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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Friday 4th December 2015

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## Virgin names new cio

**VIRGIN** Australia has promoted Cameron Stone to the position of chief information officer, replacing Lawrie Turner who has moved to the role of group exec for business services.

Stone was previously VA's gm of IT strategy & business.

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## FCm wins NSW government

**FLIGHT** Centre today confirmed that its FCm Travel Solutions TMC division has been awarded the NSW government travel management contract.

The three year deal comes with two additional one-year options and follows a successful tender conducted by the state's Department of Finance, Services and Innovation.

"We are delighted to have won this prestigious account and look forward to helping the government achieve its aims," said FCm gm James Kavanagh.

FCm will take over the account from early next year, with the contract extending to NSW govt departments, members of the state parliament and other eligible entities.

Kavanagh said the FCm submission was built around a strong focus on self-service online

solutions, a long-term roadmap outlining key strategies to deliver further efficiencies, and access to a "vast customer support network of expert people in Sydney and in key regional centres".

Interestingly, FCm will tap into its network of Flight Centre leisure travel shops in some parts of the state to provide a seamless face-to-face service for government corporate travel customers.

## QF HKG Prem Econ

**QANTAS** is switching some of its Melbourne-Hong Kong flights to Boeing 747 aircraft from 30 Apr, meaning customers will have the option of Premium Economy.

The up-gauge from the previous A330 aircraft will be effective on Fri, Sat and Sun services, with the Premium Economy sectors also combinable with Economy.

See [www.qantas.com/agents](http://www.qantas.com/agents).

## Points in peril?

**CHANGES** to credit card "interchange fees" proposed by a government review are likely to have a major impact on airline loyalty points schemes.

The Reserve Bank has released draft rules detailing changes which are estimated to have an impact of as much as \$800 million on bank and airline income from the purchase of loyalty points.

Interchange fees for bank-issued Visa, MasterCard and Amex cards would be capped at 0.8% rather than the current 2.2% maximum.

The fees are generally used to purchase rewards such as airline points, with the big cut expected to see loyalty program points earning rates rejigged.

## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has seven pages of news, including a photo page for **Helloworld** plus a full page from: (**click**)

- AA Appointments jobs

## AY Jetstar codeshare

**FINNAIR** has launched a new codeshare agreement with Jetstar Asia, which will see the AY code added to five routes to and from Singapore from 15 Dec 2015.

The routes include Jetstar Asia flights to Darwin as well as Ho Chi Minh City, Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Phuket.

Finnair baggage allowances will apply, with luggage checked through via Singapore to the final destination and onward boarding passes issued at the initial departure point.



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Friday 4th December 2015

**DREAMLINER TO CHINA**  
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## Travel Daily

on location in Montreux

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you from Montreux, courtesy of Switzerland Travel System, Rail Europe & Switzerland Tourism.

**MONTREUX** is snuggled in Lake Geneva bay and surrounded by vineyards & a backdrop of snow-covered Alps, offering a plethora of excursions to the mountainous hinterland and on the lake.

Today, the Swiss Travel Pass SuperStars were treated to experience some of these special excursions - a visit to Santa Claus House at Rochers-de-Naye and the Christmas Village in Caux, travelling First Class on the spectacular Golden Pass Panoramic train (see **page four**).

The Golden Pass Line operates between Montreux, Gstaad and the Bernese Oberland with connections to Lucerne, and travel is included for all Swiss Travel Pass holders with a small fee applying for seat reservations.

Among the many charming houses along the lakeside road in Montreux you'll find the opulent Fairmont Le Montreux Palace.

Built in 1906, the property is a unique five-star luxury hotel on Lake Geneva and is considered one of the most prestigious in Switzerland.

The Montreux Palace offers 236 luxuriously furnished rooms and suites featuring quality amenities and the latest technology; a host of dining venues and a spa overlooking Lake Geneva - all with a personalised service in true Swiss style.

More from Switzerland on **page 4** & at [www.traveldaily.com.au](http://www.traveldaily.com.au).

## VA/EY pact reauthorised

**THE** Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has provided the green light for Virgin Australia to maintain its alliance with Gulf-carrier Etihad Airways for five years (**TD** breaking news).

Handing down its decision, the competition watchdog said in its assessment for the renewed pact it was unlikely to be cause "any significant public detriments".

Virgin and Etihad sought a 10 year re-authorisation period, however the ACCC capped the duration by half, citing "the considerable growth in traffic to and through the Middle East underscores the dynamic nature of the aviation industry."

The ACCC also said VA's link with international airline partners,

including Etihad, are likely to have increased the incentive for Virgin Australia to secure agreements with Tourism Australia, "and may have enabled Tourism Australia to reach an agreement that represents better value for money."

EY ceo James Hogan said the announcement was a "real win for Australian travellers."

"We are two best-in-class airlines working together to offer a superior level of comfort and service," he added.

## New Disney AU rep

**DISNEY** Destinations has named David Clark to head up operations in Australia & NZ, taking the role vacated by Lee Siefken earlier this year (**TD** 25 Jun).

Clark joins Disney from his former role as national manager cruise wholesale with Helloworld, with his career also including roles with Carnival, Phil Hoffmann Travel and Disney Cruise Line.

He will report to Hong Kong-based Ken Wong, vp Asia Pacific Regional Sales for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

## Soft Expedition style

**APT** is refining its small ship expedition cruise portfolio for 2017, developing a new 'Soft Expedition Cruises' collection.

Pitched at the "adventurous and active", the soft expeditions offer a more intimate experience with an expedition crew of five - compared to 10, as featured on APT's 'Expedition Cruises' - with itineraries more often docked.

Destinations for APT's Soft Expedition voyages include Japan, the Mediterranean, Southern Europe and the Baltics.

APT is further bolstering its expedition range for cruise and land combos, with new options in Turkey, France, UK, Ireland, Norway and Scandinavia.

A range of promotions such as Fly Free including taxes are now available on the Small Ship 2017 brochure - see [aptouring.com.au](http://aptouring.com.au).

## 2 DRW AccorHotels

**ACCORHOTELS** is spreading its portfolio in the Top End, entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with RECAP IV Fund to take over management of two Darwin-based airport properties.

The hotels - currently operating as Rydges Darwin Airport Hotel & Rydges Darwin Airport Resort - will join AccorHotels in Mar.

Adding more than 300 keys in the NT capital, the properties will reposition as Novotel Darwin Airport and Mercure Darwin Airport Resort respectively.

The 181-room Mercure resort will beef up its capacity in 2016, adding a further 108 rooms to inventory following renovation work in public spaces which is currently being wound up.

## Quest last-min deal

**AZAMARA** has a promotion on *Azamara Quest's* eight-night cruise from Darwin to Cairns, with fares now priced at \$1,999ppts.

Departing on 28 Dec, the cruise is the first leg of *Quest's* inaugural season in Australian waters.

Until 09 Dec, new bookings will also receive a bonus US\$200 on board credit, per stateroom.

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First with the news

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## Amex tips APAC fare rise

**MODEST** pricing gains are predicted for airlines and the hotel industry in 2016, according to the latest American Express Global Business Travel Forecast.

The forecast envisages this will be due to lower petrol costs and stronger demand for services.

Vice president AMEX Global Business Travel Caroline Strachan said while small increases were expected, travel managers were "operating in an era of new challenges & evolving disrupters".

"In addition to handling tasks such as measurement and compliance, new factors such as the sharing economy and mobile booking channels are becoming increasingly popular for business travellers. In order to thrive in this digital era, travel managers need to be aware of and dynamically adapt to these forces across a variety of geographies," she said.

Domestic Economy airfares

in the Asia Pacific region are expected to see the strongest fare hikes in the region (up 2% to 3.5%), despite competition from high-speed rail offerings in China and Japan.

"While some countries around Asia are experiencing slower rates of economic growth than previous years - most notably China - companies continue to look abroad for opportunities and the demand for international business travel remains solid," said AMEX Global Business Travel, Asia Pacific David Reimer said.

Mid & upper range hotels in APAC are likely to see some growth (mid 1.3% to 3.7%, upper 1.6% to 4%) with favourable exchange rates & limited inventory fuelling substantial rate hikes in Sydney and Tokyo, while the end of the mining boom is having the opposite effect in the western half of Australia, the study found.

## MP: back GBR promo

**MINISTER** for Tourism Richard Colbeck is asking travel industry professionals to get behind Tourism Australia's new \$40m marine marketing campaign.

It will include print, broadcast, cinema and digital ads and will kick off just weeks after the new David Attenborough Great Barrier Reef documentary goes to air in early 2016.

Tourism operators are invited to submit photographic, video, film and social media content to feature in the marketing drive.

Content can be submitted to TA via social media and the best examples will go in the campaign.

Those in the industry will also be able to access campaign assets from TA for individual marketing.

Colbeck said the new campaign builds on the Government's targeted efforts to meet the 2020 growth targets.

More information on how to get involved can be found **HERE**.



## Window Seat

**THERE'S** no need for Britons to go to Africa to experience big cats, with the London Zoo set to open a guest lodge inside its new lion enclosure.

The redevelopment of the zoo's former Land of the Lions precinct will include nine luxury cabins branded as the Gir Lion Lodge, complete with safety measures to ensure there's no direct contact between humans and the animals.

Costing an estimated £400 per couple per night, bookings for the lodge open next week with the first overnight stays kicking off in May 2016.

Guests will be given exclusive evening and morning tours of the enclosure, with proceeds from the initiative helping with lion conservation efforts.

## AGENTS OF ALOHA VIDEOS

### HAWAI'I DESTINATION TRAINING MADE EASY!

Follow the journey of our Agents of Aloha, as they experience a bucket list itinerary across the Hawaiian Islands.

Next stop... the captivating island of Maui.

Discover the charm of this popular island and unlock all you need to know to plan the perfect Hawai'i holiday for your clients.

Take a 10-minute tea break and tune in!

**You Tube**

**The HAWAIIAN ISLANDS**



Friday 4th Dec 2015

## EY drop 'I' class limos

**COMPLIMENTARY** limousine transfers offered by Etihad Airways for Business class pax flying on Business Saver 'I' class fares on flights between Abu Dhabi and Australia will be axed from next Mon.

According to an industry update on the website of alliance partner Virgin Australia, the transfers will continue to be offered free for Business class travellers on 'J', 'C' and 'D' fare classes.

New eligible limo booking requests must be requested via the Virgin Australia website.

For guests who have already made a Business class booking in 'I' class, the complimentary limousine service must be booked by 31 Dec.

## Starwood expands

**STARWOOD** Hotels & Resorts has expanded its Pacific Regional team with Andrew Smith the new director, design & technical Services and Van Phan the new regional manager, operational excellence.

## Decadent Princess

**PRINCESS** Cruises has released a mouth watering video to showcase its Chocolate Journeys.

Food porn at its finest, the video reveals up close shots of the delicious chocolate creations available on board the cruises.

Master chocolatier and pastry designer Chef Norman Love highlights the cruise line's latest Chocolate Journeys offerings, from chocolate pairings with tea to a new signature chocolate soufflé dessert – all set to roll out fleetwide in early 2016.

Launched last Nov, *Chocolate Journeys* has been designed by Love for Princess Cruises - to view the video, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Passenger growth

**STRONG** demand growth continues for domestic and Int'l flights reports IATA in its global passenger traffic results for Oct.

Total revenue passenger kms rose 7.5%, Oct capacity increased by 5.7% & load factor rose 1.4 percentage points to 80.5%, driven by lower fares, particularly for leisure travel.

"The air travel story is generally a good one. In most parts of the world we see strong demand for travel - exceeding the growth in capacity," Int'l Air Transport Association ceo Tony Tyler said.

## Santa Claus meets SuperStars



**FATHER** Christmas himself travelled from faraway Lapland to be at his Swiss home at the Rochers-de-Naye, especially to welcome the Australian & New Zealand visitors yesterday on the Swiss Travel Pass SuperStar famil.

Perched in a grotto atop the Rochers-de-Naye Mountain with snow guaranteed, Santa Clause's house is open for visitors between 20 Nov and 24 Dec to coincide with the Christmas Markets in Montreux.

It was a magical journey for the SuperStars travelling on the cog railway (Santa Claus Express train) for approximately an hour to reach an altitude of 2,042 metres, and enjoy one of the most beautiful vantage points in

western Switzerland.

On arrival at St Nick's house, there were lots of activities to participate in such as face painting, a treasure hunt and sweets tasting.

It was most definitely a Christmas wish come true for these SuperStars to have met Father Christmas himself!

**Pictured** are some the naughty and nice 2015 SuperStars: Elaine Seua, Josie Hanney, Clem Tringale, Naomi Hill, Santa Claus, Kacey Sowman, Melissa Blessing, Ruth Bullock, Rhonda Paice, Mark Wettstein, Switzerland Tourism; Yvette Van Urk, Nina Marchioli, Ingrid Kocijan, Rail Europe; Max Thomas, Melissa Healy, Cassandra Zayonce and Chris Riou.

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### Air Specialist

This position is a first point support person for our Travel Consultants with questions around airfares or flight promotions

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- Sell our exciting range of products and destinations from APT, Travelmarvel and Botanica World Discoveries
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- Team building activities
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- And much more....

For more details on any of these roles or to apply please visit <http://aptouring.applynow.net.au/>

## Mantra welcomes PAL inaugural



**THE** first ever Philippine Airlines aircraft touched down in Cairns yesterday, arriving from Manila on the carrier's new Manila-Cairns-Auckland service.

Passengers and crew on board the aircraft were extended a warm welcome by Mayor of Cairns Councillor Bob Manning

and Cairns Airport chief Kevin Brown.

PAL's cabin-crew flying the new route will be accommodated by Mantra Trilog.

**Pictured** above is Mantra Trilog duty manager Tomas Lade with the inaugural Philippine Airlines flight crew.



## Destination NSW

### Domestic Partnerships Coordinator

- **Ongoing, Full Time**
- **Sydney CBD – The Rocks**
- **Total Remuneration Package (\$96,376- \$106,681)**

#### About the Organisation

Destination NSW is a Public Service Executive agency with responsibility for developing and implementing strategies to grow the visitor economy. Our particular focus is on driving tourism and acquiring and developing major sporting and cultural events for Sydney and Regional NSW. In addition, Destination NSW is the major investor in Business Events Sydney with the aim to secure more international conventions, incentive travel reward programs, corporate events and exhibitions for Sydney and Regional NSW.

#### About The Role:

Under the leadership of the Domestic Partnership Manager, the Domestic Partnerships Coordinator will work closely with the Domestic Partnership Specialist to coordinate and implement Partnership Programs to drive overnight visitation to Sydney and New South Wales for the domestic market. This role works closely with a number of internal partners, within Destination NSW and with external traditional and non-traditional partners, to implement and report on domestic marketing and promotional activities.

#### Applying for the Role:

Applicants should respond to the following two targeted questions in a covering letter [maximum two pages] as well as supplying an updated copy of their resume [maximum five pages] with relevant skills and experience and identifying how these relate to the capabilities of the role.

1. Outline your experience in working on cooperative marketing campaigns detailing your specific responsibilities.
2. Provide an example of a successful cooperative marketing campaign that you have implemented including an overview of the partner, budget, media and results.

**Closing date:** Tuesday 15 December 2015 at 11:59pm

**Enquiries:** Alessandra Higgins on (02) 9931 1178 or [alessandra.higgins@dnsw.com.au](mailto:alessandra.higgins@dnsw.com.au)

Applications must be lodged electronically via Jobs NSW website. Applications submitted via email will not be accepted.

## Travel Daily

First with the news

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### Barossa open for biz

**THE** South Australian Tourism Commission has declared the iconic tourism region of Barossa back in business, following a devastating fire which left many houses severely damaged & more than a dozen people injured.

"While there is still much to do, particularly for those whose families and properties were left devastated by the blaze, we must show our support for the region," said SATC chief Rodney Harrex.

"We need to ensure the visitor economy remains stimulated to give the area its best chance of continuing down the road to recovery," he adds.

Wineries, restaurants and accommodation in the area remain unscathed, however visitors should be aware that some minor road closures are still in place.

### Tonkin appointment

**PAN** Pacific Hotels Group has appointed David Tonkin to the position of general manager for the 276-room PARKROYAL Melbourne Airport.

Formerly the regional director of operations at Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific, Tonkin also spent 12 years with Rydges Hotels and Resorts managing their flagship properties.

### 3K Palembang launch

**BUDGET** airline Jetstar Asia (3K) has commenced direct services from Singapore to Palembang, South Sumatra.

The new service will operate three return services a week.

### Chiang Mai Riverside

**THAILAND'S** luxury new Chiang Mai Riverside accepted its first guests in a soft opening yesterday.

Overlooking the Ping River, the intimate 14-suite property offers luxe amenities such as a 24-hour butler service, digital Apple entertainment systems, customised menus, a fitness centre, swimming pool and modern furnishings.

### Win with crooked compass

Every day Travel Daily and Crooked Compass are giving readers the chance to win a \$40 Kathmandu voucher.

Steering travellers to follow a different path, Crooked Compass allows



you to experience the world's most fascinating destinations in ways you never dreamed possible. Crooked Compass delves deep into the heart and soul of a destination ensuring you get out of your journey all you intended and much more. These intriguing itineraries have been created by travellers for travellers.

To win, be the first to send the correct answer to the following question to [crookedcompass@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:crookedcompass@traveldaily.com.au)

List two optional excursions available on the Mystique Myanmar itinerary.

*Need a hint? CLICK HERE*

### AS Premium offering

**ALASKA** Airlines has unveiled a brand new Premium Class offering, allowing customers to enjoy priority boarding and up to 3 inches of additional legroom.

"Premium Class will provide an opportunity for all customers to get an enhanced flight experience," said Alaska Airlines exec vp Andrew Harrison.

Sixty aircraft will be retrofitted with the Premium class section beginning late 2016 and the remainder of its 737-800, -900 & 900ER fleet by the end of 2017.

### BoltBus.com tracking

**PREMIUM** coach shuttle service BoltBus has announced the addition of BusTracker technology to its site and mobile apps.

Passengers in the US will now be able to search via schedule number, departure city or arrival city for live updates on where and when their buses will arrive.

The technology works by pulling data from three tracking systems installed on all Boltbus vehicles.

More on [bustracker.boltbus.com](http://bustracker.boltbus.com)



## MH cans AMS, CDG

**MALAYSIA** Airlines continues to rationalise its network, with the suspension of flights from Kuala Lumpur to Amsterdam and Paris effective from late Jan 2016.

## Departure numbers grow 4.9%

**SHORT-TERM** resident departures from Australia in Oct numbered 795,000 movements, up 4.9% over the previous year according to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released today. Indonesia was the most popular destination with 106,600 travellers, ahead of New Zealand

at 95,100 and the US with 88,800.

Other outbound markets in the top ten comprised Thailand in fourth place followed by China, Great Britain, Singapore, Fiji, India and Japan.

Year-on-year there was a big jump in travel to the UK, up 19.7% to 36,100, most likely due to the Rugby World Cup, while the resurgence of Japan was also highlighted with a 23.2% uplift to 23,300 Aussie travellers.

Inbound growth has been faster than outbound over the last year, with 631,300 arrivals during Oct, 8.8% higher than the figure twelve months prior.

New Zealand was Australia's biggest market for arrivals with a whopping 131,200 visitors, significantly ahead of China in second place with 75,500.

However the figure for China was up a hefty 26.1% on Oct 14.

In fact there was strong growth across the board, with all top ten markets growing.

Visitor numbers from the US rose 9.8%, Singapore grew 9.1% and Hong Kong increased 17.1%.

## Skal charity lunch

**SKAL** Sydney will host its annual Christmas luncheon next Wed 09 Dec at the Four Seasons Hotel.

As well as providing networking opportunities and entertainment the lunch will feature a fundraiser in support of the Chris O'Brien cancer charity.

Tickets are \$109 per person or \$999 for a table of ten - see [sydney.skall.org.au](http://sydney.skall.org.au).

## Sabre Christmas get together



**THE** executive team from Sabre Corporation hosted suppliers to a lavish Christmas party at Sydney's Zeta Bar last night.

Guests were thanked for contributing to a year of success which saw the highest growth seen from the Australian market.

**Pictured** is Greg Webb, Sabre vice chairman; Sean Menke, newly appointed president, Sabre Travel Network (TD

Wed); Richard Morgan, regional director, Sabre and Roshan Mendis, Senior Vice President, Sabre Travel Network Asia Pacific.



**ABOVE:** Guests included AFTA boss Jayson Westbury and e-cruising.com founder Brett Dudley.



**ABOVE:** More of the Sabre team: Merlin Mathew, Jean Shaw, Terry Isaac and Sandra Bridgewater.

## Online travel sales strong

**TRAVEL** and accommodation rated as the second most popular online purchases in Australia in the last financial year.

A new State of the Nation Retail Spotlight by Roy Morgan Research shows Australians spent \$37.8 billion over the internet during the year, with 1 in 10 consumers purchasing at least one product online during an average month.

CEO of Roy Morgan Research Michele Levine said it was clear the most common online sales were for non-physical items like tickets, bookings, home delivery, and downloads.

"That is products with no

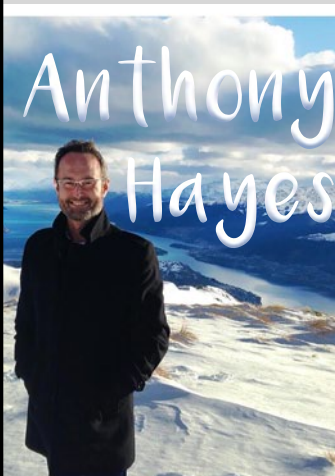
shipping or that don't need to be tried on or tested in a bricks-and-mortar store.

"For many, the internet is now the default channel for buying a travel or movie ticket or booking a hotel room," she said.

The top online buys were tickets to shows, movies & events at 6.5% with travel coming in just behind at 6.4%, followed by women's clothing (5.6%) and books (5.2%).

Almost two-thirds of shoppers said they only buy from online retailers they know—whether that's trustworthy online-only outlets or the websites of bricks-and-mortar shops.

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Friday 4th Dec 2015

# Helloworld honours top performers

**LAST** weekend's Helloworld Owner Managers Conference wrapped up with a fabulous gala dinner during which the group made a range of awards to its highest performing members and franchisees across both the branded and associate networks. These photos were taken during the event.

**RIGHT:** David Padman (left) and Steve Brady (right) present the Associate Network Expert and National Retailer of the Year awards to Sean Skilton of Skilled Travel.



**ABOVE:** The Associate Network State Retailers of the Year Award winners: Steve Brady of Helloworld, Carla Scully, Amanda Marsh and Stacey van den Akker from Travel Key Kalamunda, Julie Hogben of Magic Travel, Sean Skilton from Skilled Travel, Shane Edwards of Travel Key Kalamunda, Dan Russell from Globenet Travel and Cathy Sullivan & Paul Gardner of Eastern Hill Travel.



**LEFT:** Julie Primmer (left) and Lynda Wallace (right) of Helloworld with Branded Network Joint National Manager of the Year Award winner Guillaume Lefebvre of helloworld Alice Springs.



**LEFT:** David Padman from Helloworld presents the award for Associate Network National Manager of the Year to Wayne Campbell from Cruise Travel Centre.



**BELOW:** The Branded Network Retailer of the Year award went to John Cooney from Helloworld Mount Pleasant, who's pictured with Helloworld's Julie Primmer and Lynda Wallace.



**ABOVE:** Cathy Donaghy of helloworld Strathpine accepts the Branded Network Pursuit of Knowledge Award.

**LEFT:** The Associate Network Preferred Sales Growth Award category: Steve Brady of Helloworld; Leonie Spencer, Lifestyle Travel Ballarat; Christine Ross-Davies, Attadale Travel; David Padman, Helloworld; Candice Paul, Attadale Travel; Deborah Moffatt, Northshore Travel; and Dan Russell from Globenet Travel.



**RIGHT:** The Branded Network Joint National Manager of the Year Award went to Janene Ferguson from helloworld South Melbourne.



**ABOVE:** The Branded Network Preferred Sales Growth Award was accepted by Janene Pendleton of helloworld Bankstown.



## ATEC honours high achievers



**THE** Australian Tourism Export Council honoured its highest achievers this week at its annual award ceremony held at the Randwick Racecourse in Sydney. Craig Wickham from Exceptional Kangaroo Island took home the coveted 'Captain Trevor Haworth Outstanding Contribution by an Individual' award for his work in strengthening and developing the island's tourism offerings. "His focus on marketing, quality control and delivery of exceptional experiences, coupled with dedication to nature

## PR China Airlines pact

**CHINA** Airlines has this month launched a new codeshare partnership with Philippine Airlines covering services between Taiwan and the Philippines.

and wildlife, drives his service culture," said ATEC chairman, Denis Pierce.

ATEC also recognised Zoo Victoria's Carla Phillips, bestowing on her the 'Len Taylor Young ATEC Award for Leadership', for her commitment and passion towards the tourism industry.

Keynote speaker Minister for Tourism Senator Richard Colbeck is pictured centre on stage, with award-winner Craig Wickham addressing the crowd at the podium.

## Spring \$6.3b purchase

**CHINA'S** largest low-cost carrier Spring Airlines has penned a \$6.3 billion deal to purchase 60 A320neo jets from Airbus Group SE to meet increasing travel demands by Chinese tourists.

Scheduled for delivery between 2019 to 2023, the order comprises 45 A320neo and 14 A321neo aircraft.

According to Mao Yi, Spring Air's head of public relations, the deal will increase capacity by 158%.

"It will also improve the overall fuel efficiency of our fleet & help us break into new markets," he added.



## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to [specials@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:specials@traveldaily.com.au).

**Fraser Suites Perth** are offering a 'Summer Fun Package' which includes overnight accommodation, two complimentary cocktails & buffet breakfast for two. To book visit [perth.fraserhospitality.com](http://perth.fraserhospitality.com)

**Singapore Airlines** has announced special fares from Australia to Asia priced from \$895. Travel to Phuket, Koh Samui & Japan commences between 16 Apr - 31 May. For more, visit [singaporeair.com](http://singaporeair.com)

Travel on **APT's** new 15-day Southern European Sojourn Soft Expedition Cruise from Barcelona to London in 2017 & receive return flights to Europe for your companion, incl taxes up to \$1,200. Call 1300 196 420.

A seven-night package at 5-star Yume Basho chalet at Niseko is on sale at 20% off, priced from \$1,006pp based on six guests - call [SkiJapan.com](http://SkiJapan.com).

## A&K hosted journeys

**ABERCROMBIE** & Kent has announced the addition of brand new hosted journeys for small groups to the Australian outback.

Both starting and finishing Darwin, the itinerary includes access to restricted areas of Arnhem Land & a helicopter flight to the cascades at Bullo River.

## Qantas passport alert

**QANTAS** is advising agents that some countries including South Africa, India and Colombia are now imposing requirements that travellers have machine readable passports.

Non-compliance can result in customers being denied boarding, the carrier warned.



Air Canada is gearing up for an exhilarating 2016 with the launch of its first non-stop Dreamliner flights from Brisbane and the unveiling of an industry-leading on-board product – including its first premium economy cabin – on its daily Sydney-Vancouver route.

To celebrate Air Canada and Travel **AIR CANADA** Daily are offering two round trip Air Canada economy class tickets, from either SYD or BNE. All you need to do is create a fun Christmas photo featuring Air Canada and *Travel Daily*, then send it to [aircanada@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:aircanada@traveldaily.com.au) before 31 Dec!

## Mt Kinabalu track

**TWO** new trekking routes have been added to the summit of Mount Kinabalu in Laban Rata, Malaysia.

The routes replace an old single trail leading to the peak where several climbers and were killed during an earthquake in Jun.

The second trail Kota Belud is still under construction,

**MEANWHILE**, budget carrier AirAsia has announced it will now operate from Kota Kinabalu Int'l Airport Terminal 1, making it easier for passengers travelling to and from the destination.

*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 at [www.traveldaily.com.au](http://www.traveldaily.com.au).

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