

TALKING POINT

WINTER 08

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ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

WOW, WHAT A BIRTHDAY TREAT!



WE'RE 21 AND STILL FULL OF SURPRISES!

To celebrate our birthday, the Adelaide Convention Centre threw a party with a twist for 400 valued clients and supporters, some of whom flew in from around Australia.

Guests were told it was to be a moveable feast – but we didn't tell them they would eat the first course in an ice cave, the second surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature and the third under starlight.

The real twist came with the main course – a 'rich man, poor man' theme - with guests at one side of each table being served a beautifully presented, gourmet-style meal and those opposite a more humble, serve yourself repast.

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INNOVATION, CELEBRATION, CONGRATULATIONS

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“What a wow factor!” enthused South Australian Tourism Minister, Jane Lomax-Smith, at our ‘moveable feast’ 21st birthday party.

“This place is fantastic,” she told the 400 guests, describing the Centre as a State icon and an industry pacesetter.

“Congratulations to Alec Gilbert and the team,” she said, as she proposed a toast – to 21 years of exceptional service, both to South Australia and the more than six million people we’ve hosted in that time.

IN BRIEF

Same park, new name

By the way, we’ve changed the name of our car park on North Terrace. It used to be the Exhibition car park and now it bears the much more logical – and descriptive – name, North Terrace car park.

Free parking

Don’t forget that if you dine at our award-winning Regattas Bistro and spend more than \$45 per person, we’ll pay your parking fee. Park in the Riverbank Car Park, bring your ticket and we’ll stamp it for you in the restaurant. The offer applies to both lunch and dinner, provided there’s a minimum of two diners.



Our first Go for Green clients - Vicki Woodburn and Tamsin Sowden from the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry annual conference.

GO FOR GREEN EVENTS PACKAGES

Gold Service. Green Attitude.

Our mantra is becoming infectious

This philosophy of environmental responsibility is being embraced by clients who are seeking to reduce the carbon footprint of their event.

Our new Go for Green events packages, which are starting to become popular with clients, include:

- \$5 per person donated to a carbon emissions offset program
- Rooms powered with certified renewable electricity
- Recycled paper notepads and paper barrel pens
- Recycled paper drink coasters
- Environmentally friendly whiteboard markers

- Portable water fountains with cups made from 100% biodegradable and compostable materials
- Produce sourced from local markets - harvested from good soils, grown in fresh air and caught in clean seas
- Optional 50c plate levy as an additional carbon offset or green donation.

To find out more, contact a member of our sales team:
email sales@adelaidecc.com.au
ph +61 8 8212 4099
fax +61 8 8212 5101.

WORMS GO TO WAR ON WASTE

Meet the army of invertebrates we've enlisted to help us in our green crusade.

We have worms – tens of thousands of them – chewing through kitchen scraps and shredded paper.

Their barracks are a 2.5m x 3m four-pod farm, complete with solar-powered water pump to keep them moist.

We've only had them since June and they're still settling in, but once we get them to full production, they'll be capable of munching through 350kgs of waste each week.

Our farm has capacity for 800,000 worms, which is just as well, as our Building Engineering Manager, Basil Hanger, says the original 10,000 or so are breeding fast.

Alec Gilbert with some slippery waste munchers.



SHASTA'S OFF TO PARIS

World class meals, world class opportunities

The Adelaide Convention Centre is cementing its reputation as a breeding ground for some of the nation's finest young chefs.

Third-year apprentice, Shasta Bell, 22, has won the right to represent Australia in Paris at one of the world's most prestigious culinary awards - Jeunes Commis la Chaîne des Rotisseurs.

Shasta won both the State and national stages of the competition, beating chefs under the age of 27 from some of the best kitchens in the country, including those in some of our finest restaurants.

Two years ago, our Chef de Partie, Melanie Gowers, only missed taking out the same award because her birthday fell a few days after the



Heading for France - Shasta Bell.

cut-off date. Mel, however, went on to win the Lexus Young Chef of the Year in August last year.

Not long after, Regattas Bistro won the Best Modern Australian category at the South Australian Restaurant and Catering awards.

Head chef Tze Khaw said Shasta had shown enormous promise since the day she joined the Convention Centre in April 2004.

"Our chefs learn their profession in a supportive and innovative environment where they are mentored and encouraged to create meals that are world-class, both in taste and presentation," Tze said. "But it takes a special talent to do what Shasta has done."

FOOD DONATIONS

The Adelaide Convention Centre has a new partnership with Foodbank South Australia, a not-for-profit organisation which coordinates the donation of food and groceries to 530 welfare organisations around the State. We were making our first delivery as Talking Point was going to print, so we'll tell you more in the next edition.

NEW HOPE FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS SUFFERERS

Rheumatoid arthritis need no longer be the crippling disease it once was and the prospect of complete remission is becoming a reality.

That was the clear message from the Australian Rheumatologists Association Annual Scientific Meeting, held at the Adelaide Convention Centre in May.

The meeting heard that a vaccine for auto-immune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis (RA) may be possible following the discovery by Australian scientists of a way to train the body's immune system not to attack itself.

The research team was led by Associate Professor Ranjeny Thomas of the University of Queensland, who spoke to the 390 delegates gathered in Adelaide. She said the research suggests that the immune response which leads to rheumatoid arthritis - and juvenile diabetes - can be reversed.

Conference Convenor, Adelaide specialist Dr Susanna Proudman, said other highlights of the meeting included papers by Professor Paul Emery from the University of Leeds, and Professor David Felson from Boston University, about the new

goals of diagnostic techniques and therapies for RA which were already translating into better outcomes for patients with this disabling disease.

Conference organiser, Ken Wickham, said he had managed a number of big events at the Adelaide Convention Centre over the years and thought it was a great venue. "You are really lucky in Adelaide because you have so many hotels within walking distance of the venue. That's a huge plus."

BORN TO BE A CHEF

Regattas Bistro's new head chef, Chris Codell, has loved being in the kitchen since she was a toddler.

She grew up on a little farm in the Flinders Ranges where the family endeavoured to lead "a relatively self-sufficient lifestyle".

"We had orchards of every fruit imaginable," says Chris, "so summers were spent bottling, preserving and drying, and winters were spent making loaves and puddings with the produce."

She went straight into kitchen work after leaving school and has worked

with a number of talented Adelaide chefs. "My background is mainly in modern Australian cuisine, with European leanings. My interests include native Australian produce and the amalgamation of these products into more mainstream dishes. I love the fresh seafood available in Adelaide, so look out for plenty of exciting fish specials!"

Chris replaces Matthew Fryer who, after several years with Regattas, has taken off overseas for new experiences.

Chris Codell.



READY-MADE ROOM DÉCOR – JUST PICK YOUR THEME

Want to create ambience at your ball or banquet but either time, know-how or budget are an issue?

The Adelaide Convention Centre has developed four ready-made themed décor packages – Nature, Ice, Starlight and Techno – for events large and small. We unveiled three of them at our inaugural mid-year client function, which was also a celebration for our 21st birthday.

“Over the years we have observed many events which could have been improved with additional ambience,” explained Director of Sales & Marketing, Sue Hocking. “However, due to clients’ budget restrictions, it’s not always been possible. We think this new offering will appeal to certain clients because of the ease and speed of installation, the simplicity and the cost effectiveness.”

As always, our Technical team leapt at the chance to demonstrate



its creativity – and considerable skills – when asked to develop the themes in house.

“The beauty of the designs is that we can fit the themes to any sized room,” said Technical Operations Director, Mike Smith. “We can create the effect in Hall E for 150 people, or in the combined Halls F, G and H for 1000 people or more.”

“Importantly, there’s still lots of scope for external event planners to build on our set themes with table settings, entertainment or extra props and effects. And, of course, many clients will still want to manage theming and décor themselves.”



TOP JOB

Congratulations to our Executive Chef, Tze Khaw, who has been appointed President of the South Australian Chapter of the Australian

Culinary Association, the local chapter of the World Association of Chefs.



At IMEX - Minister Lomax-Smith and Alec Gilbert.

HIGH LEVEL GREEN MESSAGE

South Australian Tourism Minister, Jane Lomax-Smith, promoted Adelaide's 'sustainability edge' as a conference destination at this year's international IMEX exhibition in Frankfurt, Germany.

She was one of four speakers at a forum of influential government and convention representatives from around the world.

"We have 48% of the nation's wind power, 41% of its grid-connected solar energy and 80% of all geothermal activity under way or proposed, despite having less than 8% of Australia's population," she said.

"It makes sense to use these 'green and fresh' credentials to support our tourism, migration and business messages in a world that is more aware of sustainability than ever before."

INTERNATIONAL FOCUS ON SA'S RESOURCES

South Australia's vast reserves of uranium fuelled world-wide interest in a major uranium conference held at the Adelaide Convention Centre in June.

The Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's International Uranium Conference 2008 was labelled an outstanding success, with 400 delegates from 25 countries meeting to discuss technological aspects of uranium mining as well as environmental and social issues.

"This was a big event for Adelaide and a big event for the uranium industry," Conference Chair Mark Chalmers said.

"The service and facilities at the Adelaide Convention Centre can only be described as outstanding. The feedback from delegates has been excellent, describing it as a friendly place to do business and praising staff for their professionalism."

During the conference delegates toured the Olympic Dam and Beverley mines in Outback South Australia, and some extended their stay to see a little more of the State, including the Barossa Valley and Kangaroo Island.

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting (1800)

Electrical & Communications Association Conference (300)

Printing Industries Association of Australia Awards Dinner (400)

International Bushfire Research Conference (1500)

SEPTEMBER

Trinity College Presentation Ball (800)

Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists Annual Scientific Conference (350)

REPCO National Dealers' Convention (800)

Aged & Community Services Australia National Conference and Exhibition (1000)

OCTOBER

Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Radiologists Annual Scientific Meeting (800)

National Forum on Safety and Quality in Health Care (600)

Australian Mining & Petroleum Law Association Conference (250)

Business SA Annual Dinner (1000)

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