

NEW ZEALAND'S

JULY/AUGUST 2007

meeting newz

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THE CONFERENCE, INCENTIVE & EXHIBITION MAGAZINE



Janet Huff, Waiariki Institute, Jacqui Rutter, AUT University and national sponsor Mike Thompson, from The Gift Station, Auckland during the Association of Administrative Professionals (AAPNZ) Conference at Rotorua Convention Centre on July 6 - 7. The conference had a James Bond theme and attracted 115 delegates. Various sponsors, including Meeting Newz, Stella Resorts and Wotif set up trade displays for the two days. More page 27.

Marine events precinct meets with enthusiasm

Leading function, event and exhibition organisers have welcomed the announcement of a new marine events precinct in Auckland, despite details of the complex being sketchy at the moment.

Auckland City Council has released a booklet titled 'Auckland's marine events precinct - How a world-class events venue fits into Auckland's CBD waterfront vision'. The booklet says that the total marine events centre area will be 17,000 square metres and will consist of 'a versatile building for hosting the events, a large public plaza in front of the built facility and temporary outdoor display areas'.

The current Alinghi Sheds and Team NZ quarters will be dismantled and a new, more attractive and useable building will be erected. It will be on the site of Halsey Wharf and Western Viaduct Wharf and is expected to be complete by 2011 at the latest. Importantly for the events industry, a new bridge will connect the CBD with Wynyard Quarter (next to the precinct), providing access to the new precinct for pedestrians and public transport.

The bridge will span the Viaduct Harbour entrance at Te Wero Island, allowing easier access to the marine precinct for visitors and locals, while

still allowing boats to come and go from the Viaduct Harbour, the council says.

Council spokespeople would not be drawn on the exact size of the events building itself. However, Meeting Newz sources say the centre is likely to have flat floor space of 60 metres x 30 metres. That would make it the biggest one level flat floor space close to the city - anything around 1800 to 2000 square metres would be a third the size again on the largest room in the SKYCITY Convention Centre.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS



Spectacular sunset at The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa

Stress breaker in the Cook Islands

Often a key cause of stress in the workplace is a feeling by team members of being under appreciated. Liz Raizis, The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa's marketing director, says smart companies know that taking their team away to a tropical beach location where they can enjoy diverse activities together in an environment not only builds a sense of team spirit, helps people feel refreshed and sets the scene for fresh ideas, but also makes people feel rewarded.

'Almost nothing feels as good as feeling appreciated and we have the perfect environment in which companies can achieve that for the teams,' says Liz Raizis.

Further to this, she emphasises that increased awareness of 'wellness' is a strong new trend in conference and incentive planning.

'This is a definite win-win. If a manager or key team player is energetic and feeling whole, feeling like they can manage the curve balls life and work throw at them, they are a better person for it. Of course, they are also a better worker for it, and both the individual and the company come out ahead.'

'It's not just about work - life balance, it's also about equipping managers with a tool kit - a kit which includes better self-knowledge, the feeling that it's ok to show vulnerability as a human being and better techniques for managing stress. Being able to relax around colleagues is definitely a

key part of the mix and research has shown that more sharing and less competitiveness within organisations is a potent force for growth.'

Building a health and wellness component into a programme is simple at both The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa and her sister resort, the Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa.

Another key factor is the ability to build in various team building activities.

'Some of our visiting groups really want to take advantage of the location, so for them we've organised some incredible round-the-island safari-style hunts combining elements from Survivor, Amazing Race and Fear Factor, as well as our own activities team's long years of tried and true island experiences.'

'Nothing builds team spirit like having fun together doing 'soft' island-style adventures and challenges. And the way we can string such a huge array of completely diverse activities together like

this all in the same day is unique to Rarotonga.

'I guess the only thing I find surprising is that Rarotonga has been such a well-kept secret for meetings for incentives. Nowadays we have wireless internet by the pool, six satellite channels at the resort, and LCD televisions in our top suites - so there is no shortage of technology and modern comforts to ensure that a group's events and stay all go as smoothly and as enjoyable as possible.'

The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa and sister resort The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa are exhibiting at PAICE this year for the third time, underlining the importance both place on the corporate market from New Zealand.

'PAICE is a great place for corporates to update themselves on our latest developments, which this year include two new pool villas at The Rarotongan and a new pool villa at The Aitutaki Resort.'



take your group...

On Location



The two best-located resorts in the Cook Islands, The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa and The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa, are ready and waiting for your next group event. Warm island hospitality, flexible meeting spaces, fantastic tailored activities, poolside wireless internet access, in-lagoon dining and much more! Discover the difference a fresh destination can make.

"The company conference ran exceptionally well... The food was fabulous and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. Team activities were varied and catered for all levels of people's abilities. The last activity, the Jeep Treasure Hunt, was a great way to round the conference off - really brilliant!" Anne Benbow, Glengarry Hancock liquor merchants.

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