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Thursday 23rd January 2014



MEL-AYQ direct flight

VOYAGES Indigenous Tourism Australia has announced Alliance Airlines will introduce a new nonstop service between Melbourne and Avers Rock, starting 04 Apr.

Initially operating on weekends for a 13 week period (until the last weekend of Jun), the three hour flight makes weekend escapes to the Red Centre easier for Victorian travellers.

An 'Uluru Weekend' package that includes flights, transfers, two nights accom, activities and more is priced from \$899ppts.

Tourism NT ceo Tony Mayell today said Alliance Airlines' flights provide "a fantastic opportunity for Victorians to visit Uluru and connect with this special part of Australia."

Seven pages of news

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

AA Appointments jobs

itravel nabs 9 JTG outlets

INDEPENDENTLY owned and operated retail network itravel has recruited nine new franchise partners from helloworld, Travel Daily can exclusively reveal.

In the continuing exodus of offices departing helloworld, the agencies (all from NSW) were until recently long-serving partners of Jetset Travel and Travelworld and possess a combined 100+ years of travel expertise, a number of which have been recognised as 'Office of the Year'.

itravel md Steve Labroski said he was "thrilled" to confirm the retail group's expansion to 12 stores in less than 100 days since launching its franchise model.

New partnerships were struck with the business owners of Jetset Travel Wahroonga Village (Jenny Brushe), Jetset Travel The Junction (Georgette Southam and Andrew Minto), Jetset Travel Warners Bay (Sue Rigby) & Jetset Travel Cessnock (Narelle Cook),

as well as Travelworld Raymond Terrace (Greg Higginbottom) and the dual offices of both Karenne Norling (Travelworld Taree & Travelworld Forster) and Melissa Devlin (Travelworld Revesby & Travelworld Penshurst).

Each agency has now rebranded as itravel - although some are still showing as active on their former franchise's website.

"We want to join forces with people who have the same vision, goals and values as we do," Labroski said of his new alliances.

itravel's expansion isn't showing signs of abating anytime soon, with Labroski indicating six more new franchise partnerships will enter its stable in "coming weeks."

"This is a very exciting time for the itravel group as we begin to build a fresh new brand in the marketplace," he concluded.

itravel was formerly an affiliate of the Jetset Travelworld Network, breaking ranks in Aug last year.

JAL revives SYD 787-8

AFTER numerous setbacks, Japan Airlines has announced it now plans to commence 787-8 Dreamliner services from Tokyo Narita to Sydney from 30 Mar.

Qantas' **one**world partner had intended to introduce 787s to Sydney last Nov, but was forced to delay the launch due to issues with its GE engines concerning the build up of ice when flying through storms (TD 25 Nov).

JAL's 787s will replace Boeing 777-200ER currently used on flights JL771 & JL772, and feature a Premium Economy cabin.

The carrier also announced it was suspending its daily Tokyo Narita-London service from 30 Mar in favour of a new operation to Heathrow out of Haneda.

JAL is also doubling frequencies to 14 weekly ex Haneda to both Singapore and Bangkok, while reducing capacity from Narita from double daily to weekly.

It will also introduce a new Ho Chi Minh City route from 30 Mar.







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*Conditions apply. Freestyle Holidays is Operated by Pinpoint Travel Group





Stop, shop, refresh... Thailand is too good to miss

Thursday 23rd January 2014

Qantas daily to ZQN

FLIGHT options to Queenstown from Sydney are being jacked up by Qantas to as many as daily between now and the end of Oct to account for school holiday and ski season traffic.

CLICK HERE to see the schedule.

ANNUAL SALE ON NOW

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Lowcostholidays AU debut

THE UK's web-based discount travel brand lowcostholidavs has officially launched in the Australian market today.

Already operational in 12 countries in the UK, Europe and more recently the USA, the firm has now established a Sydneybased office, appointing Sophie Cann as Australian director.

It's also developing a team of experienced travel consultants to support an Australian call centre.

lowcostholidays.com.au offers flights, hotels and combination of both from an inventory of 160 airlines & 200,000 hotels globally.

It spruiks itself as a "fee-free" website and has launched with a unique \$5 lay-by scheme where users can deposit on accom-only deals domestically or abroad.

The balance is then required 28

Sunrise on Pac Jewel

THE Seven Network's morning show Sunrise will be televised in its entirety live from the decks of P&O Cruises Pacific Jewel next Mon in what has been dubbed an Australian and possible world "television first."

Sunrise presenters David Koch, Samantha Armytage, Mark Berreta, Natalie Barr and Edwina Bartholomew are all involved in the Australia Day coverage, which is extended to 4 hours, to 10am.

Special P&O Cruises deals will be offered to audiences for bookings made between 27-31 Jan.



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days prior to check-in.

Domestically, the Aussie site is featuring airlines including Qantas, Virgin Australia, Jetstar and intriguingly Skywest (which was acquired & rebadged as Virgin Australia Regional last year).

Cann, who according to LinkedIn was most recently lowcostholidays' Head of Hotel Supply based in the UK, says the company expects 60% of sales from the site will be for international holidays, and 40% for domestic getaways.

"Capitalising on our advanced technology platform and int'l team of 400 travel professionals, lowcostholidays offers Australians the highest quality holiday experiences in 45 countries, including Australia, for the lowest possible price," Ms Cann said.

She said that lowcostholidays represents 'value-for-money'.

"The site is fast and easy to use and we offer free travel and destination advice, flexible booking terms, with low cancellation and amendment charges, and also 24/7 assistance while you are away to ensure your holiday is hassle-free," Cann said in a statement today.

CLIA 2013 Awards

FINALISTS for the 2013 Cruise Industry Awards have been announced by Cruise Lines Int'l Association (CLIA) Australasia.

Agents are vying for 14 awards across six categories, including the renamed Neil Frazer Award, now recognised as the CLIA Hall of Fame Award.

CLIA Australasia gm Brett Jardine said all finalists had played a hand in making 2013 a prosperous year for cruising in Australia and New Zealand.

The awards night is being held in Sydney on Sat 08 Feb, and is co-hosted by the Seven Network's sportscaster Hamish McLachlan and actress Melanie Vallejo from Winners & Losers.

VisitBritain chief exits

THE head of the UK's national tourism organisation, Sandie Dawe has confirmed she will depart VisitBritain later this year.

Dawe joined VisitBritain in 1991, was appointed as director of strategy and communications five years later and took up the chief executive role in May 2009.

"I'm here for the next six months so it's business as usual for now," she said on Twitter.



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Thursday 23rd January 2014





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\$299* pp RETURN plus taxes * Conditions Apply. Taxes approx. \$880* - \$1,005* pp.

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Londregan joins Virtuoso

FORMER Jetset Travelworld Group wholesale general manager Michael Londregan has been appointed to lead Virtuoso's expansion in Australia, NZ & Asia.

Announced yesterday afternoon by the luxury travel network, as executive gm Londregan will steer the group's operation in this region - where it currently has 31 travel agency members spread across 53 office locations.

Virtuoso is now in its 10th year of operation in Australia, debuting here in 2004 with founding member Mary Rossi Travel.

Globally the group has 335 travel agency partners in 20 countries, turning over US\$12.5 billion in annual sales.

Through the appointment of Londregan, the network has



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FOR MORE INFO CALL **1800 622 768** or visit grandpacifictours.com flagged its sights on "expanding horizons" in the APAC region.

His past industry credentials include positions for Stella Travel Services in the USA and Tourism Australia

Chairman and ceo Matthew D. Upchurch said recruiting Londregan "signifies a shift in how we're choosing to do business, having someone located inmarket who can act as a leader and liaison for our travel agency members as well as seek out new business opportunities throughout Asia," Upchurch said.

His experience within the industry and with the Virtuoso network "makes him uniquely qualified to lead these efforts," Virtuoso's boss commented.

Londregan departed JTG last year (TD 15 Apr) to "pursue personal interests."

More of the latest travel industry appointments on page seven.

Japan visitor arrivals

AUSTRALIANS made up 2.4% of total inbound arrivals to Japan during 2013, with 244,600 visitors recorded for the year - a new mark surpassing the 242,031 tourist arrivals set in 2008.

Overall, the country welcomed 10,363,900 tourist visitors - a 24% jump year-on-year.

CH brox redesigned

CREATIVE Holidays has unveiled to Travel Daily a totally redesigned range of brochures, with the new look guides to hit agency shelves from this week.

Each brochure contains detailed destination information on hotels. transfers, tours and more, along with recommendations from Creative Holidays staff on their favourite things to see and do.

A wide variety of new products have also been sourced to feature in the new range, including new hotels & sightseeing experiences.

family of brai

Window Seat

THE sledging off-the-field after the Australian cricket team's 5-0 thumping of the Poms in the 2013/14 Ashes series is set to last a while, and fair enough.

Call it a coincidence, declaring her own personal innings with the UK's national tourism agency, VisitBritain, Sandie Dawe overnight took to social media to thank her followers for their well wishes (page two).

Her exit earned praise via Twitter from former Tourism Australia counterpart Andrew McEvoy, who subtly carried on the Ashes white-wash banter.

"Well played Sandie. A real changing of the guard. A better innings that any of your cricketers played this Aussie Summer," McEvoy quipped.

THIS should brighten things up. Hamilton Island's audiovisual supplier AVPartners has added a range of colourful glow-in-thedark furniture for use at cocktail functions and dinner parties on the island (pictured below).

The stylish tables, chairs and decorations all contain LED light lamps inside, all controlled remotely, enabling the furniture to change to any of 16 colours as well as flash, strobe and fade on demand.

"The look on delegate's faces when they first see the glow furniture is priceless; their jaws just drop," AVPartners' James Rolfe said.

Novotel's Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast also offers the glow furniture for its evening events and dinners.



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with the position title in the subject line by 31 January 2014. Candidates from recruitment agencies will not be accepted before this date

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Thursday 23rd January 2014

Grand Slam for ATP's top agents



APT treated a group of its top selling agents to some scorching tennis action this week during the 2014 Australian Open Tennis Championship.

The tour operator is a major TV sponsor of the Seven Network's coverage of the Australian Open, backing Unforgettable Moments flash-backs & spidercam footage.

Pictured at Rod Laver Arena during Mon's play between Rafael Nadal and Kei Nishikori from left are Carolyn Henderson, APT; Leanne Russell, Colac Travel; Susan Haberle, APT; Kim Taylor, Helloworld Rosebud with Debbie and Russell Wilkie, Helloworld Endeavour Hills, Mountain Gate & Waverley Gardens.

DAILY FROM MELBOURNE Click here for more information.

CA IAD launch date

AIR China has proposed a 10 Jun launch date for new four weekly services between Beijing and Washington DC (IAD).

Flights CA818/817 will be operate by Boeing 777-300ERs.

MEANWHILE, CA has this week begun new thrice weekly Airbus A330-200 flights to Honolulu.

NHH gift voucher

BOOKINGS of \$10,000 or more deposited with New Horizons Holidays before 15 Feb will earn travel agents a \$150 Coles Myer gift voucher.

See www.newhorizons.com.au.

Crystal free wi-fi

MEMBERS of Crystal Cruises loyalty program Crystal Society will be offered one hour's free wi-fi per day while cruising.

The offer comes into effect from 19 Sep aboard Crystal Serenity and 15 Oct on Crystal Symphony.

Wolgan top Aus hotel

EMIRATES Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa in the Blue Mountains has been recognised as the top hotel in Australia, as determined by TripAdvisor reviews and opinions.

The NSW resort was followed by seven Queensland-based hotels in the Top 10, including Xanadu Holiday Resort, Main Beach (2nd), Cairns Coconut Holiday Resort (3rd), Summit Apartments, Airlie Beach (4th) and Grange Resort, Hervey Bay (5th).

Also inside the Top 10 of the 2014 Travellers' Choice Awards was qualia, Hamilton Island (7th) & Park Hyatt, Sydney (10th).

On the global stage, the Grand Hotel Kronenhof in Pontresina, Switzerland earned the ranking as the best hotel in the world.

Kangaroo Island's Southern Ocean Lodge took out the local top accolades for Top Small Hotel, Best Hotel for Romance and Top Luxury Hotel, while Peppers Broadbeach was Best Hotel for Families in Australia.



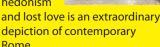
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WIN THE GREAT **BEAUTY TICKETS**

This week, *Travel Daily* are giving five lucky winners the chance to win a double pass to

the new movie. The Great Beauty.

Paolo Sorrentino's powerful tale of hedonism



See the Great Beauty for a chance to experience Rome: www.thegreatbeauty.com.au

To win, be first person to email the correct answer to the daily question below to: greatbeauty@traveldaily.com.au.

At what age did the lead character in THE GREAT **BEAUTY move to Rome?**



Yesterday's lucky winner was Rebecca McIntyre from Harvey **World Travel Gloucester.**

Swagman hitched in Honeysuckle



ABOVE: Africa was recently on show as a holiday destination for newlyweds at a honeymoon expo in Honeysuckle, near Newcastle.

Promoting the destination at the show was Wayne Hamilton of Swagman Tours in conjunction with local agency Jayes Travel.

In addition to the mainland itself, nearby islands in the Indian Ocean including Mauritius, Reunion and the Seychelles were also promoted to attendees.

Over the course of the day, more than 700 people visited the stand, leaving armed with brochures on potential honeymoon options.

Hamilton is **pictured** above left with the expo brides and flower girls and Jayes Travel Honeysuckle director Michelle Barker (right).

New Etihad codeshare

ETIHAD Airways will place its EY code on 40 JetBlue Airways routes from New York JFK & Washington Dulles to domestic ports in the US under a new codeshare deal.

The pact, subject to government approval, will be expanded to include Los Angeles once Etihad commences flights to LAX in Jun.

MEANWHILE, Etihad has begun operating services to 34 ports in Europe through its new Etihad Regional partnership with Lugano-based Darwin Airlines on its fleet of Saab 2000 aircraft.

The first aircraft sporting the EY livery is now in service, with 10 more to be operated by Darwin Airlines to carry EY colours by Jun.



Thursday 23rd Jan 2014

IATA, Open Allies align

THE International Air Transport Association says it is hoping for expedited approval from the US Dept of Transportation of Resolution 787 after agreeing to conditions with Open Allies.

It comes as the parties filed a joint motion concerning Resolution 787 - the foundation document for the New Distribution Capability (NDC).

Open Allies was previously anti Resolution 787 but has changed its tune, should implementation of new conditions been approved.

Those conditions include anonymous shopping, data privacy and a voluntary open data standard available to all current and future travel technology suppliers, IATA director general and ceo Tony Tyler said.

"We urge DOT to approve Resolution 787 in a timely manner so that consumers may benefit from the greater choice and transparency in air travel shopping that the NDC standard will enable," Tyler said.

CLICK HERE to view the motion.

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Marriott buys Protea

MARRIOTT International has signed a definitive agreement to acquire South Africa's Protea Hospitality Holdings.

It comes after the two parties signed a letter of intent for the deal late last year (TD 11 Nov).

Protea's portfolio consists of 116 hotels in seven African countries, across three brands.



EK A380s to Moscow

EMIRATES is upgrading aircraft used on its second daily service to Moscow from the current Boeing 777 to its flagship Airbus A380, effective 01 Aug.

The switch boosts seat capacity on the route from Dubai by 15%, and complements EK's existing superjumbo servicing the Russian capital, launched in Dec 2012.

New Helsinki product

BEYOND Travel has beefed up its product range in Helsinki for 2014, adding a range of new hotels, touring, ferry tickets & rail passes in the Finnish capital.

Among the collection is a new 24-hour Hop-On Hop-Off open bus tour that visits popular tourist sites including Senate Square, the 'Rock Church', 'Glass Palace', National Museum and more.

Other additions include 'Beautiful Canal Route' cruises.

Hong Kong 7s deals

KEITH Prowse Travel has limited packages remaining for the 2014 Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens tournament, with matches commencing on 27 Mar and running through to 31 Mar.

Packages lead-in at \$2,350ppts which include return flights to Hong Kong, four nights accom at the Empire Causeway, daily brekkie, a three-day Match Ticket plus a pre-match function.

See www.kpt.com.au for details or call 1300 730 023 to book.

QIC office off-line

QANTAS is advising travel partners that the Qantas Industry Centre will be closed on Mon 27 Jan for the Australian Day public holiday, reopening from 9am on Tue 28 Jan 2014.

The QF Industry Sales site can be accessed for online services.

Corporate Traveller Travel Manager - Groups Brisbane CBD

registrations close 27 Jan 2014





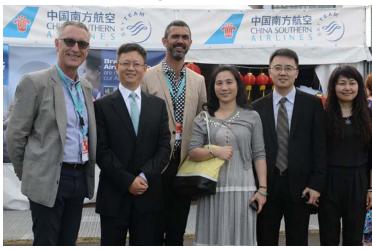
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CZ finds its groove in Sydney



ABOVE: The Sydney Festival 2014 is currently in full swing in the NSW capital and the Summer Sounds event gave Leadership Partner & Official Airline China Southern an opportunity to meet with the festival's officials.

CZ company secretary Xie Bing from Guangzhou was in town for the event and addressed an audience of 65,000 who packed into the Domain.

Pictured prior to getting their groove on to the dulcet sounds of Hot Dub Time Machine & Chaka Khan from left are Malcolm Moir, Sydney Festival; Xie Bing, CZ; Chris Tooher, Sydney Festival and China Southern's Junli Li, Zhang Hengge and Min Zheng.

ATA brox release

ADVENTURE Tours Australia is offering a 20% discount on small group tours around Australia and New Zealand after rolling out its new 2014/15 brochure.

Managing director Jacquie Burnside said prices in the program have been maintained or in some cases dropped "to bring our travellers the best value product in the market."

Some trips are now guaranteed to operate based on one guest.

Departures in Jan and Feb are reduced in price by 10% for bookings made by 31 Jan, while there is a 15% reduction on Mar departures & 10% off trips in Apr.

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For further details, and on-line application process, please visit our web site www.emiratesgroupcareers.com. Ref No. 140000EP

Please note: Telephone and postal applications will not be entertained. Applications close Friday 31st January 2014.

Only candidates that meet the minimum requirements will be considered and contacted.



ABOVE: Hong Kong Express has revamped its corporate identity, unveiling a funky new Airbus A320 livery (above) this week which showcases the city skyline of its native home port.

Deputy chief executive Andrew Cowen said the low-cost sistercarrier of Hong Kong Airlines plans to deploy the branding across its network by the end of

Scenic social fans

SCENIC Tours number of fans on Facebook has surpassed 10,000, the Australian company announced this afternoon.

The page features a collection of videos from the destinations it operates tours and cruises.

Mar 2014.

HK Express also announced it would begin a new Hong Kong-Seoul Incheon service from 30 Mar and is intending to add 12 new destinations this year.

Bombardier staff cuts

AIRCRAFT manufacturer Bombardier Aerospace will axe around 1,700 jobs in a cost-cutting measure designed to offset a decline in overall aircraft orders.

Approx 1.100 positions in Canada and 600 in the US are expected to be dropped.

The company saw output climb by a further five aircraft in 2013, however orders fell significantly from 481 in 2012 to 388 last year.



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.

Aviation industry veteran Gary Hammes will join Virgin Australia in the role of Chief Operating Officer from 11 Feb. Hammes will assume control of VA's flight operations, ground handling, safety, catering and more.

Bridie Commerford has joined the team at Accor Pacific in the role of Director, Marketing & Communications Australia. Commerford brings 18 years marketing experience to her new role and will oversee promotional efforts for the group's local brands as well as Quality & Guest Relations. Elsewhere, Accor Vacation Club Asia has named Clive van Deventer as its new General Manager to lead the growth of the firm's timeshare arm.

Central Coast Tourism has named its new Board of Directors, headed by Sandra Kerr as Chairperson. Also on the Board is Barton Lawler, Daniel Payne, Bob Diaz, Peter Evans, Libby Bain, Craig Ellis, Susan Davis & local government reps Cr Lawrie McKinna and Cr Lynne Webster.

Sheraton Melbourne has named André Jacques as its Director of Sales and Marketing. Jacques has worked with Starwood for the past 14 years. The property is due to open its doors from Mar this year.

Conference and events organiser Business Events Sydney has recruited Richard Yore of Yore Solutions as Client Relationship Director - Americas to drive its expansion into the North American market, beginning 17 Feb.

Matthew Grainger has been appointed by Voyager Travel Management as its Head of Sales. Grainger brings over 12 years industry experience.

JAT US c'share denied

JAT Airways has had a request to codeshare on Etihad Airways metal to/from the USA knocked backed by the US Department of Transportation.

The DOT said it was dismissing the carrier's proposal because the USA and Serbia currently do not have bilateral air services agreement in place.

The regulator also said there wasn't evidence a codeshare with EY was in the public interest.



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For more information **CLICK HERE** and to apply email your CV and list of countries where you have travelled to todd@tucantravel.com.

Bitcoins valid in Vegas

TWO Las Vegas casinos have now introduced technology to accept the digital currency Bitcoins as payment for selected products and services.

The D Las Vegas Casino Hotel and the Golden Gate Hotel & Casino, both off Fremont Street, will accept the currency at front desks and selected gift shops.

VIE-FRA hourly shuttle

LUFTHANSA & subsidiary carrier Austrian Airlines will together begin an hourly daytime shuttle service linking Vienna & Frankfurt from 30 Mar, with 13 flights daily.

MEANWHILE, an agreement has been signed between the carriers and Amadeus for merchandising services to be made available through the Amadeus Airlines Ancillary Services solution.

Agents in 60 global markets including Australia and New Zealand will be able to preselect preferred seats in Economy Class as well as purchase extra legroom on domestic & European services.

FURTHER, renewed political and economic stability in Iran will see Austrian Airlines resume service under its Tyrolean Airways brand to Tehran from 11 Mar, to be operated using A320 aircraft.

A five times weekly schedule service resumption is currently subject to regulatory approval.

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 award winning corporate travel Management Company is looking for an experienced Operations Manager with travel experience to oversee their key operations. Key responsibilities will include human resources planning, increasing efficiencies and staff productivity, as well as profitable growth and financial accountability. Essentially you will come from a strong travel management background with leadership and people management skills.

YOUR CAREER WILL REACH NEW HEIGHTS

CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER'S SYD & MEL - SALARY PACKAGES \$90K+

As Client Relationship Manager you will be responsible for managing a portfolio of high profile clients. Key objectives include growing revenues, increasing margins and retaining the business. To do this, you will have a thorough knowledge of corporate travel as well as the professional communication & negotiation skills to deal with managers at all levels up to executives.

TIME TO CASH IN!

CORPORATE BDM – GLOBAL MARKET SYDNEY x2 –SALARY PACKAGE OTE \$120K+

Do you prefer doing business face to face? Like schmoozing with company MD's instead of pitching travel procurement managers or board of directors? Then it's time to take your strong sales and client relationship skills to this award winning TMC where you will be rewarded for your efforts. Effective leads, supporting co-ordinators and a premium brand name will set you on the road to success.

PRICING EXPERIENCE ESSENTIAL

PRODUCT ANALYST – TRAVEL INDUSTRY SYDNEY – EXECUTIVE SALARY \$\$

How would like to work for one of travels leading companies, a great brand that is recognised globally? Essentially you will be responsible for providing commercial support to the product contracting and finance teams. This role is suited to someone who has a strong financial acumen and has the ability to understand and to report on financial information with the ability to work with large amounts of data in varying forms at one time.

AUSTRALIA'S ONLY DEDICATED EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT TEAM

CONTACT OUR NATIONAL TEAM TODAY ON: 02 9231 2825 OR EMAIL YOUR CV TO: executive@aaappointments.com.au FOR MANY MORE EXECUTIVE VACANCIES VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.aaappointments.com