

Thursday 11th April 2013

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COX & KINGS is promoting its new representation of Explore! Worldwide, with a new brochure for 2013-14 covering specialist walking, trekking and cycle itineraries across the globe.

Call reservations on 1300 439 756 or for details see the special **front full page** of today's **TD**.

QF-EK through check

THE combined Qantas-Emirates network is continuing to evolve, with customers travelling on an itinerary with both QF and EK services now able to be through checked to their final destination.

Boarding passes can be issued for all sectors of the journey at the point of departure, with this including domestic Qantas and QantasLink flights connecting to an EK international service.

However, QF says the airside transfer facility is not currently available to pax travelling on an Emirates operated flight.

Virgin seals Skywest deal

VIRGIN Australia has today taken 100% control of WA-based Skywest Airlines, completing the deal which was first announced about six months ago (*TD* 30 Oct).

The move means Skywest will no longer be traded on the Australian Stock Exchange or London's Alternative Investment Market, with VA ceo John Borghetti saying the acquisition "provides Virgin Australia with the assets and capabilities to fast-track its advancement into the

TD in the Pyrenees

THE latest video from Travel
Daily TV showcases France's
spectacular Pyrenees region,
which was visited in connection
with Atout France's recent
Rendezvous trade show
in Toulouse.

To see the exclusive video report click on the logo or see traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Live webcast

growth fly-in fly-out and regional markets".

He said this would in turn increase competition in these market segments, benefiting jobs and tourism particularly in growing regional markets.

The takeover has been effected via a scheme of arrangement in Singapore, and this morning the High Court of Singapore filed documents sanctioning the deal.

Virgin's acquisition of Skywest was announced at the same time as a proposed 60% takeover of Tiger Australia (which is still awaiting ACCC approval) as well as a placement of 10% of Virgin Australia to Singapore Airlines.

Skywest operates Virgin's ARAN turboprop network of ATR aircraft in the eastern states.

Seven pages of news

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news and photos, a front full page for **Cox & Kings** plus full pages from: (**click**)

- TMS Asia Pacific jobs
- AA Appointments jobs

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AAA/CRVA venture

A PARTNERSHIP between the Accommodation Association of Australia (AAA) and Caravan, RV Accommodation Industry of Australia (CRVA) will reap rewards for members of both groups, AAA ceo Richard Munro predicts.

The pact gives CRVA members access to services such as workplace relations support, as well as an enhanced united voice.

CRVA ceo Stuart Lamont said the tie-up "will harmonise important accommodation messages to Government and strengthen lobbying efforts of the whole accommodation industry."



Tourism Fiji ditches BFTE

TOURISM Fiji has announced that it will not be participating in this year's Bula Fiji Tourism Exchange - the industry trade show held annually in the South Pacific nation since 1995.

Tourism Fiji ceo Rick Hamilton said the organisation "cannot support BFTE in its current format where competing Pacific Islands are invited to participate to showcase their offering, conduct contract talks, network and try to win business against Fiji".

It's an about face for Tourism Fiji which had in previous years hailed the event because it uniquely brought wholesalers to Fiji who normally deal with other

Tiger planes 6% fuller

TIGER Airways Australia gained

a 6% year-on-year increase in

passenger carriage in Mar, with

the airline yesterday reporting a

load factor of 85% for the month.

Passenger numbers spiked 57%

the same time last year when the

budget airline was operating at a

significantly reduced capacity.

to 245,000, up from 118,000 at

destinations such as Tahiti.

Hamilton said Tourism Fiji's role is to support tourism in Fiji globally, adding "most of these other island nations have their own shows where they can promote themselves and we believe Fiji is in a strong position to stand alone at its own dedicated event".

He said that with resorts from all over Fiji attending BFTE each year, "it is difficult enough to win business with local competition, let alone have to compete in this forum against the rest of the South Pacific in their own country".

BFTE 2013 is scheduled for 15-17 May at the InterContinental Fiji.

2014 Anzac Tours open

MAT McLachlan Battlefield Tours has released its 2014 range of Anzac tours to both Gallipoli and the Western Front.

Earlybird discounts, offering savings of up to \$200 per person and secured pricing due to the strong Australian dollar, are available until 30 Jun 2013.

See www.battlefields.com.au.



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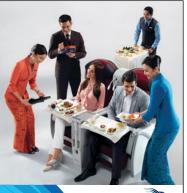
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High-speed rail debate begins

THE final study on the merits of a High-Speed Rail (HSR) line on the Australian east-coast has been released today, with public feedback now being sought.

Three years in the making, the feasibility study has been billed by the Federal Government as a potential "game-changer, transforming the way Australians live, work and take holidays."

DTWM lands Etihad

DISCOVER the World Marketing has signed a representation agreement with Etihad Airways covering Latin America, Europe and Western Canada.

The sales and marketing deal includes Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and the Yukon.

DTW has also renewed partnerships with EY in Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

With a price-tag of \$114 billion, the HSR would carry 84m pax annually, be operational by 2035 and fully completed in 2065.

The "monumental" HSR project could link Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane, and might see the over-land travelling time from the NSW capital to Brisbane or Melbourne cut to under 3hrs.

Four "city-peripheral stations" would be included, along with stations at the Gold Coast, Casino, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Taree, Newcastle, the Central Coast, Southern Highlands, Wagga Wagga, Albury-Wodonga and Shepparton.

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Anthony Albanese said "we must [now] take a deliberate, thoughtful approach, and this report provides a comprehensive analysis on which an informed public debate is now possible."

Albanese also announced the formation of a high level HSR Advisory Group to work with the government to deal with issues arising from the study.

Feedback is open until 30 Jun more at www.bit.ly/HSRstudy.





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Travel Daily on location in Singapore

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from Singapore, courtesy of Qantas Airways.

ALL is in readiness for the long awaited official debut of Qantas' new premium lounge offering at Changi Airport in Singapore.

To be opened later today by QF International ceo Simon Hickey, the upgraded 'Singapore Qantas Lounge' replaces the Qantas and British Airways First Lounge, that was closed earlier this year.

Qantas has remained tight-lipped about what new features will be offered, but has promised "a new standard of luxury".

However, QF's consulting chef Neil Perry was last night tweeting up a storm ahead of the lounge's unveiling, including the below pic.



More coverage from the Qantas Singapore Lounge opening in Travel Daily tomorrow.

Kahala agent offer

HAWAII'S Kahala Hotel & Resort

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Jumeirah targeting Australia



JUMEIRAH Hotels & Resorts is this week holding its first ever Australian roadshow, with events in Melbourne and Sydney targeting key clients from the travel agency and MICE sectors.

The move reflects ongoing strong interest in the Australian market by Jumeirah - and although planned months ago has turned out to be impeccably timed, coming just after the launch of the new Qantas-Emirates partnership and QF's new Dubai hub.

Sales managers from several Jumeirah UAE properties were in attendance, and the event also showcased other Jumeirah hotels from its global portfolio including in London, Istanbul, Rome, China, the Maldives and more.

Key travel agent supporters and airlines were thanked for their contribution to helping their

guests to "Stay Different".

Pictured above from left: Stephen Hall, Jumeirah at Etihad Towers Abu Dhabi: Anne Lvanage. Jumeirah Emirates Towers Dubai: Elwin Kemming, Madinat Jumeirah Dubai; Ross Park, Jumeirah Zabeel Saray Dubai; Teree George, Jumeirah Director of Global Sales Australia; Christian Hellot, Jumeirah Creekside Hotel Dubai; and Mohamad Slieman, Jumeirah Beach Hotel.

Quest on Franklin

QUEST Serviced Apartments has opened its 7th South Australianbased property in Adelaide this week - Quest on Franklin.

Located in the CBD, the complex offers a selection of studio, one-, two- & three-bedroom apartment options to cater for increased demand for extended stays.



Window

THE looming personal income tax deadline in the USA has prompted a number of hotels to offer a range of special deals.

The Internal Revenue Service requires tax returns to be filed by 15 Apr, meaning many people are currently frenziedly going through shoeboxes full of receipts and statements.

Some hotels have gone all out to assist, offering "stress buster" deals including access to on-call accountants as well as business services such as scanners and printers.

Others are relieving the stress via special spa packages, while the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza has tax-time drinks such as the "In the Red Bloody Mary" and the "In the Black Russian".

AN ELDERLY German couple have ended up more than 250km away from home after making a wrong turn on their way home.

The Bavarian pair had planned a five minute trip back to their house from a funeral on Mon evening, but apparently ended up on a motorway and couldn't find their way back.

Police eventually caught up with them in the city of Linz in Austria, after they grazed some other vehicles while trying to turn around in the middle of a busy bridge.

is providing travel agents 15% commission on bookings made through GDS for stays between 01 Apr and 30 Jun.

GDS to take avail the offer.

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Design updates Down Under

DESIGN Hotels, based in Berlin, Germany last night updated preferred wholesalers and trade partners on its expanding range of product at an upmarket function at Sydney's funky QT Hotel.

Reps from 12 overseas hotels, who had also visited Melbourne were present, keen to meet new clients and to inform them that the privately-owned hotel group has 250 hotels world-wide & now celebrating its 20th anniversary.

"We have three 4 and 5-star

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hotels in Australia under the Design label, one in Brisbane, another in Melbourne and we're opening an incredible new property to be called Hotel Hotel in Canberra in July," Design Hotels Oceania director of sales Malene Bertlesen told *Travel Daily*.

"What sets us apart is we're not a chain, each hotel has its own name, and we see that as a strength of the brand, as we have a connection to the local area and a sense of place," she added.

With rates under \$200 per night at the Standard Hotel in Los Angeles, Design Hotels says it also offers affordable accommodation.

Pictured above from left is Cuties Chitpitak, The Library Hotel; Malene Bertelsen, Design Hotels; Tracey Atherton, Hotel Hotel and Dianna Balabon, The Standard Hotel, Los Angeles

Hawaiian Air to China

HAWAIIAN Airlines announced late yesterday that it is seeking government approval to launch new direct services to China.

The Honolulu-based carrier says it aspires to introduce new thrice weekly services non-stop to Beijing in about 12 months time, making the Chinese capital HA's 10th new int'l destination since Nov 2010.

"As the barriers to visitor travel from China to the United States slowly come down, we believe there will be significant demand for a Hawaii vacation," said HA president & ceo Mark Dunkerley.

The China service is earmarked to debut on 16 Apr 2014, and will be operated by A330 aircraft.

Austria mag on iPad

AUSTRIA National Tourist Office has unveiled a new interactive magazine available for iPads.

The Austria iPad App features travel tips, destination info and recommendations on where to stay, where to eat and what to do while in the country.

Other highlights include photos, destination videos and the latest attractions, all compiled to assist iPad users to help plan a holiday.

Download the iAustria Mag. Vacation in Austria app at iTunes.



Thursday 11th Apr 2013

Quantum anticipation

ROYAL Caribbean is set to reveal further details of its new-build Quantum-class cruising vessels (*TD* 06 Feb) in coming days.

"It seems like we have been keeping this a secret forever," ceo & president Adam Goldstein said on his latest online blog.

The first Quantum-class ship, aptly named *Quantum of the Seas*, will be delivered in late 2014, followed six months later by sister-ship *Anthem of the Seas*.

"While there are many exciting new ships emerging from all parts of the industry, I believe viscerally that no other cruise line devotes itself to the newbuild design process the way Royal Caribbean does," Goldstein stated.

Intrepid Americas sale

INTREPID is offering a 15% discount on its range of Central & South America adventures when booked by 15 May.

The offer is extended to 14 trips including its nine-day Galapagos Venture, using the code 9732.







A new Quest for Adelaide - Quest on Franklin Now Open

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Adventure back in TCF

NORTHBRIDGE WA-based agency Peter Pan's Backpacker Adventure Travel has been reinstated into the Travel Compensation Fund, effective immediately.



ABOVE: Infinity Holidays hosted this group of Top Achievers in its Aussie Gold incentive from Flight Centre, Escape Travel, Student Flights & Travel Associates stores on a recent trip to the Red Centre.

Held in partnership with Voyages, AAT Kings and Northern Territory Tourism, highlights of the trip included participating in the Sounds of Silence and a visit to The Camel Farm.

The 60 agents were given an opportunity to network with 20 suppliers taking part in the trip through a speed dating-style training session.

The Top 10 stores were also treated to an unforgettable night at Longitude 131.

And five lucky delegates were chosen for a flight to Kings Canyon that included a walk through the canyon and a gourmet lunch.

The contingent of Flight Centre Ltd's consultants and others are **pictured** at the Uluru Camel Farm.

Watch out SWISS



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What is the SWISS agents support email?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Mathew Doyle from Quest SXY South Yarra.



Aircalin \$299 May fare

ONE-WAY fares to Noumea ex Brisbane and Sydney priced from \$299 are being offered for travel between 01-31 May 2013, when ticketed before 05 May.

Aircalin Manager Australia Brett Walsh said the fare is the "best value" sector out in the market.

Free web at Frasers

FRASERS Hospitality has today announced it will offer guests staying at its worldwide network of serviced apartments unlimited free internet access.

CEO Choe Peng Sum said the initiative was key to keep with the group's 'Gold-Standard' service, "to complete guests whole experience of staying with us."

Frasers has a property network of 77 in 41 countries, including three locally, being Fraser Suites Perth and Sydney and Fraser Place Melbourne.

Industry Appointments

WELCOME to *Industry Appointments, Travel Daily's* Thu feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Sales guru **Peter Douglas** has been welcomed to the **Excite Holidays** team in the role of National Sales Manager. Douglas brings experience with Garuda, Emirates and Creative Holidays and has been tasked with driving the development of new markets for the agent-only wholesaler.

General Manager at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort, **Neeraj Chadha** has ascended further up the ranks, being named this week as the new Multi Property Vice President Australia for the **Marriott Group**.

Rob Campbell has been named as the newest non-executive director on the Board at **Tourism Holdings Limited** from o6 May. Campbell brings more than 20 years experience in corporate governance and investment.

Tourism & Transport Forum has announced **Ken Morrison** as the man to replace John Lee in the role of Chief Executive Officer. Morrison will begin on 20 May and brings many years at Property Council of Australia.

Bustling NZ entertainment hub, **SkyCity Auckland**, has made three new appointments to its senior management team. **John Mortensen** has accepted the role of General Manager, with **Matt Ballesty** as Group GM Gaming Strategy. **Simon Jamieson** has moved into the position of Group GM Facilities Development. All report to Group chief Nigel Morrison.

Bringing an extensive business background specialising in the Asian market, **Finnair** has named **Pekka Vauramo** as its new CEO. Vauramo has been tasked with developing the carrier's growth strategy in Asia.

Bringing over 30 years in the travel industry across airline and hospitality sectors, **Lillian & Ian Mann** have opted for a seachange and moved in as the new Resort Managers at **Cumberland Resort & Spa**, Norfolk Island.

Everything is ramping up in a big way in Christchurch, with the doubling of the trade representation team at the region's tourism authority - Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism. Trade Marketing Manager Julia Panfilo has welcomed Ellie Grace as new Trade Marketing Coordinator.

Bringing over 30 years writing experience, **Joanna Hall** has taken up the position of Online Editor for **CruiseGuide.com.au**.

Former GTA Senior Vice President for Global Sourcing **Ivan Walter** has been promoted into the role of CEO for GTA - Kuoni's Business to Business ground products and services provider. In his place, the company has promoted **Martin Jones** into Walter's previously held role.

Positively Wellington Tourism has selected **One Green Bean** as the successful applicant agency for its Public Relations duties in the Australian market, with the appointment taking effect from this month.

Heritage Hotel Management has recruited **Donna Stewart** to the role of the new General Manager at the **Heritage Queenstown**.

Akshay Singh has commenced in his new position of General Manager for Sales, Marketing & Reservations at the **Pacific Resort Hotel Group**.

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Send your entry by COB on 30th Apr to: palmsprings@traveldaily.com.au.









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IAG ups bid for Vueling

SPANISH airline Vueling has advised its stakeholders to accept the latest share buyout offer from International Airlines Group, the same organisation who own British Airways and Iberia.

IAG already owns more than 45% of the Barcelona-based airline and is expected to use the carrier to better compete with low-cost operators in the region.

DFAT travel checklist

THE Dept of Foreign Affairs & Travel is encouraging travellers heading overseas to "make sure you're ready to go" by printing out its specially prepared travel "checklist" - www.bit.ly/dfattick.

Free CCC Fiji wifi

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has announced the introduction of free wireless internet on aboard its MV Reef Endeavour during its three, four, seven and eleven night cruises in Fiji.

Tabua Suites feature free wifi while internet is also available in various public areas of the vessel.

Captain Cook Cruises Fiji exec director, Jackie Haworth-Charlton said that although the itinerary visits remote islands and villages, the company has found that 3G connectivity is available from most of the anchorages.

CCC Fiji has also appointed PADI operator Viti Water Sports to look after diving and snorkelling activities for its passengers.

AA Redmond Oregon

AMERICAN Airlines' new once daily CRJ200 route from Los Angeles (TD yesterday) operates to Redmond, Oregon, not Redmond, Washington State.



Thursday 11th Apr 2013

Brekky with a Boomtown Rat



MTA recently joined the Travelscene American Express Brisbane Business Chicks breakfast event at the city's Pullman Hotel, at which they were addressed by guest speaker Sir Bob Geldof.

The knighted rock-star, most famous as the lead singer of the Boomtown Rats group in the late 1970's, presented about Personal Responsibility to the group, which included MTA's Karen Merricks and Margaret Lange.

Brisbane Business Chicks serves

Virgin US to Hawaii

THE 'Aloha State' is on the radar for Virgin Australia's sister-carrier Virgin America, according to the airline's ceo David Cush.

Flagged services would likely operate from San Francisco to Honolulu in 2015, once VX takes delivery of A320 aircraft equipped with "sharklets" for greater range, Pacific Business News reports.

MEANWHILE, Virgin America is seeking to further boost its codeshare alliance with Singapore Airlines to include services from Los Angeles to Dallas/Fort Worth & San Jose; as well as between San Francisco & Chicago, Dallas/ Fort Worth and Portland, Oregon.

as a measure to provide support, to promote and empower women in business, with Sir Richard Branson speaking later this year.

Merricks and Lange are pictured above at the breakfast with the other attending TSAX agents.

SAA mobile app

SOUTH African Airways has launched new Apple iOS and Android mobile applications which allow passengers to view booking information, check in for a flight, find the status of their checked baggage and view info on lounges, flights and destinations across the globe.



Supplier **Updates**

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Business Development / Sales Manager

Sydney - \$75K Package + Incentives - Ref 507

Do you have sound understanding of Corporate Travel Sales, business development experience & a proven sales record? A leading travel management company are looking for Sales / BDM to assist with their ongoing expansion across the travel market. You will be sourcing new leads and building rapport and developing relationships with key prospects. This is a rare chance to develop your managerial and corporate travel experience with a leading TMC.

For more information, please call Briarna on (02) 9113 7272 or click APPLY

Senior Leisure & Corporate Consultant

N.E. Country Victoria - \$DOE + Super - Ref 516

This may be a tree change for some or an exciting new new job opportunity! Work in a beautiful country town that brings joy to your job. Bring your expertise to this busy office where you will be working together with a dynamic, established team to meet clients individual demands & book worldwide itineraries. You will need proficiency in using a GDS, Amadeus preferred but not essential. An existing client base and ability to work to sales target is very advantageous.

For more information, please call Patrizia on (02) 9113 7272 or click <u>APPLY</u>

South Pacific Specialist Travel Consultant

Sydney - \$45K (OTE \$120K) + Educationals - Ref 472

Another amazing opportunity for experienced Travel Consultants to boost your earnings by joining a fantastic growing company as a South Pacific Travel Specialist! Based in lovely modern offices in Sydney CBD say good bye to face-to-face consulting and hello to a generous commission structure, realistic targets and your own phone number! Be ready to sell clients their ideal holidays using your superior South Pacific knowledge. Don't delay this dream role will be snapped up!

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

Travel Consultant

N. Sub Melbourne - \$DOE + Super - Ref LMA123

A fantastic opportunity has arisen! Are you passionate about selling worldwide holidays and meeting the needs of your clients? Do you have outstanding customer service skills? If you have a minimum 2 years as a Travel Consultant and proven sales experience, this may be your lucky day. This award winning agency is looking for a dynamic and experienced Travel Consultant. Ideally you will be fluid in a GDS and are looking for a role in the Northern Suburbs of Melbourne.

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

International Corporate Consultant

Adelaide - \$Excellent Salary Package - Ref 492

Urgently seeking an experienced International Corporate / Retail Consultant! You must have solid CRS and fares and ticketing skills. This is a varied role working for a well-established TMC, who has built its reputation on fantastic customer service. You will have a bubbly personality and great personal travel experiences. This is a sound opportunity for a customer service and sales orientated Corporate Consultant. Exceptional training and great opportunities offered.

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