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Tuesday 21st August 2012

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New Webjet director

WEBJET has today announced the appointment of Roger Sharp as a new Non Executive director.

Singapore-based Sharp is chairman and ceo of Co-Investor Group, and his career also includes senior roles with ABN Amro.

Chairman David Clarke said the appointment was part of a "longer term Board refreshment in line with the increasing scope and complexity of our global operations".

DIT backs JQ Pan-Asia plan

THE federal Department of Infrastructure and Transport says the proposed joint venture coordination deal between Qantas and Jetstar (TD 09 Jul) is "not unusual in international aviation terms," and is consistent with Australia's aviation policy settings and air service bilaterals.

In a submission to the current ACCC enquiry into the QF/JQ pact, the gm of Aviation Industry Policy, Stephen Borthwick, says that while the dept recognises that it's up to the ACCC to rule on the public benefits of the proposed JV, "from an aviation policy perspective the Department supports commercial arrangements designed to enhance the financial sustainability of Australia's aviation industry".

The document gives an overview of the current air services arrangements governing Australian flights to Singapore, Vietnam, Japan and Hong Kong.

Borthwick said that the bilateral system can be "particularly

restrictive" for a country at the end of a long-haul route such as Australia, adding that "restrictions on ownership and control combined with the restrictions on traffic rights, create incentives for airlines to pursue commercial arrangements such as the 'Jetstar Pan-Asia Strategy'".

The dept says many businesses are seeking to profit from forecast growth in the Asian aviation market, with competition likely to increase with the ASEAN open skies agreement due to be implemented in 2015.

Borthwick also noted that a number of Australian and int'l competitors to Qantas/Jetstar are pursuing similar co-operative commercial relationships, particularly in the Asian region.

CZ top stately sellers

CONGRATS to Extragreen in Vic, EC Travel in Qld, Travel Affairs in WA and Travel Express in NSW, who have each won a \$500 voucher in Consolidated Travel's promotion run in conjunction with China Southern Airlines.

Travel Smarter

SURESAVE Travel Insurance is sponsoring a new *Travel Daily* feature today, giving agents tips for their clients about safe travel.

See the "Travel Smarter" column on **page seven**.

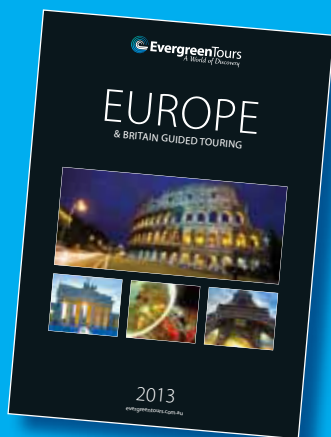
What an issue!

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news and photos, our regular **AFTA update**, a new 'Travel Smarter' feature from SureSave, plus full pages: (**click**)

- TMS Asia Pacific jobs
- AA Appointments jobs

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Etihaad lifts VAH stake

ETIHAD has spent more than \$10 million on shares in Virgin Australia over the last three weeks, boosting its stake in the carrier to 6.1%.

Last week EY ceo James Hogan said he was targeting 10% of Virgin Australia, after receiving Foreign Investment Review Board approval to lift the Etihad holding.

"Our investment reflects our belief that the strategy is sound at Virgin," he told *The Australian*.

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Carlson chief change

HUBERT Joly has resigned from his role as global ceo of Carlson, which operates Carlson Wagonlit Travel, the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group and Carlson Restaurants.

The surprise departure sees Joly move to head up US electrical retailer Best Buy, with the Carlson board naming Trudy Rautio as the company's new President and ceo effective immediately.

Rautio has been a senior Carlson executive for 15 years.

Qantas to upgrade 16 767s

QANTAS yesterday announced the installation of new interiors and in-flight entertainment systems in 16 of its ageing 767 aircraft, as part of a "wider investment in the domestic customer experience".

The carrier had already announced streaming IFE to Apple iPads in every seat (**TD** 19 Jul), with Qantas Domestic ceo Lyell Strambi revealing that this

upgrade will also be accompanied by leather seat covers in Business and a "new look and feel" for the aircraft economy cabins.

The first of 16 aircraft to be refreshed will enter service in Oct this year, with Strambi also saying that Qantas was looking at ways to evolve the Q Streaming platform further in partnership with Panasonic "to bring new standards of in-flight entertainment to our customers".

Evergreen places left

LAST minute places remain on an Evergreen Tours faml to Canada, departing 29 Sep.

The trip will include a two-day Gold Leaf journey aboard the Rocky Mountaineer, luxury stays in Vancouver, Lake Louise and Whistler and a breakfast with the whales at Vancouver Aquarium.

Land participation fee is \$500, with discounted airfares available, and for more info, send an email to famil@evergreentours.com.

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Aussie Virtuoso gongs

TRAVEL Concepts from Milton, Qld was the top producing Australian member of the Virtuoso network last year, with the agency honoured last Fri for its performance at the end of Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas.

Also awarded was Suzanne Duzenman from Global International Travel Service in South Yarra, Vic, who was voted by Virtuoso Suppliers as *Most Admired Advisor* for Australia/NZ.

A&K Australia also won the *Best Voyager Club Event* category for its Coliban Park Sheep Station with Outback Lunch product.

New carpet, lighting, curtains and dividers will be fitted on the 767s, with other domestic customer experience moves including enhancements to ground operations and "further upgrades to other domestic aircraft over the next few years".

New Palazzo DOSM

TRUDY Cook has been appointed as the new Director of Sales and Marketing for Palazzo Versace Gold Coast.

She joins the luxury property from Thailand's Dusit Hotels & Resorts and has also held roles with Starwood in the Middle East.

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Uniworld 2013 Italy sales soar

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises md John Molinaro says sales for the firm's new voyages on Italy's Po River (**TD** 08 Mar) are "very very strong".

The company has released its 2013 Europe and Russia brochure, and Molinaro told **TD** that early booking trends for the programs were very encouraging.

"It's probably one of the most comprehensive programs that we've released," Molinaro said.

The new 178-page brochure contains details on 32 different voyages aboard 12 vessels, all fitted out with interiors designed by sister The Travel Corporation company Red Carnation Hotels.

New tours for 2012/13 include

the 8-day "Gems of Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands with Floriade", with 2012 departures including a visit to the once-a-decade garden festival.

Rising in prominence for the upcoming season are Christmas/ New Year cruises, which Molinaro said were becoming much more popular in the Aussie market.

Earlybird special discounts of up to \$3800 per couple are on offer for twin share bookings paid in full before 31 Oct.

Molinaro said Uniworld's France product, sailing out of both Paris and Arles, was also very popular, while "Russia looks set to have a huge year, especially out of Australia".

2013 Great Rail Guide

RAIL PLUS has released its latest guide to the best rail journeys available around the world, with four brand new itineraries among a number of highlights.

Featured journeys include Spain's Al Andalus, India's Maharaja, South Africa's heritage Shongololo journey & Sunlander along the Queensland coast.

Also new for 2013 is a dedicated phone line for agents to reach a Great Train Journeys consultant more quickly - (03) 8779 4828.

FCm technology move

FLIGHT Centre's FCm Travel Solutions has appointed Matthew Campbell as its Network Systems Manager, a role in which he will be responsible for ensuring consistency across the firm's global technology systems - including with company owned and licensee operations - to improve the overall client experience.

Julie King affiliates

JULIE King & Associates, which represents clients including the Dubai Department of Tourism & Commerce Marketing in Australia, has this week joined the GlobalCom PR Network, which is a worldwide group of full service PR and marketing communications agencies.

Julie King & Associates will now be the GlobalCom affiliate for Australia and New Zealand.



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New Coogee IHG GM

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has appointed Kate Gerits as the new general manager at the Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach, effective from yesterday.



ALTHOUGH numbering one more than the nursery rhyme, a group of four bears in northern Europe have found a traveller's cabin to be "just right".

The ursine invaders managed to get inside a holiday cabin in a Norwegian bear-watching holiday park - by ripping the outside wall off - and proceeded to completely destroy the place and consume all the food and drink there at the time.

Said tasty delights apparently included chocolate and honey spreads, bags of marshmallows - and a stock of more than 100 cans of beer.

The tourists, who were thankfully not in the cabin at the time, were ironically with their bear-watching tour group at the time of the attack and so missed the whole thing.

All that beer appeared to have got the job done on the bears, with lots of pawprints found on windows near the destroyed beds, kitchen appliances, cupboards and interior shelving.

MEANWHILE, elsewhere, in other curious bear snooping news, surveillance footage from the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in Colorado shows a black bear went into and out of the store about seven times, making off with items such as English toffees and milk chocolate "cookie bears".

Unlike the experience in Norway, not a single thing in the store was damaged or broken, with the bear eating the stolen goodies outside before eventually being scared off by a passing motorist.

SEALINK National Business Development Manager

Travel Group

Employing over 650 people throughout Australia, SeaLink Travel Group are best known for their ferry operations connecting the South Australian mainland to Kangaroo Island. In addition they have built a significant tourism operation as a tour operator, travel wholesaler and retail travel business nationally recently purchasing Sun Ferries in Townsville (now SeaLink Queensland) and Captain Cook Cruises on Sydney Harbour.

SeaLink Travel Group have an opportunity for an exceptional and experienced National Business Development Manager (NBDM) to join their Business Development team based in Adelaide.

The NBDM is responsible for leading the growth of industry sales and developing new business sales opportunities through both trade and consumer direct initiatives for the full range of SeaLink and Captain Cook Cruises products.

The NBDM will lead a team of Business Development Executives to maximise all sales opportunities, proactively create new opportunities and achieve sales targets from the national market. A strong focus will be on developing and managing relationships with industry partners and working with them on business growth strategies beneficial to all parties.

As part of the Leadership team this role will play a key role in the development and implementation of our business development plan and providing input into strategic business growth and improvement decisions. Domestic travel will form a requirement of this role.

The successful application will be supported by the following skills and experiences:

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East open in Canberra

A NEW design and lifestyle property, entitled East Hotel, has opened its doors to guests.

The property is located near to the retail and restaurant districts of Manuka and Kingston.

It's six stories tall and consisting of 140 rooms across a studio and apartment style, with each room containing kitchen facilities.

Todd Handy has been named as the property's inaugural gm.

More at www.easthotel.com.au.

Petite hits the big 9-0

FRENCH bed & breakfast accom provider Petite Paris has passed a milestone, adding its 90th B&B to its network.

In conjunction with its second birthday, the company has released discounted rates for two properties in the upmarket Isle Saint Louis part of Paris, for stays in Nov and also Jan to Mar 2013.

Info at www.petiteparis.com.au.

New cops at airport

MEXICO'S Federal Police Agency has completely replaced all 348 officers working at Mexico City's Benito Juárez International Airport after a number of rogue officers shot dead three of their fellow officers two months ago in a drug-related assassination.

All of the new officers have been sourced from across other parts of Mexico and have all passed drug and psychological tests as part of President Felipe Calderon's war on drug cartels.

Pullman rolls out welcome Matts

FORMER

Qantas executive Richard (Dick) Porter, who's now the Executive Manager Marketing for the Pullman Reef Casino complex in Cairns, recently recruited rugby



legends, former Australian Wallabies players and Audi ambassadors Mat Rogers and Matt Burke to help promote the property's \$2.7m refurbishment.

With a combined total of 126 rugby tests under their belts, Mat and Matt hosted a special lunch event as part of the unveiling.

Enhancements to the hotel include the new Casino Sports Arena, which contains the largest

indoor television screen in Queensland, along with new eateries, bars, conference and banquet facilities within the 128-room property.

Each guest room also contains a spa bath and private balcony, while the hotel features a rooftop swimming pool, sauna and gym.

Dick Porter is pictured above with Mat Rogers and Matt Burke.

See www.reefcasino.com.au.

Enta tickets Show

PERTH based Show Ticketing, who provides ticket services for the Perth International Comedy Festival and the Astor Theatre has signed up with Enta Ticketing Solutions to implement its CRM system for streamlined ticketing and marketing.

The software enables efficient management of season ticketing, subscriptions, memberships and event marketing.

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Qantas tops Jul on-time stats

QANTAS achieved the highest level of on-time departures and arrivals among the major domestic airlines last month, just pipping rival Virgin Australia for the top spot in the figures.

QF flights departed on time 82.1% of the time - just ahead of Virgin Australia at 81.8%.

Tiger Airways came in at 79.6% for on-time departures, while

Jetstar was in fourth place at 76.8% for on-time departures.

In terms of arrivals 80.4% of QF flights landed on time, again ahead of Virgin Australia at 79.5%, Jetstar with 76.8% and Tiger Airways at 75.2%.

Regional Express was the best performing regional carrier for on-time departures at 81%, followed by Virgin Australia's turboprop operations at 80.9%, Skywest with 78.6% and QantasLink at 72.1%.

The highest rate of cancellations was for QantasLink, with 4.1% of flights cancelled in the month.

The most punctual route was Canberra-Adelaide with 96.3% of on-time departures - compared to Hamilton Island-Sydney in last place with just 52.7% of flights departing on time.

Cancellations were also highest on HTI-SYD with 11.3% of flights cancelled, followed by HTI-BNE at 9.8% and CBR-SYD at 8.2%.

Four Seasons Toronto

FOUR Seasons Hotels & Resorts has opened a new 259-room "flagship hotel" in Toronto, Canada, which has now become its 88th property around the globe.

The move sees Four Seasons return to its birthplace, with the company founded in Toronto more than 50 years ago.

Travelport AA update

THE legal battle between American Airlines and Travelport has reached a new stage, with a US judge dismissing antitrust claims by the GDS firm that AA was illegally forcing travel agencies to switch to its Direct Connect system.

The case was dismissed because of a ruling that Travelport "has not suffered antitrust injury" in the case and therefore had no standing to bring the case.

Travelport said it was considering the verdict, while AA said it would continue to pursue its legal rights.

Thakral trading halt

LISTED property investor Thakral Holdings, which has an extensive portfolio including a number of hotels such as the Sofitels in Brisbane and the Gold Coast, the Sydney Menzies Hotel and the Hilton on the Park in Melbourne, was yesterday placed into a trading halt so it could consider a takeover offer.

Earlier in the year an unsolicited bid for the company was made by Canadian property firm Brookfield.

At the time Brookfield said that if its bid was successful it would undertake a detailed review of the hotel assets with a view to their redevelopment or sale.

Japan Tourism Forum

THE Japan Association of Travel Agents will host the annual JATA Tourism Forum & Travel Showcase in Tokyo 20-23 Sep, with more than 110,000 participants from 145 countries expected to attend.

Supplier Updates

WELCOME to *Supplier Updates*, *Travel Daily's* new regular feature.

Agents can now access the latest special deals and promotions being offered by suppliers, simply by **CLICKING HERE**.

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| Middle East | From \$1,721* | From \$7,374* |
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EK441 will fly four times weekly from 1st November, becoming daily from 1st February, 2013.

Hello Tomorrow

*Airmiles are inclusive of taxes and surcharges correct at 12th July, 2012. Offer ends 20th August, 2012. Travel from 1st November until 31st May, 2013 ex Adelaide. The fares advertised are for travel in low season. Higher fares apply for other dates. Seats subject to availability. Amendments and cancellation fees apply. Blackout periods apply. For more information contact your Emirates' Sale Representative or the Emirates' Contact Centre on 1300 880 599.

Tuesday 21st Aug 2012

UK rules target travel

NEW consumer protection rules in the UK are aiming to eliminate a range of “hidden online charges” incurred by people who are booking holidays online.

The Consumer Rights Directive seeks to ban opt-out tick boxes which automatically add ancillary services to purchases, and also outlaw the use of ‘premium rate’ phone numbers for enquiries from consumers.

UK authorities are also seeking to ban excessive charges for use of credit and debit cards.

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Hilton Shop-to-Earn

HILTON'S HHonors loyalty program has launched a new ‘Shop-to-Earn Mall’ network of online shops which allow members of the scheme to earn bonus points via retail purchases.

More than 1500 retailers are participating in the initiative - see www.HHonors.com/shoptoearn.

Sweet Hong Kong

HONG Kong will add a new Sweet Corner to its annual Wine and Dine Festival in Nov this year.

Pastry chefs will showcase their dessert masterpieces, while the festival will also feature a ‘new product zone’ where merchants will display first-time releases and limited edition products.

Wine and food themed tours and classes will be on offer during the Festival Of Restaurants (1-25 Nov) and the Hong Kong International Wine and Spirits Fair (08-10 Nov), and attendees will be able to sample a wide selection of premium wines and fine food at the Grand Tasting Pavilion, amid the spectacular backdrop of Victoria Harbour.

Info at sydwwo@hktb.com.

TC's share Christmas in July



TRAVEL Counsellors recently wound the clock forward six months, treating its most supportive suppliers from around Australia to special “Christmas in July” festivities at its St Kilda Rd head offices in Melbourne.

The Champagne flowed and there was lots of Christmas cheer over warm winter canapes during the evening of “mutual respect and celebration of continued business success”.

The night of appreciation included a surprise prize draw, which saw the tables turned and the suppliers on the receiving end

of the giveaways for once.

Pictured above are, from left: Travel Counsellors gm Deb Duncan; Rachel Javier, Travel the World; Julie O’Grady, Seven Oceans Cruising; and Hannah Tabak, Sunlover Holidays.

unleashed.

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South American showcase



AGENTS tapped their feet to the tango and swung to the rhythm of salsa dancers while savouring fine South American wines – it was all part of the annual South American Roadshows that began last night with a lavish event at the trendy Ivy Ballroom in Sydney.

It was the third consecutive year for the event, but Colombia joined in for the first time with Chile and Argentina, hoping to cash in on the growing number of Australians now travelling to South America.

Representatives of tourist boards from the three Republics and 32 South American exhibitors were on a blitz to educate agents and wholesalers to help them to become specialists in selling the destinations.

They said with a combined nine weekly flights by Qantas and LAN to Santiago, Chile, South America has never been closer than now.

“We’ve moved on from the image of the 1980s when Colombia was known for murders, drugs and the mafia,” said Jorge Montero, who represents Tourism Colombia.

“We call it the Colombian Comeback and with a total of 10,363 visitors from Australia last year, we’re hoping to open a tourist office in Sydney next year because we know we can build on those numbers,” he said.

Colombia, he added is full of

tradition, colour and festiveness and it’s renowned for its gastronomy and for making the best coffee in the world.

Montero said the politically stable country has over 300 beaches, 20 International hotel chains and luxury boutique hotels and was recently cited by the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the 31 best places to visit in 2012.

“We also have no seasons – no winter, no summer, no spring, no autumn, just 24 degrees year-round - we have an eternal spring,” he said.

The roadshows move to Melbourne tomorrow and then Brisbane on Thursday.

Pictured above in their festive hats are Matt Donovan and Gisela Pacheco from Tempo Holidays with Jorge Montero, Tourism Colombia.

Tuesday 21st Aug 2012

Orbitz baggage fine

US online travel giant Orbitz has been fined \$50,000 by the US Dept of Transportation, for “failing to clearly and prominently inform consumers that they may have to pay baggage fees”.

A new DOT rule imposed on 24 Jan mandates that for online bookings, the first screen that offers a specific itinerary must advise travellers that additional baggage fees may apply.

Orbitz is being fined because for a short time after 24 Jan the Orbitz disclosure required consumers to scroll to the bottom of the page “and therefore was not clear and prominent,” the dept said.

CiEvents arrives in PER

FLIGHT Centre is continuing to boost its Western Australian presence, with the opening this month of a new CiEvents office - its first Australian operation outside of the east coast capitals.

CiEvents provides custom creative events services including customised loyalty programs, production, logistics, design and content management, with the firm saying many of its east coast clients were setting up in Perth.

FC also recently launched a WA office for its Stage & Screen brand.



Brought to you by SureSave.

Bag snatching

The murder of travel agent Michelle Smith in Phuket last June is a tragedy for her family and friends.

Sadly, drive-by bag-snatching is on the increase everywhere from Bangkok to Rome. The British government recently issued a warning for Goa in India.

But bag-snatching only exists because the opportunity exists, if we all make a little change in our behaviour when we’re overseas we can protect ourselves and get rid of this blight.

Here are a few things we can do:

- Don’t walk on the kerbside of the footpath. If at all possible move one or two steps away from the road and out of the reach of a bag-snatcher.

- Put the bag on the shoulder furthest from the road. Or better still, loop your bag over your head and one shoulder, make it obvious that snatching the bag will not be easy. The punks will go looking for an easier target.

- If someone does try to snatch your bag, let them take it, don’t fight or resist. This is a good option only if there’s nothing of any great value in the bag, so empty it of your passport, cash and credit cards – keep them in a money belt or pouch underneath your clothing.

If you decide to leave it all back at your hotel, read this piece on the SureSave website about room safes, they’re not always as safe as you think. You can download the article as a PDF to share with your customers too.



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Money

WELCOME to *Money Talk*, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

\$1AUD = US1.041

THE Australian dollar has dipped about 1.5% from its recent highs against the Euro and the US\$, but the currency is still extremely strong amid ongoing concerns about the financial climate in Europe in contrast to the strong Australian economy.

Later today the Reserve Bank will release the minutes of its most recent meeting where it decided to leave its current policy unchanged, and traders are likely to react with volatility to any mention of interest rates.

Wholesale rates this morning:

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| US | \$1.041 |
| UK | £0.662 |
| NZ | \$1.282 |
| Euro | €0.844 |
| Japan | ¥82.72 |
| Singapore | \$1.299 |
| China | ¥6.410 |
| South Africa | R8.631 |
| Canada | \$1.035 |
| Crude oil | US\$95.98 |



Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 21st Aug 2012

ABOVE: This lucky group of wholesale consultants recently experienced the delights of Brunei, courtesy of Royal Brunei Airlines and Brunei Tourism.

Highlights included a day tour of the capital city, the canopy walk at Ulu Temburong National Park and a visit to the Kampong Ayer Water Village.

They're pictured at the Empire Hotel & Country Club, from left to right: Melissa Warren and Leah Carroll, Infinity Holidays; Leah Keenan, Royal Brunei; Barrie Jones, Extragreen Holidays; Lovely Perez, Adventure Destinations; Linh Nguyen, InterAsia Tours; and Fiona Garrivan, STA Travel.

New AA destination

AMERICAN Airlines' regional offshoot American Eagle will operate a new daily round-trip route between Dallas/Fort Worth airport in Texas and Puebla, Mexico effective 15 Nov.

Blue Hols TDU deals

VIRGIN Australia's Blue Holidays is offering package deals for the 2013 Santos Tour Down Under in South Australia.

Short break packages start at \$724 per person including return airfares to Adelaide, two nights accommodation and the club tour classic - info 13 15 16.

New York JW Marriott

THE Jumeirah Group's Essex House property in New York is set to become a JW Marriott Hotel, after Jumeirah agreed to sell it to Strategic Hotels & Resorts for more than US\$360 million.

Strategic has signed a 50 year management agreement with Marriott, which will see the forty storey hotel rebranded as JW Marriott Essex House New York.

Amari Hua Hin open

THE new Amari Hua Hin is offering opening two night packages from \$242 (THB8,015) valid until 31 Oct.

The property welcomed its first guests last week and offers 223 rooms, a large ballroom, fitness centre, kids club and kids pool.

See www.amari.com.

Adina Norwest debut

TOGA Hospitality Group has unveiled its newest property in the north-western suburbs of Sydney, with the opening of the Adina Apartment Hotel Norwest at Baulkham Hills.

Targeting business travellers, the 106-room property consists of 21 studios, 80 one-bedroom, 3 two-bedroom and 2 three-bedroom apartments along with a conference centre and gym.

There's also a free weekday shuttle service to the nearby Norwest Business Park.

Marriott hits Ukraine

MARRIOTT International will open its first property in Ukraine, following the signing of a new management agreement which will see the former Leipzig Hotel renovated and rebranded as the 173-room Renaissance Kiev Hotel, expected to open mid next year.



AFTA UPDATE

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

LAST week, Federal Parliament returned from the winter recess and by all accounts our MPs had a very fruitful and thoughtful winter break.

They returned to resolve the asylum seeker problem and finally pass some legislation that they can all agree upon to address this issue that has plagued parliament for the past several years. I am sure everyone will be most hopeful that the solution that has been agreed will address the problem and stop the boats. Only time will tell.

Meanwhile, the back and forth sledging continues between the major parties on a range of issues and life in Canberra returns very quickly to the place in which it started at the beginning of the winter recess.

It was -2°C in Canberra yesterday and from what I can see it is going to get even colder and icier in the weeks ahead. As for the weather, I tend to stay away from those predictions. All the while the show goes on.

You may be interested to know that there is now significant discussion going on between the tourism industry and the Federal Government over how to collect the \$181 million per annum bill for providing Federal Police at Australia's international airports.

You may recall in the budget passed back in May that this figure was to be recovered as a part of the budget measures. Clearly, the way in which it is to be recovered is complicated and difficult to work out as nobody wants to pay for it. So in the end it will be the traveller, so standby for the next brainwave on how to do that. An increase in the PMC perhaps? Well, we have seen how well that goes down with the travel industry.

Further, the new limits on tobacco will come into effect in September. Basically, you will be allowed to bring roughly 50 cigarettes, not 250. There is some specific information about this available online at www.customs.gov.au/site/page4352.asp. If you are not up to speed on this, it may be well worthwhile even if you are not a smoker as I expect that there will be plenty of cranky Aussies returning from their annual trips with more cigarettes than is now allowed. My point is, the show goes on and there are plenty of issues on the go which continue to have an impact on the travel industry.

AFTA continues to make the points to government on a range of these issues and has suggested strongly that more communication is needed. There are attempts being made, but in the end, everyone in the travel industry should also know about these changes.




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CONGRATULATIONS

Luke O'Brien
from *Travelzoo*

Luke is the top point scorer for Round 24 of *Travel Daily's* NRL industry footy tipping competition and has won a double pass to Hoyts cinema, courtesy of TATS.



Major Prize Sponsors

1st Prize: 4-night holiday to Dubai, courtesy of Emirates and Holiday Inn



2nd Prize: 5-night holiday to Vanuatu, courtesy of Air Vanuatu & The Grand Hotel and Casino Vanuatu



Tuesday 21st Aug 2012

MH A380 to PEK

MALAYSIA Airlines will debut Airbus A380 superjumbo service on the Kuala Lumpur-Beijing route effective from 01 Mar 2013. Travel agent GDS currently shows the A380 initially operating four times a week as MH370/371.

Stansted Airport sale

BRITISH airport operator BAA looks set to offload Stansted Airport in London, after deciding to drop appeals against a ruling by UK competition authorities which is forcing the airport's sale. BAA also owns London Heathrow and previously owned London Gatwick as well, which was sold off earlier this year.

Without giving a timetable, BAA said it would proceed with the Stansted sale, but said "we still believe that the Competition Commission ruling fails to recognise that Stansted and Heathrow serve different markets".

Definitely not an old boy's club!



ABOVE: These lovely ladies - Kerrie Walker, Y Not Travel; Melinda Robilliard, Globus; Leonie Littlefield, Allianz Insurance; Belinda Brand, Brand Travel; and Sharon Richardson, Travellers Choice - all lined up for

this pic at last week's Melbourne Skal Club luncheon. The event took place at the Hotel Como with guest speaker AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury, and also saw the induction of new member, Rick Ruher from Allianz.

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO MAURITIUS

Throughout August, *Travel Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a fabulous Mauritius holiday package for two valued at \$5300, courtesy of **Beachcomber** and **Air Mauritius**.

The prize includes two return economy class tickets flying Air Mauritius ex Perth; six nights twin share accommodation in a Superior room at the 4½ star Le Victoria Hotel; breakfast and dinner daily at the resort; selection of free water and land sports including water-skiing, sailing, wind-surfing, pedal boats, snorkelling & glass bottom boat trips, tennis, gymnasium; nightly entertainment; travel wallet and documentation.

Every day *Travel Daily* will ask a different Mauritius-related question – just read the issue and email us your answer. There will be 23 questions in total, which will also be posted on our website.

At the end of the month the subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this fantastic Mauritius holiday.

Email your answers to: mauritiustrip@traveldaily.com.au

Q.15: What is the official language of Mauritius?

Hint! Answers can be found in the Beachcomber brochure.



[Click here for more information](#)



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If you believe this role is right for you or request further information send through your resume or contact David Goldman, Managing Director at david@goldmantravel.com.au or (02) 83337700.

All applications and contact will be treated as confidential.



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