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Travel Daily

First with the news

Friday 19th July 2013

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Ex Virgin exec to head FJ

FIJI Airways has today announced former Virgin Blue (now Virgin Australia) chief commercial officer Stefan Pichler as its new managing director and chief executive officer.

Pichler previously served under Virgin Blue co-founder Brett Godfrey and was responsible for the 2008 launch of Virgin's long-haul operation, V Australia, and the carrier's switch from a LCC to a network airline.

Air Pacific Limited Trading chairman Nalin Patel said Pichler was appointed after an extensive global search following the loss of former boss Dave Pflieger in May.

Most recently, Pichler was the ceo of Jazeera Airways - a role he held for 4 years & where his results have been pitched as causing "a remarkable turnaround" for the Kuwaiti carrier.

Pichler takes over from acting

Today's issue of TD

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

- AA Appointments jobs
- Wendy Wu Tours

ceo Aubrey Swift.

Fiji's Attorney-General and Minister for Civil Aviation Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said the carrier was confident Pichler would lead FJ successfully through its phase "to modernise, grow & prosper."

"Mr Pichler is taking charge as the momentum for progress is already in place," he said.

Pichler starts at FJ on 01 Sep.

AFTA board roles

THIS morning's annual general meeting of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents saw Travelscene ceo Mike Thompson once again re-elected as AFTA chairman.

Flight Centre ceo Graham Turner and Jetset Travelworld Limited ceo Rob Gurney were also re-elected as the Federation's vice-chairs at the meeting.

The agm voted to accept the financial report for the year, which reflected a small surplus of \$13,000 for the Federation.

AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury told **TD** that the result "adds to the existing strong equity position of the association".

We're so excited...

THE Australian travel industry is in a frenzy of anticipation, with the National Travel Industry Awards tomorrow night in Sydney set to see top travel agents and suppliers honoured.

The event at the Hordern Pavilion will feature the biggest mirror ball in the Southern Hemisphere, and after a sneak peek at the venue this morning, **TD** can confirm that it's going to be an amazing night, with lots of stunning surprises.

There's also been huge interest in our 'golden ticket' giveaway, with the lucky winner being Nicola Caygill from Micro-Cruising, who will join the **TD** team among 1,200 attendees.

See Mon's issue of **Travel Daily** for all the winners, and our exclusive coverage of the industry night of nights will continue throughout the week.

Wendy Wu bargains

WENDY Wu Tours is promoting discounts between \$250pp and \$600pp on select China tours for departures between 01 Aug-15 Nov, when booked by 24 Oct.

See the **back page** for details.

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Sherilyn is back!

WELL known travel industry personality Sherilyn Robinson has established her own business, moving from her previous role as head of sales and marketing for Australia with Hawaiian Airlines - during which the carrier's Australian frequencies grew from three to ten flights per week.

Robinson, whose career has included roles with Captain Cook Cruises and Air Pacific, is also well regarded as Vice President of the Visit USA Organisation in Australia, with experience in retail, wholesale, MICE and more.

Her new company is called LJ Commercial Travel Services, and specialises in marketing, public relations and events.

She can be contacted via email on sherilyn@ljcommercial.com.au or 0435 476 433.

Widget for SME conversion

THE Federal Government has launched an online booking tool that aims to assist two-thirds of tourism businesses around the country convert consumer curiosity into reservations.

Announced today by Tourism Minister Gary Gray, the Australian Tourism Booking Widget aspires to improve the capacity for small to medium enterprise (SME) attraction, accommodation, event and tour operators better handle customers using the web.

It provides an easily accessible real-time booking and payment facility for consumers browsing the sites of tourism companies, including their Facebook pages.

"The challenge for Australian tourism sector is converting potential visitor interest into bookings," Gray commented. "This Widget aims to fix this by getting more of our tourism operators online for bookings and payments - and help them grow their businesses, particularly

in regional areas where online facilities may be the only channel for operators to directly engage with their customers," he said.

Over 50% of consumers now use digital channels to research, plan and book holidays, with the figure expected to only increase over the next decade.

Despite 84% of Aussie tourism operators being online, just one-third have booking/payment processing facilities.

Designed as a "stepping-stone" for tourism businesses to enter the online market, the website provides "a basic framework that is easy to install and use," the Minister said.

Gray added the initiative would encourage operators to explore other "more sophisticated" booking & payment solutions for their businesses in the future.

The Govt provided \$500,000 to the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse to fund the project - see www.bookingwidget.com.au.

Insight Vac, Trafalgar 2014 Europe preview

THE Travel Corporation's touring brands Insight Vacations & Trafalgar have released 2014 Europe Preview programs to help agents bed down high-demand itineraries (from a collection of 130 trips) for their clients, incl the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Early bookers are being offered "competitive 2014 pricing and maximum availability" through the Preview program, and refunds will be provided if any itinerary reduces in price when the full brochure is rolled out in Sep.

Clients can receive a further early payment saving of up to 10% when a deposit is secured by 12 Sep with Insight Vacations and 11 Sep with Trafalgar, followed by full payment processed by 15 Jan.

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Miles to pay for SQ fares

MEMBERS of Singapore Airlines' KrisFlyer frequent flyer program can now use accrued miles to pay for all or part of their airfare bookings on SQ or SilkAir services under a significant enhancement to the scheme unveiled yesterday.

Bookings paid using miles can be made at either carrier's official websites, with a minimum of 5,000 miles required to activate the feature.

From next year, miles will also be able to be used to pay for fuel surcharges and taxes.

Through the website, KrisFlyer members can redeem miles for any available seat on mainline SQ and MI flights across the network of each carrier for the cardholder and any of up to five nominated beneficiaries, such as children.

Saver fare levels, for payment with miles, have been added to all SQ and MI flights in Economy, Business & First Class Suites on applicable aircraft.

Singapore Airlines executive vice president Mak Swee Wah said the enhancement came about as a result of the carrier listening to the feedback of its members.

"We have listened, and are pleased to offer another option for KrisFlyer members to use

their miles for travel on Singapore Airlines and SilkAir," Mr Mak said.

Further enhancements will be forthcoming in the coming year, he added, with ancillaries such as fees for seat pre-selection able to be paid with miles.

More information on the KrisFlyer upgrade is available at www.paywithkrisflyermiles.com.

MEANWHILE, Singapore Airlines saw a 2.7% boost in passenger numbers in Jun, with over 1.58m pax carried over the month.

Locally, load factors decreased 5.7% on South-West Pacific flights - the highest drop on the five route regions operated by SQ.

Capacity outstripped demand for the month, leading to a 1.5% fall in load factors network wide.

SOO comp winner

TRAVEL Daily was overwhelmed with entries in this year's Rugby League State of Origin tipping competition, with 400+ entrants submitting their predictions.

Congratulations to Claire Dean from Qantas Airways who was the overall winner, collecting a two night stay at Pullman Sydney Olympic Park including brekkie for two people.

China & Japan brox

SCENIC Tours has rolled out its first ever combined China and Japan brochure to the public following an exclusive pre-release booking period to past guests.

The program features three China tours with Yangtze cruises ranging from 13 to 18 days, a 13-day Cultural Treasures of Japan, and Hong Kong stopovers.

Free companion flights are available on China bookings made by 30 Nov, and Executive Room upgrades at Conrad Tokyo are offered for early bookers (also by 30 Nov) on the Japan itinerary.

MEANWHILE, the Nine Network will showcase Scenic Tours' India program over three half-hour episodes of Getaway on 20 & 27 Jul and 02 Aug at 5:30pm on Ch 9 and WIN, and at 5:00pm on NBN.

Hosted by Brett Lee and Jesinta Campbell, coverage includes Delhi, Rajasthan, Varansai, Agra and the iconic Taj Mahal.

airberlin interline

VIRGIN Australia has clarified its interline alliance with airberlin (**TD** yest.) has taken immediate effect, while its codeshare with the German carrier between Abu Dhabi and Berlin Tegel and Dusseldorf are effective 01 Aug.

MEANWHILE, Virgin says eligible Business class guests travelling to Abu Dhabi or Los Angeles on Virgin Australia operated services, or to Europe on codeshare services with Etihad Airways may be eligible for limousine transfers.

At this time, VA's codeshare deal with airberlin does not include limo transfers in Business class.

FURTHER, Etihad Airways ceo James Hogan says airberlin, which the UAE flag-carrier holds a major stake, is expected to shortly announce a partnership with Sabre Airline Solutions.

Virgin Australia and Etihad both made the switch to Sabre in recent months.

"That will be a group deal so both Air Berlin & ourselves benefit," Hogan told *The Australian*.



Window Seat

A BRITISH woman who returned from holiday in Peru with "scratching noises" inside her head was eventually diagnosed with having flesh-eating maggots living in her ear.

27 year-old Rochelle Harris said she recalled removing a fly from her ear while in South America, but thought nothing of it until she began hearing the funny noises on her return.

According to *Reuters* other symptoms included headaches and pains down one side of her face, and one morning she woke up with liquid on her pillow.

A doctor examining her ear noticed the insect larvae writhing in a small hole in her ear canal.

An attempt to flush the beasties out using olive oil failed, but after surgery eight maggots were successfully removed, with subsequent analysis revealing that a New World Army Screw Worm fly had laid eggs in her ear.

THE latest hospitality trend in the USA is hotels offering pre-packed meals for passengers to take on their flights home.

Probably a fairly negative reaction to airline and airport food, options include an offering from Wolfgang Puck at the Hotel Bel-Air in Los Angeles which has a "meals on the move" menu with a range of salads priced from \$14 to \$34.

Another example from the Four Seasons Boston is the "For Your Trip Home" menu located on the back of the in-room breakfast menu - and one of the pricier meals here is called the "Sky High" which includes caviar and accompaniments - for a fairly expensive \$120.

All of the meals are specially designed to comply with liquid restrictions and are packaged to fit in carry-on bags.

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Ahh, Mauritius.. so delicious!



ABOVE: Beachcomber Luxury Holidays recently treated this group of agents to a sensational six-night Mauritius famill.

Participants enjoyed some typical stellar Mauritian weather, fine food and experienced some of Beachcomber's amazing resorts, along with a lion walk and some golf action.

The hotels visited included the Trou aux Biches Resort & Spa, Le Victoria, Shandrani Resort & Spa and Paradise Hotel & Golf Club.

Pictured on the beach at the Royal Palm hotel from left are: Theresa Kwong, TravelManagers; Tom Hughson, Flight Centre; Hannah Taylor, Flight Centre; Darren Partridge, Beachcomber; John Gazal, TravelManagers; Dina Head, Travelscene; Kathy Millett, TravelManagers; Alma Araullo, TravelManagers; Marika Raymond, Air Mauritius, Krystle Trueman, TTFN Travel; Jacalyn Casey, RAC Travel and Elizabeth Holle, Flight Centre.



Marketing Advisor - Sydney based

This is a fantastic opportunity for a Sydney based Marketing Advisor to manage the development and implementation of the integrated marketing communications plans for Virgin Australia Holidays. As part of our dynamic team you will have a passion for fast paced travel marketing, be commercially focused and achievement driven with outstanding communication skills and excellent attention to detail.

The successful self-starter will have:

- Tertiary qualification in Marketing/Communications
- Minimum 3 years' marketing experience in a fast paced commercial environment
- Tourism or Travel industry experience – ideally retail or product marketing
- Proven experience in delivering tactical ROI driven marketing plans
- Strong digital/online background including analytics and reporting
- Demonstrated ability to build relationships with internal and external stakeholders
- High levels of motivation, drive and energy
- Exceptional time management
- Drive for continuous Improvement

If this sounds like you and you want to be part of Virgin Australia Holidays exciting growth plans, please forward your letter of interest and resume to chad.howard@virginaustralia.com. Applications close 31 July 2013. No agencies please.

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Philippine Airlines

Aussies drive Eurostar boom

BOOKINGS on Eurostar services from Australian travellers grew a sizeable 37% for the first half of 2013 compared to the same period last year, according to half year results released by the rail operator overnight.

The local contribution helped the operator to post a 7% climb in sales revenues for the half year, closing at £453 million.

An additional 100,000 pax travelled on the UK to European mainland operation in the half year, a jump of 2% year-on-year.

Promotional activity carried out for the service's Standard Premier class product to int'l travellers delivered successful results, with 10% of travellers in the class coming from overseas markets.

An additional 200 services were run by the company over the peak summer period to meet demand.

Eurostar chief executive Nicolas Petrovic said new routes & extra services led to the strong increase in sales revenues.

"We have seen a surge in booking from outside Europe and our new service to Provence has proved a great success with many services running at full capacity".

New routes introduced included a winter ski service to the Swiss Alps in partnership with hi-speed operator Lyria, along with a direct link between London, Avignon and Aix-en-Provence (**TD** 08 Jul).

Inside ADL virtually

ADELAIDE Airport has become the second airport in the world to be added to the Google Maps indoor 'Street View' technology.

Under Google's Business Photos Initiative, users of Google Maps can wander through the terminals at T1, down the aerobridges and even alongside the runway.

The virtual tour consists of 2436 high-definition photos linked together into 203 panoramic images showcasing the two-level terminal and the pedestrian plaza.

MEANWHILE, Sydney Airport serviced one-million int'l pax in Jun - a 3.6% increase year-on-year.

The figure was helped along by fan arrivals for the British & Irish Lions rugby tour, which saw UK arrivals spike 13.3% for the month.

For the 2012/13 financial year, Sydney Airport serviced over 37.4m passengers, a 4.3% climb on the previous year.

FURTHER, Melbourne Airport serviced an additional 1.6m pax in the 2012/13 financial year than last, resulting in a 6% passenger growth figure, MEL bosses said.

Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam & Chinese markets all posted more than 10% growth for the year.



WELCOME to **TD's** regular snow conditions update, providing info on the latest snow falls, depths and lifts in operation across key Australian and New Zealand ski-fields.

Here's the latest snow reports:

- Falls Creek - 10cm / 5 lifts
- Perisher - 30.7cm / 16 lifts
- Thredbo - 30.7cm / 4 lifts
- Charlotte Pass - 30.7cm / 0 lifts
- Mt Hotham - 11cm / 0 lifts
- Mt Buller - 0cm / 1 lift
- Coronet Peak - 50cm / 8 lifts
- The Remarkables - 90cm / 7 lifts
- Mt Hutt - 320cm / 3 lifts
- Cardrona - 120cm / 6 lifts

TN/AA codeshare

AIR Tahiti Nui has applied to the US Dept of Transportation seeking to amend its codeshare alliance with American Airlines.

Under the new request, TN is seeking to display the 'AA' flight code of American on its metal on flights operating from Los Angeles to Auckland, via Papeete, commencing 01 Sep.

TN has requested expedited approval for the request "so that parties may begin sales and marketing activities in advance of the effective service date."

Car deals in Ireland

FULLY inclusive daily rates for car rental in Ireland starting from \$17 per day for a Toyota Argo are available through globalCARS in a new promo - phone 1300 789 992.

Living like Melbourne's locals



MELBOURNE is home to some of the most iconic sporting scenes in Australia, and this group of local agents recently immersed themselves in some of the best during a Legendary Locals Day.

Hosted by Sunlover Holidays, the group of 12 agents started their day with a Sports Lovers Tour of Flemington Racecourse, the annual home to the 'Race that stops a nation' - known also as the Melbourne Cup.

The tour also included a visit to the coaches box at the MCG, where the group were briefly able to imagine themselves in control of a fast-paced AFL team as they competed at the fabled arena.

After the next stop at the National Sports Museum, the Mercure Treasure Gardens laid on a feast to keep everyone sustained

prior to a Hidden Secrets, Lanes & Arcades Tour of Melbourne.

The afternoon activity revealed many hidden secrets about the group's own city they didn't even know about.

Pictured above at Flemington Racecourse, from left is June Salter, Meridian Travel; Debby Hunter, Travel Counsellors; Christine Jenkins, Travel Counsellors; Nichole Hammer, Escape Travel Bendigo; Leanne Russell, Colac Travel; Josie Di Mauro, HWT Forest Hill; James Mullins, STA RMIT; Hannah Tabak, Sunlover Holidays, Ola Pach, STA Eastland; Claire Shaw, Jetset Ivanhoe; Brianna Berryman, Gippsland Travel; Hayley Madden, Jetset Ocean Grove; Mick Boylan, Sunlover Holidays and Nathan Micallef, Jetset Melton.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to Travel Specials, **Travel Daily's** Fri 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.

More than 140 **Accor** brand properties across Australia are offering 30% off rates for a minimum 2-night stay in a 'Stay 2 Save 30%' offer. Book the special deal by 05 Oct at www.accorhotels.com/stayandsave.

Stay four nights & pay for two at **Song Saa Private Island** in Cambodia via a new offer released by the luxury resort. Valid for stays between 08 Jul and 30 Sep, book this deal through preferred Indochina wholesaler.

Early booking discounts are now available for both guided & self-guided treks of the Great Ocean Walk with walking tour operator **bothfeet**. Trails wind along past spectacular coastal sights before retreating to the lodge in the evening. Book before 31 Jul for travel 01 Sep - 31 May 2014 for 5% off the total price, which starts at \$1,895pp. See www.bothfeet.com.au.

The Sarojin, Khao Lak has released a special four-night holiday offer priced from \$1,140 per couple, with many indulgent treatments on offer at the resort's Pathways Spa. Book at Island Escapes on 1300 305 870.

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.

BLUE MAN GROUP

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.

Approximately how many people have seen BMG worldwide?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Mark Swift** from **The Global Connection Travel**.

Virtual iPad concierge

JUMEIRAH Carlton Tower and Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel, London have added a new iPad Virtual Concierge to each room, providing guests with info on hotel offers & activities, replacing paper guides.

MEANWHILE, The Rib Room restaurant at Jumeirah Carlton Tower has launched new English vs Australia menu items aimed at the Ashes Cricket Series rivalry.

Nationally themed burgers, pies & matching wines or ales paired with each country are on offer until the end of the final test.

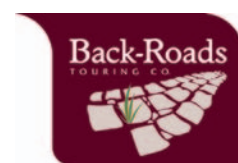
Record climber group

BRIDGECLIMB has hosted its largest group ever in the form of 2,100 climbers representing the Perfect China Summit, more than tripling its previous group record.

NFS/LATAM Peru prize

A TRIP for two to Peru is up for grabs in a new agent incentive launched this month by Natural Focus Safaris & African Wildlife Safaris, in conjunction with South American carrier LATAM.

To be in the running, head to www.bit.ly/nfslatam and tell NFS which famous person - living or dead - you would most like to travel to South America with and why - entries close on 30 Sep.



Business Development Manager

Back-Roads Touring is a unique small group touring concept offering fascinating and leisurely regional tours throughout the UK & Europe. We are now seeking to appoint 2 dynamic Business Development Managers, one based in VIC and one in NSW, to join our team.

This is a fantastic opportunity for 2 x experienced and passionate individuals to join our growing team and represent an innovative brand and style of touring.

We are looking for following proven characteristics:

- Customer relationship management experience
- A proven track record of business development management within the travel industry
- Confident and articulate presenter
- Demonstrable revenue growth in a sales territory
- Self starter with an existing travel industry network
- First hand destination knowledge gained through travelling throughout the UK and Europe

For full details including how to apply

[CLICK HERE](#)

Cape Panwa entices FC agents



RETAIL agents from Perth Flight Centre outlets were recently hosted to a few nights of luxury at Cape Panwa Hotel & Spa Phuket.

Flown to the popular holiday island by THAI Airways International, the group lapped up the offerings of the secluded resort in the south-east corner of the island from their own newly-

refurbished suites.

Whilst in Phuket, the resort laid on its exclusive private yacht to take the agents out onto the serene blue Andaman Sea, also hosting a delectable BBQ on their private beach.

The group is **pictured** above enjoying their beachtime BBQ with THAI's Daniel Way.

Pacific Air up fleet

NADI-BASED Pacific Island Air has commenced operations using a new 9-passenger Turbine Otter seaplane capable of flying to most resorts in the Mamanuca Islands as well as to Vanua Levu, Taveuni, Kadavu & the Lau Group.

Hideaway stay pay

VANUATU'S Hideaway Island Resort has released two 'stay, pay' deals including a 'Stay 4/Pay 3' or a 'Stay 7/Pay 5', including a \$50 and \$100 resort credit per room respectively, for travel to 31 Mar, and on sale until 31 Jul.



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Liaise with retail agents and overseas operators, and create bookings and quotes to ensure a memorable holiday for clients and much more.

The successful applicant must:

- Have excellent customer service and communication skills
- Have good computer knowledge
- Be an enthusiastic team player
- Experience in the travel industry will be an advantage

Previous knowledge of our regions is not necessary; training will be provided to the successful applicant.

- Salary negotiable
- Sydney City fringe location

To apply simply email your resume to John at john@sunislandtours.com.au

Travel Daily

First with the news

Friday 19th Jul 2013

Golf with the Chinese

TOURISM Australia venture Great Golf Courses of Australia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Chinese travel wholesaler Sichuan CYTS to promote Australian golf holidays to the region in Western China.

Under the MoU, up to 80 million residents of the region will gain access to travel packages through CYTS marketing Australia as a destination for golf holidays.

"Our partnership with CTYS will enable us to tap into business industry groups, golf club members, media and travel trade networks that have previously been inaccessible," Great Golf Courses of Australia director Elizabeth Sattler said.

Sichuan CYTS director Steven Wang saying he was excited at being able to package up access to Australia's best golf courses with wine, food and tourism experiences across the country.

LHR pitches third strip

MANAGEMENT at London Heathrow have identified three possible sites for a third runway to be built at the airport in an effort to increase capacity at LHR.

Sites to the north, north-west and south-west of the current airport have been proposed, with the plan labelled as cheaper than any new facility to be developed to the east of the capital city.

London Mayor Boris Johnson is also formally outlining his plan to the Airport's Commission for a four-runway option to be built in the Thames Estuary.

SpiceRoads with a pro

IRISH cycling legend Sean Kelly is to lead a SpiceRoads Cycle Tour from Bangkok to Phuket.

Capped at 20 participants, the eight-day tour covers 700kms tracing the east and west coasts of Thailand, with overnight stops at resorts and afternoons free to enjoy relaxing by the pool/beach.

Departing 31 Jan 2014, the Ride with Sean Kelly trip is priced at US\$2,750, with guests able to bring their own or rent a bike. Info at www.spiceroads.com.

Technology Update

Today's Technology Update is brought to you by Tramada Systems Pty Ltd.

Technology should be an enabler...is yours?



We are seeing a fundamental paradigm shift in the way travel agencies approach technology. In the past, technology

was often viewed as a sunk operational cost required for transacting business. Today we are frequently seeing the recognition that technology is a mechanism for growth and therefore a required strategic investment.

Agencies are taking the time to assess their business strengths and consider how technology can enhance these strengths (or reduce costs) to ultimately drive growth. Without a doubt, every successful agency has the ability to more effectively engage with their customers.

tramada®connect recognises the importance of finding new and more efficient ways to engage customers. It has a suite of products designed to empower agencies with the tools to connect with their customers in the way they want to.

Agencies can embrace the modular offering at any point in time whilst understanding that as their business grows tramada® will grow the offering for them.

tramada®connect currently focuses on 3 functional areas:

- Business Intelligence
- Customer Relationship Management
- System Interoperability

We understand the technology ecosystem within an agency is more than just the Back office, Mid-Office and GDS. We recognise that agencies should be able to leverage strength through interoperability.

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For information about tramada®connect- email sales@tramada.com

Jo O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer, Tramada – your technology partner



Bally's renames tower

BALLY'S Las Vegas will rename its South Tower as The Jubilee Tower, after long-running show *Jubilee*, following a renovation project, Caesars has confirmed.

MEANWHILE, the hotel is set to open acclaimed steakhouse, BLT Steak, early next year.

Int Adventure Games

TRUENORTH Event and Project Management has announced the launch of the 2013 International Adventure Games, to be held at Magnetic Island and Townsville.

The event is expected to lure up to 2,000 backpackers, adventure travellers and int'l students studying in Australia.

Participants are to compete in "country of origin" teams over five days from 30 Sep-04 Oct.

Partners include Base and Bungalow Bay Backpacker Resort. More at www.iatgames.com.

Talking Turkey's best sights



ABOVE: This group of agents from Student Flights tucked into some non-chocolate Turkish delights during a recent eight-day family to the country.

Hosted by Topdeck, the group started their trip in Istanbul, visiting the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the Grand Bazaar.

Respects were paid during a brief stop in Gallipoli, with the agents also visiting Ephesus, also taking in the cotton castles and hot springs of Pamukkale.

Another highlight was sailing on the Alaturka 81 on the crystal clear waters of the Turkish Riviera, with swimming, sunbathing and basking in the glow of the setting sun at the end of the day with some cold drinks in hand.

Pictured above, the group is

sitting on the steps of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, and consisted of Dan Fitzgibbon, SF Woden; Jarrod Hall, SF Curtin Uni; James Southwell, SF Belconnen; Brooke Nicols, SF Chatswood; Kelly Neri, SF Area Leader WA/SA; Kerrin Hudson, SF Marion; Frances McLoughlin, SF Hindley St; Mitchell Peters, SF Indooroopilly; Sarah Carlyon, SF Canberra; Diana Adaman, Topdeck VIC/TAS Sales Manager; Kirsten Savage, SF Knox City; Madelin Baldwin, SF Geelong; Craig Burge, SF Southport; Edwina Gardiner, SF Adelaide St and Alex Lineham from SF Flinders St.

Locator cause of fire

INVESTIGATORS at London Heathrow Airport believe they have identified a possible cause of a fire which partially damaged an Ethiopian Airlines B787 *Dreamliner* jet last weekend as the emergency locator beacon.

The item, made by US company Honeywell, was shortlisted as one of the items that could be a possible cause, with investigators now calling for the item to be switched off.

A lithium-manganese battery powers the locator beacon.

The investigation team have already ruled out the lithium-ion batteries, which were the cause of a four-month grounding of the aircraft earlier this year.

Lodge investments

SAFARI lodge and tented camp operator &Beyond has embarked on a US\$23m rebuild and upgrade project on a number of its lodges in Kenya and South Africa.

Among those to be upgraded is the Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp, which is undergoing an extensive rebuild, for completion next Jul, which will see 28 tents closed from 15 Oct to 30 Jun 2014.

New guest areas will be designed & built including food preparation areas around an organic garden.

Affected bookings will be reaccommodated at sister lodges.

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.15: APT has been an Australian family owned and run Travel Company for how many years?

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