

Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 11th July 2017

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BRISBANE - Tuesday 25 July
5.30pm - 8.00pm
Hotel Jen, 159 Roma Street

MELBOURNE - Wednesday 26 July
5.30pm - 8.00pm
RACV City Club, 501 Bourke Street

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Botanic Garden Restaurant
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People's Choice finalists

AFTA has announced the state finalists for this year's People's Choice Travel Agent of the Year category in the National Travel Industry Awards, after voting by more than 8,000 consumers.

The People's Choice campaign (TD 29 Mar) was delivered in conjunction with *International Traveller* and *Australian Traveller* magazines, with APT offering voters the opportunity to win an eight-day Vietnam and Cambodia Mekong River cruise.

The travel agencies that

received the most votes in each state and territory are now category finalists, with the winner to be announced at the upcoming National Travel Industry Awards gala dinner in Sydney on 22 Jul.

The 2017 NTIA People's Choice finalists are:

NSW - Chris Watson Travel
Tamworth

ACT - Weston Travel & Cruise

SA/NT - Kingscote Travel

Tas - Home Travel Company

Vic - Destination HQ Beaumaris

WA - Bicton Travel

Qld - New Farm Travel

"The people have spoken via this campaign...bricks and mortar agents remain the backbone of the Australian travel industry, and this award process is just another way that AFTA drives the connection with consumers and ATAS travel agents across the country," AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury said.

Virgin Samoa move

VIRGIN Australia will continue to fly to Apia beyond Nov despite the Samoan Govt terminating its 12-year joint venture to operate Virgin Samoa (TD 18 May).

According to a filing made today with the International Air Services Commission, Virgin Australia has sought a capacity allocation of 880 seats per week on the Samoa route, starting 13 Nov.

VA told the IASC it plans to fly five weekly services to the Pacific island nation utilising Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news and photos, including a full page from:

- inPlace Recruitment

Abercrombie & Kent

Jewels of
Colombia with
Richard McColl

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Velocity partner changes

VIRGIN Australia's frequent flyer program Velocity has unveiled widespread adjustments affecting points earned on four of its long standing airline partners, including the wind back of points and status credits with alliance partner, Air New Zealand.

Velocity members were made aware of the impending changes by email which explained they will still be able to accrue and burn points, as well as receive other benefits when travelling on Air New Zealand operated flights within and between Australia and NZ, until the end of Oct.

"However, from 01 Nov 2017, you will no longer be able to earn or redeem Velocity Points and Status Credits, or receive other benefits on all other flights operated by Air New Zealand," the email stated, suggesting no points will be earned on Air NZ long-haul flights.

The wind back appears to be a result of Virgin's newly formed alliance with China-based shareholder HNA Aviation, and Hong Kong Airlines, which spans transTasman services.

Other changes affect Virgin America's loyalty program Elevate which is being wound up after 30 Sep as part of its merger into the Alaska Air Group.

But it's not all bad news, with Velocity Platinum, Gold and Silver members able to earn even more Velocity Points when flying on Delta Air Lines or VA operated flights with a DL flight number, coming into effect from 31 Jul.

From 31 Aug, Velocity members will also be able to use points for Singapore Airlines Premium Economy Reward Seats, and burn points across all cabin classes on SQ Reward Seats.

For details on all the changes & the points earned on new partners Hainan Airlines, Tianjin Airlines, Hong Kong Airlines and Beijing Capital Airlines, [CLICK HERE](#).

NZ Americas head

AIR New Zealand has named Liz Fraser as its regional general manager for the Americas.

Currently based in Auckland, Fraser is Air NZ's gm global sales operations & planning and will relocate to LA to take up the role in coming months.

Egypt DFAT update

DFAT this afternoon updated its travel advisory for Egypt, now advising Aussies against all travel within 50kms of the country's border with Libya "due to the high threat of terrorist attack".

Edelman Dubai win

PR AGENCY Edelman Australia has been appointed to steer Dubai Tourism's communication strategy in Australia.

Wendy Wu Tours

PRIORITY ACCESS:
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SMEs face fare increases

BUSINESS travellers from small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are likely to be hit with higher airfares next year, according to an Australian aviation forecast.

The latest 4D Focus report produced by Flight Centre Travel Group's 4th Dimension Business Travel Consulting team includes statistical outlooks and year-on-year benchmarking of corporate and leisure fares.

The report says despite the likelihood of higher prices on high-traffic domestic routes, businesses are likely to benefit from improvements in passenger experience, according to the gm of Flight Centre's Corporate Traveller, Jess Anscombe.

"Qantas and Virgin Australia have shifted from capacity battles to focus on shoring up their

product," Anscombe said.

"Both are vying for customer loyalty by introducing innovative new features on the ground and in the air.

"Two of the most important recent airline innovations were Qantas' launch of its SME focused Qantas Business Rewards program and Virgin Australia unveiling its new Economy X Class," she said.

State of Origin tips

GAME 3 of the 2017 NRL State of Origin between the NSW Blues and Queensland Maroons kicks off tomorrow night in Brisbane in what is billed as a blockbuster decider after the 'Cane Toads' took out Game 2 in Sydney.

Travel Daily readers taking part in our annual State of Origin tipping comp have until 6:30pm Wed 12 Jul to submit their tips to the three question quiz **below**.

Courtesy of Breakaway Travel Club, the winner with the closest tips after the three games will win an NRL football jersey of their choice and a \$200 cruise voucher.

The Game 3 questions are:

- 1) Who do you think will score the first try in Game 3?
- 2) How many field goals will be kicked during Game 3?
- 3) What will the final score be at the end of Game 3?

Tips need to be submitted to socomp@traveldaily.com.au.

The winner's name will be published in **TD** later this week.

Hawaii roadshow

HAWAII Tourism Oceania has invited travel agents to register for an Aloha Down Under roadshow in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney next month.

The 07-09 Aug events will involve face-to-face meetings with representatives from 26 airline, accommodation, activity and attraction suppliers.

Shows will also involve destination updates from Hawaii Tourism and product training, as well as Hawaiian food, entertainment and holiday prizes.

For full details and registrations, **CLICK HERE**.

New! Delta Air Lines Year Round Industry Rates to LAX.

Sales to 29JUN18.

Economy Class from \$925*
\$700* AUD PP Return plus taxes.

*Conditions Apply.
Taxes approx.
\$200* - \$220* pp



INDUSTRY DEALS



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www.travelclub.com.au

PER fares on the up

DOMESTIC airfares to Perth have increased by up to 5% amid reduced passenger numbers and capacity, according to a report by Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT) and CAPA Centre for Aviation.

The latest CWT-CAPA Business Travel Pulse focusses on the West Australian capital and compares 2016 data to the previous year.

While fares to Perth from most Australian cities rose by up to 5%, passenger numbers decreased slightly by 0.9% and available seats fell by 2.8%.

"As a result, there is future potential for constrained capacity if available seats continue to decrease at a greater pace than passengers," the report says.

Initiatives such as the introduction of direct Qantas flights from Perth to London in Mar had potential to boost domestic stopovers, CWT director Asia Pacific Richard Johnson said.

"This could stimulate the local economy and could be a shot in the arm for Perth's accommodation sector, too," Johnson said.

SkyBus to Geelong

AIRPORT shuttle operator SkyBus will offer an interim service between Geelong and Avalon Airport after the cancellation of services by the Murrell Group.

Services will coincide with major flights and operate for six months while a permanent option is developed.

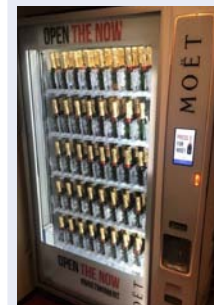
Window Seat



HOW did we get by without this until now?

The Star Gold Coast has become the first venue in Australia to offer a champagne vending machine, dispensing mini bottles of Moët & Chandon for a mere \$29.

Unveiled last month in the hotel's Garden Kitchen & Bar, the miracle machine is the work of humanitarians at Moët Hennessy who first pioneered



the concept in 2013 at London's Selfridges department store.

We'll have one for the office, thanks.

Ferry credit trial

SYDNEY'S Manly ferry has begun trialling a payment system that will allow tourists and other travellers to tap a Mastercard at turnstiles instead of Opal cards.

If successful, other card providers are likely to join the system next year, giving their users access to the same fares as Opal cardholders.

The Opal card is used across the Sydney public transport network but has faced criticism for its limited tourist-friendly options.

AIRLINE PASSENGER GENERAL SALES AGENT FOR THE TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA (ONLINE OPERATION)

SriLankan Airlines Limited, the National Airline of Sri Lanka and a member of the **oneworld** alliance, with a global network (including codeshare partners) of 105 destinations in 47 countries around the world is looking for Travel organizations to represent the Airline in the capacity of Passenger General Sales Agent in the above territory.

Interested parties, please refer the SriLankan Airlines Limited website for details:
www.srilankan.com/gsaapplications



Putting a boot into the blues



A CHARITY performance by the musical comedy *Kinky Boots* last month gave Metro Hotels a chance to help raise funds for mental health organisation Beyond Blue.

The group's Metro Hotel Marlow Sydney Central - located alongside the Capitol Theatre where the musical is showing - offered a raffle prize of two-nights' accommodation with

dinner and tickets to the show, which runs until 13 Aug.

Pictured from left are the hotel's assistant front office manager Chevy Tan, general manager Harry Leong, Capitol Theatre marketing and ticketing manager Anastasia Kotycheval, hotel reservations and revenue manager Gulnus Sozubek and business development manager Darryl Montu.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES



TEMPORARY SALES ASSISTANT - ADELAIDE

A full time temporary position exists for a highly motivated individual to join the Singapore Airlines team in Adelaide office, effective immediately until 11 June 2018 reporting to Sales Supervisor SA.

Key areas of responsibility:

- Handle basic calls from agents and public on sales related enquiries.
- Run reports for Sales team as required
- Administer State FOC policy bookings and confirmations to agents within appropriate guidelines of the policy
- Assist Ticket Office with basic non-ticketing functions on ad-hoc basis as necessary
- Provide general administrative assistance.

Knowledge and Experience Required:

- Work experience in Airline/Travel Agency/tourism environment (desirable)
- Excellent Administrative Skills
- Attention to detail
- Excellent time management and ability to handle pressure
- Proficient PC skills
- Clear Communication Skills both Written and Verbal

Salary: \$46,585

Please submit written application with CV to Adam Warren, Sales Supervisor SA, GPO Box 1738, Adelaide SA 5001 or email to betsy_anbalagan@singaporeair.com.sg by COB Friday, 21 July 2017.

Only suitable applicants will be contacted for an interview.

Jelly Bean Ball funds

THE annual DANII Foundation Jelly Bean Ball held last month by Donna and Brian Meads-Barlow from Donna Barlow Corporate Travel raised over \$230,000 to support the organisation's work.

Held at the Hyatt Regency in Sydney, Helloworld Business Travel returned as Gold Sponsor for the event.

The foundation is dedicated to the prevention of life threatening Dead in Bed Syndrome (DIBS), and is the only body dedicated solely to the improvement of the safety and quality of the lives of Type 1 Diabetes sufferers.

TT carbon neutral

TIGERAIR Australia has rolled out its Fly Carbon Neutral program that enables pax to reduce their carbon footprint by offsetting their share of carbon emissions when taking to the skies.

Prices vary based on the route length, from \$0.63pp per sector up to \$4.85pp for the low-cost carrier's longest services.

For full details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Williams joins BWA

HOTEL executive Georgina Williams has been recruited by Best Western Australasia as brand development manager.

Williams has held senior roles at SilverNeedle, Stamford and Swissotel.

EK, TAAG division

DIFFICULTY obtaining revenues from TAAG Angola Airlines has seen Emirates scrap a 10-year management concession pact with the African carrier.

EK said "this issue has remained unsolved, despite numerous requests to the competent authorities and guarantees that measures would be taken".

Co-operation between the pair, in place since 2014, has been wound back by Emirates, with its Dubai-Luanda service reduced from five to three times weekly.

Quest on Mends St

GROUND was broken last week on Quest Apartment Hotels' next property in Western Australia, Quest on Mends Street located in South Perth.

The property is part of the \$7.5m Mends Street Connect South project on the city's foreshore and will feature 90 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments.

"The presence of a second Quest property in South Perth is crucial as it provides additional high standard accommodation that will support the ongoing development of the area," Westzone developer Robert O'Brien commented.

It is slated to open in 2019.



Round 17 Winner

Congratulations

RALPH CHALMERS

from *Kollaras Trading Company*

Ralph is the top point scorer for Round 17 of Travel Daily's Super Rugby footy tipping competition. He's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.



Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is return economy class airfares to Dubai flying with **EMIRATES**. Emirates has 77 flights per week to DXB.

NSV permit LTRF-17-1499-ACI permit 17/07/2018



AFTA update

From AFTA's chief executive, Jayson Westbury



AS THE news breaks regarding the ATAS People's Choice state award winners, all of us at AFTA are really excited about how well this concept has gone this year.

Over 8,000 votes were cast by consumers during the ATAS People's Choice Retail Agent of the Year award process which ran in the *International Traveller* magazine. Of course the number of votes is just the peak of the story as this is the number of consumers that actually did something. Those who read the story and connected with ATAS is not fully known, but clearly it is a number far greater than the 8,000.

To the finalists, a very big congratulation. The state winners include: NSW - Chris Watson Travel Tamworth; ACT - Weston Cruise & Travel; SA/NT - Kingscote Travel; Tas - Home Travel Company; Vic - Destination HQ, Beaumaris; WA - Bicton Travel & Qld - New Farm Travel. All outstanding ATAS accredited travel agents, and of course one will be crowned the national winner at the NTIA event on 22 Jul at the ICC Sydney.

The ATAS People's Choice award process has been given significant support by Quentin Long, the publisher of *International Traveller* magazine and a very big thank you goes out to him for this tremendous support of ATAS and bricks-&-mortar travel agents.

On top of this support comes the spectacular sponsorship provided by APT. The river cruise that they have included for the consumers to go into the draw to win is significant and no doubt this has helped motivate consumers to take notice and vote, but also has demonstrated genuine support for frontline travel agents. APT will be on site at the NTIA in a week or so to hand the gong to the national winner in the ATAS People's Choice award and no doubt this will result in a big celebration of our true backbone of the travel agency community and members of AFTA - retail bricks & mortar travel agents.

Fairmont reopening

FOLLOWING several years of planning and 12 months of work, Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth hotel has reopened in Montreal.

After being closed for the past year, the renovated hotel now includes new dining options including Agora, Rosélys restaurant, Krema café, and Nacarat bar.

Over 500 of the 1,000 rooms are now accessible to guests.

LOT BUD-US routes

LOT Polish Airlines will launch direct flights from Budapest to both New York JFK and Chicago from May next year.

Both routes will be served by the carrier's triple-class Boeing 787-8 *Dreamliner* aircraft, which will be based in Budapest.

LOT will be the only airline to offer flights to the US from BUD.

Ni hao Oaks Hotels

ACCOMMODATION provider Oaks Hotels & Resorts has officially announced the launch of its Chinese 'gui bin' program that will roll out at select properties in this region from next month.

Named after the Chinese word for 'VIP' and 'honoured guest', the 'gui bin' program will aim to ensure its ever-increasing number of Chinese guests feel welcome when visiting.

Part of the program will see guests receive a welcome letter on arrival, in Mandarin.

The 'gui bin' initiative is set to roll out across nine properties that receive a high volume of Chinese visitors.

Melbourne's Oaks on Market, Sunshine Coast's Oaks Oasis Resort, Queenstown's Oaks Shores, and the Hunter Valley's Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort will be part of the program.

2018 River Webinar Wednesday 12th July!

Join former Tauck Cruise Director and River Cruise Specialist, Nick Coward to discover why your clients should travel with TAUCK in 2018...



TAUCK

REGISTER HERE!

*conditions apply

Topdeck celebrates in Sydney



AROUND 60 travel agents converged at Bondi Beach last Tuesday night for the launch of Topdeck's 2018 Canada & USA brochure.

Held on the 4th of July and just days after the 150th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, the event had plenty of burgers,

hot dogs, poutine and Budweiser for agents to enjoy, along with fusesball and beer pong to keep guests entertained.

A Topdeck customer from Adelaide who just returned from the tour operator's 13-day Coast to the Bay trip provided attendees with firsthand customer insight on her trip and experience.

Regional manager Ben Ittensohn said departures on the Canadian Rockies tour had been boosted following its near full capacity operation this current season.

Capacity has also been beefed up on the cross country Road Trip USA tour from LA to New York, along with its most popular Stars & Stripes trip that uses a combination of hotels & hostels.

The Topdeck team is **pictured** at the event and includes, from left: Michelle Bates, Jane Savage, Ben Ittensohn, Sarah Hoskin, Daniel Thorne, Nathan Sexton and Jon McGovern.

Kiribati air deal

THE Australian Government has settled inaugural air services arrangements with Kiribati.

Under the new arrangement, airlines from each country will be able to operate up to seven services per week between Australia's gateway airport and Kiribati, as well as an unlimited amount of services to regional locations such as DRW and OOL.

Federal Minister Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said the agreement was a step forward in growing relations with Kiribati & other Pacific nations.

Do you know who sells adventure tours to Cuba? 😞

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Introducing The New CATO Website

Your one-stop search facility to find trusted travel suppliers. Search by *country, region* and *type of travel* to quickly find the right supplier.

www.cato.travel/search-cato



Knowledge Trust Integrity Support
Council of Australian Tour Operators www.cato.travel

CZ plots SZX/SVO

CHINA Southern will introduce flights from Shenzhen to Moscow Shremetyevo from 28 Sep.

The twice weekly service will be operated by Airbus A330-300 aircraft.

CZ8371 departs SZX at 1635 and arrives into SVO at 2145 local time.

The return trip leaves SVO at 2330 & lands in SZX at 1330 +1.

IB pregnancy tests

SPANISH airline Iberia has been slapped with a fine for forcing female job applicants to undergo pregnancy tests, prompting a outcry over sexism at the national flag carrier.

The airline argued that the test for flight crew applicants was not intended to filter out expectant mothers, but instead make sure they were placed in roles that would be safe for those pregnant.

Iberia has agreed to drop the requirement, and said it would instead "trust" its female employees to notify their bosses of pregnancies.

Under Spanish law, women are only required to notify employers of pregnancies after being hired and cannot be penalised or dismissed because of it.

Van Gogh interest

THE National Gallery of Victoria's Van Gogh and the Seasons exhibition has welcomed more than 420,000 visitors since it opened in Apr.

Originally scheduled to close on 09 Jul, the Gallery extended the season to meet the "extraordinary" demand until 12 Jul.

Van Gogh's display is the most popular ticketed exhibition in the gallery's 156 year history.

NZ cycle trail funds

NEW Zealand's Government will invest NZ\$528,000 across 12 new projects for the upkeep of the Great Rides of New Zealand Cycle Trail.

Over a million people cycle the Great Rides annually.

The investment comes from the sixth round of the Maintaining the Quality of Great Rides Fund.

Money

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

\$1AUD = US0.760

THE Australian Dollar had a mixed week with some gains and some losses.

So far this week, the AUD has been riding the wave of global optimism and has seen a slight bump this week from natural gas and crude oil prices.

After a recent drop against the Canadian dollar, eyes will be on the Bank of Canada, who may look to raise interest rates for the first time in nearly seven years.

The Bank of England and the European Central Bank will also give updates on their respective markets, which could signal some shift in the AUD.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.760
UK	£0.590
NZ	\$1.048
Euro	€0.667
Japan	¥86.82
Thailand	฿25.95
China	¥5.171
South Africa	R10.233
Canada	\$0.980
Crude oil	US\$44.40



WIN A LUXURY RIVER CRUISE

INCLUDING FLIGHTS TO EUROPE

This month, Scenic and *Travel Daily* are giving readers the chance to win a luxurious river cruise. Experience a 15-day cruise in a balcony suite. The prize includes:

- Jewels of Europe river cruise for 2 people departing Oct 2018
- Return flights to Europe
- Complimentary beverages all day, everyday, all meals, private butler service and all tipping & gratuities

To win, answer every daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question. Send your answers to scenic@traveldaily.com.au

Q7. What is the name of Scenic's exclusive handheld GPS guided tour devices?

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Park Regis Bahrain

BAHRAIN will welcome its first Regis hotel when the Park Regis Lotus opens its doors in the last quarter of 2017.

Located in the Juffair district of Manama, the hotel has 164 guest rooms and a 1,000 capacity ballroom, plus other facilities.

Manama-based VKL Group will manage the Park Regis Lotus.

Etihad Hols expand

ETIHAD Holidays has expanded its operations into Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.

The move follows the successful introduction of Etihad Holidays in the UAE, UK, Germany, India and North America.

Etihad Airways' holiday division offers packaged vacation that can be booked along side EY flights.

The company also offers packages from family getaways to sporting breaks and city stays.

New B&R itineraries

BUTTERFIELD & Robinson has announced six new trips for 2018, including a self-guided walking trip in the Cotswolds, cycling in South Africa, and a handful of itineraries in new destinations across Europe.

The new itineraries are either six to seven days in length and cater for people of all abilities.

The company is also offering tours to France, Romania, The Netherlands, and from Berlin to Prague, with tours starting from US\$2,495pp for the Cotswolds.

CLICK HERE to view more.

Coronado Curio

HOTEL del Coronado in California will join the Curio Collection by Hilton this month.

Hilton has said Hotel del Coronado will be the "crown jewel" in its Curio portfolio.

The hotel has 757 guest rooms.



**“This is not the job I was hired for!”
Job seeker tips on how to avoid this scenario**



[Click HERE to read this latest blog](#)

Sales Manager

VIC/SA/TAS

Salary \$80k + super + up to \$14K commission

A fantastic opportunity within a growing luxury cruise operator who have a global presence. This unique brand is seeking a dynamic individual looking to make a positive difference. Whilst targeting new business you will manage existing relationships in the retail travel trade educating them on this high end product range in the cruise sector. Must have previous travel industry sales experience.

- Reputable brand
- Excellent luxury product

Call Susan or [click here](#)

Regional Manager Cruise - Part time

WA - Perth

\$80K + super + up to \$14K commission pro-rata

Dream role for a sales part timer! 2-3 days per week! A well-branded, luxury cruise company with a global product range represented across a number of continents. In this role you will be responsible for managing existing relationships & growing new business in the leisure market across the WA region. Must be well networked in the Retail travel space with previous sales experience in the travel industry.

- Part time sales!
- Flexible 2-3 days

Call Susan or [click here](#)

Reservations Operations Manager

Melbourne

Salary \$79k + super + benefits

Are you a passionate leader looking for a change of scenery? Our client is an esteemed brand well-known to the travel industry. A pioneer in luxury travel with offices worldwide. Be responsible for the overall leadership of 3 divisions including consultants & sales support teams with approx. 20 staff. Procedures, service levels, recruitment, trade show representation, famils and more will fall under your care.

- Excellent benefits
- Social & active office

Call Susan or [click here](#)

Retail Cons - Mandarin/ Cantonese speaker

Sydney

Long term contract

Your fluency in Cantonese & Mandarin language skills coupled with excellent English & Galileo or Amadeus CRS, are the key to securing this great role. With the potential to become permanent in the future, this popular wholesaler is looking for a retail consultant to handle travel agents & direct customers that are located in South East Asia. You will be selling worldwide holidays on a 7 day roster.

- Social office
- Great hourly rate \$\$

Call Cristina or [click here](#)

Inbound Travel Consultant

Sydney, Salary to \$60K + super + luxury famils!

Boutique inbound tour company that specialises in tailor made luxury itineraries around Australia, NZ & the South Pacific. Previous travel industry experience and a good knowledge of Australia & New Zealand required.

Call Susan or [click here](#)

Event Co-ordinator

Sydney, Salary to \$50K + super

Handle domestic conferences and meetings for this well known Australian events agency. Initially you will learn the pharmaceutical event side of the business with a view to working onsite with the client based in North Ryde.

Call Peter or [click here](#)