

WOODWARDS Roundup

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A publication of B. P. Woodward & Associates, Chartered Accountants

2010 is well and truly underway... the kids are settled back at school, the summer months have come and gone and Easter is just around the corner. So far we've already enjoyed the highly entertaining Australian Open and the often nail-biting Winter Olympics held in Vancouver, but there is plenty more to look forward to with the FIFA World Cup in South Africa kicking off (literally) on June 11 and the Commonwealth Games a little further down the track in October. To keep you busy as we head into Autumn, we have jam-packed this issue with all that is happening throughout Sydney over the Easter break, and rest assured, there is plenty to look forward to!

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That's Showbiz

If you keep up with your entertainment news, you won't have missed hearing about the razzle dazzle of this year's awards season. Commencing mid-January with The Golden Globes and culminating with The Oscars which were held on March 7. As spectacular as ever, the 2010 season honoured the best in motion picture and television for 2009.



Aside from the engrossing glitz and glamour of the red carpet, what the millions who tune in to the events each year really want to know, is what films should be on our must-see list this year.

The pick of the crop were:



The Hurt Locker, directed by Kathryn Bigelow
Main Cast: Jeremy Renner, Guy Pearce

Synopsis

When a new sergeant, James, takes over a highly trained bomb disposal team amidst violent conflict, he surprises his two subordinates by recklessly plunging them into a deadly game of urban combat.



The Blind Side, directed by John Lee Hancock

Main Cast: Sandra Bullock, Kathy Bates

Synopsis

The remarkable true story of Michael Oher, a homeless youngster from a broken home, taken in by the Touhys, a well-to-do family who help him fulfill his potential. At the same time, Oher's presence in the Touhys' lives leads them to some insightful self-discoveries of their own.



Crazy Heart, directed by Scott Cooper

Main Cast: Jeff Bridges, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Robert Duvall

Synopsis

Bad Blake is a broken-down, hard-living country music singer who's had way too many marriages, far too many years on the road and one too many drinks way too many times. And yet, Bad can't help but reach for salvation with the help of Jean, a journalist who discovers the real man behind the musician.

Financial Times

With the end of the financial year approaching, now is the time to consider any tax liabilities for 30 June 2010. Tax planning can significantly reduce tax liabilities, but don't leave it to the last minute! Please phone our office on 02 9299 3603 if you would like to discuss your situation or schedule a meeting with one of our staff.

The ATQ has released a new range of small business benchmarks to help businesses in meeting

30 Exuberant days of Easter

The Easter Holidays bring with them a challenge... go, or stay in Sydney? After Christmas and the New Year, many of us still feel a little drained and somewhat unstimulated to go anywhere come Easter. For those of you who aren't that keen on joining the painfully slow migration out of Sydney, why not stay? By Good Friday there is always a little more room in Sydney, so make the most of it with our picks of the best happenings in town.

It may be one of the most clichéd activities come the Easter holidays, but for good reason... it is also one of the most enjoyable! Famous for its large variety of show bags, countless smelly animals, the rodeo and wood chopping and promising to be a lot of fun, The Royal Sydney Easter show runs from Thursday 1st until Wednesday 14th April at Sydney Showground, Olympic Park. Visit www.eastershow.com.au for more information.

Experience the power, mystique and beauty of nature in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2009 exhibition. From big cats to silent icy landscapes, the exhibition features more than 90 dramatic images. You can even bring your own camera for some interactive fun in the My Photo Studio. It's on now until the 26th April, only at the Australian Museum in Sydney.



The Easter bunny has its origin in pre-Christian fertility lore. The Easter Bunny, rabbit or hare were the most fertile animals known and so they served as symbols of fertility, fruitfulness and of new life. It is thought that the Easter festival was first celebrated by the ancient Anglo-Saxons in order to commemorate their Goddess of offspring, fruitfulness and spring time, Eostre or Ostara. It is believed that Eostre or Ostara changed her pet bird to a bunny in order to entertain little children and, in return, the little bunny laid colourful eggs for them, beginning the origin of the Easter bunny and his eggs.

The tradition of building nests seems to have its origins in Germany, where children would build a nest in a secluded place in the home, boys using their caps, and girls their bonnets, in the hope that if they were good, 'Oschter Haws' would lay a nest of coloured eggs.



The annual Hoopla festival lets loose some of the world's best acrobats, aerialists, jugglers and contortionists all over Darling Harbour. This year the Hoopla will walk the tight rope, do the trapeze, eat fire and perform daredevil stunts over the four day long weekend, from Friday 2nd - Monday 5th April. Don't miss out.

It's being described as the only place to be this Autumn, and its no understatement... Sydney comes alive with world class racing and glamorous fashion when the Autumn Racing Carnival gallops into town. Experience Australia's ultimate racing and social event over six consecutive Saturdays from March 20 - April 24, including the renowned Golden Slipper Day on Easter Saturday.



The first edible Easter bunnies were also made in Germany during the early 1800s, these were made of pastry and sugar.

The tradition of Easter egg hunts began in America. Parents of American children would hide eggs in the garden for children to find, with the children sometimes leaving carrots out for the Easter bunny too.

In Australia, the Bilby, a small marsupial native to Australia has begun to replace the bunny as the symbol of Easter.

If it's a good belly laugh you're after this Easter...



The Sydney Comedy Festival may just be your remedy. A feast of entertainment, the festival show-cases our brightest comic heroes from across Australia coupled with the best international gems on offer. It hits town on the 19th April and will run until the 9th May, visit <http://sydneycomedyfest.com.au> for programs and ticketing.



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