



December 2009

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WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER EDITION OF THE VTIC NEWSLETTER

Upon reflection, 2009's had its shares of ups and downs - GFC, swine flu, bushfires and the like. For those of you that were in attendance at the VTIC Forum on 9th December will attest that this also was the story of the year, as told by the guest presenters. While the economic forecasters predict relatively buoyant business conditions ahead, some tourism businesses had traded through in robust fashion, while other sectors, such as the inbound tourism operator sector, have found the going incredibly tough.

Will we see similar challenges confronting tourism in 2010? I suspect so. However, on the positive side, the resilience the industry has built up will stand us in good stead. Practice gained from confronting enormous, threatening and sudden changes in the business environment must give those businesses great confidence when the time inevitably comes to enact the emergency business plan again.

Many of you will have digested the International Visitor Survey stats in recent days. Pleasingly Victoria's performance in the international market has been strong over the last quarter, with positive growth in most indices. By comparison, our major interstate rivals, Queensland and New South Wales registered largely negative growth. Another highlight was the continued growth of the Indian market, notwithstanding months of negative press regarding street violence and sub-standard private international student training institutions. Notwithstanding, the business sector remains concernedly soft and dispersal out of Melbourne beyond the '90 minute barrier' is proving to be increasingly difficult. All up, a good result for Victoria, but with room for improvement.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and profitable Festive Season!

Anthony McIntosh
Chief Executive Officer

FAIR WORK ACT

The introduction of the Fair Work Act on 1 January 2010 means employers need to quickly understand the impact of the changes to industrial relations – workplace relations laws.

This is a perfect time to use your VECCI membership and seek assistance and advice from the VECCI Workplace Relations Team.

VECCI's experienced workplace relations advisors provide VECCI members with relevant, up-to-date, independent and accurate advice on a range of workplace relations issues, including:

- Expert assistance with, and interpretation of, industrial instruments (including Awards, individual and collective agreements) and legislation (including the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* and the *Fair Work Act 2009*)
- Performance management of employees
- Pay scale and allowance information
- Redundancies and employee entitlements
- Leave entitlements, including related legislation
- Hours of work
- Interpretation of statutory instruments that govern the employment relationship, including equal opportunity legislation
- Award interpretation, including hours of work, overtime, penalties and loadings
- Record keeping requirements – including time and wages records, payslips and child employment
- Union right of entry

For assistance, call the Workplace Relations team on **03 8662 5333**.

MELBOURNE AIRPORT TERMINAL EXPANSION ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP FOR MELBOURNE

The opening of the first stage of Melbourne Airport's \$330 million international terminal expansion – the new Melbourne Airport passenger concourse – is another step forward for Melbourne.

The new concourse allows Terminal Two to operate a further three aircraft parking bays including two gates with dual-level aerobridges to accommodate the A380.

For the full media release, [click here](#).

LIQUOR LICENCE NEW RISK-BASED FEE STRUCTURE

Liquor licensees will shortly receive their 2010 annual renewal that will be calculated on the new risk-based fee structure.

General and on-premises licences authorised to trade past 1am will be subject to the 'venue capacity multiplier'. Those licensees wanting to reduce trading hours or patron numbers, or wanting to exclude accommodation or function room numbers from 2010 fee calculations must lodge the relevant form with Responsible Alcohol Victoria by 31 December 2009. Forms received by this date will result in the 2010 fees being re-calculated to reflect licence changes. Applications received on or after 1 January will not impact the 2010 fees.

Restaurant and cafe licensees wanting to remain as an on-premises licence must also lodge relevant forms by 31 December 2009.

Non-profit organisations and small businesses wanting to apply to the Director of Liquor Licensing to reduce or waive renewal fees on the grounds of 'serious financial hardship' are also required to submit an application form and the required supporting documentation by 31 December 2009. Note, a small business is one which employs the equivalent of five or less full-time employees.

For more information about the new risk-based fee structure or to download the appropriate forms, visit the 'What's New' section at www.justice.vic.gov.au/liquor. For enquiries, email liquor@justice.vic.gov.au.

THE EX-HMAS-CANBERRA OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The ex-HMAS Canberra, Victoria's newest tourist attraction, was opened to the public on Saturday 6 December, after a final safety inspection and dives with tour operators were completed last week by Parks Victoria.

The Brumby Labor Government provided \$1.5 million towards the creation of the dive site. An online booking system for moorings at the site is now open. Divers can book a dive tour with a licensed tour operator or book a two-hour mooring through Parks Victoria in order to access the attraction.

For more information on the new dive site, visit <http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au>. To make a booking, go to <http://www.parkstay.vic.gov.au/>.

BRAND AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government has announced the advisory panel that will help oversee the tender for a new national brand and four-year, \$20 million campaign to sell Australia.

Chaired by David Mortimer, the panel includes Sandra Chipchase, Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau CEO; Margaret Gardner, RMIT Vice Chancellor & President; Mark Johnson, Australian Financial Forum Chairman; Rob Murray, Lion Nathan CEO; Michael Luscombe, Woolworths CEO; and Peter Yuile, Austrade Deputy CEO.

The winner of the tender is expected to be announced in February, 2010.

For further information, visit http://www.trademinister.gov.au/releases/2009/sc_090917.html

V AUSTRALIA TAKE OFF FROM MELBOURNE TO LOS ANGELES

Melbourne Airport today welcomed its 24th international airline with V Australia launching its inaugural service to Los Angeles. The twice-weekly Los Angeles route will provide Victorian passengers a new, non-stop option across the Pacific.

Los Angeles is the first of three new V Australia destinations, with weekly flights to Phuket commencing this Thursday and a direct Johannesburg service from 13 March next year.

Please direct media enquiries to Melbourne Airport Media – (03) 9335 3666

To view the full media release, [click here](#).

MELBOURNE AIRPORT TO WELCOME QATAR AIRWAYS

Melbourne welcomes another international airline, with the announcement today that Qatar Airways will operate scheduled services to and from Melbourne Airport.

The daily, non-stop services commence in the northern winter 2009 schedule and will fly direct between Melbourne and Doha, enhancing the strong business and tourism links between Victoria and the Middle East.

To view the full media release, [click here](#).

TOURISM & EVENTS CHRISTMAS PARTY WRAP

On Monday 30 November, the Tourism and Events Industry came together to celebrate at their annual Christmas Party, which for the first time was co-hosted by Tourism Alliance, BOAV, HMAA, VEIC and VTIC.

Held at the Balinese-inspired Alumbra at Central Pier, guests were greeted by the boys from Wacky Entertainment disguised as a Christmas tree and pudding!

Guests had the opportunity to hear from Tourism Alliance Chairman, Roger Grant; VECCI CEO, Wayne Kayler-Thomson; and the Honourable Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Tim Holding. To view some pictures from the party, [click here](#).

VTIC FORUM OVERVIEW

On Wednesday 9 December, Industry House once again played host to the final VTIC Quarterly Forum for 2009, "**Beyond the GFC - what does 2010 have in store for Victorian tourism?**" Our three guest speakers, provided delegates with very different views and personal experiences on how the industry has fared over the last 12 months, and the challenges facing Victoria's Tourism industry into the future.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our speakers:

- Michael Emerson – Director of EMDA
- Natalie Pickett – Tourism Consultant
- Kiff Saunders – Director of Global Ballooning

We would also like to thank our sponsors for this event: Tourism Victoria and Mitchelton Wines.

TOURISM BUSINESS SUPPORT AND EVENTS

New social media streams for VECCI

At VECCI, we see social media as a means to open up channels of communication with those we represent.

The VECCI Blog – your policy and advocacy forum

On the policy and advocacy front stands [The VECCI Blog](#), a resource fuelled by the unique voices and perspectives of our expert advisors. Updated regularly, the blog will cover issues that affect Victorian business and industry in a variety of ways and aims to be an interactive hub for interested parties to have their say and be heard.

Events@VECCI – your Facebook connection

We've established a presence on Facebook – the most extensive networking site on the web. [Events@VECCI](#) is designed as an online hub of interaction and networking for past and potential attendees of VECCI's suite of events.

We encourage you to explore these resources and fully utilise them as avenues that help us continually improve the quality of our services for Victorian business.

2010 AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL TOURISM CONVENTION - 16 - 20 August, 2010

The 2010 Australian Regional Tourism Convention will be held Monday 16 August to Friday 20 August in the gorgeous Yarra Valley and the Dandenongs region of Victoria.

The Australian Regional Tourism Network (ARTN), producers of the Convention and the peak national body representing regional tourism practitioners, are excited and proud of the program which is already well into development.

As ever, the ARTN is seeking to include its members and the industry its activities and so is inviting suggestions and contributions to the Convention program by way of a 'Call for Papers'.

The attached document provides further details on the Convention and guidelines for the submission of abstracts. The deadline for submissions is Friday 5 February 2010.

Stay tuned for further announcements regarding Convention registration which will commence early in 2010.

For more information, [click here](#).