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First with the news

Friday 10th May 2013

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Tassie TC conference

TRAVELLERS Choice yesterday announced details of its 36th Annual Shareholders Conference, to be held at Hobart's Hotel Grand Chancellor 29 Nov-01 Dec.

It's been a decade since the last Travellers Choice conference in Hobart, with more than 200 delegates from across Australia expected to attend.

As well as supplier updates and awards, the event will include the company's AGM.

NZ pushes back on cargo

AIR New Zealand has called on the NZ Commerce Commission to cease pursuing it over the long-running cargo cartel case, which has seen large fines paid by other carriers around the world.

In a statement issued early this morning, the airline said that a "key piece of evidence" in the case had been withdrawn under oath - but added to the intrigue by saying the evidence in question can't be disclosed as it remains confidential under a USA court order.

"Air New Zealand remains adamant it has not breached New Zealand competition law," the carrier said.

The matter has been running for more than seven years, with NZ saying it had already satisfied regulators in Europe and the

US, and is "close to the end of our defence of allegations in Australia".

Billions of dollars in fines have been levied against carriers over cargo cartel arrangements, including QF, AF, LH, SK, JL, AA, BA, SQ and CX.

Spirit search continue

INVESTIGATIONS continue into how two passengers went missing from *Carnival Spirit* yesterday, with searches continuing 60km off the NSW Coast near Forster.

A 30-year old man and 26-year old woman failed to disembark upon the liner docking in Sydney early yesterday morning.

Carnival Cruise Lines spokesman Peter Taylor said there was an indication of what happened from shipboard video but that "there is no evidence of foul play" and the company was working closely with NSW Police.

Solomons comm cut

SOLOMON Airlines this morning advised that it will reduce commission levels for tickets issued from Mon 01 Jul. From this date, its international sectors will attract 5% base commission, while 3% will be payable on domestic sectors.

All tickets quoted on existing commission levels must be issued by 30 Jun to avoid the changes.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news & photos plus full pages from : ([click](#))

- AA Appointments jobs
- TD/Sabre online conference

Wilton a dud - report

TRANSPORT Minister Anthony Albanese today released the latest study in the never-ending saga of Sydney's airports, which shows that the proposed site at Wilton is inferior to Badgery's Creek in almost every aspect.

Badgery's Creek - which has been firmly ruled out by the govt, will be cheaper and faster to build, has less environmental concerns, will create more jobs & have more economic benefits.

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Celebrity X Cruises

Join our web event

PARTICIPANTS at the upcoming *Travel Daily*/Sabre Pacific "web event" will each receive a free copy of a special research paper into the evolution of travel into the mobile and web spaces, which has been commissioned from analysis firm PhoCusWright.

The one-hour event will take place at 10am on Tue 28 May, and will include live presentations from AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury, Norm Rose from PhoCusWright, Mark Mison of Sabre Pacific and *Travel Daily* editor Bruce Piper.

Anyone with an internet connection can participate from their desk, but you must be registered to be part of it.

For full details, see the **last page** of today's *Travel Daily*, and to register to attend, [CLICK HERE](#).

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QF phone upgrade

QANTAS Group Sales has upgraded its phone system to make calling in more efficient.

A valid IATA/TIDS number is now required, and will enable calls to be automatically directed to the specific group consultant/team.

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Nine 'Space Ships' for '14

SCENIC Tours has cited "unprecedented demand" for its river cruising product as central to yesterday's announcement (**TD** breaking news) to expedite the construction of a ninth new Scenic 'Space Ship' vessel.

To be named *Scenic Jade*, the vessel will be delivered next year and will feature the same suites as the eight other space-ships, including the company's 'Sun Lounges', Mac mini computers with free internet access and private butler service.

Scenic Tours general manager of sales and marketing Michelle Black told *Travel Daily* managing director Glen Moroney had "literally signed the contract the other night".

"Our commitment to delivering

the ultimate in all-inclusive luxury to our guests has been met with an unprecedented response," Black said.

Jade follows the announcement of the eighth river vessel *Scenic Gem* last month (**TD** 19 Apr) and once delivered, will bring the company's European fleet to ten, with the boutique vessel *Scenic Tsar* operating in Russia.

Scenic Jade will operate on the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers, with *Gem* designed to sail the Seine in France.

"The group's overall investment in new ships for 2014 is now at \$90 million," Black added.

MEANWHILE, the company is celebrating the recent launch of its new 2014 Europe River Cruise brochure with a new competition.

A \$5000 prize is up for grabs to the agency that most creatively decorates their store with Scenic's Europe River Cruise product and sends in a photo.

Scenic merchandise can be ordered via TIFS, with a 19 Jul deadline for pics to be sent to promotions@scenictours.com.

FURTHER, Scenic's latest TV commercials promoting the various features of its European river cruise product can now be viewed on *Travel Daily TV* here.



Lots of Dubai experts

APPROXIMATELY 1,500 travel agents from Australia are now qualified experts of Dubai after completing Dubai Tourism's trade specialist program.

The firm's local director Julie King says the scheme will be developed further over coming years, with more incentives and training for front-line sellers.

Qantas contact centre agents are also being exposed to the program to assist them with selling the destination.

Register for the Dubai Expert Online Travel Training Program at www.dubaiexperts.com.

More Universal Potter

UNIVERSAL Orlando Resort in Florida has announced a major expansion of its highly successful Wizarding World of Harry Potter, with a new precinct to open in the Universal Studios Florida park.

Themed around Diagon Alley, the new area, built in place of the current 'Jaws' ride, will connect to the existing Hogsmeade attractions in Universal's adjacent Islands of Adventure theme park, with rail transfers via the Hogwarts Express.

"The new Diagon Alley area will feature shops, a restaurant and an attraction based on Gringotts bank," Universal said.

The addition will open in 2014, with Universal Orlando also set to open a new 3-D Transformers ride next month (**TD** 03 May).

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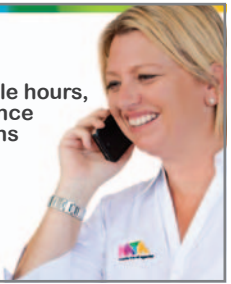
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Top NT walking trail upgraded

NEW semi-permanent campsites at the world famous Larapinta Trail in Central Australia were officially launched yesterday by NT Minister for Tourism Matt Conlan, as part of a long-term project in partnership with World Expeditions.

The 233km Larapinta Trail extends over the West MacDonnell Ranges, and is divided into 12 sections, each of

which is a one to two day walk.

Amazingly, it's been World Expeditions' top-selling itinerary across the globe for more than a decade, outselling other treks such as the Kokoda Track in PNG, Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Peru's Inca Trail and even the Everest Base Camp in Nepal.

The new camps provide "an oasis in the desert" for trekkers, with toilets, hot showers and quality food, and have been designed to cope with extremes in temperatures.

"This new level of comfort makes the Larapinta Trail more accessible to a much wider section of travellers, which is exciting for attracting more people to this beautiful part of the world," Conlan said.

The campsites lift the Larapinta trail to *Great Walks of Australia* status, with the NT Government, the Central Land Council and the traditional owners all working together to allow joint management of the National Park and the exclusive sub-leases which allowed the infrastructure to be built.

Two decades of TI

TRAVEL Indochina has released a range of special offers and travel packages to Vietnam in celebration of its 20th birthday.

The highlighted trip on offer is a 10-night Two Cities and Beach Escape itinerary taking in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Hoi An, with flights included and priced from \$1458ppts departing Melbourne.

For other specials, sale and travel dates, phone 1300 362 777.

Pax love EK A380s

EMIRATES says passenger loads and seat factors on its flagship aircraft, the Airbus A380, were "healthy" last FY, outperforming the network average.

"Both in the premium & economy cabins, the A380 remains the aircraft of choice amongst our discerning customers," the EK 2012/13 financial report states.

Peru partnership

PROMPERU has partnered with Expedia and Zuji for its first ever online advertising campaign in Australia to boost awareness of key drawcards including the Amazon, Lima and Cusco.



Window Seat

PEOPLE really do love to travel.

A reality TV project has attracted applications from almost 80,000 people who want the opportunity to leave planet Earth forever and live on Mars.

The Mars One project is targeting the establishment of a human settlement on Mars by 2023, with every aspect of the decade-long mission to be televised.

Successful candidates must undergo seven years of training after a two-year selection process before blasting off, with the organisation's ceo Bas Lansdorp saying that "with 78,000 applications in two weeks, this is turning out to be the most desired job in history".

A BRITISH school located very close to London Heathrow Airport has devised a unique way to keep out the roaring noise of jet engines that pass overhead every 90 seconds.

Four igloo-esque structures (pictured below) have been put up for the kids to spend their recess & lunch play times inside to mask the noise.

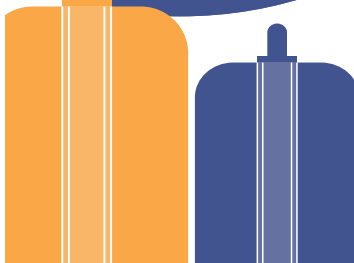
"You can still hear the planes in the huts but you can also hear your own voice," principal Kathryn Harper-Quinn said.

Planes pass over at a height of 180 metres, each delivering up to 87 decibels each time.



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Queenstown preparing to thrill



ADRENALIN, adventure and excitement were the motivations for entering a recent incentive devised by Air Tickets in conjunction with Air New Zealand.

Up for grabs was a prize of an adrenalin packed trip to the adventure capital of New Zealand - Queenstown, for multiple days of heart-racing attractions.

Pictured above in the centre are Claudia Arango and Lyn Keep from Show Travel - with Susan Atike from Air Tickets on the left and Nicole Bennett from Air NZ.

TEQ Delta marketing

TOURISM & Events Queensland has launched a major marketing campaign of the state in conjunction with Delta Air Lines.

Promotional material will be seen online, via inflight magazines and entertainment screens, with a special iPad app showcasing the state also to be developed.

The focus of the campaign will be how easy it is to access the state via Delta's domestic partnership with Virgin Australia.

Hotel Appointments

ACCOR veteran and current Novotel St Kilda general manager Erkin Aytekin has been named as the new gm at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, with fellow company stalwart Llewellyn Wyeth moving into Aytekin's vacated position at the Melbourne property.

NZ B787-9s underway

ASSEMBLY of Air New Zealand's first Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliner* has reached the final stages with the delivery of a horizontal stabiliser section to its Seattle factory.

MEANWHILE, Boeing has rolled out the first *Dreamliner* to be built at the increased rate of seven units per month, which will be delivered to British Airways.

Amadeus renews AA

AMERICAN Airlines & Amadeus have renewed a long term global distribution agreement for agents to have access to the carrier's fares, schedules and inventory.

Houston to DC direct

SOUTHWEST Airlines has been awarded a pair of slots at Washington DC's Ronald Reagan Airport to operate direct services to the city from Houston - the only low-cost carrier to do so.

The space has become available following the decision by fellow low-cost carrier Spirit Airlines to relocate its operations in the area to the nearby Baltimore Airport.

Seats for the new service are not yet available but will be operational no later than 05 Aug.

Escorted FIT combos

INSIGHT Vacations has followed in the footsteps of Trafalgar (**TD** Mon), adding a range of stopover options from sister-company Creative Holidays to its tour range in Asia and the Middle East which can be booked in conjunction with an escorted Insight package.

MEANWHILE, booking have now opened for Insight's 21-day 2014 Anzac Day Dawn Service itinerary.



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Emirates profit climbs 52%

THE Emirates Group set a 25th consecutive year of profit for the 2012/13 financial year, as revenue spiked 17% to AED 77.5 billion (US\$21.1 billion).

Net profit jumped 34% year-on-year to US\$845 million - a feat achieved in the same year the airline had its largest ever capacity increase, which included new nonstop services to Adelaide that debuted in Nov last year.

The year saw the airline division create new benchmarks in terms of revenue & passengers carried.

Emirates' revenue reached a record high of AED 73.1 billion (US\$19.9 billion) - up 17% - and lifting 16% more passengers than last year, or 39.4 million overall.

Passenger seat factors were

high, at 80%, which was consistent with 12 months ago.

However, airline jet fuel prices continue to play havoc with EK's bottom line, the group said.

While average prices did not grow greatly, fuel remained high and saw the airline report a AED 2.3 billion (US\$622 million) profit - 52% higher than in 2011/12.

Revenue was highest from the East Asia & Australasia region, accounting for more than a 5th of the carrier's total revenue.

Nine other new destinations were added to the Emirates route map throughout the financial year - joining Adelaide was Ho Chi Minh City, Barcelona, Lisbon, Erbil, Washington DC, Lyon, Phuket, Warsaw and Algiers.

Staff levels were up 12% to 68,000 "despite a difficult operating environment."

"In the 2012-13 financial year the Group has collectively invested over AED 13.8 billion (US\$ 3.8 billion) in new aircraft, products, services and handling facilities as well as the newly opened JW Marriott Marquis Hotel in Dubai.

"This investment has resulted in an increased customer base and a rise in global brand awareness."

The dnata division had its most successful year on record, with revenue up 15% to US\$1.8 billion.

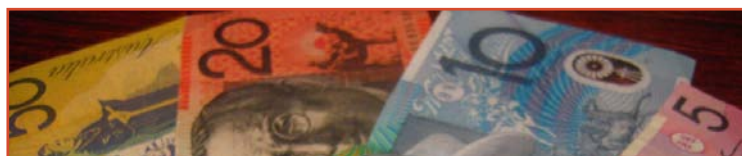
EK jet fuel cost down

JET fuel cost Emirates \$7.6 billion in 2012/13, almost 40% of the carrier's total operating cost, but down 0.6 percentage points compared to last year.

DXB Concourse D

IN LIGHT of Dubai International Airport's rising traffic congestion, Emirates has confirmed plans for building a new terminal already underway.

To be dubbed Concourse D, the facility is slated to open in 2015.



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Philippine Airlines

Riding on the Topdeck of Europe



BILLED as a "feast for the soul", this group of agents representing Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the UK enjoyed nine days taking in the sights of a number of popular European hotspots.

Travelling on Topdeck's 'Tapas Trail' itinerary and hosted by the youth tour operator, the group began in London, where the first night began with traditional pub fare with one of Topdeck's founders, Bill James, waiting to dine with them.

The group also visited Paris, the wine region of Bordeaux and rounded the trip out in Barcelona.

The famill coincided with what

are continuing celebrations for Topdeck's 40th anniversary, which will see a number of parties and events held worldwide over the course of the year.

Other highlights on the trip included a City of Lights tour in Paris, a picnic under the Eiffel Tower, wine tasting in Bordeaux, a visit to Andorra, a tiny country landlocked between France and Spain and a flamenco show in Barcelona's vibrant nightlife.

The group is **pictured** below in front of 'Tadpoles' - the last remaining Topdeck double decker bus, which transported the group to dinner in London.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES



SALES MANAGER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Singapore Airlines is seeking a motivated and dynamic leader to spearhead our sales efforts in South Australia. The position is based in our Adelaide Office.

Suitable candidates will be tertiary qualified with at least 5 years industry experience, preferably in a management role. Requirements include a thorough understanding of the travel market and its major players; outstanding team leadership skills; experience in airline pricing and distribution; a good understanding of airline revenue management; strong analytical skills; an ability to interact and manage relationships with a large cross-section of stakeholders at all levels; excellent written and verbal presentation skills; a high standard of professional deportment and personal presentation.

Please forward your application for this position to
Mr Hugh Chevrand-Breton, Manager South Australia, by email to
irmina_inglot@singaporeair.com.sg

Applications should be received by 17 May 2013.

Regions on the app warpath

IT FIRM Argentum Webware has launched new mobile software enabling tourism authorities to quickly develop smartphone apps to promote their regions, destinations or attractions.

The Travel App Studio program is touted as offering the ability to create mobile apps and social media channels in minutes, with content management and marketing tools included.

Travel App Studio is targeting tourism promotion bodies around Australia and internationally to sign up to utilise the program.

Mudgee Region Tourism Board in western NSW has registered as the app's first tourism-related customer and has used the app to design a destination guide, search functions, interactive maps, social features and direct phone dials to local attractions and hotspots.

"We are now more effectively promoting destinations in our region by providing tourists with a mobile app experience," Mudgee Region Tourism CEO Holly Manning said.

"Many regional destinations are poorly served on the web as large online travel media and search engines tend to cater to urban destinations with a population of more than 150,000 people," app creator Robb Snell said.

"However, tourists want to get access to specialised local information for smaller regions & undertake unique experiences - Travel App Studio provides that content via any mobile device".

Snell said he believed niche tourism apps would explode in popularity in coming years".

"The future of tourism promotion and marketing is specific content via the mobile device," Snell added.

IHG strong Q1 results

REVPAR growth of 1.4% in the Australasia region was reported as part of Intercontinental Hotel Group's first quarter results, reflecting what was described as "challenging market conditions" by IHG ceo Richard Solomons.

TK to Kathmandu

TURKISH Airlines is set to launch flights to Nepal effective 01 Sep with four weekly Istanbul-Kathmandu services utilising Airbus A330-200 aircraft.

NHH runs first UK/Europe famil

NEW

Horizons Holidays recently ran its first ever European famil, with the move following the successful launch of its UK & Europe program last year (**TD** 29 Mar 2012).

Six agents from Perth enjoyed the escorted trip, in which the group visited London and Amsterdam, also taking in Dubai on a stopover.

Riding on the London Eye was a heralded highlight, along with catching the Eurostar high-speed rail underneath the English Channel from St Pancras Station to the continent, as well as the 100 highlights tour in Amsterdam.

While in Dubai, the group went to the top of the Burj Khalifa and partook in the famous

Sundowner Dune Dinner, mixing with camels in the desert.

Pictured above in London with the Thames and the London Eye in the background, from left are Lauren Symonsrusbatch, Flight Centre Morley Galleria; Lorraine Todd, Carine Travel Bug; Eve Kelly, New Horizons Holidays; Amy Stevens, Best Flights; Aimee Dorrington, Travel Hotspot; Sue Ballard, Jetset Joondalup; and Rene Garrarchi from Escape Travel Joondalup.



SINGAPORE AIRLINES



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An exciting opportunity exists for a highly motivated individual to join the Singapore Airlines sales team in the position of Full-time Sales Executive.

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- Develop strong business relations with travel agents and corporate accounts;
- Propose and implement local market development activities to SQ/MI destinations;
- Organize and conduct industry functions, seminars, product launches etc;
- Maintain effective relations with other departments, airline partners, agents and consumers to the ongoing benefit of Singapore Airlines;
- Be a positive contributor to the SIA team.

To be successful in the role you will require:

- Minimum of 3 years travel industry experience with a strong understanding of the aviation industry;
- Sound knowledge of the SIA product and network;
- Strong commercial acumen with clear focus on business development;
- Experience in developing and implementing sales/marketing strategies;
- Strong sales focus and good presentation skills;
- WA Drivers Licence;
- High level of written and verbal communication skills;
- Strong service ethic and time management ability;

To apply, please forward your resume to **Jacki D'Antonio, Sales Manager, Singapore Airlines, either by email info_per@singaporeair.com.sg or by mail to Level 1, 178 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000**

Applications close Wed 22 May 2013.

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

Administrative and Advertising Assistant

Travel Daily, Australia's favourite travel publication, is currently recruiting for an administrative and advertising assistant. This is a full time role, working from our offices in Epping, NSW.

This entry-level position involves assisting our team with a wide range of duties ranging from answering the phone, banking, handling enquiries, generating reports, managing appointments and other general office activities.

Desktop publishing is also involved and you will be trained in use of our in-house system to assist with preparation of advertising and other features in our portfolio of newsletters.

You will have experience with computers and a sound knowledge of Microsoft Office products, and some familiarity with publishing programs would be an advantage.

We are looking for someone who has good verbal and written communication skills, is reliable and friendly and who has a willingness to learn and a desire to progress within the company.

A salary package of up to \$35,000 + superannuation is on offer for the right candidate.

Send your resume with a covering letter to jobs@traveldaily.com.au by Friday 10th May 2013.



Recently, Euromonitor estimates indicated that the global hotel sector is likely to continue growing

steadily in value and could be worth USD\$628 billion by 2017, a 35% growth compared to 2012. Just yesterday, we announced a global launch of the enhanced version of Travelport Rooms and More™, our industry leading B2B hotel booking engine.

By simply entering a few key pieces of information on the easy-to-use, intuitive landing page, Travelport Rooms and More searches multiple sources on behalf of the user and returns a comprehensive list of accommodation that optimises content choice and potential commission revenue earned.

We have recently integrated new content from leading hotel aggregators such as lowcostbeds.com, Quickbeds.com, and most recently Destinations of the World. The new enhanced version also has a fresh look and feel, a more user-friendly, next generation interface and faster commission payment processes for travel agents.

The new version was developed following feedback from travel agents, and sets an industry-leading standard of over 450,000 unique hotel properties and one million room offers all fully bookable through one portal.

The engine was launched nearly two years ago and is now being used in six languages across 70 countries.

For those travel agents already using Travelport Rooms and More, the latest version of the booking engine can be found at www.travelportroomsandmore.com.

Alex Fitzpatrick,
Travelport General Manager,
Pacific Region



Tennis ace launches new Mantra



AUSSIE tennis legend & Mantra Ambassador Pat Rafter was on hand recently for official opening festivities at the refurbished Mantra French Quarter Noosa.

Formerly known as BreakFree French Quarter, the paint is barely dry on \$5m renovation works which included a new lobby on Hastings Street - Noosa's main tourist strip.

The hotel's original lobby also received a makeover, along with all one- & two-bedroom apartments, now firmly classified as being of deluxe standard.

In attendance were a number of local tourism executives along with Mantra ceo Bob East, who spoke of the importance of investing in product and referred to significant improvements made to other local Mantra Group

Busabout giving back

THE Travel Corporation's sustainable tourism venture, The Treadright Foundation, along with Busabout, will next week bring its first passengers back to Vernazza in Cinque Terre, Italy following damage sustained to the town in a 2011 storm.

The coach operator has joined forces with a local charity to raise money to help the town recover, with passengers given an opportunity to donate and assist locals in restoration efforts.

iVoyager software

AUSSIE TMC Voyager has launched a new software system allowing corporate clients to book point-to-point travel on any combination of airlines, choppers and other modes of transport.

The program, which was six years in development, is aimed at the mining and resources sector.

properties in recent months.

Tourism & Events Queensland chairman Stephen Gregg, also in attendance, spoke and expressed his praise for the refreshed hotel.

The centrepiece of the Mantra French Quarter Noosa will undoubtedly be a jumbo surfboard autographed by Rafter, which will sit in the new lobby.

In return, Rafter received a key to the Hastings St carpark and a permanent parking spot on the always-busy tourist strip.

The two-time US Open winner and Wimbledon finalist is **pictured** above left with Ibrahim Saad, Tourism Noosa's Susan Ewington and Juanita Bloomfield.

Pharmacy Daily is a sister publication to *Travel Daily*, and is Australia's favourite daily pharmaceutical industry newsletter, read by over 10,000 people each day.

Pharmacy DAILY

Pharmacy Daily is currently recruiting for two roles to support our ongoing strong growth.

News Reporter

This is a permanent part-time role, working five mornings per week from our offices in Epping, NSW. The successful applicant will be an experienced writer with a good sense for news, preferably with knowledge of the pharmacy industry. As well as sourcing the latest pharmacy industry news you will be helping with the production of the newsletter so desktop publishing experience (Adobe Indesign) will be well regarded. On-the-job training will be provided.

Business Development Manager

Pharmacy Daily is seeking a Business Development Manager, to promote our popular newsletter to pharmacy suppliers. This is a part-time contract role with flexible hours, which would ideally suit someone with pharmaceutical or medical industry sales experience. Duties will involve sourcing new business from advertisers and developing relationships with clients with the aim of further growing the business.

Salary for both roles will be commensurate with experience. Join our fun friendly team working to keep the pharmacy industry informed. Send your resume with a covering letter to jobs@traveldaily.com.au by Friday 10th May 2013.

Sebel light up at Vivid

THIRTEEN light installations will illuminate the Sebel Pier One hotel in Sydney as part of the 2013 Vivid Festival of Light.

A colourfully lit pop-up bar and food cart will be in operation on the Pier outside Front Restaurant, serving coffee, hot chocolate, Wagyu beef burgers and Kransky Rolls, with acoustic entertainment also playing on Fri & Sat nights.

The property, celebrating its involvement in the light festival for the first time, has launched special Vivid accom packages priced from \$299 per night for the festival's duration, running from 24 May to 10 Jun.

Breakaway christened

NEW York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was in attendance as a chorus line by New York City's famous 'Rockettes' dance group culminated in a champagne bottle crashing onto the side of the new *Norwegian Breakaway* liner as part of christening festivities.



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.

Wendy Wu Tours has released an exclusive special for industry members to take a seven-day Southern India tour from \$447ppts, or an 11-day North India itinerary from \$870ppts. A supplement of \$150 applies for a non-travel industry partner. On sale until 10 Sep. Phone 1300 727 998.

Even though the cold weather is now well and truly here, earlybird savings are on offer at **Perisher** for those dusting off the snow gear and planning their ski trips. Up to 35% can be saved with an Early Bird Bundle combining ski hire, lessons and lift tickets. Visit www.bit.ly/skibundle.

Those heading to the Big Apple can enjoy opening specials at the new **Langham Fifth Avenue**. Discounts of 10% off the Best Available Rate are on sale, with brekkie & refreshments included. See www.bit.ly/langopen.

Take 50% off suite rooms with a "Suite" deal from the **Semara Luxury Villa Resort** in Uluwatu, Bali. Garden Terrace Suites are priced at US\$592 (excluding tax and service charge) per night until 31 Jul. Daily breakfast & a 20-min spa treatment also included. Book at www.semararesorts.com.

Islands popularity up

OUTER Hawaiian islands are growing in popularity following strong Mar arrivals released by Hawaii Tourism Oceania.

Maui and the 'Big Island' posted growth over 40%, with overall Australian visitor numbers for the month up 38% year-on-year.

Fly to Switzerland with SWISS



Travel Daily and **SWISS** bring another exclusive offer for Australian travel agents.

SWISS commences daily nonstop flights between Singapore and Zurich on 12th May.

For your chance to win a free economy class return trip to Switzerland,

SEND US YOUR SLOGAN FOR THE NEW SINGAPORE FLIGHT

The most inspiring slogan will win this amazing prize.

Email your answer by COB on Fri 10th May to:

swisscomp@traveldaily.com.au

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Chopper crash in HNL

TRAFFIC in downtown Honolulu was shut down for a number of hours after a small helicopter crashed onto a street near Hawaii Pacific University, damaging a car.

The chopper, conducting a photography flight, ended up on a curb, however there were no reports of any serious injuries.

A loss of power on the new craft was blamed for the crash.

CTC online move

THE Canadian Tourism Commission has streamlined its consumer websites, bringing three former sites together into a single au.canada.travel portal.

The new site is currently available in six languages and has a range of features including the ability to post video and photos.

Aussies seek warmth

FLIGHT comparison website Skyscanner has identified the UK as the most popular destination sought online by Australians seeking respite from the colder months, according to a new poll.

However it was only just ahead of website queries about Australian domestic destinations, with searches for flights to the USA coming in third place.

Sri Lanka was revealed to be the fastest growing defrost destination sought by sun-chasers, with searches to the country up 252% compared to the year previous.

Brazil also featured strongly, with online queries jumping 220% ahead of the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

Viva discovering USA

VIVA! Holidays has partnered with Virgin Australia to launch a new "USA Your Way" promotion, offering a second stopover in one of six US cities from \$456pp.

Starwood's growth continues

STARWOOD

Hotels and Resorts will conclude its series of Australian Expo's in Brisbane today following on from successful events in Melbourne, Sydney and North Ryde throughout the week.



Sheraton Kuta Bali on 01 Dec and the Le Meridien Jimbaran on Boxing Day, which will be followed up with The Westin Ubud Resort & Spa in Mar next year.

Meanwhile, in Thailand, Vana Belle, a Luxury Collection Resort in Koh Samui began operations on 20 Jan.

The 18 month old Le Meridien Koh Samui Resort & Spa opened a new conference space in Dec, while the Westin Grande Bangkok has undergone a renovation that included the opening of a new rooftop meeting space, Altitude and will relaunch its Japanese restaurant, Kisso on 01 Jun.

Pictured above are the representatives from Starwood Hotels & Resorts at the Sydney event from left: Cheung Yuen Kwan, Karryn Cutcheon, Amanda Frack, Kristin Thakwell, Daniella Tonetto and Catherine Sinnett.

Below in North Ryde are: Angela Chan, W Hong Kong; Taieb TJ Joulak, W Retreat and Spa Bali; Alvin Lim, W Singapore Sentosa Cove; Ben Strother, Le Meridien Koh Samui Resort & Spa and Nicholas Downing, W Retreat Koh Samui.

The hotel group has another busy year of renovations, new builds, general upgrades and over 109 hotel openings scheduled over the next five years across its nine distinct lifestyle brands - St Regis, The Luxury Collection, W Hotels, Le Meridien, Westin, Sheraton, Aloft, Element and Four Points by Sheraton, in 12 countries around the world.

In Malaysia, Starwood has been busy opening its biggest Aloft property in the world on 22 Mar with the Aloft Kuala Lumpur Sentral now welcoming guests.

Sabah's second largest city now has its first international hotel brand with last years introduction of the Four Points by Sheraton in Sandakan.

The 300 guestroom and suite property is part of the Sandarkan Harbour Mall Shopping Centre and connected to the Sandarkan Convention Centre.

Starwood is also scheduled to open the Four Points by Sheraton Penang in Aug, with 220 rooms.

In New Caledonia, the first Sheraton branded hotel will be opened on 15 Mar 2014 in Deva, with the 180-room property

located on 8,000 hectares of land and boasting 13km of beach overlooking a UNESCO World Heritage listed and protected lagoon.

Bali is also booming, with Starwood opening the 203 all ocean view room



Ritz in Marrakech

THE Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company has announced it will open an 80 hotel room and suite property in Marrakech, Morocco, slated to open its doors in 2016.

Arabian Adventures adventure



ABOVE: It was a fitting way to end an Arabian adventure for the Australia and New Zealand team participating in this year's Arabian

Travel Market - take them on a sand dune safari!

Pictured at the desert safari camp with two falcons, back row from left are: John Schibli, Premium Sports Tours, Fiona Stewart, Dubai Tourism; Anita Carr, Arabian Adventures and Julie King, Dubai Tourism.

Second row: Anita Gionvannini, Venture Holidays; Veronica Rainbird, Dubai Tourism and Kim Houston, World Journeys (NZ).

Third row: Angelya Vassiliadis-Balaguer, Dubai Tourism; Alysha Hughes, Qantas Holidays; Ben Alcock, Flight Centre Global Product; Kathleen Magon, Flight Centre (NZ) & Davielle Gardner, Jetset Travelworld Group.

Front row: Sally Anne Barry, J&H Tours; Mia Miller, CI Events; Elizabeth Cosier, Eastern Eurotours and Michaela Wiesinger; New Horizons Hols.

Dubai MICE attention

DUBAI Tourism has confirmed it will seek to promote business for the MICE sector to capitalise on new capacity from Qantas to the United Arab Emirates.

Dubai Department of Tourism & Commerce Marketing director for Australia/NZ Julie King told **TD** the meetings and events sector of the trade was "a key segment" to help Dubai move forward.

"We plan to work closely with Emirates and Qantas on this segment and will be identifying a number of targeted buyers to bring to Dubai to showcase its potential," King said in Dubai.

Dubai Tourism's strengthened sales presence (**TD** yesterday) was seen as crucial in developing the sector.

Selling points for Dubai's MICE offering include world-class facilities, globally recognised centre of commerce and trade, a broad range of conference venues (in and outside hotels), and the city's strategic location.

Paramount with PHG

THE world's first Paramount-branded hotel - Damac by Paramount (**TD** 11 Mar) - will be represented globally by the Preferred Hotel Group.

The US\$1 billion project is to be located near the Burj Khalifa.

DXB runway upgrade

ALL non-commercial flights at Dubai International Airport will be diverted to Dubai World Central for 80 days from 01 May 2014 as DXB undergoes a major runway upgrade project.

The upgrade will include resurfacing of the northern runway, while new taxiways and runway lighting will be implemented as part of moves to further boost capacity.

Discussions are underway with airlines to reduce flight schedules during the period to optimise capacity and protect service levels.

US in-flight wifi move

REGULATORS in the USA have released new spectrum for air-to-ground broadband services, with the aim of driving competition and improve the quality of in-flight wi-fi connectivity.

FCC chairman Julius Genachowski said the move "should significantly improve the quality and the speeds of internet access on planes in the air".

It expands the current 4MHz allocation for connectivity to 500MHz, with the FCC saying new applications could allow pax to stream internet video.

WIN A HOLIDAY TO HAWAII, THE BIG ISLAND

To avoid confusion with the name of the entire state, the island of Hawai'i is often called the "Big Island," and what an appropriate name it is. Nearly twice as big as all of the other Hawaiian Islands combined, its sheer size can be inspiring.

This month Travel Daily is giving readers the chance to win a holiday to the island of Hawai'i, courtesy of Hawaii Tourism Oceania, Hawaiian Airlines and Hilton Waikoloa Village.

The prize includes two return economy airfares from Sydney to Kona via Honolulu with Hawaiian Airlines, six nights accommodation at the incredible Hilton Waikoloa Village and return airport transfers with a flower lei greeting on arrival.

Each day Travel Daily will ask a Hawaii-related question – just read the issue and email us your answer. 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 inspiring Hawaii holiday.

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

Q.8: What is the distance you should keep between you and a humpback whale?

Hint: www.hiltonwaikoloavillage.com



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HAWAII TOURISM
OCEANIA

HAWAIIAN
AIRLINES

Hilton
WAIKOLOA VILLAGE

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***HOT* THE WEST IS THE BEST**

RETAIL CONSULTANT

WESTERN SYDNEY – SALARY \$60K OTE

Are you tired of sitting on the train for hours each day? Do you want to work minutes from your door step? With winter coming on this will be a bonus. This is an exciting opportunity to work for a well established retail office that is in a prime location and has high walk in traffic. Work for a fun and friendly team, who drives success. If you are a motivated retail consultant who wants to be part of a winning team, has 2 years industry experience, Galileo/Crosscheck preferred. Apply for this role today.

***NEW* WANT TO WORK PART TIME?**

RETAIL CONSULTANT

EASTERN SYDNEY – TOP \$\$\$\$

Do you want to work part time? This is an exciting and rare opportunity to work part time hours in the travel industry. Work for a well respected company, who has a top staff training program, great educational and an annual staff conference. Be part of a close knit team selling packages, flights and cruise products to clients. If you have a passion for sales, strong destination knowledge, 2 years retail travel experience, Galileo/Crosscheck preferred. Apply for this great role today as it will be snapped up quickly.

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MEL (INNER) – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$51K inc super

Sensational NEW role in Melbourne that will see you stepping away from the time wasters and into back office bliss! This leading online travel agency requires 2 new superstar consultants to join their expanding team! Assisting customers with online enquiries and questions you will work an exciting rotating roster that will allow you to do all the things you can’t do now working in a 9-5 role! Min 12 months exp using Galileo Required! Now is your chance to earn a senior salary and kiss goodbye the time wasters!

CREATE MORE THAN A FLY AND FLOP!

LEISURE CONSULTANT

MEL (INNER) – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$65K (DOE)

Are your travel talents being wasted booking boring domestic and international package holidays? Want to sink your teeth into more challenging travel itineraries? This is your chance. This independently owned & boutique Travel Company specialises in organizing premium 5 star travel to exotic worldwide destinations, including luxury cruises, & bespoke tailor-made arrangements. You will enjoy being part of a dynamic team of travel professionals. This role could be yours if you have a min 5 yrs consulting exp!

LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU!

CORPORATE/ENTERTAINMENT CONSULTANT

MELBOURNE (INNER) - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$65K (DOE)

This award winning boutique entertainment Travel Company is looking for an enthusiastic and talented consultant to join their team. Be part of a fun dynamic team which offers on the job training. You will have the opportunity to book the hottest band tours round Australia, arrange national music festivals and work with local production and media companies. There will never be a dull moment in this role working with up beat clients in a fast paced environment. Min 5 yrs similar exp required!

LOVE THE BUZZ OF CORPORATE!

CORPORATE CONSULTANT

ADELAIDE – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$62K (DOE)

This amazing global corporate travel company is looking for their next superstar employee to join their professional yet boutique team. In operation for many many years, this organisation has established themselves as one of Australia’s most successful and award winning corporate travel companies. Servicing a number of corporate clients, your role as a dedicated consultant is to provide efficient and accurate travel arrangements. This is a rare opportunity for Adelaide so be quick and apply today! Min 2 yrs consulting exp req.

LOVE ALL THAT IS GREEN & GOLD DOMESTIC WHOLESALE TRAVEL CONSULTANTS BRISBANE CBD – \$55K OTE

Are you passionate about this great country we live in? Then why not join this leading travel organization and sell all the wonders of Australia all day long. You’ll love being part of this dynamic team handling phone and email enquiries from travel professionals. Top \$\$ are on offer along with sensational famils, ongoing career progression, travel discounts and more! All you need is a passion for travel, 12 months consulting experience and a proven sales ability. Sound like you? Then call us today!

FIRST CLASS & CAVIER HIGH END TRAVEL SPECIALIST BRISBANE CBD – TOP SALARY PKG ON OFFER

Love tailoring unforgettable itineraries for your clients? Do you enjoy selling the finer things in life? Then this is the role for you. Based in the CBD this five star agency is looking for a first class travel consultant with a loyal clientbase to join them. Enjoy working Mon – Fri hours whilst earning a top salary package, undertaking unbelievable famils and being encouraged to develop your industry skills and knowledge. All you need are strong GDS skills, 3 years travel consulting & excellent customer service skills. Apply now!

What will the evolution of Web and Mobile mean for travel agencies in 2015 and beyond?

Join the conversation in a

LIVE WEB EVENT

Travel Daily and Sabre Pacific have partnered to bring to you a panel of industry experts and visionaries to give you insights on upcoming trends, servicing models and strategies you can use to position yourself ahead of the technology curve.

JOIN THOUGHT LEADERS:

Bruce Piper: Managing Editor, Travel Daily

Norm Rose: Senior Technology Analyst, PhoCusWright

Jayson Westbury: CEO, AFTA

Mark Mison: CIO and GM of Solutions, Sabre Pacific

When: Tuesday 28 May

Time: 10:00 – 11:00

Where: Join this event from your own desk

RSVP: **Register now** by Friday 24 May

Price: Free (including complimentary PhoCusWright whitepaper)

All participants who attend this Web Event will also receive a **complimentary Research Paper** from Sabre Pacific on the topics discussed.

One hour of your life could position your agency for the future so **register now** and stay ahead of the technology curve.

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