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20 NEW

ISSN 1834-3058

Thursday 7th April 2011



ORIENT Express Travel Group is predicting that its 1ndependence group will triple in size to 300 agencies within two years, after the launch today of a major push for the brand.

A website touting the benefits of the program is now online, which details a new "1Travel" branding option, while a national roadshow will be conducted next month for suppliers and agents.

The move was foreshadowed last year (*TD* 16 Nov 10), with OETG ceo Tom Manwaring saying the sessions will highlight the 1ndepdenence service offerings which cost just \$500 a year.

This includes access to airline contracting, wholesaler deals, operations support and the Express Fares and Ticketing suite.

A "comprehensive range of optional customised partnership services" is also on offer, including 1Travel branding, Sabre Red, training and participation in the Annual Member Forum.

Also optional is a new marketing system developed by OETG's IT boffins which enables members to produce "automated PDF flyers featuring their details and store logo," complemented by an email marketing tool.

"It's a user-pay business model," Manwaring said.

"We're here to help independent agents make money and help them control their destiny in a market dominated by just a few big players," he added.

OETG's Select Group of Asianfocused Chinatown agencies already has about 300 members.

Emirates to GIG/EZE

EMIRATES will early next year expand its operation in South America, with new daily services between Dubai and Rio de Janiero (GIG) and onto Buenos Aires (EZE), effective 03 Jan 2012.

Seven pages of news

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

- TMS Asia Pacific
- AA Appointments
- V Australia incentive
- Consolidated MH incentive

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Thursday 7th April 2011



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Bayliss to DJ board

VIRGIN Blue Group announced today the promotion of Joshua Bayliss, a senior executive for the carrier and its General Counsel, to the role of non-executive director, effective immediately.

Geneva-based Bayliss has been with DJ since 2005, and he joins Neil Chatfield, John Borghetti, Rob Thomas, Mark Vaile, David Baxby & Sam Mostyn on the board.

For more of the latest industry appointments, *see page six*.





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Travel industry jobs soaring

TRAVEL recruitment firm AA Appointments says current levels of business are the highest it's ever seen since the company launched in Australia in 1999.

MD Adriana D'Angelis told **TD** the market is "reminiscent of the boom in the UK in the 90's," with the demand all the more remarkable given that just 18 months ago the industry was in the depths of the GFC.

She said AA's clients are seeing exceptional demand from international leisure travellers due to the strong A\$, as well as a rebound in corporate travel.

"The market has delivered some very exciting opportunities for candidates across all levels of the industry - especially at the executive level," she said.

This "spells blue skies ahead for those thinking of moving roles".

Other recruiters are also seeing a recovery, with Sandra Chiles of

inPlace Recruitment saying the market has definitely bounced back from the lows of 2009 and is now "very gung-ho".

She said the demand is seeing travel salaries creep up, as well as the return of the skills shortage.

TMS Asia-Pacific gm Australia/ NZ, Fujio Shibata, told *TD* that jobs lost through the GFC have returned, with "many companies creating new roles to cope with renewed business demand".

And Melissa Schembri of C&M Recruitment said all areas of the industry are growing, with a "lack of good travel talent in the marketplace".

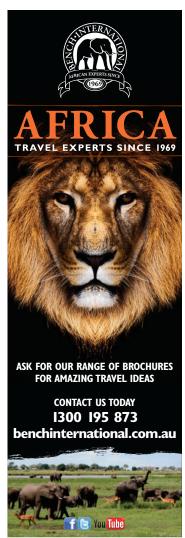
Travel Daily has also seen very strong levels of demand for industry recruitment advertising, while the boom is also confirmed by Flight Centre's Andrew Flannery (TD yesterday) who forecast a record profit of up to \$240m for the company this year.

Disney ports expand

DISNEY Cruise Line says it will make its product available to an increasing number of markets, by adding new ports in 2012.

Disney Magic will offer sailings from New York to the Bahamas & New England before relocating to Galveston, Texas for a series of Caribbean cruises, while Disney Wonder will offer new Mexican Riveria and Hawaii sailings ex LA.

For further details see today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.



Dealing With Under Performance

Breakfast Bites 08:00-10:00



It can sometimes feel like we have the same conversations over and over again about why staff or your team didn't make their targets or do their job to expectations. And there are always so many good reasons why not! It is time to take the bull by the horns and really get focused on making sure that every team is profitable and your team exceed expectations.

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GDS scramble for QF seat selection

TRAVEL agents have been given a one week reprieve on the introduction of the new \$20 Qantas fee for Advance Seat Selection (TD 31 Mar).

A frequently asked questions document published on the QF



Experience global networking on a whole new scale

Excellence in Flight KOREAN AIR trade website overnight confirms that in the short term the product will "remain complimentary to the trade".

However effective 13 Apr the \$20 fee per international flight segment will apply for "all Advance Seat Selection requests for customers travelling in economy class, where their booking is managed via travel agents and through Qantas direct channels".

The carrier said it's been working closely with GDS providers to facilitate the product to agents via the GDS to mirror gantas.com website bookings.

But it's likely that it will only be available on "selected GDSs" and payment of the \$20 fee per sector per seat is due by close of business on the same day as seats were selected.

If a GDS doesn't support the feature, the requests can be done online using the Manage Your Booking feature at gantas.com.

And rather than being settled by BSP, agents must use the GDS to send a valid credit or debit card number to QF, which will be processed by the carrier.

Only one card will be accepted for each transaction, and once payment is successful a receipt will be sent to the agent via a vendor remark - and travel agents must then include this detail in customer documentation, as it may be required at check-in.

Seating requests will also not be accepted via the Qantas Industry Centre, the carrier said.

Icon to replace Luxury

ICON Resort Apartments will replace the Gold Coast Luxury brand currently associated with seven 4-4.5 star properties in the region, giving the group greater flexibility to add more resorts.

Other changes for the network include a real time booking engine.

Icon resorts include Towers of Chevron Renaissance, Artique Resort, The Wave, Ocean Pacific, Freshwater Point and South Pacific Resorts and Belle Maison.

New Melbourne pass

BUNYIP Tours has launched a new Melbourne Attractions Pass at ATE, incorporating access to the Melbourne Aquarium, the Old Melbourne Gaol and the Eureka Skydeck 88.

Valued at \$73, the pass is free when visitors buy two Bunyip full day tours - bunyiptours.com.

Air France to Shanghai

AIR France is understood to be considering expanding its operations further into Asia, with a new route from Paris Charles de Gaule to Shanghai rumoured to be in the pipeline.

MEANWHILE, the French flag carrier has announced new thrice weekly services will commence between Paris Charles de Gaule and Cape Town from 03 Nov.

AF will operate the new route using 309-seat Boeing 777-200s featuring Business, Premium Voyageur and Voyageur class.

Window

INTERNET bookings? Not in the Eastern European countries of Armenia and Georgia this week.

A 75-year-old woman singlehandledly cut both nations off from the information superhighway when she dug up a cable while scavenging for scrap metal yesterday.

She's now been arrested and could face three years in prison for property damage - not to mention taking several million internet users offline for some hours while the breach was repaired.

VIRGIN founder Sir Richard Branson was clearly impressed at a stunning picture snapped in the US yesterday, in which a Virgin Galactic experimental space flight vehicle was captured adjacent to a Virgin America A320 in the skies above San Francisco (below).

The stunt was to celebrate the opening of SFO's new Terminal 2, which will be VX's home base.

Branson got into the US idiom on Twitter, sending a message that the picture was "how shall I put it...simply bad ass".



Alberta, Canada... is for Travellers - Experiences

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Thursday 7th April 2011

Agents Venture to Turkey



ABOVE: Venture Holidays and Consolidated Travel hosted a select group of Australian travel agents on a familiarisation trip to Turkey recently.

Highlights of the trip included visits to Gallipoli, Troy, Ephesus, Pammukale, Cappadocia and Istanbul.

The agents reported being most impressed by the Topkai Palace in Istanbul.

Pictured here from left are: Kate Graff, Venture Holidays; Kerry Harrison, Travel Concepts; Michelle Ramplin, Traveller's World Darwin; Monika Kaspari, Worldmark Travel; Vicki Maylin, Consolidated Travel; Katie Byrne, Travelmaster; Mandy Partington, Glenelg Travel; and Bill Cooper, Coopers Travel.

Europe. In style.

Read on for your chance to earn a \$300 Virgin Blue gift voucher!



ACCC air pricing review

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has today released an issues paper seeking comment on a new Airservices Australia pricing proposal.

On average the organisation is proposing a 0.6% increase in terminal navigation services, while aviation rescue and fire fighting costs will increase by 6.1% under the plan.

Charges for en route navigation services won't change, with the ACCC seeking submissions by 10 May on the issues paper which is online at www.accc.gov.au.

No QF Easter strikes

UNIONS representing Qantas staff have ruled out taking industrial action over the upcoming Easter holiday break.

MEANWHILE also on the industrial front, today as many as 200 QF managers are likely to be offered redundancy as part of cost cutting moves (TD Thu).

Bunnik charity dinner

ADELAIDE-based tour operator Bunnik Tours is holding a charity lunch at midday on Mon 11 Apr at its office to raise funds for the Japan Disaster Appeal.

The lunch costs \$10, with all proceeds going to the Japanese Red Cross Society - for more info phone 1300 664 170.

Qatar buys five 777s

QATAR Airways has placed an order with Boeing for two 777-300ERs and three 777 Freighters, worth around US\$1.4 billion.

Getaway tonight

TONIGHT's episode of Channel Nine's dedicated travel program, Getaway, features stories on;

- The island of Kauai, Hawaii
- Pumpkin Island, Queensland
- Rottnest Island, WA
- · Macau, China
- Las Vegas
- Maria Island, Tasmania



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Thursday 7th Apr 2011

19 India HINN Express

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has announced plans to develop 19 Holiday Inn Express hotels across India, in partnership with Duet India Hotels Group.

SilverLeaf on 3 routes

ROCKY Mountaineer president and ceo, Randy Powell predicts the new SilverLeaf class product will be rolled out on all three routes through British Columbia and Alberta in good time.

SilverLeaf is being trialled on 10 departures on the 'First Passage to the West' route between Vancouver and Banff this year, but will operate about 50 departures in 2012 (*TD* 17 Mar).

"In the future it will show up on all three routes." Powell told **TD**.

He said that GoldLeaf and RedLeaf were already offered on the other two routes (Journey through the Clouds & Rainforest to Gold Rush) and "I think Silver will be as big as those two.

"In that case, it will absolutely be on all three routes," he said.

DINKs big for France

THE head of Australia's French travel authority, Atout France, says the country continues to lure repeat visitors from Australia.

Speaking to *Travel Daily* last week in Bordeaux at Rendez-vous en France, Patrick Benhamou said surveys have shown the biggest drawcards are the food & wine, culture, history, patrimony and talking with French people.

"I am totally convinced that once somebody comes to France they want to return within two or three years time," he told *TD*, with DINKs (double income with no kids) being the prime market source from Australia.

Benhamou said other lures include "the versatility of France", with scenery changing every 100kms, the variety of ways people talk and dress, and the differences in wines from one region to the next.

TWK expands to NZ

FAMILY holiday experts, Travel With Kidz, has spread its wings across the Tasman, establishing offices through Business World Travel in Auckland, while another licensed office will open in Jun in Wellington, New Zealand.

Along with a new licensed office in Manuka, ACT, the network's member numbers total to over 30.

Singapore Express winners



ABOVE: Singapore Airlines and Express Ticketing have announced the three major winners of their 'Trip of a Life Time' campaign.

The major winner was Mukesh Mann, managing director of Mann Travel in Melbourne pictured above (second from left) who won two Business class tickets to Singapore, two nights suite accom at Marina Bay Sands, two nights suite accom at Resorts World Sentosa, \$\$5000 spending money, a YourSingapore.com experience up to \$\$2000 and chauffeur driven limousine.

The second place winner was Saf Yildirim, md Vision Tours, Melbourne who will be travelling Economy class to any of Singapore Airlines 13 European destinations.

Third place went to Angel Lee md, Joy Travel in Brisbane who walked away with two economy class tickets to Singapore.

Mann is pictured with Quynh Giang, OETG gm Australia (left) & Chris Rowe, SQ sales mgr Vic.

Low VA fare extension

TRAFALGAR, Contiki and Insight Vacations have extended their \$999 economy class V Australia return airfares from SYD, MEL and BNE to Los Angeles, available when booked in conjunction with select USA tours, until 14 Apr.





Thursday 7th Apr 2011

New Air NZ int'l chief a deodorant expert

AIR New Zealand today announced the appointment of Christopher Luxon as its new Group General Manager International Airline.

40-year-old Luxon is a Kiwi, who will return to NZ for the new role from Canada, where he's been President and CEO of household products maker Unilever Canada since 2008.

A media release from Air NZ today detailed Luxon's experience which includes taking a senior leadership role in growing several global brands "including Dove, Rexona and Lynx".

He's also been involved in a change program at Unilever which resulted in record growth.

Luxon will take the role vacated by Ed Sims, who left the carrier just before Christmas.



Occupancy up in Dec

AUSTRALIAN property managers recorded a 54% occupancy rate during the Dec quarter, up 13% from the Sep figures and exceeding the 48% prediction for the same period.

According to the survey by Occupancy.com., Western Australia saw the strongest occupancy rates at 60% followed by NSW (58%) and the NT (57%).

Trafalgar Cairo deal

TRAFALGAR has brought back its \$1499pp Singapore Airlines airfare to Cairo, when booked in conjunction with an Egypt guided tour, including discounted trips.

Land savings are available until 30 Apr on departures up until 31 Aug, and air deals on sale to 30 Oct and for travel until 30 Nov.

NZ snow comes early

NEW Zealand's South Island has already received snow ahead of the Jun to Oct ski season, with Mt Hutt receiving 15cm of snow at the base in the last 24 hours.

The Remarkables in Queenstown also saw snow flurries.

APT's Outback special

APT is discounting its 10-day The Outback Way small group 4WD adventure by \$300/couple for departures on 12 and 23 Jun, priced now from \$4545ppts.

MH A330-300 to BNE

MALAYSIA Airlines will launch its new Airbus 330-300 on the five times weekly Brisbane-Kuala Lumpur route, effective 20 Apr.

The aircraft offers 36 Business and 247 Economy class seats and on demand seat back IFE.

Spending in HK up 32%

AUSTRALIAN travellers heading to Hong Kong were among the highest spending overseas travellers in 2010, according to stats released by the Hong Kong Tourism Board this week.

Visitors from Australia, NZ and the South Pacific spent around HK\$7,050 (AU\$870) per stay, a 32.3% jump on the 2009 figure, and around \$40 more than the overall average from all markets.

Only Mainland China residents spent more money on their stays in Hong Kong.



Industry Appointments

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thu feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

BCD Travel in Sydney has welcomed **Tom Milne** who has taken up the role of Sales Manager. He was previously with Tramada.

Travelport has announced two new National Account Managers who will begin with the company effective immediately. **Robert Clark** will oversee Travelport's strategic accounts national while **Louise Bennett** will be responsible for key online travel agency clients.

Travel Partners has recruited former head of Key Accounts AU/NZ for Amadeus **Kim Staughton**. She will be taking on a 'behind the scenes' role on a short term consulting basis helping the new homeworking group further set up its infrastructure and operations.

Pamela Scott Associates is the new and exclusive Australasian Sales and Marketing representative for **Africa Classic Escapes** and its sister company **Paws Africa Safaris**, effective immediately.

Worldhotels has named Naresh Chandnani as its new Regional Director Hotel Development India Subcontinent and Maldives. He will head up a new Worldhotels office in Delhi to support its fast-growing Indian network which currently comprises nine properties.

Choice Hotels Europe has appointed **Bernice Chan** as its new senior marketing executive in the UK.

Davidson Communications has been appointed as the public relations representative for Snow Australia, which includes a number of resorts, Tourism NSW, Tourism Snowy Mountains and the Victorian Board of Alpine Resorts Tourism.

AirAsia X has appointed former Pacific Blue marketing manager **Phil Boeyen** as its NZ marketing mgr, as the airline launches CHC flights.

Ross Tutin attended his first official engagement this week as **Brunei Tourism**'s new manager for Australia. Tutin has previously worked with local government tourism in South-East Old, Royal Brunei Airlines, Flight Centre and Sunlover Holidays.

Swiss International Air Lines has appointed Daniel Barlocher as its new Head of Corporate Communications replacing Jurg Dinner, from o1 May.

Baglioni Hotels has named **Guido Polito** as its new Chief Executive Officer, taking over the role from founder of the Baglioni hotel collection, Roberto Polito who will remain as President of the group.

Sabre Holdings has made some changes to its senior level positions by moving Hugh Jones from president and CEO of Travelocity, to President of Sabre Airline Solutions. Current president of Gilt Groupe, Carl Sparks will take up Jones' role with Travelocity from 25 Apr.



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Applicants with good airfare knowledge, a travel speciality such as cruising and personal travel experience will be highly regarded.

To become part of this award winning team please send your resume to jobs@travelworldcarindale.com.au

Flighties in Paradise



ABOVE: Omniche Holidays recently hosted the Flight Centre Product specialist team to Norfolk Island.

The famil in conjunction with Norfolk Air, Norfolk Island Tourism and Norfolk Island

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Canada

operators was a way for the team to experience the many activities on offer in the region.

Highlights of the educational included a cycling tour from Mt Pitt to Emily Bay, a glass bottom boat cruise, a guided tour of the 'World Heritage' area of Kingston and an adventurous car rally that finished up at the Norfolk winery.

Pictured above from left are: Elizabeth Hadwell, Flight Centre; Laura Scannell, Flight Centre: David Schofield, Flight Centre; Vao Mata'utia, Flight Centre; Mathew Christian-Bailey, Omniche Holidays Director; Jo Howard, Omniche Holidays National Sales; Sheryll Felixberto, Flight Centre; Kathleen Johnston, Omniche Holidays Product and Marketing Manager; and Kate Marsden, Flight Centre.

Contiki last minute

CONTIKI Holidays is offering last minute deals on a number of select Australian tours departing over the next month.

A saving of up to \$435pp is available on the 14 day 'Beaches and Reefs' tour departing 17 Apr or 15 May - contiki.com.au/deals.

HotelREZ/DTW pact

HOTEL representation company HotelREZ has partnered with Discover the World Marketing to expand its portfolio of 1,000 member hotels in 30 countries.

New Mercure for Qld

MERCURE Clear Mountain Lodge, Spa & Vineyard in Brisbane's hinterland will open on 09 Apr following a \$6.5 million refurbishment and rebrand.



Thursday 7th Apr 2011

WIN a Luxurious Holiday to Abu Dheabi!



Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority is giving one Travel Daily reader and their guest a chance to indulge and luxuriate in the exotic and charming Abu Dhabi emirate. Fly return economy class to Abu Dhabi courtesy of V Australia celebrating their new flights from Sydney and spend a luxurious 5 night stay at the sophisticated Jumeirah at Etihad Towers near the fashionable corniche area. Enjoy a City Spectacular Tour, a Dune Dinner Safari and return airport transfers thanks to Arabian Adventures.

To enter simply name the images displayed each day (pictured) during the month of April 2011 and send your answers to abudhabi@traveldaily.com.au by 5:30pm Saturday 30th April

(Click here for more information).





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YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

TRAVEL TEAM LEADER
SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE \$70K + INCENTIVES

Take a great sales team and make them better through your leadership and motivational skills and ability to identify training needs. This rapidly expanding travel agency needs your skills to optimize performance and take advantage of growth opportunities. Your background in retail travel sales, leadership and passion for achieving financial targets will make you the perfect candidate for this newly created position.

DEVELOP INCENTIVE PROGRAMS TO ENTICE

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

MELBOURNE - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$90k

As an enthusiastic, creative and energetic individual you will have the ability to develop incentive programs which achieve business objectives for your clients. You'll have experience in concept design and delivery of pitches, as well as strong relationship skills with both your clients and your team. Proven experience in a leadership role is definitely required. Events Pro and CRS experience will be highly valued.

REACH THE PEAK OF ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER X 2

BRISBANE - SALARY PACKAGES OTE \$120K

Are you the master in keeping relationships strong? These 2 great roles are exciting opportunities to join market leaders. We are looking for polished and professional individuals who know how to deliver outstanding account management services to their clients, building rapport and analyzing data to effectively manage their high volume business. Strong communication and negotiation skills are essential.

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INDUSTRY SALES BDM

SYDNEY - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$65K + BENEFITS

If you love to travel you'll love this Industry Sales role with a leading wholesaler. You will be traveling every day out on the road meeting your portfolio of travel agencies, with the key objective of driving sales growth. You'll also be traveling overseas hosting educational trips for agents, running incentives, managing relationships, and negotiating for new business. You'll need your own vehicle and clean license.

JOIN A BRAND THAT'S THRIVING IN THE MARKET

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (maternity leave)
BRISBANE – SALARY PACKAGE \$65k + CAR + INCENTIVES

Bring your winning smile, drive and ability to this wholesale product and hit the road to service the travel industry. You will have the ability and know-how to take advantage of the popularity of this product in the market and continue to grow sales. Strong communication and presentation skills are essential. Your rewards will include a great salary, fully maintained car and additional incentives.

NETWORK WITH THE BEST AGENCIES

SALES MANAGER – LEISURE PRODUCT

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to claim

List all eligible ticketed bookings on the sales tracker form sent via trade release and email a scanned copy to salesassist@virginblue.com.au with the words "Europe. In Style" in the subject line no later than close of business Friday 22nd April 2011.

















CONDITIONS: This offer is open to all full time international selling agents only. Vouchers are capped and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis based on ticket orders received. Valid for tickets issued by Consolidated Travel or via Quikticket between 28 March - 22 April 2011 on 100% MH itineraries ex Australia plated to MH (232) ticket stock on the Consolidated Travel Valid for lickets issued by Consolidated Travel of via Quinticket between 25 March 22 April 2011 of 100% Min Inferance & Australia plated to Min (252) licket stock of the Consolidated Travel ATA only. Infant, Group Sales, Wholesale and Cancelled or Refunded tickets are not eligible. Consolidated Travel and Malaysia Airlines reserve the right to alter or cancel the promotion are capped and will be distributed at the completion of the promotion, voucher claims must be received by COB 29 April 2011. All claims must be emailed to your local sales team. The top 2 producing agents per state (VIC/NSW/QLD/SA/WA) will be awarded Economy class (Australia/KUL) & Business class (KUL/Australia) familiarisation in June to Malaysia. Consolidated Travel Group ABN 60 004 692 791. Date of issue 28 March 2011.