



Flight Centre loses to ACCC



QF Lounges closing

QANTAS will close some of its busiest Domestic Business Lounges over a four-week period starting Christmas Day, the carrier has revealed.

"We're going to use this opportunity to carry out some routine cleaning & maintenance," the Australia-flag carrier says.

The closures affect lounges in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns from 25 Dec to 12 Jan, during which time eligible pax will be invited to use the Qantas Club.

Parkroyal Docklands

PAN Pacific Hotels Group has today revealed it will open its fourth Australian and second Melbourne-based Parkroyal hotel in the Docklands precinct in 2016.

Parkroyal Melbourne will feature 281 rooms, occupying the first 18 floors of the 37 storey hotel & apartment Altus complex.

The property will join Parkroyal Melbourne Airport in Victoria.

* AMERICAN EXPLORER 2014 *

TCMega

FLIGHT Centre md Graham Turner says the company will examine today's Federal Court ruling (*TD* breaking news) "to determine any possible implications for the business," after a judgement in favour of the ACCC's price-fixing allegations.

The judgement is likely to have implications across the travel industry as well as for many retailers and agents in other sectors, Turner said, with Flight Centre to "consider all options, including grounds for appeal". No penalties have been determined in the case at this stage, with a further hearing to take place at a later date.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news & photos, plus full pages from: (*click*) • AA Appointments jobs • Consolidated/VA promo

100 PLACES TO THE WEST COAST OF USA

★ Visit Los Angeles, Las Vegas & more!

 \star Every booking made with

Trafalgar, Contiki, Insight Vacations and Creative Holidays for all destinations and

holiday products, until 15 January 2014, will gain you entry into the draw

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

Combine your land booking with a

your chances of winning

Creative Holidays The ACCC instituted proceedings against Flight Centre 18 months ago (*TD* 09 Mar 2012) claiming that between 2005 and 2009 the company attempted to induce Singapore Airlines, Emirates and Malaysian Airlines to stop sales of flights direct to consumers via their respective websites - in order to "maintain the level of Flight Centre's commissions".

Turner said Flight Centre was disappointed at the ruling, adding that "the company is not in the business of making airfares more expensive...in fact we regularly suggest to airlines that they lower prices to stimulate demand.

"As an agent that provides considerable free advice and help to the travelling public, FLT asks for adequate commissions from suppliers and also reasonable access to all deals that they release to the market...to ensure the customers it serves are not disadvantaged," he said.

AYQ Resort endorsed

THE newly appointed board at Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia have given their firsthand endorsement of Ayers Rock Resort following a visit to the Red Centre property this week.

Chairperson Lisa Gay said having visited, the entire board left with a "sense of incredible optimism" for the resort's future.

"I was most impressed with Ayers Rock Resort itself and in particular the achievements in Indigenous employment, training & development," Gay said.

In two years, the number of Indigenous staff at AYQ Resort has risen from two to 215 today.

Skimax phones out

WHOLESALER Skimax Holidays is recommending travel agent enquiries be directed to its email address as a result of difficulties with its phone systems today.

Contact the snow travel gurus at agents@skimax.com.au.

Travelmarvel ARVELLOUS INCENTIVES!



Any agent who books 5 Travelmarvel tours and cruises, will be awarded a Travelmarvel cruise for themselves and a friend.

✓ 1 October to 15 December 2013

✓ Choice of Travelmarvel Russia, Rhône or Vietnam & Cambodia

(1300 300 036

Conditions apply. TM1086

insidesales@aptouring.com.au OR CONTACT YOUR BDM

Introducing Ireland's 'wild side'

INSIGHT VACATIONS

Introduce your clients to the Wild Atlantic Way – out on the edge of Europe, there's 2,400kms of spectacular signposted driving route which stretches the length of the West Coast – Drive the whole way or sections of it. Tell them about discovering the hidden places and secret worlds full of authentic experiences that are unique to Ireland.

Virgin

australla



For more information including the latest Ireland guide, maps, B&B info & regional brochures call us on (02) 9964 6900

Email: info@tourismireland.com.au Website: www.Ireland.com

Jump into Ireland ireland.com







Friday 6th December 2013

S&P downgrades Qantas

Huge Ireland growth

TOURISM Ireland is celebrating a massive year in the Australasian market, with a whopping 26.4% year on year growth in visitation for the Aug-Oct period, which saw more than 61,000 people travelling to Ireland from Australia and New Zealand.

That showed an acceleration from the already strong 19.7% growth figures for the prior quarter, with Tourism Ireland manager for Australia/NZ, Diane Butler saying the bumper Sep and Oct figures are "really satisfying".

Factors included the successful 2013 *The Gathering* initiative, along with a large amount of work undertaken to engage trade partners who have assisted with marketing the destination.

"We are focused on continuing our very strong relationships with our major airline, wholesale and retail partners as well as working on new partnerships and creating affiliate marketing opportunities," Butler said.

Momentum will continue into 2014 with the planned launch of a new 'Ireland Specialist' travel agent training site as well as a schedule of educationals.

Butler said next year Tourism Ireland will also focus on "reaching new markets through sport and experiential tourism."

FJ lifts LAX frequency

FIJI Airways is adding an eighth weekly service between Nadi and Los Angeles from 19 Jun to 14 Aug using Airbus A330s.

According to agent GDS displays, the new service will operate on Thu, departing NAN at 3:00pm & arriving into LAX at 6:45am, then returning from the US at 2:00pm, landing back in Fiji at 8:20pm.

MEANWHILE, Fiji Airways boss Stefan Pichler has flagged the potential of new Asian routes to Singapore and Shanghai.

A decision on new routes is expected after the carrier receives additional funding from the Fijian government in the 2014 budget. **QANTAS** chief financial officer Gareth Evans says it's "business as usual" for the carrier, after ratings agency Standard & Poor's this afternoon downgraded QF's credit rating, saying the outlook is negative due to a "structural shift in the domestic competitive landscape [which] has weakened Qantas' business risk profile".

An update from S&P says "we expect the cyclical and structural headwinds facing the airline to persist, which could hinder a timely recovery of its financial risk profile and credit metrics".

Qantas shares were suspended from trading pending the S&P announcement (*TD* breaking news) but have since resumed and are stable at around \$1.07 - the level they slumped to after ceo Alan Joyce flagged a first half loss of up to \$300m and 1,000 job cuts (*TD* yesterday).

S&P says intense competition has weakened QF's business and financial risk profiles, with the company unlikely to recover its previous rating in the near term.

In the domestic market "additions to capacity have accelerated significantly over the past 12 months in both corporate and leisure travel - a trend that is unlikely to ease given our expectation that Qantas will aggressively seek to maintain its established market share.

"Virgin Australia has become a more formidable competitor to Qantas, partly as a result of its dual-brand strategy and well-

QF PER-AKL flat out

DEMAND for Qantas' very first Perth-Auckland transTasman seasonal service has "exceeded expectation."

The new service will operate twice-weekly using A330 aircraft over the holiday season, adding close to 1,000 seats per week from today until 31 Jan.

QF's A330s on the route are fitted with Skybeds in Business.

capitalised shareholders," S&P's analysts wrote.

The new "BB+/Negative/B" rating doesn't factor in any "extraordinary government support," as is being sought by QF ceo Alan Joyce.

MEANWHILE Virgin Australia has issued a robust defence of its position, insisting that the playing field is not tipped in its favour.

"The proposition that Virgin Australia has access to cheaper capital by virtue of our shareholder base is completely false," the company said.

VA's current \$350m capital raising is "a standard way that publicly listed companies raise funds," and the vast majority of its transformation over the past three years has been funded from its own balance sheet, "not from foreign government capital".

Further, VA's capacity increases since 2010 have been limited to routes in need of further frequencies and competition, while the carrier also pointed out that during 2012/13 Qantas Group added twice as much domestic capacity as Virgin to maintain its 65% market share.

"Virgin Australia's strategy is, and always has been, to bring strong competition to all sectors of the Australian market, not to destroy the competition," VA said.

Hong Kong H7N9 case

THE first human case of avian influenza (H7N9) in Hong Kong has been reported this month, the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade confirmed yesterday.

The infected person has recently visited mainland China.

The Smartraveller site advises there is no evidence of sustained human to human transmission associated with the virus.

In response, the Hong Kong Special Administration Region Government has raised its response level for Influenza Pandemic from 'alert' to 'serious.'

Chard to leave AOT

LONG time AOT Wholesale and Sunlover Holidays executive Leanne Chard is leaving the firm after 32 years, with the appointment of Lisa Harrison as AOT's new General Manager -Wholesale.

AOT ceo Andrew Burnes paid tribute to Chard, commending her dedication and long term commitment to the Australian travel industry.

"She has been an incredible asset for AOT," he said.

Harrison joins the company after a 20 year career in retail travel, most recently as gm of the former HWT and now Magellan agency where2travel.

Chard finishes at AOT on Wed 18 Dec, while Harrison takes up her new Melbourne-based role effective 14 Jan.



*Conditions apply. Contact APT for full terms & conditions. Australian Pacific Touring Pty Ltd ABN 44 004 684 619 Lic. No. 30112 MKT12546

MIXED CABIN FARES

Mixed Economy/Business fares from

\$5,890+

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS

MTA'ers sizzle in Cooks' sunshine



LOOKING relaxed while at work on a famil to the Cook Islands was a real effort for these MTA



THE PRIZE INCLUDES

 ★ Return economy airfares to Los Angeles courtesy of Virgin Australia
 ★ A place on the 9-day American Explorer famil as a guest of Insight Vacations

Tell us in 25 words or less why you would like to join Insight Vacations on the American Explorer famil?

Answers can be found in the relevant Insight Vacations brochures

Entrants are required to answer all four questions released daily and the 25 words or less question featured above

Email your answer to: ttcmega@traveldaily.com.au

CLICK HERE FOR TERMS & CONDITIONS



team members who took part in a recent exclusive Mobile Travel Agent/Air New Zealand educational program.

The group visited and stayed at the Pacific Resort Rarotonga, The Santuary Rarotonga, Pacific Resort Aitutaki, and are **pictured** at Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa.

A highlight of the trip was a cultural experience at Te Vara Nui Village on Rarotonga.

From left are Bev Walters, Linda Critchell, Janine Methven, Sandy Sirianni, Suzie ten Bohmer and Amanda Erwin.

Cruise to Couran Cove

SEA World Cruises on the Gold Coast will tomorrow introduce a new Nature Day Cruise to South Stradbroke Island which includes time on the island and lunch at the newly re-opened Ramada Couran Cove Island Resort.

The voyage departs from Sea World Cruise terminal, operates from 10am to 4pm on Sat, Sun, Tue & Thu, and is priced at \$85 per adult & \$65 per child.

Additionally, the High Life Day Cruise to Sanctuary Cove that enables guests to "sample the Gold Coast high life for a day" has been reintroduced this season.

It operates on the same days, priced at \$65/adult & \$55/child. Sea World admission can be added for an extra \$20pp. The cruise season runs through until 25 May.

Ponant names local team

Call 1300 682 000

Maxine joined because

Every agent has

a reason to join

it's her ticket to freedom

COMPAGNIE du Ponant's new Australasian chairman Sarina Bratton (*TD* 25 Nov) has announced the appointment of Monique Ponfoort as Ponant's Vice President Australasia.

First with the news

Friday 6th December 2013

Ponfoort, well known to the industry through her former role as Jetset Travelworld/Stella Group marketing mgr, will "oversee the day to day general management of the Australasian region including brand development, sales, marketing and customer service," Bratton said.

She'll be joined by former Orion Expedition Cruises sales manager Steve McLaughlin, whom Bratton has appointed as Ponant's new Director of Sales Australasia.

Bratton said both Ponfoort and McLaughlin bring "strong and relevant experience, and understand the importance of strong relationships with both the trade and our guests".

They will lead a "small team of Ponant cruise specialists in this market as we broaden our reach and product acceptance, with the aim of becoming the luxury yacht and expedition cruise company of choice for trade and consumer alike," Bratton added.

Beachcomber change

RESORT, sales and marketing manager at Fiji's Beachcomber Island Resort, Lavonne Fremlin has resigned from her role due to "unforeseen circumstances."

Ferrari races into SYD

SYDNEY Motorsports Park will exclusively host the Ferrari Racing Days over three days in Apr, including a round of the Ferrari Asia Pacific Challenge series.

The event, held between 11-13 Apr, will feature a display of the latest Ferrari line-up, track activities and entertainment.

NSW Minister for Tourism George Souris said the event was a "fantastic addition" to the state's sporting calendar. The announcement also provides further details about the ongoing relationship between Ponant and Travel the World.

Bratton confirmed that TTW will be a "preferred partner" of the cruise line, which will also work to "broaden our penetration in this market and build recognition, distribution and sales across the Australasian region".



NOVOTEL properties around the world could feature moving walls and electric floors as soon as the year 2020 if a team of Kiwi students have their way.

Over 300 students in the Asia-Pacific region were invited to come up with what the Novotel brand could offer in the future.

Many ideas centred around innovative technology, green sustainable initiatives such as new smartphone apps, rooftop gardens & piezoelectric floors. An Indian team also envisaged

a concept known as "NOVA", which stands for Novotel Own Virtual Assistant and will incorporate voice recognition technology to run everything in the hotel.

WEST Palm Beach in Florida has this week kicked off the festive season by unveiling a massive 10m-high Christmas tree.

However unlike the traditional style, the destination is highlighting its natural features by making the remarkable edifice (below) out of sand.





Friday 6th December 2013

IATA optimistic for Aus bounce

AUSTRALIAN domestic air traffic during Oct increased 1.2% compared to the corresponding period in 2012, IATA has reported, some five points behind overall domestic travel demand globally.

Whereas, China was the clear leader in local traffic rises, up 12.3% on the back of "robust economic activity", the Int't Air Transport Association said.

India and Russia both achieved domestic air travel increases of over 11% during Oct.

The local result was also down



This week, Travel Daily and Palace Films are giving five lucky winners the chance to win a double pass to the new movie, The Gilded Cage (M). This warm-hearted delight is the story of a loving, hardworking couple whose dream of returning to their

Portuguese hometown becomes possible thanks to the unexpected inheritance - only for their plans to be secretly undermined by their overly dependent

friends and neighbours. To win, be first person to email the correct answer to the daily question below to:



palace@traveldaily.com.au.

Which cinema is The Gilded Cage playing at in Canberra

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Cassandra Chapple of **Tourism Victoria**. The correct answer was: over 1.2 million.

0.2 points on the month prior. "While weaker domestic demand and sluggishness in growth of major trade partners like China constrained air travel, improvements in business and consumer confidence linked to interest rate cuts suggest a more positive economic outlook," IATA said late yesterday.

Global pax traffic results for Oct showed a moderate acceleration of the robust demand trend over the last few months.

Total revenue pax traffic was up 6.6%, ahead of capacity increases of 6.5%, equating to a "virtually flat" load factor of 78.9%.

International passenger demand was up 6.9% year-on-year.

IATA director general and chief executive Tony Tyler said the Oct traffic results were in line with expectations for a strong Q4.

Migration mark two

LODGES & camps in Kenya's Maasai Mara reserve are recording record high business over the Christmas period as a result of an unusual second leg of the annual wildebeest migration.

Traditionally the migration runs between Jul-Aug, but according to the Kenya Tourism Board the beasts are on the march again from Tanzania's Serengeti plains.

"This second migration is a Christmas gift to enthusiasts who missed the migration season, and we are calling on both international and local tourists not to miss this second chance" says KTB md Muriithi Ndegwa.

SeaLink KGI packages

DAY packages to the Food & Wine Gourmet Gallop Race Day on Kangaroo Island ex Adelaide have been released by SeaLink. Including coach transfers to Cape Jervis & return SeaLink ferry travel and transport to the 25 Jan race, the package is priced at \$148 per adult - sealink.com.au.



Call • 1800 306 669 Email • tours@chinatours.com

APT put to the Luke Nguyen test



CULINARY prowess among the APT team was put up against the best recently as celebrity chef and APT Vietnam & Cambodia ambassador Luke Nguyen hosted a cooking competition for APT's customer service team.

The activity saw the group learn how to make some of the signature dishes made famous by

TNZ site Hobbit host

A PREVIEW of filming locations across New Zealand that appear in the latest *Hobbit* film is being promoted to wantabe travellers on the newzealand.com website.

The site has been launched in nine languages and coincides with the US debut of The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, leveraging the connection between the film and the real 'Middle-earth'.

TNZ chief Kevin Bowler said the 'Take a Flight' feature shows the fantasy locations used to portray Middle-earth are indeed a reality.

Browsers are able to interact & learn more about locations in New Zealand which relate to the Hobbit trilogy, and what activities are offered in each destination.

"The feature takes the 100% Middle-earth, 100% Pure New Zealand experience to a new level of engagement for our target markets," Bowler commented.

Nguyen, who imparted some of his hints and tips to the team.

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

Pictured around the table after enjoying lunch made of their own creations, from left is Elissa Toghill, Emma Wheeler, Elitza Hyduke, Luke Nguyen, Nicholas Sherrard, Tammy Te Moananui and Sajiya Sayar.

Russian tour credits

BEYOND Travel is offering \$300 bonus travel credits per couple for bookings made on its 10-day Highlights of Russia itinerary, if paid in full by 28 Feb.

Five guaranteed departures are scheduled to operate on the firstclass tour between Jun and Sep.

Credits can be used to purchase pre or post accommodation, rail tickets, additional sightseeing or other extras with Beyond Travel.

It's priced at \$3,695ppts - for more info, phone 1300 363 554.

Eurail incentive

AGENTS booking a Eurail Global or Select Pass through Rail Plus before 2pm on 24 Dec will receive a \$40 Coles Group & Myer Gift Card per booking.

The latest promotion follows "enormous demand" for its most recent \$60 gift card incentive which has since sold out.

Conditions & exclusions apply.



THIS group of Carlson Wagonlit Travel consultants travelled in style to Europe last month to experience some of the world's top high-speed rail journeys, courtesy of Rail Plus, Rail Europe and Malaysia Airlines.

The eight CWT agents flew Business class to London with MH where they stayed at the historic Goring Hotel in Belgravia, prior to stepping aboard Eurostar at St Pancras Station for a trip to Brussels.

After enjoying some Belgian chocolates and other sweet delights on a walking tour, the incentive winners from around the country hopped on a highspeed Thalys train service to Cologne, then used a German Rail Pass to take the German ICE train to Stuttgart, home of luxury car maker Mercedes Benz.

They also sampled the ICE train to Paris for a walk down the Champs-Elysees & flew on MH's new A380 home from Paris.

Pictured at the Mercedes Benz museum from left are Ari Ganas, CWT Melbourne; Ingrid Kocijan, Rail Plus; Jean Lim, CWT Sydney; Richard Leonard, Rail Europe; Suzanne Hallas, Malaysia Airlines; Brad Wilton, CWT Melbourne; Nevileen Kumar, CWT Brisbane; Stephen Warner, CWT Adelaide; Jason Robertson, CWT Adelaide; Alex Jackson, CWT Melbourne & Sharon Gardner, CWT Adelaide.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily*'s Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au.

A special travel industry rate of £99 (\$180) + VAT per room per night at **The Radisson Blu Edwardian Mercer Street Hotel** is available through the Hotel Connection for stays between 21-26 Dec & 01-31 Jan. The rates increases to £119 (\$215) + VAT for Mon-Thu stays after o7 Jan. Travel industry ID is required. To book, phone (03) 9520 2353

APT has released a second departure of its 12-day Italy & Dalmatian Delights itinerary aboard the *MV Variety Voyager*. The tour operator has slashed \$2,000 from the tour price, which is now offered from \$6,995ppts if booked well in advance. Phone 1300 278 278 for more information.

Samoa's **Coconuts Beach Club Resort & Spa** is inviting couples to come and get married with its Ultimate Group Wedding Packages. Priced from US\$6,999 per couple, the offer includes five nights in an overwater fale and a reception for up to 20 people. Email info@ptm.net.au for details.

Tahiti Travel Connection has five- and seven-night deals at the Le Meridien Tahiti or InterContinental Resort & Thalasso Spa Bora Bora. Packages are priced from \$2,395ppts and \$4,680 respectively inclusive of flights, accom, taxes & more. Call 1300 858 305 to book.

Savings of 25% are offered on Egypt group tours departing in Jan or Feb through **On the Go Tours.** The special offer is valid for all new bookings paid in full by 31 Dec. (Egypt & Beyond Tours which combine Egypt with Jordan, Isreal & Turkey are excluded). See www.onthegotours.com.

CCC Fiji into TCF

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises Fiji has registered a Neutral Bay, NSWbased location with the Travel Compensation Fund, joining eight other new head office agencies in the second half of Nov.

All but two of the new offices are located in NSW, being Vanbur Travel Marketing & Design in Mount Gravatt East and Kinnaree Tour in Brisbane.

The other TCF additions include VR Travel & ATS Pacific in Sydney; The Grace Tours & Travel in Ryde; Aussie Way Travel in Kellyville, Int'l Globe Travel in Horningsea Park and Travelworld Tamworth.

Temple Travel also registered helloworld Shellharbour as a branch location.

US seeks AA routes

US AIRWAYS has requested expedited clearance to enable it to operate on a range of overseas services already operated by merger partner American Airlines.

The carrier told the US Dept of Transportation yesterday it wants the flexibility to operate its own aircraft on seven new routes, being: Miami, Dallas/Fort Worth, New York JFK and San Juan to Caracas, Miami & New York JFK to Maracaibo and Miami to Valencia.

Best Western on track

A BOUTIQUE style retreat in Victoria and spa resort in NSW are among three new properties joining Best Western's Australian portfolio before Christmas.

The other new addition will be a serviced apartment complex in Queensland.

Best Western Australasia chief executive Rob Anderson said the brand's expansion in on track, and is now attracting interest from a "higher quality" segment of the market.

Anderson said the group expects to end the 2013 calendar year with 13 new properties.

New Segway touring

SEGWAY Tours South Coast has commenced eco-tour adventures through the Illawarra region, ranging from 30 to 90 minutes.

Tours run on weekends priced from \$39 - phone 0402 000 222.

MEANWHILE, Segway Townsville has won approval to operate commercial tours through the city's Common Conservation Park.

Technology Update

Today's Technology Update is brough to you by Amadeus IT Pacific.

IS INNOVATION A GAME CHANGER FOR YOUR BUSINESS?



It's the little things that can make or break your travel experience. A neck pillow for example, can make all

the difference on that dreaded long haul flight.

It's easy to take innovations for granted. Electronic tickets, cameras and GPS have brought positive changes to travel today. Things as simple as travel review sites or smart phones that allow us to share stories and pictures of our breakfast from a beach in Bali with our friends in an instant. Remember the days before mobile or web check-in, where we had to toil in airport queues instead of sitting back and enjoying the airport experience?

At Amadeus we are consistently developing better travel technology solutions for our customers: from the creation of the Amadeus GDS, in 1987 to the industry-changing Altéa suite and to the groundbreaking Amadeus Extreme Search solution – innovation has clearly shaped us into the organisation that we are today. In fact, Amadeus has spent over AUD 3,76 Billion in R&D since 2004 and has 5000 staff focused on development and innovation across 16 centres across the world - including Australia! We are always searching for new methods, ideas, and solutions that will shape the future of travel to help grow your business. Click here to learn how innovation has shaped Amadeus over 25 years. From all of us from the Amadeus team happy holidays to all our travel partners!

PS. With Finnair being the official airline for **Santa Clause** and an Altéa carrier, we know that the Santa is in good hands!

Tony Carter, Managing Director, Amadeus IT Pacific

AMADEUS Your technology partner

Page 5

Japanese feast fit for Aussie agts



TUCKING into a gourmet Japanese Izakaya banquet meal was the perfect setting for this group of agents while touring Japan recently.

The group were being hosted to a six-night visit to China & Japan courtesy of Travel Indochina and China Southern Airlines taking in the highlights of Guangzhou and the Japanese capital of Tokyo.

Taking advantage of the 72-hour visa-free stopover policy available in Guangzhou, the agents toured Shamian Island, took a Sampan cruise and shopped up a frenzy at the Qingping Markets.

While in Japan, the group participated in a reverent tour of many magnificent and tranquil gardens, iconic temples and cruising on the Sumida River.

In addition to the two major cities, the group took in the sights of Hakone & the inspiring Mt Fuji.

For some, one of the highlights was actually the trip home, with upgrades to Business Class coming to see the group travel back to Australia up with their feet up.

Pictured above from left around the table is Emma Fittler, New England Travel; Melinda Ford, Travelworld Raymond Terrace; Hayley Watts, Travel Indochina; Deborah Moffatt, Northshore Travel; Jeanette Manley, Harvey World Travel Emu Plains; Narelle Gregory, Harvey World Travel Bateau Bay; Jing Chen, China Southern Airlines; Corinne Bowes, Jetset Travel Hurstville; Judy Moffitt, Harvey World Travel Charlestown and Jessica Hayter from Travelscene Camden.

Vic regional strategy

A NEW five pillar policy to promote regional Victoria has been announced by Minister for Tourism Louise Asher this week to drive international visitors to areas beyond the state's capital.

Tourism Vic, Regional Tourism Boards and Local Govt will focus on marketing, digital excellence, business events and major events, investment attraction & infrastructure support and industry development under Victoria's Regional Tourism Strategy 2013-2016.

Asher said domestic tourism will remain the lifeblood of local tourism industries, but attracting a greater share of the rapidly growing international visitor market is a "challenge."

"This strategy provides the foundation for regional areas to benefit from the growth of tourism into Victoria from overseas and includes a range of experiences that satisfy the aspirations and cultural interests of visitors from growth economies," Ms Asher said. The strategy also encourages

Victorians to travel locally.

Storm Coaster opens

A BRAND new \$20 million ride has opened at Sea World on the Gold Coast in Queensland today.

The "sophisticated and technologically advanced" Storm Chaser is said to be the first combination water flume boat ride/roller coaster in Australia and involves pulling 3Gs and speeds of up to 70km/hr.

Africa earlybirds due

SCENIC Tours is reminding travel consultants that earlybird savings on its 2014 Africa program are set to expire on 31 Dec.



Polar BOGOF voyage

WORLD Expeditions has released a buy-one-get-one-free promotion on its 13 Feb South Atlantic Islands and Antarctica Peninsula on *Ortelius* itinerary.

The 2-for-1 deal is valid for new bookings made between 05 and 20 Dec, priced from US\$13,250 per couple - call 1300 720 000.



Travel Daily's popular Christmas photo competition is back! **Fraser Suites Perth** want to celebrate the festive season with the travel industry, and are asking you to send in your work Christmas party photos throughout December.

At the end of the month, the judges will select the most creative photo and the person who submitted this will win two nights accommodation for two guests at Fraser Suites Perth, including daily breakfast and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Stylish, with world class facilities, Fraser Suites Perth is the first gold-standard serviced residences to be built in the city in over a decade.



Click here for terms & conditions

FRASERS

Overlooking Swan River with a design set to appeal to business and leisure travellers alike, Fraser Suites Perth holds an enviable spot within the Free-Transit Zone and is just a stroll away from the world famous WACA cricket ground, Adelaide Terrace, Burswood Entertainment Complex and Perth Convention Exhibition Centre.

So start snapping, then email your festive photos (including names of the people pictured) to: **xmasphotos@traveldaily.com.au**.

ravel____ DailvTV

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

 Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
 Part of the Trav

 Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia
 P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)
 F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)
 Travel Daily

Advertising and Marketing: Christie-Lee Lachance, Lisa Martin and Magda Herdzik Email: advertising@traveldaily.com.au Business Manager: Jenny Piper Email: accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher/Managing Editor: Bruce Piper Editor: Guy Dundas Assistant Editor: Matt Lennon Contributors: Jenny Piper and Barry Matheson Email: info@traveldaily.com.au

business events news

Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of Travel Daily no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper





FEELING BOXED IN? APPLY FOR A NEW ROLE TODAY!



FOR ALL THE BEST VACANCIES VISIT www.aaappointments.com

NSW & ACT – 8/6 O'Connell St, SYDNEY – (02) 9231 6377 – apply@aaappointments.com.au VIC, WA & SA – 1/167-169 Queen St, MELBOURNE – (03) 9670 2577 – recruit@aaappointments.com.au QLD & NT – 13/97 Creek St, BRISBANE – (07) 3229 9600 – employment@aaappointments.com.au

NO MORE PRICE BEATS or WORKING WEEKENDS TRAVEL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE OTE \$70K+

Does the thought of booking another travel itinerary make you yawn? Tired of face to face retail travel? Well here's your chance to stay in the industry you love, in a new role.

With 3 offices nationally, AA Appointments is Australia's largest, most respected travel recruitment specialist. Due to increased demand, our friendly Sydney team is looking to employ a talented travel consultant and train them into the area of specialist recruitment.

As a recruitment consultant you will be responsible for interviewing and sourcing candidates and placing them in new roles within the travel industry. You will also enjoy managing existing client portfolios and developing new ones. This is a great opportunity to utilise your excellent sales and communication skills, industry contacts and knowledge in a role that will value and reward you.

Perks include a fantastic salary package, Mon – Friday working hours with every weekend off, 5 star annual conferences plus team bonuses. Interested? Call us now.

OLA! BOM DIA! RESERVATIONS CONSULTANT MELBOURNE - SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$60K (DOE)

This is your chance to put your fluent Portuguese &/or Spanish language skills to good use. Working for this luxury travel company, you will be creating tailor make VIP travel itineraries throughout Australia for your overseas clientele. Previous experience working in inbound travel with outstanding knowledge of Australia & New Zealand a must when applying for this role. Working in a funky inner city suburb, you will be joining a reputable travel company & rewarded generously for your contribution!

THE ONLY WAY, IS UP CORPORATE TRAVEL CONSULTANTS BRISBANE CBD – UP TO \$55K PKG

Are you a Corporate Travel Consultant looking for a change of scene, where you won't be lost in a sea of people and everyone knows your name? No more begging to make commission and a salary package that is more than generous you can look forward to using your excellent consulting skills to a range of prestigious clientele. This role is perfect for an ambitious individual looking to building a lasting career in Corporate Travel with real opportunities to move up in the ranks. 2+ years corporate travel experience is required.

MOVE AWAY FROM THE CBD SENIOR CORPORATE TRAVEL CONSULTANT SYDNEY

SALARY PACKAGE \$65K - 75K + Join a highly respected boutique corporate travel company located in the Eastern Suburbs. Having just won a major account they are recruiting for a senior consultant to join their team. You will be working across a portfolio of dedicated clientele handling challenging international travel requests. Excellent location with parking close by, an excellent salary is on offer. Apply to this role today and be among the highest paid consultants in the travel industry.

SPECIALISE IN GROUP TRAVEL GROUPS LEISURE CONSULTANT

MEL (EAST) – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$55K (DOE) Are you a talented travel professional with previous experience booking in group travel? Our client, an independent agency located in Melbourne's Eastern suburbs is seeking a superstar consultant to join their team. Working in the groups department, you will be responsible for booking & escorting specialized group departures. This role will see you working Monday - Friday hours with the odd Saturday morning plus you will be paid a high salary depending on your experience. Find out more today!

LIVE THE LIFE OF A ROCK STAR ENTERTAINMENT/GROUPS CONSULTANT MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGES UP TO \$80K (OTE)

We have a unique role sure to make you the envy of all your friends! Booking worldwide travel arrangements for the entertainment industry this is your opportunity to work with VIP's, bands, movie stars and their entourages. With a strong ability to think on your feet & enjoy working in a fast paced environment, no one day will ever be the same in this role. A generous salary package, no weekend work and access to exclusive events and industry functions, this role will not be on the market for long! Contact AA to apply!

THE SUNSHINE COAST IS CALLING RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANTS CENTRAL SUNSHINE COAST – UP TO \$55K OTE

Imagine working in one of the most beautiful parts of Queensland & seeing the ocean winking back at you on your way to work. Imagine dealing with clientele that aren't afraid to spend the big \$\$\$ and want the very best. Imagine working for a company that wants to invest in your future. Well it's time to stop dreaming as that opportunity is here and is calling your name. Providing a full range of travel services you will need 2+ yrs Retail Travel Experience, GDS skills and a strong passion for all things travel.

NOW YOU'RE FLYING

Consolidated Travel and Virgin Australia is giving away 2 return Economy Class tickets to LAX! The agent with the greatest long haul sales on Virgin Australia's network between 18 November & 15 December 2013 will win 2 return Economy tickets to LAX!

Daily Prizes:

\$100 travel voucher for every 5 long haul Economy Class return tickets \$200 travel voucher for every 5 long haul Premium Economy or Business Class return tickets







Quikfares Quikticket

CONDITIONS: Valid for tickets issued by Consolidated Travel or via Quikticket between 18 November & 15 December 2013 on 100% VA itineraries Ex Australia plated to VA (795) ticket stock on the Consolidated Travel IATA only. Valid for new ticketed bookings only. To be in the running for the major prize you must achieve a minimum of \$30,000.00 in long haul VA sales during the promotion period. The total value of the 2 tickets to LAX is \$3000 excluding taxes and surcharges. Travel is subject to peak season embargoes and availability and cannot be reissued and are non-transferable, and cannot accrue frequent flyer miles or be exchanged for cash Child, Infant, Group, Sales, Wholesale and Cancelled or Refunded tickets are not eligible. Consolidated Travel and Virgin Australia reserve the right to alter or cancel the promotion any time. Airline ticket prizes exclude all taxes and surcharges. Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) implications. To the extent that there is any FBT liability, this will be paid for by the employer of the recipient. The grossed-up value of a prize and any other Fringe Benefits the recipient receives during the course of the FBT year may be reported on the recipient's annual PAYG Payment Summary as required by taxation law. Consolidated Travel Group ABN 60 004 692 791. Date of issue 15 November 2013.