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Branson slams QF/EK pact

VIRGIN founder Sir Richard Branson says the approval of the alliance between Qantas and Emirates is evidence of bad government which will lead to price increases and reduced competition in aviation.

Speaking in Dubai yesterday, he also slammed "weak regulators" who had allowed the transatlantic alliance between British Airways and American Airlines, which he said had "forced" Virgin Atlantic to form a pact with Delta Air Lines.

"You've now got less than a handful of big carriers around the world and prices will go up as a result," he said, according to an *Arabian Business* report.

"Competition brings better fares and better quality than cooperation, but the regulators in their wisdom have decided to

create a number of very, very big alliances," Branson added.

He confirmed that the shock withdrawal of Virgin Atlantic from Sydney (*TD Wed*) followed losses of around \$10m a year on the route, adding that "I love going to Australia and the idea of having to go on Qantas or British Airways is going to be very, very painful".

"We're just going to have a bag over our heads for that one leg, from Hong Kong onwards, sadly in the future," he said.

Trafalgar touts NTIA

TRAFALGAR is citing its wins for Best Tour Operator and Best Supplier Sales Executive at last year's National Travel Industry Awards as evidence of "100% positive recommendation from our travel partners".

For more see the **front page**.

Nine pages of news!

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news & photos, a front cover page from **Trafalgar** plus full pages from:

- AA Appointments jobs
- South African Tourism
- inPlace Recruitment jobs

It's time for Sth Africa

SOUTH African Tourism is inviting travel agents to become South Africa Specialists, in conjunction with its 'bucket list' consumer campaign - see **p11**.

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Orbitz multi-GDS strategy

ONLINE travel giant Orbitz Worldwide has overnight announced new agreements with Sabre and Amadeus along with an updated pact with Travelport, as it switches to a multiple GDS platform from next year for its larger operations in the USA.

Travelport owns 45% of Orbitz, and has been its exclusive GDS provider since 2001 - although Amadeus has powered its European offshoot Ebookers, which was acquired in 2005.

All three GDS firms issued statements today, with Travelport saying its new agreement will enable Orbitz to "progressively access and display to its customers the much wider range of travel content that Travelport can now provide through its direct connections to a wide variety of airlines".

Amadeus said the deal would deliver "industry-leading technology and global distribution system services to support Orbitz brands in North America," while Sabre said it would provide "technology and travel management services...

that Orbitz will use to increase its online conversion performance and revenue, and enhance the customer experience".

Orbitz said utilising the three GDS providers from 01 Jan 2014 "will provide for greater operational flexibility".

Late last year, Helloworld announced an exclusive ten-year agreement with Orbitz, which has seen the demise of Best Flights and Best Cruises as the technology firm powers the new helloworld.com.au website.

Robinson with PAL

FORMER Aviareps gm and account director Ian Robinson has confirmed to **Travel Daily** his appointment as the new regional manager Australia & New Zealand for Philippine Airlines.

Robinson will replace Michelle Narvaez who assumed the post less than four months ago (**TD 18** Oct) after she secured a Manila-based international sales role.

Robinson has over 14 years aviation industry experience including roles with South African Airways, SriLankan Airlines and Malaysia Airlines.



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The business is about to enter into an exciting transformation and is in the process of expanding its operations, coinciding with Concierge Business Travels appointment as the official Travel Manager of the Australian Olympic Team.

We are now seeking to recruit for a number of senior roles across;

Operations, Marketing, Business Development, Account Management and Training.
Travel Advisors-Corporate, Groups, Wholesale, Leisure including home based.

Centrally located in newly expanded and refurbished offices in Sydney's CBD the group operates 24/7 nationally and is in the process of positioning for its next stage of growth by ensuring that it attracts appropriately talented individuals.

We are looking for people who represent the very best that the Australian travel industry has to offer. Applicants for all positions should be at the top skill level of their particular area of specialisation, and have the enthusiasm, drive and commitment to play a major role in a dynamic growing team.

Successful applicants will have proven track records in the Australian travel industry, be customer focussed, passionate, be self starters with a can do approach, and that can think and work outside the box. In return, The Concierge Travel Group will offer an exciting time in a growth organisation and an opportunity to shape the direction of a business that aspires to be the best.

If you would like to be part of our team indicate your interest to Astute HR Consulting, - via email to Louise Weatherman - lw@astutehrconsulting.com.au, or forward your application to Concierge Recruitment at Astute HR Consulting GPO Box Q186 QVB NSW 1230. Applications close 21 February 2014.

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Discovery Parks set for growth

SOUTH Australian-based firm Discovery Holiday Parks yesterday announced the completion of an ownership shuffle which has seen Sunsuper acquire the majority of vested interest in the business.

DHP owns and operates over 30 park destinations around the country and has alliances with BIG4, Top Tourist & Family Parks.

Sunsuper investment officer David Hartley said the \$240m

deal was a long-term investment ahead of plans to lift the number of parks within the group.

“The holiday park industry is a strong and resilient sector and demand has continued to increase, even when there has been a decline in other forms of tourism accommodation,” Hartley commented.

Co-founder Greg Wilckens said the ownership transition was key for the evolution of Discovery Holiday Parks.

The caravan/camping specialists say key management will remain as shareholders with DHP.

EK grounding 20 jets

PLANNED runway construction at Dubai International Airport will see Emirates ground as many as 20 aircraft from May, president Tim Clark has confirmed.

Clark said all routes were safe however frequencies would be cut over the 80 days between 01 May and 20 Jul 2014.

The fleet reduction “will have an impact on the revenue and we will have to manage that,” *The National* reported Clark saying.

NRL, AFL footy tips

TRAVEL Daily has today opened registrations for our 2014 NRL & AFL footy tipping competitions to the entire travel industry.

Last year’s footy tipping comps attracted over 1,300 industry tippers across three codes.

The NRL season officially kicks off on 06 Mar and AFL on 14 Mar.

This year’s top tippers at the end of the NRL & AFL seasons will win a fantastic prize of Economy class return flights to Dubai, courtesy of Emirates.

Second place will win a trip to Vanuatu, courtesy of Air Vanuatu, and the Grand Hotel & Casino Vanuatu (NRL) & Hideaway Island Resort & Marine Sanctuary (AFL).

CLICK HERE to sign up now.

To register for **TD’s** Super 15 Rugby competition, **CLICK HERE**.

CCS interest in SQ/NZ

FEEDBACK is being sought by the Competition Commission of Singapore on the proposed tie-up between Singapore Airlines and Air New Zealand.

Interested parties have until 26 Feb to lodge their feedback on the Proposed Strategic Alliance between the Star Alliance carriers.



Window Seat

TOURISTS visiting the Chinese resort region of Sanya have been warned to keep their gear on, with an official crackdown on nudity by local officials.

According to the *Xinhua* news agency, people who strip off in public could be arrested and detained for up to ten days.

The report says most of the potential offenders are middle-aged men from China, with regional party secretary Luo Baoming saying that “normal people will not swim or sunbathe naked in a public place...this kind of behaviour is not consistent with China’s cultural traditions”.

The campaign is being conducted via the use of loudspeaker announcements and police patrols, with the news agency saying that those who take no notice will receive “education through detention”.

ETIHAD Airways may need to do even more brand marketing in Australia if the experience of a hapless contestant on Channel 9’s *Millionaire Hot Seat* yesterday is any indication.

The woman, pictured below, incorrectly chose Qatar Airways when asked which of four airlines was the flag carrier of the United Arab Emirates.



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Tourism NZ appoints

TONY Saunders has been named as the new general manager Australia for Tourism New Zealand, replacing Tim Burgess.

Saunders' posting is among a number of senior positions which have been shuffled at the inbound promotional organisation.

In addition, TNZ's current acting general manager Asia Daniel Craig has now been appointed to the role on a full-time basis.

Both new appointments bring a wealth of industry experience in a variety of worldwide markets to their new positions.

PCOs all stressed out

EVENT coordination has been listed as one of the most stressful jobs to have, according to an annual profession study in the US.

The 2014 CareerCast.com report rated the role fifth in a Top Ten of Most Stressful jobs, with Enlisted Military Personnel topping the list.

Also ahead of PCOs were Military General, Firefighter and Airline Pilot, with Audiologist found to be the least stressed job.

BA unmoved on SYD

BRITISH Airways has reaffirmed its commitment to its daily service from Sydney to London Heathrow in the wake of the recent closure of its Auckland office (**TD** 05 Feb).

The carrier has in fact increased the number of eligible stopover destinations ex Australia pax are able to utilise en route to LHR.

In addition to the existing list which includes Tokyo, Singapore, Shanghai, Chengdu and Bangkok, BA's new partnership with Cathay Pacific has seen Hong Kong added as a new mid-journey port for all pax travelling on a BA flight code.

The addition also allows pax to fly on to LHR aboard BA's new A380 superjumbo jets, available on selected Hong Kong flights.

New Hotels of Choice

FIVE new properties in four states & the ACT have been added to the Choice Hotels Australasia range, cementing expansion plans announced last year (**TD** 23 Sep).

New four-star additions to the group include the Comfort Inn Airport Int'l in Canberra, the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel in Sydney and the Comfort Inn Sugar Country Bundaberg in QLD.

Two new Econo Lodge properties in Adelaide, SA and Portland, Vic have also enabled the group to boost its budget hotel offerings.

Back-Roads recruits

FORMER Sunlover Holidays gm sales & marketing Hugh Houston has joined Flight Centre-owned Back-Roads Touring in the newly created role of brand manager in Australia & New Zealand.

The role comes as Back-Roads reports record growth of over 70% in the last 12 months, ANZ gm Sarah Clark said.

Clark commented the firm was "thrilled" to welcome Houston to the company, possessing 20+ years industry experience after departing AOT Group last Feb.

"As a respected member of the travel industry and with a strong sales and marketing background, Hugh is the perfect fit for the newly created role," she said.

Meanwhile, Clark said Back-Roads Touring is guaranteeing all prices for Summer 2014 & Winter 2014/15 programs "despite changes in market currencies."

Timeshare on the up

TIMESHARE holiday ownership bookings increased by more than 10% year-on-year in 2013, says resort & club management firm Classic Holidays.

Chief commercial officer Mark Stephenson said more people are embracing holiday ownership "as a viable way to secure their future holidays."

Delta anti inflight calls

DELTA Air Lines has no plans to allow passengers to make inflight mobile calls regardless of the outcome of rules which could see US carriers permitted to do so.

The SkyTeam carrier told the US Department of Transportation on Fri that research and feedback from DL customers showed most "believe voice calls in the cabin during flight would be a major annoyance and a serious disruption to the air travel experience."

According to survey results in 2012, "a clear majority" of Delta customers viewed voice calls in the air "would detract from - not enhance - their experience."

However, DL said it backs plans to relax wireless bans for text, email & silent data transmission.



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 - Fantastic tours hosted by Visit Scotland
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Sell Qatar Airways between 23rd Jan and 24th Feb 2014 and enter to win these exciting prizes. For more information and entry form, please contact your Qatar Airways sales representative or email melsales@au.qatarairways.com





PEREGRINE Reserve hosted 50 guests including travel agents to a special function in Melbourne last week to celebrate the launch of its 2014/15 brochure.

Participants had a chance to win a range of prizes including a spot on an exclusive Sri Lanka Agent Educational.

Other Peregrine Reserve launch events are being held in Brisbane and Sydney later this week.

MEANWHILE, Peregrine Reserve has appointed Peter Miers as its first business development manager.

Miers has been with Peregrine Adventures for 16 years and has a total of 25 years in travel.

GM Steve Wroe said Miers'

appointment follows an "overwhelmingly positive" sales result for the Reserve brand in the past year, with sales soaring 300% in the past 12 months.

"These fantastic results have seen us focus our promotional efforts around the brand in the trade and I'm excited to have Peter Miers on board to lend his expertise to agents," Wroe said.

Pictured above at the Peregrine Reserve Melbourne launch from left are Peter Miers, Leah Harrington, Emma Whiting Travel & Sri Lanka educational winner; Steve Wroe; Chris Perry, manager of Reserve sales team and Sonia Pilovska, Reserve brand and product manager.

SCOOT has confirmed it intends to take delivery of its first of 10 Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliner* aircraft in Nov of this year.

The budget carrier is configuring its fleet of Dash-9 787s with 375 seats including 35 premium seats in ScootBiz (Business Class) which features an extendable leg-rest and a 'cradle' recline position.

The main cabin of the 787-9 will be comprised of 340 seats in a 3-3-3 layout, offering passengers the option of STRETCH and ScootinSilence seat types.

Scoot's slightly smaller 787-8 *Dreamliner* aircraft (of which it has 10 on order) will be fitted with approximately 340 seats.

CEO Campbell Wilson said TZ's fleet would be operated by 787s by mid-2015, replacing 777s.

New Luxury Lodge

LUXURY Lodges of Australia has welcomed Crystalbrook Lodge as its newest member.

Catering for a maximum of 10 guests, the five-suite property is located in Queensland's Northern Outback, 180km inland from Cairns and is part of the 85,000-acre Crystalbrook Station.

Three-night packages ex Cairns inclusive of transfers, all meals, beverages and activities are priced from \$3,300ppts.

Dubai Bne workshop

A LIMITED number of places are still available for Dubai Tourism's Brisbane workshop being held from 6pm on Thu 13 Feb at the Hilton Hotel Brisbane.

Hosted in conjunction with Emirates, the workshop provides agents with details about the latest new experiences in Dubai and key destination news, in addition to update from Emirates and partner airline Qantas.

Participants also have a chance to win prizes including a trip to Dubai, courtesy of the hosts.

RSVP by email to Melissa at melissa.phelan@emirates.com.

Ukraine travel caution

THE Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade has lifted its travel advisory for the Ukraine to exercise a "High degree of caution" due to "continuing demonstrations, barricades and the possibility of violence between protesters and security forces."

Australian travellers are urged to avoid all demonstrations.

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*Emirates will be launching one-stop flights to Stockholm from 4th September 2013 and Kiev from 16th January 2014.

Hello Tomorrow Emirates

NT eye Baby Boomers

THE Northern Territory has launched the second phase of its *Do the NT* brand campaign targeting the over 50s market.

The “aggressive pitch” for the ‘Baby Boomer’ segment aims at converting opinion of the NT as a ‘must do’ destination to a ‘book now’ holiday hotspot.

Partners for the NT campaign incl Britz, Jetstar, Wotif, Great Southern Rail, Virgin Australia, Qantas, Flight Centre and AOT.



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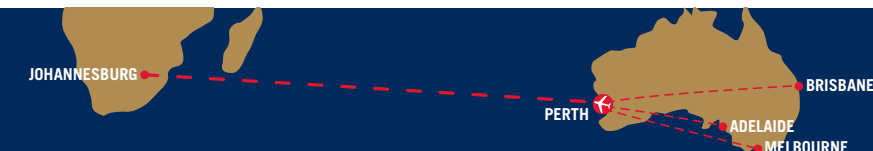
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EK Valentine fares

EMIRATES has released a range of discounted fares in Economy & Business Class to celebrate Valentine’s Day 2014.

Fares are based on a minimum of two or more pax travelling, when ticketed by 14 Feb on identical flights, dates & class.

Fares to Europe are priced from \$1,559 and \$7,370 respectively return to Istanbul, \$1,629 or \$7,506 to Paris and \$1,810 or \$7,814 to London valid in low season for travel up until 30 Nov.

Sojourn Eden debut

THE NSW community of Eden yesterday welcomed the first ever arrival of *Seabourn Sojourn* during its 116-day world cruise.

Passengers on *Sojourn* are expected to provide a cash injection of about \$100,000 into the local economy as they take excursions to Twofold Bay, Ben Boyd National Park, the Killer Whale Museum and more.

Macau 1m in a week

PRELIMINARY statistics from Macau Government Tourist office shows the Special Administrative Region of China welcomed more than 1.05 million visitors during the week-long Spring Festival.

Visitors for the Lunar New Year celebration, held from 31 Jan-06 Feb, were up 13% year-on-year.

About three-quarters of visits were from mainland China.

Hawaiian Air hits the high sea



HAWAIIAN

Airlines has signed on as the exclusive airline partner of the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club in a new long-term partnership.

HA head of sales & marketing Andrew Denman said the tie-up with one of the world’s most recognised SLS Clubs “seemed like a perfect match.”

“As an airline that is extremely proud of its island and ocean heritage, we are honoured to also be associated with an iconic Australian beach frequented by so many international visitors.”

The deal will see Hawaiian Airlines’ livery adorn the club’s five competition surfboats (**above**), while the rashies and



swimsuits of the boat crews will also feature HA branding.

Pictured celebrating the alliance from left is Andrew Denman with North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club president Grant McMahon and vice president Mark Cotter.

Inset - Dan Burgess, HA senior director of sales Oceania, Waverley Mayor Sally Betts (also a former senior travel industry exec at IATA, Qantas and Viva! Holidays) and Andrew Denman.



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STG rings in Year of the Horse



SELECT Travel Group banged the drum loud last night with a lavish Chinese New Year Dinner for 130 travel agents and suppliers in Sydney to welcome in the Year of the Horse.

Chinese dancers dressed in horse costumes staged a colourful performance, chanting traditional songs for the year ahead, predicted to be excellent for travel and one of victory, good luck and good fortune.

Attendees tucked into a banquet

of Asian seafood, beef fillet, crispy skin garlic chicken and mango pudding that left many saying that it was a culinary feast to remember.

Orient Express chief executive officer Tom Manwaring thanked all of the suppliers who generously donated prizes for the night, adding "I don't want anyone to think in this room that Select is not the heart and soul of what we do in our company."

He urged members to register soon for the annual Select Travel Group conference being held in Malaysia from 08-11 May.

Registration opens from 14 Feb with Malaysia Airlines and Tourism Malaysia major sponsors.

The Sheraton Imperial in Kuala Lumpur will be the home base.

The cost for Gold Members will be \$666, Silver \$755 and Emerald \$888 that includes return airfares, three nights accommodation and all meals.

Select says there will be all day networking, extra rewards and customised STG Interactive Tours.

Pictured at the function from left are Orient Express Group's Quinh Giang, Tom Manwaring and Ari Magoutis.

Voyager enhanced?

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises is remaining tight-lipped about new features to be added to *Voyager of the Seas* ahead of a planned revitalisation, but commercial director Adam Armstrong has hinted the enhancements may be similar to upgrades revealed aboard *Navigator of the Seas*.

Among *Navigator of the Seas'* new features are a FlowRider surf simulator and Panoramic Ocean View staterooms.

Marco Polo promo

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection is rewarding top sellers with a holiday of their own.

The firm has launched a 'Marco Polo Promo' incentive in which three Australian top selling travel agents will win some great prizes.

The incentive is based on any 2014 Uniworld cruise booked between 03 Feb and 16 Mar, with the 1st prize an eight-day Europe cruise, 2nd prize a 12-day China cruise/tour and 3rd prize a \$500 Chinese banquet for four people.

New Lufthansa chief

DEUTSCHE Lufthansa AG has named Carsten Spohr as the group's future chairman of the executive board & chief executive officer, commencing 01 May.

Spohr has been with LH since late 2004, holding senior roles associated with regional ops, global partnerships and a position on the management board of Lufthansa Passenger Airlines.

He has been a member of the executive board of Lufthansa AG & ceo of the Lufthansa Passenger business since 01 Jan 2011.

Super Bowl package

TEED Up Golf Tours is taking bookings for a new tour that includes the 2015 Super Bowl and Phoenix Open Golf Tour in 2015.

The 10-day trip ex Scottsdale includes two nights at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, tickets to the XLIX Super Bowl, 'Greens Keeper' tickets to the Phoenix Open, five rounds of golf, transfers & more.

It is priced at US\$14,280ppts, or an eight-day package with three rounds of golf is US\$11,990ppts.

Call Michael Mosher for more info at (02) 8458 9000 or visit www.teedupgolftours.com.

Riding the Baltics

EXPLORE Worldwide has rolled out a new nine-day cycling tour that explores the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The itinerary covers 241kms and is priced at \$1,584ppts.

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In return, Hertz provides great career opportunities worldwide, development opportunities, staff discounts and a company car.

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Interested? Don't miss out – Apply directly with a cover letter to Martina Jennings, Regional Sales Manager Vic SA WA NT - mjennings@hertz.com

Applications close Friday 14 February 2014



AFTA UPDATE

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

THIS past weekend has provided the travel and tourism industry with a great deal to celebrate with the hosting of the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards (QATA) on Friday night at Luna Park, followed by the CLIA Cruise Awards on Saturday night at Doltone House in Sydney.

For the Tourism industry, the QATA is the night of nights when single state finalists who have won their category at the state level go head to head with counterparts from other states to win the big one, the national award in the respective category.

The event also brought the Federal Minister for Trade and Investment (aka Tourism Minister) to the stage, who announced that the Federal Government would implement a multi-entry three year visa for Chinese business visitors to Australia (subclass 600) thus ending a very long discussion and debate with the industry about this reform.

An outcome if you like and one which has been most welcomed by all within the tourism industry.

These awards celebrate the best of Australian Tourism product and services and in an ever competitive global environment, recognition can be the one thing that sets a business apart. For all the results go to the dedicated website at www.australianaward.com.au.

One winner of note was Mr Julian Ledger who won the Australian Tourism Legend – outstanding contribution by an individual this year. Julian is the CEO of the YHA in Australia and has dedicated his career to the service of the tourism industry and more broadly the Australian economy by trailblazing and contributing in many ways.

This was a very well deserved recognition on the night.

As mentioned, the CLIA Cruise awards were also held over the weekend with 14 categories being celebrated once again.

The who's who of the Australian cruise industry turned out in their best "glamour" affair and a very big congratulations goes out to Brett Jardine and his team for another wonderful night of celebration and networking.

And just to finish off in the theme of awards, you will have noticed that the NTIA 2014 nomination process has opened, with *Travel Daily* providing our significant online media coverage.

Qantas as our major sponsor has once again put their support behind the NTIA along with a distinguished list of industry supporters who have sponsored again this year.

So, as they say in Hollywood, "it's award season" and the travel and tourism industry can be proud of our own set of outstanding and excellent awards to celebrate our great industry.



Ohana by HA launch

HAWAIIAN Airlines' turbo-prop offshoot Ohana by Hawaiian will commence operation next month with launch fares from US\$59.

The interisland operation will introduce thrice daily services to Molokai (MKK) from 11 Mar and double daily frequencies to Lanai (LNY) from 18 Mar.

Ohana by Hawaiian's ATR-42 aircraft accommodate 48 pax & are operated by Empire Airlines. Flights go on sale 17 Feb.

EK TPE touch down

EMIRATES commenced new daily non-stop services between Dubai and Taiwan Taoyuan Int'l Airport this week, becoming the Gulf carrier's 141st destination.

Services are operated using 354-passenger triple-class Boeing 777-300ER aircraft.

Contiki #NOREGRETS

AN EIGHT-week consumer-facing '#NOREGRETS Adventure Challenge' campaign will be launched by Contiki on 18 Feb.

The promotion will see a feature destination highlighted weekly, with a chance to win one of eight Contiki trips to said destinations.

Videos are hosted by Contiki ambassadors such as Aussie pro Billabong surfer Felicity Palmateer and YouTube 'vlogger' Alli Trippy.

Each video features a challenge question which followers need to correctly answer to enter.

Global brand director for Contiki Holidays Alastair Campbell said the campaign "is a great way for our travellers to see the authentic first-hand accounts of our incredible adventure product."

A portal goes live on 17 Feb at contiki.com/adventurechallenge.

Senate mailout review

THE Australian Senate is set to review how Qantas and Virgin Australia were able to secure a "no action" letter for a frequent flyer card mailout (*TD* 31 Jan.)



Aussies triumphant at atb

AUSTRIAN tourism suppliers gathered in Vienna recently for the bi-annual Austrian Travel Business tradeshow.

Austrian National Tourist Office hosted a group of buyers from Australia to the show, lead by director Astrid Mulholland-Licht.

The local delegation included Hugh Hallard from Renaissance Tours and Boden & Lachlan Lazar who will bring the inaugural

World University Snow Sports Inc to Innsbruck next Jan.

Mulholland-Licht said this year's atb was "very successful" for the Australian buyers.

Pictured during the three-day show from left are Lachlan Lazar, Astrid Mulholland-Licht, Hugh Hallard and Boden Lazar.

Kimberley highlights

BROOME & The Kimberley Holidays has released a six-night Kimberley Icons tour which visits El Questro, the Bungle Bungles & Lake Argyle (by air) and Broome.

Including Qantas flights, the trip is now priced at \$3,199ppts ex Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane until 14 Mar - 1300 357 057.

Golf tourism growth

AUSTRALIAN golf tour operators have reported 2013 was their strongest year to date, with 2014 projections showing ongoing positive trends, full year data from The Global Golf Tourism Organisation (IATGO) has found.

The niche market saw growth of 9.3% last year, according to research conducted by IAGTO, whose members are responsible for more than 85% of all golf holiday packages sold worldwide.

Domestic trips outperformed international in 2013, with many customers preferring to stay close to home and affecting markets such as the US, Europe and NZ.

WIN TICKETS TO BAZ LUHRMANN'S STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL

Everyday this week *Travel Daily* is giving away double passes to Baz Luhrmann's *Strictly Ballroom The Musical* playing at the Sydney Lyric in March.

Strictly Ballroom The Musical is the inspiring story of

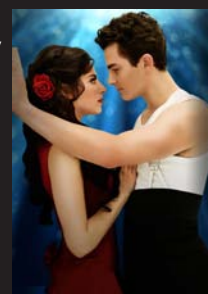
a championship ballroom dancer who defies all the rules to follow his heart.

To win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to:

musical@traveldaily.com.au

Who is playing the part of Scott?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner **Todd Macleod** from **FCM Travel Solutions**.



AI 787s to London

AIR India has commenced Boeing 787 operations on its Mumbai-London route, with the debut of the new aircraft between the cities coming six weeks earlier than previously planned, according to GDS.



Money

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

\$1AUD = US\$0.89

STILL sitting below US90c, the Australian dollar is forecast to drop even further, with analysts this week predicting that it will fall to 80c during 2014 due to record low interest rates.

The Australian economy is likely to struggle to adapt to a slowing in the resources sector, according to a forecast published in today's *Fairfax* media.

The Australian dollar has also dropped against several currencies including the British pound sterling, which has reportedly cheered up the 'Barmy Army' disappointed in the results from the Ashes cricket.

Aussie travellers to Japan will also enjoy good spending power during the ski season, with the ongoing weakness of the Japanese Yen providing excellent value.

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.891
UK	£0.540
NZ	\$1.086
Euro	€0.646
Japan	¥93.63
Singapore	\$1.129
China	¥5.400
South Africa	R9.271
Canada	\$0.948
Crude oil	US\$100.32

New Swiss travel pass

THE Swiss Travel System has released a new "Swiss Peak Pass" which allows travellers to visit eight spectacular mountain peaks by paying a small supplement to the regular 4- and 8-day Swiss Pass which enables travel on much of the country's comprehensive transport system.

Mountain summit rail services covered by the Peak Pass include Allalin, Brienz Rothorn, Cardada, Corvatsch, Niesen, Rochers-de-Naye, Santis and Stanserhorn Cabrio, with the peak pass available for sale from 01 Jan-23 Dec 2014 (last travel day 30 Dec 2014).

The Swiss Pass also gives free admission to over 470 museums.

UA adds ORD routes

UNITED Airlines is set to expand its US domestic network with the addition of flights from Chicago to four new destinations.

The expansion includes flights to Bangor, Cody, Erie and Flint, with some of the routes replacing former flights from Cleveland which UA is in the process of winding up as a hub (**TD** 03 Feb).

Disney's Garfield goes

RANDY Garfield, the executive vice president of worldwide sales and travel operations for Disney Destinations, has announced his retirement effective 01 Apr.

Garfield has been with Disney for more than 20 years, overseeing major expansion of Disney's parks and the organisation's relationships with the global travel trade.

He's also been in charge of Disney Cruise Line and the Adventures by Disney travel operations, and has seen the introduction of 27 resort hotels and five new theme parks including Hong Kong Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure.

Disney has also confirmed the retirement effective 01 Mar of Ed Fouche, the company's senior vice president of travel sales.

US agents shift away from GDS

TRAVEL agents in the USA are increasingly making bookings via supplier websites rather than through GDS, according to a report by the American Society of Travel Agents.

The eighth annual ASTA Supplier-Travel Agent Marketing Report claims that GDS air bookings by agents have dropped by 15% since 2006, while bookings made via airline websites are up 65%.

Similarly, GDS hotel bookings have declined 29% over the same period, while hotel website bookings are up 58%, the report states.

"As suppliers have invested in more user-friendly interfaces, agents have shifted booking

practices, and are now using more direct supplier websites to serve clients, especially leisure clients," according to ASTA ceo Zane Kerby.

There's been an even more marked shift when it comes to cruise bookings, with cruise line websites seeing a surge of more than 230% in agent bookings.

Tour operator GDS bookings have dropped 64%, while agent bookings via tour company website are up 75%.

The figures were compiled via a survey of ASTA members, with the organisation saying the sample size indicates a 95% confidence rate with an error rate of plus or minus 4.7%.

WIN A TRIP TO THAILAND



[Click here for more info and terms & conditions](#)

This month **Travel Daily** is giving one reader and their friend the chance to win a 10 day Thailand tour, courtesy of **On The Go Tours**.

The prize consists of:

- Return economy flights from BNE, PER, SYD or MEL
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer on day 10
- Breakfast daily and one dinner
- 8 nights accommodation in a 4 star hotel and 1 night accommodation on a floating jungle lodge
- Escorted by English speaking local guides.

Throughout February **Travel Daily** will ask 20 questions. The subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this amazing Thailand holiday.

Email all your answers by COB Fri 28 Feb to:
Onthegotours@traveldaily.com.au

What 5 day 'bolt-on' on their Asia brochure starts in Beijing?

Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry. Sign up for a free 14 day trial subscription at www.traveldaily.com.au.

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This exciting role will give you the opportunity to move away from consulting and move into a behind the scenes role.

Work for a global company that had a number of staff benefits. The office is base in the CBD. In this role you will be supporting the retail and wholesale agents with any queries they have to do with product and or local suppliers. You will need 2 years experience in the travel industry, a can do attitude and have the ability to build strong relationships. Apply for this amazing opportunity today.

***NEW* TIME TO PACK YOUR BAGS
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SYDNEY – SALARY UP TO \$70K OTE**

This is your opportunity to work for one of the largest travel companies in the world and move into a wholesale travel role. Work in a close knit team, with great offices based in the CBD. Book exciting worldwide destinations from London, LA to Phuket, you can let your imagination run while. You will be awarded with commission on every booking so you can watch you bank balance grow. Do you have 2 years experience in the industry and a passion for travel? Apply today for this great role.

***NEW* BLOOM LIKE THE CHERRY BLOSSOM
INBOUND JAPAN MANAGER
MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$60K (DOE)**

Are you an experienced manager with Japanese language skills? We have a sensational opportunity in Melbourne that will see you moving into this well known travel company and leading the inbound team to success! You will work in a funky office space close to public transport and will work Monday – Friday hours only! This role will see you being paid in the high \$50’s while putting your Japanese to good use! Don’t delay, apply today to find out more. Fluent English and Japanese required for this role

**SPECIALIST WHOLESALE RESERVATIONS
WHOLESALE RESERVATIONS
PERTH (INNER) – SALARY PKG UP TO \$50K (DOE)**

This well known Wholesaler in Perth now requires a superstar travel expert to join their specialist India and Sri Lanka reservations team. This role will see you dealing with loyal travel agents and assisting them with creating tailor made itineraries for their customers. From the Taj Mahal to the Mountains in Sri Lanka no two days are ever the same. This is a rare opportunity in Perth and is not to be missed! If you have personal travel experience to India and Sri Lanka then we want to hear from you. Call now to find out more.

**LOVE AFRICA? LOVE THIS ON THE ROAD ROLE
ON THE ROAD SALES EXECUTIVE
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Calling all experienced Sales Executives with on the road experience! This well established company specialises in Africa and South America and now requires a senior sales executive to hit the road and promote these amazing destinations and unforgettable experiences. You will work 4 days on the road and 1 day in the office and be rewarded with a high base salary, car, laptop and phone! Current on the road experience required and personal travel to Africa a must! Apply today and never look back!

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Sandra Chiles

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You will have the ability to identify the decision makers, get past the gatekeepers and be able to deliver appropriate solutions relevant to their needs.

Whilst ideally you will have a TMC background, similar experience within a major hotel would be considered.

If this is the role for you and you live in Perth or want to "Go WEST" don't miss out! Apply today!

Call Sandra or [click here](#) for more details

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- ▶ Work on exhibitions for industrial industries
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