



PARTY PARADE

By Amy Cooper

WHAT AACTA Awards Luncheon

DEETS The Star, Pyrmont

RSVP Jacki Weaver, Geoffrey Rush, Dan Wyllie, Sacha Horler

THE VERDICT Just like the Oscars, Australia's version of the major screen gongs falls into two chapters. This luncheon awards ceremony honours the movie and TV industry's quieter achievers in the technical and creative fields before the real show ponies come out to play at a performer-heavy evening shebang two days later. The luncheon wasn't short on Hollywood heavy ammo though, in the form of Jacki Weaver, Geoffrey Rush and Rachel Ward. Actor Patrick Brammall, who won an AACTA last year for best actor in a television comedy, was a warm and witty host and was joined on stage by presenters including Rush (AACTA president), *Wonderland's* Glenn McMillan and *Wentworth's* Leeanna Walsman. Winners included Jane Campion's *Top of the Lake* and - of course - Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby*, which scored all six gongs for which it was nominated.

WHAT David Jones' Autumn/Winter Collections 2014 parade and party

DEETS David Jones store, Elizabeth Street, CBD

RSVP Jessica Gomes, Cheyenne Tozzi, Jason Dundas, Ita Buttrose, Elizabeth Debicki, Rachel Griffiths, Jessica Marais, Megan Gale, Kerri-Anne Kennerley, Richard Wilkins, Frances and Bridget Abbott

THE VERDICT David Jones paraded its winter wear among real trees in an enchanted forest created on the seventh floor of its Elizabeth Street store. Models, led by DJs ambassador Jessica Gomes, emerged through a giant wardrobe and paraded the threads to an audience where everyone was someone - from TV, sport, business, music, fashion or media. Food was surprisingly hearty for a fashion show, with substantial duck pies, risotto, croquettes and plenty of Bollinger and champagne to wash it all down. The mood was cheery and relaxed, and pregnant David Jones graduate Megan Gale looked on benevolently from the front row as her successors took the spotlight.



WHAT Southern Cross Austereo Launch 2014**DEETS** Museum of Contemporary Art, The Rocks**RSVP** Sophie Monk, Jules Lund, Hamish Blake, Natarsha Belling, James Mathison, Matthew Johns, Scott Tweedie, Wendell Sailor**THE VERDICT** With a crowd packed with professional entertainers from radio, TV and digital media company Southern Cross Austereo's new 2014 line-up, this was always going to be a lively party. The banter ran from start to finish, provided by chat-happy characters from radio, including Triple M's new drive show presenters Matt Tilley and Joe Hildebrand, as well as The Today Network's Hamish Blake, Andy Lee, Sophie Monk, Jules Lund and Merrick Watts. They were joined in the MCA's grand old Foundation Hall overlooking Circular Quay by sport blokes Wendell Sailor, Ray "Rabs" Warren and Matty Johns, himself a Triple M name. Their boss, SCA chief executive Rhys Holleran, said he was looking forward to a year of top entertainment, and by the looks of it, he should be right.**WHAT Jonah's 85th birthday party****DEETS** Jonah's at Whale Beach**RSVP** Marie Bashir, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, Ky Hurst, Peter Phelps, Mike Munro, Jono Coleman, Phil Kearns, Phil Waugh**THE VERDICT** To celebrate 85 years of gracious living, grand dame Jonah's rolled out the opulence, with a bash that began in daylight and ended after dark. Nowhere else in Sydney can claim quite as star-studded a history as this Whale Beach cliff-top retreat. Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier stayed here in their heyday, followed more recently by Sir Michael Caine, Kevin Spacey, Bono, Mick Jagger and Rod Stewart and a constant parade of tycoons, sports champions, musicians and movie stars from near and far.**WHAT Harper's Bazaar and Westpac Chinese edition launch****DEETS** Burberry store, George Street, CBD**RSVP** Kellie Hush, Damian MacRae, Grace Huang, John Mutton**THE VERDICT** Chinese New Year is an auspicious time for launches and *Harper's Bazaar* seized the moment by throwing a refined bash to launch their second annual Chinese edition. The joint venture with Westpac, co-hosts for the night, was unveiled at Burberry's flagship store. Influential members of Sydney's Chinese community mixed with glam mag gals in the grand heritage space with its fabulous marble features providing a backdrop for Burberry fashion parade images on large screens.The 130 guests, many clad in Burberry, included Sydney girl and Aussie-Chinese actress Grace Huang, who starred with Russell Crowe and Lucy Liu in *The Man with the Iron Fists* and is shooting a new movie, *Infini*, with Luke Hemsworth in Sydney. Everyone enjoyed Pommery champagne and the tasty canapes included sesame crab with snow pea and spring onion salad omelette.



