Qantas/SAA state their case

SOUTH African Airways has revealed that it’s continuing to make heavy losses on its Qantas codeshare operations between Sydney and Johannesburg.

The International Air Services Commission yesterday released new submissions from QF and SAA (TD 07 Feb) in support of their application to continue the pact, following last year’s IASC draft decision which proposed only granting the carriers a one year extension (TD 18 Nov) - a far cry from the five years requested.

Qantas says it’s “deeply concerned about the broader policy implications of the draft decision,” saying that the IASC is overly relying on observations of the South Africa market during V Australia’s brief foray into flights between MEL and JNB.

“There is no evidence whatsoever to support the Commission’s assertion the code share arrangements may have contributed to V Australia’s losses on the route,” QF submitted.

Qantas urged the IASC to review its draft decision “and to remove the capacity cap in favour of a more market based approach”.

And SAA said that while it’s making a small profit on the Perth flights, adding a seventh weekly service as requested by the IASC would be “exceptionally difficult”.

$1.4m Red Centre push

TOURISM NT has launched a six week marketing campaign with Qantas to promote tourism to Alice Springs and the Red Centre.

The $1.4 million domestic push will be targeted at audiences in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and regional NSW across TV, print and digital mediums.

“Tourism is such an important and integral part of this economy, and that’s why the Territory Govt is investing this kind of money,” NT Tourism Minister Malandirri McCarthy said.
A380 cracks very minor - QF

WIDESPREAD reporting about “cracks in the wings” of A380 aircraft is a major overreaction to a minor design issue, according to QF head of operations Alan Milne. This morning TD was among a select group who spoke with Milne during a walk-around of the Qantas operations centre, during which he used a piece of the wing from the A380 which suffered engine failure above Indonesia in Nov 2010 to indicate the small scale of the problem.

Inside the massive wings of the superjumbo are about 2000 metal ‘ribs’ which form the structure - and each of these ribs is fastened using a multiple-redundant structure of six bolts. The tiny cracks, which were only discovered because of the repair work required for the QF32 plane, have been found in just one of the six brackets on each rib, in less than 1% of the ribs in the A380s.

"The cracks shouldn’t be there, and Airbus has redesigned the part, but in the worst case they only appeared in 20 of the ribs," according to Milne.

Once the issue was discovered during the Qantas repair, authorities in Europe mandated checks of all A380s to resolve the minor problem which has not in any way affected airworthiness.

Milne also revealed that the A380 under repair in Singapore is almost set to fly again, with a significant event planned in late Mar to celebrate its return to the skies almost 18 months after the Rolls Royce engine explosion.

Jane Henderson funeral

FUNERAL details for the late Jane Henderson have been released, with a service to be held this Fri 17 Feb from 2pm at the Magnolia Chapel, Macquarie Park Crematorium in Plessey Rd, North Ryde NSW. Refreshments will follow in the Banksia Room at the same location, with many from across the industry expected to turn out to mourn Henderson following her untimely death last week.

Henderson was JTG gm of travel related product.

Qantas requests Japan

QANTAS looks set to further boost its Jetstar operations to Japan, yesterday lodging an IASC application for an “allocation of capacity that would permit it to operate unlimited capacity between points in Australia and points in Japan other than Narita and Haneda” (TD breaking news).
Major Asian aviation growth

THE International Air Transport Association has outlined the expected boom in Asia-Pacific aviation in coming years, with traffic to or within the region expected to comprise 37% of total global passenger numbers by 2015 - up from 33% in 2010.

IATA ceo Tony Tyler told a conference in Singapore yesterday that increasing prosperity in China is set to drive huge propensity to travel.

“The average person in the US travels by air 1.8 times per year, while in Germany the equivalent is one trip annually,” he said.

In contrast, for China the average is 0.2 air trips per person per year and for India it is just 0.1 - and with the growing middle class in each country it’s expected to create billions more travellers in the next decade, Tyler said.

OS to lift London

AUSTRIAN Airlines has announced a realignment of its network, with a fourth daily flight between London Heathrow and Vienna, as well as more capacity to Bucharest, Sofia and Belgrade.

OS will also operate a third daily flight to Barcelona from 25 Mar, as well as boosting capacity on some domestic routes in Austria.

The changes will see Austrian drop Mumbai as a destination, with the 767 aircraft deployed on the route to instead operate to Tel Aviv and to Tehran.

The carrier will continue to fly six times a week to New Delhi.

Tripoli flights will relaunch in Mar, after ceasing about a year ago due to the unrest in Libya, and Austrian is also reducing its Thailand flights to three times a week.

ANA rejigs 787 to FRA

ALL Nippon Airways is citing “aircraft delivery issues” for a delay in boosting its flights between Tokyo Haneda and Frankfurt to a daily operation.

Originally scheduled to go daily from 01 Mar, GDS currently shows the operation now pushed back to 01 Apr, with 787 flights on even days and 777-200ER on odd days of the week.

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- Pensioner Concession: $2514

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**Qantas results Thu**

RUMOURS are circulating wildly in the lead-up to the Qantas half-year results this Thu, with speculation that a network revamp could see destinations such as Mumbai and New York cut.

**Money**

Welcome to Money Talk, TD’s Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

$1AUD = US$1.071

The big news overnight has been the endorsement by the Greek parliament of austerity measures to help reduce the country’s debt crisis, with the possible resolution boosting optimism in financial markets.

This has in turn increased confidence in so-called ‘risky’ currencies such as the A$, and seen the Aussie still flying high.

**Agents** connected to the Sabre

Red Workspace can now access Interactive Seat Maps on Air New Zealand flights after the carrier introduced the enhancement.

GM sales Pacific Carl Frier said the tool gives consultants access to seating configurations on any Air NZ flight and real-time seat availability on itineraries.

**Inland NSW funding**

**The** Dungog Film Festival and Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo are the latest recipients of funding through the Destination NSW Regional Tourism Partnership Funding Program.

The film festival will receive a $200,000 injection which will assist with developing a series of four-day cultural events in regional NSW, in conjunction with Inland NSW Tourism.

Western Plains Zoo will use its $100,000 grant to build a new wildlife experience and upgrade existing accommodation facilities.

**Indochina agent aid**

**Travel** Indochina co-founder Mark Bowyer has launched a new online resource featuring “the best information” available on hotels, restaurants and things to do in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Called Rusty Compass, the website has been two years in the making and consists of “selective, informed and credible content.”

Bowyer said every property and restaurant has been hand-picked, ranging from 2- to 5-star, with bias towards boutique options.

The resource will be expanded to cover Burma, China, India and other destinations from this year. See www.rusty.com.

**NZ Sabre seat maps**

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Hardy wins Ozcar gong

**ABOVE:** Australian film director Rod Hardy has taken out the 2012 Ozcar award during a special industry function in Melbourne last week.

The award is presented annually to a prominent personality, business leader or celebrity who has helped promote Australian products or the arts in the US. Previous winners of the “gong” include the Qantas US senior vice president and G’Day LA committee member Wally Mariani, Paul Lynch; and Sam Kekovich.

Hardy (left) is pictured with fellow director Simon Wincer being awarded the Ozcar by Australian hotelier Alan Johnson (right) from the Ramada Plaza Hotel in West Hollywood.

Queensland regional tourism suffering

**INTERNATIONAL** visitor numbers to parts of regional Queensland have dipped by double-digits for the year ending Sep 2011, data from the latest Brisbane Regional Snapshot shows.

The Fraser Coast suffered the highest percentage dip in overseas arrivals with an annual change of -26% to 132,000 visitors.

Mackay, Townsville and the Whitsundays also reported drops of 18% (to 42,000) and 17% (to 109,000 & 173,000) respectively.

International visits to the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Capricorn and Gladstone were also down between 13% and 16%.

Tropical North Queensland visits were down 7% to 626,000.

Brisbane and Toowoomba were the only regions to avoid overseas visitor decreases, however their figures were flat (0%) at 912,000 and 37,000.

**MEANWHILE,** Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd has today rolled out a new $100,000 campaign aimed at the South East Queensland drive market.

The promo, which involves 58 Sunshine Coast operators, hopes to increase exposure and boost bookings for the soft periods of late-Feb and Mar, ceo of SCDL Steve Cooper said.

London smoking hotel

**MIDDLE** Eastern group Arab Investments has signalled plans to develop the UK’s first hotel that is focused on the smoking culture.

The 36-room Wellesley hotel will feature separate cigar and smoking terraces, powerful smoke extractor fans, and a room service menu that includes cigars to puff on while in the bath.

**CX res upgrade done**

**CATHAY** Pacific has completed the upgrade of its passenger reservations system (TD 02 Feb) as planned over the weekend.

“The major systems are online and functioning as planned”, said Ivan Chu, chief operating officer.

“With a system change of this magnitude, inevitably there would be some teething issues in the early stages,” Chu said, with those to be addressed aggressively should they develop.

The Advance Seating Request system is due to be back online from today.

**MEANWHILE,** CX has today reported an 11.9% year on year increase in pax carried on its combined aircraft with Dragonair during Jan up to 2,511,043 pax.

Passenger load factors also increased by 0.6 percentage points to 81.9%.

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400 international awards and over 115 destinations worldwide including 29 in Europe. *Return Economy Class airfares are inclusive of taxes and surcharges correct at 4th January, 2012. Prices quoted are for Melbourne and Perth departures, other states also on sale. Offer ends 17th February, 2012. Flight restrictions and amendments and cancellation fees apply. *Prices are per person, per night for a two night stay on a twin-sharing basis and subject to currency fluctuations and changes to the tariffs payable to hotels. Valid for bookings made for travel in between 1st May, 2012 and 30th September, 2012. For bookings made for travel up to and including 30th April, 2012 prices start from US $57 and from 1st October, 2012 up to and including 31st October 2012; prices start from US$62 per person, per night for a two night stay on a twin-sharing basis and subject to currency fluctuations and changes to the tariffs payable to hotels. Rooms subject to availability. For more information contact your Emirates’ Sales Team or the Emirates’ Contact Centre on 1300 880 599.

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WIN TICKETS TO BONDI OPENAIR CINEMA

The South Australian Tourism Commission is making Kangaroo Island the star attraction in a multi-million dollar tourism campaign. The Kangaroo Island commercial is being previewed at the Bondi Open Air Cinema and, to celebrate, the SATC is delighted to give 12 lucky Travel Daily readers the chance to win a double pass to the Bondi Openair Cinema.

To win, simply be one of the first 3 people to send in the answer to: Name five native Australian animals that can be sighted on Kangaroo Island. 

The winners will be announced at www.traveldaily.com.au. 

Open Air tkt winners
CONGRATS to Ashlee Simpson of Australian Holiday Centre, Elise Saez of travel.com.au and Tamara Keep of Flight Centre Figtree who were the first winners in our SATC mini-comp yesterday.

They’ve each won a double pass to the Bondi Openair Cinema where they can catch a glimpse of the new South Australia Tourism Commission Kangaroo Island ad promoting the destination.

We’ve got three more passes up for grabs today - see left.

NYC takes over Australia

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United gift exchange

UNITED Continental Holdings has rolled out a Gift Card Exchange scheme whereby members of its MileagePlus frequent flyer program can convert unused or partially used retail gift card credits into award miles. Members can also use gift cards from over 60 retailers to buy award miles electronically online.

Half off in Vanuatu

THE Melanesian in Vanuatu is offering travellers up to 50% off on four and eight night stays, as part of a relaunch following a $1m upgrade program. Breakfast is included and kids aged under 12 stay and eat free when sharing a room and meals with their parents.

The three-star Melanesian has 69 rooms and 12 apartments, which have been refurbished with new bathrooms, furniture and soft furnishings.

The deal is valid for travel until 31 Mar 2013 (some blackout dates apply) for bookings finalised by 30 Apr, and is available through South Pacific wholesalers.

LGW owner after EDI

GLOBAL Infrastructure Partners, the owner of London Gatwick Airport, has emerged as 1 of 4 contenders bidding to acquire Scotland’s Edinburgh Airport. The pair bought the iconic property in Jun last year and have developed “a fresh and exciting vision for Quamby” which they have backed with funding to redevelop the heritage listed homestead have included new bathrooms, furniture and soft furnishings.

The deal is valid for travel until 31 Mar 2013 (some blackout dates apply) for bookings finalised by 30 Apr, and is available through South Pacific wholesalers.

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CCC Pamper Fiji cruise
CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has introduced a four-night ‘Pamper Me’ Yasawa Islands Cruise in Fiji planned to depart on 12 Jun. Held aboard MV Reef Explorer, the fashion and beauty cruise includes NZ fashion experts from Polwarth Design who will preview the 2013/14 summer fashions. The special departure will also feature a beauty expert who will provide tips on hair and makeup. It’s priced from FJD$1,809ppnts - see www.captaincook.com.fj.

UK Maldives warning
THE Foreign & Commonwealth Office in the UK has issued a travel advisory to “avoid all but essential travel” to Male Island in the Maldives.

The alert comes in the wake of political demonstrations in the capital Male which has resulted in violent clashes involving police, military and demonstrators. “The situation remains uncertain,” the office advises.

Borneo rail line opens
THE North Borneo Railway has officially been relaunched after a soft opening in Jul last year.

The line was closed seven years ago for railway track upgrades, as part of a joint venture between the Suruta Harbour and the Careem Wellness Spa. For more details on the event email kay@rotorua.co.nz.

GetThere enhanced
GETTHERE Mobile has been upgraded to enable users to make new hotel and air bookings via mobile devices such as iPhone, Blackberry and Android.

Hawai’i Tourism invites Aussie Travel Professionals to come and visit our Hawaiian Islands between 01 April – 31 May 2012
Visit www.mahalomonth.com for full details
Welcome to our latest update! It is certainly a busy time of year and if like me, you feel that you just won’t get everything done, then why not think about employing a TEMP! With the start of the year come new business objectives and KPI’s so the pressure is on to perform. Temps can be great for budgets as they give you the ability to recruit in peaks and troughs. Temps can add personality into an existing team and renew enthusiasm. They introduce new ideas and smarter ways of completing day tasks. They are knowledgeable, flexible and self motivated to get tasks done.

As always, I welcome a chat anytime. Call me on (02) 9231 6444.
Sally Matheson, General Manager

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NAME: Sharon Moss
ROLE: Temp Manager
YEARS IN INDUSTRY: 8 years

FAVOURITE DESTINATION? Italy. Love it! I love everything about Italy, the food, the romantic ambience, the cobbled streets, the laid back pace, the people, the history and character, the wine bars. Did I mention the food?

TOP TIP FOR CANDIDATES? Practise. Make sure you have lots of examples and scenarios in your mind so that you feel confident you can answer each question well. Have a firm handshake!

TOP TIP FOR EMPLOYERS? If you have a vacancy, try temp to perm. It’s a great way to try before you buy!

TOP TRAVEL TIP Always take Aeroguard and stingose... Oh and Berocca!
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This growing Travel Management Company is seeking a competent corporate consultant to come & put their strong skills to good use. Working in a small team, you will thoroughly enjoy the friendly working environment, not to mention the salary structure in place! Monday to Friday hours only, global award ceremonies & many other employee benefits are on offer. Attention to detail is impeccable in this role!

CRUISE THE MEDITERRANEAN & BEYOND
CRUISE RESERVATIONS CONSULTANT
MELBOURNE (INNER) – SALARY PACKAGE TO $55K
Do you get excited with every cruise booking you receive? This online travel company is seeking a cruise specialist to join their intimate team in their funky inner office. Working on a generous base salary with the benefit of earning bonuses & sailing away on exciting famils, this role could soon be yours. To be successful, you must have strong cruise knowledge & have international travel consulting experience.

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PERTH (INNER) – SALARY PACKAGE TO $75K+ OTE
Want to earn a salary that some only dream about? This growing online travel provider has an amazing team of consultants however needs an additional consultant to join this sales savvy group. Working Monday to Friday hours with flexible/optional weekend work, you will enjoy the thrill of a busy working environment, together with the organisation and multi-tasking each day calls for. Retail travel exp. essential.

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PERTH (CBD) - SALARY PACKAGE TO $65K+ OTE
Tired of the hours you put in and the hard work you do with no return?! This global travel company has an amazing opportunity available for an international travel consultant that believes their consulting and sales skills are some of the best in the business. Working rotating hours, you will service travel agents with exciting worldwide holiday packages, whilst earning amazing commissions for every booking.

GO BEHIND THE SCENES
WHOLESALE RESERVATIONS CONSULTANTS X 12
BRISBANE – SALARY PACKAGE TO $55K OTE
Are you passionate about selling travel, but over face to face consulting? Would you like the chance to step behind the scenes in a rewarding wholesale role? Then this is your chance! We have a variety of domestic, international or niche wholesale positions for you to choose from. You will be rewarded for all your efforts and have TOP career progression opportunities, along with great educational and of course great $$.
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BNE (NORTH SUBURBS) – SALARY PACKAGE TO $47K + INC
Sick of the daily commute into the city? Dream of arriving home before dinner? This is your chance! Due to continual growth, this fast paced agency located in the Northern suburbs, is looking for an experienced consultant to join their fun team. You will enjoy catering to the international & domestic travel needs of a diverse range of clientele. In addition to cutting down on your commute, you will earn a top base salary + educational leave, travel discounts & more.
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All paid bookings between 13 – 24 February 2012 will go into the daily draw to win a $500 ezeego1 travel voucher. Includes all new and converted time limit bookings.

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