



follow us on facebook
and twitter

Time to drink in the view



Branksome Hotel staff at the rooftop bar — beverage manager Sudhir Chandra (standing third from right) and commercial director Ben Chandwani (sitting right). Inset, the view; lychee martini and Toblerone cocktails. Pictures: John Appleyard

Hotel rooftop bar the spot to see planes, celebrities

Ben James

IF you like your cocktail with a view then you'll want to check out Sydney's newest rooftop bar.

Branksome Hotel opened in Robey St, Mascot, in October last year and it's already gained a reputation for its stunning rooftop garden bar.

"It's a fantastic space," Ben Chandwani, Branksome's commercial director, said. "You have views over the airport to Port Botany and then to the city."

The 146-suite hotel is the pet project of Regional Express Airlines (Rex) boss Lim Kim Hai, who had

The Branksome



» **WHERE:** 60 Robey St, Mascot

» **WHEN:** Rooftop bar open Thursday to Saturday

» **FEATURES:** 146 balcony suites, restaurant, conference rooms, gym, pool

» thebranksome.com.au

intended to build a penthouse apartment on top of the hotel.

Instead, he built the rooftop bar and in the process created the perfect drinking spot for planespotters. It's also a great location for celebrity

spotting, with the private charter area of the airport within a stone's throw of the hotel.

"We've had the New Zealand Prime Minister down there, Elton John and the other week we had (ex-US president) Obama," Mr Chandwani said.

The man behind the bar is Sudhir Chandra who has spent the last few years honing his skills in the flashy bars of the Middle East. Among his creations is The Branksome — a mix of vodka, Vermouth, espresso and cinnamon cream. For those with a sweet tooth he recommends the Toblerone (Kahlua, crème de cacao, Frangelico, Baileys, honey



and cream).

So good is the view Mr Kim Hai felt it unfair to reserve it for hotel guests, so anyone can go there.

"There's nothing else like this around here," Mr Chandwani said. "It really is a stunning view."

» **For more photos and a video go to southerncourier.com.au**

Triplets honoured



WHEN Sophie Smith's husband died, she feared the memory of their triplets would be lost.

But having teamed up with journalist Deborah Fitzgerald, her babies' stories have been preserved in her new memoir *Sophie's Boys*. The Coogee mum lost her triplets in 2006 after they were born premature. She had two more sons with her husband Ash. But in 2016 he tragically died from brain cancer.

"Ash was the only person on that journey with me," she said. "When he died it was almost like the memory of our children was being taken away. So it feels important to have written their stories."

The memoir, which is out now, tells of her triplets' lives and deaths and the founding of her charity Running for Premature Babies Foundation which has raised more than \$2.5 million to date.

"I don't want the book to be depressing. I hope it shows that there can be hope in despair and light out of the darkness."

• runningforprematurebabies.com.

Enjoy outdoor living with...

Twinlite
AWNINGS

(Aust) Pty Ltd Lic No 150568C

CURVED, DOMES, GABLE, FLAT, RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INSURANCE WORK.

10 year manufacture limited warranty.
FREE MEASURE & QUOTE
FACTORY PRICES

*8mm Lexan Twinwall Polycarbonate
Double-Sided UV Protected Panels



Showroom & Factory:
Unit 1/10 Hornsby St, Hornsby
www.twinliteawnings.com.au
twinliteawnings@optusnet.com.au
Phone: **9482 7000**



Call now for a free quote
Phone: 9838 9090

visit jfyw.com.au

Lic.No. 185684c



FREE MEASURE AND QUOTE

9890 7477

www.sydneywardrobe.com.au

Lic.No. 185628c