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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 15th May 2012

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## Dive into travel

THE industry is being invited to attend the upcoming Oceania Dive Travel & Watersports Expo which will take place in Sydney on 08-09 Sep this year - details on **last page** of today's **TD**.

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## Fiji tells Qantas: get serious

THE Fijian government yesterday upped the ante in its ongoing battle with Qantas over the Air Pacific shareholding, with Fiji's attorney-general and tourism minister, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum releasing "strictly private & confidential" correspondence from Qantas ceo Alan Joyce.

Sayed-Khaiyum confirmed that the Fijian government remains keen to acquire the Qantas 46% stake in FJ "and is committed to negotiating a sale price...in good faith and in a fair and transparent manner."

Speaking to media in Suva he accused Qantas of "being cute" by making a 'proposal' for the sale of its shares rather than a formal 'offer' under the existing shareholders agreement.

The attorney-general confirmed that QF proposed a \$75m price for its stake in May 2010 - but Fiji is disputing this value, with

Sayed-Khaiyum saying "yes, the Fiji Government wants to buy the shares, but at the right price".

In Joyce's confidential letter, he notes "with disappointment and considerable concern" the unilateral decree issued by the Fijian govt (**TD** 26 Mar) which he said "is clearly specifically targeted at Qantas' shareholding in Air Pacific".

The Qantas ceo requests details on how the Fijian govt intends to apply the Decree to Air Pacific "whilst also taking into account Qantas' reasonable requirements to protect its significant interests in the company."

Qantas isn't adding further commentary on the issue, saying its position on the potential sale of its stake has not changed over the last two years.

## oneworld RTW match

THE oneworld airline alliance has reacted swiftly to rival Star Alliance's 15th birthday discounts (**TD** yesterday), last night releasing its own special fares.

Effective immediately the economy class oneworld Explorer and Global Explorer base fares ex Australia have been reduced by 15% for sales to 31 May, leading in with the 26,000 mile Global Explorer at \$2,805 plus taxes.

The GDS has been updated and fully reflects the changes.

## Another huge issue

**Travel Daily** today has nine pages of news and photos, including pages from '**Get Swissed**' and the **Dubai mega famil** plus full pages: (**click**)

- TMS Asia Pacific jobs
- AA Appointments jobs
- ODEX 2012

## Hayman appointment

**HAYMAN** Island has today announced the appointment of Bridget Griffiths as its new Associate Director of Sales.

Sydney-based Griffiths will manage Hayman's international sales activity as well as leading its conference, incentive and wedding business segments.

She moves from her previous role at Four Seasons Sydney's Sales Manager UK/Europe.

## BA denies BKK change

**BRITISH** Airways says it has no intention of reinstating flights between Sydney and Bangkok, with the route now operated by Qantas under the QF/BA Joint Services Agreement.

BA was responding to rumours about a possible resumption which is believed to have been reflected in some recent draft crew rosters.

Qantas will downgrade the aircraft used on the SYD-BKK route to an A330 from 10 Jun.

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Jacques-Louis DAVID Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul, crossing the Alps at Great St Bernard Pass, 20 May 1800 1803 (detail) Versailles, musée national du château (MV 8550) © RMN (Château de Versailles) / Franck Raux



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**SUN ISLAND TOURS**  
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**Travel Daily**  
on location in  
Fiji

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Air Pacific from Nadi where Tourism Fiji is holding its annual Bula Fiji Tourism Exchange.

**AIR Pacific** - soon to be known as Fiji Airways - continued to roll out announcements about its evolution at BFTE this morning, including "key new strategic partnerships" with Panasonic, Weber Aircraft and Singapore Airlines Engineering Company.

These businesses will all contribute their services or premium products to help FJ with its new Airbus fleet which officially takes to the skies in Jun 2013.

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## AFTA scores on training

A NEW industry-specific "Certificate III in Travel" is being hailed as a major milestone for the retail travel sector, after the qualification's official endorsement by the National Skills Standard Council.

The move follows years of lobbying by AFTA Education and Training director Rick Myatt, with AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury saying the move "will assist in laying a strong foundation of knowledge for a new breed of learners entering the industry".

He said that the previous labelling of industry qualifications had been seen as a barrier to students pursuing travel as a career choice - which had in turn had a compounding effect on the ongoing industry skills shortage.

The Certificate III in Travel "will help to create a clear career pathway not only into travel education but onwards and into jobs in the travel industry," he said.

Myatt said that with the framework for travel now in place, "we are moving ahead with further realignment of competency units under this

qualification to the industry skills needs," via consultation with agency groups, Service Skills Australia, the AFTA ATEP network of travel educators and all levels of government.

The new qualification is part of the latest Tourism, Hospitality and Events training package which was endorsed on 20 Apr, and means that Travel now sits alongside existing certificates in Hospitality, Tourism, Events, Tour Wholesaling, Guiding, Catering and Holiday Parks and Resorts.

AFTA said the outcome clearly demonstrates the importance it places on education and appropriate qualifications that are effective for the future of travel agents and the industry.

More from AFTA on **page five**.

## Business Events leaders

**BUSINESS** Events Sydney last night formally launched a new Future Leaders program, with four academics given grants to attend global business events.

The move aims to identify and respond to trends, with the inaugural awardees to develop networks, identify bid opportunities and "explore the structure and purposes of conferences and congresses.

More in tomorrow's **Business Events News** - subscribe free at [www.businesseventsnews.com.au](http://www.businesseventsnews.com.au).

## Skywest EGM called

**SKYWEST** Airlines will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting in Singapore on 30 May to approve Virgin Australia's investment and transaction of shares (**TD** 10 Apr).

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## Senior Consultant

Specialist wholesaler Eastern Europe Travel / Russian Travel Centre has an exciting position available (Sydney CBD) for a senior consultant.

We seek an enthusiastic, experienced consultant with a warm, friendly manner and a genuine interest in our destinations. Previous wholesale experience is not necessary and retail consultants are welcome to apply. We offer an attractive salary commensurate with experience, the opportunity for advancement and the opportunity to regularly experience our destinations.

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Please forward applications to [mj.tonkin@eetbtravel.com](mailto:mj.tonkin@eetbtravel.com)

## Star Alliance validator

**THE** Star Alliance has today unveiled a new Fare Product Validator Tool, allowing agents to easily verify the distance and route of client journeys when booking Star Alliance fare products.

The new system will also help agents find alternative complying routes if required - for details see [fare-validator.staralliance.com](http://fare-validator.staralliance.com).

## Coolum renamed

**THE** former Hyatt Coolum on the Qld Sunshine Coast is to be renamed Palmer Resort Coolum.

The property is now owned by mining billionaire Clive Palmer, with gm Bill Schoch saying the new name will "better reflect the destination and the guest offerings now and into the future."

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**Honolulu from \$299\* pp plus taxes.**  
\*Conditions Apply. Taxes approx. \$325\* - \$420\*pp.

**CLICK HERE for further details**

## Travel Daily on location in Dubai

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from the Dubai mega-family trip, courtesy of DTCM, Emirates and Arabian Adventures.

Travel Daily is this week witnessing a massive exercise in organisation on the ground in Dubai, as 280 Aussie & NZ agents are being successfully shepherded around this vibrant emirate.

After Sunday's high tea at sea, yesterday began with a view of the top of the world from the 124th floor of the Burj Khalifa.

From there, the agents were escorted around the massive Dubai Mall which included the jaw-dropping Kidzania, Sega Republic and 1,200 shops, before their next stop - Wild Wadi Water Park or Aquaventure Water Park.

Check out a selection of our exclusive photos on page six.

## MAS baggage move

**MALAYSIA** Airlines has simplified its cabin baggage rules as part of its pending move into the oneworld airline alliance.

Effective immediately guests in Economy class will be allowed a single piece of cabin baggage weighing up to 7kg, instead of the previous 5kg.

Premium passengers will have an allowance of 2 x 7kg pieces, and in addition in all classes passengers can also bring onboard either a notebook/laptop or briefcase as well as a small handbag and a walking stick.

Those travelling with infants may also bring a bag containing baby food and nappies weighing up to 5kg, a carry cot and a fully collapsible stroller.

MH is scheduled to formally join oneworld by the end of 2012 and has already developed bilateral links with several carriers including CX and RJ, as well as adding its network to the Global Explorer RTW fare.

## Eurostar expanding

**EUROSTAR** is planning to offer 'Chunnel' services to around 10 new destinations in Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and France over the next five years.

Chief executive Nicolas Petrovic said by 2016 and 2017 he'd hope people would consider taking the Eurostar to London from locations such as Frankfurt and Cologne, Amsterdam, Geneva or Lyon and Marseille, rather than travelling the routes by air.

## New Dunedin hotel

A **NEW** 28-storey waterfront hotel is being planned for Dunedin in the NZ South Island.

Planning applications lodged this week confirm that the proposed five-star property would feature 215 guest rooms & 164 harbour view apartments, and is planned to open in 2015.

At this stage it's not known who will be operating the planned hotel, but a spokesperson for the developer said it would be "part of a branded chain".

## Wendy Wu for winter

**WENDY** Wu Tours has once again released a dedicated China winter brochure, with this year's offering including extra group tours as well as the introduction of land only FIT product.

There are 20 departures in total, with tours leading in at \$2,768pp including CZ flights ex Australia.

## Melbourne on top for Aus conventions

**MELBOURNE** has moved up nine places on the latest Country & City Ranking Report, to be 31st globally and 1st in Australia for conferences and congresses.

Victoria Minister for Tourism & Major Events Louise Asher said the 2011 International Congress & Convention Association report demonstrated that Melbourne's facilities and international appeal out ranked Sydney and Brisbane.



## Window Seat

**NOW** this is really getting away from it all.

A 40-year old man from Anchorage is planning to spend a year on an uninhabited island pretty much totally out of touch.

Charles Baird says he will build a small shed as shelter on Latouche Island in Alaska's Prince William Sound, and plans to hunt and fish to survive.

He won't be able to receive any messages at all during the sojourn, but plans to upload occasional messages via satellite to a Facebook page so his friends know he's still alive.

**MODERN** art can sometimes really just be, well, utter crap.

An exhibit at Hobart's Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), colourfully dubbed "the subversive adult Disneyland," is certainly getting up people's noses.

The Cloaca Professional, or "poo machine," was built by Belgian "visionary" Wim Delvoye, and is meant to imitate the human digestive system.

The machine is "fed" twice a day at one end and the food is ground up, just like in the human body, and at 2pm on the dot, produces an amount of usually offensive-smelling faeces.

Reports about "Australia's poo machine" are spreading like wildfire on the internet, showing there's no such thing as bad publicity.

**ABOUT** one in four air travellers leave their electronic devices on during take-off and landing, despite urgings from cabin crew to shut them down.

That's the findings of a recent US poll which found that 24% of respondents admitted to not complying with regulations because they were "finishing up a call/email/text" or had "missed the announcement".



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## Amadeus Altea showcase



**OVER 70** Australian aviation and travel professionals merged on the headquarters of Amadeus recently for the travel technology partner's first ever 'Unlocking Altea' event in Sydney.

Attendees were introduced to the unique benefits of the fast growing Amadeus Altea suite which hosts over 100 of the world's leading airlines - its first customer was Qantas.

Altea offers a range of unique benefits such as "a single PNR" which provides total transparency

## Air Tickets reappoints

**AIR** Tickets has welcomed the return of former NSW state mgr, Sharleen McGurk to an inside sales office role after taking seven months off as maternity leave.

of itinerary changes and real time visibility to shop, sell & service customers to both airlines and travel agents alike.

The event was hosted by Sari Vahakoski, Amadeus Australia's managing director.

**Pictured** above at the function from left are: Jerome Brownlow, Amadeus Asia Pacific; Vesna Panza, Finnair; Sanna Ruuskanen Finnair; Sunil Joseph, Amadeus Asia Pacific; David Hassan, Qantas; Malcom Pryor, Air Vanuatu and Peter Kelly, Qantas.

## Italian consular info

**THE** Italian Embassy in Australia has introduced a new customer call centre to provide an alternate option to visiting the Sydney-based consulate for enquiries.

The govt office says the Team Australia Customer Service will offer Aussie travellers planning on travelling to Italy help and advice.

Pre-recorded information is available in English or Italian, charged at the rate of \$1.65/min on 1902 941 600/641.

Users can also access a trained consultant at a cost of \$3.95/min during business hours, Mon to Fri.

A direct consultant service is also offered priced at \$12 for an unlimited duration call.

The Embassy says the call centre is "not intended to substitute, but is an additional service to those already offered by the consulates."

## Rocky holiday extra

**GUESTS** booking a four night or longer Rocky Mountaineer tour of Western Canada before 30 Jun will receive a credit of up to \$500 that can be put towards activities, extra nights, meals or even a trip on the Whistler Sea to Sky Climb.

Dubbed the 'Holiday Extra', the credit applies to guests booking RedLeaf (\$300), SilverLeaf (\$400) and GoldLeaf (\$500) service - some restrictions apply.

## NRL Rd 10 Winner

CONGRATULATIONS

**Victoria Cryer**

from Corporate Traveller

Victoria is the top point scorer for Round 10 of *Travel Daily's* NRL industry footy tipping competition and has won a complimentary pass for two people to Sydney Tower SKYWALK, courtesy of Merlin Entertainments Group.



## 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







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## Shangri-La.com rejig

**SHANGRI-LA** Hotels & Resorts has launched a new website with streamlined booking functionality after 8-months of development and 4-months of trials.

The rehashed version features fewer steps and integrates with social platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. iPad and iPhone apps are also expected to launch next month.

## Preferred Q1 growth

**PREFERRED** Hotel Group has reported a 24% year on year increase in hotel bookings made via distribution channels for the first quarter of 2012, while reservation revenue spiked 31%.

PHG added 22 independent properties to its ranks during the period, eight of which joined the Preferred Hotels & Resorts brand. Key gains in Q1 were achieved in Russia, Iraq and the Maldives.

## Perisher guns firing

**PERISHER** in the NSW Snowy Mountains is claiming to be the first ski resort in the country to fire up its snowmaking operations for the 2012 season.

Around 30 snowguns were in action last weekend in Perisher.

## 4 new Reagan routes

**THE** US Dept of Transportation has selected JetBlue, Southwest Airlines, Alaska Airlines and Virgin America to share new landing slots made available at Washington DC Reagan Airport (**TD** 14 Mar) by the Obama administration.

The new daily roundtrip DCA routes include a B6 service to San Juan, a WN service to Austin, an AS service to Portland and a VX service to San Francisco.

## Voyages fly free deal

**VOYAGES** of Discovery is offering a fly free promo to Buenos Aires, returning from London when booking its 63-night cruise aboard *Voyager*, departing 23 Feb 2013.

The deal ex Sydney includes two nights in Buenos Aires, one night in London, transfers and onboard credit, priced from \$12,595ppts.

To book call (02) 9959 1381 or see [au.voyagesofdiscovery.com](http://au.voyagesofdiscovery.com).

## Twin China ski resort

**STARWOOD** Hotels & Resorts has announced it will open a dual branded ski resort complex in China during Aug.

In a first for the brand The Westin Changbaishan Resort and Sheraton Changbaishan Resort will offer 257 and 296 rooms respectively with the Westin featuring ski in/ski out access.

The complex will also cater to meetings of all sizes with 37,000 square-feet of space including a 13,362 square-foot ballroom and pre- function space.



## AFTA UPDATE

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

**BY NOW** the dust has settled a little on all of the Federal Budget announcements but clearly and fittingly the dust is far from settled in relation to the increase in the passenger movement charge (PMC) and equally as bad the indexing of the PMC to increase by CPI for the future.

This means if this measure goes through the PMC will increase by CPI every year resulting in an increase in overseas air travel by the increase before any other cost is added to airfares. In somewhat simple terms this means that the PMC is forecasted to collect around \$1 billion by the year 2015 - that is based on the current forecast for passenger movements for both outbound Australians travelling and inbound travellers departing by air. The new PMC is set to increase to \$55.

AFTA, along with many of the tourism groups, will be pushing hard to get both the increase removed from the budget and the CPI increase stopped. The next sitting of both houses is set for 18 Jun, so this does not leave a lot of time to reach a positive outcome, but I can assure you that great efforts will be made to stop this.

I am sure some in the travel industry would wonder WHY would we be so worried about an \$8 per ticket increase. The reason is that this is clearly just the beginning.

The PMC is a very easy tax to increase as not many people will complain about it and generally consumers will be none the wiser as the PMC is just one of the taxes caught up on the line that says TAX on the itinerary.

Governments around the world are enjoying the ability to increase this type of tax at whim. In the UK they have gone so far as to differentiate the tax and how much is paid based upon the class of travel. The more towards the front you are the more tax you pay.

We would never want the Australian Government to go down this path which for one good reason is why we are trying to stop this tax. The PMC has a history that goes back to 1994 and has been increasing for various reasons over the year. In many cases the increase has been as a result of funding some government scheme or campaign, but once that campaign or scheme has stopped, the PMC has never been decreased.

This time, the Government has placed a disingenuous catch hypothecating \$61 million of the increase over four years to a marketing fund for Asia. Clearly this does nothing for the travel industry, but will help the inbound industry.

The increase is set to take in \$610 million over 4 years, so just 10% off set to the Asia fund. I'll bet you that in four years we don't see the PMC reduce by \$8.

Together with this mess there are a number of other nasty increases that will all end up on the ticket price. So as I have been saying in the consumer media - *"Once you have paid your tax and want to go on holiday, you just have to pay more tax and the Government will let you go"*.

Thin edge of the wedge and we will but try with our tourism industry friends to get this stopped.



## Wholesale Travel Call Centre Manager [Sydney Based]

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Applications close Friday 25 May 2012



## DestinationQ Forum

**QUEENSLAND** tourism companies have until Thu 24 May to register to participate in the state's first major tourism forum in 20 years - the DestinationQ Forum - being held on 25 & 26 May in Cairns at the Pullman Reef Hotel.

State Tourism Minister Jann Stuckey said the conference "is about restoring confidence and opportunity in the industry."

Stuckey said by working as one Queensland can be put "front of mind" as the number one tourism destination - [www.destq.com.au](http://www.destq.com.au).

## Captain's Venus cruise

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises will offer a unique cruise opportunity on 06 Jun 2012, taking in the transit of Venus as it travels across the face of the Sun - an event which won't occur for another 105 years.

The two-hour Venus Breakfast Cruise will be held on the *MV Sydney 2000* with special guest astronomy guru Doctor Desmond Barrett (and resident curator at Sydney Powerhouse Museum).

The cruise departs at 7:30am from Darling Harbour & is priced at \$55 per adult - (02) 9206 1111.

**BELOW:** Fiona Stewart from DTCM tames a camel she found at the Souk Market stalls at Dubai Mall, which is also home to the Kidzania child-friendly zone and the equally huge Sega Republic video game zone and much more.



**BELOW:** The aquarium and underwater zoo, home to more than 33,000 animals in its 10-million litre tank inside the Dubai Mall topped it off for Durdica Hosu from Jetset Glynde; Kirsty Johnstone, RACT Travelworld Burnie; and Cara Lovell from Andrew Jones Travel Hobart.



**ABOVE:** Shelley Skein and Sina Gruessel from Flight Centre Alice Springs at the Souks Maretplace.

**BELOW:** This daredevil agent is clearly regretting her decision to take a Leap of Faith at Aquaventure.



# Dubai's dizzying heights and underwater depths

**DAY** two of the first-ever Dubai mega-family trip got underway with agents much more refreshed after a full night of sleep enjoyed at much less than 40,000ft.

**Travel Daily** started the day at the top...literally.

Climbing 124 storeys in under 60 seconds in an elevator moving at 10 metres per second, the doors opened to find us with our heads nearly in the clouds, at the observation deck of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa.

Groups toured the exhaustingly huge Dubai Mall, just scratching the surface of the complex which boasts an ice-rink, cinemas, underwater zoo and aquarium.

Next ports of call saw the groups split into two for a taste of Dubai's fantastic water theme parks, with half hitting up the Wild Wadi Water Park in the shadow of the Burj Al Arab and the other half getting their Aquaventure on at the Atlantis The Palm complex.

After dinner, it was clearly bedtime, with another full day of activities slated for tomorrow.

**TD** will be there to bring it to you.

**BELOW:** AC/DC always said it was a long way to the top, but it doesn't seem so at the Burj Khalifa as the elevators climb at an ear-popping 10 metres per second.



**ABOVE:** Durdica Hosu of Jetset Glynde and Danielle Halliday from Flight Centre Colonnades play as hard as they work.

**RIGHT:** Josie Angove from Nightingale Travel about to put her rally driving skills to the test.



**ABOVE:** Cathy Natoli from Travelscene at Laze Away Travel promptly cleaned her dessert plate after a delicious dinner.

**BELOW:** Agent participants from SA, NT & Tasmania.





**ABOVE:** Sunlover Holidays held its annual 'STARS' event over five days in Tasmania late last month.

STARS sees Sunlover reward its top 60 travel agents with a famil to a domestic location, which this year also included 16 of the AOT Group's top performing staff from all areas of its business.

Participants arrived en masse into Launceston from which they branched out into groups on self-drive itineraries to Strahan, Cradle Mountain and Freycinet, before meeting up in Hobart for a gala award night held at MONA.

Highlights of the trip included quad biking at Lake St Clair NP, a

cruise on the Gordon River, the Wilderness Rail trip, a Wineglass Bay cruise and a visit to Dove Lake (above) at pristine Cradle Mtn.

### Skyward AFL tkt deal

**EMIRATES'** loyalty program Skywards is offering members the chance to burn miles on AFL three-game memberships, taking in matches featuring its sponsored team, Collingwood.

General admission membership is priced at \$65 plus 2,000 miles for nominated MCG games, or \$100 plus 4,000 miles for reserved seating.

Registrations for the deal end on 07 Jun - see [bit.ly/EKafitkts](http://bit.ly/EKafitkts).

### New Japan Mercure

**ACCOR** has opened the newly built 260-room Mercure Okinawa Naha hotel - the hotel giant's first property in Japan's southern islands Okinawa Prefecture.

The property boosts Accor's presence in Japan to nine hotels.

### Avalon double launch

**AVALON** Waterways christened its two newest river cruise ships in the Netherlands recently, *Avalon Vista* and *Avalon Visionary*.

The sister ships will operate on the Rhine & Danube and feature the company's Suite Ship concept which debuted last year on *Avalon Panorama*.

### Lord Howe promo

**DESTINATION** NSW has teamed up with Lord Howe Island Tourism Association on a 3-week campaign to promote QantasLink packages between 21 May-21 Sep.

The promo includes digital advertising and displays on sites such as YouTube, Ninemsn, Yahoo and National Geographic.

## Regional tourism needs creativity

**REGIONAL** destinations need to work harder to attract the tourist dollar, according to ATEC managing director Felicia Mariani.

Speaking to *Travel Daily* at the recent ATEC Symposium, Mariani praised the efforts of the Sunshine Coast in how the region hosted the forum, highlighting a number of initiatives that have been implemented to lure tourists.

"We've seen the Sunshine Coast have formed a partnership with Air New Zealand, and on 01 Jul they're going to have their first flight out of Auckland direct into the Sunshine Coast."

"That kind of creative thinking and those sorts of partnerships is what regional destinations have to start doing and I think these guys have been real leaders in that way," Mariani reiterated.

In paying tribute to the Sunshine Coast in hosting the Symposium,

### Millennium refit done

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has finished the US\$160 million "solsticizing" project of its Millennium-class of vessels, with *Celebrity Millennium* emerging from the facelift on Sat from the Port of Miami, Florida.

"Solsticizing' includes adding AquaClass stateroom categories, QSine dining, Celebrity iLounge & the 'eXhale' bedding program.

### Travelzoo milestone

**TRAVEL** deal website Travelzoo Australia has passed the 700,000 subscriber mark, with numbers bolstered since the Apr 2011 launch of its Local Deals offering.

The firm has more than 25 million subscribers globally.

### AA mull consolidation

**AMERICAN** Airlines parent firm AMR Corporation and US Airways have "committed to a process to explore consolidation scenarios" the North Carolina-based carrier confirmed over the weekend.

AMR chief restructuring officer Beverly K. Goulet said on Fri the collaborative joint pact between the Committee and its creditors was "to develop only potential consolidation scenarios.

"This agreement [with the Committee] does not in any way suggest that a transaction of any kind or with any particular party will be pursued," Goulet stated.

Mariani stressed for destinations away from the big capital cities to think outside the square to find new and exciting ways to showcase why travellers should head to their destinations.

"I think the Sunshine Coast is going through a lot of metamorphosis & looking at how they become more export-ready."

"Regional destinations have to work harder today because tourism doesn't just happen anymore, it's actually something that we have to be far more creative about, and regional destinations in particular have to be very creative," Mariani added.

### Vanuatu quiz nights

**VANUATU** Tourism Office is hosting a series of quiz nights for travel agents in partnership with a number of hoteliers, aimed at testing their knowledge on the destination.

There's also a chance to win a trip to Vanuatu at each of the events, being held in Sydney on 29 May, Melbourne on 30 May and Brisbane on 31 May.

Register at [bit.ly/vanuquiz](http://bit.ly/vanuquiz).

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<http://csp-au.canada.travel/>

**Canada** keep exploring

**AFL Rd 7 Winner**

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**Nina Lingblom**  
from *Scenic Tours*

Nina is the top point scorer for Round 7 of *Travel Daily's* AFL industry footy tipping competition, and has won one night's accommodation at any Travelodge hotel across Australia, courtesy of Travelodge Hotels.

**Travelodge Hotels**

**Major Prize Sponsors**

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

**Emirates** **Holiday Inn**

**2nd Prize:** 5-night holiday to Vanuatu, courtesy of Air Vanuatu & Iririki Island Resort & Spa

**Air Vanuatu** **Iririki**

# These agents are going to Get Swissed!

FROM 16th April-10th May Switzerland Tourism, together with SWISS International Airlines and Swiss Travel System, ran a competition to win a place on an exclusive 9 night Switzerland fam trip.

The Get Swissed events around the country in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra attracted over 350 eager agents who wanted to learn what it meant to 'Get Swissed' and find out how they could get to Switzerland and experience it themselves.

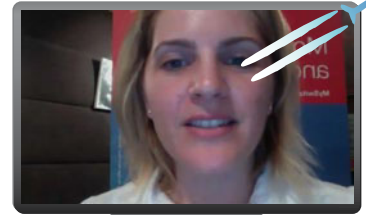
On the nights, many agents uploaded their videos saying three things they love about Switzerland and why they should win a place on the trip. Video entries were also able to be submitted after the events via a dedicated website, and the judges were very impressed with the imagination, originality and

effort that went into creating the clips.

Entries varied from naming the obvious reasons such as a love of the Swiss chocolate, cheese and schnapps as well as mentioning iconic Swiss celebrities such as Roger Federer. Some went into detail about wanting to see the amazing alpine scenery, lakes and mountains, experience the efficient and simple Swiss Travel System network and take a ride on a scenic train.

Many agents were also inspired by the activities on offer in Switzerland during the summer, such as rafting, kayaking, mountain biking and bungee jumping!

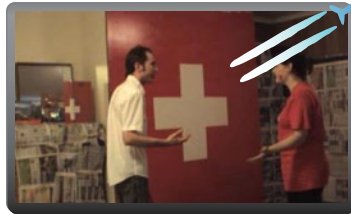
Some of the lucky winners and screenshots from their videos are pictured on this page.



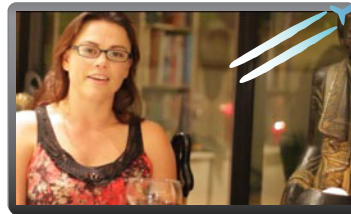
Karen, CIT Tours



Lisa, Capital Travel



Jessica, Rail Plus



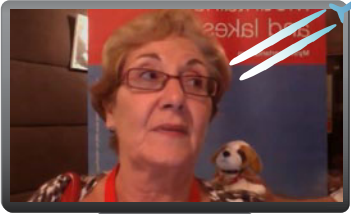
Leanne, NRMA Travel



Bree, Flight Centre



Viola, Travel Counsellors



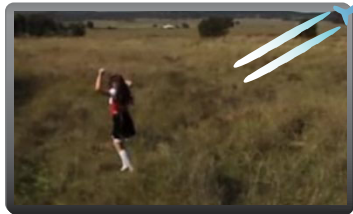
Gwyneth, AGL Travel



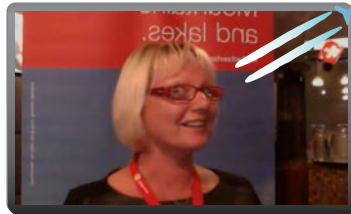
Rose, Flight Centre



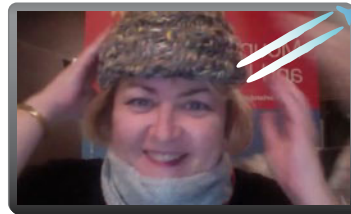
Jane, World Travel Professionals



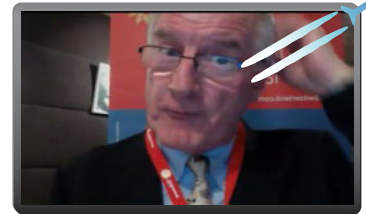
Breanna, Flight Centre



Renata, All Tours



Christine, ABC Travel



Noel, Breakaway Travel

## Still keen to Get Swissed?

**DON'T** forget that the Switzerland Tourism Elearning is now live!

Register now to learn practical information on how and where to travel in Switzerland, enhancing your knowledge and strengthening your skills in planning and marketing trips to Switzerland.

Be rewarded for your efforts with a certificate and award as a Switzerland Specialist, plus receive exclusive invitations to dedicated expert events.

For more information and to register: <http://elearning-au.myswitzerland.com/>

## Plus – Save the date!

**SWITZERLAND** Tourism and Swiss Travel System will be running their annual roadshows around the country this October, together with Swiss regional partners. Come along and find out about some of the key Swiss destinations, the Swiss Travel System network and collect some valuable information and brochures. There will also be gift bags and a range of prizes to be won each night!

Dates are Monday 22nd – Thursday 25th October 2012 – Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra.

More information on the roadshows will be published in **Travel Daily** early October. However should you wish to register your interest already, please email: [st\\_aus@switzerland.com](mailto:st_aus@switzerland.com) with your name, agency details and which city event you wish to attend.



# Finnmarken returns with gifts



**ABOVE:** John Allen-Drury from Jetset Travel Blue Mountains was one of the lucky winners of

Discover the World Marketing's recent agent competition, run in conjunction with Hurtigruten.

The comp was run to celebrate the return of the *MS Finnmarken* to the Hurtigruten fleet after an extended charter project.

John is **pictured** above right with Discover the World's Cruise sales manager Roger Condon.

## Money

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

**A\$1= US\$0.994**

**INBOUND** tourism operators will be welcoming the decline in the Australian dollar over the last week, which has seen it dip below parity with the US greenback.

However analysts are predicting that the drop will only be a short-term phenomenon, with most saying the dollar will remain close to US\$1 until at least Dec 2012.

Various factors have led to the decline in the Aussie dollar, including last week's Reserve Bank interest rate cut, and increased liquidity in China.

Also at issue is the ongoing debt crisis in Europe, with concerns about the ailing Greek economy seeing investors shift to less risky currencies such as the US\$.

*Wholesale rates this morning:*

US	\$0.9938
UK	£0.617
NZ	\$1.273
Euro	€0.774
Japan	¥79.01
Singapore	SG\$1.231
China	¥6.21
South Africa	R8.043
Canada	\$0.991
Crude oil	US\$94.09

## Scout select iPad IFE

**SINGAPORE**-based low cost carrier Scoot has confirmed it will use Apple iPad units for its in-flight entertainment (IFE) later in the year, after launching services to Australia next month.

The handheld devices will be preloaded with movies, TV show, music and games, available at a charge to Economy class pax at free to ScootBiz passengers.

## DPO security upgrade

**DEVONPORT** Airport is to benefit from heightened safety and security facilities as part of the Gillard Labor Government's investment into airports.

Minister for Infrastructure Anthony Albanese yesterday said DPO would receive two explosive trace devices, one checked bag & one carry-on bag screening machines, one walk through metal detector and four handheld metal detector devices by 01 Jul 2012, as part of the funding.

The Tasmanian airport handles 50,000 departing pax per year.

## Amtrak tips record

**US RAIL** service Amtrak says it's on track to break its annual ridership record with latest figures showing a 3.7% increase for the first six months of the 2012 FY.

Pax numbers were up 5.2% y-o-y for the Northeast Corridor and 3% on long-distance trains.

## SiteMinder on Tablet

**ACCOMMODATION** distribution firm SiteMinder has signed online booking portal Tablet Hotels to its list of int'l booking channels.

Tablet Hotels represents a group of "the world's most extraordinary hotels" to the upmarket traveller.

# Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 15th May 2012

## Seniors travel insights

**A SPECIAL** workshop on trends in Seniors travel will take place in Sydney on 26 Jun, based on recent research undertaken by Carolyn Childs and Bronwyn White.

Childs said that over-55s present significant opportunities, dubbing the sector as the 'blue sky brigade'.

For information and registration see [myseniorstravelresearch.com](http://myseniorstravelresearch.com).

## WIN A HOLIDAY TO HAWAII

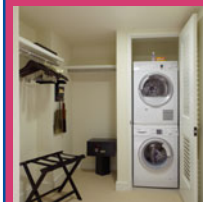
May 1st is Lei Day in Hawai'i, a day that honours island culture, the Aloha spirit and the Hawaiian tradition of friendliness. It also marks the start of summer in Hawai'i, the perfect time to visit!

To celebrate the spirit of this Hawaiian holiday, *Travel Daily* is giving one lucky reader and their partner the chance to win a fantastic five-night holiday to Hawai'i courtesy of Hawai'i Tourism, Hawaiian Airlines and Trump International Hotel.

This amazing prize includes two return economy fares to Honolulu from Sydney with Hawaiian Airlines and five nights accommodation in a Deluxe One Bedroom Suite at Trump International Hotel.

Each day *Travel Daily* will ask a Hawai'i-related question - just read the issue and email us your answer. 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 Hawaii holiday.

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



**Q.11: What is the brand name of washer & dryers in all suites at Trump International Hotel Waikiki Beach Walk?**

Hint! Visit [www.trumphotelcollection.com](http://www.trumphotelcollection.com)

Click here for more information



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### WORK CLOSE TO HOME-INNER WEST CORPORATE CONSULTANT SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE \$55K

This small boutique agency based on the city fringe requires an experienced travel consultant to join their friendly, close knit team. You will enjoy servicing long term clients of this agency with their business travel needs; working Mon to Fri only with ideal location close to public transport or parking is also available close by. You will need at least 2-3 years industry experience and have used Gal, Sabre or Amadeus.

### DANCE THE TANGO WITH THIS ROLE WHOLESALE RESERVATIONS CONSULTANT MELBOURNE (CBD) – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$60K (DOE)

We have the perfect role for a South American enthusiast! If you have travelled to the region and sold an abundance of South America, then why not specialise in the region? This role will see you booking tailor made itineraries for the general public and travel agents. If you have high attention to detail and proven sales skills in a retail role with a min 2 years then say HOLA to your next role! Amadeus preferred.

### TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE RETAIL CONSULTANT PERTH (NOR) – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$66K + (DOE)

This boutique agency is looking for an experienced retail consultant who enjoys servicing their clients needs with love and attention all while making the sale! Located North of the River this new role will see you working Monday – Friday Business hours and will see you rewarded for your customer service skills and sales with fantastic educational and one of the highest base salaries in Perth. Apply today!

### LEAD YOUR TEAM TO BE THE BEST OF THE BEST! TEAM LEADER ADELAIDE (CBD) – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$85K (OTE)

Are you an experienced travel consultant ready to take the step up to Team leader? We have a fantastic new role in Adelaide! Working with one of the largest TMC’s in the country you will be responsible for arranging travel for the academic market as well as leading your team to be the best of the best! With an amazing commission structure on offer and the access to fantastic benefit apply today!

### AFRICAN DREAMS WHOLESALE RESERVATIONS GEELONG – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$55K (DOE)

Are you just crazy about Africa? Have you travelled to the region and sold the region? From the Garden Route to Kenya this wholesaler does it all. with access to camping trips, tented safari’s and luxury lodges no tow days will be the same. You will assist direct callers and travel agents with their Africa enquiries! Imagine the FAMILS with this role; you could soon be walking with the lions. Apply today to find out more!

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Do you wish you worked in a boutique agency with great hours, a friendly team, crème de la crème clientele that appreciate your talents and a boss that rewards you with a great salary, incredible educational and appreciation for a job well done? If you are a qualified travel consultant with exceptional customer service skills, a team player and possess a good work ethic then this is the role for you! Come be part of a well regarded agency in a beautiful location.

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