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New Travel Counsellors MD

TRAVEL Counsellors has appointed a new managing director for its local operations, with the senior role being taken by industry veteran David Hughes.

The key strategic move follows the private equity buyout of the company earlier this year (**TD** 02 Mar) which provided a platform to capitalise on "strong opportunities for growth" in the Australian market, according to global md Steve Byrne.

Hughes will work alongside existing gm Tracy Parkinson to grow the company in Australia, bringing 25 years of experience to the role including senior positions with JTG, Qantas and the Global Business Travel Association.

"We are committed to building our trusted travel brand in the Australian marketplace and investing further across all areas of the business," Byrne said.

"We have therefore been very careful to select a leader in David that passionately shares our values of putting customers and people first," he added.

Hughes said he was excited about building on the success

to date of the group in Australia "and positioning Travel Counsellors as the leading trusted travel brand for personalised travel planning and advice".

Travel Counsellors' 1,400 members across seven countries have this year seen average income growth of 10%, with the group's global turnover lifting \$80m to \$850 million.

Byrne told **TD** earlier this year that Australia had "strong fundamentals" for Travel Counsellors including a buoyant outbound market and a large pool of professional travel agents.

MF officially files SYD

XIAMEN Airlines has lodged an application with Chinese aviation regulators for daily Boeing 787 services from Fuzhou to Sydney (**TD** 02 Feb) starting 25 Oct.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news, a front cover page for **JITO**, plus full pages:

- AA Appointments jobs
- inPlace Recruitment

TFE unveils Collection

HOTEL Kurrajong Canberra has become the founding member of TFE Hotels' sixth and newest brand, dubbed TFE Hotels Collection, **Travel Daily** can reveal.

The historic property, which has housed some of Australia's most prominent political figureheads, was reopened last year after a restoration and refurbishment.

TFE Hotels Collection says the new brand will be made up of "distinctive and boutique properties in Australia and overseas, each with individual charm and character".

Properties added to the brand will adhere to the company's 'More Ways to Stay' and 'More Ways to Meet' leisure and corporate tagline.

TFE Hotels group director of marketing Emma Fraser said Hotel Kurrajong Canberra warranted a special place within the company's brand network as it "didn't naturally fall into our existing brand framework".

"The TFE Hotels Collection creates the flexibility to encourage this growth...whilst still benefitting from integration within the TFE Hotels family."



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Married segments on VA

VIRGIN Australia yesterday warned agents it may issue ADMs for violation of new 'Married Segment' controls which are being adopted from tomorrow.

VA said it is introducing 'Married Segment Logic' to support flight inventory management based on origin and destination (O&D).

Applied to prime and marketed Virgin Australia sectors, the logic assesses the parameters of connecting flights and applies marriage on the segments.

Flights booked as individual segments within the same PNR are also automatically married if they meet set connecting times and do not form a return journey.

The Australian carrier said its flights will show the relevant GDS marriage indicator once booked.

Should one of the married flight segments be partially cancelled or changed, agents may need to cancel the entire journey and rebook the new O&D.

Bookings made prior to 29 Jul will not be affected by the new restrictions, "however, the married segment logic will be applied if voluntary changes are

made to the booking after that date; connecting segments will be married and treated as such from that point forward," Virgin said.

MEANWHILE, VA will shed domestic add-ons within Australia on all USA long-haul published and private fares as it rolls out a new revenue management system later this week.

The move, effective 30 Jul, will see specified fares introduced from Australia, but fare levels are expected to remain stable.

Virgin Australia says the removal of domestic add-on fares to the US is necessary due to the way fares in the new revenue management system are structured for VA's int'l long haul ops to/from regional Australia, "to ensure our systems functions correctly."

"The majority of fares will remain the same as a result of this change," a spokesperson for Virgin Australia told **Travel Daily**.

Existing VA bookings to the US with domestic add-ons need to be ticketed by 23:59 (AEST) tomorrow "to avoid being impacted by these changes".

Lufthansa fares rejig

LUFTHANSA has announced the launch of a "new price concept" for its flights in Europe, with the introduction of "Light," "Classic" and "Flex" fares applicable from 01 Oct.

Economy Light fares will lead in at €89 return and do not come with any checked luggage or the ability to rebook or refund.

Economy Classic, priced from €129 return, allows rebooking for a fee and also includes a 23kg piece of checked baggage and free seat selection.

At an additional €60-€160 depending on route, Economy Flex fares give fee-free flight changes, free seat reservations and an extra 50% of frequent flyer miles.

Along with the three Economy class fares, Lufthansa will continue to offer Business class fares with lounge access, a 2 x 32kg baggage allowance, seat reservations with an open seat adjacent and priority boarding.

Under the new structure Business class fares will also allow free flight changes and refunds free of charge.

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TNZ Facebook push

TOURISM New Zealand has teamed with Facebook's in-house creative team to develop a new global digital campaign which will be shown in nine key markets.

A series of five short films that follow a couple's trip around New Zealand have been produced, aiming to address some of the barriers facing people who are actively considering an NZ holiday.

"Our research showed that while this audience understands the epic landscapes, there are gaps in their knowledge regarding their perceptions of our infrastructure, ease of travelling around New Zealand and the variety of things to do and see," said TNZ director of marketing Andrew Fraser.

Dubbed *The Kombie Diaries*, the integrated creative is activated on both Instagram and Facebook.

Fraser said *The Kombie Diaries* is targeting visitors in search of "real experiences and appreciated authenticity", not necessarily the 'fly-and-flop' type of traveller.

THAI cuts workforce

THAI Airways Int'l has confirmed plans to shed more than 1,400 staff as part of restructure plans to reduce operating costs and capacity by 20%.

Staff will be offered voluntary retirement packages under the plan, while four weekly flights from Bangkok to Rome & Los Angeles (via Seoul) will be axed effective 25 Oct (**TD** Thu).

From the same date, THAI will double frequencies from BKK to London Heathrow and Frankfurt to 14 weekly, utilising both Airbus A380s and Boeing 777-300ERs.

Further, TG intends to shift operation of flights to Hyderabad, Luang Prabang and Changsha to its subsidiary Thai Smile Airways.

THAI President Charumporn Jotikasthira said the carrier was aiming to cut operating costs this year by up to THB9m (\$355,000), adding it was "normal" to cut costs and adjust flights to suit "changing situations".

GTI adventure client

CANADA-BASED active travel company Butterfield & Robinson is ramping up its brand awareness locally, having appointed GTI Tourism as its Australian public relations representative.

The business operates high-end, travel experiences around the globe focused on adventure, culture and "sophisticated dining with lodging options".

Butterfield & Robinson was founded in 1966 and has over 100 trips for FIT and group markets in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, North America and Latin America.

President & ceo Norman Howe said the Australian market has "great potential".

"With 50 years under our belt, providing incredible experiences to travellers from around the world, we know experiential and active travel has huge appeal amongst Australians and we're thrilled to have GTI Tourism on board to raise our profile in this market," Howe commented.



Window Seat

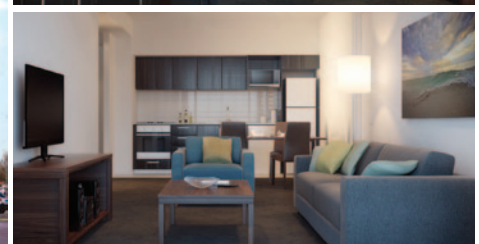
WE'VE all crossed our fingers for a flight upgrade, but Delta Air Lines is definitely taking it to the next level.

Top tier frequent flyers with the carrier will be offered the opportunity to switch from a commercial flight to a private jet in a new program set to roll out from this week.

Delta says the program will target "high value customers" and work in conjunction with DL's Private Jets offshoot which operates a total of 66 aircraft.

Apparently these planes often fly "empty leg" repositioning flights, and the new option aims to utilise otherwise empty seats.

Pricing for the private jet upgrades will start at \$300, with invitations offered to the lucky pax 48 hours prior to departure.



Quest Rockingham – Opening 4th August

Quest Rockingham is poised to become the premier accommodation provider in Perth's southern suburbs. Comprising 96 studio, one and two bedroom apartments, the purpose-built property also offers a conference room facility, swimming pool and gymnasium. Located close to an array of dining options, it is the perfect accommodation choice for the business or leisure traveller.

Search **"QG"** on the GDS
or visit **questrockingham.com.au**



Tuesday 28th July 2015

Club Med winner

CONGRATS to Monika Racz from World Travel Professionals who has been selected as the winner of last month's Club Med competition which ran exclusively in **Travel Daily**.

Monika has won an amazing ski trip to France for two, staying seven nights at either Club Med Resort Val d'Isere, Valmorel or Peisey Vallandry, including flights with Air France.

After answering the most questions correctly, her winning response to the final question was: *"High altitude, adrenaline rush, scenic mountains, plenty of dry snow and sophisticated all-inclusive resorts without breaking the budget... Would be Med not to experience it."*

BBW opening at SYD

AMERICAN body products brand Bath & Body Works will open an outlet at Sydney Airport's T2 domestic terminal later this year - the first location in Australia to showcase its range of scents, lotions, potions and candles.

TripSource roll out

CORPORATE travel group BCD Travel has announced plans to roll out its proprietary hotel booking platform TripSource Hotels more widely following its successful deployment in Europe.

Powered by GetGoing tech, TripSource Hotels combines content from general distribution systems with listings from hotel booking aggregators and private properties, selling them at competitive rates.

Hamilton race week

ORGANISERS of the 2015 Audi Hamilton Island Race Week have announced the schedule for this year's event which takes place from 15 to 22 Aug.

The week is packed with on-shore events and activities, from general admission, ticketed and by-invitation only - full details at hamiltonislandraceweek.com.au.

Travelpart, Radius jv

TRAVELPORT has entered into a new exclusive partnership deal to provide travel commerce solutions to TMC Radius Travel.

The agreement enables the 70 members of Radius Travel to access Travelpart's solutions such as Smartpoint, Rich Content & Branding and Booking Feed.

Infinity reasons to visit Americas



THE decline of the Aussie dollar against the US greenback has done little to deter Australia's insatiable desire for America, as attested by the volume of visitors to last weekend's first Flight Centre Discover America Expos.

Launching its national expos in Brisbane and Adelaide on Sun, Flight Centre's wholesale division Infinity says it didn't take long for queues to speak with the travel professionals reach 30 metres.

Theatre presentations in both cities were packed.

"Travellers obviously still see the USA as a desirable destination despite the fall of the Australian dollar against the USD and perhaps because of the abundance of great deals on air and land at the moment," the

wholesaler said.

Exhibitors included Adventure World, APT, Brand USA & Visit USA, Contiki, Insight, Topdeck, Scenic, Trafalgar, SkiMax Holidays, Tucan Travel, as well as multiple airline and cruise partners.

Disney and Universal Studios received "very strong enquiry", with island hopping around Hawaii and sightseeing in New York extremely popular.

Among the most popular special deals available during the expo was Infinity's five days for the cost of three Disney Passes.

The Discover America Expos will move to the Sydney Showground this weekend (02 Aug) and then to Perth and Melbourne (09 Aug).

Pictured is Infinity's Queensland Expo team in Brisbane.

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Agents get a taste for Malaysia



MALAYSIA beckoned for a group of seven travel agents who recently participated on a week long famil, courtesy of Tourism Malaysia, Malaysia Airlines and Berjaya Hotels & Resorts.

The Tasmania & Victoria-based consultants explored some of the highlights of tropical Langkawi including Kilim Geo Forest Park &

Mount Mat Cincang, while staying at Berjaya Langkawi Resort set among the ancient rainforests.

Their itinerary also included a stop in Kuala Lumpur with a visit to Berjaya Times Square Hotel.

From the centrally located hotel, the agents enjoyed the Malaysian capital's shopping, entertainment and culinary offerings.

Pictured at Langkawi's Hole in the Wall floating restaurant from left are Stephen Ninis, Malaysia Airlines; Katie McDonald, Flight Centre Highpoint; Eleni Vailas, RACT Travel; Vanessa Iacono, Flight Centre Niddrie; Tara Sottile, Pakenham Travel; Joshua Murdoch, Escape Travel Bendigo; Sallyanne Jackson, helloworld Ashburton; Jeanette Edwards, Flight Centre Croydon and Lena Froelich from Complete Travel Marketing representing Berjaya Hotels & Resorts.

MU seasonal boost

QANTAS and China Eastern have explained to the ACCC plans to boost frequencies between Shanghai and Melbourne & Sydney to double daily (**TD** 16 Jun) as part of a new joint venture will initially be on a seasonal basis only.

MU's new A330 flights are slated to commence as thrice weekly from Sep and increase to daily from Nov through to 29 Feb.

VA no-show process

VIRGIN Australia is reminding agents of the best processes to handle 'no-shows' for domestic fares booked under a Saver or restricted Flexi fare.

If a passenger fails to check in for a confirmed VA flight on the scheduled departure date, agents are advised to either create a new PNR for the flight and issue a new ticket for travel or call Virgin Australia to have the affected coupon 'no showed' manually.

Once manually changed from 'open' status to 'used', agents can proceed with a new flight in the same PNR & issuing a new ticket.

The procedure avoids any overlapping information in the system which causes errors at check-in, Virgin Australia advises.

DNSW partner guide

TOURISM operators can learn more about the opportunities and help available to promote to key inbound markets through the new Destination NSW Prospectus.

Released today by ceo Sandra Chipchase, the program details incentives such as website listings, industry research, online toolkits, publicity opportunities & product showcases designed to help businesses lure visitors to NSW.

Chipchase said the prospectus will help NSW increase its lead over rival states in terms of visitor numbers, nights and expenditure.

The guide covers events and opportunities up to Jun 2016 and can be downloaded from the Destination NSW website.

Tuesday 28th July 2015

Abu Dhabi roadshow

AROUND 450 travel agents and key influencers are expected to participate in Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority's four city roadshow next week.

The show builds on growth out of Australia for the emirate, which last year welcomed nearly 50,000 visitors - up 24% y-o-y.

Eleven delegates are attending, with reps from TCA Abu Dhabi, InterContinental Abu Dhabi, Big Bus Tours, Jumeirah at Etihad Towers, Arabian Adventures, Desert Adventures, Etihad Airways, Virgin Australia, City Seasons Hotels, Hala Abu Dhabi, Anantara Hotels & Resorts and MSC Cruises.

Events will be held in Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney from 03-06 Aug.

Africa Enriched

A RANGE of new Enrich activities and Freechoice experiences have been added to headline the 2016 Africa program from Scenic.

Highlights of the new guide include an extended 20-day tour from Cape Town to Nairobi which connects to another itinerary while on safari in Tanzania.

Freechoice activities include a dawn safari with a Masai warrior.



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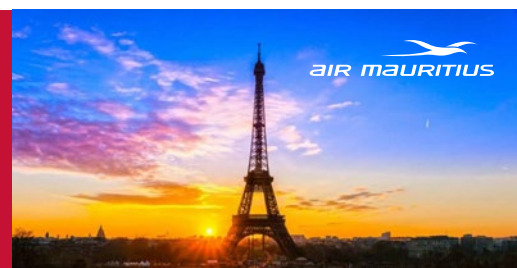
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CONGRATULATIONS

Trish Park

from **Wiltrans**

Trish is the top point scorer for Round 20 of *Travel Daily's* NRL industry footy tipping competition. Trish has won a gift pack and Lonely Planet guide from Tourism Ireland.



Major Prize:

Two return Economy Class airfares to Dubai with **Emirates**

10 more Worldhotels

INTERNATIONAL hotel group Worldhotels has entered the sub-Saharan Africa market, signing the first private hotel chain in West Africa, Azalai Hotel Group.

Entering Worldhotels' portfolio during Q2 of 2015 is Azalai Hotel de la Plage, Cotonou in Benin, Azalai Grand Hotel, Azalai Hotel Salem and Azalai Hotel Dunia in Bamako, Mali and Azalai Hotel 24 de Setembro in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau.

Other newcomers include The Grand Ferdinand in Vienna, Austria; The Saujana Hotel Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Hotel Phillips in Kansas City, Timber Creek Inn & Suites in Sandwich and Inn at Mystic in Mystic in the USA.

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Tuesday 28th July 2015

South Pac visitors up

TOURIST numbers to the Pacific region jumped 7% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the corresponding period last year.

Over 380,800 tourists visited the 12 Pacific Island countries during the period, dominated by Fiji (143,447), Palau (48,647) and Papua New Guinea (42,678).

The Cook Islands, French Polynesia, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu each experienced a drop in visitor arrivals.

Based on South Pacific Tourism Organisation data, Australian travellers accounted for nearly one-third of all arrivals in the region, with Fiji the most popular location at 58.4% of market share.

Delta invests in MU

DELTA Air Lines is strengthening ties with SkyTeam alliance buddy China Eastern Airlines, injecting US\$450m to acquire a 3.55% stake into the Chinese carrier.

The agreement carries with it a stronger collaboration on flights between the US and China, to provide more travel options for customers in both countries.

MU and its subsidiary Shanghai Airlines, in partnership with DL codeshare on 30 domestic routes in the USA, 43 domestic routes in China & seven trans-Pacific routes.

Tjapukai food trails

CAIRNS-BASED indigenous tourist site Tjapukai has launched new guided bush food trail tours.

The interactive 1-hr experience introduces visitors to plants such as badil and its edible nuts, the Burdekin plum and native plants used for medicines.

Guests also sample damper with native fruit jams.

The tour is available priced from \$25 per adult and \$15 per child, on top of general admission.

Qantas supporting Avis Scholarship



ABOVE: Qantas manager agency development Adele Sheers and the airline's head of agency partnerships Rob Harrison helped to launch the 2015 Avis Travel Agent Scholarship of Excellence (*TD* yesterday).

Qantas has been a long-time key supporter of the program, this year once again providing return Business class tickets to New York for the winner as part of an overall prize pool worth more than \$40,000.

Speaking at the Sydney launch, Avis travel industry manager Russell Butler said he was thrilled to see the scholarship's legacy of excellence in the industry.

"This is a unique program... it's available to all levels of the industry, to anyone working full time in the agency business".

He said over the life of the program, Avis had contributed in

excess of \$1 million supporting the scholarship, with many winners going on to have stellar industry careers.

One of those is Robyn Sinfield, the inaugural recipient of the award in 1997, and who described it as a significant turning point for her and husband Murray in terms of how they thought about their customers.

"A light globe turned on," she said, with the couple having sold their former business and now working from Tasmania in a home-based operation "where customer service is more important than ever".

Pictured above at yesterday's launch at Sydney's Four Seasons Hotel are, from left: Russell Butler, Avis; Adele Sheers, Qantas; Brett Jardine, CLIA general manager; Robyn Sinfield and Rob Harrison of Qantas.

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SYD parking changes

SYDNEY Airport Parking has altered its online booking options to be less complicated in response to public feedback.

Effective this week, customers securing parking at the airport's sydneyairport.com.au website will be simply asked to name which carpark (T1, T2, T3 or Blu Emu) & how long they wish to park.

Gone are the "wide choice" of fixed parking deals.

Early bookers will benefit by saving more, SYD said today.

UA delay PVG boost

UNITED Airlines has sought to delay the launch of second daily services between San Francisco and Shanghai Pudong by six months, from 13 Sep to 26 Mar.

UA said it requires more time to secure slot times at Shanghai.

The Star Alliance carrier planned to add new capacity this month.

WestJet notch up YEG

NANAIMO in British Columbia will be linked to Edmonton in Alberta with new daily non-stop services offered by Canadian carrier WestJet, effective 15 Dec.

WestJet is also bolstering flights from the Alberta capital to Kelowna and Saskatoon with one additional daily frequency to each city from the same date.

Edmonton frequencies are being jacked up to Regina through one new daily service, while nine extra weekly flights to Grand Prairie will come online from 25 Oct.

Scenic's Rhine on 9

SCENIC continues coverage from the Rhine River on Channel Nine's *Getaway* travel program over the next two weekends.

Host David Reyne is sailing from Amsterdam to Basel aboard a Scenic 'Space Ship', showcasing the region and five-star vessel.

Viewers also have the chance to win an all-inclusive Romantic Rhine and Moselle River Cruise.

The telecast airs at 5:30pm on 01 and 08 Aug on Channel 9, WIN & NBN and is repeated the next day on GEM.



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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 Partnerships Manager, the Domestic Partnerships Specialist is responsible for the delivery of partnership programs to drive overnight visitation to Sydney and NSW. A key objective of the role is to work with the Domestic Partnerships Manager to secure investment in Destination NSW co-operative marketing and event marketing related activities with tourism and trade partners, under their own brands, to gain greater distribution and sales of NSW products, destinations and experiences.

Applying for the Role:

Please submit your application via Jobs NSW (reference number 00003TAO)

Closing date: Sunday 9 August 2015 at 11:59PM.

Enquiries: Alessandra Higgins on 9931 1178 or alessandra.higgins@dsw.com.au

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



AFTA update

From AFTA's chief executive, Jayson Westbury



AS Travel Daily readers would now be aware, AFTA has announced the first year review of the ATAS Charter and Code of Conduct.

As with all new things it is important to have a continuous improvement protocol in place to ensure that new things are doing what they were invented to do.

For ATAS, this will be an important part of its evolution to date.

With more than 3000 locations across the country and an evolving and more modern travel industry taking shape that is more online and responsive to the consumers, ATAS must ensure it is part of the journey.

The review will assist AFTA in understanding different stakeholders' perspectives on the Charter and Code of Conduct and allow AFTA to consider changes if they are deemed required and or necessary.

It is a process, as with all things, but I am confident such a process will help keep ATAS on track with the purpose for which it was designed and to ensure the scheme remains relevant and supportive of travel agencies which choose to be a part of it into the future.

While last week regrettably we had a **NON-ATAS** travel agent find themselves in trouble and I concede some less than appropriate comments were made via social media, I remain confident that the positive reputation of travel agents in Australia remains intact.

The people responsible for the latest drama in WA have fallen foul of the industry and clearly nobody wants people like that in the travel sector. There are thousands of quality, reliable, trustworthy, hardworking and honest travel agents in Australia and they will always hugely outnumber those who do the wrong thing and behave the way this agent in Western Australia has.

But what is most important is that ATAS will continue to stand as a mark of quality for travel agents and will do the best it possibly can to ensure this message gets out to the consumer and the consumer media.

The simple fact is that the industry is changing and as these types of problems present themselves, we will need to be ready to combat incorrect and non-factual statements that find their way into the media and do the best we can to get the story straight.

As they say in the classics, "don't believe everything you read in the paper" and this is very true of some of the reporting that has gone on in the consumer media in WA.

Ciao to Viator portal

DAY tour reseller Viator has launched a new language-specific portal in Italian, its 10th local tongue and seventh in Europe.

New Dollywood hotel

GUESTS are now welcome at the new Dollywood DreamMore Resort, with the 300-room hotel opening for the first time today.


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Reporting to the company's two Directors, you will be expected to have a minimum of 8 years experience in the travel industry.

Previous Africa experience will be given priority.

Contact – Juanita von Stieglitz at juanita@masstige.com.au.
Applications close on Friday 31st July.

All enquiries will be treated with the strictest confidence.

P&O cruising in to the concert



SYDNEY Harbour will become the world's largest concert stage on 25 Nov when five of Australia's established and rising stars of the music industry will perform to welcome two new P&O ships.

Pacific Aria and *Pacific Eden* will become the fourth and fifth ships in the P&O Cruises fleet, sailing in to Sydney Harbour with their three new fleet-mates.

Spread across the fleet will be Jessica Mauboy, The Veronicas, Samantha Jade, Justice Crew and Stan Walker, delivering a series of concerts starting from mid-afternoon through to the evening.

Twenty additional live music

acts will be spread across the five-ship fleet, along with 10 DJs, ensuring a steady stream of hits.

After forming a 'V' shape off the Sydney coast, the five ships will cruise into Sydney Harbour in a single-file formation, with *Aria* and *Eden* to be formally named together alongside Fort Denison.

More than 9,000 spectators will be able to view the spectacle from the shore, with details on which high-profile stars will play Godmother soon to be advised.

Fireworks will light up the night sky to conclude the celebration.

A rendering of the five-ship P&O fleet is **pictured** above.

The George additions

TWO new high-end properties have joined the Brook Serene Hotel Management portfolio, a collective formed by Christchurch luxury boutique hotel The George.

The five-star Hotel Montreal will be renamed as Hotel Montreal by The George, joining the group effective from 31 Jul.

Newly acquired Rotorua hotel The Regent of Rotorua will also become part of the group.

The George general manager Bruce Garrett has also been named md of the new collection.

Ireland visitor record

NEARLY 3.9 million overseas arrivals were recorded entering Ireland for the six month period from Jan-Jun 2015, according to Ireland's Central Statistics Office.

The figure was an 11.7% year-on-year jump - a record arrivals tally for the nation.

According to the Statistics Office, 86,000 inbound arrivals from Oceania were recorded, including Australia, over the same period, 4,700 more than the first half of 2014.

In plane sight at MEL

PLANE spotters at Melbourne Airport are being targeted by nearby Hume City Council as the intended patrons of a planned tourist hub aimed at the hobby.

A site already popular with aviation enthusiasts, the plan calls for activities for families including an aircraft-themed playground, F&B stalls offering local produce and an interactive zone.

Melbourne Airport last week reported 32 million passengers for the full year in 2014, with the local council saying it would be thrilled with even 1% of this.

"It would be a great way to stimulate the economy," Hume Councillor Casey Nunn said.

Spotting opportunities for local wildlife at Woodlands Historic Park could also be installed.

The idea builds on a 2012 plan to install a transmitter tower to allow plane-watchers to tune in to air traffic control instructions.

Tuesday 28th July 2015



Money

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

\$1AUD = US0.727

A CALAMITOUS day of trading in China, which saw stock levels plummet to their worst result in a single day for eight years, has impacted the Australian dollar, sending it back to six-year lows.

News wasn't good in Europe either, with positive data sending the Euro up, which in turn saw the AUD sink to its lowest level seen so far this year.

Six-year lows were also hit against the British Pound and the Chinese Yuan, rounding out a train-wreck of a day overall.

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.727
UK	£0.467
NZ	\$1.096
Euro	€0.656
Japan	¥89.60
Thailand	฿25.352
China	¥4.518
South Africa	R9.198
Canada	\$0.948
Crude oil	US\$47.39

Klia2 terminal sinking

AIRASIA management have requested Malaysian aviation authorities carry out urgent foundation repairs to the new low-cost terminal at Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

Currently the largest user of the terminal, AirAsia says planes are being forced to drive through pools of water, while cracks are appearing on the taxiway.

Landings and takeoffs are not being affected, however AAX says the matter could result in faster wear and tear to aircraft which could in turn lead to flight delays and eventual safety risks.

SCENIC°

LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS



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- 15 day Jewels of Europe river cruise for 2 people
- 2 x return economy class airfares to Europe
- Return airport transfers
- Complimentary beverages all day, everyday, all meals, private butler service and all tipping and gratuities

To win, answer every daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question.

Send your answers to scenic@traveldaily.com.au

20. What does Scenic *Sundowners* offer Scenic guests?

Need a hint? [CLICK HERE.](#)

Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

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DOMESTIC EXPERTS – READY TO UPSKILL?

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