

## Double Bay networking group celebrates three years of success

by Deirdre O'Loughlin

The Double Bay Networking Group was established in March 2012 with a small membership and loads of enthusiasm. Within a three year period the membership has doubled, the meeting venue has been upgraded and DBNG now attracts guest speakers who are either high profile or successful talented business people.

DBNG is a not for profit organisation whose philosophy is to strengthen the local businesses of Double Bay (or businesses that supply or service the Double Bay precinct). DBNG attracts likeminded people who work together to achieve the common goal of growing each member's business through referral.

The group receives generous support and advice from the Woollahra Council and is actively involved with the Double Bay Chamber of Commerce.

President/Founder of the Double Bay Networking Group is Kristian Nelson-Marshall, Manager LJ Hooker Potts Point. Committee members are Julie Lamberg-Buten, CEO, Sydney School of Protocol, Stephanie Giannis, JP, LLB Project Manager, KAA Australia, Deirdre O'Loughlin, Managing Director, O'Loughlin Communications (PR & Event Management specialists) and Ryan Shelley, Managing Director, Pepper IT.

### DBNG objectives/growing membership

DBNG's major objectives are to assist and support businesses in Double Bay and the eastern suburbs to improve and grow their businesses through active networking and referral. Quality breakfast meetings are held monthly at the InterContinental Hotel Sydney Double Bay with a range



(Left to right) Deirdre O'Loughlin, O'Loughlin Communications, Julie Lamberg-Buten, Sydney School of Protocol, Kristian Nelson Marshall, (DBNG Chair), LJ Hooker Potts Point, Ryan Shelley, Pepper IT and Stephanie Giannis, KAA Australia.

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of guest speakers who give impactful presentations on a wide range of topics including Customer Loyalty, Wealth Management, Health and Wellness, effective Marketing, Financial Planning and the importance of Social Media, Branding and Public Relations. Social events for members and guests include Networking Drinks and the annual DBNG Christmas lunch. The lunches were fully booked and previously held at the Cruising Yacht Club Darling Point and the Stockroom restaurant at the Hotel InterContinental Double Bay.

### DBNG guest speakers attract interest and new members

Previous guest speakers have included Business Futurist Craig Rispin, media maven Councillor Deborah Thomas, Frederic Brohez former General

Manager of the InterContinental Double Bay, Simon Chan, President Haymarket Chamber of Commerce, fashion icon Carla Zampatti and Noel Yeates, Senior Wealth Adviser Macquarie Bank. 2015-2016 guest speakers include controversial social commentator Bettina Arndt, NSW Small Business Commissioner Robyn Hobbs, the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Toni Zeltzer, Caroline Hong CEO Australia China Business Council and Chair Double Bay Chamber of Commerce, Deputy Mayor of Woollahra Councillor Katherine O'Regan.

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**Continued from Page 2** - I met a few lively conversationalists and we talked about current issues; same sex marriage (all for it); nursing homes (which ones were good); Holdsworth activities (most had been on several) and the demand for a lift at Edgecliff Station (all desperate for it).

It was a great group – some were close with each other but mostly people were on their own and happy to mingle or be part of the group quietly. No sooner had I gulped my tea and we were back on the bus, which has a special mechanical staircase that made it really easy to get of and on.

The driver was amazing – he seemed to fly the bus – and land on top of each destination. Compared to my usual trips to the North Shore where faulty navigation and aggressive confusion transforms a simple journey into a terrifying challenge.

We learnt on our tour of the house that Nutcote was designed by architect BJ Waterhouse as the harbour-side home of May Gibbs (1877-1969), Australia's foremost children's author and illustrator and best known today for her iconic story The Complete Adventures of Snugglypot and Cuddlepup which is about two Gumnut Babies and their escape from the big bad

Banksia Men. Gibbs moved to Nutcote in 1919 around the same time of the first publication of Snugglypot and Cuddlepup and the house was completed in 1925. It was real a thrill for me to see the room where Gibbs illustrated her adorable characters and many of the group shuddered with fear remembering the wicked ugly Banksia Men. The house gave an amazing insight to Gibbs' lifestyle and work. Every room was designed to have harbour views and light flooded into every nook. The kitchen was tiny, but there a fair sized dressing room of the main bedroom.

After Nutcote we went to Canada Bay RSL – the group was pleased as the club had on previous occasions made them "feel very welcome". It is a charming small club which fantastic food, comfortable seating and delightful staff. The team leader had organized pre ordered meals and very quickly we were tucking in to roast pork or fish or schnitzel with vegetables. Some people had a wine or beer. Before you knew it we were back on the bus and on our way back to Gaden with drops offs at Bondi Junction.

### A tremendously enjoyable day out.

For further information on Gaden please call 02 9302 3688 or email gaden@holdsworth.org.au or visit the website www.holdsworth.org.au/

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