



FC takes control of MAS

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Mantra regional push

WAGGA Wagga, Broome and Townsville have been earmarked by Mantra as future destinations for regional growth.

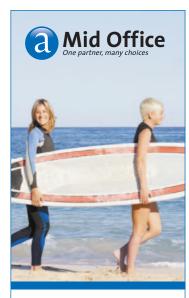
The Pavilion Hotel Wagga Wagga - formerly All Seasons Pavilion Wagga Wagga - will join Mantra's portfolio later this year, while Mantra Frangipani Broome will debut later this month.

Mantra Townsville in Queensland will also join the group in 2015.

Macau app relaunch

MACAU Govt Tourist Office is spruiking its newly revamped 'Experience Macau' app for both iPhone and Android devices.

The app provides users with a wealth of knowledge on all things Macau and offers links to events, festivals, exhibitions and more.



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FLIGHT Centre and Intrepid Travel have dissolved their My Adventure Store joint venture, which operates 17 dedicated adventure-focused outlets in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the UK (*TD* breaking news).

The 2008 deal saw Intrepid transfer its existing retail shops in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and Perth into the joint venture, while Flight Centre provided \$2.4 million in "growth capital" to fast track new shop rollouts.

Yesterday's announcement confirmed a major restructure of the operation, with Flight Centre to take ownership of My Adventure Store (MAS) in Australia as well as outlets in Canada and Wellington, NZ, while Intrepid will retain the stores in Auckland and London as part of its branded concept store model.

Intrepid will become a "key preferred product supplier" to the MAS network under the new arrangement.

Despite the cessation of the JV, Flight Centre chief operating officer Melanie Waters-Ryan said the new agreement "cements the long-standing relationship between Flight Centre and Intrepid.

"Both companies see solid growth opportunities in adventure travel and will continue to work together to capitalise on these opportunities," she said. Intrepid md James Thornton said the pact was a "logical progression" for the companies.

"Moving forward, this allows us to focus on our strengths while retaining our close ties in order to grow the adventure travel sector". As well as Intrepid, My

Adventure Store product includes G Adventures, Geckos, On the Go, Exodus, AAT Kings, Bentours, ANZCRO, APT, Contiki, Topdeck, Back-Roads Touring and more.

DFAT Egypt update

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade yesterday reissued its travel advice for Egypt, warning of the possibility of further demonstrations and violence in Cairo and other cities.

According to DFAT, the political situation in Egypt remains unsettled, with large-scale protests and clashes with authorities taking place in the last few days including in Cairo, Alexandria, Suez and Port Said.

The level of the advice for Egypt overall remains at the midrange "exercise a high degree of caution" level.

Six pages of news

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

- AA Appointments
- inPlace Recruitment jobs
- Bentours
- Fiji Airways incentive



QF cut infant fuel s/c

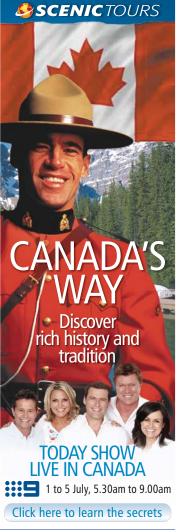
QANTAS has dropped the fuel surcharge (s/c) on Infant fares for travel on/after 01 Oct for routes covered by Joint Coordination Agreement with Emirates in Australia, NZ, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

The move mirrors that of EK's policy and follows other recent alignment of fares, baggage allowances and lounge access.

Fiji Airways incentive

CONSOLIDATED Travel Group has launched an agent incentive based on bookings sold on the newly re-branded Fiji Airways.

Three amazing prizes are up for grabs - a trip for two to the USA and another to the South Pacific and a FJ\$500 travel voucher - full details on the **last page**.



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Exp Tktg up partners

RETAIL networks Independent Travel Group and Select Travel Group have today announced a more than 25% increase in their wholesale supplier numbers.

Powered by Express Ticketing, the groups' new preferred supplier partners include APT, DriveAway Holidays, Peregrine, Geckos, Intrepid Travel and Mandarin World Tours, rounding out current wholesale numbers to 22, on top of 34 airlines.

"As well as being exciting additions, our new partners are all established and successful travel industry players in their own right and have embraced our Express Rewards agency incentive program which of course means more bottom-line opportunities for our members," said Executive general manager Ari Magoutis.







TA partners with Air China

A MEMORANDUM of

Understanding with Air China signed yesterday in Beijing by Tourism Australia md Andrew McEvoy is set to "further foster Air China network expansion into Australia," according to CA senior vice president, Mingyuan Wang.

The three year deal further expands Tourism Australia's range of airline partnerships, and will see TA and the airline cooperate on a range of initiatives including advertising, PR and events aimed at attracting more Chinese visitors.

Tourism Australia will also provide training to Air China and its agents under the pact.

McEvoy said growing aviation services from China was a vital part of ensuring Australia achieves its Tourism 2020 goals, which forecasts 900,000 Chinese visitors annually by the end of the decade.

"This deal provides a strong platform for us to work with Air China to grow aviation services and drive inbound tourism from China," McEvoy said.

Oaks GDS chain code

AGENTS will be able to book stays for guests at Oaks Hotels & Resorts properties through Global Distribution Systems under the 'OH' chain code, effective 01 Aug. GM Daniel Csortan said establishing a GDS presence "has great potential to boost bookings and will act as a vital appendage to Oaks' existing yield methods." Currently, Air China operates 14 weekly flights from Beijing and Shanghai to Sydney and Melbourne, lifting to 16 weekly in high season and "future additional services being considered".

CA recently introduced express services in SYD and MEL for its premium passengers.

Mercure growth plan

ACCOR midscale brand Mercure has outlined its global growth plan, with visions of expanding to hit 1,000 hotels in the next five years, mostly through franchises.

Mercure says that to do so, it is aiming to redesign its food and beverage services, create a customised service for business travellers and modernise its approach to welcoming guests.

The brand also plans to launch a new visual identity and roll out new hotel communication tools from the beginning of next year.

645 US flights culled

FOUL weather on the US East coast on Mon resulted in over 640 flights being cancelled, and caused nearly 8,000 delays.

According to FlightStats.com, departures from New York's LaGuardia Airport, Philadelphia Int'l Airport and New York's JFK were the worst affected, with 74, 65 and 49 services cancelled.

Regional carrier ExpressJet axed 75 services and had 748 delays.



New FQ fares coming FURTHER announcements

on Brindabella Airlines' new codeshare pact with Qantas (*TD* yesterday) will be revealed in coming days, chief commercial officer James Blake has said.

He said these will relate to baggage allowances for pax connecting onto QF int'l flights, while domestic allowances per pax will remain 15kgs for checked bags and 4kgs for carry-on.

A new fare offering for families is also expected by the end of the week or early next, with Blake saying he is working closely with local communities to develop new fare programs.

Procedures & policies for delayed or cancelled flights are also on course to be in place by the time the new Qantas codeshare pact takes effect from 01 Aug.

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Blue Holidays phased out

nolidav

auto<u>s</u>

VIRGIN Australia has completed the latest step of its gradual 'Game Change' strategy after dropping the Blue Holidays moniker of its holidays division.

Known now as Virgin Australia Holidays, the re-brand sees Blue Holidays aligned with the business revamp of the overall airline from Virgin Blue in 2011.

The move "paves the way for the business to expand its offering to new domestic and





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international destinations with our alliance partners," VA said.

Switching to the Virgin Australia Holidays title "enables us to tap into the huge power of the Virgin brand around the world."

The arm will continue to be operated by Zuji - as it has since its inception - with new content beyond Australia and the Pacific to be added over coming months likely to include the USA, United Arab Emirates and Singapore.

Changes were effective 31 May. **MEANWHILE**, Virgin Australia today confirmed an expansion of its codeshare alliance with Delta Air Lines to include Mexico.

As exclusively revealed by **Travel Daily** three months ago (**TD** 04 Apr), Virgin's VA code will be placed on DL flights to six new destinations in Mexico, being Mexico City, Cancun, Guadalajara, San Jose Del Cabo, Puerto Vallarta and Cozumel ex either Atlanta, Los Angeles and New York.

Aus US visits/spend up

AUSTRALIA posted its eighth straight record year of growth to the United States, up 8% to 1.12m in 2012, according to US Dept of Commerce data out today.

Ranked as the 10th top int'l market for the US in terms of visitation, 2012 also included two months of performance declines - the first drops since Jun 2009.

"The 33 consecutive months of volume growth prior to these months is one of the longest growth strings of any origin country over the past few years," the travel authority reported. Australian visitor spend leapt 11% on the year prior, to \$5.5b.

Whistler on brekky TV

CANADA'S Whistler Valley will be showcased tomorrow morning on Channel 9's *Today* show, being broadcast live from the country this week courtesy of Scenic Tours and screening from 5:30am.

Hosts Karl Stefanovic and Lisa Wilkinson will take a zip-line over Whistler Valley, while Georgie Garner will experience one of Scenic's *FreeChoice* activities - the Tofino First Nations tour.

Weather presenter Steven will be delivering his reports from the Fairmont Le Château Montebello in Québéc.

QF Prem TTL changes

QANTAS has implemented changes to its First and Business fare Ticketing Time Limits (TTL).

The updates aim to ensure consistency between QF and Emirates on Joint Coordination Agreement routes, and frees up seats which are never ticketed.

QF says corporate customers with private fares ending in UQ# will be impacted - more on the Qantas Industry website.



SOME pretty small towns feature on Brindabella Airlines' network map, with some of the town's residents in Moree holding more than one job in the local tourism industry.

Take Alan from Moree's M&G Travel, who in addition to managing his agency, Alan serves as the check-in agent at Moree Airport along with the agent at the car rental desk.

Alan also loads and unloads the bags to and from the flights, ensuring a truly thorough and personable service for arriving and departing Brindabella pax.

RESEARCH conducted by British Airways has found that its flyers are happy as long as the plane is loaded with champers, has a good curry dish and has plenty of Cadbury's chocolates.

BA now stock a number of Cadbury brands after they were requested by Business Class pax.

Account Executive Contractor Role - Melbourne

We are currently seeking a highly motivated Account Executive with previous travel industry field sales experience to work on a multinational travel account.

This diverse role will suit an energetic individual and will be responsible for calling on travel agents in Victoria and South Australia. The key responsibilities include developing new, and nurturing existing, business relationships, perform product training and attend trade shows. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 3 years work experience in a similar role.

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Competitive remuneration based on experience. Please send all applications to: hr@discovertheworld.com.au. **Applications close on 5th July** and only successful candidates will be contacted.





Oman Online Training Be one of 40 agents to experience the Oman Sidetrip of a Lifetime Famil in November





Tuesday 2nd Jul 2013

FQ/QF deal welcomed by locals



MEMBERS of Local and Federal government were in attendance at yesterday's announcement of Brindabella Airlines' codeshare agreement with Qantas.

Federal member for Parkes, Mark Coulton and Moree Plains



from Trendsetter Travel

Greg is the top point scorer for Round 16 of *Travel Daily's* NRL industry footy tipping competition, and has won a \$50 Coles/Myer voucher, courtesy of Compass Car Rental.



Major Prize Sponsors

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



2nd Prize: 5-night holiday to Vanuatu, courtesy of Air Vanuatu & The Grand Hotel and Casino Vanuatu



Shire Council general manager David Aber both expressed their congratulations to the regional carrier, welcoming the move as a positive step for the community.

"Having the seamless baggage transfer is a major benefit for our passengers and for our people here to be able to do business and to do it efficiently so congratulations to Brindabella," Aber said.

MEANWHILE, Moree is already underway with developing the town for potential tourism growth, investing \$7m in a new five-star Artesian spa facility, with Aber describing this as a "major part of growing the recreation market here.

"We are still the Artesian capital of Australia in terms of Artesian spa baths," Aber added.

Brindabella Airlines' chief commercial officer James Blake is **pictured** above left with David Aber following the announcement.

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BESydney laud AI

BUSINESS Events Sydney's ceo Lyn Lewis Smith says Air India's decision to launch daily flights to Sydney in Aug (*TD* yest) is a "huge coup" for the NSW capital.

Lewis Smith said Air India's accessibility and seamless travel options to Sydney would help to realise the potential of the Indian business event market.

QF Tamworth lounge

QANTAS has today opened a new 34 guest Regional Lounge at Tamworth Airport, becoming the 12th of its kind.

Guests can enjoy refreshments, alcoholic & non-alcoholic drinks and wireless internet.

WRD agent incentive

WORLD Resorts of Distinction has launched the third successive year of its Travel Agent Incentive Program for 2013/14.

Diamond League incentivises and rewards agents for consistent selling of WRD resorts in the South Pacific and Thailand by providing free accom to bookers.

Sign up for the Diamond League at www.bit.ly/WRDagtprogram.

EVA Brisbane boost

NEW Star Alliance member carrier EVA Air is upgauging flight frequency to Brisbane with a new third weekly service to be added between 12 Dec and 10 Jan. The new frequency will operate ex Brisbane to Manila on Fri.



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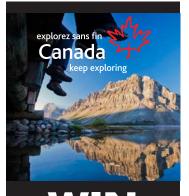
Seven new TCF'ers

THE Travel Compensation Fund admitted seven new travel agent head offices in the second half of Jun, incl a cruise firm operating under the name of Micro-Cruising, based in Glenfield, NSW.

New Victorian members include MAK Tours of Templestowe, Rejoice World Travel of Balwyn and The Ornate Travel Centre of Beaconsfield, along with Astra Travel Services of Darlinghurst in NSW; Peterpan's Korea Travel of Northbridge, WA and Spatel Travel of Forde, ACT.

MEANWHILE, JS Travel of Kew in Victoria as well as Book A Tour Australia of Cairns in Queensland have voluntarily ceased trading as travel agents, effective 01 Jul.

Stella Travel Services has also closed its Harvey World Travel branch in Chatswood, NSW.



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AFTA UPDATE

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

LAST week in this *Travel Daily* column I flagged the first episode in what is set to be a long running soap opera in Canberra.

This week I can hardly believe that it is so easy to write this given the events since Thursday as we now have the new old Prime Minister - Kevin Rudd is back!

Many can't believe it; some could have only imagined it and Australia will have to live with it. Honestly, the reality TV series writers must be lining up to do the mini series of Australian politics.

There wasn't any change for Tourism as the Ministers appointed after Martin Ferguson left retained their rolls under Prime Minister Rudd, that being Gary Grey as Tourism Minister and Don Farrell as Minister Assisting on Tourism.

In the end, given we have around 70 days left to the original Election Day and the likely possibility that the election will be sooner than later, the entire thing is not great.

Back in February when the former Prime Minister announced the election for September, the country's media could not believe that we would have so much notice. Fast forward to June and all bets are off.

It is anyone's guess when the election will be and the new old Prime Minister tells us all to chill! The facts are the country needs to know when the election will be.

Consumers get so uneasy when political uncertainty sets in and as a result they start to retreat. Travel is an industry that relies on consumer confidence and I just hope that all this back and forth does not have an adverse impact on the way consumers are thinking about spending and taking a holiday.

The other challenge is what to advise clients to do about postal voting depending on when they depart. This is a problem and we have been talking with the Australian Electoral Commission to establish what travel agents can be informing clients of what to do. We hope to have more details about this soon.

So, episode two was a much watched saga, and given the story line I expect that things are only just getting warmed up. Who

ever thought a Federal Election could be so entertaining. Meanwhile, AFTA will be hosting the NTIA New

Meanwhile, AFTA will be hosting the NTIA New Zealand awards this week in Auckland so look out for details later in *Travel Daily*.



Atlantis goes on show

FLORIDA'S Kennedy Space Center last weekend opened a new attraction showcasing the Space Shuttle Atlantis.

Visitors are able to get up close to the space-craft which flew 33 missions and still bears the scars, scorch marks and space dust of its last flight in Jul 2011.

The immersive experience features simulators & interactive activities which touch on all aspects of the shuttle program and its accomplishments, incl the International Space Station.

Syd Sofitel recruits

THREE new senior executives have been appointed at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth.

The newest recruits include Geoffrey Webb as Director of Sales & Marketing, Jenifer Dwyer-Slee as Director of Sales - MICE and Stephanie Humphries as BDM for the hotel's MICE team.

Anantara addition

ANANTARA Hotels, Resorts & Spas has opened its 4th property in Abu Dhabi and 23rd Anantara branded property - the 30-villa Anantara Sir Bani Yas Island Al Yamm Villa Resort.

The destination, which is also home to another Anantara hotel, is located about 3hrs from the city, with the new retreat located on Sir Bani Yas Island's east coast.

VA/VX PDX flts axed

VIRGIN Australia will cease to operate codeshare services with Virgin America on the Portland, Oregon route with the US carrier dropping the direct services ex Los Angeles effective 01 Aug.

VA will continue to sell flights to/from PDX via interline services in conjunction with Delta Air Lines (DL) or Alaskan Airlines (AS). Agents with VX ticketed flights to Portland for travel post 01 Aug will require a waiver.

Abu Dhabi record

HOTEL guest arrivals in Abu Dhabi swelled by 21% y-o-y in May to 232,650, setting a 'Best Ever' result and keeping the city on track for a record year.



TC's touring Thailand's temples



CREATIVE Holidays and Thai Airways recently joined forced to send a group of award-winning Travellers Choice agents on an exclusive famil to Thailand, with the group experiencing many of the country's highlights both in Bangkok and Koh Samui.

Each of the agents were winners in the company's recent Silver Choice Awards.

The group toured some of the capital's exquisite temples, cruised the River Kwai on a barge, and learned new tricks and tips on Thai cooking through lessons from the Le Meridien head Koh Samui head chef.

A highlight was an opportunity to learn a bit of Muay Thai boxing in which fighters use their fists, elbows, knees and shins to form unique offensive moves.

The group, **pictured** above from left at one of Bangkok's temples, consisted of Lisa Butterworth, Carine Travel Bug; Jenny Brown, Travel House Group; Fiona Ellis, Capricorn Travel; Hans Went,

SIA ramp up services

THIS week Singapore Airlines will increase weekly services from Australia to 121 flights.

The boost comes following the addition of a 4th daily Melbourne frequency yesterday and boosting Adelaide services to 12 from Thu.

SQ regional vp SW Pacific Subhas Menon said the capacity enabled customers to plan their travel according to their own schedule from six Aussie airports. Canadian Bay Travel; Jayne King, Creative Holidays; Peter Oliver, Windsong Travel; Jacqui Jurovic, Balnarring Travel & Cruise; Leith Poad, Travellers Choice and Georgie Menke-Somers from Tewantin Travel.

WIN A 'TASTE OF IRELAND' DVD



This week **Travel Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a copy of 'Lyndey Milan's Taste of Ireland DVD', courtesy of **Tourism Ireland**.

All you need to do to win, is be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: tasteofireland@traveldaily.com.au.

Lyndey visited the home of a famously ill-fated ship that was built in Belfast in 1911. What was the name of the ship?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Sarah Hacket** from **Donna Barlow Corporate Travel**.





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

\$1AUD = US\$0.92

THE Australian dollar has lifted slightly from recent lows, after data on Chinese manufacturing showed continued growth in the economy there.

The Reserve Bank of Australia will today announce its monthly interest rate decision, with wide expectations that rates will remain unchanged.

However analysts are predicting that Australian interest rates will drop further before the end of the year, which is expected to continue downward pressure on the A\$. Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.920
UK	£0.605
NZ	\$1.172
Euro	€0.705
Japan	¥91.69
Singapore	\$1.159
China	¥5.468
South Africa	R9.049
Canada	\$0.962
Crude oil	US\$96.56

AY plots BA/JAL tie-up

FINNAIR is seeking to add its daily services from Helsinki to Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya in Japan to an existing joint operation between fellow **one**world carriers British Airways and Japan Airlines.

Regulatory approval for the planned tie-up is now being sought by the Finnish airline.

The three carriers are aiming to improve links between the two regions, with schedules, fares and revenues to be coordinated.

Hurti whale watching

HURTIGRUTEN has introduced a new whale watching excursion operating in Jul/Aug on its Voyage North cruise to Andenes.

The 7 hour trip to locate Sperm Whales is priced at £205pp.

Travel health priority

TRAVEL consultants are in a unique position to raise awareness of travel health risks for their clients, with Brisbanebased travel doctor Deb Mills saying agents should be referring customers to a source of medical information as part of the booking process.

According to a survey of about 100 travel agents, the major concerns of international travellers are cancelled flights, followed by government travel warnings and then natural disasters during their trip.

Mills said there's up to a 60% chance of experiencing a travel related illness if travelling to a developing region.

"As a general rule, it's advisable to see a travel medicine provider at least six to eight weeks before departure," she added.

Voucher winning agts

AGENTS from Andys World Travel, NSW; HWT Sunnybank, Qld; Eyre Travel, SA; Diploma World Travel, NSW; Anywhere Travel, NSW and HWT Biloela in Qld, have each won a \$150 Westfield Shopping voucher courtesy of the Star Alliance.

The prizes are part of Star Alliance's "Piaggio Round the World" promotion (**TD** 04 Jun).

LAX outlet shopping

LOS Angeles shopping centre Citadel Outlets has introduced a new 'Shop Until You Drop-Off at LAX Shopper's Delight' trip in partnership with Karmel Shuttle.

The product is pitched at travellers seeking a last-minute shopping experience who have spare time after checking out from their Anaheim hotel. Priced at around \$100, the package includes transfers from Los Angeles Int'l Airport to Anaheim hotels, transfers and luggage storage at the shopping outlet, and a transfer back to LAX. See www.citadeloutlets.com.

Map booking success

EXCITE Holidays has declared its map search and book feature, launched two months ago, as a success, with approx 60% of hotel bookings through its website now made through the feature.

Map search and book allows agents to find hotels nearest to a particular location or landmark.

AAT NZ savings close

EARLY payment discounts of up to 7.5% for AAT Kings multi-day NZ itineraries are closing 05 Jul, with discounts of up to \$768 per couple if paid in full by this Fri.



Gay Globe river cruise

BOOKINGS for Gay Globe's 15-day exclusive European River cruise on *The Queens Choice* from Amsterdam to Budapest have now opened.

The cruise coincides with the end of Gay Pride in Amsterdam, which concludes in Aug 2014. Prices start from \$6,195ppts -

see www.gayglobe.com.au.

WIN A RIVER CRUISE FOR TWO IN EUROPE WITH APT



This month *Travel Daily* is giving one lucky reader and their friend the chance to win a 15-day European river cruise, including return flights, courtesy of **APT**.

The prize consists of:

- 15-day 'Magnificent Europe' cruise with APT in a Category E Twin Window Suite, including all accommodation, meals, activities and transfers on tour, as specified in the chosen trip brochure itinerary;
- Return economy flights for two on an airline of APT's choice from the winner's nearest capital city to and from the trip start and end destination.

Every day **Travel Daily** will ask a different question – just read the issue and email us your answer. There will be 23 questions in total, which will also be posted on our website.

At the end of the month the subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this amazing river cruise holiday.



Email your answers to: APTcomp@traveldaily.com.au

Q.2: On Royal Collection cruises, APT clients are exclusively invited to the home of which Princess?

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PACIFIC

Welcome



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