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Thursday 27th March 2014

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Dubai lifts local presence

DUBAI Tourism is set to significantly boost its operations in Australia with the recruitment of new staff to extend its team into key markets across Australia.

Julie King, ceo of Julie King & Associates which represents the Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing in Australasia, told *Travel Daily* the move is a recognition of increased interest in the destination, and “the significant potential to grow the Australian market over the next seven years and beyond”.

King said the first phase of growth would see State Sales Managers appointed in Western Australia and Victoria, with the roles providing coverage for Tasmania and South Australia too.

This will provide “on ground support, working more closely

with the travel trade to increase education of Destination Dubai,” King added.

“We recognise and are very thankful for the support and commitment the travel trade has provided to Dubai and the importance of their role in the delivery of the destination’s growth...we plan to ensure they have the right level of local support...to assist in taking this growth to the next level,” she said.

King flagged a major increase in Dubai promotional activities this year, with increased budgets now being put in place to heighten the emirate’s visibility to the consumer over the coming years, in addition to supporting the trade further.

Ads for the roles say they each require “an aspiring long-term thinker with a passion for Dubai”.

Ten pages of news!

Travel Daily has 10 pages of news and photos, including a front cover page for Rail Plus, coverage of the Travel Corporation Mega Famil and a full page from: ([click](#))

- AA Appointments jobs

Milan agent incentive

AGENTS are once again being reminded of Rail Plus’ incentive to win a trip for two to Milan in celebration of the new Italo rail fare range - click on today’s cover page for all the details.

afa
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EK expands Jordan

EMIRATES this morning announced it would begin operating a third daily flight to Jordan from 01 Aug, with the expansion of the Amman route due to strong demand, EK said.

The new daily EK905/906 flight will use B777 and A330 aircraft.

Mantra - business as usual

MANTRA Group today confirmed it will delay its planned Initial Public Offering of shares (TD 03 Mar) "due to current uncertain market conditions".

Earlier this week the company undertook a "bookbuild" with institutional investors after months of preparation, but the IPO will now not proceed.

CEO Bob East said that while investors had been "impressed by our business model and profitability," the current market makes it "extremely difficult for any IPOs to come to fruition".

Mantra will instead continue to operate under its current ownership structure, with backers including CVC and UBS who hold stakes in the firm formerly known as Stella Hospitality after the MFS

collapse some years ago.

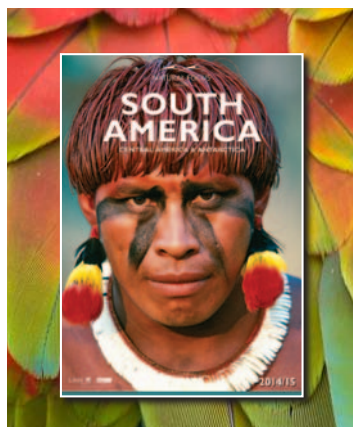
East said that the business continues to perform strongly, with the group to assess market conditions for a share float on an ongoing basis.

He said Mantra would continue on its growth trajectory, with 11 new Australian hotel acquisitions signed for FY14 plus more in Asia.

RCI Jamie Oliver link

CELEBRITY chef Jamie Oliver is taking his craft to the sea with Royal Caribbean International.

The cruise line confirmed Oliver will open *Jamie's Kitchen* outlets on Quantum-Class ships, *Quantum of the Seas* and *Anthem of the Seas* in Nov and next Apr.



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Qantas downgauges BNE/SIN

PREMIUM Economy class pax flying between Brisbane and Singapore with Qantas from 12 May and beyond are being provided the option to upgrade to Business Class for \$500 due to

planned aircraft changes.

The move is a consequence of the previously announced aircraft switch from the currently used three-class Boeing 747-400 to two-class Airbus A330s as Qantas commences the retirement of ageing jumbos (**TD 27 Feb**).

As Qantas' 747s feature a three class cabin, prebooked passengers in Premium Economy are being progressively rebooked to the Economy cabin of the A330 (which is only equipped with a Business and Economy cabin).

The \$500 one-way upgrade to Singapore is available for valid commercial tickets issued on or before 17 Mar, excluding QF frequent flyer tickets.

Qantas' supplementary services between 03 and 21 Jul are also not impacted by the change.

Affected Premium Economy pax on the Singapore-Brisbane route can also upgrade for SGD\$500.

CLICK HERE for more details.

Kurban for Calgary

AUSSIE country music superstar Keith "Mr Kidman" Urban has been announced as the headline act at this year's Calgary Stampede.

Urban will perform on 12 Jul at the Saddledome, with this year's Stampede taking place over ten days from 04-13 Jul.

For more information, see the Travel Alberta website at www.travelalberta.com.au.

Sea Cloud: too much river competition

SEA Cloud Cruises says a decision to cease operating its *River Cloud II* European river cruise ship next year is part of a strategy to concentrate on its unique strengths in luxury ocean yacht cruising.

Speaking to **Travel Daily** in Sydney yesterday, the cruise line's vp of int'l sales & marketing Anja Ringel said the proliferation of European river cruise ship operators and vessels means the "competition is just too big".

Operating a single ship meant it was difficult to access economies of scale, with the company instead opting to sell the ship to US group Grand Circle Cruise Lines (**TD Cruise Update** Tue) for voyages from 2015.

Instead, Sea Cloud will focus on the *Sea Cloud* and *Sea Cloud II* ocean vessels which Ringel said are the only five star ships "still sailed by hand".

Sea Cloud is a stunning historic yacht built in 1931 as a private vessel for a wealthy US family, while the slightly bigger *Sea Cloud II* combines the same sailing ethos with modern technology.

A preview brochure for next year's season was released yesterday, with itineraries in the West Indies and Mediterranean on offer and earlybird pricing valid for bookings until 30 Nov.

More details on 1300 583 572; see today's **TD Cruise Update** for further Sea Cloud updates.

Window Seat

NO EXPENSE was spared by the LA Dodgers Major League Baseball team during their recent Opening Series matches in terms of ensuring its players were in peak conditioning both before, during and after games.

Biologically correct LED lights were fitted on the Qantas aircraft used to fly here, hotel rooms, training centre & dugout in order to combat jet lag, reset circadian rhythms, maximise focus and ensure sufficient rest was achieved at night.

The 'Good Night' and 'Awake & Alert' lights omit contrasting levels of blue light to suppress melatonin production and increase energy levels.

Players also wore watches to gather data about sleep patterns.

The technology was originally developed by NASA to offset circadian rhythm disruptions experienced by astronauts.

Wolgan MICE recruit

EMIRATES Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa has named former Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia business events sales executive Karla Yum as MICE sales manager.

Based in Sydney, Yum is tasked with driving business from the meeting, incentive, conference, event and wedding sectors for the Blue Mountains property.

More appointments on **page 7**.



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Best Travel Agency Manager – Corporate (Sean Simmons)

To everyone who has travelled with us on our journey, we offer a heartfelt thank you. Please vote now to help us fly even higher!

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Travel Daily on location in California, USA

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of The Travel Corporation, which overnight kicked off its 2014 American Explorer Mega Famil.

TRAVEL agents from across Australia have gathered in Los Angeles for the commencement of the Travel Corporation's annual Mega Famil, which this year explores the US West Coast.

After a comfy flight with Virgin Australia (see page nine), the group settled in at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Anaheim Resort, Sheraton Park Hotel Anaheim and Hilton Anaheim for a Disney reception courtesy of Creative Holidays.

Tomorrow we head off in three groups, one for each of Contiki, Trafalgar and Insight Vacations.

Anzac Sites bulletin

DFAT travel advisory service Smarttraveller has released a special Anzac Day bulletin offering important information for Turkey, France & Belgium relating to all coming Anzac commemorations.

The bulletin contains details on what to expect and how best to prepare for dawn services at the Gallipoli Peninsula and Villers-Bretonneux sites.

It also provides information for Zonnebeke, Ieper/Ypres and Comines-Warneton sites in Belgium and Bullecourt in France.

The Bulletin advises Turkey-bound travellers to exercise a high degree of caution due to the high threat of terrorist attack.

Travellers heading to the three countries are being urged to register travel plans and contact details with DFAT, as well as take out adequate travel insurance.

The page will progressively be updated as more info becomes available, DFAT said - **CLICK HERE.**

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HWT Lane Cove celebrations



HARVEY World Travel Lane Cove in NSW celebrated 18 years in the retail travel game earlier this week with 50 of the company's "bestie" suppliers.

Owner/manager Debbi Ashes hosted the group to a night of celebration at Infuzions Restaurant in Cammeray.

Ashes puts HWT Lane Cove's winning formula down to great relationships developed and consistent support provided.

"Without our suppliers, our business would not have been so

continually successful," she said.

Ashes is pictured with office staff including senior consultants Roslyn Burgess and Sophie Brooks & new recruit Nessie Allen, along with the attending suppliers.

Qld tourism institute

QUEENSLAND Tourism & Major Events Minister Jann Stuckey has this morning officially launched the Griffith Institute for Tourism (dubbed GIFT), at Griffith University on the Gold Coast.

EDINBURGH SCOTLAND

Flights commencing 28th May 2014

Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland, is a city steeped in history and its stunning rich architectural heritage and is recognised as a World Heritage Site, also designated as the first UNESCO "World City of Literature". Edinburgh is known as a world leading festival city as year round festivals bring energy to this city.

Log on and register to qatarairways.com/tradepartners for more information.

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Emirates defends in-flight phone calls

PASSENGERS flying on Emirates have made more than 1 million in-flight mobile phone calls since the carrier started offering voice connectivity in the skies six years ago, the Gulf carrier has stated.

More than 16 million sms messages have also been sent in-flight from EK aircraft since 2008.

Responding to the US Dept of Transportation's request for comments on planned changes in the US to permit PED (personal electronic device) calls, Emirates said the response from pax for the service "has been overwhelmingly positive."

EK said only two negative complaints have been registered, which included "hundreds" of disappointed pax who were unable to access the mobile voice connectivity service due to the type of aircraft they were aboard.

Travel Daily

First with the news

Thursday 27th Mar 2014

SYD "best" airport

SYDNEY Airport has been ranked by passengers as the Best facility in Australia at the Skytrax 2014 World Airport Awards.

Announced overnight, Sydney was followed by Brisbane, Melbourne, the Gold Coast, Adelaide and then Perth, locally.

However, leading the Australia/Pacific region as a whole was Auckland International Airport.

On the global stage, Singapore Changi Airport took top honours.

Also in the Top 10 'World's Best Airport' ranking for 2014 was Seoul Incheon, Munich, Hong Kong, Amsterdam Schiphol, Tokyo Haneda, Beijing Capital, Zurich, Vancouver & London Heathrow.

Ritz-Carlton Perth unveiled



WESTERN Australia Premier Colin Barnett yesterday confirmed the state government has chosen Asia's Far East Consortium as the preferred proponent to develop the Ritz-Carlton in Perth.

The \$350 million two-tower project at the Perth Waterfront (**above**) will see the return of the Ritz-Carlton brand to Australia after a 15-year hiatus.

Slated to open in 2018, the Ritz-Carlton Perth will consist of a 204-room hotel and a 420 one-, two- and three-bedroom residential tower adjacent.

"This 5-star luxury hotel will create a signature address at Elizabeth Quay and will have a substantial positive effect on tourism in Perth and Western Australia," Barnett said.

Far East Consortium chairman

Tan Sri David Chiu said the firm was "privileged" to have been selected to build the project that "will bring the river to the city."

"I expect it to quickly become an iconic part of Western Australia's tourism landscape," he is quoted saying to *Fairfax*.

The development also includes a range of high-end and family oriented F&B outlets.

In Dec, the WA Govt revealed a 350-room Westin Hotel will be built in Perth's CBD, earmarked to open in 2017 (**TD** 24 Dec).

Bunnik trade portal

A BRAND new agent website has been rolled out to the trade today by Bunnik Tours featuring a host of fresh dedicated agents tools and resources.

The bunniktours.com.au/agents portal provides information on promos & incentives, upcoming webinars, training tools and a function to build customised flyers with Bunnik logos.

To access the site, use 'agent' as the username and 1300 125 007 for the password.

QT, MCA partnership

QT SYDNEY has been appointed as official partner of the Australian Museum of Contemporary Art.

The deal will see QT guests gain access to private tours & viewings of upcoming exhibitions at The Rocks based museum.

Greek ferries uptick

EXCITE Holidays says it has witnessed "huge" demand from agents for Greek Island ferry tickets since the commencement of the selling season this month.

CEO George Papaioannou said this year's booking trend showed agents were making reservations earlier than in 2013.

He reiterated that the benefits for booking with Excite prior to arrival "eliminates the stress and hassle usually involved in trying to acquire ferry tickets when in Greece."

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Sydney agents party with stars



PRESIDING over an area of only 1.9 square miles, West Hollywood packs a mighty punch in terms of sights to see and things to do.

A delegation representing Visit West Hollywood last night invited a select group of Sydney travel agents, wholesale representatives and industry partners to a funky soiree at the equally funky QT Sydney Hotel to say thanks for the ongoing support and interest.

The message of the evening was also to continue to showcase West Hollywood as an easily walkable destination, with plenty of famous attractions and a very flat, easy to navigate terrain.

Visit West Hollywood executive vp sales and marketing Bill Hynes gave a hint to those looking for the famous Pink's Hot Dogs stand in Los Angeles to try Carneys in West Hollywood instead, who self promote as "Probably the best hot dogs & hamburgers in town."

Hynes is **pictured** third from right with the visiting delegation, which comprised Andy Keown, Visit West Hollywood; Jaimie Du Bois, Visit West Hollywood; Shane Barr, The Appointment Group; Lisa Crampton, Sunset Marquee; Alan Johnson, Ramada Plaza West Hollywood and Emma Jenkins from The Mondrian.



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German strike impact

GROUND staff, maintenance workers and baggage handlers at nearly all airports in Germany have carried out a planned strike, leading to the axing of around 600 flights alone by Lufthansa and its Germanwings subsidiary.

Industrial action was led by the Verdi trade union, campaigning for a 6.7% wage increase.

Strikes disrupted operations at Cologne-Bonn, Dusseldorf, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Hanover, Munich and Frankfurt airports.

Other carriers affected included airberlin, TUIFly and Condor.

It follows strikes at Frankfurt Airport last month (**TD** 24 Feb).

Shangri-La world 1st

HONG Kong-based hotelier Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts says it will become the first global hotel brand to do away with print newspapers in favour of digital formats for guests.

Beginning 29 Mar, guests at Shangri-La, Traders and Kerry branded hotels will be provided complimentary online access to PressReader.com using their own personal laptop, tablet or smartphone.

PressReader.com has a range of over 2,000 local, regional and international publication from 100 countries in 60 languages.

In addition, the service will be made available in hotel cars so guests can get online while on the move in their destination.

Skal Coast expansion

TRAVEL industry networking group Skal International has officially launched a new branch in the Southern Gold Coast.

The club took possession of its charter this week and becomes the first new Australian Skal Int'l club to open in eight years.

Rosie's Corner

Today's update is brought to you by Rosie Holidays

Welcome to Rosie's Corner! In this edition, we take you to the Mamanucas.

The Mamanucas are a chain of islands dotted just off the coast of mainland Fiji near Nadi and Denarau. The islands sit within a large lagoon making it a sought after location amongst travellers seeking near-perfect white sand beaches and turquoise waters. Getting out to the islands is made simple with South Sea Cruises catamarans operating daily services from Denarau Marina to the islands. There are loads of resorts to choose from, the Mamanuca Islands can cater to every type of visitor including families, honeymooners and even thrill seekers.

For families, Castaway Island (4.5 star) is the most popular of them all. This picturesque resort offers 174 acres of lush tropical gardens, crystal clear waters and beautiful beaches. Accommodation options vary from Garden, Oceanview and Beachfront Bures, all with traditional Fijian furnishings. The free kids club, newly built kids pool, endless water activities and excellent dining options are what make this resort a top pick with guests returning year after year.

Love is in the air at the 4.5 star Tokoriki Island Resort. Located on the northern most island in the Mamanuca group, the resort is accessible by a 75 minute catamaran launch. Designed just for adults the 42 luxury bures and villas all face the ocean and are set amongst lush tropical gardens making this the ideal location for a romantic honeymoon. Newlyweds receive a bottle of French wine and gift basket on arrival when staying 3 nights on Tokoriki Island.

For more information on the Mamanucas or to make a booking, call Rosie Holidays on 1300 133 524.

▶ [CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)

*Flights to Japan not included. Conditions apply.



DiscoverAmerica.com consumer drive

A **GUIDE** promoting the United States has been distributed as a supplement in *Fairfax* newspapers today - the latest marketing push by DiscoverAmerica.com.

Entitled *Essentially America*, the debut Australian Edition promotes The South, 'Shop & Play' holidays & Route 66 and features ads for Alabama, Texas, Massachusetts, Montana, North Dakota, Georgia and Louisiana.

Among the travel advertisers are STA Travel & World Expeditions.

It also directs users to the site, www.essentiallyamerica.com.au and comes in a free iPad version.

AAT Kings SA touring

AUSTRALIAN day tour, short break and guided holiday firm AAT Kings has launched an expanded range of day touring options in Adelaide in partnership with the SeaLink Travel Group.

The tie-up will see AAT Kings boost its range of self-operated products from city tours to add new local excursions to Kangaroo Island, Barossa Valley and more.

SeaLink Travel Group ceo Jeff Ellison says the introduction of AAT Kings product in the state will improve the SA tourism industry.

"Their existing distribution channels and the fact that they have national day touring products, will give Adelaide day touring excellent national and international exposure," he said.

AAT Kings' expansion to SA is part of the rebranding of its Day Tours business to 'Sightseeing', which operates in Sydney and Melbourne alongside Day Tours.

Skyscanner set for Oz office

TRAVEL meta-search website Skyscanner is continuing to see a strong performance in the Australian market, with plans in train to phase in a local operation.

The presence will initially be staffed as

a virtual remote operation in Melbourne by regional marketing manager Dave Boyte, who is **pictured** above right with APAC director of operations, Paul Whiteway.

The pair were in Sydney yesterday to update the industry on developments at Skyscanner, which aims to attract internet traffic by offering easy comparisons of flight options, and makes money from advertising hosted on the site.

Last year the company doubled its revenue, and now attracts 25 million unique monthly visitors across its global network of sites.

Skyscanner was founded in the UK and its Singapore-based regional office now has 60 staff.



Fares are obtained from GDS, via APIs and also by permission-based screen scraping, with the company also planning to launch hotel and car rental apps here.

WIN A STAY AT THE REGENT BALI

Terms and Conditions



This week, *Travel Daily* is giving away three nights accommodation for two at the **Regent Bali**.

Situated on the south east coast of Bali where the spectacular coral reef is complimented by picture-postcard swaying palms, white sandy beaches and tempting turquoise waters, Regent Bali invites you to explore its four-acre estate of stunning tropical gardens and private beach.

For your chance to win, answer correctly four questions featured in *TD* from Monday to Thursday this week, plus answer the final question featured on Friday.

Email all your answers by COB on Fri 28th Mar to: bali@traveldaily.com.au.

What is the name of the Beach Club at Regent Bali?

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.

Former News Limited ceo **John Hartigan** has been appointed as the new Chair of **Destination New South Wales**. He replaces John Conde.

Grainne Kearns was this week confirmed as the Group Chief Information Officer for **Jetstar**, having been in the role since late last year.

Tourism Malaysia Australia has announced the appointment of **Moti Uttam** as Marketing Manager for Tourism Malaysia Perth.

Wendy Wu Tours has named **James Hewlett** as the commercial manager for its new **Singapore Airlines Holidays** operation, having taken over the business effective from 01 Apr. Hewlett's industry career includes more than a decade in the UK travel industry including roles with Hurtigruten and escorted tour operator Titan Travel.

Tourism New Zealand veteran of 19 years **Catherine Bates** has resigned from her position of general manager of PR and Major Events, joining the World Cup Office at Sport New Zealand.

Peter Power has taken the role of General Manager, Australia and New Zealand for representation firm **Aviareps**. He replaces Ian Robinson who recently moved to Philippine Airlines.

World Expeditions adds Canada brand

ADVENTURE travel firm World Expeditions has launched a new division called Great Canadian Trails, which will present its new range of Canadian active holidays.

Based in the company's Ottawa office, Great Canadian Trails offers a selection of both guided and supported self-guided hiking and cycling adventures, including accommodation, luggage transfers, bike rentals, maps and route notes.

More info on 1300 720 000.

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Hotel heavyweights line up



THE who's who of the Australian accommodation sector gathered in Sydney yesterday for the No Vacancy conference, which examined a range of hot topics, trends, issues and opportunities for the hotel industry.

Speakers included Toga Far East Hotels ceo Rachel Argaman, Nicholas Chu from HotelClub and Tune Hotels ceo Mark Lankester, with the conference also including some fascinating case studies such as the inside story on last year's battle by the Australian backpacker industry with OTA HostelWorld.

Baillie Lodges founder James

Baillie appeared on a Luxury Lodges panel with Spicers Retreats md David Assef and Philippa Harrison from Hamilton Island, while Star Ratings Australia gm Damien Hanger gave an update on the new operation.

The panelists from the first session are **pictured** above, from left: Dean Dransfield, Dransfield Hotels; Toga Far East Hotels ceo Rachel Argaman; Kenneth Rogers, regional gm Australia & Indonesia The Ascott Ltd; Rob Anderson, Best Western Australia ceo; and Martin Kelly from conference organiser TravelTrends - more pics at facebook.com/traveldaily.



Business Development Manager (VIC)

Excite Holidays is a leading online wholesale travel company, servicing travel agents in Australia and New Zealand. We provide the most advanced agent booking system that offers a vast array of travel products with over 250,000 properties worldwide.

Due to strong demand in VIC, we have an exciting opportunity for a **Business Development Manager, VIC** to join our team.

We are looking for someone who can build strong client relationships, proactively develop new business and thrives on the 'thrill of the chase'.

Please forward your CV and salary expectations to careers@exciteholidays.com.

JAL, BA, AY JV launch

JAPAN Airlines has announced its planned joint business venture with oneworld partners British Airways & Finnair on flights between Europe and Japan (**TD 02 Jul**) will commence 01 Apr.

The partnership will see the carriers share revenue and cooperate on scheduling & pricing, delivering more flexible routing options for customers. "The agreement also strengthens the oneworld alliance and enables it to compete more effectively around the world with other global alliances," Japan Airlines said yesterday.

Territory business events booming

A "**BUMPER** year" of business events will plough \$52 million into the Northern Territory's economy in 2014, according to NT Minister for Tourism Matt Conlan.

More than 30 national conferences have been secured so far this year - "a fantastic achievement [that] will greatly benefit our tourism industry.

"It shows the Territory is punching above its weight when it comes to attracting business conferences," Conlan added.

Emirates on Twitter

EMIRATES has activated its '@emirates' Twitter handle for the first time, yesterday tweeting "We're thrilled to be here with you" to its 36,000 followers.

@emirates will be used to share Emirates news, information, alerts and relevant content with the Twitter community.

'@emiratessupport' will also be used to provide timely & relevant assistance to customers looking for assistance thru the channel.

The latest social media push comes as EK's Facebook profile tops more than 2.7 million 'likes.'

Nanuku industry rate

THE luxurious Nanuku Resort & Spa in Fiji has released a three night travel industry rate for two people priced at \$1,765 staying in a Vunikau Suite.

It's available over select travel periods between now and 19 Dec, on sale until 31 May.

Booking requests are subject to availability & must be sent to sales & marketing mgr Paul Cutler.

ROUND THE WORLD

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Economy from **\$1425***

Business from **\$6198***



Valid for sales until **30 April 2014**.

* Fares exclude taxes and fuel surcharges. Fares combine specials via Asia and year round fares via USA based on 1/2 RT.

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FINNAIR



FLY DIRECT TO FIJI'S CAPITAL

SUVA



Sydney to Suva, Mondays and Fridays from 2 May 2014

RELAX

ONE WAY

RETURN

Suva

FROM **\$942***

FROM **\$1957***

Business class fares from Sydney inclusive of taxes and surcharges

FOR DETAILS VISIT FIJIAIRWAYS.COM

Off to the US with The Travel Corporation!

THERE was lots of excitement at Los Angeles International Airport as waves of Aussie travel agents landed in the USA for Travel Corporation's 2014 "American Explorer" Mega Famil.

This year the trip will take participants on three separate itineraries - one for Trafalgar, one for Insight Vacations and one for Contiki - before gathering for a gala finale in Las Vegas courtesy of Creative Holidays.

These pics were taken en route to the opening gala at Disneyland California - more from the mega famil in tomorrow's issue of *Travel Daily*.

There are also lots of pictures from the trip on the *TD* Facebook page at facebook.com/traveldaily.



ABOVE: Some of the agents at LAX after landing from their Virgin Australia flights.



ABOVE: Sarah Loader from Flight Centre Kalamunda shows off her special famil pack before departing.



ABOVE: Joanne Rothwell from Pendle Hill Travel checks in for the flight in Sydney with Sandra Mijatovic of Flight Centre Merrylands.

BELOW: Some of the lucky WA travel agent participants joined Amy Harrison from Contiki and Ashley Cooper of Virgin Australia for their flight to Sydney and then on to Los Angeles.



RIGHT: Who'd have thought that some of the group would end up here? Nicole Laurie and Cassan Burns from Virgin Australia gave Jessica Lillis from Insight Vacations and Lisa Heffernan of Trafalgar a taste of business class in the VA 777 on-board bar.



RIGHT: Ashley Jurd of Flight Centre Camden; Kerri Schultz of Flight Centre Wagga; and Meghann Clarence of Escape Travel Liverpool show off their VA boarding passes.



Another award for eCruising



AUSTRALIAN online cruise company ecruising.travel has added another trophy to the crowded cabinet in the pool room, after this week being announced as a top producer for the luxury Raffles Dubai hotel.

It's one of the most prestigious properties in the Middle East, and the Raffles Dubai vice president of brand strategy, Diana Banks and director of sales and marketing, Al Sbihi, recently visited Sydney to make the presentation to [ecruising](http://ecruising.travel) chairman and founder Brett Dudley (pictured above).

Dudley said the gong

Luxury name change

COOK Islands property Rumours Luxury Villas & Spa Rarotonga has renamed its Ultimate Villa room category as the Platinum Villa, the change effective immediately.

The property's local rep World Resorts of Distinction has said the change was made to better reflect the services and facilities offered by the Muri Lagoon resort.

BA LAX A380 delay

BRITISH Airways will postpone the introduction of its second daily Los Angeles A380 service to 19 May rather than the previously flagged launch date of 07 May.

was evidence of the major contribution that his company had made to the popularity of combining cruise voyages with top quality land arrangements.

"Ecrusing has reached the stage in its growth where it has a large band of discerning repeat travellers who make it quite clear to us that they expect the very highest of hotel standards and land activities as part of their land/cruise itineraries," he said.

LGW runway pledge

LONDON Gatwick officials have again put forth their case for a second runway to ease congestion in London airspace, saying they would be able to start building before the next parliament ends.

Bosses at LGW say the economic advantages of a second strip at Gatwick would outweigh that of a third at Heathrow, with more connections and a significantly reduced environmental impact.

A campaign entitled "Gatwick Obviously" has been launched backed by research supporting the proposal to be put forward to the UK Airports Commission.

Among the statistics put forth is that travellers will be able to connect to 27 more destinations than a third London Heathrow strip could offer, as well as provide faster service.

oOh! what a feeling

OUTDOOR advertising specialist oOh! Media today announced a new joint partnership with Qantas to deliver advertising and marketing solutions in domestic Qantas Clubs and Qantas Business Lounges across Australia.

From next month oOh! will offer a range of new promotional opportunities within the clubs, with marketers able to implement such activities as tasting and pop-up bars and lounges, car promotional zones in lounge entrances, in-lounge product placement, wi-fi sponsorship and window decals.

Travel Daily
First with the news

Thursday 27th Mar 2014

SN adds bmi c'share

BRUSSELS Airlines has launched a new codeshare with bmi regional which will see the SN code added to bmi regional's flights between Newcastle in the UK and Brussels in Belgium.

It's the first codeshare agreement for bmi regional since it became an independent carrier almost two years ago after being offloaded by Lufthansa.

WIN A MAGICAL WINTER ESCAPE TO NEW ZEALAND 100% PURE NEW ZEALAND



Throughout March, **Travel Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a five night holiday to Queenstown for two valued at over \$3,500, courtesy of **Tourism New Zealand** and **Air New Zealand**.

The prize includes two return economy class airfares from capital cities in Australia to Queenstown with Air New Zealand, five nights accommodation at Millennium Queenstown, a 3-day ski pass and rental from NZ SKI and Kawarau Bridge Tandem bungy tickets from AJ Hackett.

Every day this month **Travel Daily** will ask a different NZ-related question. The subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this magical holiday.

Q.19: What days of the week does Air New Zealand operate non-stop flights from Sydney to Rotorua?

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

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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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SYDNEY- EXECUTIVE SALARY PACKAGE**

Are you a technical specialist with a proven background in analyzing needs and offering professional advice regarding product life cycle? You will have proven leadership skills, show initiative and the ability to work in a global team environment. Travel industry experience essential along with managing multiple stakeholders, including third party partners. The rewards are huge, including international travel benefits and incentives.

THE PEAK OF YOUR CAREER

**CORPORATE OPERATIONS MANAGER x2
SYDNEY- EXECUTIVE SALARY PACKAGES**

Reach for the top spot when you join one of these Sydney based travel operations. Your role incorporates senior responsibilities such as staffing, recruitment, training & development and management of in house procedures. Your level of travel knowledge and operations will be superior. You will also be a team player with strong leadership skills and the ability to motivate. Unique opportunity's that won't be around for long!

**A NEW STYLE OF ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT
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If you have the passion for sales and love building new Relationships your talents will be rewarded working with this dynamic independent travel company. This role has a small amount of account management built into the role but a hunter is ideally what we are looking for. You will be rewarded with a flexible work environment and a great salary and bonus structure. Call for a confidential chat today.

COACH FOR SUCCESS

**WHOLESALE TEAM LEADER
SYDNEY-SALARY PACKAGE \$75K ++**

Are you tired of working within a hostile team environment? Move your career to the next level and see you career go further. Coming on board as the Team Leader you will be driven, motivated and have a maturity to be able to handle this role running the operational requirements of the Inventory team. Strong inventory experience is essential for this role along with previous supervisory knowledge

**FIND YOUR POT OF GOLD
INDUSTRY SALES EXEC x4
SYD & MEL- TOP SALARY PLUS CAR**

Choice is a wonderful thing, and currently on offer for experienced sales execs who have worked on the road. You understand your objective of driving increased sales through relationships and reliability and have runs on the board. We have four roles available now with very successful travel organizations that provide vital products to the travel industry. Great package plus extras on offer, ring to find out more today.

WOW, WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY

**TEAM LEADER / MANAGER
PERTH - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$85k**

Use your strong management skills when you join this forward thinking organization today. Working as a hands-on manager you will be required to handle a small portfolio of business and drive the team to perform at their peak ensuring customer satisfaction is achieved gaining solid client retention. With your background in corporate travel and management you will know how to build a successful team environment

BEHIND THE SCENES

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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.

SENIOR FARES GURU

**FIRST CLASS TICKETS - SENIOR FARES SPECIALIST
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Are you a Senior Fares Specialist striving to work for one of the biggest names in the business? This global travel organisation is now one of the most successful companies within the Australian market and has a unique opportunity within fares and consolidation. You will be resolving escalated fares issues, liaising with suppliers, implementing fare systems along with identifying areas for enhancements. Fare loading & ATPCO experience essential.

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