with employment numbers in the business event sector predicted to reach 25,400 by 2020, up from 13,500 in 2005 - see torrens.edu.au for more details.



Oaks Hotels China program

OAKS Hotels & Resorts has launched its Chinese 'gui bin' initiative that will roll out at select properties in this region from Aug.

Named after the Chinese term for 'VIP' and 'honoured guest', the 'gui bin' program will aim to ensure Chinese guests feel welcome.

The scheme will see visitors receive a welcome letter in Mandarin on arrival plus a Mandarin speaking staff member to show them how to navigate the hotel's facilities.

Oaks will roll out the initiative at nine hotels that receive a high volume of Chinese visitors including Melbourne's Oaks on Market.





GORE TO MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE is hosting the Ecocity World Summit 2017 over the next few days, headlined by former US Vice President and current chair of the Climate Reality Project, Al Gore.

Over 800 of the world's top urban planners, environmental specialists and architects from over 30 countries will attend the conference.

Being held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), the summit will discuss and debate urban ecology and sustainable city initiatives and ideas.

MCEC chief executive Peter

King said the centre was an ideal venue for the summit.

"We have been a global leader within our industry for many years, thanks to the architectural genius behind our 6-Star Green Star rating and current sustainability practices," King said.

Summit organisers partnered with Melbourne Water to plant 600 plants in nearby parkland in Feb, while a further 400 trees will be planted after the event.

The Ecocity World Summit was secured by The Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, along with other Melb groups.



HERE'S something you don't hear every day: a hedgehog is believed to have started a fire after electrocuting itself in a hotel in Nelson, NZ.

Local firefighters discovered the still-burning remains of the prickly animal under the Turf Hotel in the wee hours of Tue morning.

Stoke chief fire officer Tane Simpson told Stuff.co.nz that the large adult hedgehog had chewed through an electrical cable.

It took the firefighters nearly an hour to find the source of the problem after arriving to discover a "haze of smoke" in the building.

Fortunately for the hotel, no major damage was reported.

Port Douglas back in focus

PORT Douglas is having a boom in business events thanks to a range of factors including the weaker Australian dollar, the Queensland town reports.

Local businesses are holding strong bookings for events of up to 600 people through until 2019.

Business Events Port Douglas chairperson Natalie Johnson said an increase in incentive group bookings was a big plus for the region.

"It is particularly heartening to see an increase in international incentives, as these are the programs which tend to use a comprehensive range of suppliers in the region."

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*.

Airing your dirty laundry at conferences

REGULAR readers of this column will know that my 'Confessions' sessions sometimes turn into dirty laundry airing sessions. It's a fine line (no pun intended).

But last week at a conference in Darwin, I witnessed one of the simplest, most creative and inspiring presentations that I had seen for a long time which literally involved the presenters airing their dirty laundry.

Orange Sky Laundry is the world's first free mobile laundry service for the homeless. Their laundry vans operate all over the country, run by a huge crew of volunteers. Importantly, this wonderful initiative does not just clean the clothes of homeless people, thereby providing them with dignity, it also provides conversation for the homeless in the hour it takes to wash and dry their clothes. Last year, the two young twenty-something creators - Nic Marchesi & Lucas Patchett were honoured as the first ever dual recipients of the Young Australian of the Year Award.

Putting aside how two authentic, humble and self-deprecating these guys come off on stage (think an introverted Hamish and Andy) what struck me was that their conference presentation displayed a brilliant example of how to present information differently and simply - putting their products and services at the centre of the delivery.

Given that 'creating conversations' is just as important part of their community service as laundry,



they combined the two on stage. The two guys appeared to be having a very relaxed conversation, with each other and with the audience, in which they basically just told their story. Their delivery was not polished and perfect and I hope it stays that way, because they are speak in a truly authentic, home-spun, captivating style.

And their master stroke? They schlepp a make-shift hills-hoist on stage, with pegged laundry items hanging off it. Each time they told a story or highlighted a key message, a clothing item would be unpegged and held up to the audience, each item featured a corresponding 1 or 2 word message screen-printed on the shirt, t-shirt or tracky-dack. Simple. Colourful. Memorable. And importantly from a presentation perspective, different!! Not one tired PowerPoint slide in sight.

A perfect example of presenting your key messages in a novel style. I struggled to think of the last time I saw anything totally different during a conference presentation? For two humble guys who are giving all their time, money and effort to growing their important and innovative initiative, I hope they clean-up on the conference circuit (pun definitely intended).

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.



CHRISTMAS VENUE GUIDE



business events news
presents

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h8781-sb@accor.com | www.novotelsydneycentral.com.au



Arts Centre Melbourne Melbourne, VIC

Situated underneath its iconic spire, Arts Centre Melbourne boasts an extraordinary collection of art filled event spaces available to host your festive function. Menus for dining and cocktail functions have been lovingly created with a passion for flavour, freshness and innovation to celebrate the season. Enjoy a traditional festive feast with all the trimmings, three course dining with Christmas themed centrepieces and bon bons or a stand up cocktail function with Chef's selection of Christmas sweets.

For Bookings and Enquiries P: 03 9281 8350 E: events@artscentremelbourne.com.au | www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



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*T&C's apply

