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Travel Daily

First with the news

Friday 7th November 2014

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on location in **Queenstown, NZ**

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from the 2014 Qantas Holidays / Viva! Holidays Global Achievers rewards trip.

DOZENS of top-selling agents from Australia and New Zealand are in the adventure capital of NZ this week for the annual QH and VH Global Achievers trip.

Tourism New Zealand, Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia are all proud sponsors of the action-packed weekend of fun & games.

Many of the trip's participants arrived in Queenstown earlier this week and have been busying themselves with the vast array of pulse-racing and more serene activities and attractions in town.

After a welcome soiree tonight, attendees will spend tomorrow dispersed among Queenstown attractions including the Dart River Funyaks, white water rafting, ziplining and many more.

The weekend culminates with Sat evening's black-tie gala at the expansive Soho Estate.

More coverage in *TD* next week.

Tassie crosses reform line

FOR the first time in decades Australia now has uniform legislation governing the travel industry, after the Tasmanian parliament joined the rest of the nation in repealing its previous travel agent licensing laws.

The landmark move happened on Tue when the island state's Travel Agent Repeal Bill 2014 was passed with bipartisan support.

AFTA said the repeal removes the outdated licensing program which added significant business costs to Tasmanian based travel distributors, with ceo Jayson Westbury saying "this is a milestone worth celebrating.

"It concludes a very long journey, but finally the Australian travel industry is free from regulatory burden and opens the way for ATAS - an industry led endorsement scheme, based upon professional standards, trustworthiness and experience".

Today's issue of *TD*
Travel Daily today has nine pages of news and photos, plus a full page from: **(click)**:

- AA Appointments jobs

Westbury said Tasmania is now aligned with the rest of Australia, removing confusion and allowing new travel related business practices to be fully rolled out.

"Travel agents are now free to make commercial decisions which will make them more competitive in today's market place," he said.

There are now over 2,300 ATAS accredited locations in Australia, and to date 27 Tassie agencies are already part of the scheme.

Concierge joins GlobalStar group

CONCIERGE Business Travel has become a member of GlobalStar Travel Management, a worldwide network of more than 85 TMCs in over 75 countries.

Concierge ceo David Greenland said the company's local clients had increasingly been asking for a managed travel program in other countries where they operate.

The move expands GlobalStar's local network which also includes Helloworld offshoot QBT, where Greenland was head of marketing and product until earlier this year.

WTF off the market

SHARES in Wotif.com have been officially suspended from quotation on the Australian Stock Exchange.

The move follows a hearing yesterday in which the Supreme Court of Queensland approved the Scheme of Arrangement under which Expedia Australia Investments Pty Ltd will acquire all of the issued share capital in Wotif Group Limited.

A special dividend to shareholders will be paid next Mon 10 Nov, and the transfer of the shares to Expedia will formally take place on Fri 14 Nov.

Emirates triple daily to New York JFK

EMIRATES is set to significantly expand its Dubai-New York capacity, with the addition of a third daily A380 service between Dubai and JFK.

The new service, which departs Dubai at 2.50pm and arrives into New York at 8.35pm, is effective 08 Mar 2015, with the additional frequency operating under flight numbers EK207/208 and now open for reservations.



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VH to Calypsonet

ADELAIDE-BASED wholesaler Venture Holidays has announced it has commenced the migration to Calypso - "an industry standard online platform".

The switch is expected to be completed by early next year, at which time VH will roll out its complete and enhanced 2015/16 product range on Calypsonet.

For agents, the advantage of the move means air and land will be bookable online 24/7.

The latest version of Calypsonet enables Venture Holidays to provide consultants improved product information, new documentation and a convenient payment portal, the firm said.

MD Robert Mackay reaffirmed Venture Holidays "will continue being a B2B wholesale company".

Venture has already released its Africa & Madagascar and Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar 2015/16 programs.

SIA H1 profits dive

SINGAPORE Airlines Group has reported a 55% year-on-year slump in net profit during the first half of its 2014/15 financial year, sliding SGD\$156m to SGD\$126m.

The company cited a heavy loss from Tiger Airways (SGD\$129m), which included material changes relating to the sublease of surplus aircraft and the sale of Tigerair Australia to Virgin Australia.

SQ's passenger traffic increased marginally (by 0.1%) as capacity dipped 0.2%, with passenger load factors rising slightly (0.2%) to 80%.

Industry job portal launch

LAST night saw the official unveiling of the much anticipated JITO (Jobs In Travel Online), a new travel, tourism and hospitality focused online community set to revolutionise how industry staff connect with employers.

It is the brainchild of former TMS Asia Pacific ceo Helene Taylor, who said she came up with the idea to help address the chronic skill shortages in the industry.

Speaking at the Executive Networking Night in Sydney (see p4) Taylor said employers were frustrated at other online job boards which were not industry specific, bringing in scores of irrelevant applicants.

Similarly social networking tools such as LinkedIn, while having an incredible reach, also are not industry specific.

JITO, which soft launched a week or so ago and is focused only on travel, tourism and hospitality, already has several hundred jobs loaded from a number of key industry employers, with positions able to be loaded at no charge during an introductory period which expires on 31 Dec.

QF/USA fam winners

QANTAS has announced the 42 winners of the Brand USA Incentive Mega Famil which is showcase Colorado, Washington DC, New York City, Tennessee, Chicago and Dallas.

CLICK HERE for the full list.

Industry staff can join the community at no charge, and as well as offering relevant opportunities JITO has news and networking facilities to keep up with the latest information.

"The most important part of any company is its people, and our goal at JITO is to help you be connected to that talent.

"I am passionate about building the capability of our travel, tourism and hospitality industry and I truly believe that JITO will be a key way of doing that," Taylor enthused.

The **Travel Daily** group is partnering with JITO, with **TD** publisher Bruce Piper saying the responsive site provides an ideal way for the industry to connect.

Sectors covered include jobs in retail, wholesale, TMC/corporate, online, GDS, airline, hotel and hospitality, cruise, rail, MICE, tourism and more.

See www.jito.co.

Oman stopover visa

OMAN is in the final phases of developing a 72-hour stopover visa for passengers transiting in the Sultanate, an official for the Ministry of Tourism has said.

Undersecretary Maitha Al Mahrouqi this week said the organisation has been working in partnership with Oman Air, hotels, tour operators and the immigration authority to establish the initiative, aimed at luring more tourists to Oman.

Sultanate of Oman Tourism manager Australia/New Zealand Mona Tannous told **TD** that once launched, and as Oman Air continues to expand in the Asia Pacific region, the 72-hour visa will enable visitors with onward connections to Europe a chance to experience a taste of Oman.

Tannous said that although the stopover visa only provides a limited time to see the Sultanate, "in our experience this leads to extended itineraries for second and onward visits".



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Look inside...

Indonesia, US top two for Aussies

NEW Zealand was in third place in terms of short term resident departures from Australia during Sep, falling behind Indonesia and the USA in the first two spots.

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released yesterday showed Indonesia continuing its popularity surge, with numbers up 17.7% over the last 12 months.

About 110,000 Australians travelled to Indonesia during the month - just ahead of the USA at 104,500 and then NZ with 96,600.

The top three were significantly ahead of the pack, with the UK in fourth place at 59,100 travellers.

Thailand, in fifth spot saw just over 50,000 Aussie visitors, down a hefty 16.1% year-on-year reflecting the impact of the recent unrest there.

China was sixth with 45,300 visitors, down 3.6% and Singapore was sixth, up 1.6% to 34,500.

Interestingly the figures revealed that almost as many

Australians travelled to Italy during Sep as went to Fiji - despite their geographic disparity.

Fiji was in eighth spot with 31,800 Australian arrivals (down 4.5% year-on-year) while Italy was just behind at 31,600 - a growth of 8.3% versus Sep 2013.

Malaysia rounded out the top ten with 26,200, up 1.1%.

In terms of arrivals into Australia New Zealand was still the clear leader, with 113,200 Kiwis crossing the ditch during the month, up 1.8%.

China continued its strong outbound demand, with 61,800 visitors to Australia, up almost 25% year-on-year, while other fast growing markets included Malaysia, up 17.4% to 28,300, and India which rose 15.1% to 14,200 arrivals.

The long-suffering Japanese market appears to have stabilised, with numbers up 2% year-on-year to 24,600 in Sep.

Virgin Aus recruiting

CABIN crew and guest service agent roles with Virgin Australia are currently being promoted by the airline nationwide.

Crew roles are available in the ACT, NSW, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia as well as in Auckland and Christchurch across the ditch.

Guest services vacancies are currently limited to Brisbane.

Applicants are required to have experience in a customer service environment, "be adaptable, resilient and able to work under pressure".

For full details, **CLICK HERE**.

AW takes guests up

CLIENTS booking the 16-day Handpicked Kenya & Tanzania tour from Adventure World will receive a free hot air balloon safari as a free value-add bonus.

The itinerary is priced from \$6,455pp twin share, with the free balloon ride valued at \$500.



Window Seat

LAST night's Executive Networking Night created some fairly feverish imaginings among attendees, when JITO's Helene Taylor (p2) contrasted the new industry jobs site with LinkedIn.

LinkedIn, while a great tool for making connections "is like the Indian Ocean," she said, with the massive size of the social network meaning sometimes it can be hard to connect with people in the same industry.

By comparison JITO is "like a swimming pool in my back yard.

"Imagine if we all jumped in - it would be crowded and noisy but we'd definitely all get to know each other," she said.

That prompted comments such as whether it would be a skinny dipping affair, and could the next event be a pool party!

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MOVEMBER will see multitudes of males growing mo's to raise funds for the Movember Foundation's programs and to encourage community awareness and support around men's health.

Amadeus IT Pacific men are putting out the challenge to the travel industry to raise funds for the cause. The person who raises the most money will win a **Shaving Brush Travel Kit**.

It's not too late to join - **register at au.movember.com** (add your company name after your name and choose to join the **Amadeus IT Pacific team**).

Email your before and after pics and progress updates to mocomp@traveldaily.com.au and we will showcase them on **Facebook** and in **Travel Daily**.

Get involved as an Amadeus Mo Bro! Click **HERE** to learn more about the program.

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Four Seasons Moscow

THE first Four Seasons branded property in Moscow has opened in Red Square, with the newbuild designed as a replica of the city's former relic, the Hotel Moskva.

Offering 180 rooms, it is the second Four Seasons in Russia, joining the Four Seasons Hotel Lion Palace St Petersburg which opened mid last year.

CLICK HERE for further details.

Malaysia cruise focus

THE Malaysian Government is "fully supportive of making Malaysia the main cruise tourism playground of the East," Tourism Malaysia chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen said this week.

Speaking in Macau at the Global Tourism Economic Forum, Dr Ng said cruise tourism presents a "significant opportunity" to lure more tourists to ASEAN.

Tourism Malaysia said plans are underway for the development of a "Straits Riviera" in Malaysia, which includes six primary ports - Penang, Port Klang, Langkawi, Kota Kinabalu, Melaka & Kuching.

Norfolk comp winner

CONGRATS to Brooke Wood from helloworld Mornington Travel Centre who was chosen as the winner of last week's mini competition which featured exclusively in **Travel Daily**.

Brooke has won a three-night trip including flights for two people to Norfolk Island.

Insight India release

INSIGHT Vacations has unveiled its 2015/16 brochure for India, Bhutan & Nepal featuring a collection of six all-inclusive Insight Gold journeys which are packed with Signature Events.

Among the Signature Events is a stay in the luxurious tented Samode Bagh in Jaipur, a visit to the Camel Research & Breeding Farm in Bikaner and a cruise past the Ghats on the Ganges river at dawn in Varanasi.

Managing director Joost Timmer said the all-inclusive Insight Gold itineraries provide passengers with a hassle-free, seamless travel experience.

The program is complemented by seven premium Mini Stays.

See insightvacations.com.au.



Thanks for your support!

Irish touring train

LUXURY adventure operator Belmond Ltd (formerly Orient-Express Hotels) has established its first overnight rail experience in Ireland to tour the countryside of both Ireland & Northern Ireland.

Dubbed the Belmond Grand Hibernian, the rail adventure is slated to launch in 2016.

Ten carriages acquired from Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail will be converted into the luxury train which will offer 20 double share cabins, each with an ensuite.

Interior design on the train will take inspiration from classic Georgian architecture, undertaken by the firm responsible for the Belmond Northern Belle and the Eastern & Oriental Express.

Belmond president & ceo John Scott said the Grand Hibernian would build on the success of Belmond's luxury train in Scotland, the Belmond Royal Scotsman.

LAST night more than 100 travel industry staffers gathered at the Sydney Sofitel Wentworth for the latest Executive Networking night.

Set to become a regular event on the industry calendar, the evening provided an opportunity to make connections, catch up with friends old and new as well as be part of the official unveiling of Jobs In Travel Online (see **p2**).

The night was a great success, particularly thanks to the sponsors which included Amadeus, industry market research group GfK, Creative Holidays, the Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, the **Travel Daily** group and *travelBulletin*.

Pictured above during the evening are, from left: James Gaskell, Creative Holidays md; Sofitel Wentworth gm Erkin Aytekin; Helene Taylor from JITO; Juergen Merz from GfK; Bruce Piper, **Travel Daily** and Amadeus md Tony Carter.

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Sydney's newest 5-star hotel

THE doors to Australia's fifth InterContinental Hotels & Resorts property were opened to guests yesterday as the long awaited InterContinental Sydney Double Bay debuted.

Each of the hotel's 140 rooms and suites are exquisitely furnished, with most opening out onto European fashioned balconies.

Located 5kms from the CBD, the former Ritz-Carlton has received a top-to-tail renovation including the restoration of its Grand Ballroom, while retaining the



original marble reception.

Pictured above are gm Frederick Brohez with Woollahra Mayor Toni Zeltzer and Peter Wilding from Royal Hotels Australia.

Below: InterCon Sydney Double Bay's team ready for business.



Andres' Duetto move

FORMER Travelport Asia-Pacific vice-president and managing director Patrick Andres has joined hotel profit optimisation software provider Duetto to lead the company's growth in the region.

The company recently opened its Asia-Pacific headquarters in Singapore, also recruiting Amanda See as vice-president of sales.

Tripoli a no-go zone

ONGOING fighting between militants and Lebanese security forces in the northern region of the country has led DFAT to maximise its warning level for the area to "Do Not Travel".

The warning refers to areas in Tripoli, Sir Ed Dinniyeh and Aarsal.

The overall level for Lebanon is "Reconsider your need to travel".

TripConnect takeover

MORE than 30 hotel reservation engines have obtained Premium Certification from TripAdvisor for having offered the TripConnect Instant Booking functionality to its independent hotels and B&Bs.

TripConnect, which is powered by TripAdvisor, allows independent hoteliers to offer instant booking functionality on their individual websites along with real-time rates which allow participation in price aggregation.

The service is currently only available to the US market but will be rolled out more widely in coming months.

"It's very encouraging to see the interest and commitment from so many booking engines, central reservation systems and channels managers who recognise the opportunity that TripConnect instant booking presents for hoteliers," TripAdvisor for Business' Marc Charron said.

Free NSW park entry

THE NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Parks & Wildlife Act by waiving entry fees between 15-16 Nov.

Forty-six fee-charging parks statewide will welcome guests at no charge, while attraction and landing fees will be scrapped.

Exclusions apply - for details, see www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au.

MINI Cooper rentals

EUROPCAR has introduced the MINI Cooper Hatch to its vehicle line-up in New Zealand.

The manual three-door car is available now to hire from rental locations on the North Island and will be rolled out on the South Island during Dec.

MINI prices start from NZ\$89 per day based on a two-day minimum.

Win with Rail Europe

Eurostar, in cooperation with Rail Europe, is celebrating their 20th anniversary this November by giving away 4 x \$200 Coles Myer gift cards to **Travel Daily** readers.

You can book exclusive promotional fares with Rail Europe GSA's at more than 20% off the regular lead in price until 17 Nov 2014. Fares are valid for your clients travelling between 4th November 2014 & 31st March 2015. Book with CIT Holidays, Infinity Rail, Rail Plus or Rail Tickets.

To win, answer each daily question and the weekly Friday question. Each week, the two agents who answer every question and have the most creative answer to Friday's question will win.

Send your answers to: rail@traveldaily.com.au



Tell us in 25 words or less: which destination should the Eurostar offer high-speed services to next and why?

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ACTE rego earlybird

DISCOUNTED registration rates to the ACTE Sydney Global Corporate Travel Conference in Sydney from 08-09 Dec will end on 10 Nov - **CLICK HERE** for info.

RWC tickets on sale again

THE organisers of the Rugby World Cup 2015 say that remaining tickets for the tournament will be put back on sale at the end of the month.

About 300,000 tickets will be available, across 25 matches at nine different venues.

Priority access will be provided to people who were unsuccessful in the original ticket ballot, who will be able to access bookings on Mon 24 and Tue 25 Nov.

On the following two days (26-27 Nov) ballot applicants who only received part of their

requests will be able to book, and then from Fri 28 Nov onwards ticket sales will be open to everyone.

Tickets will be sold in real time on a first come first served basis.

It's also still possible to access tickets via official domestic and international travel and hospitality programs, with official supporter tour package sales on track to break the record levels achieved for the France 2007 tournament.

A total of 950,000 RWC2015 tickets were sold in a general sale in Sep this year, with some matches completely sold out including England v Australia, England v Wales, the two quarter finals at Twickenham, the semi-finals and of course the final.

For more information see rugbyworldcup.com/ticketing.

Heavenly Bed coach

WESTIN Hotels & Resorts has joined with wellness technology firm Lark Technologies to launch a new Sleep Sensor Wearable Lending Program.

The introduction of the program is in line with the 15th anniversary of the Westin Heavenly Bed and is available to guests at a number of Westin properties around the world, including Westin Sydney.

Users of the wearable system have their sleep patterns tracked and improved through virtual coaching and a silent alarm clock.

Guests are then shown analysed data of their sleep patterns and offered coaching through the problem areas via a smartphone app which also tracks progress made over time.

Participating hotels will offer the service for the remainder of Nov.

New Boeing bird

BOEING boss Jim McNerney has revealed the aircraft manufacturer plans to develop a new plane to replace the 737 MAX by 2030.

The new bird will likely be a composite aircraft with a brand new engine and according to McNerney is necessary to compete with China's COMAC C919 and Russia's MS-21.

MEANWHILE, Boeing has taken a new order for two 777-300ER aircraft from Air Canada.

The fresh order will take AC's fleet of 777-300ERs to 19.

In the Emirates Marquee...

YESTERDAY, Emirates hosted some of its key industry partners at Oaks Day at Melbourne's Flemington Racecourse, with guests enjoying the delights of the carrier's German-themed marquee.

TD was lucky enough to be part of the celebrations, with these photos taken on the day plus more at facebook.com/traveldaily.

RIGHT: Emirates vice president Australasia Rob Gurney with Russell Brown of Travel Associates.



LEFT are the ladies from Dubai Tourism: newly appointed sales manager for Victoria, Jodie Collins with Dubai Tourism head for Australia/NZ, Julie King.



RIGHT: Lyn Keep of Show Group with Tim Harrowell, EK NSW state manager.



LEFT: Webjet ceo Australia/NZ David Galt; EK Vic state mgr Dean Cleaver and Dennis Alysandratos, Consolidated Travel.



RIGHT: The Bayview Travel team: Chris McGetrick and Sarah Whitty, The Hotel Connection; with Sandra and Michael Nolan.



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Kerzner not done down under



KERZNER International has vowed to “enhance” the guest experience at the Blue Mountain’s Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa while flagging plans to further its grasp on Aussie soil.

Following the announcement that One&Only would take the reins of the Emirates resort (**TD** yesterday), Kerzner International chief executive Alan Leibman last night took to the stand at an industry event in Sydney, announcing that Kerzner – the parent company of O&O - would “build” on the quality standards of the six-star resort.

“We’re committed to what Emirates did with quality, sustainability and the environment, but we’re going to

enhance it... and work closely with the team at Wolgan to make sure our standards and quality are there,” he said.

O&O president and coo Mark De Cocinis added that expansion plans were on the cards, noting that Australia presented a “great opportunity” for the company.

“We can see more opportunities and we are committed to growing One&Only in Australia,” he said.

Pictured from left are Emirates divisional senior vice president commercial operations east, Barry Brown; O&O Resorts president and coo Mark De Cocinis, Kerzner International ceo Alan Leibman and former Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa general manager Joost Heymeijer.

TravelEdge good samaritans



THE Wesley Oasis Drop in Centre held their 100th Wesley Fair in Sydney recently.

Six volunteers from TravelEdge used their allocated ‘Community Day’ to assist with selling cakes, plants and toys, as well as

wrapping Christmas presents.

The TravelEdge volunteers included Katryn, Christabelle, Ben, Tom, Damien and Ana.

All items were donated, with profits assisting Wesley Mission with homeless & aged care needs.

Friday 7th Nov 2014

Excite takes WTM by storm



EXCITE Holidays says the online travel wholesaler has been inundated with enquiries & appointments at the WTM (World Travel Market) London 2014 this week after revealing its push into Europe (**TD** Mon).

Partners, wholesalers, agencies, suppliers and hotel groups were drawn to the Australian-owned company’s stand at WTM which featured a giant heart made from over 11,000 travel images.

This year was the first time Excite Holidays had participated at the annual travel expo.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better reception at WTM and

we’ve already seen bookings coming through since we launched at WTM on Mon,” ceo George Papaioannou commented.

“The show has been incredibly successful for us. We’ve had the pleasure to form new partnerships as well as build on existing relationships with our customers & suppliers,” he said.

Papaioannou is **pictured** (fourth from left) with key members of Excite Hols’ global offices, incl newly appointed head of sales, Europe, Adrian Marpole, gm Joe Karbo, chief technology officer Yigal Kedem and hotel contracting manager Damian Sutton.

Cricketers take a swing in Dubai



FORMER Australia and New Zealand cricket legends Dean Jones and Danny Morrison were among more than 90 VIP participants in the recent Race to Atlantis Golf Invitational in Dubai.

Joining them on their team for the event were Atlantis The Palm’s Australia svp sales, marketing & PR Ravini Perera as well as crm strategy and marketing director Liam Findlay. Up for grabs as one of many

prizes on the day was a chance to play in the Pro-Am at the DP World Tour Championship - part of the European Tour - which is sponsored by luxury Dubai mega-resort Atlantis The Palm.

The event will take place on the Earth course at the Jumeirah Golf Estates later this month.

The Atlantis team members are **pictured** above flanked by Jones and Morrison with their collection of trophies.

Travellers Choice celebrates golden year

A RECORD number of Travellers Choice agents gathered in Queensland this month to mark an unforgettable year for the group, which welcomed more than 20 new members in 2014 and posted its largest ever profit.

This year's theme was 'Back to the Future' and a number of keynote speakers explored the trends and technological innovations set to reshape travel consumers in the years ahead.

One of the highlights of the annual conference – held this year at Jupiters Gold Coast – was the presentation of the group's Choice Awards, with 30 recipients securing spots on fantastic reward tips next year to India, Vietnam and Malaysia.

The gala dinner also saw Qantas Holidays/Viva! Holidays honoured as 'Supplier of the Year', Easy Travel & Cruise (SA) win the coveted Brian Pateman Award Agency Award for Excellence, and Burnie Travelcentre (Tas) presented with the group's Encouragement Award, which recognises a member who has demonstrated outstanding year-on-year growth in preferred supplier sales.

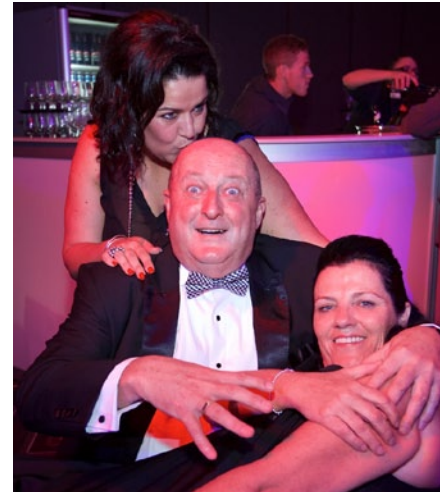
Travellers Choice also handed out service awards to long-time members, with 23 agents receiving 10-year pins, two members marking 15 years, and Capricorn Travel (WA) becoming the first member to celebrate 30 years with Australia's leading independent network.

RIGHT: Chick-magnet Jim Cooper of Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise enjoys the attentions of wife Jenny and colleague Caterina Agnello.



ABOVE: The Bronze Choice winners are off to Malaysia.

RIGHT: Three bombshells - Diana Clark of The Rocks Travel and Lynn Bradley from Compass Travel & Cruising with the one and only Marilyn Monroe.



LEFT: Capricorn Travel's Lisa Mee celebrates 30 years membership with Travellers Choice chair Trish Ridsdale.

BELOW: Striking a pose, the Silver Choice winners celebrate their prize of a trip to Vietnam.



ABOVE: The Qantas Holidays/Viva! Holidays team receiving the Supplier of the Year award: Robyn Mitchell, Travellers Choice; Lauren Stuchbury and Nicola Strudwick of QH/Viva!; Travellers Choice ceo Christian Hunter; Fiona Dalton and Kim Knight of QH/Viva! and Leith Poad, Travellers Choice.



RIGHT: Kathryn Granger of Burnie Travelcentre in Tas received this year's Encouragement Award - and made a new best friend at SeaWorld.

LEFT: Emma Davie of Scenic Tours with Deborah Long, Weston Cruise & Travel.



Hydro reopening

SPACE is still available to be part of the Hydro Majestic hotel's Grand Opening Afternoon High Tea this weekend in the Blue Mountains - details [HERE](#).



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.

Earlybird deals for Citroen car lease deals in Europe for 2015 have been extended by **globalCARS** to 28 Feb 2015 for collections from its new London Heathrow depot. Rates start at \$29 per day for a 175-day lease, with a 28-day lease also available at \$43 per day. Phone 1300 789 992.

Dinner, bed and breakfast specials are now on sale through **Kakadu Tourism** for travel during the 'green season' of Nov to Mar. Valid at the Coinda Lodge Kakadu or the Mercure Crocodile Hotel, deals start from \$199 per night. See www.kakadutourism.com or phone 1800 500 401.

Sydney's **QT Hotel** is welcoming families with young children with its new BabyQ package. Through partnerships with a number of providers, the package includes two nights in a QT King Deluxe Room, use of the Bugaboo Bee urban stroller, spa treatments, one bottle of champagne, bassinet and more, priced from \$380. Phone (02) 8262 0000 by 31 Mar.

CSAs taste the best of Quebec



THE Canadian Tourism Commission sent this lucky group of 10 Canada Specialist Agents (CSAs) to the country last month to sample all things Quebec.

Hosted by Tourisme Quebec, the participants spent nine nights in the French Canadian Province where they visited Montreal, Charlevoix and Quebec City, staying in fabled Fairmont properties along the way.

The group took in a number of the CTC's Canadian Signature Experiences including a 'Flavours of the Main' walking tour in Montreal, The Train of Le Massif de Charlevoix and the Historical Quebec and Culinary Walking Tours with Tours Voir Quebec.

Pictured enjoying lunch at the Sugar Shack at Sucrerie de la Montagne - another Canadian Signature Experience - from left are Alison Parker, Sandi Royce Travel; Daniela Ferry, Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise; Donald Street, Canada & Alaska Specialist Holidays; Nick Lowes, Travel Horizons; Pam Smith, Scenic Tours; TravelManagers Martha Tsockallos and Lillian Smith; Michelle Johnston, Discover Travel & Cruise; Heather Taylor, TravelManagers; Louise Gillogly, TravelManagers and Stefan Faucher from Sucrerie de la Montagne.

Key threatens closure

ADVENTURE tourism operators who do not comply with new safety audit regulations now in place (**TD** 29 Apr 2013) will be fined thousands of dollars each day or shut down, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key has said.

The start of this month was the deadline for operators to register with WorkSafe NZ, with more than 250 still not complying.

Speaking at a meeting for the Tourism Industry Association in his dual-role as Tourism Minister, Key said the adventure sector would be ruined if major markets were running headlines saying NZ adventure tourism was unsafe.

Oaks PCO incentive

PROFESSIONAL conference organisers seeking a last-minute event in Melbourne can take advantage of free room hire for delegates under a new promotion run by Oaks Hotels & Resorts.

Available for bookings until 31 Dec for 20 delegates or more, the deal is currently priced from \$58 per person at Oaks on Collins and Oaks on Market, both in the CBD.

Also thrown in are room inclusions, coffee and tea on arrival, morning & afternoon tea, lunch and beverages.

To book, phone (03) 8610 6457.

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Scenic's Seine on BHG

SCENIC Tours' 11-day Gems of the Seine cruise will be on show during tonight's episode of the Seven Network's *Better Homes & Gardens* lifestyle program, hosted by presenter Graham Ross.

CALC \$10b Airbus deal

AIRBUS has won a provisional order from China Aircraft Leasing Company for 100 jets valued at more than \$10b at list prices.

It consists of 74 A320neos, 10 A320ceos and 10 A321ceos.

WIN with Air Mauritius



This month *Travel Daily* is giving the travel industry a chance to win a trip to Mauritius, courtesy of **Air Mauritius** and **Sun Resorts**.

The prize includes:

- 2 return economy flights between Perth and Mauritius (excluding taxes)
- 4 nights staying Long Beach resort
- Breakfast daily

AIR MAURITIUS

SUN RESORTS

Everyday **TD** will ask a different question about Mauritius.

The subscriber with the most correct answers and the most creative answer to the final question will win this great prize.

Send your answers to: mauritiuscomp@traveldaily.com.au



Terms & conditions

On which coast is each of the Sun Resorts hotels in Mauritius situated?



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A WINNING ROLE TODAY!**

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**RETAIL TRAVEL MANAGER
ESCAPE TO THE CAPRICORN COAST
ROCKHAMPTON – TOP SALARY PACKAGE**

Travel Managers – a rare management opportunity to join this established agency as a hands on Travel Manager. Your day will involve some consulting however your main focus will be to provide leadership to a small team of consultants, developing and managing them to achieve results and service levels. You will be rewarded with an outstanding salary pkg + benefits and enjoy primarily Mon - Fri hours. Min 3 years and proven leadership experience essential along with being able to motivate and guide a team. Apply now!

**LOOKING FOR A NEW ADVENTURE?
GROUP TRAVEL CONSULTANT
GOLD COAST - UP TO \$55K PKG**

Are you sick of booking the same old itineraries? This Gold Coast specialised travel agency is looking for an experienced Group Travel Consultant who can use their 5 star customer service skills to assist discerning clientele handling a mixture of international and domestic bookings. A fabulous salary package of up to \$55k is on offer for the right person. Get your work/life balance with only Mon - Fri hours. No more sales targets. If you have 2 years' experience, great customer service and attention to detail this is for you!

**JUMP SHIP & COME ONBOARD
WHOLESALE TRAVEL CONSULTANT
SYDNEY NORTH SHORE – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$52k**

This is a rare & exciting opportunity to join this growing wholesaler's team of cruise enthusiasts. Located in Sydney's North Shore, you will enjoy booking the world's best cruise lines to exciting worldwide destinations from Cuba to Alaska and everything in between. You will be rewarded with a top salary, generous famils and ongoing support and development. If you have 1 year's wholesale or cruise exp and a passion for cruise, apply now and set sail with your new career!

**EUROPE GURUS - HUNGARY FOR A NEW ROLE?
WHOLESALE TRAVEL CONSULTANT
SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$55k OTE**

This boutique agency is looking for a talented European specialist to join their social team. This is your chance to sell their unique luxury tour product throughout a beautiful, historic and romantic continent full of culture; from Alpine Switzerland to Budapest to Morocco and beyond, no two days will be the same. Based in the CBD, will be rewarded with a top salary package, on-the-job training and amazing educational. If you are tech savvy, well-travelled and have a positive go get attitude, WE WANT YOU!

**WORK FOR A GLOBAL TMC
CORPORATE TRAVEL CONSULTANT
MEL BOURNE – SALARY PKG UP TO \$57K (DOE)**

We have a sensational multi-skilled corporate position to fill with this well-known global corporate agency. Booking interesting and intricate itineraries you will construct airfares to match your client's requests. Servicing a variety of accounts this company is seeking an experienced corporate consultant to jump in the deep end & get down to business! Work for a company that pride themselves on their staff & offer fantastic opportunities for career progression. This role won't be on the market for long – apply today!

**THE BEST TIME TO MOVE INTO WHOLESALE
RESERVATIONS CONSULTANT**

MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$70K (OTE)
Monday to Friday hours, excellent salary package with fantastic bonuses, challenging behind the scenes role, amazing product development opportunities plus sensational famils could be yours by making the move into wholesale travel. We have an exciting opportunity working for a reputable wholesaler in their reservations team. Minimum 12 months travel consulting experience essential, a positive attitude & passion for all things travel are required to apply for this role! Find out more, contact AA today!

**READY TO RECLAIM YOUR WEEKENDS?
RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANTS
MELBOURNE (East) – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$50K (DOE)**

We have an exciting good old fashioned retail position in Melbourne. This role will see you working Monday – Friday hours with the odd Saturday morning and servicing the high end clientele with their corporate and leisure needs. Booking everything from flights, accommodation and tours your days will be filled with variety in a fun and supportive team. With no more late night trade or Sundays you will love your new work life balance. Min 3 years experience required. Call us today to find out more and never look back!

**THE MORE THE MERRIER
GROUP RESERVATIONS
MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$55K (DOE)**

Our client, a reputable agency in Melbourne, is seeking a consultant who has previous experience dealing with group travel. Working in the dedicated Groups Department, you will be booking corporate clients onto large conferences and events. You will be rewarded with a high base salary, working Monday - Friday hours only and be a part of a fun, dynamic team. If you have experience with large groups then we want to hear from you. Call us to find out more today!