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STAR ALLIANCE MEMBERS



**Travel Daily AU**  
 First with the news

Wed 26 May 10 Page 1

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**WHO WILL BE**  
 TMS TEMP OF THE MONTH for  
**may madness**



The winner will be featured in Travel Daily 27 May 2010

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**Tahiti agent closes**

THE Travel Compensation Fund this morning advised of the non-voluntary termination of the participation of Manutea Gastambide trading as House of Tahiti (ABN 73 567 417 017) based in Bondi Beach NSW, due to the agency's licence being cancelled.

**SOO kick off tonight**

MAKE sure you get your tips in before this evening for our exclusive Rugby League State of Origin competition in which the reader with the closest answers to a series of questions over the three games in the series will win two night's accommodation at a VIBE hotel.

- The questions for Game 1 are:
1. Which team do you tip to win the 2010 State of Origin series?
  2. What do you predict the score will be for Game 1?
  3. In what minute of Game 1 do you predict the first try will be scored?
- Answers must be sent in before by 6.30pm this afternoon to [soocomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:soocomp@traveldaily.com.au).

**8 pages of news**

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news and photos, plus full pages from: (click)

- AA Appointments
- China Holidays
- Creative Holidays

**Tourism NZ direct push**

TOURISM New Zealand will continue to focus its promotions in the Australian market directly on consumers, despite research which shows that 60% of Australians coming to NZ have had "engagement with a travel agent for advice or booking".

In a briefing at TRENZ yesterday Tourism NZ chief Kevin Bowler told TD that agents predominantly handled complicated itineraries, and most coach touring and cruise bookings also come via the travel trade.

Bowler, who's come into the role from his previous position running internet giant Yahoo! in NZ, reiterated plans to boost digital marketing (TD yesterday),

**QH price increase**

QANTAS Holidays and Viva! Holidays have announced a revised Fiji and Vanuatu price increase effective immediately (TD 21 May).

A 15.25% increase is only applicable for Fiji's Taveuni Island Resort and Spa, Namale Resort, Nukubati Island, Koro Sun Resort, Gamea Resort and Spa and Vatulele Island Resort.

All other Fiji bookings will increase by 5.75% and Vanuatu will increase by 6.41%, for bookings paid in full after 01 Jun - see [qantasholidays.com.au/agents](http://qantasholidays.com.au/agents).

including a target to grow TNZ's current 130,000 Facebook fan base to more than 1 million.

Search engine marketing will also attempt to link NZ product to searches for say a 'walking or fishing holiday' - but Bowler emphasised that it was "not about selling online...but raising consumer awareness of New Zealand as a destination when they are thinking about holidays".

On the trade side, Tourism NZ regional manager Australia Barry Eddington said the organisation has plans to upgrade the trade section of its website.

He confirmed TNZ is developing and trialling 'Webinar' agent training, with online seminars to focus on regional profiles as well as a range of themes such as Luxury or Adventure Travel.

Eddington didn't detail when the training will launch.

More from TRENZ on p2 and p7.

**Creative Singapore**

CREATIVE Holidays has released its new Singapore and Malaysia brochure, with an expanded range of hotels, cruises and attraction deals in the destinations.

Launch deals start at \$275pp for three nights in Singapore - details on page 11 of today's TD.

**QF Tasman focus**

ROUTES between Australia and New Zealand have the highest priority in the Qantas network for the introduction of its new 737-800 aircraft, according to QF regional gm of NZ and Pacific Islands, Grant Lilly.

At TRENZ in Auckland this morning he said Qantas is progressively migrating its Tasman flights to the "high frequency, small jet, full service product" which offers 12 business class and 156 economy class seats.

He also confirmed the 05 Jul introduction of QF's A330-200 aircraft on the five times per week Auckland-Los Angeles-New York route (TD 22 Mar) with on-demand entertainment and business class SkyBeds.

**Flight Centre soars**

UNLIKE much of the stock market, the Flight Centre shares price increased after the company announced its profit upgrade (TD yesterday), rising as much as 75c or 5% before dropping back slightly today.

The performance also rubbed off on other travel related stocks including Webjet and Wotif.com, after Flight Centre confirmed continued recovery in sales volumes and trading conditions in its operations across the globe.



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**Travel Daily**  
First with the news  
on location in  
**Auckland, NZ**

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from **Tourism Rendezvous New Zealand in Auckland, courtesy of Tourism New Zealand.**

**NEW** Zealand is gearing up for next year's Rugby World Cup 2011, which will bring an estimated 80,000 extra international visitors to the country.

The event's focus will be on Auckland, which will host the opening match as well as the semi-finals and finals.

During the six weeks of the cup, Auckland will host at least twelve of the teams, with the players training at seven different venues across the Auckland region.

As well as the matches, Auckland will operate several designated 'fan zones' showing the games, with a key venue being the city's Queens Wharf, hosting up to 20,000 people.

Accommodation in NZ for RWC will be boosted by the presence of three cruise ships offering 5,500 berths in total - *Rhapsody of the Seas* chartered by CruiseCo, *MS Volendam* operated by Adventure World, and *Pacific Dawn* from UK firm TUI Travel Sport.

Tourism New Zealand is estimating that Rugby World Cup 2011 will generate up to \$267m in economic benefits for Auckland.

**Sing a song of Australia**

**TOURISM** Australia will next Monday launch the next stage of its new marketing campaign, which for the first time will be backed by a specially written song.

The theme has been written by pop music composer Josh Abrahams, who's apparently well known for his "mash-ups" in the dance music industry.

The ad will debut at Australian Tourism Exchange in Adelaide and also go online on Mon, with *The Australian* saying it will feature "actors and ordinary people" singing the song which is based on the 'There's nothing like

**Jetstar software deal**

**JETSTAR** has signed a deal with US firm SuccessFactors which will see it implement the company's Business Execution (BizX) Software Suite "to improve both the employee experience and the customer travel experience".

CEO Bruce Buchanan said the platform will cover Jetstar's employment processes including recruitment, HR administration, learning and development and performance management.

He said that making sure the right people, with the right skills, are in the right roles, was a critical component to the future growth and success of the carrier's operations.

Australia' campaign which attracted about 30,000 entries from across Australia (*TD* 14 May).

In the ad people will sing lines of the song from destinations in every state, with Tourism Australia marketing director Nick Baker saying it aims to draw visitors to the [australia.com](http://australia.com) site.

"We have used song because song connects to people," he said, with Tourism Australia md Andrew McEvoy adding that he believes the campaign will "strike a chord with overseas visitors".

**IASC approvals**

**THE** International Air Services Commission has formally approved applications from Qantas which have allocated unlimited capacity for all-cargo services on the Korea route, as well as permitting China Eastern Airlines to codeshare on QF services between Australia and Singapore (*TD* 11 May).

**NZ convention push**

**THE** New Zealand government is continuing to examine options for a new convention facility (*TD* 18 May) with the NZ market currently not offering anything suitable for large meetings of more than 1500 delegates.

NZ Tourism Ministry general manager Ray Salter told *TD* at TRENZ this morning that the government believes it can leverage off the existing strong brand position of New Zealand to bring in more high value visitors.

He said the convention business also offers excellent seasonality, with the currently unfunded project at the expression of interest stage and key criteria being transport links and proximity to hotels - meaning it's likely to be built in Auckland.

Plans are for a centre with capacity for 3500 delegates, with the decision on its location to be made by the end of Sep this year.

**NZ in-flight wi-fi**

**AIR** New Zealand has today confirmed it will offer mobile text and email services in flight on its new 777-300 aircraft (p7).

The Aeromobile system will see customers billed by their own mobile service provider, with prices yet to be confirmed.

NZ said it doesn't currently plan to enable voice calls onboard.



**Window Seat**

**YOU** can't blame the hotel industry for making the most of a good thing, but rates being offered by some New Zealand properties for the upcoming Rugby World Cup prompted one wit at TRENZ this week, who wants to remain anonymous, to describe them as "100% Rip-Off".

Operators have confirmed that some hoteliers have increased their normal prices more than nine-fold during the event.

**THE** crew on board a Westjet 737-800 en route from Vancouver to Honolulu last week probably still can't get the ringing out of their ears.

The aircraft was about halfway into the flight when its landing gear horn and overspeed warning horn went off simultaneously.

The crew couldn't find any faults, and in consultation with maintenance experts were able to deactivate the horns.

Unfortunately, however, a short time later the fire bell began to sound - and couldn't be cancelled, ringing for the rest of the flight - 2.5 hours.

The crew declared an emergency because the noise made it very difficult to communicate with air traffic control, but managed to land the plane safely in Hawaii.

Maintenance staff later identified "a fault with the aural alert module" on the plane.

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**Emirates recruiting**

EMIRATES is planning to take on 1,000 more cabin crew during the 2010/11 FY than previously stated, now up to 3,000 people.

The additional crew will be employed to meet the demand of Emirates' expanding fleet and network, with EK eyeing recruits from neighbouring Abu Dhabi.

**Victoria's SYD-cret**

SYDNEY International Airport is now the home of Australia's first Victoria's Secret outlet, focused on beauty products, lingerie and branded accessories.

The store, which is available to pax passing through Customs only, is one of several new brands to open in SYD as part of the airport's multi-million dollar enhancement.

**Hutton departs QF**

LONG term Qantas ambassador and TV personality Deborah Hutton has stood down from her position with the Australian flag-carrier.

Hutton has been the face of QF's Q Entertainment 'Welcome Aboard' inflight programming for the past decade.

**VS cabin overhaul**

VIRGIN Atlantic will introduce new economy, premium economy and Upper Class seating onboard its Airbus A330 aircraft to be delivered from next year.

VS founder Sir Richard Branson revealed that the 10 Airbus A330s, to be handed over from Mar 2011 through to 2012, will feature "changes in both hard product and meal services."

**Tourism WA winner**

CONGRATS to Kerwin Clein from Virgin Blue who was Fri's winner in the Tourism WA 'Experience Extraordinary' comp that featured exclusively in TD last week.

Kerwin has won a \$50 Myer gift card, courtesy of Tourism WA.

**London apartments**

THE Hotel Connection is offering an extra night free with apartment stays of six nights in London at Calico House or Phoenix House during Aug and Sep.

Both locations offer one and two bedroom apartments, with studios at Calico House starting at £130 per night - more details [sarah@thehotelconnection.com.au](mailto:sarah@thehotelconnection.com.au).



**OETG Going for Gold**

ORIENT Express Travel Group's 'Going for Gold' Select 7th Annual Conference was held in Hong Kong recently, with a record 160 agents, airline partners and suppliers attending the event.

CEO Tom Manwaring thanked participants for their contribution to the group's success and commitment to the network.

He said that the 'Year of the Tiger' heralded in a new decade as a time of change, with a focus on being smarter, faster and stronger in 2010 contributing to

strong growth across most states.

"While the year ahead will continue to be a challenging one for the industry, OETG is ready to face the year ahead with enhanced technology, fast more efficient systems and service excellence," he said.

**Accor Indo growth**

ACCOR will add 8 new hotels to its Indonesian portfolio by the end of 2012, with properties in Padang, Surabaya, Balikpapan, Manado, Kuta, Denpasar, Jakarta & Bangka.

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# Oh so Suite for Avalon



ABOVE: Yesterday Avalon Waterways unveiled its 2011 European River Cruising brochure at a function in Sydney - with the program including the new "all-suite" *Avalon Panorama* which will debut in May next year.

Globus Family md for Australia, Stewart Williams, has had significant input into the design of *Panorama*, with final sign-off at the manufacturer's shipyards in the Netherlands.

"I'm personally and emotionally involved in this ship," he said, with key features for the Australian market including bigger cabins (because Aussies tend to prefer the longer river cruise voyages) and on-board cappuccino machines.

"The suites have 30% more internal space than our competitors' main cabin products," he said, anticipating that the release of *Panorama* will

"substantially increase our numbers for 2011".

The new vessel will operate on the 'Magnificent Europe' itinerary between Amsterdam and Budapest which is very popular with Aussies, as well as special Christmas itineraries in winter.

*Panorama* has 68 of its suite-style cabins filling the two main decks, as well as 17 deluxe staterooms and two 'Royal Suites'.

The cabins feature a so-called "Open Air Balcony" - which is in fact a very large picture window with an 11-foot opening, "inviting

Europe into your cabin," according to Avalon marketing manager Christian Schweitzer.

The cabin configuration also allows for a full sized shower in the spacious marble bathroom, while the queen sized beds face out to the river allowing passengers to watch the world go by as they luxuriate.

Avalon has deliberately chosen not to have external balconies on *Panorama* because they encroach on cabin space, with the company saying feedback from Australian passengers is that they prefer a larger stateroom.

Williams said the 2011 brochure offers 22 itineraries with "the



lowest prices in a long time" due to the strength of the Australian dollar - including price reductions of up to 21%.

And despite the recent fall in the currency Williams said Globus was "still very comfortable" with the pricing in the brochure.

Avalon also boasts that it has the 'youngest fleet in Europe' with two of its older vessels, the Avalon *Artistry* and *Poetry* to be retired at the end of this year as part of its ongoing renewal program, slightly shrinking the fleet to 10 vessels in 2011.

## Check out Trafalgar's check-in

TRAFALGAR Tours says the recent volcanic ash-related disruptions in Europe have highlighted the importance of agents encouraging clients to use the operator's online "Express Check-in Service".

MD Paul McGrath told *TD* that emergency contact details provided as part of the system proved invaluable for clients during the ash crisis, allowing Trafalgar tour directors to contact passengers and arrange alternative meeting points,

### UA shaky flight

SIX people onboard a United Airlines flight flying from London Heathrow to Los Angeles were hurt yesterday mid-flight after the jet hit severe turbulence.

UA Flight 935 diverted to Montreal and made an emergency landing for the injured on board, with reports saying a UA crew member suffered a broken arm.

### Hills leaving CATO

SIMON Hills has announced he will be finishing a five year tenure as chairman of the Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) at the general meeting on 17 Jun.

Hills said the last three years have been tough for wholesalers, but "I hope that I was able to provide the leadership and voice that has been needed in the industry over the past 5 years."

## Branson on merger

VIRGIN Atlantic founder Sir Richard Branson has said the carrier "may come to a situation where we have to consolidate", should the UA/CO merger and British Airways/Iberia/American Airlines alliances proceed.

meaning travellers were able to take part in their planned tours - even if they had to connect with their group two days later.

He said the European aviation shutdown also highlighted the value of Trafalgar's 'Gold Seal Protection' product, which costs clients just \$89 and allows them to obtain a full refund if they cancel prior to departure - no matter what the reason.

"This is a great opportunity for the trade," he said, with the Gold Seal Protection fully commissionable and providing peace of mind for clients.

### Rex Q3 profit dives

REGIONAL Express today announced a 41% drop in third quarter pre-tax profit, with a \$4.4m result for the three months to 31 Mar.

The reduction was due mainly to a \$3.3m dive in total revenue, with one-off items including a \$1.96m loss on the sale of aircraft and a \$650,000 hit due to the sale of Virgin Blue shares.

For the nine months to date pre-tax profit is down \$4.6m to \$17.3m in total, with the carrier also incurring a \$500,000 loss on the write-off of one of its planes which ditched off Norfolk Island during a medical evacuation.

Rex said it expects its after-tax full year profit to be between \$21.5m and \$23m.

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Hi from Andri

Today we sailed along a coastline scattered with volcanic rocks & dreary Italian villages. Relaxing now with a glass of Limoncello in hand - the sun is a pink burning globe over the old buildings & cliff tops. Ah! La Dolce Vita...

Love Jo & Pete



Brochure

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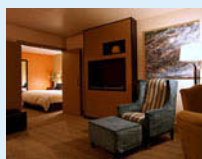
WELCOME to *Accommodation Updates*, *Travel Daily's* Wednesday feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description to [accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



The newly rebranded **ALL SEASONS CROWS NEST** has reopened its rooftop pool after five years of closure, offering panoramic views to Sydney Harbour. The property is located about 10 minutes drive from the centre of Sydney, and features 91 rooms all of which have been refreshed.



**TE MANAVA LUXURY VILLAS & SPA** in the Cook Islands (the latest 5-star luxury self contained accommodation in Rarotonga) has opened five new one bedroom Villa Suites. Complementing the existing 5 two and three bedroom villas, each features its own pool in a private beachfront or garden courtyard setting.



Accor's **M GALLERY ST MORITZ** in Queenstown has added an "extra B", with a new Bed, Breakfast and 'Butler' package. Priced from NZ\$216.90 per room during Jun, the package includes overnight accom, dedicated butler services, a grand breakfast delivered to the room, and late check out. For bookings go to [accorhotels.com](http://accorhotels.com).



Sheraton Hotels & Resorts Worldwide has opened its latest property in New York, the **SHERATON BROOKLYN NEW YORK**. The 25 storey hotel features 321 guest rooms and stunning 360° views from its rooftop lounge. It's located about 15 minutes by subway from NY's Times Square.



**HYATT REGENCY AUCKLAND** has completed an extensive renovation, with the property's 354 rooms, suites and penthouses now rejuvenated in both the Regency and Residence Towers.

## India travel advice

THE Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade yesterday re-issued a travel advisory for India, citing continued "credible" reports of possible terrorist attacks" in Mumbai, New Delhi and other Indian cities.

The Australian govt has renewed the call, saying likely targets are hotels and tourist location, as well as markets in New Delhi.

## UA \$599 fare to LA

UNITED Airlines has heated up the trans-Pacific airfare battle, releasing a \$599 return economy class airfare, from Sydney and Melbourne to Los Angeles for the month of August.

Fares to San Francisco are an extra \$50, or there's an add-on of \$240 return through to New York.

The promo, which excludes taxes of a minimum \$305, are available until 16 Jun.

## New Britz camper

**BRITZ** Campervans has added a dual cab campervan to its fleet - the first vehicle that enables kids to sit up front with adults.

The Renegade can sleep up to six people (as either 4 adults & 2 children or 2 adults & 4 children), with three double beds and larger kitchen, lounge and dining space than other campers.

GM for Britz Australian rentals operation Damian Shaw said the introduction of the Renegade "means families can now experience the entire journey together and not just the end destination."

## ICCA sellout

THE International Cruise Council today announced that its 2010 Masters Conference has been sold out, with fifty agents signing up for the event on the rivers of China this Aug.

Agents will attend seminars on board Viking River Cruises' *Viking Century Sun* on the Yangtze River.

For all the latest cruise news see tomorrow's *Cruise Weekly* - [www.cruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au).

## STA RTW website

THE correct portal address for STA Travel's new Round the World trivia game (*TD* yesterday) is [statravel.com.au/rtwgame](http://statravel.com.au/rtwgame).



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# AFTA UPDATE

the latest insights from AFTA's Chief Executive,  
Jayson Westbury



*It would appear that things in Bangkok are taking some time to return to normal. The latest report that the Thai Travel Mart is being postponed is a clear indication that the city is not yet stable.*

*The Smartraveller.gov.au travel advisory remains at the "Do Not Travel" status for Bangkok, but excludes the airport so at least people going to other parts of Thailand or to other destinations can continue to do that with a degree of certainty.*

*The good news is that the Australian embassy in Bangkok has reopened this week. I am sure this continuing drama is causing everyone in the industry more trouble as to what to say to customers. It really is a tricky one, but one that we all hope will come to an end soon.*

*These are interesting times and 2010 has already presented its range of challenges for the travel industry.*

*The other good news is the announcement from IATA about the return of premium travel. The March figures were up some 10.8% (globally) over the previous year and IATA reported a 25% growth over the fourth quarter for the year.*

*All great signs for the industry and strong signs that the balance of 2010 will continue to grow with good signals that are building month on month.*

*The same report did indicate that the volcanic ash plume in April is predicted to impact the month's expected growth by 4% globally. While this will put a dent in the global growth of air travel, in real terms it will not have as big an impact as some may have thought.*

*What is an interesting though is to see how your business is compared to these global figures.*

*My understanding from talking to AFTA members is that many in the Australian travel industry are tracking better than these results.*

*Even IATA has indicated that the Asian Area is showing much stronger growth than Europe.*

*They have also said that global economy travel is back to pre-recession (Australia did not go into recession) levels by 7.4% compared to March last year.*

*It is nice to see some positive global results and importantly this sort of information is important to get the corporate and government clients back travelling. It all builds the confidence, which remains the single most important thing in getting people on the move.*



## KQ Africa network

KENYA Airways (KQ) is adjusting capacity throughout Africa from 29 Jun, which will see a boost in operations on a number of routes.

Services which will be increased in frequency include flights from Nairobi to Addis Ababa, Zanzibar, Lusaka, Khartoum and Entebbe.

## Norwegian discount

BENTOURS is offering up to 20% off select voyages and cabins from its popular Norwegian Coastal Voyage itineraries this year.

Prices start at \$2079ppts for the 12 day trip when booked by 30 Jun on select sailings and cabin upgrades from Jun to Nov.

## Air India strike

AIR India had more than 15,000 crew members across the country go on a flash strike yesterday, causing the delay and cancellation of 16 flights, including five international services from Mumbai and New Delhi.

Air India crew members and maintenance engineers cited various demands including delays in payment of May salaries of one week, a gag order issued by the management for employees not to talk to the media about their grievances, a 50 percent cut in productivity-linked incentives and not receiving these bonuses since Aug 2009.

## QM2 registrations

CUNARD Line has said it will cut off registrations for *Queen Mary II's* inaugural circumnavigation of Australia in Feb 2012 (TD 08 Mar) at 5pm on Wed 16 Jun.

Past Cunard pax and those who have registered will be given first preference to bookings when the voyage goes on sale on 13 Jul.

Sales to the general public will open up the following day.

To register client details, go to [www.queenmary2.com.au/register](http://www.queenmary2.com.au/register)

## Rabies risk in Bali

TRAVELVAX Australia is advising travellers to avoid any physical contact with domestic or feral cats while in Bali, following the first cat-related rabies death of a student in the country recently.

## Tots Travel Too

MARRIOTT International has rolled out a new program that's designed to make travel in North America easier for families with young children.

The 'Tots Travel Too' program offers guests a travel crib with removable slipcover, a free animal squirt toy for bath time, along with power point covers, nightlights, baby shampoo, baby lotion and disposable bibs.

The service is available at more than 2,500 Courtyard, Fairfield Inn & Suites and other Marriott brand hotels across the USA and Canada.



## Travel Consultants Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane

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### Groups / Corporate Consultant – Sydney

With responsibility for the coordination of this large client's Group & Corporate Travel, in this role you will be required to coordinate all travel arrangement, pre and post event requirements, reconcile and prepare invoices & identify cost savings opportunities. You will also have the opportunity to travel internationally with the Group to provide support as required.

You will have a minimum of two years experience in international and domestic groups & corporate consulting with exceptional service skills, attention to detail, outstanding communication skills, an ability to work under pressure, strong fares and ticketing knowledge and Sabre experienced would be preferred.

### Multi Skill Consultants

The primary focus of this role is to develop strong relationships with your designated clients and deliver appropriate solutions for their international and domestic travel requests.

You will have a minimum of three years experience in corporate travel consultancy with the ability to develop strong relationships with clients, a focus on attention to detail, strong fares and ticketing knowledge and Sabre experienced would be preferred.

We offer salary packages with bonuses including a rewarding incentive program, flights@nett, a referral bonus scheme, casual Fridays and subsidized educationals.

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Canada

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Join representatives from Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler and Air Canada for this training session... including a full breakie!

At The Medina Grand  
(189 Queen Street, Melbourne)

7:45-9:00am on June 7

RSVP essential by 31 May to [brown.kate@ctc-cct.ca](mailto:brown.kate@ctc-cct.ca) (places are limited)

# NZ gets set for 'Cuddle Class'



YESTERDAY Air New Zealand treated some lucky TRENZ attendees to a preview of the new cabin product which will feature on its upcoming 777-300ER, under development for over five years.

The carrier said the 777s would "re-invent the long-haul travel experience" with new galleys, bathrooms, food and seating - as well as access to wireless email and text messages.

Business class (right) retains the herringbone format allowing every passenger aisle access, but has a new thicker mattress, full size pillows, larger personal entertainment screens and new "on-demand" cuisine - with the introduction of induction ovens allowing food to be cooked from raw rather than just being re-heated.

Premium economy offers "unparalleled personal space, with so-called 'SpaceSeats' sliding forward like an armchair, and a shell design meaning that the person in front cannot recline into passengers' personal space.

Pax in Premium Economy are also offered a personal bean bag to cushion their feet for a little bit of extra comfort.

But the revolution which has attracted attention around the world is the SkyCouch - also known as Cuddle Class - (pictured top left) which

ABOVE: Lying down on the job! Air New Zealand Group gm, Shorthaul Airline Bruce Parton enjoys the SkyCouch.

RIGHT: A nice touch - economy passengers can utilise these nifty detachable pillows which sit on the headrest.



allows three economy seats together to recline forward into the row in front to form a bed.

The SkyCouch is being pitched as ideal for couples or families, and follows an exhaustive evaluation of 30 different economy class seating options.

The 777-300ER is already on sale, with the first aircraft scheduled for delivery in Nov and the inaugural commercial flight across the Tasman in December, followed by the first long-haul service to Los Angeles, also in Dec this year. Further destinations will be added as more aircraft are delivered, with the second 777-300 to arrive in Jan 2011 and the third in Mar 2011 - when the first flight to London is scheduled. The fourth plane will arrive in Dec 2011 and the fifth 777 in Feb 2012.

Pictured at right is one of the prototypes for Premium Economy - a bunk style design which tested well, but was ultimately rejected due to weight and layout issues on the aircraft.



## Join us for an evening of intrigue

Experience some of the culture and charm of Abu Dhabi at a "Travellers Welcome" event to be hosted by the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority.

Savour Middle Eastern treats and find out more about one of the world's most intriguing destinations.

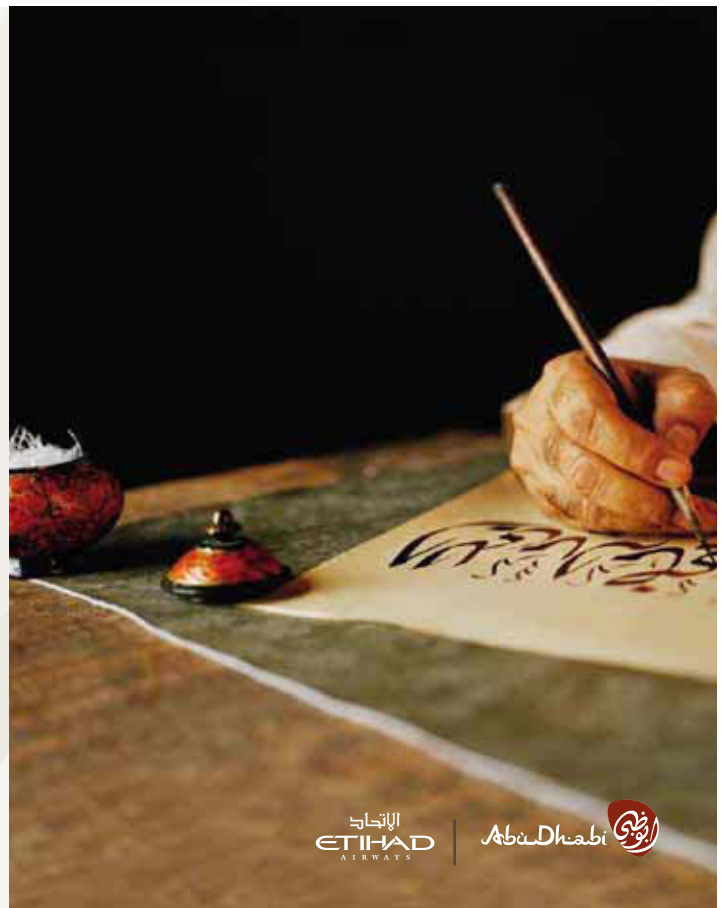
You could even win a luxury trip to Abu Dhabi courtesy of Etihad Airways and our partners.

### Event details:

Brisbane | Monday 21st June @ Lightspace  
Melbourne | Tuesday 22nd June @ Carousel  
Sydney | Wednesday 23rd June @ The Museum of Contemporary Art  
Time | 5:30PM - 8:00PM

Numbers are limited. If you would like to attend [click here](#) and RSVP. Please highlight which event you will be attending.

Discover the truth behind our promise,  
"Travellers Welcome"



## Wu's Expo add on

WENDY Wu Tours has released a special Shangahi World Expo add-on for pax booking on the 10 day 'A China Experience' departing 17 Oct, the 17 day 'Wonder of China' on 01 Sep, or the 19 day 'Ancient China' itinerary on 20 Sep.

For an extra \$300pp, guests can book a three night Shanghai stay which incl brekkie and a double entry pass to the World Expo and return tranfers.

## TQ to Middle East

TOURISM Queensland has announced an extension of its representation in the Middle East, with ceo Anthony Hayes saying TQ will focus on "marketing the Sunshine State as a desirable holiday destination, strengthening travel industry relationships and developing airline partnerships".

Dubai-based Andrew Oldfield, who's been representing Qld since last Nov, has had his contract extended until April 2011, with Hayes saying that the "on the ground marketing focus" had already seen new memorandums of understanding with Emirates, Etihad and Singapore Airlines.

"It's important that we continue this momentum," he said.

## Rovos free nights

BENCH International is offering pax booking on the Rovos Rail in South Africa two free nights at Cape Town's newest property, St James Manor.

The offer applies to new bookings travelling until 31 Aug on the Johannesburg to Cape Town Rovos Rail journey.

For details phone 1800 221 451.

## easyHotel in Dubai

EUROPEAN budget hotelier easyHotel is planning to open its first property outside the EU in the United Arab Emirates in Aug.

The 216-room low-cost hotel, which is an arm of Stelios Haji-loannou's easyGroup, will be located in Dubai's Jebel Ali zone, priced from AED99 per night.

## WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO SOUTH AFRICA

During May, *Travel Daily* is giving travel consultant readers the chance to win an incredible seven-day holiday to South Africa for two people, courtesy of our friends at South African Tourism and V Australia.

This sensational prize includes return International Premium Economy airfares to Johannesburg flying V Australia, two night's accommodation in Johannesburg, a four night stay in luxury accommodation at Kruger National Park, a city tour, all transfers and breakfast daily.

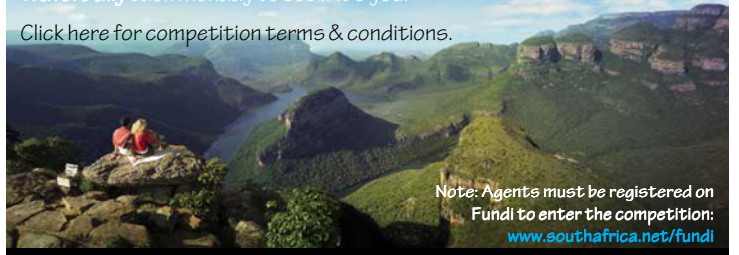
Expect to be spoilt in International Premium Economy with V Australia, including priority check-in and boarding, all leather seats with 38" seat pitch and adjustable foot rests, all inclusive food and beverage, mood lighting and much more!

To enter, simply send in a caption that represents the adventure photo featured above. You can enter as many times as you want.

Get creative & email your captions to [satcomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:satcomp@traveldaily.com.au)

Plus, a weekly prize of two bottles of South African wine will be up for grabs for the cleverest caption received each week...so keep an eye out in *Travel Daily* each Monday to see if it's you!

Click here for competition terms & conditions.



Note: Agents must be registered on Fundi to enter the competition: [www.southafrica.net/fundi](http://www.southafrica.net/fundi)



## All inclusive Buller

MT BULLER Chalets is offering an all inclusive mid week package priced from \$607pp during Sep and from \$851 in Aug.

The deal includes two nights accom in a Superior Bourke St room (Sun to Thu), a bottle of sparkling wine and chocolates on arrival, brekkie, a three day lift pass and three days of exclusive rental from Buller Sports Chalet including skis, boots and poles.

For more information or to book, phone 1800 810 200.

## Virgin porn ring?

A GROUP of Virgin Blue staff are reportedly being investigated for inappropriate internet use, with around 40 employees at SYD and BNE airports alleged to have used their work computers to swap pornographic videos.

Danielle Keighery, general manager of Public Affairs said the workers have been "made aware of the serious nature of the issue" but has not confirmed if they were involved in a pornographic video swapping ring.

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COMMISSION

AND WIN A  
TWO-NIGHT STAY

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REMINDER...in case you haven't RSVP'd be quick!

A fantastic and informative Cook Islands Road show is coming to a venue near you.

You're invited to a night or morning of music, food, drinks, information and outstanding prizes to this amazing destination. Learn about Air New Zealand's new direct Sydney to Rarotonga service commencing 04 July and marvel at the magnificent culture, people and endless tourism adventures that are the Cook Islands. Even if you think you know the Cooks or haven't considered the destination, come and be entranced with this Pearl of the Pacific.

You will have the chance to win a VIP trip to the Cook Islands for yourself and 5 friends flying Air New Zealand!!

For further information or to RSVP please contact Greg Maloney at [premiumservices@smartchat.net.au](mailto:premiumservices@smartchat.net.au) or 02 9674 7739 or 0414 389 590

BREAKFAST VENUES (start 7.15am and finish 8.30am) 31 MAY - Rydges Parramatta | 01 JUNE - Wollongong Golf Club | 03 JUNE - Gosford Central Coast Leagues Club EVENING VENUES (start 5.45pm for 6.30pm start and finish 8.15pm) 31 MAY - Sydney CBD Medina Grand | 01 JUNE - Canberra Mantra on Northbourne | 02 JUNE - Newcastle Boulevard on Beaumont | 03 JUNE - Manly 16ft Skiff Sailing Club | 07 JUNE - Brisbane The Chifley at Lennons | 08 JUNE - Citigate Melbourne

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pour yourself a cosmopolitan and log onto  
[www.aaappointments.com](http://www.aaappointments.com)

If you register with AA before Jun 30, you  
go into a draw to win a \$500 shopping voucher.  
5 runners up will win double movie passes.



### MOVE UP TO GOLD CLASS!

MULTI-SKILLED CORPORATE CONSULTANTS x 5  
SYDNEY - SALARY PACKAGES UPTO \$70K

Our client, a global TMC, has just landed a major account!  
As such they are recruiting 5 new consultants to work on this  
amazing account. You will be rewarded with an above average  
salary package plus bonuses such as free gym and top  
educational. Essentially, you will have a minimum of 2 years  
international corporate consulting experience, with excellent air  
fare knowledge and fantastic customer service.

### NO MORE SECOND BEST!

SENIOR CORPORATE CONSULTANT/ SUPERVISOR  
SYDNEY - SALARY PACKAGE to \$60K +

Our client, a boutique travel company based in the CBD is  
looking for a talented senior consultant, ready to take that  
next step. As well as consulting, you will be responsible for  
nurturing a team of 9, eventually moving into a full time  
management role. You will enjoy an excellent salary package  
& generous monthly individual and team incentives.  
Essentially, you will need 5yrs experience & some leadership.

### WALK THE RED CARPET

ENTERTAINMENT TRAVEL CONSULTANT  
MELB (INNER SOUTH) - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$50K

Looking for a specialist travel role which will make you the envy  
of all your colleagues? This specialist travel company services  
the entertainment, sporting, film, fashion & corporate industries  
with group travel throughout the world. With your polished  
customer service skills, attention to detail & ability to work  
under pressure, this role could be yours!  
APPLY NOW & strut the runway into this highly sort after role!

### PUT YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS

CORPORATE TRAVEL COORDINATOR  
MELB - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$58k

Isn't it time you felt a part of a team rather than just a  
number? Join this organisation and use your high level skills  
as a senior corporate travel consultant to coordinate a variety  
of corporate travel itineraries as well as being involved in  
production and entertainment group travel. It's not your  
everyday role. Your own initiative and great attitude will see  
you succeed and enjoy working for this growing company.

### REMOVE YOURSELF FROM THE BUSY STREETS

RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANTS  
MELB (OUTER SOUTH EAST) - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$55K (OTE)

Our client is an outer suburban retail agency that is offering  
either work full time or part time work. With a sensational team  
of consultants as your colleagues, located in a leafy suburb, this  
retail agency can truly provide a flexible and supportive  
environment. If you have a minimum 3 years international retail  
travel consulting experience & are looking for work close to  
home, this position could be yours in a matter of days.

### AS EXCITING AS THE BIG APPLE

CORPORATE TRAVEL CONSULTANT  
PERTH (CITY) - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$62K

This boutique travel company is expanding their operations  
in Perth & subsequently requires an experienced travel  
consultant to join their growing team. Not only will you have  
supportive management & great colleagues, you will have  
the opportunity to be apart of one of Perth's fastest growing  
companies. This is a fantastic opportunity to move away from  
the call centre TMC's and into a friendly boutique office.

### LOVE TO SCHMOOZE?

CORPORATE CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER  
BRISBANE - SALARY PACKAGE \$80K OTE

Experienced in corporate client account management? In this  
exciting role you will be responsible for maintaining and  
growing key accounts for this award winning TMC, building  
strong relationships and providing timely solutions to any  
problems. Be valued and join a company that rewards  
achievements! A background in a TMC is crucial to succeed in  
this position as this is an analytical and commercial role.

### TRAVEL FIRST CLASS!

AIRLINE FARES AND SUPPORT  
BRISBANE - SALARY PACKAGE \$52K

Join this global co. & enjoy the challenge of offering fares  
advice to agents, solving key ticketing problems, as well as  
issuing & reissuing tickets. You will be earning a top salary and  
love the fun and funky working environment you will be  
apart of. Prior ticketing experience, exceptional fares  
knowledge and strong Amadeus skills a must. You will be  
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### Singapore 4 Star from \$275\* pp

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- ✦ **BONUS:** Full breakfast daily
- ✦ **FREE:** Late check out until 4pm

[Click here for details](#)

### Penang 4½ Star from \$399\* pp

- ✦ 7 nights at Golden Sands Resort
- ✦ **BONUS:** Stay 7 for the price of 4
- ✦ **BONUS:** Full breakfast daily
- ✦ Return airport transfers

[Click here for details](#)

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