

MEDIA RELEASE



A RICH EXPERIENCE THE KEY TO PRODUCTIVE BUSINESS RETREATS

“Business retreats have to strike a perfect balance in creating a relaxed environment where everyone is still able to switch on with open minds,” says Sandra Prout, resident manager at McMillans of Metung Resort. “People do need to walk away feeling inspired, and that relies heavily on participants feeling appreciated and being able to contribute. It’s our job to make sure that happens.”

Mrs. Prout, who has hosted more than 40 business retreats, takes great pride in McMillans of Metung’s ability to provide a range of resources that can be customised to best suit the needs of a particular group.

“Our approach is focused on growing business thinking and strengthening working relationships using the inspiration of McMillans,” she says. “We sit down with the HR manager or business owner who will have outcomes they’re looking to achieve, and take them through a range of different settings that can be used in addition to the main function centre.”

With its position on the Gippsland Lakes, Mrs. Prout says business clients use the function room with state-of-the-art equipment for the major presentations, but use breakout sessions to have participants think about business issues while working under trees that overlook the bay, working by the pool, or contemplating business growth opportunities while sitting at the end of a pier.

“We’ve seen certain teams absolutely transform they’re thinking just because they had some good guidance, could focus their thoughts, and used our facilities in just the right way,” says Mrs. Prout. “Staying overnight also carries great benefits – often colleagues from larger organisations have never had the time to share a nice meal together, and that type of contact goes a long way to building friendships at work.”

Peter Dullard Motor Group is a family-owned and operated company that’s been a part of the East Gippsland community since 1991 with its successful Ford, Honda and Kia dealerships. Mr. Dullard says business retreats are an important contributor to his strategic planning for the year, particularly as it enables him to hear from colleagues throughout the Victorian/Tasmanian dealer network.

“The needs of a business retreat vary based on the current circumstances of the business at the time, but there’s no doubt in my mind that fresh ideas and solid strategic thinking are best achieved in a professional but more relaxed environment,” he says.

Mr. Dullard traditionally meets his dealer network colleagues in Melbourne for a one-day retreat, but last year convinced the team that an overnight stay in Metung would deliver greater value. Many dealers had not been to Metung and Mr. Dullard decided to use McMillans as a base for the retreat and to “sell the area” to the group.

“We really put some good activities together in terms of boating and taking a day trip to Lakes Entrance. We had a very pleasant dinner in Metung village, and the overnight stay meant no one was rushing off. In many ways that made the evening as productive as the day sessions,” he says.

“I find the investment in this kind of initiative is well worth the effort. The dealer network went back to their businesses refreshed and on-board with the direction of the whole company, and in many instances contributed useful ideas in the process.”

McMillans of Metung uses the latest AV equipment, and can bring in any level of staging support required by event organisers. The conference room can hold up to 80 participants. Further, McMillans organises catering, restaurant bookings, and other team building activities in and around Metung.

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