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ATAS charter for review

AFTA has called for submissions on the AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS) as part of a review into its charter and code of conduct, to be headed by consultant Hank Spier.

The organisation's chief executive Jayson Westbury said Spier would analyse industry submissions as part of a three-yearly review process before preparing a report for consideration by AFTA's board.

"The aim of the review is to receive feedback and recommendations from interested parties in regard to the effectiveness of the ATAS scheme in achieving its objectives and the operation of the ATAS scheme," Westbury said.

The AFTA Board will release a response to any recommendations made in the report later in the year, including any approved amendments to the

charter or code.

Submissions must be in written form and either mailed to AFTA or emailed to afta@afta.com.au

CLICK HERE for more details.

India exits Australia

INDIA Tourism's Australian operations are set to close as part of a worldwide rationalisation of overseas offices.

The organisation's Sydney office is among seven locations being wound up, with others including Los Angeles, Toronto, Paris and Johannesburg facing the axe.

India Link reports the Australian market will now be served from Singapore, which will remain alongside offices in New York, Dubai, Frankfurt, Beijing, Tokyo and London.

It says India's Tourism Minister Alphonso Kannanthanam has confirmed the closure "in the near future", while also announcing plans to open a new office in Moscow.

A representative of India Tourism's Sydney office told *Travel Daily* an advisory would be issued by the third week of Apr.



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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news and photos, plus a full page from:

- AA Appointments jobs

Vote for Aircalin in the 2018 NTIA Awards

We are thrilled to be nominated for:

CATEGORY 19: **Best International Airline (On-line)**

CATEGORY 32: **Best Sales Executive Industry Supplier – Kerrin Trenorden**

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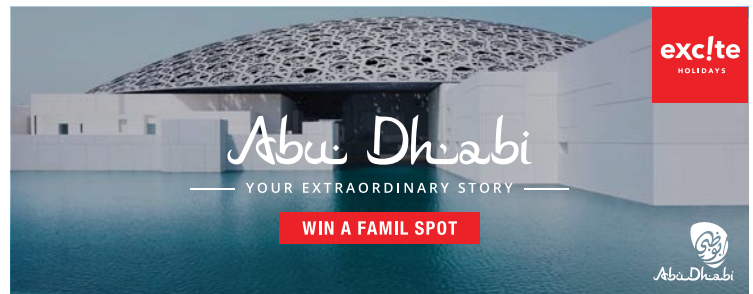


Burnt out or fired up?

Aggressive targets, long hours, sleepless nights...

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Qantas enters new era

QANTAS has heralded a new era of long-haul travel from Australia with its history-making direct flight from Perth to London on the weekend.

The first scheduled non-stop service between Australia and Europe touched down at Heathrow just after 5am yesterday, marking the first step in the airline's ambition to overfly its competitors operating from hubs in Asia and the Middle East.

"This is a truly historic flight that opens up a new era of travel," said Qantas Group ceo Alan Joyce who flew aboard the inaugural Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliner* service.

"The response to the flight has been amazing, both for the attention it's received since we announced it and the bookings

we've seen coming in," he said.

"It's great for Australian tourism, for business travellers and for people visiting friends and family on both sides of the world."

The new daily QF9 service takes just over 17 hours to fly from Perth to London Heathrow, taking advantage of the most favourable winds on any given day without having to factor in a route via mid-point destinations.

It originates in Melbourne, connecting in Perth with other services from Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane under an adjusted domestic schedule.

Yesterday also marked the return of the airline's QF1 SYD-LHR service to Singapore for its mid-point stopover.

Qantas now offers three routes to London - direct from Perth on 787s, via Singapore from Sydney on A380s or via Dubai with partner carrier Emirates.

The airline is now considering other direct routes from Perth such as Paris and has restated its 'Project Sunrise' ambition to fly direct to Europe and North America from the eastern states.

Scoot 2.4c special

SCOOT has announced a Europe sale with flights for under \$700 - or 2.4c per kilometre.

From tomorrow, one-way fares from Perth to Athens will be from \$319, with other fares from OOL, SYD & MEL to ATH/TXL, til 31 Mar.

More agents sell Princess

MORE Australian and Kiwi travel agents have sold Princess Cruises in the last 12 months than ever before, the cruise line's svp Asia Pacific commercial & operations Stuart Allison says.

Over 3,400 retail outlets made a booking with Princess Cruises during the period.

"We're really pumped that the market has not just embraced Princess Cruises but it's embraced the category of cruising," he told *Travel Daily* last week.

Allison said given the high repeat rate of Princess Cruises' guests, the line had almost become an annuity for some of its trade partners.

"It's a guaranteed income they know they're going to benefit from and I think as we continue to grow our capacity in Australia, not just internationally, we're creating more opportunities for more travel agents to sell more of our products."

Last week Princess Cruises unveiled its largest ever Australian deployment for the 2019/20 season (*TD* Fri).

The program will see two of four of the line's newest ships, *Ruby Princess* and *Majestic Princess*,

EY PER jet switch

ETIHAD Airways has bumped its Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliner* off the daily Abu Dhabi-Perth route, with GDS displays now indicating the Gulf carrier will revert to Airbus A330-200s effective 17 Apr.

sail out of Sydney, marking a 25% increase in capacity on the 2018/2019 season.

"Increasingly the world's fleet won't fit under the Harbour Bridge so the only way that the market is going to continue to grow is from bigger ships," Allison told *Travel Daily*.

\$2m Whits lifeline

A HANDFUL of tourism projects in the Whitsundays region will share in a \$2 million govt fund in a bid to help the industry recover from Tropical Cyclone Debbie which hit the area 12 months ago.

"Cyclone Debbie left her mark on the Whitsundays but the tourism industry has shown great resilience in the last year," Qld Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said on Fri. "We always knew we needed to support the industry by giving visitors to this beautiful part of the world new ways to experience its many attractions."

The latest support is part of the \$7 million joint State and Federal govt funding package established to help the region bounce back.

Recipients include Hamilton Island Enterprises, Reef Ecologic, Catalina Flying Memorial, Bowen Tourism and Enterprise, Jimmy Crow Limited and Queens Beach Tourist Village.

Tourism Whitsundays ceo Craig Turner said the funding injection would "help take tourism in the Whitsundays to another level".

Trade united for AA

FIFTY travel industry partners in the United States have written to the US Dept of Transportation in a sign of solidarity for the planned transPacific alliance between American Airlines and Qantas.

The letters of "strong support" for the proposed Joint Business Agreement, submitted by AA, urge the US Govt to give the joint venture a green light this time around, after the DOT knocked back the airline partners' first attempt two years ago.

Among the latest batch of travel companies to voice their support are executives from Gables Travel, The Travel House Inc, Going Places Travel, Gemma Corporate Travel, TSTA Times Square Travel Agency, Travel World Ltd, TMC Travel Management, Connoisseur Travel, Atlantic Travel Agency, 4 Seasons Travel Inc, Uniglobe Red Carpet Travel, Chang Express, World Travel Service, Twin Travel, Southern Travel International and Customade Travel.



Window Seat

LUKE Chittock of Perth's Amity Travel was *Travel Daily's* special correspondent on last weekend's Qantas inaugural flight from WA to London - and made headlines after media on board picked up that he was in seat 1A - where you'd probably expect Alan Joyce to be sitting.

Chittock took a punt on when QF would launch the new route, last year booking seat 1A Melbourne-London on 24 Mar.

"A few weeks later the seat map changed over to the non-stop *Dreamliner* flight," he said.

On *Channel 7* last night he also maintained the reputation of the travel industry when asked for tips on long-haul flying.

Holding a glass of red wine he said "I think you're supposed to drink lots of water," adding "but this Shiraz is pretty good too".

THANK YOU FOR NOMINATING US IN THE 2018 AFTA AWARDS

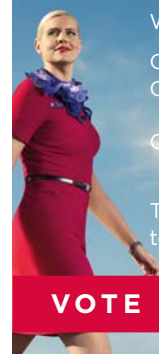
We are delighted to receive nominations for:

Category 18: **Best Domestic Airline**

Category 19: **Best Airline International Online**

Category 32: **Best Sales Executive Industry Supplier Kirstie Myers**

Thank you for your ongoing support and good luck to fellow nominees.



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A BIG THANKS

for nominating us in the 2018 AFTA National Travel Industry Awards.

Please vote **P&O Cruises** for *Best Cruise Operator - Domestic Deployment!*

VOTE NOW



Western Australia lauds QF PER/LHR flights



THE West Australian Govt has labelled Perth as the “western gateway to Australia from Europe” following the launch of Qantas’ new non-stop service between the WA capital and London Heathrow (see **page 2**).

“We will do everything we can to make the most of this opportunity to help boost our local tourism industry and create local jobs,” WA Premier Mark

McGowan commented.

Tourism Minister Paul Papalia said that based on bookings to-date on the new Qantas direct return service indicated that 15% of passengers were stopping in Perth for three or more days, and 7% were staying for over 2 weeks.

Pictured at Heathrow flanked by Qantas cabin crew from left are WA Minister for Tourism, Paul Papalia; Federal Shadow Minister

for Tourism Anthony Albanese; WA Premier Mark McGowan; VisitBritain head of Tourism Affairs Ant Pickles, Qantas Group chief executive officer Alan Joyce and Federal Tourism Minister Steven Ciobo.

MEANWHILE, Qantas opened its new T3/T4 transit lounge at Perth Airport ahead of the maiden service - view lots of images at [facebook.com/traveldaily](https://www.facebook.com/traveldaily).

Eagle Street hotel?

BRISBANE'S Eagle Street Pier is set for a transformation with property developer Dexus planning to convert the precinct into a new waterfront hub.

The vision would see the site’s existing pier - built for World Expo ‘88 - rebuilt and the zone developed as a mixed-use space with restaurants, apartments, commercial areas and a hotel.

Brisbane City Council said it would work with stakeholders on the project, which has reached the third of four stages required to obtain a nod, the *ABC* reports.

MEL int'l pax spike

THE number of international passengers passing through Melbourne Airport skyrocketed 12% year-on-year in Feb, to close to 900,000, the airport said today.

The return of Chinese New Year scheduling made a strong contribution to the growth. Domestic travel increased 3.2%.

Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL

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we would love to have your vote
in category 31

click here to vote
voting closes 29 March




Symphony on song

THE world's largest cruise ship is a step closer to being operational after Royal Caribbean Int'l completed the traditional flag-changing ceremony for *Symphony of the Seas* on the weekend, symbolising the vessel's official delivery from the shipbuilder.

"Thanks to our stellar crew and partners at STX France, we now are ready to embark on this new boundless adventure that comes to life on *Symphony of the Seas*," said RCI ceo Michael Bayley.

Symphony is the 25th ship in Royal's fleet and weighs in at 228,081 tonnes, measures 72 metres tall & is 362 metres long.

She can house 5,518 guests at double occupancy across 2,759 staterooms and will make her maiden voyage from Barcelona, Spain on 07 Apr.

"*Symphony* will take family vacationing to an all new level with...options never before found in one place," added Bayley.

Ovation opens for a big day out in Sydney

ROYAL Caribbean International hosted agents and media to A Big Day Out on its massive cruise ship *Ovation of the Seas* while it was docked in Sydney on Fri, providing the group with a taste of all the best features passengers can enjoy on board the vessel.

Highlights of the tour included taking to the skies in one of its marquee attractions, The North Star, an observation capsule which hoisted the group close to 90 metres in the air, enabling a 360 degree view of the harbour.

When safely back on deck, Royal treated visitors to a bite to eat at its Jamie's Italian restaurant featuring some of the British celebrity chef's famous antipasti planks and plates.

The good times were capped off in style by offering up a few cocktails whipped up by the ship's resident robotic mixologists "Mix" and "Mingle".

Royal's cruise director Mike



Hunnerap told *Travel Daily* the reason *Ovation of the Seas*' success with the Aussie market was largely down to its world class entertainment offering.

"We refer to 'The Big Four' which are The North Star, the Flowrider, the Bumper Cars and iFly," Hunnerap said.

Pictured: *Ovation of the Seas*



docked in Sydney - inset: The North Star prepares to take guests into the air on Fri.

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TAP pilot DUI

TAP Air Portugal has apologised to more than 100 passengers who were left stranded in Stuttgart on Fri when a co-pilot was allegedly found to be drunk ahead of departure.

The Lisbon-bound flight was cancelled when airport employees noticed the co-pilot was unsteady and smelt of alcohol, British media report.

His license has been suspended pending prosecution.

Darwin air race

THE Northern Territory will host a series of events surrounding a re-enactment of the London to Darwin Great Air Race next year.

The territory's Chief Minister Michael Gunner said events would mark 100 years since a crew headed by Captain Ross Smith first flew the route in 1919.

The re-enactment will involve electrically powered aircraft in a "Centenary E-Race".

Solomon visits up

SOLOMON Islands arrival numbers have broken the 25,000 barrier for the first time since records began in 1990, with 25,709 international visitors heading to the islands in 2017.

The figure is a 10.9% increase over 2016 and includes 10,161 Australians, or 40% of the total.

Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau ceo Josefa Tuamoto said the destination needed to maintain a strong focus on growing the leisure market, which represents 35% of overall visitors.

ANA, AZ c'share

ALL Nippon Airways (ANA) and Alitalia have signed a partnership agreement involving codeshare services beginning 28 Oct.

Alitalia will add its AZ code to ANA services from Tokyo Narita to five Japanese domestic points, while ANA will place the NH designator on Alitalia flights from Rome to six Italian cities.

US pricing stoush

US AIRLINES are pushing to overturn regulations requiring them to advertise tax-inclusive fares, labelling them "unduly burdensome" and with "no legitimate public purpose".

In a submission to the US Department of Transport (DOT), the Airlines for America group (A4A) says the rules constitute "extraordinary government micro-management".

"The DOT should rescind this overreaching regulation... and revert to its long-standing prior policy of allowing airlines to advertise base fare and taxes separately," the submission says.

A4A says ending the tax rules will bring airfare marketing into line with other goods and services sold throughout America.

It says prices for purchases like groceries, electronics and cars are shown exclusive of taxes, and that shoppers understand taxes will be added before the purchase.

Auberge Villa prices

NANUKU Auberge Resort Fiji has released pricing for its 13 new one- and two-bedroom Auberge Beach Villas, due to open in Oct.

Pricing leads in at FJ\$3,350 per night for a one-bedroom Garden villa, inc breakfast and taxes, or FJ\$4,100 for a two-bedroom villa.



SUPER XV ROUND 6 WINNER

Congratulations

PAM SEGAL

from *Australian Pacific
Travel & Tourism*

Pam is the top point scorer for Round 6 of *Travel Daily's Super XV* footy tipping competition. She's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.



The major prize for the 2018 footy tipping competition is return economy class airfares to Christchurch flying with **EMIRATES**.

NSW LTF5/18/22/2019 / ACT TP 18/00256

oneworld

American Airlines

**A big American thank you
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- Best International Airline Online
- Best Sales Executive Industry Supplier
- Chris Catanzariti

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The Darling GC opened



AROUND 250 guests were on hand last Thu night for the official opening of The Star Gold Coast's new luxury hotel, The Darling.

The Darling Gold Coast is in a tower adjacent to The Star Gold Coast and is the second property to adopt the brand.

An infinity-edge pool is located

on the 19th floor of the tower.

The Star Entertainment Group chairman John O'Neill AO and Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk - who were on site in Aug 2015 for the ground-breaking ceremony of the 57 all-suite property - declared The Darling, Gold Coast open (pictured).

Thank you for nominating us in the **2018 National Travel Industry Awards.**

We would be delighted to receive your vote for:
Category 26 – Best Car/Campervan Rental Operator

Your continued support is always appreciated!

[VOTE NOW](#)



NZ spring uptick

HOLIDAY traffic growth into New Zealand during the 2017 spring period out-performed the peak summer season, according to Tourism New Zealand.

Comparing the two periods (01 Sep-30 Nov and 01 Dec-28 Feb), visitor arrivals increased by 7.1% versus 6.4%, NZ int'l visitor arrivals data shows.

"It's encouraging to see more and more visitors choosing to travel to New Zealand in the shoulder seasons," TNZ chief exec Stephen England-Hall said.

"Improved seasonality means more consistent business for New Zealand tourism operators across the year, helping to bring greater productivity, higher returns on investment and better employment prospects," he said.

Holiday arrivals in Feb increased 15.8% year-on-year to 246,000.

Abu Dhabi shows

A THREE city expo has been announced by the Dept of Culture & Tourism Abu Dhabi and Etihad Airways, to be held in Jun.

The roadshow includes events in Brisbane (18 Jun), Melbourne (19 Jun) and Sydney (20 Jun).

Attendees will have a chance at winning Business class flights to Abu Dhabi - more details to come. Expos will run from 5:30-9pm.



NRL ROUND 3 WINNER

Congratulations

JANET BIDGOOD

from **RACT Travel**

Janet is the top point scorer for Round 3 of *Travel Daily's* NRL footy tipping competition. She's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.



The major prize for the 2018 footy tipping competition is return economy class airfares to Europe flying with **EMIRATES**.

NSW LTF/18/2019 /ACT TP 18/0026

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CATEGORY 30 – BEST WHOLESALER – INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT

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SOME of the United Kingdom's athletes headed to the global head office of Flight Centre Travel Group for a 2018 Commonwealth Games lunch in Brisbane recently.

Hosted by business travel specialist Corporate Traveller and the Australian British Chamber of Commerce, the event was held as a precursor for the 2018 Commonwealth Games which will run from 04-15 Apr.

The athletes took part in a panel discussion with Professor Nicola Phillips, Chef de Mission Wales.

Pictured are: David McCredie, ceo Australian British Chamber of Commerce; Professor Nicola Phillips, Chef de Mission Wales; Graham 'Skroo' Turner, managing director Flight Centre Travel Group; Mimi-Isabella Cesar, rhythmic gymnast England; Adam McMullen, long jumper Northern Ireland; Euan Inglis, swimmer Scotland; Her Excellency Menna Rawlings CMG, British High Commissioner and Jess Anscombe, general manager Corporate Traveller.



Brochures

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure of which you'd like to make the industry aware, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



APT Small Ship Cruising - Croatia 2019

APT has released its small scale cruising options in the emerging Croatian market. All trips available are on board the brand new small ship, *MV Queen Eleganza*. The nine-day Croatian Island Discovery price starts at \$6,495 per person twin share and includes a SuperDeal saving of up to \$1,000 per couple. A major selling point for the explorations is the ability of the *MV Queen Eleganza* to access areas of Adriatic coast that larger ships cannot reach.



Cruise Collections Asia

Cruise Collections recently launched a "collections brochure" for Asia at its latest conference in Brisbane. The pages feature a selection of bespoke cruising itineraries that operate across Indonesia, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Singapore. The brochure also offers travellers some handy advice in regards to currency and weather patterns throughout the year. A nine-night Indonesia Getaway package is featured starting

at \$3,195 per person twin share and including private car transfers between airport, hotel and port in Bali.



Venture Far Thailand 2018/19

Venture Far has unveiled its latest list of tours and info for Thailand providing a directory on interesting festivals to attend, the best modes of transport to navigate the country and what regions are best to visit at what time of the year. The brochure features a Dawn of Happiness package for three days and two nights exploring Thailand's ancient capital Sukhothai. The trip is priced from \$756 and includes two lots of

breakfasts, lunches and dinners.



Adventure Canada - 2019/20

Adventure Canada's latest brochure showcases many remote northern destinations available in 2019/20 such as The Arctic, Iceland, Scotland, and The Antarctica Peninsula. The cruise operator's Heart of the Arctic package departs 19-31 Jul 2020 aboard the *Ocean Endeavour* and explores the fjords of Greenland, including the world's smallest capital city Nuuk, before crossing the Davis Strait in search of rare marine life and seabirds. Prices range from US\$4,995-\$16,495ppts.

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Dear agents and industry partners,
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FINNAIR

Best International Airline Off-line

Congratulations to our BDMs **Toni Kosmarikas** and **Karli Koutrouvelis** for being nominated in the category Best Sales Executive Industry Supplier



Bunnik paints the town red



#smartvolunteering

THE Australian Government's #smartvolunteering campaign (TD 01 Mar) has been launched in Indonesia, the *Jakarta Post* has reported.

The push follows feedback that donated goods from Australia are being held at the customs office in Bali due to a lack of paperwork.

The consul-general said reports had been received by the office that people carrying donated goods has been stopped at the airport on arrival, or that shipments of donated goods had been held up by customs.

Seabreeze extends

SEABREEZE Resort Samoa has extended its stay/pay deals until 30 Apr, offering savings of up to \$1,000 per couple.

Offers include one night free plus one-way airport transfers for minimum five-night stays.

BUNNIK Tours has made sure its head office in Flinders Street, Adelaide won't go unnoticed, with the building now sporting a slick new coat of paint.

The building dates back to 1928 and stands out against Adelaide's standard theme of cream or charcoal, with the Bunnik team opting for a bright red and cream colour scheme.

Founder Marion Bunnik explained "When we travel the world, we see the most amazingly colourful buildings of Scandinavia, Italy, South America and Jodhpur in India".

"We really wanted to bring that back to Adelaide and add some colour to our home town."

Bunnik Tours purchased the building (pictured) in 2010 and it has taken eight years to restore.

Prior to the external work, the company renovated the building's entire interior including its grand ballroom.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES-LUFTHANSA GROUP JOINT VENTURE



WIN YOUR DREAM EUROPEAN HOLIDAY

This month, *Travel Daily* together with Lufthansa Group and Singapore Airlines, are giving agents the chance to win a holiday to Europe.

You and a friend will fly Economy Class to Singapore with Singapore Airlines and then onto Europe with a Lufthansa Group carrier (Lufthansa / Swiss International Air Lines / Austrian Airlines).

To win, have the most correct answers to the questions throughout the month, and the most creative response to the last question. Send your answers to lufthansa@traveldaily.com.au

Q18. Geneva is a Joint Venture destination. True or false?

Terms and conditions apply

Roman Design

ELIZABETH Unique Hotel has opened in Rome, offering 33 rooms ranging from 20-40m².

The property is in a restored 17th-century palazzo and is part of the Design Hotels Collection.

It is located a few minutes' walk from the Spanish Steps and adjacent to some of the city's top restaurants and boutiques.

965m US air pax

US AIRLINES and foreign airlines serving the United States carried an all-time high of 965 million passengers in 2017, the latest data from the US Bureau of Transportation Statistics shows.

The increase marks a 3.4% jump on the previous record high of 933.1 million passengers, which was reached in 2016.



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- › Min 4 years Travel Industry experience preferred

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**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
SYDNEY – SALARY TO \$100K**

Our client is looking for an inspiring leader with experience preferably in the Inbound Travel Market. You will be responsible for the overall success of the team including development & delivery of strategy, leading the team & enhancing relationships & agreements to achieve sales & revenue goals. You will be rewarded with a salary of up to \$100k plus DOE. Experience in areas other than Inbound will also be considered.

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**MARKETING MANAGER
MELBOURNE – UP TO \$120K PLUS SUPER**

This company has a rare opportunity to join their marketing team. You will be responsible for all marketing strategy & implementation, running end to end campaigns, measurement of results & working closely with key stakeholders on strategy & branding to deliver product to market. Proven track record in running successful campaigns across all channels including digital required. Top salary on offer. Call for more information.

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**RESERVATIONS MANAGER
BRISBANE – DOE UP TO \$70K + SUPER**

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***NEW* GROW YOUR CAREER!**

**CORPORATE SALES MANAGER
SYDNEY – ATTRACTIVE \$\$\$ DOE**

Join this Travel Management Company in Sydney where you will be responsible for your region with a lot of potential to win new business. My client is looking for an experienced Business Development Manager who has come from a TMC with a strong track record in building a pipeline & bringing in new business. This company offers a great salary package DOE. If you have a desire to succeed & a track record in corporate sales we want to hear from you.

***NEW* WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COAST**

**GENERAL MANAGER
REGIONAL WA – \$70 - \$80K + SUPER + BONUS**

A unique General Manager position has now become available for someone looking to step up and progress in their hotel management career. You will be responsible for the overseeing the day to day operations, leading the team, strategy, budgeting & forecasting to achieve goals. Current hotel management experience essential along with proven results in sales & marketing & leading successful teams. Strong salary + bonus + benefits on offer.

***NEW* LEAD THE TEAM**

**RESERVATIONS SALES MANAGER
MELBOURNE – \$100K PKG**

Turn the key and open the door to success when you join this travel company. Managing a team of reservations and support consultants you'll know the secrets of driving and motivating staff members to reach their full potential and sales targets. Stepping into this rare management opportunity your previous leadership experience, wholesale travel knowledge & experience in setting targets will set you apart from the pack. Top \$\$ & bonuses on offer.

CORPORATE SALES ROLE

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