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Tuesday 12th February 2013

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Britain with pleasure

VIRGIN Atlantic is today promoting a fare sale offering flights to London from \$1745.

The deals are available for booking until the end of the month - see the **front full page** of today's issue for details.

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TRAVEL agents are invited to become experts in South Africa via the FUNDI training program - see the **last page** of *Travel Daily*.



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New NTIA judges for 2013

NOMINATIONS have now officially opened for this year's National Travel Industry Awards, with finalists in 2013 to be judged by a panel including former Jetset Travelworld Limited ceo, Peter Lacaze.

Lacaze, who stepped down late last year, will be joined by other industry luminaries including Bob Lunnon who recently retired after over 30 years with Starwood, as well as AFTA director of Education and Training, Rick Myatt.

AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury said "we are fortunate to have the wealth of industry knowledge and experience from Peter, Rick and Bob on our panel".

He confirmed that Tim Poulter, John McKernan and Andrew Drysdale will also once again participate in the judging process.

This year the NTIA ceremony will take place on Sat 20 Jul at the Hordern Pavilion in Moore Park, Sydney - and will be followed by the so-called Afta Party which for the first time will have capacity for all attendees.

But agents and suppliers need to get nominating for the awards

now, with the forms on the AFTA website going live yesterday.

Agents can nominate their favourite suppliers, while suppliers can nominate travel agencies and consultants, and nominations are open for the next three weeks, closing at 5pm AEDST on Fri 01 Mar.

Qantas is once again the major NTIA sponsor, while Singapore Airlines is sponsoring the Afta party and this year the categories include the new 'Best Travel Agency Manager' awards, for the first time sponsored by Virgin Australia (**TD 06 Feb**) plus the 'Best Niche Wholesaler' category.

Tickets for the event will go on sale in the coming months, with nomination forms now online at www.afta.com.au/AFTANTIA.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news and photos, a front full page for **Virgin Atlantic** plus full pages: (**click**)

- TMS Asia Pacific jobs
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Qantas Holidays Hong Kong & China 2013/14 Brochure

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Consolidated KLM sale

AGENTS selling 100% KLM/Royal Dutch Airline itineraries issued via the Consolidated Travel Group's Quicket system until 15 Mar are eligible for a suite of KLM reward vouchers as part of the carrier's New Year Celebration.

Return Economy fares to Europe ex Australia start from \$808 net return or Business-Class from \$4085 net, with multiple Business tickets able to be redeemed for a KLM voucher up to \$1,200 in value.



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Hutton Illuminated

AVALON Waterways has today named Australian model/celeb Deborah Hutton as Godmother for one of the firm's new suite ships, *Avalon Illumination*.

Scheduled to debut in Jun 2014, *Illumination* has been specifically designed for the Aussie traveller with aid by Avalon Waterways in Australia, and features two decks of all-suite accommodation.

Hutton will christen the ship in a special ceremony in Europe.

HI Express for the Territory

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has flagged an expansion of its Holiday Inn Express brand in Australia, with new-builds likely for the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Victoria.

The development comes as IHG today confirmed it would terminate management contracts with four NT-based properties, owned by Berger Hotel Group.

While still retaining a presence in the Northern Territory through the Kakadu-based Holiday Inn Gagudju Crocodile, the Berger-owned hotels cut from the IHG portfolio include Crowne Plaza Darwin, Crowne Plaza Alice Springs, Holiday Inn Esplanade Darwin and Holiday Inn Darwin.

"While we are saddened by the end of a long relationship [with Berger], IHG is confident of its future in Australia," Head of Development Australasia Phil Kasselis said.

"We still have a strong brand distribution across the country, and we will now actively pursue opportunities in Darwin - among other cities," said the IHG exec.

"We are in the brands business

& it is our absolute responsibility to ensure hotels under our management have the right investments and quality behind them so we can deliver the guest experience our customers come to expect," he added.

Kasselis revealed to *Travel Daily* IHG was looking at the feasibility of operating more efficient accommodation models in the Northern Territory, namely under the group's budget brand.

IHG will shift its focus to replace its Darwin & Alice Springs options through "opportunities" for new-build Holiday Inn Express projects or conversions for the Holiday Inn or Crowne Plaza brands, Kasselis told *TD* this morning.

He said the Holiday Inn Express brand was also earmarked for both Sydney and Melbourne.

Meanwhile, the InterContinental Resort brand is also likely to be expanded further in Australia.

Questioned if IHG's long-standing pact with Mulpha could extend to a deal for the InterContinental Resort brand with Hayman on the Great Barrier Reef, Kasselis said "I am unable to comment."

MH carry more weight

MALAYSIA Airlines passengers in all cabin classes will receive an additional 10kgs checked baggage allowance from this Thu.

The increase allocation applies to all tickets, irrespective of the date the ticket was purchased on all services except to/from LAX where the piece system applies.

New excess baggage charges starting from MYR30 (AU\$9) will also apply for each 5kg block of additional weight on MH sectors.

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Emirates confirms Platinum tier

FREQUENT flyer members of the Emirates Skywards loyalty program now have another level to aspire to, with the airline this morning announcing the introduction of a 'Platinum' membership, a new tier which sits above the existing Blue, Silver and Gold levels.

The expansion was exclusively foreshadowed by **Travel Daily** earlier this month (**TD** 01 Feb), with Qantas ceo Alan Joyce flagging the move as part of the alignment of the Emirates and Qantas frequent flyer schemes.

The new Skywards Platinum tier offers additional benefits to members who have earned more than 150,000 miles in a rolling 12-13 month period, including features usually reserved for First Class passengers.

That's three times the 50,000 miles required to qualify for the current Skywards Gold tier.

Platinum members of the program will be able to use the

First Class check-in, baggage delivery and access to the First Class lounges in Dubai, along with a guest.

They'll also receive 20kg of extra luggage allowance regardless of the class of travel, and Emirates will introduce a new Gold 'Partner' Card meaning family members can enjoy Gold privileges even when travelling separately.

The new top tier also guarantees an Economy or Business class commercial seat at Flex fares to members, as well as access to an Economy or Business 'Last Seat' flex reward.

Gold Skywards members who are eligible for Platinum status will be automatically upgraded to the new tier from 01 Apr - the day after the proposed launch of the EK/QF alliance which is still subject to ACCC approval.

EK estimates that the top 5% of current Gold members will be eligible for the Platinum level.

Pflieder to Silver Air

US REGIONAL carrier Silver Airways has appointed former Air Pacific ceo and managing director David Pflieger as its president and ceo, effective 01 May.

Silver Airways launched in May 2011, operates 32 aircraft on over 60,000 flights annually and has a staff of around 800 employees.

It's also the 14th largest regional airline in the United States.

FJ revealed on Fri Pflieger was returning to the US after three years with the soon to be known Fiji Airways (**TD** yesterday).

Emirates ice-TV 'live'

FOUR broadcast channels offering "as it happens" television viewing, are now available for passengers on Emirates' ICE inflight entertainment system.

Ice-TV Live consists of BBC World News in English, BBC Arabic, Euronews and Sport24, screening coverage of major global sporting events including football, rugby and Formula 1 motor racing in line with EK's recently announced F1 partnership (**TD** Wed).

Scholarships deadline

APPLICATIONS from members of the travel and tourism industry wishing to apply for a scholarship for the 2013 Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) as a mentee close from next Wed.

TIME Scholarships are funded by ComTel Resources and allow successful applicants to undergo the six-month mentoring course.

For more information, visit www.travelindustrymentor.com.au.

Vale George Browne

THE travel industry is mourning the passing yesterday of industry icon George Browne, the former owner of Diamond Tours.

George was well known within the travel trade having dedicated 40 years to the industry.

Funeral details are to be advised.

5-hr UA tarmac delay

UNITED Airlines has been fined US\$130,000 by the US transport regulator after passengers on a flight ex Chicago in May last year were unable to deplane during a five-hour tarmac delay.



Window Seat

EGYPT has devised a unique way of attempting to lure tourists back to the country following the Arab Spring protests.

Live webcams in popular tourist hotspots will be installed to show int'l visitors that it is still safe to visit, which Egyptian Tourism Minister Hisham Zazou says will show holidaymakers "basking in the sun".

"When tourists see it, they will come," Zazou said.

Although visitor numbers to the Giza Pyramids has remained strong, Zazou says tourists should not be dissuaded from visiting, saying the protests took place in "one square kilometre of downtown Cairo," not in the entire country.

SATISFYING the passengers who know their cup of tea is just not the same while airborne has been achieved by British Airways, who have developed a cuppa in collaboration with Twinings to launch a teabag which tastes better at 35,000ft.

Research conducted by the carrier found tea lost some of its taste at altitude, with the new blend being a mix of Assam, Ceylon and Kenyan teas specially designed to taste better inflight.

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Aeroflot adds new destinations

Operating for 89 years, Russia's largest airline Aeroflot provides combo daily services ex Australia with Qantas Airways, Cathay Pacific, Air China, China Eastern, Korean and Asiana Airlines connecting to Aeroflot services via Bangkok, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Seoul or Tokyo to Moscow and beyond.

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J Class

Topdeck Italy discount

THE 13-day Topdeck Bravo Italia itinerary from Rome has been reduced in price by 7.5% when booked and paid in full by 28 Feb - now priced from \$2,248ppts.

Mandarin winery trips

JACOB'S Creek Visitor Centre in South Australia's Barossa Valley is to launch Mandarin interpretive tours to enhance the visitor experience for Chinese travellers.

Backed by a \$31,000 funding injection from the South Australian Tourism Commission, the project includes Mandarin walking trails and display.

The daily Mandarin speaking tour will roll out next month and a flora and fauna walking trails tour will launch in the 2013/14 FY.

Catering to demand, Jacob's Creek Visitor Centre has already recruited Mandarin-speaking staff members and translated restaurant menus.

"China offers great potential to Barossa wine & tourism operators and it will be initiatives like these that help to attract more Chinese visitors to the region," Barossa Tourism chair Chris Pfeiffer said.

G Adv AU/NZ going off

G ADVENTURES new Australia & NZ itineraries have been booked to near capacity from its debut in Jan through until Apr, the firm has announced, with forward sales on the range of local trips "looking extremely positive."

"We couldn't be happier with the response," Head Honcho of G Adventures Australia and New Zealand Pete Rawley said.

TripAdvisor users talk

SYDNEY Harbour was Australia's most talked-about attraction, according to users of online travel review website TripAdvisor.

Sydney landmarks ranked 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th in the poll, split by Melbourne's popular City Circle trams.

Perth's Kings Park Botanic Gardens, Melbourne's Botanic Gardens and MCG closed the list.

Bay city comes to Harbour city



THE San Francisco Travel Association yesterday kicked off a huge week of US destination promotion in Australia, with a 17-strong delegation hosting a media lunch followed by a travel agent event last night.

Several US regions are in Australasia for the annual Visit USA showcase, and San Francisco is one of those who are also holding their own events during the period.

Australia is now San Francisco's fourth biggest travel visitor market and has shown double digit growth for the last few years.

And as with other destinations, San Francisco loves Aussies because they stay longer and spend more, according to spokesman Tom Kiely.

He told **TD** that part of the appeal is that Australians like a lot of the things that San Francisco offers, such as fabulous food and wine, distinctive neighbourhoods and unique attractions.

And with strong airlift from Australia to the US west coast, San Francisco doesn't see the demand slackening any time

soon, with Australia classed as a long term growth market.

About 300,000 Aussies went to San Francisco last year - and interestingly the figures show there was "no decline at all" when Qantas pulled off the SFO route, with other carriers such as United Airlines and Air New Zealand maintaining or even boosting capacity to the city, while many Australians also arrive from other parts of the USA.

There's also lots of new stuff to explore in San Francisco, where a booming economy due to the social media revolution (Facebook and Twitter are both based in the Bay Area) has seen an influx of young, hip professionals and a corresponding rise in funky new neighbourhoods and hip eateries.

Pictured above, from left, are: Joe D'Alessandro, President & CEO of the San Francisco Travel Association (SFTA); Tom Kiely, SFTA Executive Vice President, Tourism; the colourful Rodrigo Enriquez, President of Extranomical Tours; and Grand Hyatt San Francisco general manager, David Nadelman.

Iberia strike action

GROUND staff and cabin crew of Iberia are plotting 15 days of strike action in response to 4,500 company lay-offs.

The stoppages are slated to be held on 18-22 Feb, 04-08 Mar and 18-22 Mar, IB's union says.

Palmer comp winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Mevissen of Peak PR, who has won flights to the Sunshine Coast and two nights in a Deluxe Junior Suite at Palmer Coolum Resort on the Sunshine Coast as the winner of last week's **Travel Daily** comp.

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We have a new position available for an experienced travel consultant who has thorough knowledge in fares and ticketing. This is a great role which services all enquiries out of business hours. It has great flexibility and is based on a rotational roster. Great for an experienced corporate travel consultant looking to return to work. Must have corporate travel consulting experience to apply.

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QF/EK frequent flyer proposition

QANTAS and Emirates today revealed details of the frequent flyer proposition of their planned network alliance, accessible from 31 Mar 2013.

Pending regulatory approval, members of Qantas Frequent Flyer and Emirates Skywards will be able to accrue and burn points or miles on the other carrier's flights, and attain access to each others lounges for Gold members (or above) in Australia, Europe, Asia, Middle East & North Africa.

Earning rates for points/miles will be different dependant based on the fare purchased and the airline flight number on the ticket.

Qantas says in many instances, the number of points QFFF members will need to book a Classic Award flight on a Qantas or Emirates flight will be the same.

Other benefits include tier status match-ups & an expanded network for members of each program to earn Qantas Status credits & Status bonus, or Skywards Tier Miles and Tier bonuses.

QF Loyalty chief Lesley Grant said the benefits would stretch

across a "massive network."

"Our shared goal has been to offer Qantas & Emirates customers the best global network, flying the largest combined A380 fleet and supported by the best rewards for our frequent flyers," Grant said this afternoon.

He said the lounge and loyalty benefits proposition was "about bringing together the best of both worlds."

EK and QF also confirmed they will adopt a shared baggage policy on routes - excluding those to/from the Americas - from 31 Mar 2013, to enable a more seamless customer experience on the planned joint network.

The move will see Qantas shift from a piece and weight system to a weight system for all other international flights.

The alignment will also see EK boost its pre-purchase excess baggage discount to 30%.

For more details on the scheme see www.bit.ly/QFEKffscheme.

Google up ski resorts

GOOGLE has added 38 new ski resorts to Google Maps in the US and Canada, showing green, blue and black ski runs and ski lifts.

Thirteen resorts now also offer the Google Street View option.

Triumph fire incident

CARNIVAL Cruise Lines has confirmed a fire in the aft engine room of the *Carnival Triumph* has left the ship without propulsion off the coast of the Yucatan Peninsula in the Gulf of Mexico.

The ship, with 4,229 passengers and crew on board, will be towed to Mobile, Alabama on Thu, CCL president & ceo Gerry Cahill said.

Carnival says there have been no casualties or injuries following the incident, and all passengers on the four-day cruise will receive a full refund and future credit.

Goldie surfing tourism

THE Gold Coast will host the first Global Surf Cities Conference from 27 Feb to 01 Mar with event topics to include surfing tourism.

The conference is being held in the days prior to the Quiksilver & Roxy Pro surfing competitions, and is welcoming peak bodies and associations - more & RSVPs at www.bit.ly/OOLsurftourism.

IATA appoints GC

THE International Air Transport Association has appointed Jeffrey N. Shane as General Counsel effective 02 Apr, based at the organisation's Montreal HQ.



AFTA UPDATE

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

THE who's who of the Australian cruise industry got together over the weekend for what will be the last ICCA Cruise industry awards evening.

Of course the ICCA becomes CLIA Australasia as a result of merging with the global body and future events will be held under the CLIA brand. We all got to meet Christine Duffy, the President and CEO of CLIA who came in from the USA to get to know as many people as she can within the Australian cruise industry.

I am sure that this added boost of the CLIA will help the Australian Cruise industry on the many challenges that the industry faces over the coming years.

The Hilton was the host hotel and in true travel industry event style the evening delivered a delightfully enjoyable celebration for travel agents who love to cruise and love to sell cruises. A big congratulations to Brett Jardine and his team for delivering another fantastic event.

One of the highlights was the acknowledgement of Geoff McGeary with the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Cruise Industry being awarded to the APT founder. Geoff accepted the award in the humble style that he is known for and it was evident that this was a very popular and well received decision by those present. An amazing career and contribution by an Aussie who has been an enormous influence over the now very successful cruise industry in Australia.

There are many great stories within the cruise industry and clearly travel agents who have adopted cruise as an important part of their business are reveling in the success that cruise presents to them.

Awards were also presented for some really clever cruises that travel agents arranged along with marketing efforts and it was very evident that those who were picking up the awards love cruise.

The ICCA know CLIA deliver fantastic benefits to travel agents and I would encourage any travel agent who is selling cruise to get involved with CLIA as the knowledge and benefits to support the industry on this exciting category is awesome.



Govt aviation security

FEDERAL Transport Minister Anthony Albanese has announced the Govt will roll-out enhanced aviation licensing regulations to improve aviation safety measures.

Effective Dec, the new rules will cover flight crew licensing, training and flight checking, improving specific aircraft competencies in line with CASA standards

Introducing low-level flying and night-time flying requirements will also be part of the new rules.

Rock in Palm Springs

HARD Rock International will transform Hotel Zoso in Palm Springs, California into its newest branded resort destination, the group has announced.

The revamped 160-room property will be opened this year.

Vegas visitors jackpot

LAS Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority has today reported a new record of 39.7m visitors to the city in the desert during 2012.

The figure was an approx jump of 500,000 visitors on the previous record posted five years earlier.

Average citywide occupancy figures reached 84.4%, a slight 0.6% year-on-year increase.

QF Thai c/share route

QANTAS has applied to the Int'l Air Services Commission for a variation to its original request for third-country codeshare rights on services to Thailand.

QF has sought rights to apply its code to an allocation of 14 weekly flights between Dubai & Thailand with Emirates, and for codeshare capacity on Finnair to be removed.

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BAC duty-free tender

BRISBANE Airport Corporation is seeking expressions of interest for a new seven-year duty free lease at BNE Int'l Terminal as part of a major redevelopment plan.

Qantas adjusts NT operations

AN AIRFARE war for the leisure tourist dollar to the Northern Territory is set to be waged after the Qantas Group yesterday announced it would transfer the operation of services between Sydney and Ayers Rock to low-cost subsidiary carrier Jetstar.

The carrier said the route had been unprofitable for some time (**TD** breaking news) with pax loads of 60% on average.

The Jetstar services will begin

from 04 Jun, while Qantas will continue to service Ayers Rock from both Darwin & Alice Springs.

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia has welcomed the move, with managing director Koos Klein saying the JQ services will give tourists a great reason to visit the Red Centre.

"We are looking forward to working with Jetstar in a range of promotions for Ayers Rock Resort and I am sure the response from Jetstar customers will be a positive one," Klein said.

MEANWHILE, Qantas has also said it will cease operating direct services between Canberra and Darwin due to a lack of demand.

The suspension of the route will take effect from 01 Apr, with pax holding tickets issued prior to 11 Feb for travel after 01 Apr able to re-route on alternate QF flights.

QF Broome schedule

QANTAS Group will introduce a new weekly nonstop service from Melbourne to Broome during the upcoming winter season as part of its Broome schedule for 2013.

The Thu Victorian service will operate between 23 May and 10 Oct, and is complemented by two Sun and Wed services running from 31 Mar-03 Feb and 24 Apr-09 Oct respectively.

Two Sydney-Broome services are scheduled for Sat (from 13 Apr-12Oct) and Tue (from 30 Apr-08 Oct), along with a weekly Brisbane-Broome direct flight on Sun from 02 Jun-13 Oct.

The 25 services will be operated by Qantas and QantasLink using Boeing 737-800s and 717 aircraft.

SIA posts lower profit

SINGAPORE Airlines Group has blamed poorer passenger yields for a 17% drop in operating profits during Q3 of the 2012-13 financial year, reporting a SG\$131m result for the quarter.

Despite the fall, pax numbers increased by 7.8%, boosting revenue per available seat.

Aussie ceos help whip up \$1m



QANTAS chief executive Alan Joyce ditched the suit and pen for an apron and wooden spoon last night as he, along with 14 other leaders of Australian business dug

in to cook up a storm for some of Sydney's less fortunate, helped along with more than 30 celebrity chefs including Neil Perry.

Each CEO paid \$1,500 to take part in the fundraiser, aimed at increasing awareness about food excess and how it can be donated to feed less fortunate Australians.

Representing the travel industry, Joyce, with Toga Hospitality's ceo Rachal Argaman and Wyndham Resort's boss Barry Robinson helped to raise \$1,012,094 total.

APT solo bargains

APT has dropped the single supplement on its eight-day El Questro, Gorges & Purnululu 4WD tour in the Kimberley on 25 May, representing a \$1,100 saving.

The firm has also slashed the solo supplement by 50% on the 15-day Magnificent Europe river cruise on 25 Oct 2013, a discount of about \$1,700 in a Cat 'E' cabin.

Additionally, APT's 19-day Rockies Explorer & Alaska Cruise on 04 or 07 May has been discounted for single travellers by \$750, to now lead in at \$13,145.

The single traveller discounts are available until 28 Feb.

ITP adds Colombia

INTERNATIONAL Travel Partnership has expanded its South American coverage to add Colombia with the appointment of Swiss Adina Turismo.

SkyTeam tilt to Daxing

DAXING Int'l Airport, currently under construction in Beijing, will be the new home of SkyTeam alliance carriers upon the start of operations from the facility.

SkyTeam md Michael Wisbrun is understood to have discussed the move of China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines with the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

Daxing, which will feature eight runways, is estimated to be up & running by 2018 and will handle 400-million passengers per year.

Money

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

\$1AUD = US1.025

RESERVE bank board members must have seen it coming.

Last week's decision to keep interest rates on hold is proving to be a move made out of caution rather than optimism, as poorer than expected retail sales figures erred on the side of caution.

The Australian dollar is hovering nervously close to parity with the USD again, with relatively flat performances from Asian and European markets restricting the AUD from any real gains.

That being said, tourism to Japan could be on the rise as the AUD approaches 100 JPY yen. *Wholesale rates this morning:*

US	\$1.025
UK	£0.765
NZ	\$1.227
Euro	€0.800
Japan	¥96.67
Thailand	฿30.59
China	¥6.39
South Africa	R9.13
Canada	\$1.03
Crude oil	US\$95.76

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Please submit your resume by close of business on Monday 18 Feb to email: jody.douglas@jtg.com.au

Automated NZ departures trial

PRIME Minister Julia Gillard has announced the launch of an \$8m trial of automated departure processes for passengers travelling between Australia & New Zealand.

The system, already in place in New Zealand for departing passengers, adopts the same face recognition technology used in both countries for Arrivals for passengers whose passports are fitted with e-chip technology.

The trial will see all available technologies identified, lab-tested and trialled further to determine whether the initiative is adopted on a permanent basis.

Federal Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare said 78% of Australian passports carried the e-chip.

"By the end of 2016 all Australians and New Zealanders

will have a chip in their passport," Clare said, with the measure the next step in the long-heralded Australia/NZ border streamlining.

Jetstar has long called for flights from NZ to be considered as domestic services (TD 15 Jul 2010), with then ceo Bruce Buchanan saying the move would generate an additional 325,000 extra pax movements each year.

Clare's office also reiterated plans were underway to extend the use of SmartGate technology for arrivals from the UK, as well as from the USA.

Al Baker on LHR board

QATAR Airways ceo Akbar Al Baker has joined the board of directors at London Heathrow in a non-executive director position.

WestJet adds DFW/YYC

CANADIAN carrier WestJet will launch new daily services from Calgary to Dallas/Fort Worth on 29 Apr, with seasonal services in the Northern Spring & Summer.

Andy in the running for Dubai

ASCENDING to the top of the towering Burj Khalifa in Dubai is on the bucket list for Andy Barton from Harvey World Travel in Surrey Hills, Victoria, who is the second bonus prize winner and the winner of an iPad mini.

He is also now in the running for a ticket on the mega-famil to Dubai.

The trip, to be conducted by Emirates & Dubai Tourism, is set to be run in May with 280 Australian & NZ agents.

Andy is **pictured** right with his Emirates brochures.



Win a luxury trip to Abu Dhabi



Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority is giving one lucky Travel Daily reader and their guest the chance to experience the awe-inspiring nature, exhilarating adventure, rich culture and warm Arabian hospitality of Abu Dhabi.

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For the month of February, simply send the correct answers for our daily questions to abudhabicomp@traveldaily.com.au and this fascinating Arabian holiday for two could be yours.

Q8. What type of bird is allowed to have its own UAE passport?

Hint - Visit www.visitabudhabi.ae

The deadline for all answers is 5.00pm Thursday 28th February, 2013.

Click here for full terms & conditions and to view all questions.



Montes selling fast

TRUE North has a limited number of cabins remaining on its four-night voyage around Australia's picturesque Monte Bello Islands, off the West Australia coast.

The round-trip sailing departs Dampier on 18 Mar, with Ocean-Class cabins now priced from \$3,995ppts - (08) 9192 1829.

Walking in Higher-Vic

TWO popular tourist walking tracks in Victoria's high-country have received significant upgrades as a result of a \$100,000 Federal Government T-QUAL grant.

The funds paid for new signage on the tracks & upgraded camping facilities aimed at improving the visitor experience, lengths of stay and overall economic yield.

MEANWHILE, Federal Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson has also opened the expanded Bright Brewery in the Vic high-country.

The \$1 million upgrade offers an improved visitor experience and additional capacity, assisted by a \$110,000 T-QUAL grant.

Aus guide to US West

THE US Rocky Mountain states of Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Montana and Idaho have collectively launched a new information guide aimed at the Aussie market, including an Australian-based website.

Highlighting the available variety of Wild West adventures, hiking, skiing and snowboarding holiday options, the guide offers details on the year-long calendar of activities available in the states.

For more information, see www.rmi-realamerica.com.au.

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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Victoria’s surf coast is the ultimate location for finding work/life balance. We have just had several roles called in requesting travel professionals at a senior/management level for various roles in Geelong & the surf coast area. Working for reputable retail brands that look after their staff & offer a fantastic salary package to match, we suggest you contact AA today to find out more about these exciting new roles!

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