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First with the news

Thursday 25th October 2012

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Five more A380s for SIA

SINGAPORE Airlines says a major Airbus order announced overnight "demonstrates our commitment to the Singapore hub, and our confidence in the strength of the market for premium full-service travel".

The deal includes five more A380s, along with 20 of Airbus' next-generation A350-900s, doubling its order book for the new aircraft type.

However, interestingly it will also see the demise of SQ's non-

stop flights from Singapore to Los Angeles and New York, with Airbus agreeing to buy back five SQ A340-500s which will be removed from service in late 2013, meaning SIA won't have planes that can economically operate the route.

CEO Goh Choon Phong said despite the cessation of the non-stops "we remain very committed to the US market" with A380s flying to LA and New York via Tokyo and Frankfurt.

The fleet moves will also see 20 Boeing 787s, originally designated for SIA, utilised by its low-cost long-haul offshoot Scoot when they commence delivery from 2014 (*TD* breaking news).

Launch customer SQ is today celebrating the fifth anniversary of A380 flights (*TD* 25 Oct 2007).

JTG wholesale boosts rail ticket prices

JETSET Travelworld's Rail Tickets wholesale brand has announced price rises due to the fall in the Australian dollar versus the Euro.

Prices on European passes, European train tickets, Swiss Rail packages, premier trains including Eurostar, and European sightseeing passes, will all increase effective immediately.

Agents have until 5pm on Mon to finalise payment on all existing bookings to avoid the price increase - info on 1300 360 823.

Nine pages of news

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

- TMS Asia Pacific jobs
- AA Appointments jobs
- Travel Trade Recruitment

Get some Directions

TOURISM Australia is urging the industry to register for next week's *Directions* conference, which takes place in Canberra on Thu 01 Nov - the day following TTF Australia's Leadership forum.

Around 300 delegates have already registered, but TA said there is still space available for the event which will see key speakers including Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson, ATEC md Felicia Mariani, Tourism Australia chair Geoff Dixon and Accor chief Simon McGrath.

More info and registrations at tourism.australia.com/directions.

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Galactic push back

VIRGIN founder Sir Richard Branson says he's "stopped counting the days" until the launch of Virgin Galactic's first tourist space flights.

Speaking in Poland yesterday, he said it would be at least "12 to 18 months" before the operation would begin, with the project repeatedly delayed as the technology is developed.

So far about 550 well-heeled travellers have paid deposits on the US\$200,000 fare.

New Sofitel DOSM

ANDREW Hartley has been appointed by Accor to the role of Regional Director of Sales for Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

In addition, Hartley will assume control of Sales and Marketing for the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins and returns to an Australia-based role following a similar posting at the Intercontinental in Shanghai.

More appointments on **page 8**.

Mining pushing up fares

THE resources sector in Australia is "likely to contribute to sustained air fare growth" locally, according to an American Express report released this morning.

The Amex *Global Business Travel Forecast 2013* has projected that global air travel prices will only rise slightly due to the fiscal crisis in Europe and a slowing Chinese economy.

However Australia, along with India, is cited as an exception, with American Express Asia-Pacific head of advisory services, Carl Jones, saying that despite the competitive Australian domestic flights market, "demand from the natural resources sector is expected to support moderate rate increases for air fares".

He said that while demand from China has started to decrease, "demand from other countries may counteract this" and sustain the local resources sector.

The Amex report covers more

than 2,600 predictions across air fares, hotel rates and car rental costs in 29 countries - adding four new nations for 2013: Italy, Poland, Russia and South Korea.

And this year the report also introduces predictions for published fares as well as paid fares, "since understanding this gap is integral to companies looking to effectively manage their business travel programs in today's marketplace".

In terms of hotel prices, again the resources sector in Australia is expected to sustain price rises of up to 7%, particularly in cities with strong linkages to mining.

Get Travel Appy

MARTIN Kelly, the organiser of the annual TravelTECH technology conference, has announced his latest venture - a half day event looking at "all aspects of the mobile revolution with a particular focus on Travel Apps".

'Travel Appy' will take place at the Museum of Sydney on 20 Nov, with regos costing \$249+GST.

See www.traveltrends.biz.

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Tourico expands direct connect

ONLINE hotel wholesaler Tourico Holidays has announced a range of new "Direct Connect" hotel partners, significantly boosting availability of real-time pricing and booking data. New connectivity is available for

IHG, Wyndham Hotel Group and Choice Hotels International, building on existing links with Hilton, Best Western and others.

The company said it has already added 20,000 properties in 5,500 cities to its Direct Connect inventory since early 2011, with a further 10,000 by the end of 2012.

Tourico users in Australia include Wotif.com, which uses the wholesale product to supplement its directly contracted content.

Europe ski debut

FINNISH ski resort Ruka, located in Lapland about 30km from the Russian border, has once again become the first resort in Northern Europe to open its slopes - and is targeting strong growth in international visitation, aiming for 40% of its skiers to be from abroad by 2020.

Ruka has 21 ski lifts and will this year host the FIS World Cup which kicks off on 30 Nov.

Hainan French buy

HNA Group, the parent company of fast-growing Chinese carrier Hainan Airlines, has taken an equity stake in French airline Aigle Azur Transports Aeriens.

Aigle Azur operates flights from France to North and West Africa, with the new investment from HNA seeing it set to expand with a route from Paris to Beijing.

HNA also has stakes in Hong Kong Airlines and Ghana-based Africa World Airlines.

HA adds to Brisbane

HAWAIIAN Airlines' new direct route between Brisbane and Honolulu is proving so popular that the carrier is already announcing supplementary services.

18 extra flights will operate between Mar and May 2013, in addition to the thrice weekly scheduled services which will debut at the end of next month.

Nine extra flights will operate in Mar, five in Apr and four in May, with most of the supplementaries operating on Mondays providing "new departure opportunities for customers including newlyweds, who can jet off to Hawaii for their honeymoons after weekend weddings in Australia".

The additional services coincide with the arrival of new A330 aircraft which have enabled capacity on the network to be shifted around.

EVEN brand launch

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has announced the signing of its first EVEN Hotel (**TD** 29 Feb), a flagship New York property for the new brand which focuses on the "healthier-minded traveller".

EVEN New York will be located at 219 East 44th Street, with 230 guest rooms, dedicated meeting areas plus indoor and outdoor exercise and eating spaces.

EVEN joins IHG's seven other hotel brands, and is said to be a "key driver in market share growth in the US," with plans for 100 EVEN hotels by 2017.



Window Seat

PALMER Coolum Resort on the Sunshine Coast will tomorrow unveil a new permanent guest unlikely to get any arguments from staff if he makes a mess.

The resort will become the home to a giant Tyrannosaurus Rex, the first of a number of Jurassic creatures to make the resort their new home as part of a dinosaur themed park being added to its expansive grounds.

Rex will be 8.5 metres tall and 20 metres long, with a range of movements including a swaying tail, a hungry mouth that opens and closes, a moving head and arms, claws, a breathing stomach and blinking eyes to add realism to the effect.

LEONARDO Da Vinci has been reincarnated...as a robot.

Ibis Hotels is celebrating the launch of the Ibis Sweet Bed by introducing a robot version of the 15th century artist to turn data received from a sleeping guest into a painting.

Eighty sensors on a bed will send information to the robot in the lobby, which will measure things such as body movements and temperatures, sounds and vibrations made to design a unique artwork.

For more information on how the robot works, visit www.facebook.com/ibis.

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Tasty Macanese treats!



THIS week Sydney's Sheraton on the Park Hotel is offering some extra special tastes at its newly launched Feast restaurant, with the Macau Government Tourist Authority hosting industry friends at a special luncheon on Tue.

It's been a very busy time for Helen Wong's MGTO team, which last week welcomed a 32-strong delegation from the Macau government, followed by the Macau Festival at Darling Harbour.

The Macanese frenzy continues with Macau Food Week at the Sheraton on the Park, introducing the unique tastes of the enclave to Sydney's foodies.

The lunch was an opportunity to take a breather, with many of those present taking the opportunity to sample Macanese delights such as African Chicken, spicy prawns and of course those tasty Portuguese Tarts.

However **TD** couldn't help noticing attendees also making the most of other parts of the sumptuous Feast buffet, including fabulous fresh seafood and amazing dessert concoctions.

Pictured above replete after the

meal are, from left: Lisa Lee, Hong Kong Tourism Board; Benjamin Zaubzer, Macau Government Tourist Office; Richiko Olrichs, Cathay Pacific; Belinda Thomas, Hong Kong Tourism Board; and Jodie Scott, Starwood.

Variety famil fares

VARIETY Cruises is offering industry fares from just €190 per person, to allow travel agents to "discover the yacht cruise experience".

The special deals are on offer for three exotic itineraries - the *Rivers of West Africa*; or visiting the Seychelles on the *Cruise in the Garden of Eden*; or the *Sounds and Sights of Cuba*.

The bargain fare is per person twin share for seven nights/8 days on a full board basis, but does not include port taxes, tips or personal expenses.

There's no single supplement, and participating agents get a 25% discount on shore excursions and shipboard expenses.

More info from Discover the World on 02 9959 5309.

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*Departures 16 January - 30 September 2013. Taxes and fuel surcharges not included.

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Wu Collection rerun

WENDY Wu Tours has ordered a second print run of its Wendy's Collection brochure following an "overwhelming response from the industry," the company said.

The glossy guide features a range of high-end luxury tours in China, India and Indochina.

VS six daily to New York

VIRGIN Atlantic is boosting frequencies between London Heathrow and New York City from 28 Oct, introducing a fourth daily JFK service (VS025/026), which will complement its existing twice daily operation to Newark.

Travelworld claims

THE Travel Compensation Fund has announced the non-voluntary termination of Willing Travel Pty Ltd, trading as Travelworld Carnarvon (ABN:53 108 904 061) after claims were received and administrators appointed.

TCF ceo Glen Wells told **TD** this morning it has received a number of calls from clients of the agency, as well as from the Dept of Fair Trading in Western Australia.

Wells said the Fund was expecting a "sizeable" number of claims based on the call count.

The **ABC** reported Skippers Aviation, which operates flights to Perth, is owed \$250,000.

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OR package designs

TRAVEL Oregon & Travel Portland have outlined intensions to design specialist travel packages, in conjunction with major airlines, to entice visits by the Australian market to the US state.

With Portland accessible in one stop from BNE, SYD and MEL via a number of US hubs, the state is looking to boost visitor numbers with a range of offers aimed at key demographics in this market, Travel Portland's Barbara Steinfeld told **TD** this week.

She said the authority was keen on a pact with Hawaiian Airlines which would provide a more relaxed journey for pax passing through Honolulu rather than via Los Angeles or San Francisco.

"We [also] have a great working relationship with Air Canada and are working with them on flights between Portland and Canada", Steinfeld added.

London targets Aus

A NEW £1.3 million (AU\$2m) marketing campaign to lure key visitor markets to London has been launched by the city's promotional authority.

The London & Partners 'London, Now See It for Yourself' campaign aims to convert interest in the city into bookings for 2013, following the Diamond Jubilee & Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Domestic markets are being targeted, along with audiences in Germany, France, Spain, Italy the USA and Australia.

"Billions of people across the globe watched as we staged the greatest show on earth and now is the time to turn those viewers into visitors," Mayor of London Boris Johnson said.

The promo features a 'social media hound' called Rufus the Corgi who helps visitors unlock a digital map on visitlondon.com.

Weeks TIME speaker

THE Travel Corporation ceo John Weeks has been confirmed as the Guest Speaker at the Graduation of the next round of the Travel Industry Mentor Experience.

The Graduation of Program 7 Mentees and Mentors will be held on Thu 29 Nov from 6-8pm at BLUE Sydney Hotel.

RSVPs are required by 19 Nov to time@travelindustrymentor.com.au.

TAA gains IHG head

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Grp Australasian director of operations Bill Edwards has been appointed to Tourism Accommodation Australia's board of directors.

Edwards oversees 28 hotels operating in Australia under the Intercontinental, Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza brands.

Tiger goes upmarket

TIGER Airways has launched a suite of new premium services in Singapore for VIP passengers.

Dubbed Tiger Plus, the add-on service provides "greater convenience and comfort" for passengers, including a dedicated check-in counter, and access to SATS Premier Lounge at Changi Airport Terminal 2.

Tiger Plus is priced at SGD\$48 (AU\$38) and is currently only available for flights departing from Singapore, including those of subsidiaries Mandala & SEAir.

Another new service rolled out last week is the 'BoardMeFirst' add-on, which for SG\$6 per sector allows customers to board the aircraft ahead of others, "allowing a fuss-free" experience.

The new services were added after Tiger moved to T2 in Sep.



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OpenSkies JFK return

BRITISH Airways' all Business class subsidiary OpenSkies will reinstate transatlantic services between Paris Orly and New York JFK from 31 Mar.

OpenSkies last operated to JFK in Jan 2010 and the relaunched route will complement its existing twice-daily Paris Orly-Newark Liberty operation.

AI selling 777-200LRs

AIR India is looking to offload up to five of its less than 10-year old Boeing 777-200LR aircraft.

According to tender papers, the aircraft were manufactured in 2007 and 2008, are equipped with GE 190-110 Engines and are in "as is" condition.

Interestingly, prospective bidders are permitted to inspect the jets, and related documents at AI's Mumbai office, but inspections do not permit trialling the engines or components or test flights.

Offers close on 16 Nov, and require a US\$25,000 'Earnest Money Deposit' when bidding.

Adelaide scores

THE South Australian Tourism Commission through Events South Australia has won the rights to host the 2015 Duathlon World Championships in Adelaide.

The run-cycle-run event is expected to draw 1,700 athletes and 2,000 supporters from 35 countries, injecting up to \$3m into the local economy, said SA Minister for Tourism Gail Gago.

"About 75% of this event's athletes & supporters will be from interstate or overseas, presenting an exciting opportunity to promote all South Australia has to offer as a tourism destination," Gago said yesterday.

The course will showcase the city's Riverbank precinct & more.

Airbus A350 plant

AIRBUS this week inaugurated its A350 XQB Final Assembly Line in Toulouse, France, 40 years after the first A300 flight.

The A350 XWB is Airbus' answer to rival Boeing's 787 *Dreamliner*, with its equivalent amassing 558 orders from 34 customers.

Three variations of the A350 will be produced at the plant, the 270-seat 800 series, the 314-seat 900 series & the 350-seat 1000.

Airbus is aiming to produce up to 10 aircraft per month by late 2018 at the plant.

Mantra fuels up agents



AMIDST the surroundings of pit lane just up the road, Mantra Sun City in Surfers Paradise recently welcomed members of the Gold Coast Tourism Industry to an evening of motor racing madness during last weekend's Gold Coast 600 race weekend.

The hotel was also home base for the V8 Ute Series drivers, and over the course of the weekend, Mantra's restaurant catered for more than 600 drivers, crew and race staff attending breakfast events and other functions.

For the weekend, the hotel was transformed into a veritable playground for petrolheads, with over 60 elite race cars on display around the hotel grounds, including a \$600,000 McLaren GT machine flown in from London

especially for prominent display.

Mantra Sun City gm Michael Murtagh knew the preparations that had gone into the event would deliver a memorable weekend.

"It was an early indicator that the event was going to be a success when around 65% of our bookings were taken by March this year," Murtagh said.

Pictured above with Mantra sales & marketing team Melinda Harrison, Hannah Yates and Yvette Peverall, is Anna Dziopa & Trish Symonns from Corporate Traveller; Wendy O'Brien & Allan Hilzinger, GC Basketball; Peta Downie, Surfers Paradise Alliance; Clare Ramsay, Gold Coast City Council; Wade Leys, Momentum Sports; Kate Barr, GC Tourism and Tabatha O'Brien from Goldline.

2013 Earlybirds on sale

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TravelManagers discover Samoa



ISLAND living fit nicely into the schedules of these Travelmanagers during this recent famil trip to Samoa, in which the group visited Upolu Island and the luxurious Seabreeze Resort.

The resort offers 11 bungalows, all of which offer panoramic views overlooking the Pacific Ocean off the south coast of the island, and more than exceeded the high standards of the visiting agents.

Tracy Cosgriff, a Travelmanager agent based in Palm Cove, Qld, said the destination as a whole surpassed her expectations.

"Most people think relaxing and water-sports when they think about the Pacific, but Samoa has so much more to offer," she said.

"The Robert Louis Stevenson Museum was incredibly interesting and attending a church service is something I would definitely

recommend to all clients visiting, the singing was beautiful.

"I can't wait to start talking to my clients about Samoa".

Pictured from left are Jose Canas, Travelmanagers National Partnership Office; Deborah Davies, Woombye, Qld; Michelle Levins, Forest Hill, Vic; Renee Millard, Kyneton, Vic; Kylie Stokes, Cairns, Qld; Tracy Cosgriff, Palm Cove, Qld and John Lengacher from Windsor, Vic.

AA boosts DFW

AMERICAN Airlines is adding new daily int'l services from Dallas/Ft Worth to both Lima and Seoul Incheon, effective 02 Apr and 09 May 2013 respectively.

Other new int'l routes AA plans to add include a daily Chicago O'Hare to Dusseldorf and New York JFK to Dublin services.

WA giant backs QF/EK

WEST Australian iron ore mining and export company BC Iron has thrown its support behind the proposed pact between Qantas and Emirates which is currently under review by the ACCC.

CEO Mike Young said the planned venture will create "far more opportunities" for travel planning to cities including Hong Kong, London, New York and Toronto which currently require more than one stop from Perth.

Pick up change at BNE

BRISBANE Airport continues to fine tune issues arising with its new Domestic Pick-Up area.

From 06 Nov, a number of 2-min car spaces will be made available at the front of the terminal for collection of pax, while a waiting area near long-term remains open.

Discover Kauai course

HAWAII Tourism is inviting agents to become a destination specialist via its online Hawaii Destination Specialist Program.

Graduates of the program are recognised as experts in selling the Hawaiian Islands and put themselves in contention for exclusive access to famil trips.

To enrol or to learn more, visit www.bit.ly/HTAislands.

LH Latin expansion

LUFTHANSA will expand flight operations into Brazil & Colombia in an effort to boost market share.

Starting 28 Oct, current six-times weekly flights between Frankfurt and Rio De Janeiro, and five-weekly services to Bogota, will both become a daily service.

LH subsidiary Swiss International Air Lines will also operate a daily service between Sao Paulo-Frankfurt and Sao Paulo-Munich, beginning from the same date.

Gourmet English tour

BACK-ROADS Touring has added a six-day Flavours of Southern England trip aimed at introducing travellers to traditional English cuisine and regional specialities.

The itinerary encompasses Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, New Forest and Dorset, includes meals at the restaurants of three celebrity chefs & is priced from \$2418ppts if booked by 15 Dec. More info on 1300 100 410.

Rocks Dreamtime

SYDNEY Harbour Foreshore Authority has opened up its The Rocks Dreamtime tour to the general public, having formerly only offered it to school groups.

The tour aims to offer insights into the Indigenous history of the historic Sydney region and forms part of the NSW Govt's plan to boost available day tour options within the CBD.

The 90-min tour is priced at \$42 per adult - phone 1800 067 676.

Etihad Arabic site

ETIHAD Airways has launched an Arabic language Facebook page, complementing its existing English version which has more than 270,000 fans.

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This week *Travel Daily* and *Smartraveller* are giving one lucky reader the chance to win a Caspian Hybrid three-piece luggage set - perfect for the holiday season.

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Air France KKs KUL

AIR France has confirmed the launch of a new thrice weekly Paris Charles de Gaulle to Kuala Lumpur service (**TD 17 Oct**), effective 22 Apr.

The SkyTeam carrier will also introduce a seasonal Paris Charles de Gaulle to Minneapolis-St Paul service - it's 11th US gateway.

The US service will operate five times weekly from 21 May to 16 Jun, before going daily until the end of the season on 01 Sep.

MEANWHILE, strike action by 6,500 staff tomorrow (**TD Mon**) is expected to cause "limited" delays, Air France has warned.

Siteminder BRW list

ONLINE distribution platform SiteMinder has been named as one of Australia's 100 fastest-growing companies in the 2012 *BRW Fast 100 List*.

Mamma mia!

QANTAS and Virgin Australia have both made further submissions to the International Air Services Commission over their respective claims for capacity on the Italy route (**TD 12 Sep**).

The arguments centre on definitions of "commercially sustainable capacity" and "start-up phase," in reference to a previously approved Ansett application for Italy capacity from more than ten years ago.

The IASC is expected to rule on the applications shortly.

NHH Kinabalu deal

NEW Horizons Holidays has six-night packages to Kota Kinabalu using Malaysia Airlines' soon to relaunch weekly direct service ex Perth, priced from \$739ppts, on sale until 31 Oct for travel to May.

Grays' Fiji 24-hr sale

AUCTION site GraysEscape.com will tomorrow run a special one-day holiday sale offer on Fiji accom packages, with discounts of up to 50% available at three properties ranging between 3 and 4.5 stars.

WIN a unique trip for two to Austria

Pick your favourite 3 Unique Experiences, put together your dream itinerary & win your personally designed trip to Austria!

During October, the **Austrian National Tourist Office**, **Austrian Airlines**, **Rail Plus** and **Travel Daily** are giving readers the chance to win a trip of a lifetime to Austria. Browse unique.austria.info for more than 250 "Unique Experiences", pick your favourite 3 and put together your dream itinerary.

The prize consists of:

- Two Return Economy Air Fares from Australia to Austria (flying Austrian Airlines into Vienna)
- 6 nights accommodation for 2 persons including breakfast
- Eurail Select Pass to travel through Austria linking your chosen experiences
- Sightseeing program associated with your choice of experiences
- **Detailed itinerary depending on your choice of experiences**

For example: [Learn to waltz](#) at Vienna's best address, dive into a glittering subterranean world in [Swarovski Crystal Worlds](#) near Innsbruck, listen to Haydn's music at the [Esterhazy Palace](#), or experience the magic of [Christmas in Salzburg](#) - the choice is yours!

Austria. Unique Like You

HOW TO ENTER

Browse unique.austria.info for more than 250 "Unique Experiences", pick your favourite 3 and tell us in 50 words or less why these make up your dream itinerary. Send your response to ANTOcomp@traveldaily.com.au



Industry Appointments



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THIS week's Industry Appointments column is brought to you by **inPlace Recruitment**. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry, send us an email at appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Taking effect from 01 Dec, **James Thornton** will step up from his current gm role to assume the post of Managing Director at **Intrepid Travel**. Thornton has worked with Intrepid for the past seven years.

Accor has appointed **Andrew Lee** as the new General Manager of the Novotel Brisbane, alongside **Mark Wilkinson**, hired in a similar role at the Ibis and Mercure properties in the Queensland capital. Also within the Novotel Brisbane, **Nicole Blums** has been recruited as the hotel's new Food & Beverage manager, bringing 12 years experience to the role.

TUI Marine has appointed **David Reid** as the Head of Distribution for the Australasian market. Reid joins the company, bringing over 25 years of sales experience, and has previously held a senior position with Qantas.

Based at Travel House, the company's Australian headquarters, **Belinda Herbert** has joined **Creative Holidays** in the role of National Events and Program Manager. Herbert brings eight years experience with ATEC and prior experience in an events manager role with Axis Events.

Anne-Maree Moon has joined the team at **Brisbane Marketing** as the new Director of Tourism and Major Events. Moon will also be in charge of the firm's Leisure Tourism division, running two major campaigns a year.

China Southern Airlines is continuing its recruitment drive, naming **Anesha Mohanan** as its Marketing & Sales Communications Manager for Australia/NZ. Mohanan will join the airline alongside **Beanca Daluz**, who is the new NSW/ACT Sales Manager, and the carrier's new Distribution Manager **Dorothy Man**, tasked with managing CZ's fare suite of products.

House of Travel Australia has promoted **Mandy Scotney** to the role of Executive Commercial General Manager. Scotney has been promoted from within and has been with the group since 2007.

Brochure design & print company **TIFS** has welcomed **Ravi Wagaarachchi** to its team in the role of Director of Creative and Commercial Print.

Adventure travel company has welcomed a new **Marketing Manager** to its fold with the appointment of **Sarah Hunt**, who will be responsible for online & offline marketing activities and strengthening key relationships.

The **Melbourne Convention & Visitors Bureau** has recruited **Jasmine Lim** for the role of International Incentives Director.

Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre Director **Stephen Wood** has been named as the new Chairman of Meetings & Events Australia (MEA), while **Toni McAllister** has joined the Int'l Special Events Society Sydney board.

Amrita Bhalla has joined Thailand-based hotel management company **Onyx Hospitality Group** in the role of Chief People Officer.

The **Board of Airline Representatives in the UK** has named **Dale Keller** as its new chief executive following the resignation of Mike Carravick.

Luxury resort developer and operator **Kerzner International** has confirmed the return of **Helen McCabe-Young** to the company as the Executive Vice President of One&Only Resorts, to oversee the brand's marketing plans.

Jan Tibaldi has been named as the new General Manager of **The Puli Hotel and Spa** in Shanghai, bringing nine years of hotel management experience.

Tasked with strategic development, **Jason Blackwell** has been appointed to the role of General Manager at **Exotissimo Travel Group**. Also coming on board is **James Pook**, who joins the team as Product Manager, with both to be based in the company's expanding office in Vientiane, Laos.

Flydubai to Skopje

EMIRATI low-cost carrier flydubai has inaugurated services between Dubai and Skopje in Macedonia, the carrier's 15th route into Central & East Europe.

Making tracks to a new brochure

CARRYING arguably the largest brochure dedicated to walking and cycling holidays ever produced in Australia, the Sydney team from UTracks proudly hold up the first copies of their new 2013 guides.



Entitled "Active Europe", the guide contains more than 300 itineraries, more than 100 of which are new, encompassing a variety of destinations including Malta, Serbia, Finland, Cyprus and Norway.

The company has also expanded its most popular cycling & sailing itineraries in Turkey, Croatia and Greece, along with Mont Blanc

walks and bike/barge journeys in France and the Netherlands.

Earlybird savings of 10% on 2013 departures are available if booked before 16 Nov, and for more info, see www.utracks.com.

Pictured above showing off their new company bibles are, from left, Efti Poulos, Jaclyn Lofts, Erin Williams and Laura Cremin.

Mon Komo hot new Qld hotel

RIGHT: Redcliffe's Mon Komo Hotel, which opened less than a year ago, recently took out the top gong for Best New Hotel at the Queensland Hotel Association Awards for Excellence.

The property was up against a number of quality new properties in the category, including the new Hilton Surfers Paradise hotel.

The Mon Komo hotel is inspired on luxury Caribbean resorts and bars and aims to bring something different to the Brisbane scene.

Event sponsor Kim Hanrick is **pictured** above presenting the gong to Mon Komo Hotel representative Chris Gardner.



MH increases Taipei

MALAYSIA Airlines has boosted capacity on its KUL-Taipei route, with the introduction of 160-seat B737-800 aircraft to replace the 144-seat B737-400 jets.

Effective 19 Feb, the carrier will increase frequencies on the route from daily to 11 weekly.

Adventure to Vanuatu

ADVENTURE World has released a four-night package to Vanuatu, staying at the Havannah Resort and including Air Vanuatu flights from \$1,399ppts - 1300 320 795.

Ladies of leisure enjoy Africa



IF THIS is working, we'd love to see the group relaxing...

Swagman Africa escorted this group of ladies on an exclusive luxury girls-only trip to South Africa to take in some wildlife on safari, some sightseeing and as it appears, some R&R.

To reach Johannesburg, the ladies partook in the comforts and pleasures, courtesy of South African Airways.

The group is **pictured** above lounging on the Franschoek lawns and sampling some local wines, and from left, consisted of Cheryl Cooper, Specialty Travel; Joanne

Langdon, HWT Sunbury; Soula Burgess, Swagman Africa; Narelle Gregory, HWT Bateau Bay; Lyn Kennedy, Twofold Travel; Chris Bentley, HWT Sylvania; Denise Bradley, Moss Vale Cruise and Travel; Jacinta Blundell, HWT Caboolture and Talia Walklate from Ramsgate Travel.

A&K long Nile cruises

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has reintroduced long cruises between Cairo and Upper Egypt after the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism lifted a 15-year ban on tourist traffic between Cairo and Luxor.

The company has released two departures of its 15-day "Egyptian Odyssey" itinerary in Apr & Jun.

MEANWHILE, the company has released earlybird savings of up to US\$3000 on 2013-14 Antarctica journeys, if booked by 28 Feb.

More info on 1300 851 800.

Port Seafood dinner

A NEW dolphin watch, seafood dinner evening cruise tour has commenced operations in Nelson Bay in Port Stephens for summer, operated by Imagine Cruises.

The two-hour sailing experience departs each afternoon at 1730 until the end of daylight savings, when it will leave at 1630, will include a BBQ seafood dinner and is priced from \$39 for adults.

More info on (02) 4984 9000.

Itineraries closedown

THE Travel Compensation Fund has advised of the termination of Itineraries (ABN: 52 508 136 327) due to an ownership restructure, alongside Travelworld Kalgoorlie (ABN: 79 867 606 775) due to the agency being sold.

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

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Sick of dealing with client complaints? Tired of looking after staff? Here's a chance to use your client management skills in a whole new direction! Join the AA Team and enjoy the variety and challenge this role will provide when you place senior managers in their next perfect role

WHAT'S IN YOUR DAY:-

- interviewing and short-listing candidates
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- confirming placements,
- marketing including placing adverts,
- client account management and business development

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- an excellent salary package plus uncapped commission
 - achievable team bonuses
 - upto 25 days paid holiday leave
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 - exciting annual 5 star conferences
- Min 5 years travel exp including supervisory a must for this role!

BRING YOUR E-COMM SKILLS TO A GLOBAL CO. E-COMMERCE SUPPORT SPECIALIST SYDNEY – EXCELLENT SALARY PACKAGE

Join a successful company with a strong global presence and watch your career soar. Here you will be responsible for the continued service of pre and post sales support for E-Commerce customers. You will have the ability to manage multiple stakeholder relationships, work closely with the sales team and be an expert on the product. Experience with IT Infrastructure, CRS and Online (OBT's) additions required here.

LEAD THIS WHOLESALE TEAM WHOLESALE RESERVATIONS MANAGER MELBOURNE– SALARY PACKAGE TO \$65K

Do you love travelling to unique and wonderful destinations? This management role can take you on a journey of discovery every day that you will love coming to work. Overseeing this reservations team in an adventure market company you will need to be able to offer solutions to your team and provide training on destinations. Strong knowledge of Africa & South America is a huge bonus. Management exp a must!

HONG KONG IS CALLING REGIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGER –ASIA HONG KONG – EXCELLENT SALARY PACKAGE

This rare opportunity with a Global travel provider will see you working on high profile accounts. Your role will be to ensure service consistency, continuous improvement and driving operational projects. You will be a senior operations manager with exceptional people management skills and the ability to question current practices to seek improvement. A great salary with a relocation package is on offer.

BE THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE SUCCESS NATIONAL SALES MANAGER SYDNEY –EXCELLENT SALARY PACKAGE

Make the move you won't regret! We're looking for a strong sales professional who has experience with national management. You will have extensive relationships across the trade and be known as a highly effective, professional and reliable person with the capabilities to grow a business. If you are ready for an exciting new challenge with a strong brand, this role is for you!

WHERE RELATIONSHIP MATTERS ACCOUNT MANAGER SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$80K

Want to move to a company that offers endless career opportunity, a stable and supportive work environment and a great salary to top it off! Our client is a leading travel company who has a vacancy for an account manager to join their team. This has a mix of account management and sales to keep you on your toes. You will ideally have at least 3 years in an on the road role with an established contact base.

WORK WITH THE BEST TEAM IN QLD INDUSTRY SALES EXECUTIVE (contract) BRISBANE – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$70

Love being on the road with this product in your hand! Agents will welcome you and want to learn more from your fun loving personality. You will enjoy being out and about and know how to put the hard yards in when it counts. Be rewarded here with superb famil trips for you to enjoy and bonus schemes. Everyone loves this brand which is growing bigger every year.

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Working in partnership with the Australian Travel Industry

Reservations Consultant

Sydney - \$35-50K + Super + Commission - Ref 293

Seeking an enthusiastic and experienced Travel Consultant to work for a well-established travel agency in the CBD. This is the perfect role for someone looking for a new challenge, who has high customer service standards, and wants to use their personal travel knowledge on a daily basis to assist all types of customers. No two days will be the same! Galileo knowledge preferred and at least 2 years' experience selling worldwide travel.

For more information, please call Lynsey on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)

International Travel Consultant

Canberra - \$40-50K + Super+ Bonus - Ref 2396-NCR

Work for a leading travel company in Canberra. This is a fantastic mix of corporate and leisure teamed with a fantastic salary! You will offer the best customer service, amazing organisational skills mixed with fantastic general knowledge and awesome fares and ticketing, ideally with 18months experience. You will love working as part of a small team in these centrally located Canberra offices. You will be offered some amazing fams and its Mon-Fri - what more could you want!

For more information, please call Natalie on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)

Senior Corporate Travel Consultant

Brisbane - \$50-60K + Super - Ref 2791A

A highly experienced Senior Corporate Travel Professional is required to join a travel management leader. Move to a TMC where your hard work is financially rewarded and career progression encouraged. This is a fantastic opportunity to step away from repetitive reservations and to move into an exciting and diverse position and this is also a chance to work with a stable, secure and growing corporate company where your efforts are recognised and rewarded.

For more information, please call Sarah on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)

Product Manager

Adelaide - \$50-60K - Ref 303

Are you a product expert with at least a few years travel industry background? Do you have a passion for Australia and its beautiful destinations, as well as cruising and international products? This expanding travel company located in Adelaide is looking for a team member for their product and marketing team. The successful candidate will be offered above average salary, industry perks and the opportunity to progress within this reputable company.

For more information, please call Joana on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)

Cruise Consultants

Sydney - \$DOE + Super + Travel Ind. Perks - Ref 254

All Aboard! A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join a market leading cruise company as a Senior Cruise Consultant. Are you a seasoned sail away specialist? Have experience selling not only cruises but air travel too? If you understand the terms 'boat drill' and 'join the Cruise Director on the Lido Deck for the Midnight Buffet', know how to find your Muster Station....this role is for you! Must have cruise experience and strong airfares!

For more information, please call Lynsey on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)

Senior Travel Consultant

Brisbane - \$40-50K + Super + Comm. - Ref 2551A

Calling all Senior Travel Consultants who are looking for a fresh challenge in retail travel. Can you book a wide array of travel products including multi stop and long haul itineraries? A much loved travel agency are looking for a new team member whose hard work will be rewarded with an uncapped commission structure, fantastic perks & benefits, and a great team environment. This position is guaranteed to be snapped up, so do not delay and apply today!

For more information, please call Sarah on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)

Retail Travel Consultant

S.E. Melbourne - Up to \$55K + Super - Ref 283

Stop commuting to the CBD, work close to home! Join this leading & reputable travel agency in Melbourne's South Eastern Suburbs. As a Retail Travel Agent, you will handle high-end bookings and work on repeat clients. Use your solid Sabre skills and fares & ticketing experience in this fantastic role. You'll work in a fun team with a great manager, get the necessary training and sell worldwide holidays. Very competitive salary offered with excellent industry perks.

For more information, please call Lisa on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)

Senior Travel Consultant

Perth - Up to \$55K + Super + Incentives - Ref 290JOL

Are you based in Perth and experienced in the Travel? Due to expansion, a leading travel company is looking for a Senior Travel Consultant. Do you want a competitive salary, a friendly working environment and great travel products to sell? This is a varied role, dealing with worldwide products from package to luxury and offering excellent customer service. It is an established company, with a great team atmosphere for the successful travel consultant!

For more information, please call Joana on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)

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