



## **Jonathan Leggett**

### **2009 ICMS Event Management Graduate**

While many ICMS students attended afternoon classes, Jonathan Leggett would head to the North Sydney offices of CiEvents, an international event management company, specialising in corporate events and conference planning, where he worked part-time in a much sought after role as an events assistant. He did this while studying Event Management at ICMS.

During his time as a student, Leggett was the recipient of the Certain Software Rising Star Award and given a cash prize of \$5,000 (AUS) dollars. Leggett was selected out of numerous applicants on the basis of his personal essay, detailing the critical role of the EventsPro software in the event management industry.

Leggett completed his nine-month industry training at *Turning Point*, an event management company in Bondi, where he had the opportunity to plan an incentive trip to China for Hewlett-Packard, the largest technology company in the world. One high point of the trip was the gala dinner for one hundred and sixty employees on The Great Wall of China. Leggett's first trip to China offered him the chance to problem solve and experience the culture-specific challenges of planning an event in a different country where motivation and work ethic vary. 'We had to bring everything from generators to tables to lighting, but the end result was truly amazing.'

Prior to commencing studies at ICMS, Leggett spent years in various roles within the hotel industry. Leggett feels that many of the attributes he obtained through his work at Accor Group and Manly Pacific, notably his fine tuned people skills, were transferrable to the event management industry.

When Leggett, a native of Wollongong, is not planning events around the world, he enjoys ballroom dancing and is often solicited for his choreography skills.

A solid understanding of event production and design, logistics and run sheets represent some event management fundamentals. Leggett adds that passion is equally important. This passion was put to the test recently when a cyclone hit Fiji just days before a scheduled conference for 600 people. Leggett had a short time frame to move the conference and reroute all of the guests to Sydney. 'Certainly a good event manager needs to have passion, but the willingness to work long hours to get the job done for clients remains above all other things.'