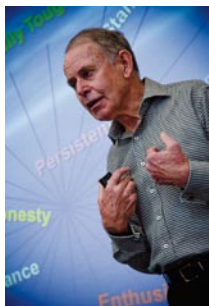


Dental Partners dentists conference 2009

An inspired event for an inspired group



Robin Daubeny
– Motivational Speaker



John Peters.
Senior Economist.
Commonwealth Bank
Guest Speaker



Mike Timoney CEO
Dental Partners

The first weekend in August saw the inaugural conference for dentists within the Dental Partners group. Sixty six dentists from practices all over the country attended the event to celebrate the group's achievements, to share ideas, attend workshops and hopefully also have some fun.

The backdrop for the event was the Couran Cove Island Resort on Stradbroke Island in Queensland. The weather was sublime which allowed all the outdoor activities to go ahead without a hitch. The resort is gently spread out across the Gold Coast end of Stradbroke Island and incorporates bush, beaches, lakes and waterways. As virtually the only occupants for the weekend, the conference used all the faculties across the island which enhanced the conference tremendously.

The weekend started with a leisurely ferry ride to the Island on the Friday lunchtime followed by opening speeches. The dentists then splint into teams and explored the island looking for clues for the first fun event, an island trivia quiz.

Bike, kayak and foot were used to unravel the competition, followed by a beer or two and getting ready for the evening dinner.

Dinner was sponsored by Integrated Dental Laboratories. The venue for dinner was the surf club which is perched on the sand dunes on the Pacific Ocean side of Stradbroke and was simply stunning. The key note speaker was the senior economist from the Commonwealth Bank, Mr John Peters, who shared some insights into both the world's economy and Australia's position within it. It is difficult to imagine how a speech on economics could be entertaining as well as interesting, but John's speech kept his audience riveted.

Saturday was the business day of the weekend with the day split into nine different workshops for the dentists to attend. Dr Derry Rogers and Dr Michael Tam were amongst the presenters who all provided clinical workshops throughout the day with other workshops including a CPR course, financial planning and even a cooking class that delegates could attend.

The leisure activities included a round of golf, a scenic flight in a sea plane and use of the resorts spa for a massage or beauty treatment.

The decision to split the weekend into multiple workshops with only six to ten people attending each workshop at a time was truly inspired.



The dentists got to know each other, share ideas and it even allowed the sponsors to become involved, which was far more interesting than the usual trestle table at coffee time that seems to have become the norm at dental events.

Saturday night saw the Gala Dinner, which was held in a magnificent marquee. This was preceded by torch lit cocktails' and canapés on the beach and a demonstration of the Guru Software by Tracey of Oasis. The evening proceedings were introduced by motivational speaker and sports coach Robin Daubeny and a superb show reel video presentation, provided by Integrated Dental Marketing was shown before Robin introduced a panel of sports heroes as the main entertainment for the evening. The panel was made up of Wallaby legend Elton Flattley, Red Bull world cliff diving champion Joey Zuber, AFL legend Mark Bunn and rowing Beijing Olympic gold medallist Duncan Free. They were interviewed by Robin in a light hearted fashion with the audience enrapt and asking questions for another 45mins!

The evening ended with a live band and finally came to an end at about 3am.

Sunday saw more workshops and then closing speeches over lunch. Alan Clarke from parent New Zealand company Abano thanked all concerned. CEO Mike Timoney, who had presided over the whole weekend, declared the conference closed and a great success.

A whole hearty thank you goes out to all the sponsors on behalf of Dental Partners and all the attendees; Henry Schein Halas. Integrated Dental Laboratories, Commonwealth Bank, EWL Ebsworth Lawyers, Luxuria Destinations and Oasis Software.

And if anyone reading this article thinks conferences are a "corporate excess", then you may wish to reconsider, as these are some of the comments that were received spontaneously the day after the event. ♦