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Travel Daily First with the news Mon 31 Mar 08 Page 1

EDITORS: Bruce Piper and Guy Dundas info@traveldaily.com.au Ph: 1300 799 220 E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au

nree classes for V Aust

VIRGIN Blue's new international offshoot V Australia will offer business, premium economy and economy cabins when it launches its first flight on 15 Dec this year (TD breaking news).

All cabins will offer on-demand in-flight entertainment and, in a first for the Pacific route, SMS and GPRS connectivity.

Business class fares are on sale now from about \$6550, with 1.95m of legroom in the seat, which converts to a 1.88m fully horizontal flat bed, and DJ said it was "working towards" providing international lounge access.

The premium economy cabin will offer 40 seats with a 96.5cm (38-inch) seat pitch with fares from about \$2500 while the every day economy fare will be \$1899 inclusive of taxes.

This morning Virgin chief Richard Branson launched the

Today's *Travel Daily*

TD today has seven pages of news and photos - including exclusive shots from Sat night's Virgin Blue Hangar Ball on page six and a wrap-up of some of the so-far unpublished entries in our Ski Express competition which closes today on page seven. There's also a full page of jobs from AA Appointments on p8.

route alongside DJ ceo Brett Godfrey, who said the \$1899 fare was 16% less than the cheapest alternatives from UA or QF.

tmsap.com

1000 seats at just \$999 including \$415 in taxes - were quickly snapped up after being put on sale at 10am.

And as TD went to press there were 'V Saver' economy fares of as low as \$1174, with fully flexible fares of \$1574 available.

The launch route is daily flights from Sydney to Los Angeles, departing Sydney at 9.45pm and arriving at 4.30pm - with return services leaving LAX 11.30pm and arriving at 9.20am two days later.

V Australia will partner with Northwest Airlines to offer onward services within the US

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Branson's million \$ bash

First with the news on location in Koh Samui

Today's issue of TD is coming from Koh Samui, Thailand courtesy of Thai Airways and the **Tourism Authority of Thailand.**

ONE of the greatest ways to discover Thailand's natural wonders and be at one with mother nature is to go elephant trekking.

Visitors can experience an elephant ride or join one of the safari tours at the Samui Safari elephant camp at Ladwanon waterfall.

For those wanting to see more natural beauty and spectacular scenery, a day trip to Ang Thong Marine National Park is a must!

The park consists of 42 islands featuring tropical rainforests, coral reefs, tranquil blue lagoons and deserted beaches.

Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui is located on Chaweng Beach, Koh Samui's finest beach and is only a 20 minute drive from Samui Airport.

QF DST glitch

DAYLIGHT savings computer errors caused QF flights out of Adelaide to be delayed by as much as one and a half hours yesterday morning.

The Qantas check-in system was one of hundreds of computer and mobile phone networks affected by the glitch - reverting back to standard time a week too soon.

Six flights were late to depart, with Qantas saying that Adelaide was its only affected terminal.

Ase:

APT RECEIPT

VIRGIN Blue founders Sir Richard Branson and Brett Godfrey achieved their goal at Saturday night's Virgin Blue Charity Hanger Ball, flying past the \$800,000 record raised at the inaugural ball in 2006.

An elated Brett Godfrey exclusively revealed to Travel Daily after the epic event that over a whopping \$1m had been raised for the Red Jet Foundation, this year supporting indigenous and environmental charities.

The night saw over 3000 guests treated to a red-carpet welcome on arrival at Virgin Blue's milliondollar hangar at Brisbane Airport.

Amongst the guests was Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan, QLD Premier Anna Bligh, Lord Mayor of Brisbane Campbell Newman and a host of celebrities including TV personality Catriona Rowntree, Australian swimmer Elka Graham, radio presenter Sami Lukis, South Sydney rugby league players and co-owner Peter Holmes a Court.

The stellar line-up of entertainment featured aerial acrobats, an electric string trio, traditional indigenous dancers and performances by New Zealand band Evermore, disco diva Marcia Hines and Australian rock group Rogue Traders.

However, Sir Richard Branson himself was the biggest star of the night, dazzling the crowd with his grand entrance by helicopter.

The British-born billionaire donated most of the 'moneycan't-buy' auction items, including seven year naming

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rights to a Virgin Blue Boeing 737 iet, which sold for an incredible \$85,000 and a trip for two staying at his South African Game Park Ulusaba, purchased at \$60,000.

In support of their commitment to the environment, Virgin Blue also took on the global Earth Hour challenge by 'switching off' the Hangar Ball and hosting a candlelit dinner.

And the guests continued to celebrate at Virgin's party of the year until the early hours of Sunday morning.

See TD's exclusive pix on p6.

Goodbye to Aloha

BANKRUPT Hawaiian carrier Aloha Airlines has announced it will cease all passenger services effective from today.

The carrier filed for Chapter 11 protection on 20 Mar and has been unable to find a buyer or financier since then.

About 1900 staff will be affected, with Hawaiian Airlines stepping in to expand its services and accept Aloha tickets for free standby travel.

Emirates direct push

EMIRATES promoted \$99 plus taxes one-way fares to New Zealand last weekend, in a three day online sale which ends today.

The heavily advertised fares from Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney are valid for travel 01 May-30 Jun, 21 Jul-25 Sep and 13 Oct-30 Nov.

The specials are only available for tickets booked directly with EK at www.emirates.com.

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AIRPORT

HERE'S a more affordable form of space tourism - but it will be a little hard to enjoy the view.

US firm Celestis Inc has announced plans for a cemetery on the moon, and will charge about US\$10,000 to send your ashes there.

The offer is in partnership with Odyssey Moon Limited, one of the companies vying for a US\$20m prize from Google to be the first team to land a privately funded craft on the moon.

VIRGIN Blue's PR specialist Leonie Vandeven has certainly adopted Richard Branson's flair for publicity.

Amongst the glamorous 3,000 guests at Saturday night's blacktie Virgin Blue Charity Hangar Ball (see pg 6), Leonie strut the red carpet in her Virgin gown.

Leonie told TD she had the fabric especially printed with the Virgin planes and logos and then took it to a designer to create the outfit she was after.

And the highlight of Leonie's project was having Sir Richard Branson autograph the hem of the dress, but cheeky Richard went one step further and autographed another part of the dress too (look closely below).



Leonie's a die-hard Virgin employee

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WA flights beefed up

QANTAS is increasing capacity between Perth and regional WA cities including Port Hedland and Broome from Jun, adding a total of 2300 seats per week.

The carrier's regional gm WA Ian Gay said the decision to up services was made as a "response to increased demand from the state's resource sector and strong domestic tourism growth".

The new flights include five weekday Port Hedland, three Broome and two Newman services.

QF will also boost capacity on a number of other Western Australian routes, upgrading existing B717 jets on some Perth-Karratha and Perth-Kalgoorlie services to Boeing 737s.

The third of four daily Perth-Brisbane flights will also be upgraded from B737 to B767 aircraft, increasing the number of seats on the route each week to more than 12500.

Gay said the new and upgraded services would see QF operating 141 return flights per week from Perth to Broome, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Newman, Paraburdoo and Port Hedland.



EDITORS: Bruce Piper and Guy Dundas E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au Ph: 1300 799 220

Famil deals for TM

TRAVELMANAGERS Australia has announced new support from its sister company Fiji & Pacific Specialist Holidays, as well as Qantas Holidays, that will see the organisation provided with a number of exclusive famils to the Pacific and Hong Kong.

General manager Don Beattie says the new support sends a strong message to consultants considering joining the company, adding that "a key component of of the TravelManagers model lies in its ability to access qualtiy product and the support of our industry partners."

The new famil agreements were announced at the company's regional meeting in MEL last week.

Tiger's CFO quits

TIGER Airways's chief financial officer Peter Negline has resigned from his role "to do his own thing" after eight months in the position.

Negline is the second CFO to quit the role in less than two years after Evelyn Tan walked out on the low cost airline in Jul last year after 12 months with the carrier.

Approved products

A NEW Australian firm called TakeOnBoard.com has launched, offering a full range of aviationauthority-compliant products.

As well as cosmetic bags and 100ml containers, the range also includes toiletries such as lip balm, body lotion, shampoo, eye drops - as well as iPods and travel guides.

To celebrate the company is offering "free upgrades" (bigger plastic bags) and 10% off specials at www.takeonboard.com.

NSW camping site

A NEW NSW government-backed wesbite allows holidaymakers to make bookings at about 170 caravan and camping sites across the state.

NSW tourism minister Matt Brown launched the site at the Caravan Camping Supershow at Rosehill Racecourse in Sydney's west on the weekend.

The government has responsibility for hundreds of caravan and camping sites on Crown land across the state. The site can be viewed at

www.caravanandcampingnsw.com.au.

Leap into a Smarter World! Click here for more details > Independence THE SMART CHOICE!

Hail, Octaviar!

IT sounds like the name of a Roman general, but in fact Octaviar Limited is the name to which MFS shareholders agreed to change the beleaguered firm's name at an extraordinary general meeting in Melbourne last Fri.

The name change ends ongoing litigation with Boston firm Massachusetts Financial Services and will see MFS receive a confidential payment.

MFS also confirmed it would close its Dubai office and cut staff, and said it hoped to release its overdue half year accounts sometime during Apr.

Chairman Andrew Peacock said he would step down during May.

Aggrieved shareholders vented their anger against the firm, with one man quoted in the *Financial Review* saying the debacle "feels like being locked on a sinking ship."

New planes for LCC

AIRASIA X has reached an agreement with Airbus for the purchase of ten additional 392seat A330-300s for delivery over the next five years, bringing its total purchase order to 25.

"I love my job because it gives me a challenge to do the best that I can. Also it allows me to work with a lot of good people."

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Applications close 2 April 2008.



Inspiring People. Inspiring Journeys.



ABOVE: Freestyle Holidays took a group of QLD and northern NSW agents to Bali, flying Royal Brunei at the start of this month.

The group had a unique cultural experience when they celebrated Nyepi Day at a colourul Melasti ceremony with locals.

They also spent a night in Ubud at the Pita Maha, shopping at the Geneva handicraft wholesale store, and cooked up a storm for dinner at the Bumbu Cooking School.

Pictured here at the Cooking School from left are Lorraine Neild, Bali Retreats Pty Ltd; Sarah Wilmot, Globenet Travel; Dawn Smith, Escape Travel Coffs Harbour; Gai Avery, Travelworld Nerang; Carrie Minear, Harvey World Travel Maroochydore; Sue Langdon, Freestyle Holidays/PTG; Heinz Von Holzen - Godfather of the Bumbu Bali cooking school & restaurant; Carol Baker, Royal Brunei; Amy Taylor (hidden), Travelworld Upper Coomera; Sonya Dwarte, Travelscene Byron Bay and Kellie Pyrmont, Club Labourse Travel.

Not pictured are Sharlene Vagg, Ucango Travel Maroochtdore and Justine Tomas; Jetset Kippa Ring.

Wholesale Reservations Consultant



Malaysia Holidays is a boutique specialist travel wholesaler based in Surry Hills, Sydney, whose aim is to provide a high level of service and product knowledge to our supporting travel agents and their passengers. Our product range includes hotels and touring in both peninsular Malaysia as well as Borneo.

We require a telephone reservations consultant with a minimum of 6 mths experience in the industry, preferably in wholesale travel. The person we seek must have a keen eye for detail, confident, articulate and friendly phone manner and enjoy working in a small friendly team in a relaxed environment.

Responsibilities include:

- Handling incoming telephone enquiries on phone queue from Travel Agents
- Processing email enquiries.
- Creating quotes and bookings for both Air and Land arrangements through Galileo and our inhouse reservations system- TRAM.
- Liaising with Airlines, Hotels and Ground Operators to source confirmations and information.
- · Confidently upsell touring and room types when quoting.
- Prepare and despatch documentation.

Experience with Galileo CRS as well as wholesale reservations system such as TRAM would be highly regarded.

To apply for this position please send a brief resume outlining your experience and salary expectations via email to: melanie@malaysiaholidays.com.au



EDITORS: Bruce Piper and Guy Dundas E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au

Fast track to US?

PRIME Minister Kevin Rudd has suggested that the US embed customs agents in Australian airports to clear travellers for US entry before they leave Australia.

He made the suggestion to US President George Bush during a meeting on Sat, in the lead-up to today's historic signing of the new Australia-US open skies pact.

President Bush was said to be "open to the idea."

Heathrow hassle

BRITISH Airways has warned that passenger delays and flight cancellations at Terminal Five are likely to continue into this week.

The airline says it's currently trying to sort through 15,000 items of luggage and return them to their owners.

The new terminal has been plagued by problems since its chaotic opening last Thursday, the main issues arising because of glitches in the baggage handling system which caused further cancellations over the weekend.

BA scrapped 37 flights from the airport on Sun and 66 on Sat, with the total number of cancellations since the opening now reaching a staggering 250.

It's been a public relations nightmare for BA and airport operators BAA, with a respected UK newspaper labelling it one of the "top PR blunders" in history. The cancellations have only

affected BA's shorthaul flights.



Agents wanting a copy of the 48

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FOR the remainder of the month Travelodge Hotels are giving Travel Daily subscribers the chance to win two nights accom for two people, including buffet breakfast at any Travelodge Hotel in To enter, we're simply asking subscribers to send us their best local Travel Tip, whether it be places to see or ways to travel to help people get the The best tip will be chosen each week and placed on the Travelodge website and published in *Travel Daily*. tipcomp@traveldaily.com.au.





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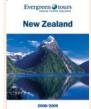
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CORPORATE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT



Brochures of the Week

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



Evergreen Tours - New Zealand 2009

The new brochure features a range of premium touring throughout NZ with tour directors and coach captains, most meals, centrally located accom and major attractions. The 18 day 'Grand New Zealand' tour incl free flights to Auckland, while the 'Grand NZ Grand Rail Discovery' incl fly free return. For more info call 1300 364 414.



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Outback Queensland Tourism - 2008 Queensland's Outback Travellers Guide This 72 page guide has info on on all towns throughout the QLD Outback, including places to go, things to see, where to stay and fun outback experiences for the whole family. Also includes road map, distance charts and travelling tips. Call 1800 247 966 or email info@outbackgld.com.au.





ABOVE: A group of Australian and New Zealand tour operators ventured to Rome earlier this month to attend the Globe & Art Cities Exchange Workshop.

Pictured here at the workshop from left are Michele Perrone, Travel Makers; Carolyn Forgac, Sogno Marketing; Federica R Sakulsuvarn, Italian Government Tourist Office; Jeff Clarke, Flight Centre Global Product; Boris Greiss, Euroscape Travel; Sonia Mayes, Italy Travel Direct; David Dunkley, Venture Holidays SA/NT; George Bedirian, Global Airlines & Tourism Management and Allan Orton, Orton International Limited.

QF window pops

A QANTAS Boeing 747 flight from Perth to Sydney on Sat was forced to land in Adelaide after an outer window popped.

Passengers were told to return to their seats and fasten seatbelts with the pilot assuring them that the windows were "triple strength," with the diversion "just to be on the safe side."

Emergency vehicles met the flight when it landed in Adelaide, with preliminary inspections revealing that a piece of external window pane next to seat 3A had been dislodged.





SALES & MARKETING MANAGER QLD & NT SALES & MARKETING MANAGER VIC & TAS

World Aviation Systems is seeking two travel industry professionals to take on the exciting and challenging roles of Sales and Marketing Manager QLD/NT (based in Brisbane) and Sales and Marketing Manager VIC/TAS (based in Melbourne) for the Air Pacific Account.

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The candidates will need to have a high level of customer service orientation, be assertive without being aggressive, possess a strong commitment to meeting team objectives, and be capable of working under pressure whilst consistently demonstrating initiative and selfmotivation. The candidates should be confident and comfortable in dealing with all levels of the travel industry.

The candidates will need to have appropriate travel qualifications including Fares & Ticketing I & II, relevant supervisory/management courses or qualifications and tertiary education in marketing preferred plus a minimum of 5 years experience in sales, marketing and management positions.

If you are the person we are seeking, please send your resume to Veronica Jovanovic (veronicaj@worldaviation.com.au) by 4 April 2008. Only those successful for an interview will be notified.

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Oh, what a night - Virgin Blue goes black!

VIRGIN Blue's 2008 Charity Hangar Ball was the hottest ticket in Australia on Saturday night. Just on 3,000 corporate guests, VIPs and celebrities sipped on champagne under the stars, enjoyed a three-course candle-lit dinner during Earth Hour and danced the night away in the Virgin Blue hangar. Hosts of the black-tie event Sir Richard Branson and Brett Godfrey ensured the evening was full of surprises, with Branson appearing on stage dressed in traditional aboriginal costume and body paint. Travel Daily got snapping and here are some of the photos from the impressive event...

BELOW: 'V' is for Victory! Sir Richard Branson, QLD Premier Anna Bligh, Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan and Virgin Blue CEO Brett Godfrey.



BELOW: Virgin Blue's men in black - David Kelly, Brett Godfrey and Jason Lucas enjoying the celebrations





ABOVE: The dynamic duo toast to a very successful evening

RIGHT: Triple M radio presenter Sami Lukis and Accor PR Manager Cynthia Dammerer supporting Virgin Blue's charity, Red Jet Foundation.



LEFT: These lovely ladies are having an absolute

Relations



ABOVE: Catriona Rowntree, a great supporter of DJ with Amanda Bolger, DJ's Manager Public & Media Relations.



ABOVE: Branson poses for the cameras with the female crew from Virgin.

BELOW: The Boeing team were one of the main sponsors for the Charity Ball.

Pictured here is Stan Deal, Boeing Asia/ Pacific chief, Chantelle Mahoney and Dilara Deal



Marcia Hines, a regular entertainer at DJ's events. The soul diva and her band had the quests on the dance floor shaking and





LEFT: New Zealand band Evermore kept the crowd entertained during Earth Hour belting out their hits.



ABOVE: Don't you wanna feel what I wanna feel Natalie Bassingthwaite?



RIGHT: Former Aussie swimmer Elka Graham and friend Lucy Salera from Salera's Jewelmasters. Both Graham and Branson removed their swiss made wrist watches and generously put them up for the charity auction.





Public Affairs Heather Jeffery with Caroline Russo from Caroline Russo Media & Public

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TODAY is the last day to send in an entry for our awesome competition for the chance to win a holiday for two people to Queenstown, New Zealand. Ski Express has teamed with Air New Zealand to offer a five night ski package for one lucky **Travel Daily** subscriber during the month of March. To enter the competition all

skicomp@traveldaily.com.au with full terms and conditions at www.traveldaily.com.au.







ABOVE: Patricia 'tree-hugger Shaw from Insight Vacations was gripped with fear in Canada last year when she came across the ferocious Easter Bunny!



fellow'. He was a pretty good skier, but aerodynamically had some problems. Every time the wind picked up he'd just get blown straight off his feet. Can't tell you how many times we had to pluck him out of a tree with a ski pole. Anyway, we made plans to catch up again at the Remarkables & Coronet Peak in NZ later in the year. Should be a blast!"

Australia said she was snowboarding at Castle Mountain in Alberta, Canada and got a bit too close to a straight into a hidden tree well. Luckily a friend could take a photo to capture this priceless moment and to help dig her out!





LEFT: Hayley recent happy snap of herself about to take to Kogen in Japan, and said it was an incredible destination with



sent in this photo of herself and ski partner striking this unique pos at this picturesque mountain top summit. Inset above - Skye's funky monkey prepares to take to the ski slope:









ABOVE: Jaimie-Lee Ray of National Ticket Centre, Brisbane has sent us this image of herself skiing at Snowmass Village in Aspen Colarado, from earlier this year.









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