

Trip to the Ice should fire up real cool Ideas



The Untoppable trip organizers Julio De Laffitte (left) and Chad Zast will be taking a team of entrepreneurs to Antarctica for a brainstorming adventure.

A\$ million of Aussie relax and fire up the barbie on Australia Day, a group of 115 entrepreneurs led by a Coast salade millionaire will be busy brainstorming in Antarctica.

The group is heading to the frozen continent for eight days in search of inspiration and ideas they hope will lead to about \$1 billion worth of business deals.

The trip is the brainchild of Gold Coast wealth strategist Julio De Laffitte and his Untoppables networking group.

The Brunton-born Australian resident and entrepreneur set up a think tank called The Untoppables to foster collaboration between entrepreneurs.

Mr De Laffitte says Australia's future depends on innovation, with the economy getting a boost from every start-up business that succeeds.

"We need to bring back permission to be entrepreneurial," he said.

"Interest rates are so cheap now, so it's a good time to start a business.

"Opportunities are in abundance, but everyone is afraid of the future. Choosing Antarctica as the venue for a business conference certainly makes a change for those used to listening to hours of speeches in hotel function rooms."

Mr De Laffitte hopes that by being away from their everyday worlds, the entre-

This isn't about rich people trying to pretend it's a holiday in Antarctica

JULIO DE LAFFITTE

preneurs will be free of distractions and focused on listening how to ensure their businesses succeed, making contacts, and doing deals.

"This isn't about rich people trying to pretend it's a holiday in Antarctica," he said. "This is about the future of Australia." Each of the entrepreneurs

have been specifically chosen for the trip.

There's a mix of old and new—successful entrepreneurs keen to learn some new tricks and share their experiences, and others just starting out.

Judy Reynolds, whose Opening Gates consultancy helps small business owners harness their potential, says she expects some incredible ideas to be commercialised as a result of the trip.

"We have this collective intelligence, energetic entrepreneurs with great ideas and people who know business," she said.

"Let's bring them together and leverage off it. We can't rely on government to do it all

We have to, as a business community, support each other."

Sebastian Eckerley-Makin, whose company Blue Chili has invested in 46 tech start-ups, wants to meet entrepreneurs with "big ideas and vision" in Antarctica.

"There's a strong force to create a legacy," he said. "I'm always on the lookout for great ideas so my objective is to seek these opportunities out and work on them."

The Antarctic adventure marks what Mr De Laffitte hopes will be the first of many gatherings of The Untoppables in awe-inspiring locations.

"Business is an adventure and we are serious about adventure," he said.

AS millions of Aussies relax and fire up the barbie on Australia Day, a group of 115 entrepreneurs led by a Coast self-made millionaire will be busy brainstorming in Antarctica.

The group is heading to the frozen continent for eight days in search of inspiration and ideas they hope will lead to about \$1 billion worth of business deals.

The trip is the brainchild of Gold Coast wealth strategist Julio De Laffitte and his Unstoppables networking group.

The Brazilian-born Australian resident and entrepreneur set up a think tank called The Unstoppables to foster collaboration between entrepreneurs.

Mr De Laffitte says Australia's future depends on innovation, with the economy getting a boost from every start-up business that succeeds.

"We need to bring back permission to be entrepreneurs," he said.

"Interest rates are so cheap now, so it's a good time to start a business.

"Opportunities are in abundance, but everyone is afraid of the future. Choosing Antarctica as the venue for a business conference certainly makes a change for those used to listening to hours of speeches in hotel function rooms."

Mr De Laffitte hopes that by being away from their everyday worlds, the entre-

This isn't about rich people trying to pretend it's a holiday in Antarctica

JULIO DE LAFFITTE

preneurs will be free of distractions and focused on learning how to ensure their businesses succeed, making contacts, and doing deals.

"This isn't about rich people trying to pretend it's a holiday in Antarctica," he said. "This is about the future of Australia."

Each of the entrepreneurs

have been specifically chosen for the trip.

There's a mix of old and new – successful entrepreneurs keen to learn some new tricks and share their experience, and others just starting out.

Judy Reynolds, whose Opening Gates consultancy helps small business owners harness their potential, says she expects some incredible ideas to be commercialised as a result of the trip.

"We have this collective intelligence, energetic entrepreneurs with great ideas and people who know business," she said.

"Let's bring them together and leverage off it. We can't rely on government to do it all.

We have to, as a business community, support each other."

Sebastien Eckersley-Maslin, whose company Blue Chilli has invested in 46 tech start-ups, wants to meet entrepreneurs with "big ideas and vision" in Antarctica.

"There's a strong force to create a legacy," he said. "I'm always on the lookout for great ideas so my objective is to seek these opportunities out and work on them."

The Antarctic adventure marks what Mr De Laffitte hopes will be the first of many gatherings of The Unstoppables in awe-inspiring locations.

"Business is an adventure and we are serious about adventure," he said.