



Favourite things

SILVER white winters may melt into spring...but these are among my favourite things.



- The signature floating three-course breakfast at Ayana Resort & Spa in Bali, an exclusive option for the resort's villa guests.

Hop in your private plunge pool or loll poolside in your cabana where the breakfast tray of gourmet treats, accompanied by plunger coffee, tea, juice and a bottle of bubbly is 'set-sail' by your butler.

- Fly fishing (ok, attempting to) at the beautiful Ballynahinch Castle Hotel in Connemara Co. Galway, where my room overlooked the interconnected loughs and rivers, drained by the Ballynahinch River.
- Club Med Bali's Petit Baby Club preparation room for parents. Open 24 hours a day with all the facilities to prepare meals such as a blender, steriliser, bottle warmer and refrigerator filled with jars of baby food.
- Coombe Abbey in Binley, Warwickshire, founded in 1150 AD by Cistercian Monks. Now a splendid hotel where the attention to medieval detail is impeccable and whose gardens were redesigned in 1771 by 'Capability' Brown. Now, how about you let us know your favourite things by emailing me at jill@businesseventsnews.com.au.

Luxperience - the word is out

IF you want to exhibit at Luxperience in September, it's time to move fast as space is limited, advises the show's ceo and business pioneer, Helen Logas.

The luxury event, to take place at Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal 02-04 Sep, has attracted key partners such as Virgin Australia, Air New Zealand, Destination NSW, The Star, Restaurant Associates, Sydney Town Hall, Decorative Events, Team Event and media partners *Travel Daily* and *Business Events News*.

In addition, Tourism Australia who witnessed the success of the inaugural event in 2012, are now supporting Luxperience.

The event, Logas says will double in size this year while retaining its hallmark atmosphere of intimacy and connectivity.

A quality controlled invitation-only buyer policy has attracted leading travel brands to exhibit including the Council of Bhutan, Monaco Government Tourist Bureau, Taj Hotels Resorts & Palaces, Coco Collection Maldives, Viceroy Hotels, Luxury Lodges of Australia, Great Walks of Australia, Tourism Fiji, Mountain Landing New Zealand, The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs, Berkeley River Lodge, Blanket Bay in New Zealand, state and regional tourist offices and many others.



Luxury lodges, hotels, tour operators, restaurants and exotic destinations, and support service providers are permitted to exhibit and present their products and services, allowing them access to Luxperience's invitation-only family of top-end travel industry buyers from around the world, including new markets such as Latin America.

Logas said demand for Luxperience is also being driven by strong participation from local buyers in Australia and the strength of the local travel industry.

Space, she said, at Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal is in its final sell-out phase.

"Serious players seeking high yields in top end travel need to book now as this ship sails on 01 September," she cautioned.

Companies who want to be recognised in the luxury travel segment simply need to call 02 8584 1777 or email Lindy Andrews at - lindy.andrews@luxperience.com.au.

New Port Stephens MICE suggestions

MICE Port Stephens has released new 2-3 day itineraries for the conference and events market that feature craft beers, luxury yachts, sunset cruises, seafood feasts, parasailing and quad bike rides on Australia's biggest sand dune.

It's described as a mix of inspired work and 'fresh air,' a short drive from Newcastle and other areas of the Hunter Valley.

MICE Port Stephens manager, Rebecca Morley said, "The events which combine adventure, indulgence and relaxation as well as focused productivity, aim to foster inspiration, high morale and strong team bonding, using the deluxe, beachside accommodation, state of the art conference facilities and relaxed ambience Port Stephens can offer" - for details see portstephens.org.au/conferences.

Catch the worm

ABU Dhabi's stunning Jumeirah at Etihad Towers hotel has 'Earlybird' group promotions that include attractive room rates and other benefits if booking an event by the end of May and before the upcoming Formula 1 Grand Prix in November.

Alternatively, confirm a group by September for travel during 2014 and receive increased commissions and a choice of value adds to enhance the offer to your clients - 1800 269 388.

Verve's vital Vivid viewpoint venues

HERE'S a teaser for those seeking the best location to view Vivid.

Verve Creative Events is partnering with one of the most spectacular venues in town to offer a night of champagne, canapes, entertainment and the most impressive view in Sydney.

Then to make the event even more unforgettable, an interactive touchscreen will allow the public to change the colour and scene of the West face of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The package includes a four hour venue hire, canapés and beverage package, entertainment and Vivid Festival inspired theming.

It's priced at \$298 per person based on a minimum of 100 guests, valid when Sydney lights up from 24 May to 10 June.

Find out more by emailing elena@vervecreative.com.au.

Team building. More fun in the Philippines



facebook.com/itsmorefuninthephilippines
 Visit morefuninthephilippines.com.au





IMEX Association Day

WITH just one day to go until IMEX at the Messe Frankfurt Congress Centre opens, Association Day is being held at which 300 association professionals from more



than 30 countries are expected to be in attendance.

The day, which is designed to energise and engage association executives, is dedicated to varying association issues at all levels and is an event regarded as one of IMEX's big successes.

Following the day's educational and networking sessions is the very popular networking evening, which brings together some 900 delegates from across the globe.

Randall adds Grande Centre Point

RANDALL Marketing in Australia has been appointed to represent Bangkok's luxurious Grande Centre Point Hotel Ratchadamri.

With 350 square metres of dedicated meetings and functions space, the hotel is conveniently located next to a Skytrain station and the central business district.

The four rooms range in size from 75 to 138 square metres, and have the capacity to host from 20 to 100 people.

Offering a choice of residential-style accommodation in its 526 units, these include seven different room choices ranging from grand deluxe to three bedroom executive suites.

All units are also designed for use as residential-style accommodation and are fitted with kitchens and laundries and all the household necessities.

See - www.centrepointhotel.com/products/asp.

Cruise the Mekong

DESTINATION management company within South East Asia, Trails of Indochina has a summer season of Mekong Cruises valid for travel from 1 June to 31 August on selected dates, at a 30% discount.

Guests can enjoy a beguiling journey from Vietnam to Cambodia experiencing first class service, gourmet fare and shore excursions on board either the 27 cabin *Jayavarman* or the 26 cabin *Jahan* Mekong cruise vessels.

Email info@trailsindochina.com.

Porsche sets Aussie hearts racing

CELEBRATING the growth and evolution of Porsche's international racing achievements over more than half a century, Porsche Cars Australia is holding its inaugural Porsche Rennsport Motor Racing Festival Australia 2013 at Sydney Motor Sport Park, Eastern Creek.

Also being celebrated is 50 years of the iconic 911 and as part of the landmark event, the Le Mans winning 936 and RS Spyder will be on display, alongside some superb examples of Porsches from all eras.

The milestone festival is being staged throughout the coming weekend of 25-26 May, with 'Porsche Carrera Cup Challenge Australia' and 'GT3 Cup Challenge presented by Pirelli', headlining the festivities.

The action will also stream live at www.rennsportlive.com.au.

WA's Premier event

WESTERN Australasia has introduced its second exclusive Best Western Premier property: the Best Western Premier The Terrace Hotel, Perth.

Described as the quintessential experience in accommodation, dining, entertainment and style, Rob Anderson, chief executive of Best Western Australasia, said, "We are confident any guests who choose to stay at the hotel will enjoy its hotel quality services, luxurious amenities, state of the art technology facilities and a world-class culinary experience that is a trademark of the Best Western Premier brand."

A five minute walk to the CBD, the hotel's exclusive features and services include a dedicated events team to host social, corporate, and private events onsite.

To mark its affiliation with Best Western, Best Western Premier The Terrace Hotel is offering guests who book before 30 June an exclusive 20% saving off the Best Available Rate (starting at \$263) and a free sumptuous restaurant breakfast for the duration of their stay.

For details visit the website at - www.terracehotelperth.bestwestern.com.au.

ITE & MICE HK 2013

THE latest exhibitor list and pre-scheduling appointments portal has now gone live for attendees at Hong Kong's upcoming ITE & MICE 2013 show.

The expo, which draws from around 50 countries and regions and has more than 600 international exhibitors, is a co-location of the 27th Hong Kong International Travel Expo (ITE) and the 8th MICE Travel Expo.

Being held from 13 to 16 June at Halls 1A to 1E in the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, trade visitors already registered are to login using their registered e-mail and last name to make appointments.

See www.itehk.com.



HAPPILY nowadays it's a rare occurrence, however anyone who has ever walked into a "non-smoking" hotel room when they allow smoking in any of its other rooms, have caught the distinct odour of cigarette smoke.

A new study, not surprisingly backs up the fact that nicotine residues and other chemical traces "don't just stay in the smoking rooms," according to Georg Matt, a psychologist from San Diego State University.

"They end up in the hallways and in other rooms, including non-smoking rooms," he said.

The study found smoke residue on surfaces and in the air of both smoking and non smoking rooms in thirty California hotels where smoking was allowed.

Meet in Shanghai

THE PuLi Hotel and Spa in Shanghai with a series of diverse meeting and function venues to choose from, including a multi-functional space able to host exclusive and intimate events and gatherings for up to 150 guests, has two meeting package offers.

A half day meeting package at RMB588pp +15% surcharge per half day includes four hours meeting room rental, one three-course set lunch, welcome coffee breaks, morning or afternoon tea and coffee-breaks with standard equipment.

Full day meeting packages are priced at RMB628pp +15% surcharge per day, including eight hours meeting room rental, one three-course set lunch, welcome coffee breaks, morning and afternoon tea and coffee-breaks with standard equipment.

Applicable to new events before 31 December, bookings must be confirmed on or before 30 June and the offer is applicable to groups of 10 persons or above.

Email - sales@thepuli.com.



business events news

20th May 2013

CONTACT US:

Publisher
Bruce Piper
Editor
Jill Varley
Contributors
Chantel Housler
Advertising:
advertising@businessesnews.com.au

P: 1300 799 220
F: 1300 799 221

PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW,
1710 Business Events
News
is part of the Travel Daily
group of publications
which also include: Travel
Daily, Cruise Weekly and
Pharmacy Daily.

Disclaimer: While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Business Events News* 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.

Clark moves to Destination Asia

IAN Clark, who has spent the past seven years as general manager of the Travel Corporation in Sydney and is well known in the hospitality industry, has been appointed general manager – Destination Asia (Vietnam) in Ho Chi Minh City.

In his new role Clark will work with md Paul Levrier and his team of 45, managing and building on existing growth and further exploring the opportunities that abound in Asia".

He commences on 17 June.



South Pacific inspires

JANINE Tuivaiti, Miss South Pacific 2013, gave an inspiring speech to delegates at the 2013 Bula Fiji Tourism Exchange, (BFTE) last week.



Held in the InterContinental Fiji's Kama Lounge during a morning tea event hosted by the South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO), Tuivaiti's presentation included song and traditional Samoan dance and challenged delegates to recognise the importance of treasuring the heritage and culture of the region, in order to educate and provide visitors with a better understanding of their environments during their visit.

"The treasures of our islands lie in the beauty of our lands, the wonders of our oceans, the intricacies of our crafts, and uniqueness of our cultures," she informed.

SPTO marketing manager, Petero Manufolau says hosting the event was a way for the organisation to create awareness by affirming their commitment to tourism and development.

ICARUS takes flight

WITH an increase in the number of companies building sustainability into their business travel and meetings programs this year, the Project ICARUS Global Advisory Board and Sustainability Committee - the global business travel association - is looking to recognise those companies and individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to greater sustainability in the industry.

Applications close on 15 August.

Awards will be made during the Annual Conference at the GBTA gala evening on 17 September.

For more information and details of how to be considered visit the Project ICARUS website on gbta.org/icarus or contact bharrop@gbtafoundation.org.

Forum Group's tea

FORUM Group Events is hosting an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Friday 24 May at 9am at its offices in Ultimo to support the Cancer Council.

People attending the event are encouraged to donate \$10 to the cause and RSVP to cathy@forumgroup.com.au.



Getting to Know: Alice Springs

by: Jill Varley

Where do you start to write about Alice Springs, probably one of Australia's most under-rated destinations?

As it happens, regions and places fall off the radar and that is what had happened to The Alice. Yet there it is in the geographic centre of Australia, changing, rearranging, yet still quintessentially a step into outback Australia. It's where the Ghan stops on its run to from Adelaide to Darwin, three times a week – an adventure in itself. Where Albert Namatjira painted his distinctive watercolour Central Australia landscapes, where if you hold an event at the Hevitree Gap Lodge in either their bush-themed function room or in their sizable outdoor function area, you are slap bang up against the mighty Macdonnell Ranges. It's where there are meeting rooms and an amphitheatre that can seat 150 people in the Alice Springs Desert Park with its ancient landscapes, desert animals and plants, where unique community events, like the Camel Cup, the Henley-on-Todd Regatta and the eclectic Beanie Festival are held. At its centre is the the town's focal point Todd Mall, currently undergoing a complete makeover, and where close by the stylish Muk Muk Art Gallery is available for cocktail functions. The thing is, Alice has got its skates on and places like Lassisters Hotel Casino currently undergoing a \$35 million development, recently completed a 66-room hotel wing. Then, up the road apiece is the newly dubbed Doubletree by Hilton (formerly the Crowne Plaza) with its well equipped conference facilities, both within walking distance of the Alice Springs Conference Centre with a capacity for 1200 delegates. You can go as far afield as Stanley Chasm which cuts through tough quartzite to form a picturesque natural alleyway and find a unique meeting place for small groups.

There are venues like the Chifley Alice Springs Resort with 139 guest rooms and facilities for business events, Quest with 68 apartments and a small conference room and the Alice Springs Turf Club with countless event possibilities. Alice is where companies like Bindi train assist those with disabilities and who create and make items sought by conference organisers.

And it's where a spectacular private site called The Quarry with a massive outdoor space is located, bordering Undoolya Cattle Station on which thrilling quad bike rides through bush tracks and alongside mountain ranges are taken with Outback Quad Bike Adventures.

