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Tuesday 18th April 2017



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Top rail brands revealed

AUSTRALIA'S top rail entities have been revealed in **Travel Daily's** inaugural land tour survey of travel agents, providing an exclusive snapshot of how the best-selling brands are regarded within the travel trade.

High-profile operators including Rocky Mountaineer and Great Southern Rail have been ranked alongside wholesalers like Rail Tickets, Rail Europe and Infinity Rail, creating a detailed picture of where they stand alongside their competitors.

The study was conducted by StollzNow Research as part of **Travel Daily's** wider survey of land-based travel, involving the responses of more than 200 Australian travel agents.

Rocky Mountaineer emerged as Australia's most commonly sold rail product, with 48% of travel agents having booked the Canadian operator in the previous six months.

It was followed closely by Rail Tickets (42%), Great Southern Rail (39%) and Rail Europe (22%).

But when it came to the most highly regarded sales

operations, travel agents named International Rail Australia as the top performer, followed by the Trans-Siberian, Rail Europe and Belmond (former Orient Express).

Other parts of the survey rated the training programs offered to agents, with Rocky Mountaineer emerging on top, followed by Infinity Rail and Rail Europe.

Belmond was known for paying the best commissions, along with Rocky Mountaineer and Great Southern Rail, while Infinity Rail was ranked highest for famils.

The full study is available for purchase - contact research@traveldaily.com.au.

Goldman cruise role

GOLDMAN Travel Group has appointed former Azamara Club Cruises national bdm Christina Shepherdson to the newly created role of general manager, Cruise.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news and photos, plus a full page from:

- inPlace Recruitment

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SQ seals new AF-KLM MoU

SINGAPORE Airlines is stepping up its seamless connectivity options for travellers flying from Australia to Europe under a new codeshare arrangement with Air France/KLM.

Last week the carriers inked a Memorandum of Understanding on each other's flights, set to take effect from 27 Apr, subject to regulatory approvals.

The MoU will enable SQ to place its designator code to Air France-operated flights beyond Paris to Aberdeen, Bordeaux, Edinburgh, Lisbon, Lyon, Madrid, Marseille, Newcastle, Nice and Toulouse.

Air France will add the 'AF' code to SQ-operated flights beyond Singapore to Melbourne and Sydney, along with flights operated by Singapore Airlines' subsidiary SilkAir to Kuala Lumpur and Penang in Malaysia and to Phuket, Thailand.

Under the MoU, the airlines will later consider expanding the codeshare to other airlines within their respective groups, as well as a reciprocal frequent flyer earn and burn program.

SQ senior vp marketing planning

Tan Kai Ping said the arrangement with Air France "provides a strong foundation for commercial co-operation opportunities".

"It is also another example of our commitment to the Singapore hub and the European market."

MEANWHILE, Singapore Airlines, Changi Airport Group and the Singapore Tourism Board will inject S\$33.75 million to promote Singapore as a stopover and "twinning" destination under a renewed three-year alliance.

"Twinning" refers to travelling to two destinations in one itinerary, such as a city & a beach.

The partnership will refresh the Free Singapore Tour program for passengers in transit at SIN, which last year gave 59,000 passengers a taste of Singapore.

QF 50% status offer

QANTAS is offering 50% extra status credits for employees of Qantas Business Rewards members travelling on eligible flights for business.

The opt-in offer applies to bookings placed 18-27 Apr, for travel to Jun 2017.



California STAR Search

**VOTE
NOW**

Let your voice be heard! Finalists have been chosen, and now it's up to you to tell us who deserves to be crowned a Visit California Super STAR!

Watch the finalist's entries and vote for your favourite in each category.

FROM THE HEART OF EURASIA



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Govt to run Badgerys Creek?

THE Federal Government is reportedly preparing to build and operate Sydney's second airport itself amid speculation the city's existing private operator will walk away from the project.

On Fri, *The Australian* reported that Sydney Airport Corporation was expected to decline its option to build and run the planned Western Sydney Airport, having previously said the second gateway would not be commercially viable without greater government assistance.

The Turnbull Government was instead finalising contingencies ahead of the Federal Budget, due to be handed down the day after Sydney Airport Corporation's deadline for a response on the project on 08 May.

The newspaper said sources had revealed the Government was preparing for an almost immediate start to construction, with major earthworks to begin

at Badgerys Creek next year.

Sydney Airport Corporation's monopoly on the country's largest aviation market would be broken if it declined its option to operate the western gateway.

In its most recent statements on the project, the airport said it was conducting detailed analysis of the Badgerys option and would attempt to respond by 08 May.

Cover-More takeover completed

THE Zurich Insurance Group has announced the completion of its \$722 million take-over of Cover-More Group Limited (**TD** 12 Dec), placing it among the world's top three travel insurance providers.

Zurich ceo Asia Pacific Jack Howell said the purchase was a "win-win" for both companies.

"Cover-More is an excellent business and an excellent fit," Howell said.

QF cabotage warning

THE Qantas Group has warned against lifting cabotage restrictions on foreign airlines carrying domestic passengers in a new submission to a Senate Committee investigating red tape.

The airline says allowing overseas entrants would risk jobs and investment, while putting Australia at a disadvantage when negotiating air rights in other countries overseas.

It says lifting restrictions would be viewed negatively by investors and raise safety concerns.

Scoot PER shuffle

BUDGET long-haul carrier Scoot is downgauging aircraft on the Singapore-Perth route from Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners to the smaller 787-8 on four of its daily flights, effective 02 Jun.

According to Scoot's website, flight timings for the 787-8 operation have also be pushed back by close to three hours.



Window Seat

IF YOU'VE ever felt like part of a herd on crowded city trains, consider the rural travellers of Kent in the UK who found themselves in udderly bovine conditions on the weekend.

A herd of up to 60 cows found their way onto the platform at Haver station on Sat, forcing the cancellation of all trains.



At least one cow fell onto the tracks during the station invasion, though train operators said they had rounded up all livestock, returned them to a nearby farmer and restored services by the afternoon.

Achieving new heights

Daily from Sydney and Brisbane to Vancouver and beyond.

2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation and the 80th Birthday of Air Canada. In this landmark year, Air Canada is primed to reinforce its position as a global, customer-focused organisation with a truly Canadian spirit.

We now proudly serve more than 200 destinations across six continents, connecting you with the rest of the world. And no matter where we land - from small regional airports to major international hubs - **we fly the Canadian flag with care and class.**

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DNSW appointment

DESTINATION NSW has appointed Barbara Samoilenko as its first business development manager for Germany & France.

Previously employed by the Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority in the UAE as its exec director of destination marketing for eight months, at DNSW she will be responsible for developing & implementing trade marketing and business development plans in both European countries.

Her experience also includes over six years with VisitScotland, where she worked her way up to the position of marketing manager Europe.

Based in Destination NSW's new Frankfurt office which opens today, Samoilenko will initially focus on Germany, which DNSW has earmarked as a "priority market" for attracting tourists to Sydney & regional NSW.

She will report to DNSW's regional manager for UK/Europe based in London.

Trafalgar additions

TRAFALGAR has added 11 extra touring dates to its Europe and Britain 2017 program in response to consumer demand on previously sold-out departures.

Local managing director Matthew Cameron-Smith said the capacity boost followed feedback from trade and consumers.

Among the new options are dual departures on the Irish Experience on 26 Jul and 25 Sep; Scotland's Highlands Islands and Cities on 20 & 23 Sep; Highlights of Spain and Portugal on 17 and 28 Sep; Imperial Europe on 14 Jul and 08 Sep; as well as one-off new dates for the Best of Portugal on 03 Oct; Best of Ireland and Scotland on 23 Sep and the Italian Holiday on 21 Jun.

The new departures will appear online from tomorrow, as will a range of new 'Last Minute Deals' on Trafalgar and CostSaver tours, which have been introduced to "help secure further sales" for the remainder of the season.

QF Venice codeshare

QANTAS has increased its reach in Italy through a new codeshare arrangement with Emirates to include Venice, effective 01 May.

Operating via Dubai, VCE will be Qantas' third gateway in Italy, complementing existing services to Rome and Milan.

Qantas Frequent Flyers members will also be able to earn status credits and Qantas Points, as well as redeem points.

Vanuatu campaign

THE Vanuatu Tourism Office has announced a new Australian advertising campaign targeting NSW, Queensland and Victoria.

The 'Wake up in Vanuatu' initiative is valued at \$255,000 and will highlight adventure, happiness and freedom, and is an evolution of the destination brand 'Discover What Matters'.

It will involve ads on buses and online until the end of May, along with a social media presence.

Scenic Oberammergau

SCENIC will run five departures from 20 May-09 Sep in 2020 incorporating the Passion Play - Oberammergau in Germany.

Performed in Bavaria every 10 years, Oberammergau depicts the life and death of Jesus, with the 2020 performance the 42nd time it's been run since 1634.

Scenic is taking preregistrations for its tours that will include the play: its 15-day Jewels of Europe; 15-day Romantic Rhine and Moselle; eight-day Rhine Highlights and eight-day Gems of the Danube.

Standard pre-rego procedures will apply with a deposit of \$250 per person.

BreakFree Adl reno

MANTRA Group's makeover of BreakFree Adelaide has entered its final phase.

The \$800,000 transformation includes significant upgrades to all 142 rooms & common areas.

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Zagreb^	\$1,409*	Dublin	\$1,489*
Dubai	\$1,419*	Manchester	\$1,519*

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Hello Tomorrow Emirates

*Advertised return airfares are for travel departing from Perth and are correct as of 28 March 2017 and subject to currency fluctuation. Business Class fares are also available and valid from 13 April 2017 to 28 February 2018 for travel Monday through to Thursday. Economy Class low season fares valid from 1 October to 30 November 2017 for travel Sunday through to Thursday. Offer ends 26 April 2017. Higher fares apply for other travel periods and departure cities. Flight restrictions, day of week surcharges, cancellation and amendment fees apply. Seats are subject to availability. Further terms and conditions apply. For full terms and conditions, please see your GDS, visit emiratesagents.com/au, or call Emirates on 1300 303 777. Offer subject to change. ^Services to Zagreb commence 1 June 2017.

STB/Disney alliance

SINGAPORE Tourism Board (STB) and The Walt Disney Company Southeast Asia have struck a three-year collaboration, which will begin with *Star Wars*. Kicking off the partnership is a range of activities surrounding the *Star Wars* franchise, followed by *Marvel* and Disney Animation/*Pixar* themes in 2018 and 2019.

With the 40th anniversary of *Star Wars*, there will be a three-day festival next month, titled *Star Wars Day: May the 4th Be with You Festival*.

It will also be followed by other *Star Wars*-themed activities held in the second half of 2017.

STB chief executive Lionel Yeo said the collaboration with Disney would offer opportunities for local event organisers and small & medium-sized enterprises to grow their businesses and enhance their events.

What's your Sydney VIVID Fantasea?

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Delta ups 'bump' offer

DELTA Air Lines has increased the payouts its airport agents can offer passengers on overbooked flights, to prevent a similar PR nightmare to the incident on United Airlines last week.

Customer service agents will be able to offer pax as much as US\$2,000 when they're asked to give up a seat on an oversold flight, up from US\$800.

However managers can offer as much as US\$9,950 to pax, more than seven times the previous cap of US\$1,350.

A Delta memo also gives tips on how to best deal with oversold flights, including looking for pax with other options for flights.

MEANWHILE, UA has changed its employee travel policy to ensure crews riding on its aircraft as passengers are booked at least 60 minutes before departure.

The changes come after the backlash from a UA pax being dragged from his seat after refusing to leave.

Capella Suite offer

LORD Howe Island's Capella Lodge has announced a bonus suite upgrade for a limited period as part of its Fly Free Stay 7 Pay 6 deal, which offers free flights and a free night on the island.

Guests who book the package with Baillie Lodges before 07 May will also receive a complimentary suite upgrade for their visit.

The package is priced from \$4,500pp twin share and includes transfers and an open bar.

Air China pulls FNJ

AIR China has suspended flights between Beijing and the North Korean capital Pyongyang (FNJ) amid escalating tensions between the US and the secretive state.

CA cited a lack of demand for the suspension of the thrice weekly service.

Westin Nanea opens

VISTAN Signature Experiences has announced The Westin Nanea Ocean Villas in Maui has begun to accept guests.

At its opening ceremony last week, the hotel received a traditional Hawaiian blessing, which included a maile lei untying.

The property has one, two and three bedroom villas and is located on Kaanapali Beach.

IHG security breach

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group is warning guests of hackers that may have accessed their payment card information at locations throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

IHG says it has received several reports of unauthorised charges on cards used by customers to pay for their hotels between 29 Sep and 29 Dec 2016.

Properties that installed IHG's secure system weren't affected.

CLICK to view affected hotels.

Silk Way MAX8 order

AZERBAIJAN'S Silk Way Airlines has ordered 10 Boeing 737 MAX 8s in a deal worth US\$1.1b.

The deliveries for the aircraft will begin late 2018 as the carrier intends to begin commercial operations.

Silk Way Airlines has expressed interest in leasing the 10 aircraft under operating and financial lease contracts.

It currently operates a mixed fleet of cargo aircraft, consisting mainly of Boeing 747 and 767s.



Destination NSW

Manager, Regional Conferencing

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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.

For more information about Destination NSW please visit their website at www.destinationnsw.com.au

About The Role

The Manager, Regional Conferencing will lead the implementation of Destination NSW's strategy to promote regional conferencing, improve service capability and support Destination Networks in the promotion of the viability and attraction of conferencing in regional NSW, to drive growth in the visitor economy. You will manage the Regional Conferencing team, providing strategic direction as well as day to day operational oversight to drive achievement of unit objectives.

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. Please provide details of your experience in developing regional conferencing strategies for a particular organisation or customer, and how these strategies have driven growth for a specific operational area.
2. Managing priorities and implementing action plans are a particular focus for this role, especially throughout geographically dispersed locations. Please provide an example of how you have managed conflicting priorities and project plans, within a similar environment and/or industry and highlight the difficulties in meeting these expectations.

Part of the assessment process may include additional online capability testing, skills testing or work samples in accordance with the new Government Sector Employment Act 2013; therefore you may be contacted to participate. For more information regarding capability based assessment techniques, please read the article below:

[Capability Based Assessments](#)

Closing date: 26 April 2017 at 11:59pm

Enquiries: Ross Pearson on (02) 9311 1111 or info@dnsnsw.com.au

Applications must be lodged electronically via the I Work For NSW website, reference 000058001. Applications submitted via email will not be accepted.



Win tickets to the ANZAC day AFL blockbuster

This week, *Travel Daily* and Emirates are giving three readers the chance to see the AFL Blockbuster: Essendon versus Collingwood on ANZAC Day, Tuesday, 25 April at the famous MCG.

To win, be the first person to correctly answer the following question. Send your answers to emirates@traveldaily.com.au

What 2 Trans-Atlantic sectors as part of our Dubai to USA services does Emirates operate?
a) ATH-EWR, b) FCO-ORD, c) MXP-JFK, d) DUB-BOS



Motorhome surge

GLOBALCARS has capitalised on the growing consumer demand worldwide in motorhomes, by expanding its offerings to feature over 40 suppliers in 19 countries, with all able to be booked online.

The increased range provides a choice of two, four and six berth vehicles in Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the U.S.A with up to eight-berth slide out motorhomes available across North America.

Rates start from \$20 a day, with more information available [HERE](#).

QF BNE/BME non-stop

QANTAS has scheduled a direct service between Brisbane and Broome to meet growing demand from travellers.

Return flights will operate on Sun from 11 Jun to 27 Aug using Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

QF1030 departs BNE at 0915 and lands at 1225.

The return trip, QF1031, leaves at 1310 and arrives into BNE at 1915 local time.

Fairmont Marrakesh into AccorHotels

ACCORHOTELS has announced the signing of a hotel management agreement with New Mauritius Hotels Limited.

The deal will see AccorHotels relaunch an existing property under its Fairmont Hotels & Resorts brand from May.

Fairmont Royal Palm Marrakesh will feature 134 rooms, with Presidential suites, penthouses, villas and private residences.

Kathmandu-Dubai

HIMALAYA Airlines will launch direct flights from its base in Kathmandu to Dubai.

The airline will operate the daily service with one of its three Airbus A320 aircraft, with flights set to commence on 28 Apr.

Hilton N Africa push

HILTON is set to ramp up its expansion in North Africa with the establishment of a dedicated development office in Casablanca, Morocco.

Carlos Khneisser, vice president, development, MENA Hilton said the group had 5,000 rooms under development in North Africa with the majority in Egypt.

The chain operates 15 hotels in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco & Tunisia.

Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 18th April 2017

Abu Dhabi snow park delayed



THE opening date of Abu Dhabi's \$1 billion Reem Mall has been delayed by two years until 2020, according to its developer.

Shane Eldstrom, ceo of Reem Mall said the opening date had been pushed back due to changes in designs and delays in getting authority approval.

The complex will also feature Abu Dhabi's first snow park, which will be 125,000 square feet in size, and will include a variety of activities from sledging to zorbing to luge.

At a press conference, Majid Al Futtaim Ventures was named as the managing firm for the snow park and entertainment complex.

Reem Mall will also be home to cinemas, a theatre, 450 fashion and retail stores and 85 food and beverage outlets.

The park plan is **pictured** above.



Amtrak long-distance routes in doubt

AMTRAK long-distance routes, such as New York to Chicago are under threat from President Donald Trump's proposed budget.

The proposal, which Congress has not taken up yet, would do away with funding for all 15 long-distance passenger rail routes.

Services in the heavily-used Northeast Corridor, which links Virginia and the District of Columbia with New York City and Boston, would remain intact.

The proposed cuts could mean pax would no longer be able to travel across the country by train.

Consolidated Travel & Cathay Pacific are giving you the opportunity to win **Vouchers** for every Cathay Pacific ticket issued during April 2017.

Cathay Pacific now operates 79 direct flights per week ex Australia!

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FitBit Charge 2 & Event Cinemas movie tickets up for grabs



Travel Daily

Tuesday 18th April 2017

BIG4 goes after China market



BIG4 Holiday Parks has rolled out a Chinese registered website in a bid to lure more visitors from China to self-drive holidays.

The site, www.BIG4.cn, has

been launched to capitalise on the boom in Chinese nationals coming to Australia as free and independent travellers.

BIG4 ceo Steven Wright said to gain traction in the market it was key to appear on domestic search engine listings, such as Baidu.

"It seems timely during the Year of China-Australian Tourism to be taking this a step further and to host a dedicated site within Greater China for the added convenience and improved user experience it will provide Chinese travellers," Wright said.

"At this stage, our objective is not to promote individual parks, but rather to create greater awareness of the holiday park sector as a whole in China, and educate visitors about the tremendous outdoor experiences Australia offers."

The website has been written in simplified Chinese characters and provides articles about camping and caravanning, along with sample itineraries and details on renting motorhomes.

Users can also link the site and content to their WeChat and Weibo accounts.

Oceania fly packages

OCEANIA Cruises has released 'Fly Cruise Packages' for sailings departing from Apr ex Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Darwin & Cairns.

The new packages complement Oceania's standard flexible cruise only fares - call 1300 355 200.

Brochures

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* regular feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Infinity - Thailand 2017/18

Infinity's new Thailand brochure features brand new visits to Myanmar and tour bundles in Phuket, Koh Samui and Bangkok. There's master class tours in Phuket, Mandalay and Yangon for foodies and a spotlight for every location showing things to see & do across Thailand. There are also travel tips including visa and passport information, the best times to visit, time zones, language, currency advice and electricity.

CLICK HERE to view the brochure.



Princess Cruises Australia & New Zealand - 2018/19

Princess Cruises summer 2018-19 highlights include four ships, sailing from six homeports on 98 departures with 54 itineraries. *Majestic Princess* will arrive in September 2018 with signature favourites like Movies Under the Stars and two with menus by Michelin Chefs. There are more tours to New Zealand with over 40 departures and trips between Sydney and Auckland, Tasmania, Hawaii, Tahiti & South Pacific.



APT Canada & Alaska featuring USA 2018 Pre-Release

APT's new Canada & Alaska pre-release brochure features an 18-day Rockies Highlights & Alaska Cruise where guests will visit Banff, Jasper & Lake Louise. There's also an 18-day Eastern Canada & New England itinerary starting in Toronto and visiting Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Quebec City and Montreal. APT is offering pre-release super deals when booked by 18 May.

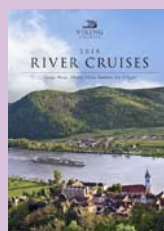
Guests can hop on a seven-night Holland America Line cruise and visit Glacier Bay National Park in the Alaskan Capital of Juneau.



Aurora Expeditions Antarctica 2018/19 brochure

Aurora's brochure features a range of 11-18 day voyages including the Antarctic Peninsula, the wild Weddel Sea and historic Falkland Islands. Options include New Year on the white continent with the 11-day New Year in Antarctica package. Highlights include photography workshops on the 15-day Sub-Antarctic Safari where guests can see King Penguin colonies, elephant & fur seals up close whilst they

explore the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.



Viking Cruises Australia & New Zealand River Cruise Brochure 2018

Viking Cruises River Cruise brochure for 2018 sails to destinations across Europe, France, Portugal, Russia and Egypt. There are two new itineraries such as Kiev to the Black Sea and Pathways of the Pharaohs. Highlights include visiting the Nile over a 12-day sojourn, a boat ride to the Temple of Isis at Philae and the Great Pyramids of Giza, last of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Travellers can also cruise the Dnieper River to the Black Sea, recalling the days of Vikings, Tatars and Cossacks.



Trafalgar Autumn Winter & Spring 2017/18

Trafalgar has launched its 2017/18 brochure featuring 34 itineraries and two new trips across Europe. New additions include the London and Paris nine-day itinerary being offered as a seasonal package, as well as the seven-day Festive St Petersburg & Moscow. Another new addition is the 15-day tailored European White Christmas Delights & New Year Lights that takes travellers to St Moritz and Tuscany.

AFL

Round 4 Winner

Congratulations

SHELLEY WALKER

from Y Not Travel

Shelley is the top point scorer for Round 4 of Travel Daily's AFL footy tipping competition. She's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.

Expedia TAAP



Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is two return economy class airfares to any one of **EMIRATES** 39 European destinations.

NSW permit LTFS-17-1989, ACT permit TP-17/00255



HERE'S hoping everyone managed to get some down time over the Easter break and that it has been full of good times, family and friendship. These last few weeks of April have definitely presented themselves as being a little short with three public holidays in a row - it would have been nice to spread it out, but it is what it is.

Last Thu night, I had the absolute pleasure of being a guest of a wonderful AFTA member, The Travel Authority (Peter Hosper & Sarah Bush) who hosted a group of industry and clients to the Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour. The setting and level of production that Opera Australia has created is world class. A pop-up stage with all the lighting and trimmings, cranes to change the set and floating on top of Sydney Harbour brings a level of sophistication and complication that one can only imagine. And the subtitles of the words of the opera in both English and Chinese demonstrate how we have become such a remarkable tourism destination. Sydney clearly is a world class city and holding events of this magnitude demonstrates this capability in spades. Some very big congratulations to Opera Australia, Destination NSW and all involved in making this event such a magical reality and of course to my hosts Peter and Sarah, thank you.

This week I am travelling to South Africa to attend the WTAAA board meeting at which a range of important global topics will be discussed. Much of the agenda will be dominated by the New Generation of IATA Settlement Systems (NewGenISS) which are all looking to be confirmed later this year.

One of the most important aspects to the new arrangements will be the ability for travel agents to have more options in the way they settle the BSP. For decades the only real way is to use the clients' credit card via a pass through, or "CASH" in the terms of BSP.

As NewGenISS evolves a new option via what I refer to as digital settlements will become available within the BSP and this will bring greater flexibility, more streamlined business processes and options for travel agents that have not been in place in the past.

My hope is that with the joint significant effort of the WTAAA which now has some 56 country members we will get the outcome that is needed to future proof the BSP for the next decade.

Exciting times ahead, that is for sure.

Korean agents discover Vic, Tas



TOURISM Australia, in association with Visit Victoria and Tourism Tasmania, took 14 top agents from South Korea on a journey around aquatic and coastal based areas across both states last month.

In Victoria, the group visited the Great Ocean Road, Mornington Peninsula Hot Springs and the Grampians where they enjoyed sampled some local wines.

Participants then set sail on the *Spirit of Tasmania* and enjoyed the sights of Cradle Mountain, Freycinet National Park, MONA Launceston, Hobart, Port Arthur and Bruny Island.

In 2016, 284,600 South Koreans visited Australia, up from 24% on the previous year, and spending increased by 17%, totalling \$1.6b.

The troupe are **pictured** at Mt Wellington overlooking Hobart.

Tuesday 18th Apr 2017

Ireland's Game of Thrones passport

GAME of Thrones fans will be able to pick up a Journey of Doors souvenir passport and collect stamps at 10 'Game of Throne Doors' carved from trees depicting key events from season six across Northern Ireland, thanks to Tourism Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland.

Guests can use the *Game of Thrones Filming Locations Northern Ireland* app to navigate their way around the country and find the doors hidden at various pubs and restaurants, passports available **HERE**.

Domodedovo T3 tick

MOSCOW Domodedovo International Airport's third passenger terminal T3 has been approved by Russia's General Board of State and scheduled to open in 2023 on the western part of the airport.

The terminal will be 235,475m² and host 20.5m pax annually.

Work is currently underway for T2, set to open in 2018.

InterCon Fiji recruit

INTERCONTINENTAL Fiji Golf Resort & Spa has appointed a new area director of sales and marketing for Fiji/Vanuatu, Dean White.

White has over 20 years of experience in hotels around the world and was ceo of the Australian Chamber of Commerce for Hong Kong and Macau.

MU, CZ invest in new Beijing Airport

THE National Development and Reform Commission of China has approved China Eastern and China Southern airlines investments of \$1.9b and \$2.8b into Beijing's new yet-to-be-named airport.

Both airlines will build their own infrastructure at the airport accounting for 40% of the annual passenger volume, anticipated to be 45 million in 2020 and 72 million by 2025.

Joy gets a race track

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has partnered with Scuderia Ferrari Watches to launch the first-ever racetrack at sea, as part of the entertainment and activities on board the 3,850 passenger vessel *Norwegian Joy*.

The two-level Ferrari branded racetrack will be located on the top deck of the ship and up to ten drivers at a time will be able to race on the electric go-carts.

More details in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

SIA passengers jump

SINGAPORE Airlines Group has reported a 5.2% increase in passenger volumes across its network for the month of Mar compared to the corresponding period in 2016.

Passengers numbers were up to 2.72m, from 2.59m in Mar 16.

SQ's load factors were up 8.2% to Europe and 4.7% to the Americas, however dropped 4.3% to 78.8% to the South West Pacific region.



Round 7 Winner

Congratulations

**PETER
NORTHEY**

from **MSC Cruises**

Peter is the top point scorer for Round 7 of Travel Daily's NRL footy tipping competition. He's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.



Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is two return economy class airfares to any one of **EMIRATES** 39 European destinations.

NSW permit LTFS-17-1189, ACT permit TF 1700235

Tuesday 18th Apr 2017

Astor 2-for-1 special

CRUISE & Maritime Voyages is offering a 2-for-1 deal on the relocation cruise of *Astor* from London to Australia, departing London Tilbury on 15 Oct.

The special is valid on the 46-nt voyage to Sydney, 50-nt cruise to Adelaide and 54-nt sailing to Fremantle, priced from \$10,999, \$11,549 & \$11,999 respectively for the first person, based on an interior cabin.

The deal runs until 30 Jun.



Round 8 Winner

Congratulations

SEAN McCLEA

from *Infinity Holidays*

Sean is the top point scorer for Round 8 of Travel Daily's Super Rugby footy tipping competition. He's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.



Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is return economy class airfares to Dubai flying with **EMIRATES**. Emirates has 77 flights per week to DXB.

Nanuku family deal

FIJI'S Nanuku Auberge Resort has released a dedicated program for families to take advantage of until Mar 2018.

The offer includes a family 'Food Safari' featuring a guided tour of the region's local markets sourcing fresh Fijian produce, crabs, prawns, fruit and vegetables to take back to the resort where chefs will prepare all ingredients for a dinner.

Travel dates are from now until 31 Mar 2018, with certain blackout dates over peak travel periods including Christmas.

737 MAX 9 test flight

BOEING has completed the first flight of the 737 MAX 9, which was conducted from Seattle.

The flight lasted for two hours and 42 minutes over the Puget Sound and involved tests on the aircraft's systems and controls.

Deliveries begin in 2018.

Legoland Melbourne

LEGOLAND Discovery Centre in Melbourne has opened today at Chadstone Shopping Centre.

The first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, the centre covers 2,800m² and contains more than 2 million Lego bricks for kids and adults to enjoy.

Around 300,000 people are set to visit the centre in the first year.

Virgin Italy renewal

VIRGIN Australia has sought approval to renew its allocation of 300 third-country codeshare seats per week on the Australia-Italy route for five more years, from 08 Apr 2018.

VA currently offers codeshare services to Italy on flights operated by Singapore Airlines to Milan & Rome and with Etihad Airways to Milan, Rome and Venice.

The Australian carrier told the International Air Services Comm last week "our utilisation of this capacity continues to be variable", adding it wishes to retain its full allocation for a period of five years.

SPTO woos Melb, Adl agents



THE South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) hosted over 180 travel agents in Melbourne and Adelaide last week as part of a showcase designed to educate the Australian travel trade on the variety of tourism product available across the region.

Pictured above from front left: Nicci Faulsham, Tahiti Tourism; Richard Skewes, Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau; and Joey Riham, Kupu Marketing.

Middle row from left: Karen Koval, Air New Zealand; Danika Cooper, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation; Jessica Luxton,

Vanuatu Tourism Office; Jayne Kinghorn, Iririki Island Resort & Spa; Carole Thorburn, Tangeos Marketing; Keith Gallacher, Destination Specific Marketing and David Callan, Travel Representation Services.

Back row from left: Lauren Whicker, Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority; Manuela Nielsen, New Caledonia Tourism; Fasitau Ula, Samoa Tourism Authority; Greg Maloney, Destination Asia Pacific Marketing; Karen Hitchines, Norfolk Island Tourism and Julie Bowels, Bokissa Private Island Resort.

Win tickets to UK/Europe

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Singapore Airlines' flights to/from Australia, Singapore Airlines is offering Travel Agents in Australia the opportunity to win two return Business Class tickets from Australia to any Singapore Airlines destination in UK/Europe!

To win, correctly answer each daily question in April. The lucky winner will have the most correct answers as well as the most inspired final entry. Send your answers to singaporeairlines@traveldaily.com.au



Q8. Singapore Airlines offers 'Book the Cook' service to/from select destinations in Suites, First Class, Business Class and Premium Economy Class. True or False?

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park, NSW, 2113 Aust.

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Publisher/Editor in Chief: Bruce Piper **Managing Editor:** Jon Murrie **Editor:** Guy Dundas

Contributors: Jasmine O'Donoghue, Rebecca Le Bas, Matt Bell, Jenny Piper - info@traveldaily.com.au

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Lisa Martin - advertising@traveldaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper - accounts@traveldaily.com.au

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5 Things to improve your work/ life balance

[Click HERE to read our latest blog](#)



Retail Travel Consultants

Sydney

North Shore and Northern Beaches

Two great positions with established Retail travel brands located on the leafy northern side of Sydney. Bring your strong customer service and excellent product knowledge coupled with your GDS airfares experience and one of these great roles could be yours! Part time (3-4 days) on the North Shore and full time high-end luxury on the Northern Beaches. Tramada / Amadeus an advantage.

- Repeat clientele
- Established teams

Call Susan or [click here](#)

Client Services Coordinator - Corporate

Sydney

Great salary on offer with career growth!

Reputable corporate business extensively networked across Australia, NZ and beyond. A great role with huge career potential to grow your career in the corporate market. You will support the Director of Sales, Account Managers, Travel Technology & Marketing teams with inbound calls, administrative assistance, reporting, campaign & docs prep. Corp consulting background req.

- Energetic team
- A road into Account Mgt

Call Ben or [click here](#)

Wholesale - Team Leader Content

Sydney CBD

Salary \$65K + super + benefits

This brand is a global leader and European Specialist among other exciting destinations. Empower a team of up to 10 staff whilst ensuring internal systems are up to date with allotments, inventory & airfares. If you have managed a team within the travel industry, have strong analytical & reporting skills and have exposure to allotments & inventory, then this role will be an ideal fit!

- Great benefits
- Established brand

Call Susan or [click here](#)

Corporate Account Manager

Sydney

Salary to \$70K + super

Work for one of the fastest growing Corporate Travel Management companies across Aust and NZ with local representation in the premier gateway cities. You will be responsible for maintenance & growth of customers in the SME market. A prominent role providing clients with comprehensive & integrated business travel management programs tailored to maximise savings.

- Analytical role
- Solid corporate exp required

Call Ben or [click here](#)

Corporate Consultant - Part or Full time!

Sydney Wahroonga, Salary to \$55K + super

Handle predominantly domestic travel itineraries with the occasional group, international and leisure itineraries. Previous experience in corporate or leisure consulting would be ideal for this role. Monday to Friday - exciting portfolios!

Call Susan or [click here](#)

Reservations Manager

Sydney, newly created position

Lead a small specialist team managing daily operations of the res dept. ensuring sales targets are met & converting leads to bookings. Previous TL exp. required. Inspiring adventure brand!

Call Ben or [click here](#)

