



Dunne to lead Rail +

SINGAPORE Airlines former NSW/ACT state manager James Dunne has taken up the role of chief executive officer at Rail Plus.

Dunne has 15 years experience including senior management roles for brands such as Singapore Airlines and Austrian Airlines.

Rail Plus chairman Keryn Smith said Dunne's "proven skills and experience will ensure Rail Plus continues to set the benchmark when it comes to delivering an unequalled range of rail products and an unmatched level of customer service."

He takes on the Melbourne-based position on 17 Mar.

Dunne replaces David Stafford who resigned on 20 Dec.

More appointments on **page six**.

Aussie office for Dolphin

TRAVEL technology group Dolphin Dynamics has opened a new office in Sydney following "a number of new customer acquisitions in Australia".

Several clients have been secured through the company's strategic partnership with Amadeus in Australia and NZ which launched almost exactly a year ago (**TD** 19 Feb 2013).

Amadeus has used the Dolphin system to expand its mid- and back-office travel agency offerings, with users now including Platinum Travel Corporation, Sean Simmons Travel and Snowcapped Tours.

A statement issued this morning confirmed that another large client was set to roll out shortly, with several other prospects in the pipeline for 2014.

The new office has been set up by Dolphin's Head of Strategic Initiatives Simon Wakeford, while

a range of other technical staff have relocated from the UK to Australia with further roles to be filled by local candidates.

"We have been delighted with the response of the Australasian travel industry to our marketing activities with Amadeus in the region," Wakeford said.

"To ensure our rapidly growing customer base in this market receives the best possible service, we feel it is important to have a skilled local presence," he added.

The Dolphin software is described as a "next generation sales and booking management solution, with a browser-based reservation module for flights, hotels, car hire, transfers and insurance plus a comprehensive product database.

As well as its new local clients the system is used in NZ by the House of Travel retail group which owns TravelManagers here.

EK/JQ c'share oneway

EMIRATES has no plan to allow Jetstar to place JQ codes on its metal as part of a new codeshare arrangement with the low-cost carrier (**TD** Fri), vp Australasia Bryan Banston has indicated to **TD**.

Banston referred to the Jetstar tie-up as the "second phase" of the joint network proposition with the Qantas Group.

He said the "extra linkages" within Asia would enable EK to offer triangular journeys out of Australia to destinations such as Singapore & beyond, and back, jointly with Qantas.

"It complements the existing joint Qantas network," Banston said, adding the QF deal "has given us not only an increased number of services on the trunk route, but also the ability in this market to sell Europe via common Qantas and Emirates midpoints - Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo - which are not typically routing Emirates has been able to sell previously."

Seven pages of news

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- AA Appointments jobs

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Nexus goes beyond China

CHINA specialist Nexus Holidays has rolled out a new program delving beyond its core product and destination as the firm looks to diversify its portfolio.

The inaugural brochure of fully inclusive guided group tours to China & Asia in 2014/15 also now includes options in Vietnam, Cambodia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan.

The range includes guaranteed departures across all tours using 4- & 5-star accommodation, paired with Cathay Pacific flights.

Nexus Holidays says it has 17 years experience with China and has 14 offices worldwide, with all eyes now focused on Australia.

Its 58-page brochure has a "huge range" of short and long duration "affordable" guided tours, says managing director Kenneth Ung.

"We truly believe there is a market for us where you can make the one call or email and have a competitive all inclusive package available at a price they can afford."

Nexus' 22-day Grand Tour of China is priced from \$4,795ppts ex SYD, MEL, BNE, PER and ADL.

"We are open for business with the Australian trade," Ung added.

Former Excite Holidays NSW bdm Richard McKisack has been recruited as Nexus Hols national business development manager.

"Our commitment to the trade and their customers is that we will offer extremely competitive prices with no compromise for quality," McKisack said.

To launch the beefed up program, Nexus is offering commission of 15% on all brochure product - see www.nexusholidays.com.au.

SYD Jan traffic soars

INT'L traffic through Sydney airport was up 8% year-on-year in Jan, with ceo Kerrie Mather hailing the "excellent result".

Passenger numbers from China were up 43% due to the earlier Chinese New Year, with direct capacity serving mainland China 24% higher than Jan 2013.

Korea and Hong Kong also performed well, while Australian outbound figures were up 5.3% and domestic traffic grew 2.9% due to a "market wide increase in capacity" over the holiday period.

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Qld tourism strategy

QUEENSLAND Tourism Minister Jann Stuckey has unveiled a new four-point plan to help drive the state's tourism direction over the next two decades.

The "Destination Success" plan includes a specific focus on harnessing the potential of the China market, with new digital marketing campaigns to be rolled out alongside Tourism Australia.

A greater emphasis on the food & wine offerings and overall gastronomic diversity of the state will be developed through the creation & promotion of "distinct regional taste destinations".

In addition, the new plan calls for developing the awareness of attractions in specific regions and building the investment potential of attractions through seminars.

"We've come through a tough period for tourism in this state, but the Newman Government is working very closely with industry to get us back on course," Minister Stuckey said of the new plan.

Carlson diversifies

CARLSON Rezidor Hotel Group has announced the development of two new global hotel brands.

Unveiled this week by the group as part of its 'Vision 20/20', the new brands are dubbed Radisson Red and the Quorvus Collection.

Debuting next year, Radisson Red will be a "lifestyle select" brand, designed and developed to deliver today's customer the experience of tomorrow, while Quorvus is an "expertly curated collection" of five-star hotels, Carlson Rezidor said.

By 2020, the goal will be to have 60 Radisson Red hotels and 20 Quorvus Collection hotels in operation globally.

President and ceo Trudy Rautio said Vision 20/20 provides "a distinct opportunity...to introduce new experiences, as well as exciting and relevant services that uniquely differentiate our brands."

Radisson Red are set to debut in the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific.

Sail of the Century

CELEBRITY Cruises will hold a year of celebrations for *Celebrity Century* ahead of the ship's exit from service in Apr 2015.

The year-long 'Celebration of the Century' includes a range of discounts and bonuses on voyages in Alaska, Asia, the South Pacific and her three-month stint in Australian waters.

Among the events planned in the opportunity to cruise with Celebrity Cruises president & ceo Michael Bayley on a 14-night cruise out of Singapore on 08 Mar.

The ship's final voyage from Australia operates on 11 Jan 2015 from Sydney to Singapore.

Celebrity Century's inaugural cruise was in 1995.

Aviation security conf

REGISTRATIONS are still being accepted for the two-day aviation safety conference AVSEC 2014, held in Canberra on 12-13 Mar.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information.



Window Seat

FANS of the wildly popular TV costume drama *Downton Abbey* can now experience some of the excitement in person, with a special Downton-themed exhibition set to open in Wilmington, Delaware in the US.

The Winterthur Museum, Library and Gardens is showcasing a collection of outfits worn by such characters as Bates, Anna, Carson, Cora & of course The Earl of Grantham.

The exhibit will debut on 01 Mar, coinciding with the end of the US screening of the fourth season of the show.

Clothes will be displayed on specially created mannequins, with the exhibition eventually set to expand to compare American and English stately homes during the early 20th century, reports *USA Today*.

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Tas eco-tourism plans

IF ELECTED to power at next month's state election, Tasmania's Liberal Opposition party will seek to establish eco-tourism projects in World Heritage National Parks.

Specific zones for development are yet to be flagged to encourage ideas, reports *ABC News* online.

According to Opposition Leader Will Hodgman, over the past few years Tasmania has missed the boat on opportunities to promote eco-tourism.

Hodgman said Tassie should be using the state's "environmental assets" in a sensible & sustainable, manner "so we can create more jobs in this space."

Opposition parks spokesperson Matthew Groom confirmed the Liberal's have "spoken to people who are involved in tourism" who have indicated they believe there are tourism opportunities.

SEC@GI event glory

SYDNEY Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island is blowing its own trumpet following its first event at the temporary facility.

The five-day Reed Gift Fairs Sydney February show wrapped up yesterday, with SEC@GI operator AEG Ogden commenting that despite "very few teething issues," the venue had worked "extremely well operationally."

"The new facility has been very well received by customers and visitors," manager - events Adrian Slingsby said.

Over 440 companies exhibited at the fair, spread across the facility's five halls.

Slingsby said providing a mix of car parking, free bus services from the city and free ferries ex Circular Quay & Darling Harbour "made it easy & enjoyable for visitors to get to and from."

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Emirates celebrating milestones



ABOVE: Emirates hosted key media to a celebratory event at the Establishment in Sydney yesterday to recognise recent milestones, including the addition of a 35th destination in Europe, namely Kiev, in the Ukraine.

Bryan Banston, vp Australasia spoke of the convenience of EK's one-stop connectivity to Europe and the UK for this market, with Dubai "the ultimate stopover point for Australians."

Banston acknowledged the "ground breaking partnership"

with Qantas, which combined with Emirates' flights provides 98 weekly services between Australia and Dubai.

Emirates is also celebrating its 12th year of partnership with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, with a string quartet performing a medley for attendees.

Pictured looking dapper from left is Tim Harrowell, EK regional manager NSW/ACT; Bryan Banston & Steve Limbrick, Qantas executive manager customer & commercial relationships.



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THIS group of happy folk are part of an American Express TLS educational to Italy which was hosted by Etihad Airways & Dorchester Collection.

Their itinerary included visits to Rome and Milan, with a stopover in exotic Abu Dhabi.

Pictured here on Rome's fabled Spanish Steps are American Express TLS (Travel & Lifestyle Team) staff Dewi Haryanto, Denise Gotsoulias, Parris Fotias, Dorchester Collection; Pasquale Giordano, Hotel Eden; Louise Allen, Etihad Airways & Kim Graby.

Front row: Melissa Louison and Shelly Walker.

New Excite slogan

A NEW catch-cry has been introduced by wholesaler Excite Holidays as the company reiterates its commitment to deal exclusively with the trade.

The 'Made for Agents' campaign & tagline is part of an advertising and social media blitz in which Excite will give away 100,000 reward points for bookings.

MICE Peugeot prize

SOFITEL Sydney Wentworth is giving away a new Peugeot 308 to one conference & event organiser booking an in-house conference, meeting or event this year valued at a minimum \$40,000.

To be in with a chance to win, bookings and a deposit must be received by Sofitel Sydney Wentworth before 30 Nov 2014, for an event held anytime.

Terms and conditions apply - for more info, phone (02) 9228 9180.

Vincent SYD all clear

TRANSPORT NSW has given regional carrier Vincent Aviation interim licence approval to begin its mooted Sydney-Narrabri service from Fri 21 Feb.

BF initially planned to launch the service today but was forced to delay the route at the last minute (**TD** yesterday) as it awaited government approval.

Tauck godmothers

TAUCK is recognising four of its riverboat cruise directors by naming two new riverboats as collective godmothers.

The brand new *ms Inspire* and *ms Savor* 'Inspiration Class' ships will be christened in honour of Bridgit Ashton, Lynn Hardcastle, Mary Pierik and Eszter Pusztai.

Events will be held in Basel, Switzerland on 03 Apr and in Rudesheim, Germany on 21 Jun respectively to commemorate the sister-ships addition into the Tauck fleet.

Finnair Miami service

ONEWORLD member carrier Finnair is introducing new twice weekly seasonal services from Helsinki to Miami using Airbus A340s between 16 Dec-21 May.

Frequencies will be increased to thrice weekly from 03 Jan.

WS ditch YVR/YKA

WESTJET is suspending its relatively new service between Vancouver and Kamloops from 01 Mar, according to agent GDSS.

Operated by WestJet Encore, the route launched last Nov.

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Your turn to hang loose in Hawai'i

After a record year Hawai'i Tourism would like to thank our travel industry 'ohana (family) for your tremendous support by inviting you to enjoy special industry rates in Hawai'i during Mahalo Month



Industry Appointments

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry, send us an email at appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

The **Concierge Travel Group** has welcomed the return of **Trina Patterson** in the role of Training Manager. She moves to the agency from her former role with Sabre Pacific in training and development.

Anna Taylor has been appointed to the newly created position of National Affairs Manager with the **Australian Federation of Travel Agents**. Taylor moves to AFTA with an extensive career in the industry including as ATEC National Policy and Industry Development Manager.

Former ATEC md **Matt Hingerty** is set to be appointed to the role of Chairman of the **Business Events Council of Australia**. Hingerty is currently the ceo of government relations firm Barton Deakin.

Emma Fletcher has been appointed as the new Marketing and Communications Director for the **South Australian Tourism Commission**, taking over from David O'Loughlin. Fletcher has been with the SATC for three years as Senior Marketing Manager.

Trafalgar has announced the appointment of **Donna Reed** to the maternity leave role of Sales Manager for Southern and Far North Queensland. Her career includes roles with Topdeck and Flight Centre.

The **Luxperience** "luxury experiential" show has appointed **Meeko Tien** as its new Buyer Programme Manager. **Bronwyn Towers** is the show's new Customer Relations Executive, while Jumeirah director of global sales **Teree George** has joined the Luxperience Advisory Board.

The **Walshe Group** has promoted **Ashlee Galea** to the role of Country Manager Australia for Hawaii Tourism Oceania. She takes the place of **Helen Williams** who moves to the newly created position of Director Tourism Strategy for the group.

Harish Mysore has been named as senior vice president of strategy and business development for **Sabre**. Based in the US, Mysore was formerly a senior executive with healthcare IT software provider TriZetto Corp.

Preferred Hotel Group has announced the promotion of **Lindsey Ueberroth** to Chief Executive Officer, expanding her existing role as the organisation's President.

Kamal Haer has been named as Area Director of Marketing & Sales at the **InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort and Spa**.

Verve Creative Events has announced the appointment of **Megan Peters** as Production Director.

Conrad Bali has appointed **Caroline Chrysydy** as its new Sales and Marketing Director. The luxury resort has also named **Imuthia Yanindra** as its new Marketing Communications Manager.

Kirsty Blows has taken on the Auckland-based role of NZ sales and marketing manager for **Rail Plus**.

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Travel Daily
First with the news



AAT Kings showcased Kakadu in the wet season to a group of new reservation staff of AOT/Territory Discoveries recently.

The two-day famil was led by AAT Kings Top End manager Brett Binns, enjoying Kakadu's stunning scenery at Nourlangie, a cruise on the Yellow Water Billabong and wildlife spotting.

Participants also learnt about the indigenous culture of Kakadu with a visit to the Warradjan Culture Centre and hiked through

the picturesque Nanguluwar to see the hidden historic Rock Art Gallery.

The group are **pictured** with one of the natives and included, from left, Kate Thomas, Tammy Lee Barnard, Brett Binns, Marc Barron, Billy Merhi and Paul Matthew, with Harry Fifi & Felicia Samantha in front.

Vienna Ball passes

BACK-ROADS Touring has packaged a new five-day trip in Vienna that enables clients to participate in the Flower Ball or Coffee House Owners Ball in 2015.

The Vienna Ball Season itinerary options depart on 13 Jan and 03 Feb respectively and also includes a sightseeing tour, a visit to Schonbrunn Palace, a private tour of the Palis Coburg cellar & more.

It's priced at \$2,484ppts - for further info, phone 1300 100 410.

MEL CUSS deployed

MELBOURNE Airport says it expects to fully implement SITA's Common-Use Self-Service bag drop platform by the end of Feb.

The technology is in line with IATA's Fast Travel initiative for pax.

Peppers has Soul

PEPPERS has been announced as the new management firm for the Soul Surfers Paradise property development on the Gold Coast.

The Mantra Group took over the property, formerly known as Sea Temple Surfers Paradise late last year (**TD** 08 Nov), but had not specified under which brand it would be overseen.

WIN THE PREY BY TONY PARK

This week *Travel Daily* and Swagman Tours is giving five lucky readers the chance to win *The Prey* by Australian author Tony Park.

In the Eureka mine, South Africa's zama zamas illegally hunt for gold. King of this brutal underworld is Wellington Shumba, who rules his pirate miners through fear of torture and death.

Running Eureka's legitimate operation is former recce-commando Cameron McMurtrie. When one of his

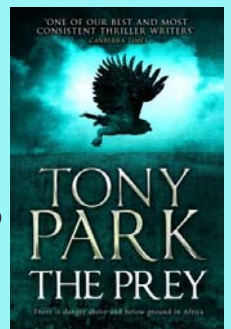
engineers is taken hostage, Cameron plans a dramatic rescue – and finish it off with a manhunt for Wellington.

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

Theprey@traveldaily.com.au.

Other than The Prey, Tony Park has written how many fiction books on Africa?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Monika Racz from World Travel Professionals.



Express TCF exit

THE Travel Compensation Fund has non-voluntarily terminated the participation of Express World Travel in Greenacre NSW after claims were received.

STA agents Busabout thru Spain



ABOVE: Busabout recently hosted eight STA agents on an eight-day tour between Madrid and Barcelona.

Agents were treated to seats at a Barcelona FC Football Club home game, courtesy of Qatar Airways.

Other highlights included a visit to the Mercado de San Miguel, a bike tour of Valenica followed by a Paella party and a Spanish cooking class in Barcelona.

Some of the group are pictured above, including (from left) Marlena Attard, STA; Leah McDonald, Busabout; Letitia Stafford, STA; Nicholas Cooper, Busabout and Nich King, STA.

'Give me Brisbane'

QUEENSLAND'S capital has today revealed a new tourism campaign aimed at driving tourist visitor numbers to the city.

The 'Give me Brisbane Any Day' campaign is a joint collaboration between the Queensland Govt and Brisbane Marketing.

"The campaign will reinforce Brisbane's position as a premier events & holiday destination," Queensland Tourism & Major Event Minister Jann Stuckey said.

More temps needed

C&M Recruitment is reporting a strong swing in the need for temporary and contract staff across the local travel industry.

The firm said in the past few days it has filled retail travel consultant roles in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, along with openings for travel temps in wholesale and corporate travel.

Venture Europe plus

A BEHEMOTH 76-page Europe, Britain and Turkey brochure for 2014/15 has been unveiled by Venture Holidays.

Turkey is brand new to the program, as is Russia, Georgia, Poland and Scandinavia.

The additions are based on repeat travellers having already visited many European regions, who are now seeking "new, up and coming destinations," says product manager David Dunkley.

"By adding these new destinations, we can definitely cater for the well-travelled Europe goers," Dunkley added.

Brochures are available at TIFS or from Templar.

Fantasea in Sydney

QUEENSLAND marine tourism operator Fantasea Adventure Cruising has launched sightseeing operations on Sydney Harbour, with two new cruise offerings.

Options include the Sydney Seven Wonders which ventures beyond Sydney Heads, passing Bondi Beach, takes in Bare Island, Jibbon Beach and Bundeena in Australia's Royal National Park, priced at \$145 per adult.

Fantasea is also offering a new twice daily Bondi Beach excursion that is \$55 per adult.

The company announced plans to introduce a Sydney operation 14 months ago (**TD** 27 Nov 12), introducing *Fantasea Sunrise* in Sep last year for charter services. See www.fantasea.com.au.

Broome on sale

BROOME & The Kimberley Holidays is offering Qantas fares to Broome from the east coast (SYD, MEL & BNE) priced at \$599 return, or ex Perth at \$399 for travel between 01 Apr-31 Oct.

The fares are valid when married with a minimum four nights accom in Broome, which starts at \$421pp at the Oaks Broome.

Book by 15 Mar to avail the deal.

13m Tigerair Aus pax

TIGERAIR Australia yesterday surpassed carrying 13 million pax on its domestic operation since first launching in 2007.

Head of communication Vanessa Regan said the milestone comes ahead of "an exciting growth phase over the coming months."

WIN A TRIP TO THAILAND



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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:

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- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer on day 10
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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

How many 'trip types' do OTG have?

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Do you understand client needs within the online space and have the ability to determine what solutions will provide value while helping achieve the proposed solution accordingly? Are you able to manage multiple responsibilities and deliver detailed and high level product demonstrations, training and coaching tailored to specifically capabilities to solve the prospect's critical business issues? Call today for a confidential chat.

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