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Weeks to step down at TTC

FORMER Travel Corporation (TTC) Australia ceo John Weeks has today formally announced his resignation as the company's non-executive chairman.

Weeks, who led the company for 16 years prior to being succeeded as ceo by John Veitch last year (*TD* 24 Jul 2015) subsequently took on the chairman role.

"After many great years with TTC I have made the decision to relinquish my role to focus on other opportunities," Weeks said.

"Having worked closely with John Veitch on his transition to ceo this is an opportune time to step away, given he is now firmly at the helm and driving continued growth for TTC Australia."

Weeks' departure is effective 30 Apr 2016, with Travel Corporation chief executive Brett Tollman saying the company is sorry to see him leave the TTC family "after an extended period of successful service.

"All of us at TTC thank John for his strong leadership, outstanding achievements and the legacy which he leaves with us...he will always be fondly remembered and appreciated for his 16 plus years with TTC," Tollman said.

Learn about Japan

THE Japan National Tourism Organization has launched a new Japan Travel Specialist e-learning program for Australian travel consultants.

Travel from Australia to Japan is booming, with more than 370,000 Aussies heading there last year, a growth of 24%, with many experiencing the snowfields as well as cherry blossom season.

The JNTO program sees agents able to become certified Japan travel specialists to help capture some of the growing market.

See the **cover page** for details.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has ten pages of news, including a front cover wrap for **JNTO**, two photo pages for **Atout France** plus full pages from: (*click*)

- One&Only Wolgan Valley
- AA Appointments jobs
- JITO
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Airports lack competition

AIRPORTS in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney are raking in high profit margins, facilitated by a lack of competitive pressure, according to the ACCC's annual Airport Monitoring Report for 2014-15.

Sydney Airport topped the list, bringing in 50.1 cents in profit from each dollar of aeronautical revenue, while Perth Airport brought up the rear with a low of 40.2 cents.

Parking brought in significant profits for all four monitored airports, with profits ranging from a low of 63.7 cents for each dollar of car parking revenue for Perth Airport through to 73.2 cents for Melbourne Airport.

The competition regulator found

despite the high profit margins, the quality of service has not been increasing over the years.

Brisbane Airport was once again found to have the highest quality of service, with both Brisbane and Perth rated as providing 'good' quality of service, while Melbourne and Sydney airports were again rated as 'satisfactory'.

Pax also benefitted from an increased proportion of domestic flights that were on-time.

See the full report **HERE**.

More TG volleyball tix

DUE to popular demand, *Travel Daily* has more tickets to give away to the Volleyball finals being held at Manly Beach this long weekend, courtesy of Thai Airways.

Up for grabs are two double passes to the Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon sessions, to enter send your answer to the below question to volleyball@traveldaily.com.au.

The question is - "On what surface is beach volleyball played?"

Thai Airways will contact the winners.

AFL tipping reminder

THIS weekend AFL kicks off, which means time is running out to sign up to *Travel Daily's* tipping competition.

The grand prize is two Emirates return Economy flights to anywhere in Europe and prizes will be awarded weekly - head to afl.traveldaily.com.au.

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TRA regional profiles

TOURISM Research Australia has released the Tourism Region Profiles 2015.

The profiles provide data on tourism supply and demand for 76 of Australia's tourism regions.

To see how your region is tracking, **CLICK HERE**.



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Brussels attack update

BRUSSELS International Airport remains closed today after twin blasts tore through the departures hall killing at least 10 people yesterday.

A further 31 people were killed in coordinated attacks on a rush-hour metro in the Belgium capital early Tue.

Airport authorities issued a statement on their site extending their "deepest sympathies" to the friends and relatives of the victims affected by the attacks.

With forensic investigations underway airport authorities have no access to the building, meaning the airport will stay closed to traffic today.

Pax due to travel out of Brussels today should contact their airline for further instructions.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade is urging travellers to "reconsider their need to travel" to Belgium, prompting Australians already in Brussels to "remain attentive to their surroundings and to avoid affected areas and follow the instructions of local authorities".

MEANWHILE, the Community and Public Sector Union has postponed strike action at Australia's major int'l airports in the wake of the Brussels attacks.

FURTHERMORE, The Travel Corporation (TTC) has issued a statement applicable to its Trafalgar and Uniworld branches, stating that guests due to travel on any trips that include Brussels as a destination within the next month can re-book without penalties on any upcoming 2016 or 2017 departures.

Aussie Airlines on-time

AUSTRALIA'S domestic airlines were more punctual than average for all routes this Feb, according to stats released by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Economics.

Virgin Australia (VA) and Qantas both recorded 93.3% for on time arrivals, followed by Tigerair at 92.2% and Jetstar at 84%.

Qantas led the highest level of punctual departures for the month (93.7%), before VA (93.5%), TT (93%) & JQ (80.3%).

The Brisbane-Darwin route had the highest percentage of scheduled arrivals (99.1%) and the Brisbane-Hobart route had the strongest level of on time departures (98.3%).

For the full report **CLICK HERE**.



Window Seat

LOVERS of Hello Kitty, famous for adorning several Eva Airways jets, can now also enjoy a similar experience on the ground with the launch of a special Hello Kitty train.

The inaugural Hello Kitty-themed Taroko Express departed from Taipei's Shulin railway station earlier this week and will travel on Taiwan's east coast route to Taitung.

Replete with Hello Kitty decor and characters (**below**), it's the first of several themed trains to be added to the Taiwan Railway Administration fleet.



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Tiger first Bali flights

TIGERAIR Australia is launching its inaugural service to Bali today (TD 02 Feb 16) with the first flights departing Melbourne and Adelaide this afternoon and Perth this evening.

The budget carrier will now operate daily return flights to Denpasar from Melbourne and Perth plus five weekly return flights from Adelaide on board three recently reconfigured Boeing 737-800s.

Tigerair Australia ceo Rob Sharp, who is flying on today's service from Melbourne said the launch of the company's first ever international service was "a significant milestone" for the carrier.

"Bali is renowned as a popular holiday destination for many Australians and we are confident our new services will prove popular with our core market of leisure travellers," he said.

Customers on today's first flight had a Bali-themed check-in at MEL and will be greeted in Denpasar by Balinese dancers.

Solar energy at Uluru

A MAJOR new 1.8MW solar energy system has been installed at Ayers Rock Resort, generating power to cover up to 30% of the Resort's peak use.

Dubbed 'Tjintu' - meaning 'sun' in the local indigenous dialect, the system is spread across five locations around the resort & is made up of 5,770 modules.

Voyages ceo Andrew Williams said the project makes "absolute sense" for the resort.

"As Uluru becomes even more popular as a holiday destination, energy demands at the resort are also growing and the Tjintu project will ensure we manage the growth of the resort in an environmentally sustainable way," Williams said.

Epuron will provide the energy supply under a lease agreement with Voyages.

Whale watching deal

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises is offering \$59 tickets for all whale watching cruises off the heads of Sydney Harbour booked before 01 Jul.

The tickets which ordinarily sell for \$70 are valid for travel the whole whale watching season from 21 May to 01 Nov.

For further information see www.captaincook.com.au.

Quest Chatswood opening



RUGBY Legend Nick Farr-Jones joined Minister for Trade, Tourism & Major Events Stuart Ayres for the official opening of the brand new Quest Chatswood last week.

The grand opening was marked with a cocktail party held at the new 100-key property on Albert Avenue just kilometres from Sydney's CBD.

Quest General Manager – Brand, Tony Gauci said he was delighted to officially open the first of five properties in NSW for 2016.

"We're thankful to be a part of Chatswood's development & confident Quest's outstanding accommodation and services will

appeal to both the business and leisure traveller," he said.

Made up of one & two bedroom apartments, the hotel offers free Wi-Fi, Foxtel, onsite car parking, gymnasium, local restaurant chargeback, pantry shopping, dry cleaning and business administration.

Pictured above left to right: Quest Chatswood Franchisees Carlos Del Rosario and Edith Del Rosario; Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Member for Penrith; Minister for Trade, Tourism & Major Events; Tony Gauci, Quest gm – brand; Nick Farr-Jones, ex-Wallaby captain and Scott McAlister, Quest coo.



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Cunard's month in Oz

CUNARD'S *Queen Mary 2* is set to spend more than a month in Aussie waters in 2018, today announcing the inclusion of a 13-night circumnavigation of New Zealand & a four-night cruise to Kangaroo Island in SA.

Queen Mary 2 will make a total of 14 Australian portcalls with her younger sister, *Queen Elizabeth*, during the ships' 2018 World Voyages program.

To celebrate the new itineraries, Cunard is offering special launch fares, see cunard.com for more.

Disney corporate

HONG Kong Disneyland Resort has launched a 'Disney Magical Corporate Rewards' program offering overseas corporate groups special privileges.

The three-tier program offers privileges such as main gate priority group entry, shopping and dining offers and welcome refreshments.

The rewards depend on the group size and are broken up into offerings for group sizes of 100+, 300+ and 700+ people.

Waitomo newbie

WAITOMO Adventures has launched a new route through the top of the Lost World cave at Waitomo, called "Lost World Through The Window".

Previously visitors abseiled 100m to traverse the deepest levels of the cave system, but the new route allows accessibility via a staircase attached to a sheer cliff face.

The activity is far less physically demanding than other options.

Indo DFAT warning

A PROTEST against online ride-sharing services in Jakarta by taxi operators has caused significant traffic congestion in the Sudirman Central Business District and Semanggi areas of Jakarta.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is warning travellers to exercise a "high degree of caution" in the region as there have been reports that some passengers have been forced to disembark from passing taxis and other forms of public transport as a result of the protest.

"Travellers are reminded that demonstrations and rallies can turn violent with little notice... avoid areas where protests are occurring including around MPR/ DPR, GI Gatot Subroto & South Jakarta," read the statement.

'SKALarship' opportunity



SKAL Sydney North recently presented its members with a fully-paid "SKALarship" to become a mentee on the Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) program.

Members were educated on the benefits of the mentoring program and given a run-down on all the networking events available to participants.

MEANWHILE, TIME has announced Carlson Wagonlit Travel's Mariam Alkhal as this year's winner of the ATMC Travel Executive of the Year award.

The win has secured Alkhal a spot as a mentee on the TIME program and the opportunity to have her own mentor to assist in career development.

Pictured above after presenting the SKALarship to its members are: Scott Thomson, president, SKAL Sydney North; Sharon Hannahford, committee members, TIME and Duan Irmak, Turkessence Tours & TIME Graduate.

Below is Sue Graham, director, TIME with ATMC Travel Executive of the year winner, Mariam Alkhal.



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Travelcube no fees

GLOBAL travel distributor, TravelCube, has removed all cancellation & amendment fees, credit card charges and currency fluctuations from its retail booking website.

VP of sales and marketing for Pacific, John Stucci, commented the group recognise that in this industry, not everything will always go according to plan.

“The easier we can make it for our valued agents to do business with us, the easier it becomes for them to do business with their clients, so removing unnecessary fees and restrictions is a no brainer,” he said.

All site charges will be removed from today.

Warwick Castle maze

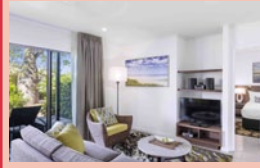
AUTHOR of popular children’s book *Horrible Histories*, Terry Deary, unveiled a brand new multi-sensory attraction at Warwick Castle with the help of students from local schools.

The *Horrible Histories* Maze offers puzzles, wicker and sandbags and aims to make “history real and engaging for all audiences”.

Warwick Castle offers commissions to trade partners email - warwick.tradebookings@merlinentertainments.biz.

Accommodation Updates

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Oaks Hotels & Resorts' coastal WA property, Oaks Cable Beach Sanctuary, has received a \$2.5 million refurbishment of its studios, one- and two-bedroom apartments and three bedroom villas. Each room will now include plush king size beds and the addition of a modern kitchen splash-back, a fresh lick of paint and blinds & curtains.



Swissotel Sydney has unveiled its brand new refurbished Spa & Sport Wellness centre. Located on level 10, the spa offers four treatment rooms complete with a variety of spa packages and treatments to choose from. A fully equipped fitness studio & open-air pool and jacuzzi are also available for guests to enjoy.



Grand Hotel Tremezzo in Italy has reopened for the 2016 season, following a multi-million dollar makeover of its property. T spa, the property's latest luxury offering, has been unveiled which features five treatment rooms, an infinity pool and a three storey gym. Adjoining the facility is a brand new 'humid area' comprising a Mediterranean bath, steam bath and sauna with lake views.



Peppers Manor House in NSW has completed its \$4.5 million upgrade, adding an indoor/outdoor conference centre and wedding and event space to accommodate 300 guests. The property's guest rooms, dining venue, lounge areas, roads and car parks have also received a makeover, adding a contemporary touch to the heritage hotel. New features include a large open fireplace, rustic wooden feature bar, AV system and drop down walls.

CI non-stop to Rome

CHINA Airlines will launch twice weekly non-stop services to Rome beginning 03 Dec replacing its existing one-stop service via Delhi, according to GDS results.

The services will be operated on an Airbus A350-900XWB aircraft.

RCL sneak peek

ROYAL Caribbean has unveiled a brand new video titled: “The World’s Largest Ship Almost Complete: A Shipyard Update”.

The video depicts the cruise operator’s latest ship *Harmony of the Seas* being built at STX Shipyard in France.

CLICK HERE to view.

SZX weather delays

HEAVY rain and thunderstorms grounded 200 flights at Shenzhen Bao’an Airport on Mon, resulting in authorities issuing its first red alert for flight delays this year.

According to local media reports, airport authorities organised accom for 8,400 stranded passengers.



Oakwood Apartments Brisbane opens 11 April. \$130* per night Studio, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments.



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G'day Good France at Sofitel Wentworth!

CREATED by the famous Chef Alain Ducasse, and M. Laurent Fabius, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Good France was a worldwide event on 21 March to enhance excellence in French cuisine and to rank France as the first capital of gastronomy.

To launch this international unique event, Atout France, in conjunction with La Maison Du The, AccorHotels and the French Embassy, organised a lavish dinner at Sofitel Sydney Wentworth on 21 March.

The evening's star: exceptional GH Mumm Champagnes served through a four course dinner by Michelin star Chef Xavier Mathieu, one of the most acclaimed French chefs, winner of numerous awards and representative of the famous 5 star hotel Le Phebus in Provence.

RIGHT: Simon Spinks, Air France and Monique Ponfoort of PONANT.



BELOW RIGHT: Boris Cuzon, Sofitel Wentworth; Xavier Mathieu from Le Phebus Provence, French Ambassador Christophe Lecourtier; and Jean-Marie Le Rest, French Embassy.



LEFT: Wivina Chaneliere of Tefal with Caroline Le Roch, L'Occitane.

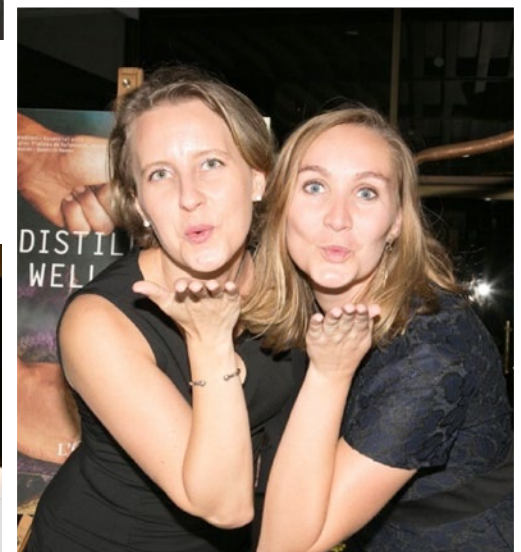
RIGHT: Guillaume Brahimi with Les Schirato of Vittoria.



BELOW: Liz Glover, Scenic Tours; Patrick Benhamou, Atout France; and Melissa Doyle, Channel 7.



RIGHT: Claire Kaletka-Neil of Atout France with Lea Granado, French Travel Connection.



G'day Good France at Sofitel Wentworth!

THE surprises of the night included fresh lavender from Provence, along with the exclusive company of celebrities such as Gabriel Gate and Guillaume Brahimi.

The dinner concluded with a tasting courtesy of La Maison Du Thé exclusive French teas, with Provence highlighted during the event as the second most visited French region by Australian travellers.

RIGHT: Some of the Atout France team which included Sophie Almin, Garance Garcia, Anais Leloup, Charline Joly, Claire Kaletka-Neil, Sarah Elfassy, Marc Humphries, Alex Venec, Charly Bongiorno and Patrick Benhamou.



LEFT: The Honourable Shelley Hancock MP with Carly Gainsford and Blair Weir, Sofitel Wentworth.

RIGHT: Brad McDonnell, Entire Travel Connection with Robert Thompson, Tahiti Tourisme.



LEFT: Naylsia Edwards from American Express with Alison Roberts-Brown, Monaco Tourism.

BELOW: Fabulous cuisine and GH Mumm Champagne.



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This month *Travel Daily*, Tempo Holidays and Taj Hotels are giving readers the chance to win a trip from two to India, on Tempo Holiday's 8 day Incredible Royal Escape - with Taj Hotels. The prize includes 7 nights accommodation, transfers and comprehensive sightseeing throughout, valued at up to \$8,400.

To win, have the most correct answers and the most creative answer to the final question. Send your entries to tempo@traveldaily.com.au

Q17: Tempo Holidays' Classical India & Classical Rajasthan tours are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of how many pax?

Hint: On a bicycle built for...



TEMPO HOLIDAYS



US hotels positive

THE US hotel industry saw occupancy dip 0.8% in Feb but average daily rate was up 3.6% to US\$120.80 and revenue per available room increased 2.8% to US\$74.50, STR data shows.

EK A380 changes

EMIRATES has aborted plans to use a second daily Airbus A380 on the Dubai - Milan Malpensa route from 01 Jul.

Boeing 777-300ER will continue to operate on this flight.

Overall the airline operates two daily 777-300ER flights and one daily A380 on the sector.

AKL Feb traffic stats

AUCKLAND Airport witnessed a strong Feb, with international passenger numbers (excluding transit pax) jumping 10.5% compared with Feb 2015, driven by seat capacity growth.

International visitor arrivals grew 9.6% for the period, driven by Aussie arrivals, which climbed 14.4% and remained the top international arrival market with 74,359 arrivals.

Australia is followed by China, with 46,351 arrivals for the month and the US at 28,075.

The domestic terminal had the busiest month ever with over 700,000 pax - a 18.6% increase.

MF to land at YVR

CHINESE carrier Xiamen Airlines today announced thrice weekly, non-stop services between Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport to Vancouver Int'l, commencing 25 Jul subject to government approval.

The new service marks the first direct route to North America in the airline's history.

Flights will be operated using a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft with 18 Business class and 215 Economy class seats available.

Uniworld Press

UNIWORLD is offering visitors free access to PressReader on board their ships in Europe.

The digital news stand is available on many ocean cruise lines, but Uniworld is the first to offer the service to the river cruise industry.

PressReader allows pax to download titles onto their own laptops, tablets and smartphones.

Weddings brochure

PINPOINT Travel Group has released its 2-in-1 Destination Weddings Brochure for 2016/17.

The brochure includes a Rosie Holidays section on Fiji weddings and the Freestyle Holidays section features weddings in Bali, Thailand, Hawaii, Australia, Las Vegas & Vanuatu - view it [HERE](#).

Qantas Easter sale

QANTAS is running an 'Easter Celebration Sale' on flights across Australia until 2359 AEDT 29 Mar.

Flights from Sydney to Brisbane start at \$95, Melbourne to Sydney from \$105 and Adelaide to Perth from \$175.

See www.qantas.com for more.

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AFRICAN SPECIALIST TRAVEL CONSULTANT

SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE FROM \$55K

Do you know all things Africa? Fantastic opportunity to use your first-hand experience to sell an amazing product. Great boutique wholesaler looking for an experienced consultant to be part of their well-established team. Full training and staff development provided, great opportunity to get out of the retail face to face market and regain your work life balance. To succeed in this role a minimum of 2 years retail travel experience with proven Africa product knowledge and must have travelled to Africa. APPLY NOW!!

BE THE PRODUCT OF THEIR SUCCESS

TRAVEL DESTINATION COORDINATOR

SYDNEY – TOP SALARY PACKAGE DOE

Looking for the next career move? This is your chance to work with an amazing Product range & kick start your career with this amazing Tour operator! This award winning tour operator are looking for an experienced Product coordinator to join their team, specialising in destination Asia. Your role will involve liaising with contracted Suppliers, negotiating rates, and ensuring the smooth operations of operational factors within the business. Min 2 yrs travel industry experience, product knowledge & Travel Studios. Apply now!

RARE PART TIME POSITION!!

LEISURE HIGH END TRAVEL CONSULTANT

MELBOURNE (SE/BAYSIDE) - \$31 P/H (OTE \$51 P/H)

Are you currently a Manager/Supervisor of a high end leisure store wanting to step away from your management duties and cut down your hours to part time while earning a similar salary? We have the position for you! My client is looking for a very experienced travel professional to join their team on a part time basis. This is a rare opportunity to have an amazing work/life balance, whilst earning an amazing salary. Min. 6 years High End Leisure travel consulting required. Galileo essential.

SAY GOODBYE TO PRESSURE SALES

CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAVEL AGENT

MELBOURNE (INNER) - SALARY PACKAGE OF \$56K

If you love to book amazing itineraries and helping your clients with all things travel but don't want to deal with the stress of meeting those sales targets every month, we have the job for you! You will be focusing more on the itineraries and fun side of travel, working as a customer service consultant to help the inbound customer calls with their travel details! There are no face to face sales, and to top it off when you're on your break head to the amazing break room to chill out. Min 2 years travel consulting experience req.

SOUTH AMERICA EXPERTS

WHOLESALE TRAVEL CONSULTANT

MELBOURNE (SE) – SALARY PKG \$44K + YEARLY BONUS

Have you started as a retail travel agent and you're already over the face to face sales and working weekends? Wholesale may be the answer! My client is looking for a junior in the industry with a keen interest and extensive travel experience throughout South America. You will be working with travel agents and the general public to put together complicated and exciting South American itineraries for a varied clientele. Minimum of 6 months Travel Consulting. Amadeus experience favourable.

LEND A HELPING HAND

SALES & SERVICE CONSULTANT

BRISBANE CBD – UP TO \$60K PKG

Here's a unique wholesale role to utilise your industry skills and knowledge. This leading travel operator is looking for a customer service guru to join their wholesale team. You'll be assisting retail and corporate travel agents who are using the company's online booking tool. From assisting with bookings to making amendments, changes and educating on the system your days will fly by. You'll enjoy rare Mon – Fri hours with a top salary package on offer and unbeatable benefits. Want to know more? Call us today!

FUN, SUN AND MONEY!

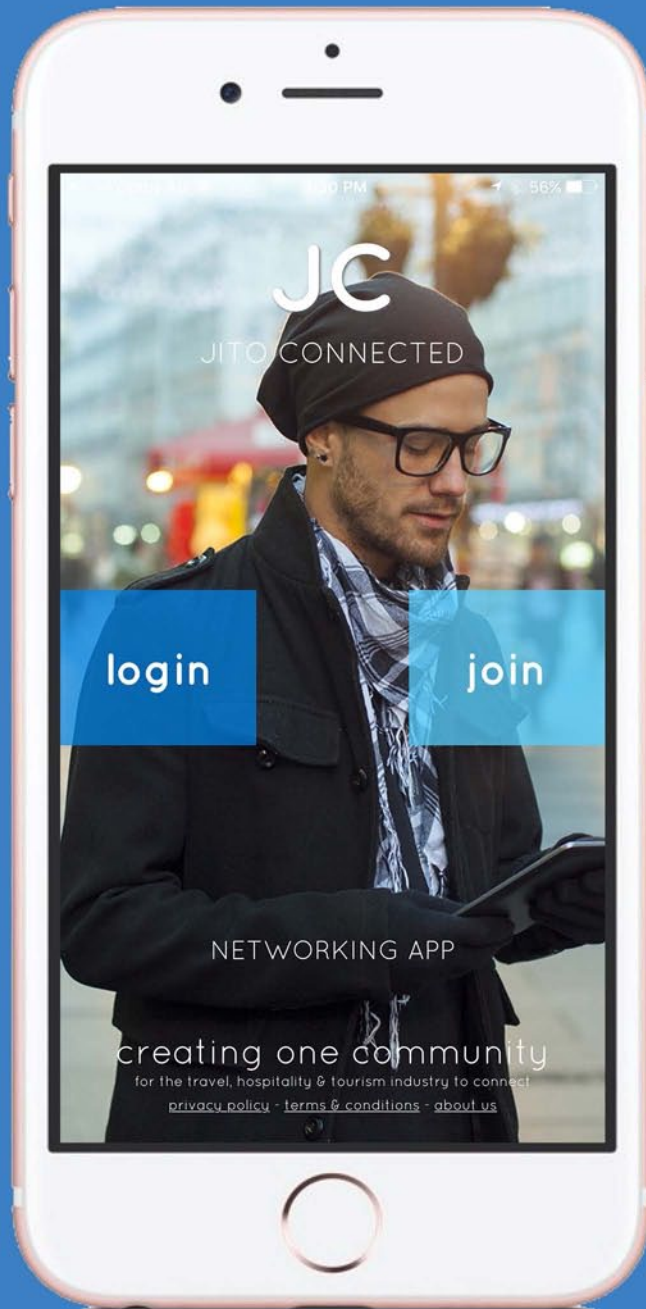
TRAVEL CONSULTANTS

GOLD COAST – \$60-\$70K OTE

Our client is looking for a dynamic salesperson to come join their team on the Gold Coast as a travel consultant. Variety is the spice of life with every day bringing something different. You will arrange all types of Domestic & International travel including flights, accommodation and tours. No more walk-ins and time wasters as all your enquiries will be over the phone. Top industry salary, bonuses and great benefits are on offer. If you have 2 years experience, great sales, GDS and communication skills then we want to hear from you!

introducing

JITO CONNECTED



the world's newest travel & hospitality social media networking app

- grow your network
- share industry content
- connect with people
- follow industry brands
- nurture relationships
- get updates from brands

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**Book to
win!**

With Air New Zealand now offering flights from Auckland to Houston, we've opened a gateway to the USA's Southern States and all the flavours they offer. Here is your chance to taste Texan BBQ, the Cajun shrimp of Mississippi or Florida's Cuban sandwiches.

Air New Zealand and Brand USA have partnered up to send 60 of the best agents from Australia and New Zealand on the #tasteUSA MegaFam and there's double the reason to be logging your North America bookings this week. Not only will you be increasing your chances of tasting your way through the USA on the #tasteUSA MegaFam, but there is also \$300 off return Economy flights to North America.

Hurry, sale ends today, 23 March 2016.

Find out more at tasteusamegafam.com

 Join the **#tasteUSA - MegaFam 2016** Facebook group to win great prizes.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 


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