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Jayson Westbury / Chief Executive, AFTA

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Travel Daily

First with the news

Friday 18th July 2014



Just turn up at show

IF YOU haven't signed up to attend Australia's inaugural Travel Industry Exhibition, no problem - the organisers have advised that industry staff can register at the door at no cost.

The show kicked off this morning at the Royal Hall of Industries in Sydney's Moore Park, near Fox Studios and is on from 9-5 today and 9-4 tomorrow - wrapping up just in time for the National Travel Industry Awards - see **front page**.

NTIA on tomorrow night

TRAVEL agents and suppliers across the country are in a lather of anticipation, with the hotly contested National Travel Industry Awards taking place in Sydney from 5.30pm tomorrow.

A whopping 1,300 guests will pack Sydney's Hordern Pavilion for the event, with AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury predicting it will be the biggest and best ever NTIA.

"It is a time to acknowledge and celebrate all that we have achieved, both as an industry and individually over the past year, and to showcase the incredible talent and expertise which exists amongst Australian travel agents and providers," he said.

A plethora of lucky door prizes will be on offer, along with a \$2,000 Qantas travel voucher for the winner of the Qantas #QFSnapToWin competition

being conducted on social media network Instagram in the foyer area of the venue.

Westbury said the calibre of the finalists this year is extremely high, and wished everyone luck.

"To have been acknowledged as a finalist is a huge achievement in itself," he said.

After the 34 categories are announced, the celebration will continue at the AFTA party sponsored by Singapore Airlines, with entry included in every ticket.

To follow the excitement on the night, watch **TD** on Twitter at @travel_daily, or via the official #NTIA2014 hashtag.

For all the official pictures and reports see Mon's **Travel Daily**.

Golden ticket winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Magdalena Herdzik from Wendy Wu Tours who has been chosen as the winner of the **Travel Daily** 'golden ticket' for the National Travel Industry Awards taking place tomorrow night at Sydney's Hordern Pavilion.

Magdalena will join the **TD** table for the industry night of nights.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news & photos, a front cover page for **Travel Industry Exhibition** plus a full page from: (**click**)

- AA Appointments jobs

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MH waiver policy

MALAYSIA Airlines will allow passengers to make any changes or cancel flights without penalty from today until further notice as a result of this morning's MH17 incident over the Ukraine.

The policy is applicable to all Malaysia Airlines destinations, for all bookings through until 25 Jul.

US intelligence officials have already concluded the Boeing 777 enroute from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was struck by a surface-to-air missile at an altitude of 33,000 feet.

MAS confirmed the death toll of 298 passengers and crew, which included 154 Dutch, 43 Malays and 27 Australians.

Emirates has brought forward the cancellation of its services to Kiev in the Ukraine (**TD** Fri) with immediate effect.

AFTA constitution change

AFTA this morning formally adopted a new constitution, with attendees at the Federation's annual general meeting overwhelmingly voting in favour of the change (**TD** breaking news).

Under the new arrangement, AFTA members must be ATAS accredited, with the move due to the repeal of travel agent licensing laws across the country.

The meeting, which took place at the inaugural Travel Industry Exhibition in Sydney, also saw a number of questions posed by Barry Mayo from House of Travel.

In response to the questions, AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury confirmed that so far 1,615 locations had applied for ATAS accreditation, with a further 378 in process and another 105 who had registered for a login, making a grand total of 2,098 locations.

Mayo also asked how many of those had taken out the various insurance products created in conjunction with ATAS - information which Westbury said was a commercial matter better obtained directly from Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers.

Westbury said that of the \$1.6 million remaining from the initial grant to establish ATAS, \$985,000 will be used for staff costs and operations, with about \$500,000 available for consumer marketing.

MEANWHILE, Westbury also confirmed that some of the money spent so far had been used for the creation of a new TV commercial, promoting the benefits of booking through an ATAS accredited travel agent.

The advertisement, expected to be revealed to the industry for the first time at tomorrow night's gala National Travel Industry Awards, is part of collateral which will roll out during campaigns over the coming months.

Westbury revealed that as well as the \$500,000 currently earmarked, AFTA is planning to apply to the various state jurisdictions for a further \$4m in TCF reserves to promote the value of booking with an ATAS participant.

And a separate campaign, worth as much as \$3 million, will be staged by the state governments in Aug and Sep comprising mainstream radio, print and social media elements.



Window Seat

ACCOR brand Ibis has launched a funky online auction, in which ten people can bid to "live like a rockstar" with a VIP package to be at a star-studded opening party for the new Ibis Adelaide.

Five packages for two, inclusive of flights, with Tigerair no less, from SYD, BNE or MEL are included along with three nights at the new property, limousine transfers, all meals & a range of 'money can't buy experiences'.

These include the chance to attend recording sessions hosted by three acts signed to perform at the opening party.

Winners will also attend the VIP launch party for the hotel, to be hosted by local Nova radio presenter Dylan Lewis.

There is a feel-good factor to the contest also, with proceeds from the auction to be donated to Mission Australia - bidding closes on 25 Jul - **CLICK HERE**.

Wellcamp ramps up

FLIGHTS are expected to begin arriving into south-west Queensland's major new gateway, Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport, from Nov this year, the facility's gm Phil Gregory has said.

The privately funded facility is now in advanced discussions with all major Australian airlines and says announcements can be expected in "about a month".

BWW will be the IATA code for the new airport, which will offer a runway large enough to accept B747 and A380 services.

Less flights in May

NEW government data released today confirms a decrease in the number of domestic aircraft movements during May, with 2.2% less services than last year.

More than 4.8 million pax were carried on regular services in May - a slight increase of 0.2%.

Available seat kilometres rose 2.7%, outstripping pax traffic and resulting in a nearly 2 percentage point drop in passenger loads which fell to 71.5%.

Asiana upgauge SYD

STAR Alliance member carrier Asiana Airlines has announced it will resume daily operations between Seoul Incheon & Sydney commencing 15 Sep.

OZ scaled back the Sydney route in May to five weekly (**TD** 17 May) but says the latest adjustment is permanent, using three-class 299-seat Boeing 777 aircraft.



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SW Pac grows for SQ

PASSENGER numbers from the South-West Pacific region were the strongest performers for Singapore Airlines in Jun, official statistics from the carrier show.

The region, which includes Australia, posted a jump of 3.4% year-on-year, while the carrier overall posted a flat 0.9% climb in pax numbers across its network.

Global average load factors remained identical at 81.5% compared to Jun 2013.

FJ Honiara suspension

FIJI Airways has been forced by the Solomon Islands Govt to suspend its flights between Nadi & Honiara until further notice.

Pax booked on the service are being re-routed via Port Moresby, Port Vila & Brisbane - **CLICK HERE**.

Sydney Arts precinct

ARTS NSW has proposed to develop a new arts precinct at Walsh Bay on Sydney Harbour.

The precinct includes Wharf 4/5, Pier 2/3 and Sydney Theatre, located adjacent to Pier One Sydney Harbour - an Autograph Collection Hotel.

According to a proposal filed on the NSW Planning & Environment website, the concept will provide an integrated performing arts & cultural precinct "with an enhanced public domain".

The plan includes transforming Pier 2/3 to be the home of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Bell Shakespeare and Australian Theatre of Young People.

Other changes will see upgrades to the ground floor of Wharf 4/5 to "maximise new tourist and engagement opportunities."

Scenic Tours serves up France



SCENIC Tours celebrated its expanded 2015 French river cruise program (**TD** 31 Jan) with industry partners last night in Sydney, throwing a French inspired event at the Sofitel Wentworth.

The Australian cruise/tour firm has witnessed a "huge uptake" in passengers keen to experience French history, culture & scenery, and next year expects to host more than 10,000 travellers from across the globe to France.

In Paris alone, Scenic has reserved over 30,000 hotel rooms.

In 2015, Scenic Tours will feed the hunger for France by deploying an unprecedented four ships in the country, with 'Space-Ships' charting courses on the Saone & Rhone in the south, the Seine in the north and their new hub on the Garonne in Bordeaux.

Just days ago, Scenic's new custom-built ship for the French waterways, the 110m *Scenic Gem* was towed into place for the start of its debut season in France.

Scenic Tours' itineraries from Bordeaux encapsulate the city's local gourmet foods and delicacies, historic buildings & wines, and is renown as France's largest producer of wine, with 700 million bottles per vintage.

Last night's event featured a collection of Bordeaux-based wines showcased by Australian wine importer Tom Munro.

Munro spoke highly of Scenic's program development in France, particularly in Bordeaux, where

guests will visit smaller vineyards "not every visitor is going to see."

"Lots of parts of Bordeaux are off limits to tourists," he said.

The company's *Scenic Enrich* program includes a visits to Chateau Giscours in the Medoc region (near Bordeaux) where guests experience a private classical concert and wine-tasting.

Another exclusive *Scenic Enrich* offering in France visits the largest gothic palace in Europe, Palais-des-Papes in Avignon - where guests are treated to a private guided tour, a string quartet performance and enjoy dinner in the private chambers.

MEANWHILE, Atout France gm Patrick Benhamou told **TD** Aussie visitor numbers to France have soared around 10% year-on-year.

Pictured at the event from left are Aleisha Fittler, general manager product, Scenic Tours; Patrick Benhamou, regional manager, Atout France; Michelle Black, general manager sales & marketing, Scenic Tours; Brett Jardine, general manager CLIA Australasia & Liz Glover, national marketing manager, Scenic Tours.

New Bali spa villas

THE Chedi Club Tanah Gajah Ubud in Bali has introduced three new pool spa villas to its inventory to cater for pent up demand.

Each villa has a 3.5m x 7m pool in a private courtyard, as well as a spa treatment area.

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Louis Vuitton accessories

Friday 18th July 2014

RAAA fuel levy gripe

REGIONAL carriers in Australia are not subsidising foreign airlines on matters such as aviation safety despite claims to the contrary, the Board of Airline Representatives of Australia (BARA) has stated.

The retort from BARA comes in response to a statement earlier this month from the Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) that funds raised from fuel levies were being put toward CASA, who also oversee foreign carriers flying into Australia.

The RAAA is now calling for the Federal Govt to ensure funds raised from these levies were re-directed into domestic aviation.

BARA executive director Barry Abrams said he agreed in part with the RAAA's gripe and that all aviation companies should pay an equal amount in fees and levies.

"For international airlines in Australia, the vast majority of safety regulation-related costs are incurred in the home country of the airline by the country's own safety regulator," Abrams added.

"BARA understands international airline operations are not a significant burden on CASA's workload or funding."

Accor half-year solid

ASIA-PACIFIC was one of the strongest performing regions worldwide for Accor in the first half of 2014 despite a 3.7% drop in HotelServices revenues.

The division clocked up €147m for the first half against €156m for the same period last year.

Across the entire organisation, reported revenue for the first half totalled at €2.59b, down 1.8% year-on-year, while like-for-like revenues were up 2.8%.

Accor cited a decline in the Australian dollar against the Euro as a catalyst for reduced revenue and a negative currency impact.

New VS transatlantics

VIRGIN Atlantic will launch the first direct trans-Atlantic routes between Northern Ireland, Scotland and the US when it begins service from Belfast to Orlando & Glasgow to Las Vegas.

Both services will begin on a once-weekly schedule and will also be sold by Delta Air Lines as part of existing codeshare ties.

The BFS to MCO route will begin on 25 Jun 2015, with GLA to LAS commencing from 10 Sep.

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Cadel race support

THE Tourism & Transport Forum & Victoria Events Industry Council have welcomed plans for a new internationally recognised cycling race along the Great Ocean Road.

Named in honour of Australia's only Tour de France winner, the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race will be held on a course of over 200kms after the annual Santos Tour Down Under in South Australia, starting and finishing in Geelong on Sun 01 Feb.

TTF acting chief executive Trent Zimmerman said coverage from the course will showcase parts of Victoria around the world, while VEIC boss Dianne Smith said the race would lure thousands of interstate and int'l travellers.

Snow conditions

Travel Daily's

regular snow conditions update report provides info on the latest snow falls, depths and lifts in operation at major ski fields in Australia & New Zealand.

Here's the latest snow reports:

- Falls Creek - 165cm / 1 lift
- Perisher - 154.9cm / 32 lifts
- Thredbo - 154.9cm / 9 lifts
- Charlotte Pass - 154.9cm / 6 lifts
- Mt Hotham - 151cm / 13 lifts
- Mt Buller - 108cm / 19 lifts
- Coronet Peak - 35cm / 8 lifts
- The Remarkables - 40cm / 7 lifts
- Mt Hutt - 35cm / 4 lifts
- Cardrona - 25cm / 6 lifts



Aquis' indoor hotel oasis

ABOVE: The image gallery of the proposed Aquis integrated resort continues to unfurl, with the FNQ project yesterday revealing an artist's impression of the inside view of one of its eight hotels.

This latest graphic suggests one of the properties will be a

14-level indoor oasis, adorned with indigenous murals.

MEANWHILE, Aquis Great Barrier Reef Resort has signed a formal agreement with the Yirrganydji land owners of the site, pledging to protect and manage the Aboriginal culture heritage.

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The role will suit someone with strong sales skills demonstrated by proven sales success in the past. You must have the desire and energy to make this job your own. A fresh, dynamic approach to the role is required, along with travel industry experience. Experience in dealing with key Asian markets and ability to speak Mandarin is highly desirable but not essential.

Salary will be negotiable depending on experience. You will report to the Global Sales Manager located in Melbourne, with regular intrastate and interstate travel required.

Please forward your application via the following link:
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Friday 18th July 2014



Travel Specials

WELCOME to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday 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.

Classic car lovers staying at **Casa Angelina** on the Amalfi Coast can head out in a Vintage convertible for the day as part of a new 'La Dolce Vita' package on sale from the resort. Priced from EUR1,390 (AUD\$2,010), the package includes two nights in a Double room with a sea view, all taxes and a classic Vintage car rental. For details, see www.casangelina.com.

Raffles Hotels & Resorts in Cambodia is offering 25% off at its resorts in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap for stays until 31 Oct. The deal includes daily breakfast and a free room category upgrade, with extra perks and benefits available for longer stays. For more details, visit www.affles.com.

Luxury Fijian boutique property **Tides Reach Resort** is offering a special Stay 7 Pay 5 for bookings from 18 Aug to 20 Dec and from 10 Jan 2015 to 31 Mar. The five-star property is located on the island of Taveuni and offers four ultra-private accommodations each set on their own stretch of private beach. Email reservations@tidesreachresort.com to reserve.

Costly delays for QR

QATAR Airways ceo Akbar Al Baker has said he will aim to seek compensation from Airbus for a number of delays in the delivery of the carrier's A380 superjumbos.

Problems with various cabin aesthetics such as galley flooring and paint texture led the carrier to delay acceptance of the first three double-deckers presented by Airbus (*TD* Wed).

Al Baker said he would seek some sort of reimbursement but declined to state an amount.

Instagram workshops

TOURISM & Events Queensland will next week host a series of Instagram workshops for tourism operators in Queensland keen to get started on the social channel.

The Instagram 101 workshops will take place on the Sunshine Coast on 24 Jul, Mackay on 28 Jul and in the Whitsundays on 29 Jul.

Strong Tune growth

BUDGET accom brand Tune Hotels has opened its seventh property in Indonesia, with the latest location in Surabaya.

The brand's listed ownership firm, PT Red Planet Indonesia, says it plans to announce sites for as many as 20 further Tune brand hotels over the next two years.

Fox spreads to Korea

VILLAGE Roadshow Theme Parks & Twentieth Century Fox have signed a deal for a new theme park in South Korea.

Twentieth Century Fox World will form part of a larger 700-acre development entitled Ungdong Entertainment Complex, located in the Ungdong region of Busan.

No tentative date has been set for Fox World to open in Korea.

The debut Fox themed park in the world is tipped to open next year in Malaysia (*TD* 30 Jul).




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Cup a boon for Brazil

TOURISM officials in Brazil have confirmed the country welcomed a total of one million international visitors for the World Cup.

The final tally smashes the country's estimated 600,000 tally and dwarfs the 310,000 total visitor result from the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

According to the World Travel & Tourism Council, Brazil is expected to welcome 6.4 million inbound arrivals for the full year in 2014, which will continue to grow ahead of the 2016 Olympics.

Drive for Daniel 2015

PLANS are underway for the 2015 Drive for Daniel Fundraiser, with the event again to be largely supported and attended by the travel industry in Queensland.

The event to benefit the Daniel Morcombe Foundation will take place on 13 Mar 2015, again at Carbrook Golf Club in Brisbane.

Registrations are being managed by Danny Roche from Helloworld, with earlybird pricing available for sign-ups received by 15 Dec.

For more details on the fundraising event, [CLICK HERE](#).

WIN A TRIP TO MAURITIUS

In July, *TD* is giving readers the chance to win a holiday to Mauritius, courtesy of **Club Med and Air Mauritius**.

The prize includes return economy class fares to Mauritius with Air Mauritius, airport transfers and six nights accommodation at either Club Med Albion or La Pointe aux Canonnières, for two.

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Q14: What feature for adults only was recently add to Club Med Bali?

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AFTA on board at Industry Exhibition

AUSTRALIA'S inaugural Travel Industry Exhibition kicked off this morning in Sydney, with the AFTA annual general meeting (see **page 2**) also taking place at the start of the show.

Exhibitors from across the travel sector are showcasing their products to attendees, with the free industry event taking place today and tomorrow, in the lead-up to the National Travel Industry Awards.

TD is on location at the show, so come and see us on stand A02. More pics at facebook.com/traveldaily.



LEFT: Dubai Tourism has a major presence at the show.

Exhibition director Pascal Ibrahim is pictured with Julie King (left) and Veronica Rainbird of Dubai Tourism.

BELOW: Jaclyn Snell, Benjamin Tan and Kerry Gonsalves representing Jetstar.



BELOW:

Aaron Christian and Ryan Montgomery are manning the APT and Travelmarvel dual-stand.



LEFT: We couldn't agree more!
Samantha Harrison, Jessica Menezes and Birgit Weingartner, Switzerland Tourism.

RIGHT: Stephen Muscat & Rose Delos Santos from G'Day Philippines.

BELOW: Jamie Bunn, Nader Harmouche and Norhan Youssef from Etihad Airways.



ABOVE: AFTA board members at the agm this morning, which took place at the Royal Hall of Industries. From left: AFTA chairman Mike Thompson, Helloworld; Joanne Sully, American Express Business Travel; Jamie Pherous, Corporate Travel Management; Julie Primmer, Helloworld; David Smith, Flight Centre; Elizabeth Gaines, Helloworld; Christian Hunter, Travellers Choice; Jayson Westbury, AFTA ceo; and Andrew Macfarlane, Magellan Travel Group.

BELOW: AFTA's David Tooze, Belinda Herbert and Jo Tralaggan.



ABOVE: Looking positively scrumptious are Cheree Farrell and Kaylene Murfet from Albatross Travel.



LEFT: Tony Archbold and Andrew Loving from Holland America/Seabourn on the World's Leading Cruise Lines stand.



RIGHT: The big team from the various Travel Corporation brands showcasing their wares at the show.





CONGRATULATIONS!

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RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANT

PERTH (SOUTH) - SALARY PACKAGE - \$55K+ (OTE)

HOT off the press! We have a sensational new retail role located south of the river in Perth! This well established boutique office now requires an experienced travel consultant to join their growing team and service the repeat and referral leisure clients of the office. Move away from the brochure collectors and time wasters and start putting your skills to good use! You will be offered exciting hours, a high base salary and exclusive famils. If you have at least 2 years retail experience then we want to hear from you!