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Tuesday 30th Jul 2013

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1888 Hotel opening

8HOTELS has today opened the doors to its newest property, the Pymont, Sydney 1888 Hotel, expanding the boutique hotelier's portfolio to 21 properties.

The luxury hotel features 90 rooms and a rooftop penthouse.

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AirAsia X confirms ADL

MALAYSIAN low-cost long-haul carrier AirAsia X is continuing its focus on the Australian market after yesterday announcing Adelaide as its fifth port local (**TD** breaking news) - as exclusively foreshadowed by **Travel Daily** some months ago (**TD** 28 Mar).

The four times weekly service will commence operation on 30 Oct, complementing existing AirAsia X operations in Australia which include flights to Sydney, the Gold Coast, Melbourne and Perth - as well as sister-carrier AirAsia which flies to Darwin.

AirAsia X will operate the new Adelaide route using an Airbus A330-300 aircraft with capacity for 377 passengers.

Launch fares from Adelaide to Kuala Lumpur start at just \$99 one way in economy class, with ceo Azran Osman-Rani saying "we are very excited to finally touch down in South Australia and bring some much needed competition to the skies".

As well as Malaysia, the carrier is promoting a host of other destinations using AirAsia's 'Fly-Thru' service which allows

passengers to easily connect at the KUL low-cost terminal.

Fly-Thru routes available ex ADL will include Singapore, Penang, Medan, Langkawi, Kota Kinabalu, Kuching, Phuket, Jakarta, Bandung, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Bali, Surabaya, Osaka, Busan, Chengdu, Taipei and Seoul.

The debut of the AirAsia X service to ADL is also a significant opportunity for inbound tourism, with Tourism Australia md Andrew McEvoy saying it's likely to boost SA arrivals from Asia.

"AirAsia X's track record suggests they will significantly grow the number of visitors from Malaysia and the region," he said, paying tribute to the efforts of the South Australian Tourism Commission and Adelaide Airport in securing the deal.

Travelforce no more

SYDNEY-BASED TMC

Travelforce has ceased trading as a travel agent, with an update from the Travel Compensation Fund today confirming the move.

Travelforce was purchased by Expedia corporate offshoot Egencia some years ago, and the organisation has now completely rebranded as Egencia, which has its own TCF participation.

Also terminated from the TCF was Tasmania Reservation Specialists from Seven Mile Beach in Tas, which has also ceased trading as a travel agent.

Eight pages of news

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news & pictures, including a full page of photos from **Aircalin & New Caledonia Tourism**, plus full pages from:

- AA Appointments
- inPlace Recruitment jobs

EY/AC codeshare

ETIHAD Airways and Air Canada will commence reciprocal codeshare operations from 06 Aug, with routes including EY flights from Abu Dhabi to London Heathrow and Toronto, as well as a range of AC domestic routes.

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New look for SICC

THE design of Sydney's new International Conference Centre has taken on a new appearance under plans revealed by Darling Harbour Live (pictured below).



The ICC is one of the elements forming the Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct.

The modifications come after discussions with the NSW Dept of Planning and Infrastructure and City of Sydney Council, which specifically requested the height of the Convention Centre should be reduced "where possible."

In its response to submissions & amendments to the proposed development, Darling Harbour Live (DHL) said the new design seeks to "minimise the perceived bulk and scale of the building by breaking down the building facades into three distinct sections, and providing greater building articulation."

DHL added that the changes satisfy Infrastructure NSW's brief "to deliver a new world class entertainment, exhibition and convention precinct."



Senior moments. More fun in the
Philippines



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Air NZ Holidays ramps up

THE AOT Group is set to significantly increase the market presence of Air New Zealand Holidays, with a "massive campaign" to be carried out nationwide in Aug and Sep.

AOT has relaunched the Air NZ Holidays brand after signing a joint venture with the carrier for the NZ domestic market in 2011,

New FCm global team

FLIGHT Centre's FCm Travel Solutions has formed a new specialist global sales team, "dedicated to winning and retaining multinational clients".

Sales leaders from across the FCm global network are included, with the team comprising Sue McEvoy from FCm Asia Pacific, Cameron McLeod from FCm USA, Tate Williams Crawford of FCm Europe, and Manuel Couturier from FCm Latin America.

The four sales directors will report into FCm's Global Director of Sales, Alex Armstrong, who is based in the London office.

"FCm has a rapidly growing portfolio of multinational customers," Armstrong said.

"Because of this growth we have been very proactive in creating multinational travel teams and resources to ensure clients receive the sales, account management, technology and supplier management support specifically required by multi-market companies," he added.

expanding the pact to Australia earlier this year (TD 03 Jan).

It's more than six years since Air NZ Holidays operated locally, and AOT has launched a 100 page NZ brochure as well as programs in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Tahiti, Niue, Tonga, New Caledonia and Vanuatu under the brand.

Air NZ Holidays director of marketing, Jason Williams, said the campaign is "the foundation to re-establish the brand in the Australian market place," with promotion including national press, magazine and digital ads.

"Air New Zealand Holidays is now back and committed to growing Australian holiday arrivals to New Zealand and the South Pacific," he said.

Offers include Auckland short breaks from \$159pp, Rotorua from \$185pp, Christchurch luxury from \$535pp and more, plus discounts and 'buy 1 get 1 free' deals on a range of experiences.

Dreamtime program

BUSINESS Events Australia has released details of the educational program for this year's *Dreamtime* event which takes place from 09-13 Dec.

About 100 top buyers and media from key markets including China, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, NZ, North America and the UK will take part, converging on Melbourne for two days to experience Australia's capabilities for business events.

They will then fan out in groups to visit Cairns, Adelaide, the Gold Coast, Uluru and Sydney.

Star scooter deadline

TRAVEL agents have until midnight tomorrow night to ticket qualifying bookings to be in the draw to win another Piaggio Fly 150 scooter from Star Alliance.

The Air Tickets incentive applies to any of the Star Alliance seven branded airfare products - for details see airtickets.com.au.



Positions Available

Due to expansion and our recent success in acquiring new business, World Travel Professionals is looking for talented individuals to join our dynamic team in Sydney.

Proud of its numerous awards within the industry, World Travel Professionals is one of Australia's leading travel management companies, specialising in corporate travel, conference and event management and luxury travel.

We are currently seeking enthusiastic people, with a passion for the industry for the following positions:

Multi-Skilled Corporate Consultant Domestic Corporate Consultant

With World Travel's superior technology solutions and industry leading proprietary systems, a good understanding of travel technology and online solutions will be a definite advantage.

In return for your knowledge, creativity and professional skills, we offer a great working environment and equally good salary package.

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CLICK HERE for further details

VA regional ops enhancement

VIRGIN Australia is advising it will soon upgrade the Sabre booking & check-in systems of its Perth-based regional operations, the recently acquired Skywest.

VA said the system transition on Fri "is a key part of the integration of Skywest into Virgin Australia", bringing with it multiple benefits to customers.

Benefits include making it easier to transfer between VA flights and those of partner airlines,

improved self-service options, the ability to better leverage Velocity Frequent Flyer program perks, the ability to check-in on int'l flights and an enhanced choice of flights both domestically and internationally when making a booking, VA said in a trade memo.

Effective 02 Aug, the flight number ranges for all Virgin Australia's Regional Network will switch to the VA code (**TD 16 Jul**), with GDS schedules & availability no longer displaying the XR code.

Agents with existing PNRs with the XR code will need to rebook the corresponding VA service in the next available RBD within the original PNR, with ticket re-issue or revalidation not necessary.

Virgin says once a guest arrives at the airport, staff will take control of that specific ticketed coupon enabling customers to check-in for their flight as per normal.

The carrier is also recommending passengers check-in online prior to arrival at Perth Airport, paying attention to which of the three Terminals they arrive/depart.

South America shows

REGISTRATIONS for the South America Downunder 2013 roadshow (**TD 10 Jul**) are now open for retail travel agents.

The expo will feature 30 tourism suppliers ranging from national & regional tourism boards, hotels & resorts, cruise lines & attractions, along with local wholesalers, plus there's eight LAN & Aerolineas Argentinas airfares up for grabs.

Events are being held in Melbourne (26 Aug), Brisbane (28 Aug) and Sydney (29 Aug).

For full details and to register go to www.bit.ly/southam13shows.

Registrations close on 12 Aug.

SilkAir Darwin deals

SINGAPORE Airlines regional offshoot SilkAir has released short life sale fares to South East Asia to celebrate its sponsorship of the Darwin Festival.

Return fares from Darwin to Koh Samui, Kuching and Langkawi are priced from \$640 all-inclusive, valid for travel until 30 Nov.

The special SilkAir fares are only on sale until 31 Jul.

Campus smart app

FLIGHT Centre's Campus Travel has launched a new integrated mobile itinerary management solution, in partnership with UK technology firm Mantic Point.

'Campus Mobile' allows users to check in as well as access trip details and updates.



Window Seat

HERE'S an opportunity to own something from a fancy hotel without having to sneak it out hidden in your luggage.

The Dorchester Collection's iconic Plaza Athénée is closing shortly for a major refurbishment (**TD 11 Jul**), and consequently there's a special auction set to take place in Oct offering a selection of furniture, works of art, decorative items and even tableware.

You could end up serving your own meals on plates from the restaurant *Alain Ducasse au Plaza Athénée*, and afterwards relax in club armchairs from the lounge area.

Items can be viewed pre-sale at the hotel from 04-06 Oct.

THE new 1888 hotel in Sydney's Pyrmont (**see p1**) is hoping for some good social media coverage - it's offering a free night to any user of the Instagram smartphone photo app with over 10,000 followers.

Instagram is also heavily encouraged while staying in the property, which even features a special "selfie space" for guests to "pap themselves at Sydney's newest boutique lodging".

NRL Rd 20 Winner

CONGRATULATIONS

Sarah Finn

from *Delta Air Lines*

Sarah is the top point scorer for Round 20 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



Reservations and Ticketing Agent Melbourne, city location, Full Time position

Due to further expansion, Philippine Airlines' GSA, is seeking a well experienced and enthusiastic consultant for its centrally located office in Melbourne.

Candidates should have 5 years international consulting experience with a travel agent or airline, strong GDS and fare skills, be well presented and demonstrate excellent customer service.

Applicants must have the right to live and work in Australia.

For more details call Brett McDougall on (02) 9249 9912.
Applications should be sent to jobs@philippineairlines.com.au
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Philippine Airlines

VA's Suns outshone on the day



ABOVE: Virgin Australia hosted this group of industry partners to an AFL match between Carlton and the Gold Coast Suns on Sat.

VA is the Co-Major sponsor and Official Airline of the Gold Coast Suns, but no amount of cheering from the group on the day could help conjure up consecutive wins for the Suns, going down 43

points to the Melbourne team.

Pictured at Gold Coast's Metricon Stadium post-match from left are: Greg Schein, FCBT; Richard Savva, Voyager Travel; Jodie Collins and Melissa Train, Virgin Australia; David Green, STA; Siu Wan Wong, AOT; Dominic Abbott, Voyager Travel and Isabele McCowan, Corporate Traveller.

Sofitel jobs portal

ACCOR'S upmarket brand Sofitel Luxury Hotels has launched a new HR campaign via an online platform for people wanting to pursue or progress their career in hospitality.

The Sofitel-jobs.com website aims to make job offers more appealing for future applicants and also allows current Sofitel staff around the world to search internal transfer opportunities.

\$2.75m fine for Boeing

THE US Federal Aviation Administration has proposed a US\$2.75m fine against Boeing for allegedly "failing to maintain its quality control systems."

The civil penalty relates to the 2008 discovery that installation of non-conforming fasteners which were used on 777 aircraft, and Boeing's failure to accomplish certain corrective actions and implement them more than two years later.

Japan ski earlybirds

SKIJAPAN is reminding travel agents there are only two-days left to take advantage of earlybird discounts to Japan.

Combined with an excellent exchange rate, ski holidays to Japan have never been more affordable, according to Skijapan md Marcus Williams.

Seven-night packages including accom, brekkie, transfers and lift passes are priced from less than \$900 per person, and airfares for about \$1,300 - further details at www.skijapan.com.

New team at BESC

BUSINESS Events Sunshine Coast has promoted Luran Hofman to the role of Business Events Manager, taking over from Pippa McCreery who is on maternity leave.

She was previously Business Events Executive at BESC, a role which has now be filled by Tiffany Beal, formerly of Unique Travel.



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Discover what your clients love most for only AUD 350 per person per night.

Now you can spoil yourself at the Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, Australia's exclusive conservation-led resort, boasting 36 stand-alone Heritage Suites, each with it's own private indoor/outdoor pool.

Take advantage of our all-inclusive industry rate of just AUD 350 per person per night and indulge in gourmet breakfast, lunch and dinner daily with a select range of local wine and beer and all non-alcoholic beverages. Two on-site nature-based activities each day are also included.

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Offer valid from Sunday to Thursday until 31st March 2014, subject to availability. Valid for one guest and a companion sharing a Heritage Suite. Other terms and conditions apply.

Money

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

\$1AUD = US\$0.91

THE Australian dollar has weakened slightly over the last few days, but has been bolstered by weak jobs data in the US.

However the Aussie Dollar has strengthened against the Japanese Yen after poor retail sales figures in Japan, while a key factor for the travel sector is the ever-increasing price of oil.

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.917
UK	£0.598
NZ	\$1.136
Euro	€0.691
Japan	¥89.80
Singapore	\$1.156
China	¥5.444
South Africa	R8.919
Canada	\$0.937
Crude oil	US\$104.55

New Contiki brochure

A COLLECTION of over 30 trips over are on offer in Contiki's new 2013/14 Europe Autumn, Winter and Spring program launched yesterday, replacing its previous 'Europe Winter' brochure.

The program features a range of new all-year round concept tours, such as the 23-day European Trail, 8-day Easter Rocker, 8-day Western Rocker, 16-day Trail to Rome & 16-day Trail to London.

Bali arrivals surge

AUSTRALIA continues to lead tourist visitor numbers to Bali, with new figures showing over 384,500 Aussies arrived in the tourist hot spot during the first six months of the year.

The Australian figure was relatively flat compared to the same period in 2012, up just 1.4%.

The Aussie result was more than double the next closest country, China, and triple that of both Japan and Malaysia.

Among main source markets, India saw the greatest percentage increase surging 23.6%, followed by Japan which leapt 17.9%.

The cumulative total of visitors to Bali for the first half was up 9% year-on-year to 1.49 million, continuing the Indonesian city's ongoing growth curve since 2008.

During Jun, foreign visit arrivals were up 15.7% year-on-year.

GPT Warbird itinerary

GRAND Pacific Tours will offer two touring options which incorporate the Warbirds Over Wanaka airshow next year.

Both the 13-day South Island Getaway and 8-day South Island Escape feature a 3-day Gold Pass to the aerial display, which offer grandstand seating in front of the runway, exclusive marquee access and more.

Tours depart on 11 Apr and 16 Apr respectively, and are priced from \$3,084ppts and \$3,984ppts ex Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane & the Gold Coast - 1800 622 768.



Citadines Sukhumvit 11 & 23
Special Rates in Bangkok

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AUD65/night*

*Promotion is valid till 30 Sep 2013, subject to availability and is inclusive of all local taxes & service charges. For booking, please email to enquiry.bangkok@the-ascott.com and quote THTDA to enjoy this promotion.

High Tea while a Prince is born



VA lounge expands

VIRGIN Australia has today unveiled an expansion of its Brisbane Airport Lounge, with an "entirely new intimate and self-sufficient" space offering guests views of the tarmac.

DNSW NZ prospectus

NSW product suppliers are being invited by Destination NSW to take part in the 2013 New Zealand new product workshop, to be held in Auckland in Sep.

A maximum of 12 operators can attend the 17-18 Sep event, aimed at initiating commercial relationships with NZ wholesalers.

See www.bit.ly/nztradednsw.

ABOVE: London was the place to be last week as the birth of the royal baby Prince George was on everybody's lips around the world.

This group of Aussie agents were enjoying High Tea at the Fortnum & Mason, hosted by British Airways and the Radisson Blu Edwardian when the birth announcement was made.

Pictured above from left is Cecilia Fabian, The Hotel Connection; Brian Paul Meads, DBT; Alycia Papadopoulou, MTA Travel; Monika Racz, World Travel Professionals Double Bay; Digby Warren, The Journey Masters; Kevin Headings, Sanford Travel; Vickie White, Goldman Travel and Spencer Bladon, British Airways.

Unleashed.

Wholesale Sales and Marketing Co-ordinator

Unleashed Travel is looking for a travel industry professional to join their young team in a fast growing and exciting company. Based in Sydney, the successful candidate must have travel agent experience, they must have a commitment to customer service, excellent leadership skills, exceptional communication & time management skills.

The role is a mix of sales, marketing, reservations & administration. The role is responsible for managing casual reservation staff, supporting on-road sales team, communicating with our database of past pax and booking their travel.

Formed in 2007, Unleashed has become the market leading overseas schoolies holiday wholesaler.

Please email resume and cover letter to jot@unleashedtravel.com.au



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Please send your interest to tiffany.braidwood@employeematters.com.au or call 0412 722 869 for further information.

Flossie now to Kauai

THE Hawaii Tourism Authority is advising the US National Weather Service has extended the reach of Tropical Storm Flossie to the island of Kauai.

Yesterday HTA warned visitors and residents that Flossie was bearing down on Oahu, Maui and the island of Hawaii.

"Airlines have begun cancelling flights, so we continue to ask visitors to contact their airlines and hotels directly to confirm their travel plans," HTA's president & ceo Mike McCartney said.

ADS to raid the coast

AUSTRALIAN Domestic Symposium - the name given to a collective of domestic wholesalers promoting Australia to NSW - will host two events on the Central Coast and Newcastle to engage with local agents on 21 Aug.

Breakfast will be held at 7:30am at the Breakers Country Club in Wamberal, followed that evening by pub trivia at the Charlestown Bowling Club from 6pm.

To RSVP your attendance, email australiandomesticsymposium@gmail.com.

White Night returns

VICTORIA'S Minister for Tourism & Major Events Louise Asher has announced the return of White Night Melbourne for 2014 after its "popularity and critical acclaim" earlier this year.

To be held on Sat 22 Feb, White Night Melbourne sees major cultural institutions open their doors from dusk to dawn.

Over 300,000 people attended the inaugural event.

The National Gallery of Victoria, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, State Library of Victoria, Arts Centre Melbourne and Melbourne Museum are all taking part and will feature a range of innovative programs & activities.

Asher said a call for expressions of interest from performers, artists, businesses & organisations will occur mid-Aug-see whitenightmelbourne.com.au.

Hertz offers F-TYPE

HERTZ has rolled out the Jaguar F-TYPE two-seater sports car to its European Dream Collection, for rentals at select depots in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

Rentals are priced from €250 per day, and a minimum driving age is required ranging from 25 to 30 dependent on country.

Hertz has exclusive rights to the F-TYPE for a period of six months.



AFTA UPDATE

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

BY NOW you may be aware that AFTA will be holding senior level talks with the insurance company IPP during the month of August and I am really pleased that our hard work and long road is coming together to be able to deliver the commercial solutions that we have referred to as a part of the new plans for the travel industry. At this stage, there are still a number of different methods and processes to be agreed including how the various commercial solutions fit into the very different travel agent business models in Australia. We are different to many other markets around the world, not least of which is a bedrock and forceful "bricks and mortar" retail agent network across Australia. Many countries envy the fact that this sector has continued to survive and indeed thrive even as consumers look to other ways of booking travel.

What is most important as we go forward, as I have said many times is that the regulatory environment in which travel agents across Australia operate in is a level playing field with the various online competitors. Of course online competitors are both online travel agents and suppliers selling directly over the internet and in many cases, neither were required to conform to the requirements of the previous National Scheme underpinned by the TCF. Now with the introduction of the voluntary accreditation scheme and the option of looking at commercial solutions that meet the businesses needs, a level playing field is delivered but the value proposition presented to those travel businesses that embrace the change is amplified as a clear message to consumers will come from both Government and AFTA about why it is better to be using an accredited travel agent.

It may even be that many suppliers themselves consider how much better it is for them to be dealing with an accredited travel agent as we go forward and this will be an important part of the transitional arrangements being rolled out as we move from the National Licensing Scheme to voluntary accreditation.

Finally, I encourage everyone that can get involved in the AFTA road show to come along. The dates for all capital cities have been released and is posted on the www.afta.com.au website and this gives the industry their opportunity to express views, consider the proposition of accreditation being put forward and importantly take an active role in shaping the future of how travel agents will look into the future.



Business Development Manager- Perth

At CWT, we have a unique and compelling culture as an employer defined by our people and supported by our Core Values. Our employees feel a genuine respect for one another, act with uncompromising integrity and feel proud of our global market leadership. They value working together, embrace opportunities for continuous learning and have an intense desire to serve customers.

Carlson Wagonlit Travel is looking for talented and enthusiastic people. People who want to realize their professional ambitions while delivering the highest levels of expertise and service to our customers. As a global leader in business travel management, we offer exciting opportunities in different areas around the world. If you share our commitment to excellence and customer care and enjoy professional challenges, we would like to hear from you. Learn about us and start your journey.

We are looking for an experienced Business Development Manager to target and win profitable Commercial accounts with a key focus on the Energy, Mining and Resource sector in Western Australia. You will also need to ensure the smooth transition and successful implementation of new clients into our operations area and the integration with Program Management.

Interested candidates, please log in-create your account and submit your resume via this link below:

https://careers.peopleclick.com/careerscp/client_carlson/external_cwt/gateway.do?functionName=viewFromLink&jobPostId=55880&localeCode=en-us

Lam lands STB role

SINGAPORE Tourism Board has appointed Sharon Lam as Area Director Oceania, based in Sydney, replacing Sandra Leong.

B6/SAA codesharing

US BUDGET carrier JetBlue Airways is seeking permission to broaden its codeshare alliance with South African Airways to include multiple new routes.

SAA is seeking to place the 'SA' designator on B6's flights from New York JFK to Washington Dulles, Austin, Boston, Las Vegas, Fort Lauderdale, Los Angeles, Orlando, Chicago, San Francisco and numerous other cities.

In return, B6 wants to place its code on SAA services between Johannesburg and Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and East London, Washington Dulles to Johannesburg & Dakar, and New York JFK to Johannesburg.

ATEC pushes online

AUSTRALIAN Tourism Export Council managing director Felicia Mariani has urged more Aussie tourism businesses to develop real-time online tech capabilities in order to effectively engage with target customer markets.

The Tourism Operators' Digital Uptake Benchmark Survey 2013, commissioned by Tourism Australia, found the number of sites offering real-time availability and online payment had jumped to 54% from 41% three years ago.

Mariani lauded the increased industry engagement with online commerce in the past two years, but added "there's still more work to do."

Referencing the tourism e-kit and a new online payment widget released by the Federal Govt (*TD* 19 Jul), Mariani said without this technology, tourism businesses "will fail to successfully connect with today's consumer".

New Caledonia dazzles Sydneysiders

A **FIRST** for Sydney was held earlier this month, with the inaugural Bleu Blanc Rouge French Festival hosted in the forecourt of Custom's House, Circular Quay from 12-14 Jul.

Aircalin and New Caledonia Tourism were the major stage sponsors of the three-day event which incorporated Bastille Day - the French National Day of celebration.

Bastille Day is a strong part of the French tradition, with the folk of every village and town rejoicing in the country's heritage, playing music and dancing with family and friends.

The Bleu Blanc Rouge gave Sydneysiders a chance to party like the French do, enjoying free live concerts, sampling an array of French-inspired cuisine from food exhibitors, taking part in French cooking master classes, wine tasting, a French dinner and more.

To inaugurate the festival, Aircalin and New Caledonia Tourism were honoured to have Australian artist Racheal Leahcar as an ambassador, who opened the Fri night concert singing d'Edith Piaf La vie en Rose.

Pictured on this page are a collection of images from the festival.



BELOW: Just one of the numerous Bastille Day French cooking demonstrations.



RIGHT: Ken Triffitt, Aircalin Australia gm and Brett Walsh, Australian sales manager hosted key partners during a cocktail function to celebrate the Bleu Blanc Rouge Festival.

BELOW: Elodie Elias, Chateau Royal Beach Resort Noumea and Janet Sayer of New Caledonia Tourism.

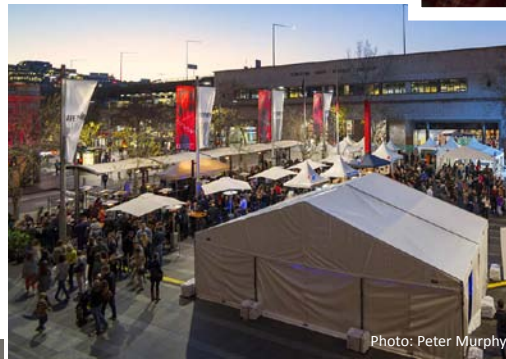


RIGHT: Julie Cassin, sales manager GLP Hotels Noumea, Pascale Dall'osso, assistant manager La Promenade Apartment Hotel Noumea and Emmanuelle Masson, general manager, Nouvata Parc Hotel Noumea.



ABOVE: WFSM Radio's Loan Morris and colleague glammed up the red carpet at the BBRF.

LEFT, RIGHT & BELOW - Sydney's Customs House forecourt was a hive of activity each evening during the Bleu Blanc Rouge Festival.



RIGHT: Head French Chef from Slide - Aymeric Saint Lannes showcased his take on French cuisine.



ABOVE: Some of the locals getting more acquainted with French delicacies.

LEFT: *The Voice Australia* 2012 finalist Racheal Leahcar is **pictured** here with Aircalin Australia sales manager, Brett Walsh.



Sheraton OOL's record year

SHERATON Mirage Gold Coast has seen a record year following the completion of its \$26 million refurbishment in Sep last year.

Good occupancy figures have been enjoyed with higher numbers expected in the coming months due to the Australian dollar dropping, making the destination more attractive to international visitors.

Speaking to **Travel**

Daily last week, Sheraton Mirage Resort & Spa Gold Coast's director of sales and marketing Leon Thomson said the MICE market is always strong for the resort but since the refurbishment, the resort has seen a "good increase" in the leisure market.

The refurb of the 295 rooms and suites included the introduction of the Sheraton Sweet Sleeper beds, iPod docking stations, new carpet and furnishings.

"The rooms are 43 square metres, the largest on the Gold Coast, for a lead in room" and offers the key point of difference of "bringing the outside in" Thomson said.

The resort has continued to improve its facilities following the completion of the upgrade with work continuing behind the scenes including the lagoon pools being resealed and refilled after being lined with pebblecrete to

SIN sets 2013 record

SINGAPORE Airport handled more passengers in Jun than in any of the preceding five months of the year, according to new results released by the facility.

Overall traffic was up 6.1% year-on-year, with a total of 4.67m passenger movements.

For the half-year, Changi saw 26.2m passengers overall, a jump of 5% on the first half in 2012.



create a more natural look.

High Definition Panasonic projectors and digital cable networking has also been introduced in meeting rooms.

The revamp has also seen the property come close to reaching Starwood Hotels and Resorts' 2020 goal to slash energy use by 30% and drop water consumption by 20%.

Pictured above from left are the staff from Sheraton Mirage Gold Coast: sales coordinator Christie Haworth; director of sales and marketing Leon Thomson, account director Sheraton Mirage Gold Coast Gina Prior with account manger Starwood Global Sales Sheraton on the Park Adam Leonard.

BHX expansion plan

BIRMINGHAM Airport has earmarked a plan to grow annual pax numbers from 9m to 70m via an incremental development plan.

The facility is aiming to expand existing facilities ahead of a push to build a new runway after 2030.

Google maps temples

CAMBODIA'S Angkor Wat temples are next on the list for Google Street View maps, with the tech giant this week arriving in the country to begin 360° mapping photography work.

First fox theme park

TWENTIETH Century Fox Consumer Products has signed a licensing deal with Malaysia's Resorts World Genting for the development of the media firm's first theme park attraction.

Early plans are for the new park to be open by 2016, with many famous Fox brands including Ice Age, Rio, Predator, Life Of Pi, Alien and Night at the Museum to feature heavily.

More than 25 rides & attractions will be developed for the 25-acre park, to be located in the existing Genting Theme Park on the north outskirts of Kuala Lumpur

Travel Daily
First with the news

Tuesday 30th Jul 2013

Grand Nikko rebrand

BALI'S Nikko Bali Resort & Spa in Sanur has been renamed as the Grand Nikko Bali as part of the global launch of a new Grand Nikko property brand.

Owner JAL Hotels Co, which is part of the Okura Hotel Group, says the resort will now be the public face of the new upscale Grand Nikko brand extension.

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.22: APT's Concerto River Ships are how many meters in length?

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STEP AWAY FROM SALES

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MELBOURNE (CITY) – SALARY PACKAGE \$52K + BONUSES

Are you a competent travel consultant, with native Galileo skills, looking to step away from the sales side of travel? Move to an online travel company today and start working in a customer service focused environment with no face to face contact! Working rotational hours (2 weeks day shift, 1 week night shift to 12am with some weekend work) you will enjoy the flexibility this role offers. You will be paid accordingly and also receive days in lieu for weekend hours. Please note applicants must have current native Galileo skills.

MOST SOUGHT AFTER ROLE IN ADELAIDE

LEISURE TRAVEL CONSULTANT

ADELAIDE (CITY FRINGE) – SALARY PACKAGE \$58K

Roles like this don't come around often! This South Australian based travel company is seeking a competent retail travel consultant to join their travel team in their city office. Servicing dedicated clientele, you will be focusing on service rather than the cheap price beats. This is a terrific role with a lucrative salary package and additional employee benefits! Monday to Friday business hours with rotational Saturday mornings. Minimum 2 years experience required in retail travel consulting.

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Join this national pharmaceutical conferencing team. As an Event Manager you will have previous experience dealing with the pharmaceutical market across Australia.

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