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First with the news

Wednesday 20th June 2012

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## NTIA tix for scholar

**THE** Australian Federation of Travel Agents has bolstered the prize pool for the 2012 Avis Travel Agent Scholarship, providing the winner with VIP entrance to the National Travel Industry Awards.

Already worth around \$40,000 in prizes, including QF Business class flights for two to New York & six nights accom, the recipient and a partner will be flown to Sydney for next year's NTIA event.

There, they'll be guests at the AFTA Chief Executive table.

The AFTA prize also includes a night's accommodation and breakfast, as well as limo airport to hotel return transfers in Sydney.

A guide was released last week aimed at encouraging agents from all walks of life to enter this year's Avis Scholarship (**TD** 13 Jun) - register at [avisscholarship.com](http://avisscholarship.com).

## Hawaiian Air direct to BNE

**HAWAIIAN** Airlines this morning confirmed its expansion plans for Australia with a new thrice weekly service into the Queensland capital due to launch before Christmas (**TD** breaking news).

The operation will add 40,000+ seats annually between Australia and Hawaii, lifting HA's total seat count from Australia by 38%.

CEO & president of the carrier, Mark Dunkerley said the Brisbane service "reflects the strength of the Queensland market", with passenger feed to come from the state, northern NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

Dunkerley flagged a new Aussie route to **Travel Daily** earlier this year, once the Sydney-Honolulu daily operation had been bedded down (**TD** 17 Feb).

"The new flights will build on the success of our existing service between Sydney and Honolulu and strengthen our offering as the leading airline between Australia and Hawaii," he said.

Over the past six months, HA has boasted load factors on its

only Australian route of 84% in and outbound, peaking at 96.9% in Oct, government stats show.

HA will operate 262-seat Boeing 767-300ER aircraft, with 18 Business and 244 Economy seats.

HA443 departs for Brisbane at 9:45am on Tue, Thu and Sun, arriving the following day at 4:00pm - allowing for onward connections Australia wide.

The HA444 return service will depart Brisbane at 6:35pm, and arrives into Honolulu at 7:50am.

Brisbane Airport welcomed HA which will become its 27th operating carrier.

Airport ceo Julieanne Alroe said three weekly Hawaiian flights was an "excellent beginning".

## TD Hawaiian winner

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mark Pearman from Epping Travel in NSW who is the lucky winner of four places at the Hawaiian Food Festival which will take place at Sydney's Grace Hotel this month.

Pearman was one of scores of poetic **TD** readers who put pen to paper in last week's Hawaii Tourism competition.

## Hayman has heart

**HAYMAN** Island is again promoting its "I Heart Hayman" travel industry deals leading in at \$325ppts for two nights accom, breakfasts and transfers - see the last page of today's **TD**.

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## InnerSea adds Hawaii

**SEATTLE-BASED** adventure cruise operator InnerSea Discoveries will operate its 76-pax *Wilderness Explorer* in the Hawaiian Islands from Nov 2013.

Seven night voyages will travel between Oahu and the Big Island.

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## 'Gaps' in cruise stats

**TOURISM** Australia is working with Tourism Research Australia to address "challenges" with the collection of cruising data, admitting gaps are hampering efforts to gain additional marketing funds for the booming tourism sector.

Speaking with **TD** at ATE in Perth yesterday, TA's Manager Industry Development Leigh Sorenson said to develop its relationships with "big cruise operators" a better understanding of statistics was necessary first.

"One of the challenges that we face at a national level is the cruise statistics are not great."

International Visitor Surveys are only captured at airports, he said, meaning cruise data when pax arrive and depart the country on a ship are being missed.

Sorenson said TA wants to have survey reports available at cruise terminals to address the issue.

"There's lots of gaps in the cruise statistics which makes it really hard for us to put a case forward, even internally, to justify what our markets should be looking at, cause we don't have the right ammunition or statistic to do so," he revealed to **TD**.

## Industry wins PMC battle

**THE** Federal Government last night was forced into an embarrassing backdown over the Passenger Movement Charge, following a concerted campaign backed by AFTA, ATEC, TTF and Flight Centre (**TD** 14 Jun).

While the \$8 increase to the PMC will still be implemented, it will no longer be indexed to inflation, with the government deciding late yesterday that it would not present the enabling amendment to parliament.

Earlier in the day the opposition agreed to reject the plan, and further lobbying saw the independents and the Greens also withdraw their support.

Full details haven't been made clear yet, but it appears that the promised \$61 million for Tourism Australia's Asian Marketing Fund (funded by the PMC increase) will

still be forthcoming, and the Greens have also insisted on a further amendment which will create a "regional tourism stimulus fund" for infrastructure such as walking trails and to lobby for direct international flights to non capital-city airports.

ATEC md Felicia Mariani said that the proposed CPI increase had been set to cause "ongoing damage to the industry for years to come", and hailed the united opposition to the impost from right across the sector.

"Hopefully this process for collaboration can become a successful blueprint for how this industry can work together to achieve real outcomes in future".

AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury's **TD** column today (see **page 7**) also hails the outcome, and the strong lobbying spearheaded by the TTF.

"We look forward to continuing our working relationship with the TTF in the future to effect change," Westbury said.

## Prowse Grand Slam

**KEITH** Prowse has packages to the 2013 Australian Open in Jan priced from \$596ppts, including two nights accom and session tickets - see [keithprowse.com.au](http://keithprowse.com.au).

## Virgin's fifth A330

**VIRGIN** Australia has officially taken delivery of its newest A330-200 which arrived in Melbourne last night after a non-stop 20 hour and 30 minute flight all the way from Toulouse in France.

The aircraft is DJ's fifth wide-body A330.

## Emirates PayPal deal

**EMIRATES** is offering six clients who pay for their booking via PayPal the chance to win back the cost of their airfares (to the value of \$4,000) when using the promo code of 'AUPAYPAL', until 31 Jul.

## Rendezvous GDS code

**RENDEZVOUS** Hospitality Group will transition to a new GDS Chain Code this month, dropping its current WV and EC codes.

Rendezvous hotels with the WV code in Melbourne, Singapore and Shanghai will adopt the "RP" code on 20 Jun, followed by those with the EC code in Port Douglas, Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Auckland, Christchurch, and the Marque Hotels in Brisbane, Perth and Sydney on 28 Jun.

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## DJ gaining domestic market share

**VIRGIN** Australia raised its domestic market share by more than 2 percentage points in Apr while Qantas saw its share fall a fraction, according to newly released government data.

The Domestic Airline Activity report put out today by the BITRE shows DJ boosted its market share (based on revenue passenger kilometres) to 29.3% - up 2.2 points on the same time last year.

QF's share slipped 0.5 points to 43.2%, while Jetstar saw a 1.3 point increase to account for 22.6% of the major carrier - meaning the Qantas Group was still above the Joyce/Dixon 65% "line in the sand".

Tiger Airways has seen a market share fall of over 50% on last year (due to its restricted local flight movements enforced by CASA), now down to just 3%.

Overall, there were 4.61 million passengers carried domestically in Apr, with revenue passenger kms

topping 5.43 billion (+1.4% y-o-y), capacity surging 3.3%, and load factors fell 1.4 points to 77.5%.

Sydney was the busiest domestic airport, accounting for 22% of all movements, followed by Melbourne (19.6%), Brisbane (14.7%), Perth (8%), Adelaide (5.8%) and the Gold Coast (4.3%).

## TA at cruise3sixty '13

**TOURISM** Australia will return to the cruise3sixty cruise industry conference next year after its debut in Fort Lauderdale in Apr.

Manager Industry Development Leigh Sorenson told **TD** Tourism Australia would be represented at the Vancouver event in 2013 as it continues to build awareness of its recently added cruise module for Aussie Specialists.

He said TA's cruise strategy was to encourage inbound sellers to promote pre and/or post accom and touring, tied in with a cruise.

## HK ready for cheap air

**HONG** Kong residents have thrown their support behind the launch of Jetstar Hong Kong in 2013, with 8 out of 10 locals agreeing the location will benefit from increased air competition.

Other findings from a new survey commissioned by JQ Hong Kong indicate 3/4's of the 700 residents polled thought LCCs would open up more opportunities for people to fly, & 70% agreed that current airfares to/from Hong Kong were too expensive.

Jetstar Hong Kong believes that average fares will be half that of current full service carriers once its flights debut.

"These survey results show a strong appetite among Hong Kong residents for more travel options, especially in the low fares part of the market," said incoming ceo of the Jetstar Group Jayne Hrdlicka.

"There is a lot of latent demand that can be unlocked through lower fares," Hrdlicka added.

## Seven new head offices

**THE** Travel Compensation Fund has added seven new head office and two branch locations in the last two weeks.

Flight Centre has added a new Escape Travel outlet in Lismore, NSW, while Vic additions incl Bendigo Travel & Cruise; Travel Destiny, Oakleigh; and Great Getaway Travels of Roxburgh Park.

There are two new WA agencies: The Well Connected Traveller - Your Travel Concierge in Shelley, and Leisuren Travel & Tours in Butler, plus there's also Tropical Cairns Holiday in Cairns Qld and BJ Star Group in Wentworthville NSW.

## Window Seat

**IF YOU'VE** ever wondered how much it costs to operate the US President's jet, more commonly known as Air Force One, approx figures have been released via a Congressional Research Report.

The specially fitted aircraft costs the US Air Force \$179,750 per hour to operate in flight.

Taxpayers cover the cost of non-political party official business - including the Obama family's holidays.

**INFLIGHT** entertainment has probably gone a step too far with the latest idea from Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary, who has said he hopes to launch a tablet app allowing onboard access to, among other things, pornographic entertainment.

O'Leary said the adult movies would only be available on handheld devices via a special Ryanair app which would also include games and other movies, not on seatback video screens.

**COMBINING** sports is often a vehicle for the inventive, and Las Vegas being the motherland of crazy invention naturally saw the creation of Sin City's newest tourist attraction "Golf with Guns" set to delight the masses.

The Clark County Shooting Complex has developed a 30-station clay shooting course.

Customers ride between targets on golf carts, with each station featuring a unique backdrop, such as the Las Vegas strip itself.

And with a website tagline saying "On Target for Family Fun," gather up the young-uns and go!

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**Travel Daily**  
on location at  
**ATE, Perth**

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from the Australian Tourism Exchange, courtesy of Tourism Australia and Qantas.

**TOURISM** Australia's pact with Indigenous Business Australia has seen 13 of the country's leading Aboriginal tourism operators from four territories and states participate at this year's ATE.

Some of the Indigenous Tourism Champions here include Nitmiluk Tours from the NT and Kimberley Dreamtime Adventure Tours of WA.

Those participating under the ITC Program are showcasing products such as luxury camping & eco-4WD tours - and all feature on TA's recently launched portal [aboriginaltourism.australia.com](http://aboriginaltourism.australia.com).

The website acts as a detailed guide to Aboriginal experiences in Australia (covering accom, tours and experiences) & is also a great tool for the travel trade, providing info on itinerary planning, pricing how to book and where to go.

## Inspiring short trips

**INSPIRING** Journeys has rolled out a series of shorter itineraries for time-poor Aussie travellers.

Complementing its existing program for 2012/13 are new three- and five-day Top End trips taking in Kakadu and a five-day Red Centre journey exploring Uluru and Alice Springs.

Additionally, the fledgling tour operator has introduced its very first day tour - an insight into the Indigenous culture at Uluru.

The Rising Sun tour departs Ayers Rock Resort an hour before dawn (returns at midday), is led by a local Anangu guide, and is priced at \$175pp.

Announced at the Australian Tourism Exchange, md Tammy Marshall said the initiative shows the firm's support for the domestic tourism industry by introducing global partners to a new & special way of experiencing Australia."

She said the new products gave travel agents "an exciting new selling tool" domestically.

The Colour of Red itinerary is \$2,480ppts, ex Alice Springs or Uluru, for departures between 01 Jun and 25 Oct 2012.

## NSW looking splendid in WA



**ABOVE:** Destination NSW's stand at ATE has proven to be a magnet for delegates, serving up a virtual smorgasboard of "made-in-NSW" treats, ranging from gelato, to cookies, to bush spices and 'bliss balls', accompanied by hundreds of hot drinks.

The stand is home to 40 tourism operators from New South Wales.

CEO Sandra Chipchase yesterday said interest from buyers has shown Sydney and NSW "remains as a must-do and highlight

destination experience for travellers from key international markets."

On Tue, Destination NSW confirmed it would host ATE 2013 with the NSW tourism industry "primed and eager to capitalise on the business opportunities that will be created," she said.

**Pictured** here at the impressive DNSW stand, from left are Elissa Tyrrell, Helen Marinic, Sandra Chipchase, chief executive officer and Sarah Williams.





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Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from Lausanne as we "Get Swissed" with agents from Australia and New Zealand.

A FEW minutes away by train from Montreux are the towns of Vevey and the larger city of Lausanne, both of which were visited by the "Get Swissed" groups today.

Vevey, it may be safe to say, probably isn't high on many people's radars, but it should be as there is plenty to see, do, eat, drink and witness in the picturesque lakeside settlement.

The town may best be known for a spectacular wine festival, for centuries held only every 25 years, which is occurring slightly more frequently nowadays for the huge tourism appeal it brings - the last one took place in 1999.

For each occurrence, a massive 16,000-seat stadium is built, with nightly shows to sold-out crowds detailing the history of wine making in the region.

According to locals, it is very hard to obtain tickets, but as the next one is scheduled for 2019, there may be time to look into the possibility should it be your cup of tea, or glass of wine.

Lausanne is widely known as the home of the International Olympic Committee, and an official museum dedicated to the history of the Games is available, featuring replicas of all of the Olympic torches dating back to the first modern Games in 1894.

The torch for the upcoming London 2012 Olympics will be added to the collection shortly.

Tomorrow, *Travel Daily* will be coming to you faster than normal, and to find out what that means, read tomorrow's edition!

Wednesday 20th Jun 2012

## Mighty new THL brand

**TOURISM** Holdings Limited has introduced a new value brand product for Australia and NZ called Mighty Cars and Campers.

THL already operates other camper products in this market, incl Maui, Britz and new addition Kea Campers Australia (*TD* Thu).

Mighty offers a selection of sleepervans and campervans that accommodate between two and four people, targeted primarily at the "value-seeking traveller."

It's 'hero-product' is the Mighty Jackpot, with it and other vehicles able to be booked at nine Aussie depots & four in NZ, from 25 Jun.

## WAITOC into WITA

**THE** Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council has partnered with fellow Indigenous tourism organisations in Canada, Nepal, New Zealand, Sweden & the US to form a World Indigenous Tourism Alliance.

The allied front culminates after years of discussions, with members to work under a code of universal values that it expects will lead to improved global social, economic and environmental outcomes.

"The time is right for Indigenous tourism to take a more active role in the development of tourism," WAITOC chairperson Neville Poelina said yesterday.

"We will be seeking to work cooperatively with governments and the tourism industry in a manner that puts the development of Indigenous tourism in the hands of Indigenous peoples," he added.

# Sunshine Coast stall standout



**SUNSHINE** Coast Destination Ltd has been proudly showing off its brand new stall at Australian Tourism Exchange, designed to encapsulate & showcase the laid back lifestyle of the destination.

Partners joining SCDL at ATE include Australia Zoo, The Discovery Group, Q-Tour, Oceans Mooloolaba and Tourism Noosa.

SCDL marketing and brand director Veronica Rainbird said that as part of ongoing development initiatives, SCDL would also be introducing four new products to buyers at ATE, resulting from its Internationally Ready Program run in partnership with Tourism Queensland.

Those operators included Rumba Resort Caloundra, Netanya Noosa, Treehouses of Montville

and Portobello by the Sea, while The Ginger Factory has also joined SCDL in a series of meetings.

Rainbird is **pictured** above (centre) with colleagues Gemma O'Brien (left) and Vynka Hutton.

## ATAG appointment

**ADVENTURE** Tours Australia Group has appointed Pieter Bosch as general manager PEAK Australia - Destination Management Co.

The position will see Bosch in charge of the operational teams in Alice Springs, Darwin & Perth, working with the Melbourne PEAK team and current gm Joanna Chronis.

Commencing 30 Jul, Bosch will eventually be based at ATAG's operation in Alice Springs.

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## QF cans SYD-Newman

**QANTAS** has dropped its once weekly 737-800 flight between Sydney and the WA mining town of Newman, reportedly due to poor forward bookings.

## Relais & Chateaux at ILTM



**ABOVE:** The Relais & Chateaux hospitality group was a first time exhibitor at the International Luxury Travel Market held in Shanghai earlier this month (**TD** 05 Jun), as part of a concerted push into Asian markets.

R&C now includes four iconic Australian properties as well as six top NZ lodges and Tahiti's Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa, and the group's Director for Australia, Natasha Granath, said the continued growth in Asian tourism and business travel was helping offset declines in visitor arrivals from traditional markets such as Europe and the US.

Saffire, qualia, Huka Lodge and more were showcased to ILTM visitors from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, India and Australia and the roadshow also continued with R&C holding subsequent events in Beijing and

Tokyo the week after.

**Pictured** above at ILTM are Stephane Junca, R&C Director Asia; Angeline Tang, Director of Sales Asia Pacific; Annie-Claude Bergonzoli, Director Southern & East Africa & Indian Ocean; and Natasha Granath, Director Australia NZ and South Pacific.

## Intrepid Conn. rejig

**GROUPS** of eight or more on Intrepid Connections' Red Centre and Top End trips in 2012/13 will be hosted to "improve service to clients", the firm has announced.

The initiative aims to also lessen the need for pax to participate in camp and cooking duties.

The company has also upgraded the program to include full linen services, use camps with power and better interior lighting, camp menu improvements and added Australian wines at dinner.

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## Accommodation Updates

**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).



**Hotel Representation Australia** has this month signed the **4 Rivers Floating Lodge** in Cambodia to its portfolio of properties. It's located in Tatai, halfway between Bangkok and Phnom Penh next to the Thailand border. Outdoor luxury has been redefined with the resorts' numerous tented villas, each measuring a generous 45sqm with high-end furnishings, fully equipped bathrooms, sundeck, flat-screen TV's and wifi connection. More on the resort at [www.ecolodges.asia](http://www.ecolodges.asia).



The "Perfect Guy" is no longer a myth and can be found at the **MGallery V Villas Hua Hin** in Thailand via personalised 24-hour butler services that leave the rest in their wake. The resort consists of just 13 secluded pool villas ensuring every guest need is met and exceeded, with traditional Thai values. Like the resort at [facebook.com/vvillashuahin](https://facebook.com/vvillashuahin).



The revamped **Silversands** restaurant at the **Muri Beach Club Hotel** in Rarotonga, Cook Islands has recently reopened following an extensive research project into traditional Polynesian taste sensations. The result, a brand new menu entitled "A Taste of Polynesia" has been permanently adopted following a successful 6-week trial.

## More outlet bargains

**AUSSIE** shoppers are set to be even more thrilled when visiting the USA, with the addition of a new Premium Outlets operation near Boston, Massachusetts.

Merrimack Premium Outlets includes 100 stores offering top brands such as Ann Taylor, Gap, Tommy Hilfiger and more, and is the 59th US Premium Outlet.

## No VX/VA blockers

**VIRGIN** America has informed the US Dept of Transportation that its proposed codeshare deal with Virgin Australia (**TD** 12 Jun) has received "non-objections" from polled carriers, which included Qantas ally American Airlines.

"Accordingly, Virgin America requests expedited consideration of its Application," VX said.

## Travel Expert - University of Ballarat



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## AFTA UPDATE

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

**FOR** the first time in a long time the travel and tourism industry has come together with a juggernaut effort to stop the Passenger Movement Charge (PMC) increase and get the Federal Government to remove the annual CPI increase that was put forward in the federal budget.

AFTA together with the Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) have pushed very hard to effect changes to the PMC Bill.

The campaign to "Stop Taxing Tourism" has been significant with the TTF lobbying every day since the budget measure was announced.

It has now become clear that the Government will remove the CPI increase from the PMC Bill which is scheduled to pass through the parliament today (Wednesday 20th May).

This change came about as a result of the Opposition and the Greens supporting the proposed amendment by the Opposition to remove the CPI increase.

I am not doing this campaign credit by only writing a few lines in this column, as the amount of work, lobbying, negotiation, discussion and effort has been immense and spearheaded by the team at the TTF.

This campaign heavily funded by AFTA and TTF and with the support of Flight Centre directly and other travel and tourism groups have meant that the campaign has been a huge success.

It demonstrates that when the travel and tourism industry comes together with a clear and direct plan we can make a difference and impact legislation in the federal parliament.

AFTA is most pleased with the outcome and look forward to continuing our working relationship with the TTF in the future to effect change and ensure that when it is needed efforts are focused and targeted so to ensure that we actually get an outcome.

For travel agents this will mean that consumers will be hit with the \$8 per departure increase from 1 July. The PMC will rise from \$47 to \$55.

But, there will now not be an automatic increase on the PMC every year as a result of this change that will now not include the CPI increase.

Preventing an annual PMC rise gives more certainty to the travelling public and international visitors, who already pay more than double what the government spends each year on passenger processing.

This also means that travel and tourism businesses can now plan with more certainty knowing how the PMC will be applied into the future.



## EK BKK/KUL/SIN deals

**EMIRATES** has today released special Business and Economy Class fares to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, as well as add-ons to Langkawi, Penang, Kota Kinabalu, Kuching and Miri.

Business class leads in at \$3300 return SYD-BKK, with the deals valid for sales 20 Jun-09 Jul - see [emiratesagents.com/au](http://emiratesagents.com/au).

## Wotif extremely Appy

**ONLINE** accommodation provider Wotif.com yesterday released its first App for the Apple iPhone and iPod touch - and already it's ranked as the number one free travel app on the Australian iTunes store.

The company said that with one in ten accommodation bookings in Australia made via Wotif.com, "we knew that this app would hold mass appeal, but we're still impressed with the response".

The app provides real-time access to deals from Wotif's nearly 30,000 accommodation options worldwide, as well as detailed hotel descriptions, photos, amenities and directions.

It utilises the smartphones' inbuilt GPS to allow customers to search for 'Hotels Near Me' within a three kilometre radius and make a booking on the spot, with instant confirmation.

## 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**.

Supplier enquiries for notices: [advertising@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@traveldaily.com.au)

## BA boosts Phoenix

**BRITISH** Airways will add a seventh weekly flight between London Heathrow and Phoenix Arizona in the USA, with the extra 747-400 flight to debut 01 Dec.

Wednesday 20th Jun 2012



**ABOVE:** Finnair recently hosted Harvey World Travel South Yarra; Sandra Reig, Executive Edge; Kathleen Cosford, Reho Travel; and Raewyn Mackie, Finnair.

Harvey World Travel South Yarra; Sandra Reig, Executive Edge; Kathleen Cosford, Reho Travel; and Raewyn Mackie, Finnair.

Participants enjoyed a half day sightseeing tour of the Finnish capital, as well as a range of events hosted by Helsinki Tourism.

They took part in a dinner cruise to visit the outer islands and archipelago along with an afternoon visit to Soumenlinna Islands and a presentation by Helsinki Airports including a tour of the business class lounge.

**Pictured** above from left are Nathan Darke, Andrew Jones Travel; Elaine Williamson, Wings Away Travel; Shane Miles, Platinum Travel; Paul Scambler, American Express Corporate; Joanne Tomasi, Aquamarine Travel; Nicole Bowes, Flight Centre Marketing; James Jang,

## VisitScotland push

**VISITSCOTLAND** has announced its biggest ever global marketing campaign, in conjunction with the upcoming release of the Disney-Pixar animated film 'Brave'.

The promotion will showcase all parts of Scotland through a new TV and cinema advertisement, a new website and marketing and events activity in the US, UK, France and Germany.

The new ad, which will be the first time Scotland has been promoted on US TV in a decade, is at [traveldaily.com.au/videos](http://traveldaily.com.au/videos).

## NRL Rd 15 Winner

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Kate Foster**

from *Travel The World*

Kate is the top point scorer for Round 15 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**



## WIN A TRIP TO GREECE

Throughout June, **Travel Daily** is giving one lucky travel consultant reader the chance to win an amazing 7-day escorted "Highlights of Greece" tour, courtesy of **Sun Island Tours** and **Etihad Airways**.

The prize includes two return economy airfares to Athens with Etihad, airport transfers, six nights' accommodation, six breakfasts, three dinners, tours with licensed guide as per itinerary, entrance fees and local taxes.

Every day **Travel Daily** will be featuring a photo of a Sun Island Tours' staff member enjoying a different destination from their brochures. You just have to identify the city or landmark and email us your answer. There will be 20 questions in total, which will also be posted on our website. In the final (20th) day you will be asked a creative question.

At the end of the month the subscriber with the most correct answers and the most creative response to the final question will win.



Photo 13

**Where is Karen today?**

Email your answers to: [sunislandcomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:sunislandcomp@traveldaily.com.au)

Hint! Go to Sun Island Tours' Facebook page or visit [www.sunislandtours.com.au](http://www.sunislandtours.com.au)

Click here for more information



### Soneva residences

**THE** Soneva Group, newly formed following the divestment of the Six Senses and Evason brands, has announced it will focus on the development of resorts with private residences.

This will see the company relinquish management of Soneva Gili in the Maldives, which was the only property in the portfolio without private homes.

Chairman Sonu Shivdasani said the group was looking at other "remote but accessible islands" in the Maldives to create a new resort, with the potential to sell overwater private residences in line with the new strategy.

### HINN Express in Asia

**HOLIDAY** Inn Express has officially opened its first hotel in Southeast Asia - the Holiday Inn Express Bangkok Siam.

The InterContinental Hotels Group brand will add another 12 hotels in the region by 2014, in Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

"Holiday Inn Express offers the smart traveller everything they need without the frills," said IHG South East Asia's Alan Watts.

### P&O Vanuatu sleepover

**P&O** Cruises has announced a new "overnight Pacific Islands experience" which will give passengers the opportunity to see Port Vila at night.

An overnight Vanuatu stay has been added to three 11-night *Pacific Dawn* voyages ex Brisbane, and will allow pax to choose from three evening tours including a Vila sunset cruise, Melanesian Feast and Cultural Performance, and the A Toast of Vila which showcases local cuisine.

"Port Vila already rates highly among our passengers, so we think they'll be thrilled to stay longer and explore more of this part of Vanuatu," said Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry.

### UL lifts London

**SRILANKAN** Airlines is set to increase frequencies to Europe including an expansion of London Heathrow services to 12 per week during the Christmas peak.

Currently operating daily, the extra UL A330-200 services will operate 13 Dec-15 Jan.

SriLankan is also set to double its operations to Moscow via DXB to four per week effective 13 Dec.

## Rocking Counsellors famil



**ABOVE:** This team of Travel Counsellors - aka the 'Kimberley Kids' - recently enjoyed an exclusive Red Centre famil courtesy of Sunlover Holidays.

The five day trip was the culmination of a competition earlier this year which saw agents divided into teams, competing against each other in various challenges to secure the most Sunlover bookings.

The group visited the highlights of iconic places including Alice Springs, Kings Canyon and Uluru.

**Pictured** above from left are Matthew Cox, IT Manager; Travel

Counsellors Samantha Slattery and Heidi Winkley; Hannah Tabak of Sunlover Holidays; TC Mareesa Florek and seated in the front row are Scott Mayne, TC and Emma of Voyages.

### Hard Rock Abu Dhabi

**HARD** Rock International has announced the development of a new five star Hard Rock Hotel in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi.

The 378 room luxury property will be located within the seafront Corniche precinct and marks Hard Rock Hotels' "exciting entrance into the Middle East".

## Advertising Assistant - Temp 3 month contract

**Travel Daily**, Australia's favourite travel industry publication and its associated titles **Cruise Weekly**, **Pharmacy Daily** and **Business Events News** are looking for an advertising assistant on a short-term basis to fill in for an annual leave position on a three month contract.

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# Get Swissed grapes make the sweetest wines

**THE** uphill climb may have been long and arduous, but the rewards came at the top as the Get Swissed agents enjoyed a fine lunch and equally fine wines high in the hills overlooking the vineyards of the lakeside town of Vevey.

Accessing the town via a casual boat ride on Lake Geneva, a stroll around the town saw the groups discovering quaint little art galleries, cafes, market stalls and live entertainment via a church choir performing on the steps.

An interesting quirk to the town of Vevey is a rather large pop-art installation in the form of a giant table fork, prongs nestled gently off the water edge.

The fork is eight metres high and weighs 500kgs.

Installed to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the local Nestlé

chocolate factory, the pop art item was designed by Vevey visionary Jean-Pierre Zaugg in 1995.

Initially, the locals hated it and petitioned to have it removed, before a greater number of pro-fork fans lobbied for its return soon afterward, where it has remained since.

After lunch, the groups travelled by train to nearby Lausanne, home to the Int'l Olympic Committee, for a more in-depth walking tour, which included a visit to a floating Olympic museum.

After some free time to shop and for some to merely drop, dinner was held back in Montreux at a special "cook your own" steakhouse, with personal coal-fired grills and a variety of sauces.

Along with more wine, it was a fine way to end a delightful day.

**BELOW:** From left, Sarah Young, Jess Rogers, Breanna Ewen, Nathan Saegi and Jessica Halliday in what they call the "Lisa-pose", after group leader Lisa James.

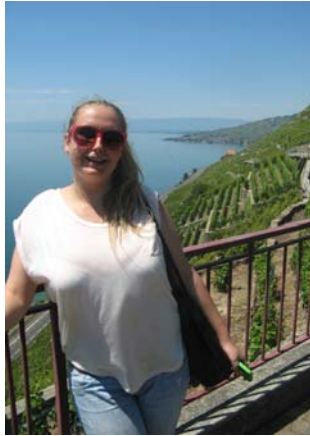


**BELOW:** Jordana Baron from Flight Centre admiring a statue of silent-film era legend and Vevey resident Charlie Chaplin.

**BELOW:** Life's good, eh Noel? Noel Donohoe from Breakaway Travel at ease with a morning libation on the way to Vevey.



**ABOVE:** Breanna Ewen from Flight Centre Kingston was meant to be an Olympic torch runner, but the Lausanne Olympic Museum staff wouldn't let her run off with it.



**ABOVE:** Siobhan Foley from Holidays on Location laps up the sun and scenery overlooking the vineyards of Vevey, near Montreux.



**RIGHT:** Sarah Young pointing to a large bronze she can't remember acquiring, but which was an appropriate "ouchy" reference prior to boarding the Lausanne metro to the suburb of "Ouchy".



**BELOW RIGHT:** Karen Borg from CIT Holidays and Leanne Mackenzie of NRMA Travel await delivery of their personal coal grill to fire up their steak for dinner in Montreux.



**RIGHT:** Rosemary Allison is ever a lover of curious art (left), but still couldn't resist adopting a Contiki-esque pose to make the most of what might be the world's only water-based giant fork.



**Travel Daily** is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry. Sign up for a free 14 day trial subscription at [www.traveldaily.com.au](http://www.traveldaily.com.au).

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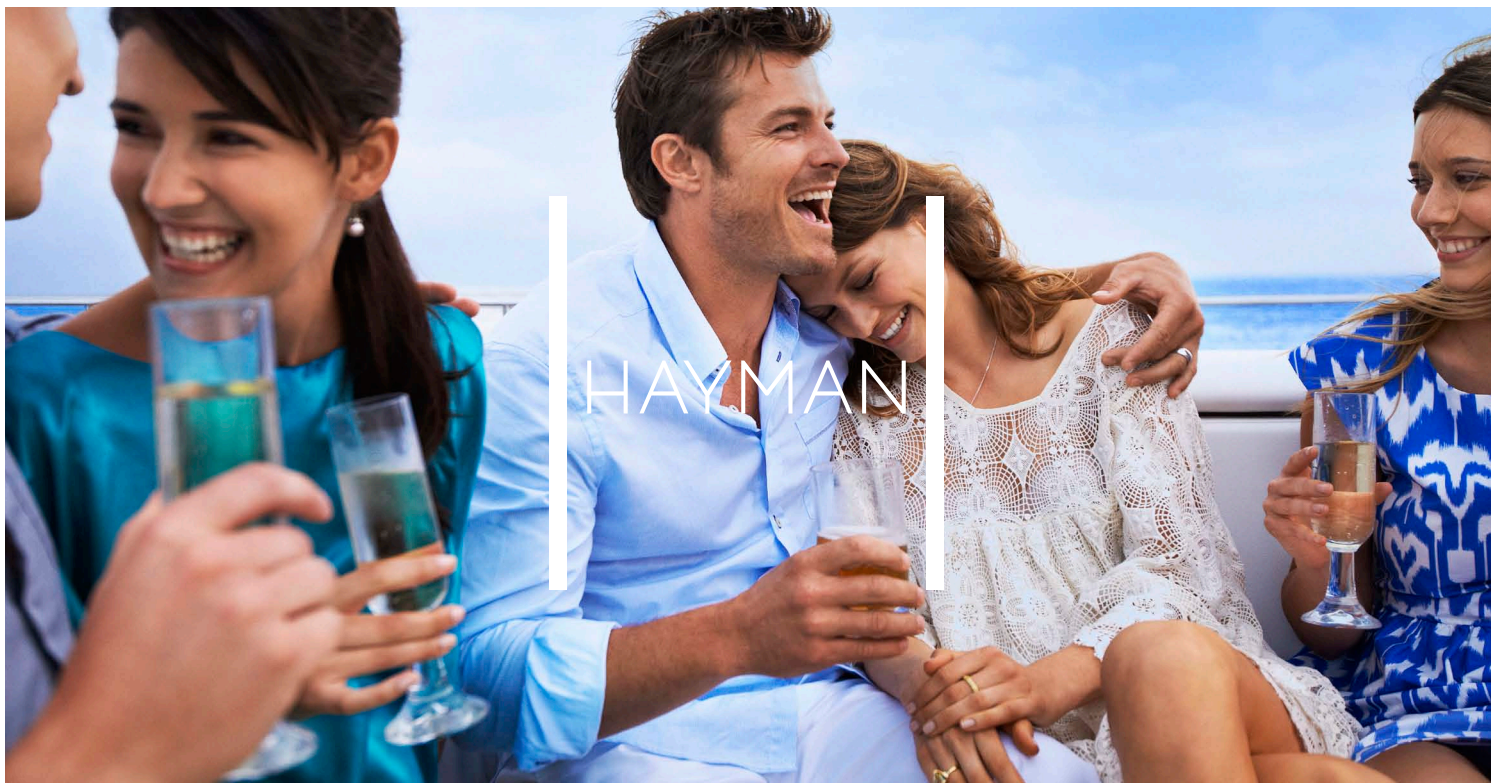
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