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Travel Daily  **AU**

First with the news

Mon 30 Mar 09 **Page 1**

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E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au Ph: 1300 799 220

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CX drops accom

CATHAY Pacific has announced that effective Tue 01 Apr it will no longer sell accommodation, either via GDS or phone.

Instead agents are being advised to go to the accom options on the recently upgraded Cathay Pacific industry website at CXagents.com where there's info on wholesale partners to fulfil accom needs.

CX has also advised that it won't be participating in the Virtual Multi Purpose Document system, and will instead introduce procedures for implementing agents' ticket issue or reissue requests via CXagents.com.

On time? Not today

QANTAS' on-time performance for Mar is likely to have been hit for six by major disruptions at Sydney Airport this morning.

At about 10.40am an announcement advised that "Due to a major operational disruption no flights can board at this stage," with Terminal 3 full of increasingly agitated passengers.

It's understood that baggage handlers and other staff were involved in a protest over a range of issues including outsourcing of work and security issues after the bikie bashing in T3 last week.

New weekly feature

TRAVEL Daily introduces a new travel inspired "Cartoon of the Week" feature in today's issue, thanks to CardWorks.

See page 4 for today's cartoon.

Take a break to help a mate

FEDERAL tourism minister Martin Ferguson this morning officially launched Tourism Australia's 'No Leave No Life' campaign which is encouraging Aussies to use up some of their stockpiled annual leave on a domestic holiday.

He urged the tourism industry to make the most of the release next Mon of the government's latest stimulus package, saying consumers should consider some "holiday therapy, instead of retail therapy" with the payments.

'No Leave No Life' focuses on the 123 million days of accrued annual leave in Australia - representing a \$33b liability on the balance sheets of businesses.

Ferguson said the campaign would "remind both employers and employees about the importance of taking annual leave and having a break.

"In these difficult times I hope all Australians will stop and think what they can do to kick our economy along and help keep the jobs of their fellow Australians."

The campaign includes an Employer Toolkit outlining the impacts of annual leave stockpiling, in the hope that employers will encourage staff to take their leave.

And there's a special website at www.noleavenolife.com which will "provide a raft of information to better enable employees win the work/life battle."

Tourism Australia this morning

also released a prospectus for the industry showing how domestic operators can leverage from the campaign, with options ranging from free print and digital images through to cooperative campaign partnerships.

Domestic operators who put up cash to participate will have their funding matched by TA.

Although the ads focus on domestic tourism, encouraging holidays is likely to also boost outbound bookings, and Stella's Travel2 this morning leveraged off the No Leave No Life campaign by releasing a range of offers for overseas destinations - a move which is understood to have caused some angst within TA.

When questioned by TD about the idea of also boosting outbound travel, Ferguson didn't comment except to say "My job's to sell Australia, and it's very tough out there at the moment."

The free logos for use in domestic marketing are online at www.images.australia.com.

NZ agent incentive

AIR New Zealand has launched a travel agent incentive today, offering \$10 fuel or cash for every passenger booked until 20 Apr.

See page eight for the details.

Today's Travel Daily

Travel Daily today has six pages of news and photos, plus full pages from:

- AA Appointments jobs
- Air New Zealand
- Concorde P!NK incentive

TD's Round 1 AFL competition winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Sharon Hobbs of AOT Holidays who was the first week's winner in TD's AFL Footy Tipping competition.

Sharon has won a night's accom at Fraser Suites Sydney.

The comp is free to enter and there's some great prizes on offer. See www.traveldaily.com.au.

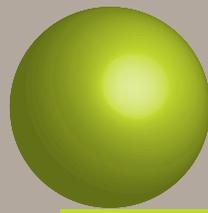
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oneworld expands

THE oneworld alliance has kicked off the new flying season, starting yesterday, by welcoming a dozen new international destinations plus a domestic network in Ecuador.

Affiliate member LAN Ecuador launches its domestic network in April to complement int'l flights.

Other new destinations include six in the US, brought on-line by American Eagle, while other carriers are adding destinations in Libya, Norway and Romania.

Qantas increases Premium options

QANTAS is offering some great deals on recently added Premium Economy services to San Francisco, New York and Buenos Aires.

The Premium cabin is available on selected flights with return fares departing SYD to SFO priced from \$2993 (on QF73/74), from \$3393 to JFK (on QF107/108) and from \$3395 to BUE (QF17/18), all for travel between 01 Apr - 31 Oct 09.

Airfares are on sale until 17 Apr, see www.qantas.com.au

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EY launches MEL flights

ETIHAD yesterday celebrated the debut of its third Australian port, with the commencement of flights between Melbourne and Abu Dhabi.

The carrier is touting easy links with the rest of its network via Abu Dhabi, saying the new Melbourne flights could "cut up to six hours from some routes."

EY will operate an A340-600 into Melbourne, with 292 seats on offer and the new destination means the carrier will offer almost 5700 seats a week from and into Australia.

CEO James Hogan said that the carrier's strategic plans for Australia also included services to Perth, but doesn't expect EY to operate to the WA capital for at least two years, preferring instead to consolidate operations in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

EY is continuing its rapid route roll-out, with other new destinations to be added this year including Istanbul, Athens, Chicago and Larnaca, while frequencies have also been boosted to other destinations including Beirut, Doha, Brussels, Geneva, Kuala Lumpur, Milan and Moscow.

Growth will slow next year, with consolidation seeing just one aircraft added to the EY fleet in each of 2010 and 2011, after 11 new planes this year.

Hogan said the carrier was so

Disney layoffs

WALT Disney World, which employs 62,000 "cast members" has reportedly increased lay-offs this week, although the exact number of sackings is unknown.

Estimates suggest around 450 people may have lost their jobs.

far weathering the economic downturn, with expected load factors this year of 76% and still demand for seats, but with heavy discounting.

He was confident that Etihad would break even in 2010, telling *The Australian*: "We're bullish. We're managing our costs bloody tightly and we're ready to come out of this."

"And we believe that as the market turns, we're in good shape to take advantage of it."

Hogan also confirmed that the recently announced Etihad codeshare deal with Qantas was likely to be expanded.

"They have made it clear that they intend to operate into Abu Dhabi in 2010, so we'll look at ways in which we can feed each other," he said.

THAI shuffles all dom flights to BKK

THAI International Airways has announced all its domestic flight operations have moved under the one roof at Suvarnabhumi Airport, effective 29 Mar 09.

The changes will see 23 flights move from Don Mueang Airport (DMK) to BKK, with THAI saying an average of 3500-4000 extra pax will pass through Bangkok's gateway airport each day.

THAI also said it will introduce online boarding passes (which can be printed from home), 24 extra check-in counters and expand its domestic lounge area.

QF IT chief goes

QANTAS chief information officer Jamila Gordon is expected to leave the airline this week as part of the major restructuring of its executive ranks.

Also leaving is Jana Bowgerald who was responsible for the 'sustainable future' program.

David Hall, who's executive mgr of corporate services and technology, will also now be responsible for IT and the cost improvement program, according to the *Financial Review*.

JW Marriott Tripoli

MARRIOTT International will open a new JW Marriott property in Tripoli, Libya in 2011.

The 370-room hotel will be the first Marriott in the country.



Window Seat

HOW about your very own Whitsundays getaway?

Victor Island is just below Brampton Island, about 30km south east of Mackay and can only be reached by yacht or helicopter.

And it can be yours for the bargain price of just \$1.85m, according to advertisements in yesterday's papers.

The price includes a large residence, spectacular views and "a large storage shed for all the toys."

BUT if you'd prefer something a bit further afield (but not quite a weekend destination) there's a slightly cheaper option in the German village of Liebon, which is currently up for auction on internet site eBay.

Liebon dates back to the 14th century, and is located in the eastern state of Saxony near the Czech and Polish borders.

It has a population of eight - a couple and their six children - with an asking price of €300,000 including a large farm, a house, a playground, a village pond, a small shop and two road signs.

AUSTRALIA is certainly a popular spot for airline ceos at the moment, with both Etihad chief James Hogan and Virgin founder Richard Branson making appearances in Melbourne on the weekend at the Formula One racing - which probably got up the nose of Qantas which is the event's "official airline".

Hogan will host an event today in Melbourne to celebrate the launch of Etihad's new flights from the Victorian capital to Abu Dhabi - while there's also another special lunch in Brisbane today, where Singapore Airlines ceo Chew Choon Seng will celebrate the debut of SQ's new A330 aircraft and in-cabin product on the BNE-SIN route.

Meanwhile Branson has left the country - curiously in the first class cabin of a Qantas flight leaving Melbourne for London - apparently preferring a direct service rather than flying Virgin Blue to Sydney and then back to the UK on Virgin Atlantic.



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Travel Daily AU

First with the news

Mon 30 Mar 09

Page 3

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A roaring good time

THE African Safari Co. recently treated some of its agents to an African Discovery educational taking in Cape Town, Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park.

A major highlight of the trip was the immensely popular "walking with the Lions" activity, and despite being a little worried about taking a stroll with the King of Beasts, the group was rewarded with some amazing photos (as seen above) and an experience of

a lifetime.

Back row, *from left*, are: Anita Norris, Anita's World Travel; Jo Uildriks, HWT Ashburton; Josie Puglia, Allabout Travel Geelong; Riz Callisto, Phil Hoffman Travel Norwood; Kate Luscombe, HWT Mornington and Hayley O'Rourke, HWT Collins Street.

Front row: Melissa Turner, Beaumaris Travel, Lee Haase, Jetset Ballarat and Campbell Squire, The Africa Safari Co.

CWT enhances booking tool

BOOKING Carlson Wagonlit Travel online will now be simpler thanks to the launch of an updated online booking tool.

Version 7.0 of the tool, which was developed with Arnold Travel Technology in close consultation with clients, adopts a new look and feel designed to "improve the overall user experience."

CWT says users will benefit in four main ways.

The redesigned interface is easier to navigate, meaning faster bookings; the display of air and hotel content has been enhanced to allow simple comparison of rates; the unused ticket database is directly accessible to view content or allocate tickets to new bookings; and flexibility has been added via the inclusion of an additional items function to deal with any changes in airline requirements.

The company said the online integration of unused ticket registers is a particularly important development.

According to Wayne Borland, director program management, it

"allows clients to achieve higher utilization of unused e-tickets, delivers enhanced efficiencies and reduces waste within their travel budget."

The tool is currently being rolled out around Australia.

Gemini winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Carnival Australia's Christine Hardcastle, the winner of our recent Gemini comp giving away a night's accom at the Gemini Hotel Sydney.

Christine's entry was:

The Gemini Hotel is in a prime location which has easy access to many entertainment venues. The rooms are fresh and modern and look fabulous. I would have assumed it was more the 3.5 stars. Great property and value!

Canada Easter deal

SKI Tours Canada has a great easter deal offering seven nights at the Big White resort from just \$2899 including return airfares from Australia to Vancouver, connecting flights, accom, a six day lift pass and airport transfers.

For info see skitourscanada.com.

Avalon introduces "EasyBird" deals.

By the time you fight your way through all the conditions, most Earlybird deals end up looking more like lame ducks. So at Avalon, we've introduced 'EasyBird' deals. Rather than offer the world and deliver very little, they're straightforward and as easy for you as they are attractive for your customers.

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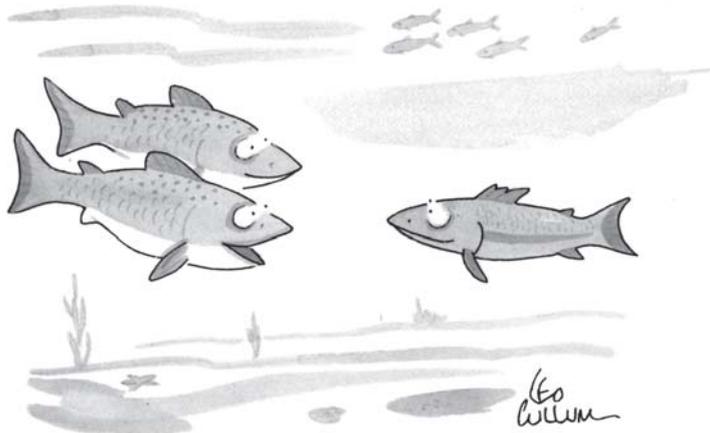
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Travel Cartoon of the Week



"What a vacation—we swam with dolphins!"

Images courtesy of CardWorks, a range of humorous recall cards for travel agents. For samples and information including details of custom designed cards, please call 1800 008 825.

Solomons aim high

THE Solomon Islands is hoping to eclipse the 20,000 int'l visitor arrivals mark by 2010, after a bumper 32.8% increase in 2008, compared to the year earlier.

General manager of the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau, Michael Tokuru said the weak Solomon dollar against the Aussie dollar (at a rate of 7 to 1) made the destination value for money.

He added, the Solomon Islands "offers niche tourism products, and with less money in their pockets because of the global financial crisis we are optimistic that visitors from Australia and New Zealand will choose Solomon Islands for their leisure holiday."

The Heritage Park Hotel will open in Honiara in Jul, adding 204 beds to aid with demand, with flights serviced from Australia by Solomon Airlines and Pacific Blue.

Government's Snowy venture

SNOWY Vineyard Estate, in the NSW Snowy Mountains, has unveiled its recently completed refurbishment, thanks to \$100,000 of funding through the Australian Tourism Development Program.

The vineyard is seen as a multi-purpose tourism complex, with developments including a tasting room, function facilities, restaurant and cellar door.

At the launch, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly said: "Locals know there is more to this region than skiing, but the statistics show that tourists don't know this."

"In 2008 of the 618,000 tourists only 15 per cent visited in the summer period," Kelly said.

It's hoped the vineyard will draw a share of the 2 million visitors that make day trips to wineries.

Bushfire appeal

THE Victorian Tourism industry has banded together to raise money for the Bushfire Appeal.

A group of top attractions donated their Labour Day (09 Mar) general admissions, totalling over \$100,000, to the appeal.

Active heads up the river



ACTIVE Travel officially launched its unique 'Great Riverboat Journeys' program in Sydney on Fri.

The Canberra-based tour operator was founded 27 years ago by Robert Fletcher and Christine Pearson, and has operated since then as an established retail travel agency with a strong groups business.

Active Travel was the first Australian company to run cycling tours in China and offers other unusual journeys, incl textile tours to Indochina, walking holidays in Europe and a range of Middle Eastern educational trips.

About 18 months ago the firm embarked on its next stage of expansion and began developing a series of brochures to make the innovative itineraries available to the wider agency community.

Active Travel is the Australian gsa for One Ocean Expeditions - founded by former Peregrine polar expert Andrew Prossin - and has an Antarctica brochure offering a range of Southern Ocean voyages aboard the *Plancius Navigator* which will

debut next year

There's also an Egypt, Jordan & Syria program, with some tours led by Richard Mole, also ex Peregrine who's now involved with Active Travel.

The Great Riverboat Journeys program offers a selection of 24 cruise itineraries on the Mekong, Ganges, Hooghly, Irrawaddy, Brahmaputra, Kwai, Rajang and Nile rivers.

Mole said that all the vessels in the programs had been "selected for their character and charm" with many evoking the romantic days of late 19th century travel.

Example itineraries include a 16-day *Road to Mandalay* from Rangoon to Mandalay priced at \$4544pp, or the 13-day *Edwardian Egypt* which includes an eight day luxury cruise from Luxor to Aswan in a six-cabin Dahabiya (houseboat).

Pictured above at Fri's launch are, from left: Christine Pearson and Robert Fletcher, Richard Cunningham who runs Active Travel's Sydney office, and Richard Mole.

See www.activetravel.com.au.

stella

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Volcanic interruptions

THIRTY seven more flights to and from Anchorage were cancelled on Saturday after Mt Redoubt erupted again (TD Fri). Alaskan Airlines has been forced to cancel 185 flights since the eruptions began on 22 Mar.

Sunway shines on Michelle



SUNWAY International Hotels & Resorts recently completed a Roadshow throughout Sydney and Melbourne from 16-20 Mar, showcasing many of their properties located in Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia.

During the roadshow, Sunway International & Spa Kuala Lumpur took time out to reward their top support agents for 07-08.

Michelle Summerson, product co-ordinator for Qantas Holidays is pictured above (middle) being

presented with her award by Lisa Campbell (left), Australian GSA for Sunway International Hotels and Resorts and Adele Ang, director of business development for Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

Hard Rock SIN

SINGAPORE will soon welcome the luxurious 360-room Hard Rock Hotel Singapore, set to open at the World Resorts at Sentosa development in 2010.

Win Banff Mountain Film Festival Tickets!

To celebrate the impending arrival of the Banff Mountain Film Festival to Australian shores, each day this week Travel Alberta and Banff Lake Louise Tourism are giving *Travel Daily* readers the chance to win one double pass to the film festival per city.

The festival will take place at various locations around Australia throughout the months of May and June, featuring a collection of the most inspiring and thought-provoking active, environmental, and adventure mountain films.

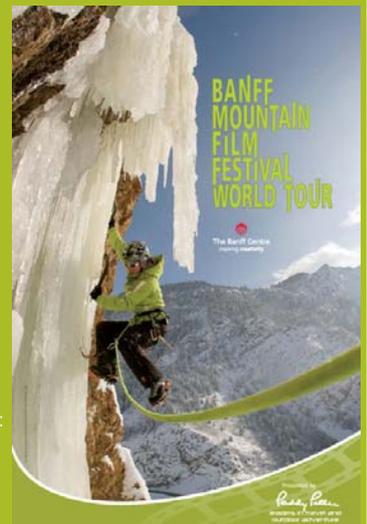
Today, you can win tickets by answering the following question: *Which Canadian province is home to the Rockies - Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper?*

Email your answer to: filmcomp@traveldaily.com.au.

To view session dates/cities [CLICK HERE](#).

Hint! Many of the answers can be found at: www.travelalberta.com.

To view a preview of the festivals offerings see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMG5NKGLKRU>.



Northwest rebrand

THE integration of Northwest with the Delta Air Lines brand is continuing apace, with Northwest staff to wear Delta uniforms from this week and some airport gates to ditch their Northwest branding.

Northwest lounges will also be branded as Delta Skyclubs.

MEANWHILE Delta will install Wi-Fi on all its US aircraft, not including regional jets, by the end of the year, with Northwest planes to benefit in 2010.

Air Berlin/TUIfly share deal

AIR Berlin and fellow German carrier TUIfly have agreed to a cross-shareholding deal which will see each airline take up to a 20% stake in the other.

TUIfly is a subsidiary of TUI Travel, which is looking to lower costs through the tie-up.

The new pairing will give Air Berlin access to routes in Italy, Cologne and Stuttgart.

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Walls of China, Mungo National Park

TORNSW0103/TD

Accor/All Nippon

FROM 01 May members of All Nippon Airways' Mileage club can earn up to 500 miles staying with Accor Hotels and Resorts.

Under a new agreement 500 points will be on offer at Sofitel, Pullman and MGallery properties, while 250 points will be on offer at Novotel, Grand Mercure and Mercure Hotels properties.

AirTran pilot out

AIRTRAN Airways has suspended a pilot who wore his uniform to a pilots' union meeting, in breach of the carrier's Flight Operations Manual and its collective bargaining agreement.

The pilot was attending an event sponsored by the National Pilots Association.

The airline said the decision to suspend was standard policy in the aviation industry.

Desirably Delicious Lemon Location

INSIGHT Vacations has named the fifth winner in its Italia comp, run in conjunction with the Italian Government Tourist Office, as Laura Peut from Flight Centre Runaway Bay (pictured right).

Laura named her very own ice cream flavour - Desirably Delicious Lemon Location - and registered it, along with her booking from Insight's Italy and Sicily brochure, at www.insightvacations.com/italygelato

Laura has won an Italian hamper and is shown here with Alan Burness, sales bdm Qld Insight Vacations.

There are 3 weeks left in the promo, with all entrants having a chance to win a trip to Italy.



Brochures of the Week

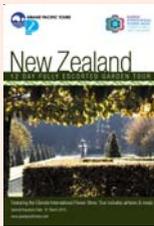
WELCOME to *Brochures of the Week*, *Travel Daily's* Mon feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries incl a PDF of the front cover and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Club Med 2009 Trident

The 2009 Club Med Trident brochure is destination focused instead of experience focused, making it easier to locate Club Meds though out the world. It also has included two more of it's international resorts: Club Med Coral Beach in Israel and the newly renovated Club Med Ixtapa Pacific in Mexico.

There are pages dedicated to Wedding and Honeymoons and a page which highlights the "over 18 Resorts". An Accommodation Guide which describes the different room types, bed configuration and all extra inclusions also features. For further details see www.clubmed.com.au or call 1300 855 052.



Grand Pacific Tours - NZ Garden Tour

Discover the richness of New Zealand in Autumn on this fully escorted Garden Tour. Visit numerous private gardens including a visit to Richmond a garden of International Significance. Conclude the tour in Christchurch and attend The Eilerslie International Flower Show. The 12-day tour includes many iconic sightseeing activities and is fully escorted by horticultural expert Kevin Walsh.

2009 Spring Racing Carnival

Enjoy the exhilarating atmosphere and all the vibrant action at Australia's greatest racing carnival which features the illustrious Emirates Melbourne Cup. GPT's Spring Racing Carnival program features a selection of 6 and 8 day packages covering three of the most glamorous race days - AAMI Victoria Derby Day, Emirates Melbourne Cup Day and Crown Oaks Day. A Tatts Cox Plate package is also available.

For more info on these Grand Pacific Tours brochures phone 1800 622 768 or see www.grandpacifictours.com



The Albatross Travel Group - Europe & Canada 2009 - White Christmas & New Years Tours

This brochure features guaranteed departures on all tours, designed specifically for the winter season (shorter daylight hours, so restricted driving distances). Itineraries span 8-12 days in duration, in countries including Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, Slovenia, Germany and Canada. For further details visit www.albatrosstravel.com.



TrekAmerica 2009/10

Specialising in North American holidays for the 18-38 year old market, TrekAmerica has a full range of tours ranging in length from seven to 64 days. The 2009/10 brochure features an expanded range of Budget Lodging Tours, while most tours are comprised of a mix of camping and "hard top" accommodation. See www.trekamerica.co.uk.

Win a trip for two to fabulous

Las Vegas

Throughout the month of March *Travel Daily*, in conjunction with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority are giving one lucky subscriber the chance to win a fabulous trip to Las Vegas!

The prize includes two return economy airfares with Air New Zealand to Las Vegas with five nights accommodation, courtesy of Encore Las Vegas, plus a \$100 shopping voucher.

To enter, simply keep an eye out for the Las Vegas image and clue to appear in each *Travel Daily* issue throughout the month and email us what the image is showing.

On the last day of the competition, readers will also be required to answer a question regarding Las Vegas.

The reader who correctly identifies most of the images and submits the most creative response to the final question will be the winner of this amazing prize.

Email your daily answers to vegascomp@traveldaily.com.au.

Hint! For help, visit www.visitlasvegas.com.au.

Today's image is pictured below and the clue is -

In keeping with the culinary standards set by Wynn Las Vegas, Encore introduces a new all-star team of chefs to the dining family offering

an unparalleled dining experience in Las Vegas. Which of these restaurants will you not find at Encore Las Vegas?

- a) Sintara
 - b) Wazuzu
 - c) Switch
 - d) Picasso
 - e) Botero
 - f) Society Café
- Encore



Did you know that if you sign up for our Las Vegas Know-It-All travel agent training program you'll receive benefits like fantastic Las Vegas agent rates, a listing on our website as an 'expert travel agent', a monthly e-newsletter and loads more.

Go to www.visitlasvegas.com.au - Travel Trade - Training Sign Up.



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BUNBURY

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Here's a role to get you excited with the opportunity to make a move down south. Work in a town that has a warm, friendly feel and get to know your neighbours! You'll enjoy the personal contact and interaction you'll have with your clients who will become your friends as well. Senior travel consulting skills required to ensure you secure this position today.

WHAT A WINNER!!

DOMESTIC WHOLESALE CONSULTANT

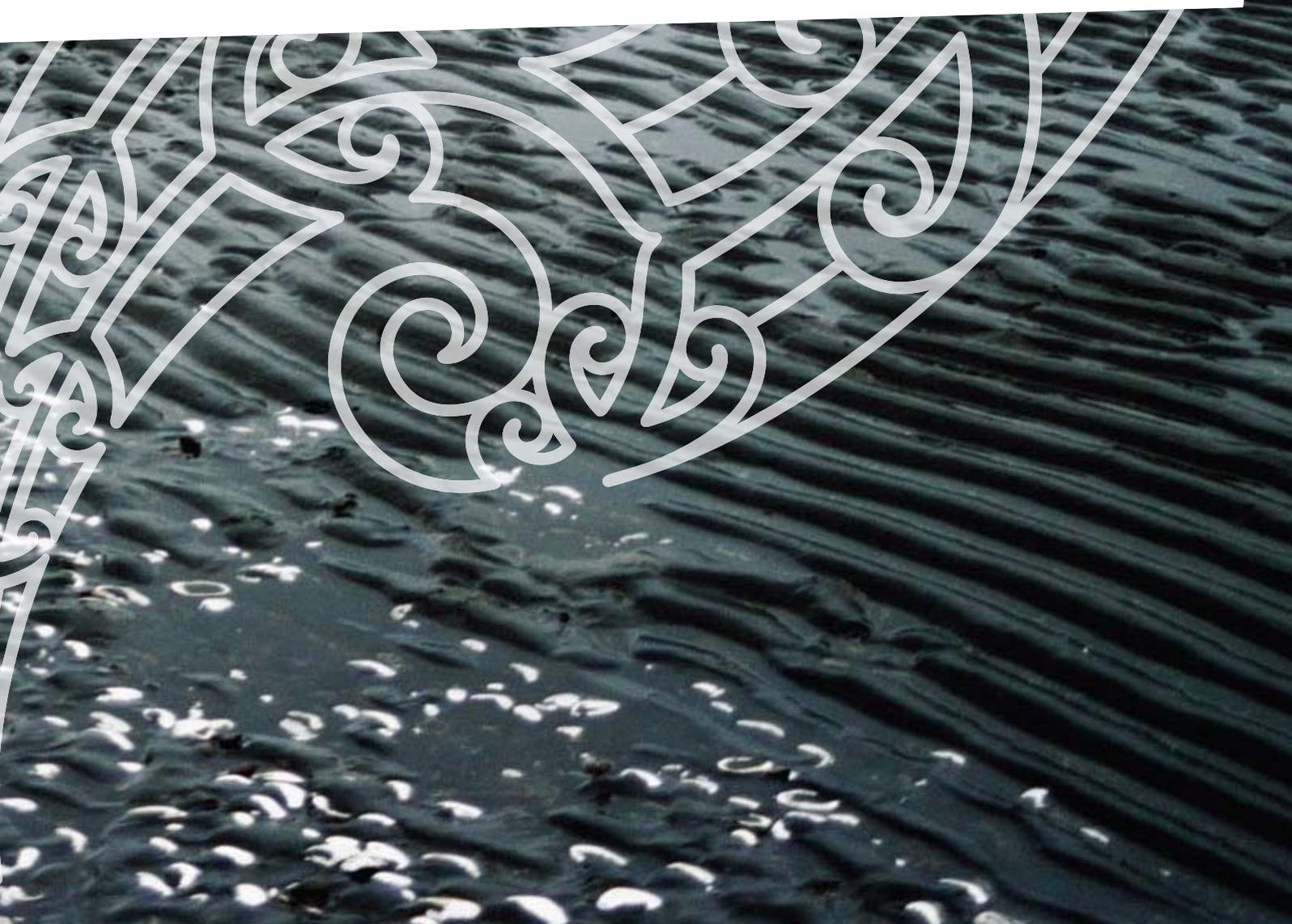
BRISBANE CBD - FANTASTIC SALARY PACKAGE

Our client is a vibrant and funky company located in the heart of Brisbane CBD who is searching for a fantastic and talented consultant to join their already amazing team. You will enjoy being a domestic wholesale consultant working in a great team environment, supportive management and so much more!! Best of all there is no face to face sales! Minimum 12 months travel selling experience and a great, positive attitude.

Fuel today, gone tomorrow

**Earn \$10 fuel or cash for every person booked*
between 30 March 2009 and 20 April 2009**

Our fares now include fuel for **you and your passengers**



A photograph of the singer Pink riding a carousel horse. She is wearing a red, feathered outfit and has her arms raised in a celebratory gesture. The background is a red and gold patterned backdrop with the words 'FUNHOUSE' and 'P!NK' visible. The overall theme is festive and energetic.

**COME AND JOIN US
IN THE FUNHOUSE!**

**SELL QANTAS AND YOU
COULD BE OFF TO SEE
P!NK
IN DUBLIN OR AT HOME!**

**OR RECEIVE A COPY OF P!NK'S FUNHOUSE ALBUM
OR A \$20.00 ITUNES VOUCHER.**

EACH ELIGIBLE TICKET ISSUED WILL RECEIVE POINTS BASED ON THE CLASS OF TRAVEL;
1 POINT WILL BE AWARDED FOR ECONOMY CLASS, 1.5 POINTS FOR PREMIUM ECONOMY CLASS,
2 POINTS FOR BUSINESS CLASS AND 3 POINTS FOR FIRST CLASS.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL TERMS, CONDITIONS AND PRIZE DETAILS](#)

