



Tony Everitt



Debbie Gee



Uwe Habermehl



Peter Brampton



Darren Loewy



Matthew Horvat



Kat Hicks

With 15 years' tourism marketing experience, **Tony Everitt** has been appointed to run Destination Queenstown, moving from his role as chief executive of Fiji-based South-Pacific.travel, a non-profit tourism development and marketing organisation (the Fiji-born New Zealander has previously worked in Wellington, Tokyo and Singapore for Tourism New Zealand) ... As Destination Rotorua's new C&I representative for Australia, based in Sydney, **Debbie Gee** (formerly Wootton) is promoting her home city following eight years with Rotorua conference-planning company The Organiser ... Replacing **Paul Kennedy** as group exhibition director for Reed Travel Exhibitions' global meetings and events portfolio, with responsibility for AIME, is **Craig Moyes**, who was previously exhibition director for the company's World Travel Market (he has worked in South America, Asia and Europe); meanwhile, Reed is restructuring its management team with **Mandy Torrens** moving from directing EIBTM to head up marketing and buyer programs for the entire portfolio, while **Graeme Barnett** moves across from CIBTM to direct GIBTM to EIBTM ... Singapore Airlines has a new Queensland management team with **Matthew Raos** as manager and **Andrew Soo** as sales manager (Raos has been with the carrier for 12 years and replaces **Alistair Lindsay**, who has retired after more than 30 years

with Singapore Airlines) ... Tourism Southern Highlands in New South Wales has a new events co-ordinator in **Lisa Evans**, who joins in time to organised the 50th anniversary of the Tulip Time Festival ... While Tourism Auckland's business tourism development manager **Andrea Breton** is on 12 months' maternity leave, her role has been taken over by **Eloise Barnes**, who has returned to New Zealand after working as an event manager in London ... Replacing **Detlef Haupt**, who has moved overseas, **Uwe Habermehl** has been appointed executive chef at Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, which he joined in 1998 (from Germany, he has worked at Sheraton and Hilton hotels in London, Stockholm and Munich, and at Cradle Mountain Lodge and Heron Island Resort in Australia) ... While continuing as GM of the award-winning Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa, **Peter Brampton** takes on the role of cluster general manager for the Gold Coast, which involves overseeing the neighbouring Courtyard by Marriott Surfers Paradise Resort ... The Leading Hotels of the World has appointed **Katey Matthews** from Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts to the new role of regional director for Australasia

... After more than six years with the ETM Group, **Darren Loewy** has been appointed operations manager for Diversified Exhibitions Australia in Melbourne ... After nearly four years as GM at Outrigger on the Lagoon Fiji, **Darren Shaw** has handed the reins to **Peter Hopgood**, who has worked in the tourism industry throughout Australia for more than 30 years (Shaw is preparing to take on a senior role overseas with Outrigger Enterprises Group) ... In his new role as area general manager for Perth for the Rendezvous Hospitality Group, **Matthew Horvat** will lead the management teams for both the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel Perth at Scarborough Beach and The Marquee Hotel Perth in the CBD (he worked in hotels throughout Asia Pacific and the UK before joining Rendezvous in 2004 during the takeover of the former Duxton Hotel in Melbourne, was promoted in 2008 to area general manager for Brisbane and has also undertaken manager-on-project positions in Adelaide and Christchurch) ... After two years at Millennium Hotel Queenstown, **Simon Boyle** has become GM for Copthorne Hotel & Resort Bay of Islands (he has a degree in hotel management from a Swiss hotel school and has worked around the

world for 30 years, including top hotels in the UK and South Africa, with particular interest in the C&I market) ... **Kat Hicks** has moved to Rotorua from Auckland, where she was event co-ordinator for Auckland Convention Centre at the Edge, to become events manager for Rainbow Springs ... Formerly with TNT Australia, **Simon Claringbold** has moved from Microsoft Corporation to become vice-president of sales for Asia Pacific (based in Singapore) for high-definition video communications company LifeSize Communications ... From three years at Awaroa Lodge in Abel Tasman National Park at the northern tip of New Zealand's South Island, **Ivana Forsdick** has become F&B manager at Holiday Inn on Avon in Christchurch ... Team-building drumming company Human Rhythms has a new franchisee in Queensland, **Aaron Walker** ... From Events HQ and Showcase Entertainment, **Brian Hodge** moves to Conrad Jupiters Casino on the Gold Coast as event services manager ... With 14 years' experience in the industry, Aucklander **Tanya Greedy** has launched her own company, Hummingbird Events ... With the Hyatt group for right years, **Kimberley Furnell** has been promoted to director of sales for Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove in Queensland. ☑

CENTRE POINTS

• From page 34

promoting the green agenda, even to the point where there is now a significant gap between what can be delivered and what clients demand (or, in a better test of sincerity, are willing to pay for). To a certain extent this is good as it shows we are getting our house in order.

But the problem is that in many cases this has been at the expense of advancing arguments as to why face-to-face meetings are still important to global economic, professional and cultural development. The travel factor will never go away, so we should acknowledge that a certain amount of impact is a small price to pay for what meetings accomplish.

Meanwhile, there is a whole host of reasons why conventions, and convention centres in particular, will always be driven to higher standards of sustainability, and these are only partly related to the market. Centres are mainly government owned and community sensitive, which means they are likely to be among the first to adopt sustainability measures.

As the green arguments reach fever pitch in some quarters, it is our industry that will suffer. In fact, a growing list of powerful organisations are calling for significant, defined reductions in business travel and meetings – music to the ears of those who provide technological alternatives as well as governments and corporations seeking excuses to cut travel-related spending.

Meetings and conventions are typically where the most significant global exchanges occur, leading to medical and technical advancements, cultural enhancement and better understanding and interaction among different groups worldwide. Does anyone really think the world will become a better place if we all stay at home and communicate via the internet? The green agenda needs to be tempered by the reality that life cannot come to a halt because of sustainability, and that intelligent trade-offs need to be made if we are going to progress as a society. If we as an industry do not make that argument, it's hard to imagine who else will.

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