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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 11th December 2012

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CZ closes PER bookings

CHINA Southern looks set to suspend its thrice weekly service between Guangzhou and Perth, with GDS displays showing no availability for the flight effective from 02 Apr 2013.

CZ's fourth Australian destination commenced operation just over a year ago.

More MEL SmartGates

MELBOURNE Airport now features ten SmartGate terminals, with the completion of a project to smooth arrival processes.

As well as doubling the number of the new gates, Customs and Border Protection has worked closely with the airport to improve the traveller experience through queue management and better signage.

SmartGates are available to Australian and NZ e-passport holders aged over 16 as well as US Global Entry program members.

NSW govt reveals SICEEP

SYDNEY'S massive new conference and exhibition facilities will feature a hotel complex with up to 900 rooms, with the NSW Govt this morning announcing the preferred bidder for the \$1b-plus project.

The Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Centre (SICEEP) will be constructed by the Destination Sydney consortium including Lend Lease, AEG Ogden, Capella Capital and Spotless.

With the working title of 'Darling Harbour Live,' NSW

Get on board today

DON'T forget to take part in the survey about the Amadeus single PNR via the Altea platform utilised by 140+ airlines.

Shopping vouchers worth \$2500 are up for grabs - see the **front full page** of today's *Travel Daily*.

premier Barry O'Farrell confirmed that the existing Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre would close in 12 months time, with the new facilities to open three years later in Dec 2016.

The Sydney Entertainment Centre complex will remain open until Dec 2015, when it will make way for a new urban precinct called The Haymarket which will be developed by the consortium.

Darling Harbour Live will have 40,000 square metres of exhibition space - more details in tomorrow's **Business Events News** - subscribe free at www.businesseventsnews.com.au.

VS short haul plans

VIRGIN Atlantic is now offering fares from Australia to Scotland, after announcing a major expansion within the domestic UK market, adding 24 flights per day from London Heathrow to Scotland and Manchester.

VS is pitching the move as part of its longstanding battle against BA, saying it's "challenging the current British Airways monopoly on these routes which is causing serious consumer harm."

From Apr 2013, VS will operate six return flights a day to Edinburgh, three daily return flights to Aberdeen and three daily trips to Manchester.

The routes were previously operated by bmi which was this year acquired by BA's parent IAG.

The VS domestic operations will utilise A320 aircraft wet leased from Aer Lingus, fully branded as Virgin Atlantic.

Tickets for the Scottish routes are now available leading in at \$1653 return ex Australia.

Seven pages of news

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news and photos, a special **front full page** plus full pages from: (**click**)

- TMS Asia Pacific jobs
- AA Appointments jobs

SEALINK

Travel Group

Two Exciting Business Development Executive Opportunities!

Employing over 650 people throughout Australia, SeaLink Travel Group are best known for their ferry operations connecting the South Australian mainland to Kangaroo Island. In addition they have built a significant tourism operation as a tour operator, travel wholesaler and retail travel business nationally recently purchasing Sun Ferries in Townsville (now Sealink Queensland) and Captain Cook Cruises on Sydney Harbour.

SeaLink Travel Group have two opportunities for exceptional and experienced Business Development Executives to join their Business Development team.

- **Business Development Executive** – Victoria & Tasmania is a permanent full time opportunity, which may be based in Melbourne or Adelaide, to be successful you will need to have a strong understanding of retail trade distribution in these markets
- **Business Development Executive** – Adventure & Youth Market is a permanent part time opportunity based in Adelaide we are seeking a person with an outgoing personality with demonstrated experience in the Adventure and Youth sector.

For more information visit www.seek.com.au.

Applications should be received COB, 14 December 2012.

Vote for Tassie videos

TOURISM Tasmania is offering the opportunity to win a \$300 gourmet Tasmanian hamper by voting on the best video produced during the Tasmania Mega Famil 2012 in Aug.

Four groups of retail and wholesale agents, from Infinity Holidays, Sunlover Holidays, Tas Vacations and Travelscene/Qantas Holidays took part in the trip, self-drive touring the Apple Isle before coming together in a group dinner in Hobart.

They were equipped with video cameras and produced "four very different, wacky interpretations" of Tasmania which are now online for voting, so for your chance to win view them and vote.

Voting closes 14 Dec - see them at www.bit.ly/tasvideos.

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15 777-300ERs for TK

BOEING and Turkish Airlines have finalised a firm order for 15 new 777-300ER aircraft, which is the biggest order by value in the airline's history.

TK already has 12 of the aircraft operating its long-haul flights.



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Fyfe talks up VA strategy

STAR Alliance chairman Rob Fyfe says the addition of Virgin Australia into the group's network would be welcomed with open arms, admitting however that ceo John Borghetti's strategy to be unaligned has added merits.

"We would love to have Virgin Australia in the alliance," Fyfe told *Travel Daily* in China recently, adding, "We've got a lot of respect for them as an operator."

"But at the same time we've got a lot of respect for the value of their strategy being an unaligned carrier," the Air New Zealand chief executive officer said.

Virgin's commercial partners to date include Singapore Airlines & Air New Zealand (Star Alliance), Delta Air Lines (SkyTeam) and the unaligned, Etihad Airways.

As an unaligned carrier, Virgin Australia has the option to "pick & choose the sort of relationship that makes sense to them" meaning any carrier that is not

already aligned with Qantas and rival airline alliance, **oneworld**, a prospective partner.

"For what is most effectively a predominant domestic player, being able to scan the landscape & weigh up potential relationships, in their situation, is a very good strategy," Fyfe explained to *TD*.

"You're the only option to give them [new partners] feed into Australia, so it's easy to find willing airlines that want to have a conversation with you.

"When you align yourself with one alliance or another you really close down your options," he said.

Travelport NZ bags

TRAVELPORT has today introduced a new Prepaid Extra Bags feature which allows agents in NZ, Australia, Ireland and the UK to pre-book extra baggage services on Air NZ flights.

The service can be purchased at the time of booking or up to three hours prior to departure for international journeys, and up to 30 minutes prior for domestic trips within Air New Zealand.

The system uses the electronic miscellaneous document (EMD) protocol, with Travelport vp of distribution sales and services Asia-Pacific, Damian Hickey, saying the move "should lead to Air New Zealand being able to grow their ancillary revenues via the travel agency channel".

Hilt returns to SAA

GARY Hilt has been appointed as Sales Manager for WA, SA & NT at South African Airways.

He returns to the carrier after four years, having previously been Sydney-based National Sales Manager for the carrier prior to stints with New Horizons Holidays and his most recent role as national sales mgr for JTG Cruise and Harvey's Choice Holidays.

CATO pro TITP

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators has welcomed the proposed implementation of the Travel Industry Transition Plan (**TD** yesterday), with gm Peter Baily confirming that "for a number of years we have shared the view that the current licensing system was inadequate".

He congratulated AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury for his persistence over the last four years, adding that "it is now time for all sectors of travel to unite and work towards a fair, efficient and competitive industry with an industry-led accreditation scheme".

Baily said such a scheme, underpinned by an ACCC sanctioned code of conduct and supported by the Australian Consumer Law "will promote both trustworthiness and integrity within the industry".

He said CATO also looks forward to helping develop commercial solutions to address insolvency.

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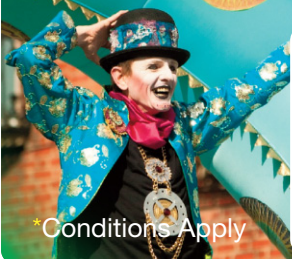
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Happy Hayman Christmas

HAYMAN
 Island thanked media and other key partners for their support at a delightful lunch at Sydney's Aria restaurant yesterday.



It's been a huge year for the iconic resort which has blossomed after a five month closure in 2011 for rectification works after Cyclones Anthony and Yasi.

The most recent development at Hayman has been the appointment of new gm Scott Murray (TD 04 Dec), with owner Mulpha Australia strongly committed to "maintaining Hayman's positioning as one of the top resorts of the world as well as offering unique private

ownership opportunities".

Hayman executive gm sales and marketing, Anna Guillan, is **pictured** above with Simon Westaway from Tourism Australia.

EY boosts Africa

ETIHAD will establish links between the UAE and the West African Republic of Guinea via an expanded codeshare agreement with Royal Air Maroc covering Casablanca-Conakry services.

Lost your iPad at JFK?

A **TRANSPORTATION** Security Agency officer working at New York JFK airport has been arrested for stealing electronic goods from passengers.

A "sting" operation was carried out by local authorities, including planting two iPads with tracking capabilities in luggage.

32-year-old baggage screener Sean Henry was caught leaving the airport with the gadgets, and a subsequent search of his house turned up other stolen items.

Qantas scam alert

QANTAS has advised agents of a scam email which claims to contain Seat Selection Fee receipts not issued by the airline.

The carrier is advising customers not to click the links in the email or download or open the attached files, & recommends an up-to-date security software to help protect against internet threats of this type.



Window Seat

AN outlet at Downtown Disney in Orlando, Florida has once and for all solved the problem of missing socks.

Little Miss Matched, which is adjacent to other retail, dining and experiential offerings including the world's biggest Disney store, is a clothes outlet which among other things sells socks in sets of three.

Each sock is unique, meaning there's a perfect excuse to never be wearing a matching pair.

AND in typical fashion that giant Disney store also has some unique features - including a gigantic figure of Stitch, the mischievous alien from Disney's *Lilo and Stitch* movie.

The Stitch figure is located above the entrance - and on a random basis sprays water (out of his mouth) on unwary guests.

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Philippine Airlines

RCI 12-12-12 1-day sale

ROYAL Caribbean International will tomorrow launch a one-day sale across all its ships, sailings and destinations worldwide to mark the date of 12-12-12.

Bookings made on the date will earn daily on-board credits in multiples of US\$12, up to US\$336.

Tauk Matters banner

TOUR operator Tauk has introduced a new brand banner after rolling out its 2013 Europe product portfolio, which includes four new land journeys.

The 'How You See The World Matters' slogan emphasises the means used to explore a location, Tauk ceo Dan Mahar said.

"Travel decisions are typically desination-focused, yet 'how' you experience any destination is just as critical to your overall experience as where you travel."

Tauk's 2013 Yellow Roads of Europe land journey has retained the 2012 pricing.

Indian delegates arrive

OVER 4,000 Indian delegates attending the Amway India Leadership Seminar have arrived en mass in Melbourne this week.

The seven-day Victoria itinerary includes business sessions at the Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau, and the group will visit Phillip Island and the MCG.

Tourism Australia says the event will be the largest Indian incentive to ever be hosted in the country.

India offered strong potential for future business & leisure travel, TA md Andrew McEvoy said.

Free night on Trafalgar

TRAFALGAR has extended its Free Night in London offer until 27 Dec for guests booking a First-Class Europe or Britain itinerary of 15-days or more commencing in the UK capital before this date.

To be eligible, clients need to book one night pre- or post-tour accom in London to receive an extra night free of charge.

4 more for Accor in UK

ACCOR has signed agreements to acquire management rights for four new hotels in the UK.

Of the four, one will be located at the Canary Wharf region of London, and will be opened as a 310-room Novotel by mid-2015.

Elsewhere, the group will open three Ibis properties in Edinburgh, all to open in the next two years.

Shanghai 72-hr visa

VISITORS to Shanghai from 45 countries will be able to enjoy the city for three days without a visa after the city's municipal govt approved the plan from 01 Jan.

Among the countries approved for the plan include Australia, the USA, France and Japan, with Beijing announcing a similar visa-free visitation plan four days ago.

China Southern and China Eastern have both been lobbying for extensions of up to seven days to encourage tourism to the city (**TD** 16 Aug and **TD** 20 Sep).

US makes bid for AA

US AIRWAYS Group has made a formal offer to AMR Corp. - the parent firm of bankrupt American Airlines, valuing the carrier at US\$8.5b, according to US sources.

The merge bid is said to be an all-stock amalgamation.

No comment has been released by either party as the matter has not yet been made public.

MEANWHILE, US Airways has announced plans to expand its South American network with a new service to the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo, from its Charlotte hub, commencing from 05 May.

AND, new routes from AA's Dallas/Fort Worth hub to Peru and Seoul, South Korea have been confirmed by the carrier, to begin on 02 Apr & 09 May respectively.

VS appoints director

VIRGIN Atlantic has appointed Reuben Arnold as its new Customer Experience Director, with effect from 02 Jan 2013.



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EK special Asian deals

ON SALE until 21 Dec, Emirates has released a companion sale fare to 19 destinations in Asia, valid for travel from 16 Jan-31 May.

For departures ex SYD via BKK, ex BNE/MEL via SIN or ex MEL via KUL and then beyond with other carriers, return seats start at \$650 with a minimum 2 pax required to fly together on all sectors.

FCC in-flight devices

THE head of the US Federal Communications Commission has asked aviation regulator, the FAA, to "enable greater use of tablets, e-readers and other portable devices" during flights.

The FCC has pledged to work with the FAA as well as airlines and device manufacturers on a review of electronic devices which are currently banned during takeoff and landing.

The FAA has also advised that it's not currently considering allowing voice calls during flight.

2013 hot destinations

FLIGHT Centre has released a list of its Top 10 travel destinations for 2013, based on what it believes to be emerging hotspots, what customers are enquiring about and what the industry is offering.

New Zealand tops the list, with Hong Kong and the Cook Islands rounding out the top three.

Queensland's islands, Burma, Hawaii, Morocco and Abu Dhabi are included, with France's stunning Côte d'Azur voted into 9th spot and "family themed cruises" in tenth place.

MEANWHILE, Abercrombie & Kent has released its "Hot List" for 2013, with its results based on early sales estimates.

In addition to Australia's walking trails, the list includes China's Shanxi Province, Botswana, the Arctic Circle, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Turkey, Brazil and Central Asia.

DNSW to bring United

DESTINATION NSW has joined forces with Football Federation Australia to announce a special exhibition football match between an A-League all-stars side and champion side Manchester United.

The one-off game will take place at Sydney's ANZ Stadium on 20 Jul.

Moroccan rewards for Globus



CASABLANCA and its intriguing, exotic surroundings played host to the 2012 Globus Supertour, in which the Top 25 Australian and New Zealand agents were thanked for their efforts in selling Globus, Cosmos & Avalon Waterways trips.

Hosted by Globus md Stewart Williams, the 10-day trip included time to check out all the sights & sounds of the historic city, capped off with dinner at Rick's Cafe, one of the famous eateries in the city.

Other highlights included Rabat, Meknes, Marrakesh, Fez, Erfoud, a sunset camel ride, a Moroccan dinner in the desert and a night in the luxurious Palais Ommeyad.

Details of the 2013 Supertour will be announced in early Jan.

Pictured above outside the Royal Palace in Rabat, in the **back row** from left are Esther McNeill, Jetset Midland; Janette Wall, Cruiseabout Turramurra; Paul Rickard, HWT Caloundra; Kelly Banks, Macleay Valley Travel; Stacey Daley, Andrew Jones Travel; Troy Ackerman, GFOB; Jessica Donovan, FC Fountain Gate; Tom

Shears, Best Flights; and Leah Hughes of HWT Mount Pleasant.

Middle row: Susie Bernard, House of Travel Gore; Susan Pincock, HWT Upper Hutt; Jessica Chappell, GFOB; Amanda Ellis, House of Travel Barrington; Greg Morris, GFOB; Fleur Conley, ET Ringwood; Rita D'Amico, HWT Garden City; Karina Petrovic, FC Mittagong; Jessica Quan, Travel Plus; Lisa Noye, FC Toowoomba Grand Central and Laura Kennett from FC Shepparton.

Front row: Angela Diack, House of Travel Lakers; Emma Longford, HWT Nowra; Lauren Grdusiak, FC Nepean; Nicole Knapp, FC Barrington; Graham Lye, Cosmos and Kelly-Anne Brock from FC Werribee Plaza.

TG A380 to Tokyo

THAI Airways International has moved forward the start of its A380 flights between Bangkok and Tokyo, which will now debut two weeks earlier than previously planned, on 01 Jan.



SALES AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATOR

MSC Cruises Australia has an administrator position become available within our sales and marketing department in our growing Sydney office.

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Rugby 7s in Vegas

KEITH Prowse has deals to the USA Rugby Sevens being played in Las Vegas from 08-10 Feb, priced from \$595ppts, including three nights accom and two-day tickets.

Scenic visits the Russian Tsar



RUSSIAN waterways played host to this group of agents, who enjoyed a 12-night all-inclusive luxury river cruise on the *Scenic Tsar*, courtesy of Scenic Tours.

As the first new-build river ship to be registered in Russia in a quarter of a century, the voyage sailed from St Petersburg to Moscow, with the sights passing by from each agent's balcony suite.

In port, the group enjoyed a private Russian ballet performance, met with a Russian cosmonaut and enjoyed lunch at an old-world wooden "Podvorie".

Moscow's Red Square was

visited, along with St Basil's Cathedral & the Kremlin Armoury and a multitude of other highlights in St Petersburg before boarding the Scenic vessel.

The group is **pictured** above at The Kremlin in Moscow.

Insight India success

INSIGHT Vacations has rolled out its new 2013/14 India & Nepal brochure featuring a collection of new mini tours to complement its existing Gold and Premium trips, building on the successful launch of the new destination in Aug.

MD Joost Timmer said sales for the first program - released 12 months ago - have exceeded expectations, and has since received "outstanding customer feedback."

The three-day Fascinating Mumbai and the five-day Shimla, Queen of Hills mini tours have multiple departures from Aug to Apr, priced from \$975ppts and \$1,365ppts respectively.

The longer itineraries travel thru India, Nepal, Bhutan & Sri Lanka.

ANTO Facebook comp

AUSTRIA National Tourist Office is giving away three picnic sets packed with goodies valued at \$160 in a Facebook competition running through until 18 Dec.

There's also 100 runner-up Cafe Vienna CD packs up for grabs.

Open to Aussies only, entrants need to 'like' the Austria Official Travel Info page and say what experience makes Austria unique.



AFTA UPDATE

The latest insights from AFTA's Chief Executive, Jayson Westbury

THANK you to everyone in the travel industry for the outstanding support, patience, determination and dedication to the reforms that were announced on Friday of last week.

As I said last week in this column, cross everything and clearly this has delivered the result. A modern approach to a global industry that will allow Australian travel agents to thrive and survive into the future.

Reiterating what I have said many times before, these reforms are sensible, fit for now and will future-proof the industry into the future. There will of course be much discussion now about what the new accreditation scheme will look like and we will do our best to ensure that everyone's views are considered and included if we can. Sensible debate, a united approach that brings appropriate outcomes is what we need now going forward.

As most of the industry would be aware, AFTA has produced over 950 pages of submissions. PricewaterhouseCoopers produced on behalf of the Consumers Affairs Ministers, paid for by taxpayers money a 450 page report that outlined all of the arguments and proposed a range of suggestions going forward. The consultation process has been exhaustive and the latest Travel Industry Transition Plan consultation draft brought forward these final recommendations which got the green light last Friday.

For anyone now to come out and question the strategic value of the Travel Industry Transition Plan needs to understand that the time for debate about what should happen has now passed. The opportunity to influence the outcome existed for a short 1,460 days (4 years).

That window is now closed and we now need to focus on industry led outcomes.

We are, if you like, in charge of our own futures now and over the next 12 or so months we will need to get the structure right, ensure that everyone wants to be involved and ensure that consumers come along for the ride with us.

I am excited about the future. I see a wonderful travel industry full of outstanding professionals who are running outstanding businesses and who care about their customers. Most of all I look forward to working with those in the travel industry that believe in the same values. Values that will make a difference for the better.



JQ/JAL pulls variation

THE Qantas Group has advised the Int'l Air Services Commission it is no longer seeking to review codeshare arrangements between Jetstar & JAL on one of its three determinations (**TD 27 Nov**).

QF told the IASC the planned variation of 6.1 B767-200 units of capacity per week to Japan is "no longer sought."

KE to Colombo/Male

KOREAN Air will introduce new thrice weekly services between Seoul Incheon to Colombo, Sri Lanka with an onward connection to Male, Maldives from 09 Mar.

The Korean carrier will operate the route using 276-seat three-class Airbus A330-300s - including six First Class Sleeper seats - every Mon, Wed and Thu.

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Camped in the NZ countryside



GRASS really is greener on the other side, as was discovered by this group of Travel Counsellors who were treated to a look into the North Island of New Zealand courtesy of Kirra Holidays.

Highlights for the group included exploring the Hamilton Gardens, checking out "Middle Earth" and the set for the Lord of the Rings movies and the boiling mud pools at the Polynesian Spa.

The adventure junkies in the group partook in the Kawarau Jet

boat on Lake Rotorua, the Skyline Skyride and the famous Luge.

Nature lovers were also treated, witnessing the birth of a newborn Kiwi at Rainbow Springs.

Pictured above enjoying the NZ countryside, from left is Andrew Guthrey, Kirra Holidays; Kerrie Croft, David Phillips, Carol Mills, Suzzelle Matillano, Christine Klein, Kristina Hughes from the Travel Counsellors head office, Jake Bartlett, Catrina Hodges and Natalie Edwards.

Narnoo launch to control marketing

A NEW tourism e-kit launched late last week in Tropical North Queensland aims to allow for the modification of marketing material via cloud-based software, according to developers.

The system has been designed specifically for the Cairns market to offer tour operators to ensure that videos, images and relevant data shown at tour desks can be easily updated when required.

Dubbed Narnoo, e-kit developer James Wells said the system was also compatible with smartphone and tablet devices.

"It creates a media library for the operator where tour desks, graphic designers and regional tourism organisations can access everything they need relevant to their individual business

requirements," Wells said.

The e-kit has been put together in collaboration with a number of tourism operators, with more than 180 operators already signed up and using the online software including local DMS Travstar and Destination Cairns Marketing, praised by DCM gm Sam Ferguson.

"It's great to see the tourism industry in Cairns embracing this online distribution technology," Ferguson said.

2013 Battlefield brox

MAT McLachlan Battlefield Tours has launched its new 2013 brochure, covering 11 key destinations and introducing two new tours - the Battle of Sicily 70th Anniversary, and the New Guinea Campaign Luxury Expedition Cruise.

Featuring both small group and independent touring options and many of the brochured itineraries are guaranteed for 2013.

For more info, call 1300 880 340.

HINN Stay, Park & Go

A NEW deal from Holiday Inn Melbourn inclusive of one-night accom and seven nights secure car parking, & kids stay & eat free, priced from \$199 (**TD** Thu) excludes breakfast.

Tuesday 11th Dec 2012

Travel Daily
First with the news



AFRICA'S coastlines are just as picturesque and memorable as its more famous wildlife-abundant national parks, as was realised recently by this group of agents.

Hosted on a 12-day famil trip by APT, the group travelled across South Africa & Zambia, enjoying time in Johannesburg, Madikwe Safari Lodge and Tinga Private Reserve in Kruger National Park.

Also visiting Cape Town, the contingent experienced a cable-car ride to Table Mountain, a tour of Robben Island, and concluded with a stay at the famous Royal Livingstone Hotel at Victoria Falls.

The group are **pictured** above at Table Mountain, and from left in the back row consisted of Kirsten Kuen, APT Tour Director; Alicia Philips, Trendsetter Travel; James Jang, HWT; Janelle Ramsey, APT;

Luke Chittock, Travelworld; Simone Berryman, Travelworld; Maree Bidarra, HWT; Lisa Priestley, HWT.

Front row: Cher Lontok, APT; Tania Fusca, Atour Travel Service; Kayla Noeffke, Our Vacation Centre; Danielle Stucki, Travelscene; Karen Kelly, RACT Travelworld and Carole Walter, Phil Hoffmann Trvl.

Send kids underwater

UNDERWATER World on the Sunshine Coast has launched a Behind-The-Scenes tour for kids to get a taste of life as a marine expert during the school holidays.

The tour includes a visit to the attraction's turtle hospital, with the tour running three times daily.

The new experience is \$15 per adults and \$12 for kids on top of general admission.

PTMs get their fill on an A380



QANTAS recently gave this group of Personal Travel Managers the full A380 experience, without even needing to leave the ground.

The group were inspecting one of the carrier's superjumbos, as well as its Qantas Club and First Class Lounge facility at Sydney International Airport.

TravelManagers attendees were even treated to a bit of pampering during the experience, which was especially enjoyed by PTM Marina Knezevic of Matravilla, in Sydney.

"It was absolutely beautiful. My clients are going to be impressed when I tell them about it".

The visiting group are **pictured** above in front of the flight display board in the First Class Lounge, and from left in the back row, consisted of Michael Ditchburn, Arthur Vicario, Ric Pattaro, Marina Knezevic, Michelle Hohenberg and Kylie Daw from Qantas.

From left in the front row is Julianne Gazal-Rizk, Beverly Burt, Cissy Yee and Aliki Losifidis.

SkyTeam FB challenge

GLOBAL airline alliance SkyTeam is running a social networking competition via Facebook to encourage awareness as to the increasing growth of the group.

The 'Destination Challenge' pits SkyTeam fans to correctly guess the three-letter airport codes of destinations served, with the score then posted on the competitors' own Facebook wall.

See facebook.com/SkyTeam.

Training dragons in NZ

NEW Zealand pilot school CTC Aviation Training Limited will train upcoming Dragonair pilots, after being approved by the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department for the issue of Hong Kong pilot licenses.

Money

WELCOME to *Money Talk*, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

\$1AUD = US1.048

WEAKER than expected export and production figures from China, which were released late yesterday, came through and put downward pressure on the AUD.

Overnight though, our currency found its ranks bolstered by other positive news elsewhere which resulted in the recovery of previously inflicted pains.

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$1.048
UK	£0.652
NZ	\$1.256
Euro	€0.810
Japan	¥86.35
Thailand	฿32.12
China	¥6.53
South Africa	R9.08
Canada	\$1.03
Crude oil	US\$85.98

Rendezvous shuffle

RENDEZVOUS Hospitality Group has announced a number of high level changes to its management team as the company steps up its commitment to Australia.

Senior vice president of Hotel Ops, Geoffrey Johnstone will vacate his role, effective 31 Dec, but retains an advisory role on the Board as Company Director.

Johnstone will be replaced by Rendezvous Grand Hotel Adelaide general manager Emilio Fortini from 01 Jan 2013, whose role will be filled by Rendezvous Reef Resort Port Douglas general manager, Scott Wilkinson, assuming the role on 28 Nov.

RHG Area general manager for Brisbane, Justin Philip will step into the role of Area general mgr, Western Australia from 21 Jan.

Luke Macdonald will fill the void vacated by Wilkinson in Port Douglas from 29 Nov, while Matthew Horvat has been named as the new Area GM Brisbane, starting 21 Jan.

Bris to Byron bargain

GREYHOUND has cut the price of its Brisbane to Byron Bay coach service by nearly 50%, with prices now starting from \$28 one-way.

The discounts are part of a new price-cut campaign which has also seen fares between Surfers Paradise and Byron reduced, along with FNQ and NSW services.

New Centara brand

CENTARA Hotels and Resorts has launched a new brand aimed at budget-conscious travellers, to be named COSI Hotels.

Up to 30 COSI branded hotels will be opened by 2020, with the first operational in the Thai capital, Bangkok by 2015.

Tjupakai didge lessons

TJAPUKAI Aboriginal Cultural Park in Cairns has launched free lessons to teach guests how to play the didgeridoo, with the 1-hour classes on three times daily.

An inspiring SKAL experience

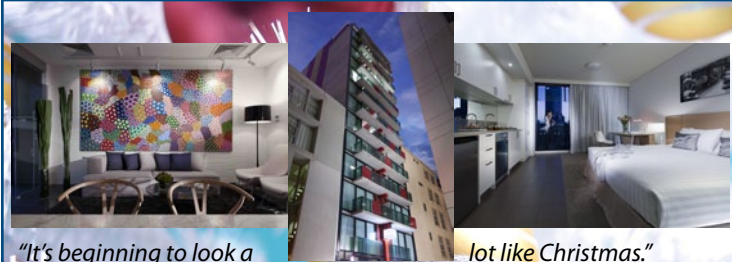


FUNDRAISING for The Melanoma Institute, Sydney's SKAL luncheon last week heard an inspiring tale of survival against the odds from cancer survivor Jay Allen, guest speaker for the event. SKAL president Denis Simond

selected the charity for the group's annual fundraiser, with early estimates of the amount raised coming in at around \$4000.

Denis Simond (left) & Jay Allen are both pictured above following the luncheon's proceedings.

WIN TWO NIGHTS IN AT FRASER PLACE MELBOURNE!



"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas."

Travel Daily's popular Christmas photo competition is back! Fraser Place has arrived in Melbourne with the launch of the brand new studio suite accommodation in a quintessential Melbourne city laneway.



Our good friends at **Fraser Place Melbourne** want to celebrate the festive season with the travel industry, and are asking you to send in your work Christmas party photos throughout December.

At the end of the month, the judges will select their favourite photo and the person who submitted this will win two nights accommodation for two guests in a brand new Studio Deluxe Suite, buffet breakfast for two on both mornings, complimentary internet and midday check-out.

Bonus points will be awarded for photos that include a copy of the *Travel Daily* issue.

So get into the spirit and start snapping, then email your festive photos (including names of the people pictured) to:

xmasphotos@traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry. Sign up for a free 14 day trial subscription at www.traveldaily.com.au.

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TMS Facebook Competition

Thank you to all those who liked our Facebook page.



Ainslie Hunt from TMS presents tickets to Zena Baokes

From all the Team at TMS Asia Pacific to all our clients, candidates and fellow travel industry colleagues we wish you a Merry Christmas and exciting 2013 year!

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CLIMB THE GREAT WALL TO A NEW CAREER WHOLESALE CONSULTANTS REQUIRED X 3 SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$45K

Do you want to make the move from wholesale travel? Are you tired of face to face selling? From a breathtaking tour of the Taj Mahal to a cooking school in the markets of Hanoi to a cultural tour of the Great Wall of China you will be selling a wide range of tours, accommodation and packages to Asia. Do you have 12 months experience and travelled extensively in Asia. Don't hesitate in apply for this amazing opportunity today.

GET THAT PROMOTION YOU DESERVE RETAIL STORE MANAGER – PARRAMATTA SYDNEY – GREAT BASE + COMMISSION

Are you tired of the long commute? Do you want to work a stone's throw from home? Do you want that promotion that you deserve? This award winning national retail company is looking for a manager to lead the team to success. You will have the opportunity to work with a well-established team in hands on role. You will be responsible for driving success in the team and motivating staff. If you are an assistant team leader or leader who wants to take the next step. Apply now.

MOVE INTO WHOLESALE RESERVATION CONSULTANTS X 5

MELBOURNE (INNER) - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$53K inc super
If you consider yourself to be well travelled and experienced at selling destinations worldwide, then here is your chance to join an awarding travel company and do what you do best! With sensational famils on offer and the opportunity for career progression, this is a fantastic opportunity to move into wholesale. If you have a minimum 12 months industry experience and have travelled extensively then call today!

WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR! CORPORATE CONSULTANT PERTH - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$65K (DOE)

Our client, a small boutique corporate agency in Perth, is on the search for an experienced consultant to join their team. Building a strong client rapport and working in a fun team environment you will be offered a great salary package and amazing opportunities to develop your product knowledge. To be successful in the position you must have min 2 years consulting experience and CRS knowledge. Apply today.

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW JOB! CUSTOMER SERVICE CONSULTANTS X 3

MELBOURNE (INNER) - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$55K (OTE)
Are you looking to start the New Year with a new challenge? Want to spruce up your career? Well here is your chance. This reputable travel company is looking for 3 consultants to join their team for a January 7 start. Moving away from face to face consulting, this role will see you respond to a range of queries over the phone and via email. You must be Galileo trained and have a flair for excellent customer service to apply.

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A BANG! RETAIL CONSULTANTS X 5

ADELAIDE (VARIOUS) - SALARY PACKAGE VARIES DOE
Adelaide is starting the New Year with a BANG! With various retail positions opening in the New Year, our clients have asked us to find them talented travel professionals. So if you have a minimum of 1 years travel consulting experience, have knowledge of Galileo, Sabre or Amadeus and are passionate about all things travel then we need you! With sensational salaries and generous bonuses on offer, contact us today!

CRUISE INTO 2013 WITH A NEW TRAVEL ROLE CRUISE CONSULTANTS X 4

BRISBANE – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$55K OTE
Passionate about cruising? Wish you could sell a product you love? Here's your chance. This market leader is currently looking for experienced travel consultants to join them as cruise specialists. You'll thrive working in a busy environment and enjoy dealing directly with clients in person along with over the phone. Working in this team you'll get to experience some of the best cruise products out there first hand along with make great \$\$ and enjoy the best benefits in the industry.

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANT BRISBANE CBD – SALARY PACKAGE UPTO \$47K + BONUSES

Sick of selling cookie cutter itineraries and South Pacific packages over and over again? Want a role where you can create interesting itineraries? Then this is for you. We currently have the opportunity for an experienced travel consultant to join an adventure specialist. You will enjoy creating once in the lifetime trips for your clients which really take them off the beaten track. A strong salary package, incentives, exotic famils and much more will be on offer.