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Wednesday 17th Jul 2013

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Super Rugby winner!

CONGRATULATIONS to Alex Lee from Korea Travel Agency, who has won a trip for two to Dubai after topping the 2013 **TD Super 15 Rugby** tipping comp.

Alex's prize includes return flights to Dubai for two, plus four nights accommodation, thanks to the generosity of Emirates and Holiday Inn - Dubai Al Barsha.

Rendezvous Hotels' Bruce White won the last weekly prize, a bottle of Dom Perignon courtesy Globus.

Jetstar signs Turkish deal

STAR Alliance member Turkish Airlines is further strengthening its presence in the Asia-Pacific region with confirmation of a new Special Prorate Agreement agreement with Jetstar.

The new arrangement covers Jetstar destinations in Australia,

New Zealand and Asia, and will see TK passengers able to connect with Jetstar flights via the Turkish flag carrier's non-stop services to Singapore from Istanbul.

TK already offers tickets to Australia via codeshare agreements with both Asiana Airlines and THAI Airways International, and earlier this year confirmed a new codeshare pact with Air NZ (**TD 18 Apr**).

Late last year Turkish Airlines ceo Temel Kotil confirmed to **TD** a strong desire for TK metal to operate nonstop from Istanbul to both Sydney and Melbourne by 2014/2015 (**TD 03 Dec**).

AFTA consultations

AFTA general manager of accreditation, Gary O'Riordan, is in the process of finalising venues and times for a national roadshow in which agents will be invited to contribute to the draft accreditation scheme and criteria for participants.

The dates and cities have been confirmed as Adelaide 06 Aug; Canberra 08 Aug; Brisbane 12 Aug; Gold Coast 13 Aug; Melbourne 20 Aug; Hobart 21 Aug; Sydney 22 Aug; Darwin 27 Aug; and Perth 29 Aug, with further details to be revealed in the near future.

Eight pages of news

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news, with a full page of photos from **Rail Plus** and a full page from: (**click**)

- AA Appointments jobs



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GA Gatwick setback

GARUDA Indonesia is understood to have been forced to indefinitely delay the launch of services between Jakarta and London Gatwick, due to "runway issues" at the Indonesian capital.

The SkyTeam elect carrier had proposed to begin direct links to the UK using its new Boeing 777-300ER aircraft from 02 Nov.

In an email to trade partners, GA said "LGW flights have been delayed until further notice."

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NZ Magic disappears

NEW Zealand's Tourism Holdings Limited last week announced the demise of the 'Magic Bus' brand, under a new arrangement which will see THL provide coaches to Tranzit Group Limited and SBL Group Limited, the operators of the Kiwi Experience backpacker brand.

The new contract will see the progressive introduction of fuel efficient Scania coaches into the fleet, and Kiwi Experience will also commence the provision of coach transportation services for the Magic Travellers Network New Zealand Limited, which is owned by the same entities providing the coach contract.

"The Magic Bus brand will be phased out after a short period of transition to Kiwi Experience," THL said, adding that it hopes to employ a number of the Magic staff "to continue with both the history and customer experiences that Magic have provided over the last 22 years."

"Between Kiwi Experience and Magic, THL is confident that our customers will continue to have unforgettable holidays with us," the company said.

Etihad boosting VA stake

ETIHAD has started boosting its Virgin Australia shareholding, with EY ceo James Hogan confirming on-market purchases over the last few days, after the airline received Foreign Investment Review Board approval to lift its stake to 19.9%.

Yesterday over 13.5 million VA shares, worth around \$7 million, changed hands, and Hogan told *The Australian* that Etihad is behind the heavy trading.

"We are in this for the long term game so there is no rush," he said. Once Etihad increases its stake

to the maximum permitted 19.9% it would see more than 75% of Virgin Australia in foreign hands, with Air NZ holding 23% at present, alongside Singapore Airlines with 19.9% and Richard Branson's Virgin Group at 13%.

Norwegian ship order

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has confirmed an order for a second 'Breakaway Plus' vessel, which is scheduled for delivery in 2017.

The 4,200 passenger ship will be a sister vessel to the first Breakaway Plus ship that is due in Oct 2015, with the two vessels the largest in the Norwegian fleet.

Norwegian ceo Kevin Sheehan said the new ships would include "ground-breaking elements".

Additional details in tomorrow's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

SOO game 3 comp

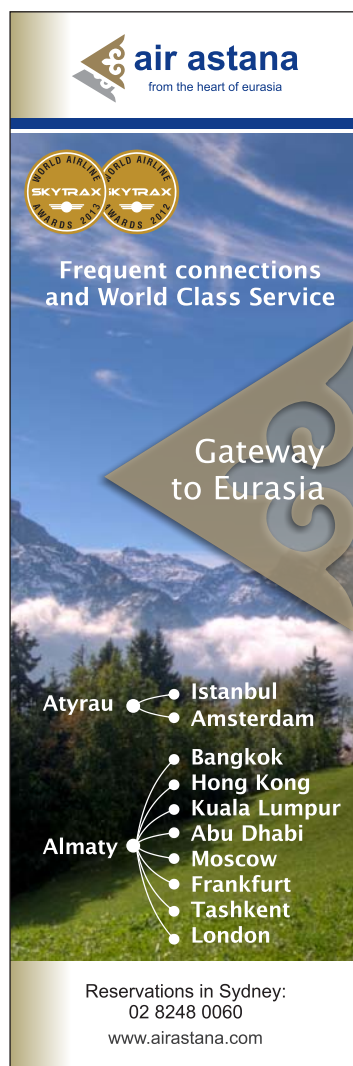
DON'T forget to get your final answers in for *Travel Daily's* State of Origin competition, with a deadline just ahead of kick-off for the Round 3 match between the Blues and Maroons.

Two nights at the luxury Pullman Hotel at Sydney Olympic Park are up for grabs courtesy of Accor, going to the reader who most accurately answers a total of 9 questions across the series.

The three questions for State of Origin Game 3 are as follows:

1. Which team do you predict will score the first try in Game 3?
2. Which team do you predict will be leading at half time in Game 3?
3. What do you predict will be the points margin in Game 3?

Answers due by 7.30pm AEST to socomp@traveldaily.com.au.



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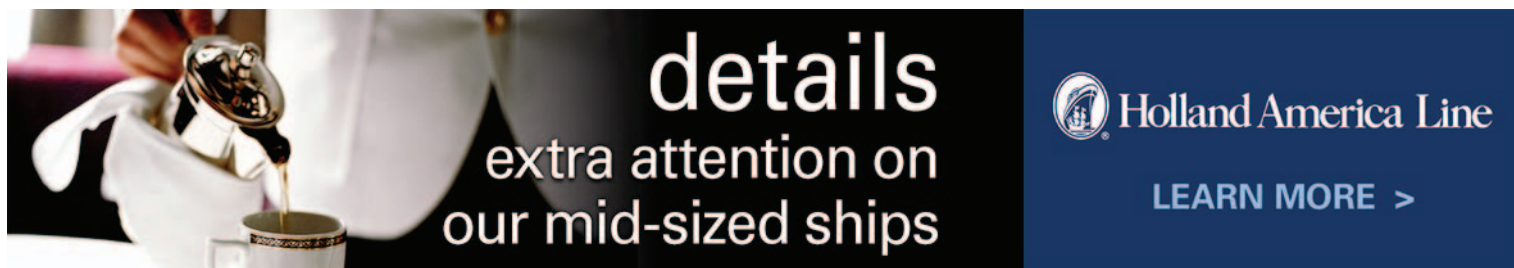


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Web-bookers spending more

TRAVELLERS who research a domestic destination for holidays in order to save money tend to spend more whilst away, new research from Roy Morgan Research has uncovered.

According to the latest findings from the Roy Morgan Holiday Tracking Survey, Aussies who booked online part with 25% more money than those who use other sources of information.

Alternate sources include travel

agents, brochures, guide books such or word of mouth advice from family or friends.

Aussies web-bookers spent an all-inclusive average of \$179pp per night in the year to 31 May 2013 - \$35 more than those who researched or booked through other avenues.

The percentage of people using the internet to find out more about their upcoming destination has grown considerably in recent years - up from 4% in 2001 to 25% currently, the survey found.

Roy Morgan Research Int'l Director of Tourism, Travel and Leisure Jane Ianniello said it was critical for tourism businesses to maintain a strong online presence to lure visitors as well as tempt them to spend up big while there.

"Although internet researchers may have above-average incomes, the increased daily expenditure by this group still suggests that online destination research is about far more than deals and discounts: it also provides holiday researchers with comprehensive information on how and where to spend their tourist dollars," Ianniello said.

The poll found holidaymakers who chose not to research their destination in advance made up less than half of travellers, but spent an average of \$116 all-inclusive per night.

It did identify that many of these travellers were also staying for free with friends or family, bringing the average price down.

"Aside from the internet, word-of-mouth and previous experience are also key drivers of destination choice," she added, accounting for 22% and 21%.

Legend upgrades

CARNIVAL Cruise Lines has today revealed upgrade plans for *Carnival Legend* include a pub, candy store and waterslide.

The 11-year-old 2,124-pax *Legend* will enter drydock early next year as its gets 'Aussified' ahead of a deployment to Sydney late next year for the summer.

Enhancements include the addition of Carnival's own RedFrog Pub (in what has been billed as a southern hemisphere first), and a replica of the *Green Thunder* waterslide which debuted on *Carnival Spirit*.

Other additions incl a Japanese restaurant named Bonsai Sushi & the 'Cherry on Top' sweets store.

Bookings for *Legend* itineraries via the agent POLAR channel went live this morning.

Secret SiteMinder

SITEMINDER'S Room Distribution Exchange platform has been chosen by Singaporean-based Secret Retreat Hotels as its room distribution partner for its collection of 37 properties.



Window Seat

HERE'S a spa treatment with a difference - a beauty salon in Tokyo is offering facials featuring live snails.

Staff at the oddly named Ci:z Labo spa apparently place the gastropods on the faces of their clients, where they crawl around and get rid of dead skin while cleaning the pores.

"Slime from snails helps remove old cells, heal the skin after sunburn and moisturise it" said spokesperson Manami Takamura.

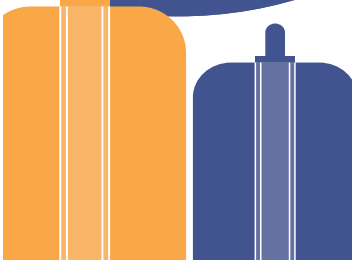
A 'Celebrity Escargot Course' costs about \$250 for a 60 minute treatment which also includes a series of massages and masks

using specially developed creams "infused with snail mucous".



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Nicky's an FTC Monaco winner



MONACO Tourism and the French Travel Connection (FTC) have announced the winners of its Monaco Incentive to win a great package to Monte Carlo. Agents who sold the Monaco Tourism Bureau's 'Monte-Carlo Passport' through FTC since Mar went into the running, with three prizes up for grabs. Prize options included a three-

night stay at the Columbus Hotel or the Novotel Monte-Carlo, or a two-night stay at the Fairmont Hotel Monte-Carlo, with Visitor Passes and a one-way helicopter transfer between Nice & Monaco. One winner was Nicky Bevan of St Ives Travel who is **pictured** centre receiving her prize from FTC's Camilla MacInnes (left) and Monaco Tourism's Lena Froelich.

UK thrives on Olympic legacy

VISITOR numbers to the United Kingdom in May 2013 eclipsed previous records, with the London Olympics cited for the resurgence in the destination. Arrivals soared by 4% to 3.08 million, and spend increased 5%, up to £1.67 billion (AU\$2.7b), surpassing forecasts. Tourism authority VisitBritain said the month helped boost the spending figure for the first five months of the year to an all-time high of £6.88 billion (AU\$11.2b). Holiday arrivals accounted for 1.35 million of all visits, a 7% rise on 2012 while the business travel market rose 4%.

Traffic from the 'Rest of the World' sector, of which Australia is a part, were up 10% in May and 9% for the year so far. VisitBritain director of strategy & communications Patricia Yates commented on the results, saying "the Olympic bounce has well and truly sprung."

"This has seen us achieve record breaking spend figures for 2013 to date and record visitor numbers for May and is proof that tourism continues to deliver the economic legacy of hosting the Games last year," she said. Yates said VisitBritain's 'GREAT' campaign had capitalised on showcasing the destination in 2012 to turn viewers into visitors. "Our marketing and promotion of Britain as a great place to visit will ensure we are well positioned to deliver continued growth through 2013 and beyond, achieving positive results for the UK tourism industry," she added.

Cicada Luxury Escape

CICADA Lodge in Nitmiluk NP in the NT has released a two-night Luxury Escape priced at \$715.50 ppts for travel in peak season. The package incl daily brekkie, dinner and more - 1300 146 743.

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Avis acquires Payless

AVIS Budget Group will expand its footprint globally after buying the 6th largest car rental firm in North America, Payless Car Rental for approximately US\$50 million.

Payless has around 120 rental depots spread across the US, Canada, Europe & South America.

The sale will enable the group to accelerate the growth of Budget's mid-tier brand positioning, said ceo & chairman Ronald Nelson.

Glebe Is appoints gm

AEG Ogden has appointed Malu Barrios as the general manager of the Sydney Exhibition Centre at Glebe Island, just days after being named as operator of the facility by the NSW Govt (**TD** 04 Jul).

Barrios most recently headed up the opening and growth of Darwin Convention Centre, a role she's held for the past five years.

Ocean Rd Instameet

VICTORIA'S iconic Great Ocean Road will play host to the latest Instameet this weekend.

The regional focus forms part of a new integrated marketing destination campaign that's aimed at encouraging Victorians to visit the area for a short break.

"Images captured by the Instagrammers will showcase the depth & diversity of experiences across the Great Ocean Road region to thousands of potential visitors," director of Great Ocean Road marketing Carole Reid said.

The three-day road trip starts on 20 Jul & runs between Port Fairy and Queenscliff, involving eight well known Instagrammers.

View images from the campaign under #thegreatinstameet or #mondaysthenewsunday.

Asiana sue TV station

US TELEVISION network KTUV is reportedly to be sued by Asiana Airlines for the broadcasting of fake pilot names (**TD** Mon) on the ill-fated Flight 214 which crash-landed at San Francisco Airport.

OS claims KTUV has damaged the reputation of the airline.



FOUR action packed days taking in as much as Sydney had to offer were enjoyed by this group of Sunlover Holidays 2013 STARS top-selling agents from across Australia and New Zealand.

The group were enjoying the rewards afforded by their selling success, which also coincided with the spectacular light displays during the 2013 Vivid Festival.

Over the course of the visit, the group participated in helicopter flights, seaplane flights, sailing adventures on Sydney Harbour, a BridgeClimb, jet boat rides and digging into some of the best available food and wine that can be enjoyed in the region.

Agents wishing to participate in the STARS promotion next year can visit www.bit.ly/sunstars for more information.

Pictured at the culminating Gala Awards Night in The Rocks, in the back row from left are Kristie Tibrook, Phil Hoffmann Travel Glenelg; Sky Gander, Tewantin Travel; Andrew Burnes, AOT Group ceo; Courtney Moore,

US growth expected

VISIT USA Australia president Geoffrey Hutton says despite a weakening Aussie dollar against the US 'greenback', "all signs point to another record visitation year in 2013".

His remarks follow confirmation this morning by the authority that 2012 proved a record year for Australian visitor numbers to the US, as flagged by **Travel Daily** first earlier this month (**TD** 02 Jul).

About 88% of the 1.1 million visits to the US were for leisure purposes, with the majority of the balance business related.

Visit USA said continued growth is expected, reaching up to 1.5 million Aussie arrivals by 2015.

AMEX CTS and Ashleigh Anne Beaufoy, AMEX GRCC.

Middle row: Danielle Cook, HWT Mackay; Jennifer Jones, TravelManagers; Lisa Kyle, HWT Narellan; Leanne Butler, Total Luxury Australia; Pam Dawson, NRMA Travel Wynyard; Jamie Cooper, Travel Counsellors; Leanne Chard, AOT Group gm wholesale; Anne Holden, Travel by Wyndham and Michael Broom, Sunlover Holidays.

Front row: Stephen Coulter, Travelworld Cobram; Leaso Sanele, AMEX Platinum & Centurion and Emily Watson, MTA Travel.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

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Singapore Airlines, one of the world's most respected travel brands, is seeking a Marketing Officer to join the Area Marketing team in Sydney.

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To apply please forward your resume to Dale Woodhouse, Senior Manager Marketing and Alliances Australia, Singapore Airlines either by email to Maria_Bernardo@singaporeair.com.sg or by mail to Locked Bag A3008, Sydney South NSW 1235

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CHANNELLING their inner Bangles, this group of top-selling Flight Centre agents recently saw the wondrous sights of Egypt on a nine-day Insight Vacations famil. The group were treated to a guided tour of the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx before taking

a leisurely and stylish cruise down the River Nile.

Staying in luxury resorts and enjoying delectable local cuisine, the group had such a great time, they even put together a special video commemorating the trip, available for your viewing pleasure by **CLICKING HERE**.

Pictured above imitating some of their favourite hieroglyphics is the group, which from left in the back row consisted of Steve Farelly, Insight Vacations; Brett Massingham, FC Product; Tommy, Insight Vacations Tour Director; Elliot Mendick, FC Woden; Ian Bevan, FC Civic and Corinne Norrie, FC Port Macquarie.

Front row: Ash Davison, FC Eastgardens; Ange Melotti, FC Macquarie; Amy Whorehey, FC Engadine; Jess Bradley, FC Blues Point and Sarah Whybrow, FC Gungahlin.

Win a trip to Japan

JAPAN National Tourism Organisation Sydney Office and Cathay Pacific are giving agents and wholesalers a chance to win a trip to Japan in a new contest.

Entrants need to submit a custom itinerary that explores parts of Japan (and a stop-over in Hong Kong) with a duration of no more than 14 days and priced to a maximum \$5,000.

Itineraries need to include a simple break-down of on-ground travel, accommodation, food, activities & experience expenses, but exclusive of air travel.

Entries close on 30 Aug, with a winner to be chosen on 30 Sep.

Full details at bit.ly/JNTOcomp.

HINN Exp Singapore

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has debuted its first Holiday Inn Express property in Singapore, with the 221-room hotel opening on Orchard Street.

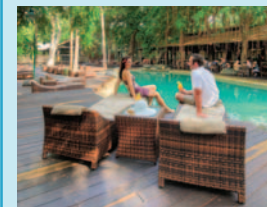


Accommodation Updates

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Prominent North Queensland hotel the **Pacific International Cairns** has this month taken the wraps off a \$20m renovation work which has given the property an entirely new look and feel. Decorators have done away with the timber balustrades in favour of a classic stainless steel look, refreshed lighting, frameless glass and new furniture. The hotel's lobby, Sugar Cane Lounge, and public areas have all been refreshed in a six-stage, five year project.



Local and state members of Qld Government have come together to unveil the new look **Ramada Resort Port Douglas**, which has been refreshed in a \$7.3m refurbishment. The Wyndham brand property has transformed 194 hotel rooms to 86 studio, one and two bedroom apartments. Landscaped grounds, a new heated pool & reception complement the existing facilities incl swim-up pool bar, day spa & conference centre.

WIN a double pass to Blue Man Group



Every day this week **Travel Daily** and **BLUE MAN GROUP** are giving you the chance to win a double pass to one of their wildly popular theatrical productions on 11th Aug at the Sydney Lyric Theatre.

Enjoy the stunning visuals, live band and comedic party atmosphere for an unforgettable night out.



Book at ticketmaster.com.au

To win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: blueman@traveldaily.com.au.

What Apple product does the BMG re-create in their show?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Angela Field** of **Jetset Travel Hurstville**.

Expedia user rankings

ONLINE travel agent Expedia has released results of its 2013 Insider Select rankings, which lists the world's best hotels based on the reviews of more than one million customers on pricing, amenities and customer service.

The chart singled out 650 hotels from more than 150,000 available, topped by the One&Only Palmilla Resort in San José del Cabo.

Australia's highest ranking hotel was the Sea Temple Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast at number 228, with nine properties nationwide featuring, incl Vue Apartments Trinity Beach (272) and The Langham, Sydney (459).

Plantation F&B offer

FIJI'S Plantation Island Resort has released a five-night accom special offer including a FJD\$200 food & beverage credit per room per stay, if booked by 31 Aug.

The credit is available to use at any of the island's restaurants during the five-night stay, valid for travel from 01 Aug - 23 Nov and again from 15 Dec - 31 Mar 2014.

HotelClub reps

ONLINE accommodation booking portal HotelClub has appointed Randall Marketing Asia Pacific to head up its sales & marketing arm for its B2B agent sites in China and Hong Kong.

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Rail Plus' Global Rail Experts graduate in style

SYDNEY travel agent Brett Dee would have to be a strong contender for travel industry Rookie of the Year.

After just 10 months as a travel consultant, Dee, who works for Flight Centre Warringah Mall, NSW, was

named as Dux of Rail Plus' 2013 Global Rail Expert program. His reward includes two economy class flights to Canada, a journey on the legendary Rocky Mountaineer and a trip on VIA Rail Canada's extensive network.

Almost 40 consultants took part in this year's program, which for the first time featured training modules on Canada, developed in conjunction with Rocky Mountaineer, VIA Rail Canada, Canadian Tourism Commission, Destination British Columbia and Travel Alberta.

'The performance in 2013 was unprecedented'

Agents also learned about Italy, Germany and Australia's own great rail journeys, thanks to Great Southern Rail.

The 2013 runner-up was Maxine Barron from FBI Travel in Victoria, who took home two Gold Service tickets on The Ghan or Indian Pacific.

Victoria also provided prizes for this year's third and fourth placed agents, with Akane Gonzales from QBT rewarded with a fully-funded place on an international Rail Plus educational and Kathy Kuhne from GET securing a return trip to Sydney to attend the 2013 NTIA Awards.

Fifth-placed Robin Woods from TravelManagers (NSW) will travel to Melbourne in December for the Christmas TraveLeague Luncheon.

Rail Plus National Sales and Marketing Manager Greg McCallum said the performance of the class of 2013 was unprecedented, with 34 of 39 agents finishing with scores exceeding 90 per cent.

All of this year's graduates received a Eurail Global Pass and a Global Rail Expert trophy, presented during a series of graduation dinners held around Australia this month.

RIGHT: Grace Lech, Grace Club Travel; Brett Dee, Flight Centre Warringah Mall; Melissa Clifton, Queanbeyan Travel; Robin Woods, TravelManagers; Walter Nand, Flight Centre Kogarah; Nicole Adams, Travelworld Belmont and Dean Heke from Harvey World Travel Katoomba.



ABOVE: 2013 Dux Brett Dee, Flight Centre Warringah Mall, NSW; Ingrid Kocijan, Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager, Rail Plus and Matt Symonds, NSW/ACT Sales Executive, Rail Plus.



ABOVE and BELOW: Matt Dommenz, Great Southern Rail; Kirsty Blows, Rail Plus; Joi Hawton, Jetset Travel Balwyn North; Casey Anderson, Hawthorn Travel & Cruise; Maxine Barron, FBI Travel; Rachel Cunningham, Escape Travel Stock Exchange; Akane Gonzales, QBT; Nadine Leveque, Rail Plus; Ray Lane, VIA Rail and Joe Germano from Transair International Travel.



BELOW: Nathan McLoughlin, Canadian Tourism Commission; Robert Halfpenny, Rocky

Mountaineer; Brett Dee, Flight Centre Warringah Mall, NSW; Ingrid Kocijan, Rail Plus; Matt Symonds, Rail Plus; Ray Lane, VIA Rail Canada; Charlie Trevena, Travel Alberta and Jessi Greer, Business Development Executive from Great Southern Railway.



AUSTRALIA'S GREAT TRAIN JOURNEYS



UK football on sale

WHOLESALE ticket packages to English Premier League football fixtures in the UK, along with Italian, Spanish and French games are now on sale through VisitUK, the company has announced. Bookings for seats can be confirmed instantly, with hotel and hospitality packages also available - phone 1300 063 300.

MU reassures Cairns

URGENT talks between Cairns Airport management and China Eastern Airlines have resulted in a reassurance from the carrier that direct flights will resume between the two cities from 01 Nov. Chief executive of Cairns Airport, Kevin Brown led a delegation comprising multiple North Qld tourism groups and Tourism Australia, with a spokesperson for Brown saying he was looking to "further discussions next week with [China Eastern]". MU said last week it was suspending the route from 13 Aug until 01 Nov (**TD** Fri).

Studying for a career with Britz



STUDENTS at Box Hill Institute of TAFE in Melbourne recently had an opportunity to learn more about the exciting world of camper and motorhome rental according to Britz Campervans. One of the company's vans paid a visit to the students on campus, offering a chance for them to see inside to see how spacious and well appointed it was. Approaching the end of their studies, the students were also able to speak to Britz staff about a career with the company and

how they can see the sights of Australia, New Zealand and the USA from within a Britz camper. The Britz staff are pictured above with some of their newest student fans.

VA pilot cadets return

VIRGIN Australia has relaunched its pilot cadet program for 2013 after successful implementation of the program last year. Successful applicants will again take part in the Flight Training Adelaide curriculum, beginning in Nov and mentored throughout by a highly experienced pilot. Graduates will move into a career with the carrier, initially as a First Officer flying on ATR and F50 aircraft in the regional fleet.

Largest GHM resort

GENERAL Hotel Management (GHM) will later this year add the largest property to its collection in the form of the Chedi Sakala in Tanjung Benoa, Bali. The 2.4-hectare, 261-room property will be the group's third in Indonesia.

\$5000 giveaway,
2 Business Class to China plus weekly & daily prizes.
During the month of July.
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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.13: How many dining experiences are available on Concerto River Ships?

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