

TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Monday 14 December 2015

Issue 3223

Jetstar to fly to the biggest towns in NZ starting with 'N'

Flights are operated by Eastern Australia Airlines for Jetstar Airways.

North Palmerston → Auckland

Jetstar

TAANZ Announces Broker Updates

The TAANZ board has proposed changes to its regulatory framework for brokers as it looks to update its broker rules.

A broker working group (BWG), including representatives from the broker businesses, has been looking into the issue—and has unanimously agreed on four proposed changes to the TAANZ broker rules.

Those changes were reviewed by the TAANZ board and three of the four recommendations have now been endorsed by the board.

TAANZ boss Andrew Olsen says the endorsements have gone some way to modernising some of the rule-based issues that its members in the broker businesses wanted to see changed.

"TAANZ has been, and will continue to, be supportive of the broker channel its members work in," says Olsen. "... I have no doubt that the members who were on board during the consultation had every opportunity to express their views. Some opportunities remain for the channel and we'll refocus on that next year."

Olsen says the reception to the changes has been positive. "...we're

looking forward to continuing these productive working group consultations on a regular basis with the foundation group," he adds.

... Endorsed

The BWG has proposed that broker indemnification be approved in all new TAANZ broker applications, to protect a company or its directors should an approved broker breach any term of its TAANZ contract. This was endorsed by the TAANZ board. Also given the thumbs up was that the TAANZ board will accept broker applications for approved locations where the full TAANZ members does not fully-own the location. Third to make the board's endorsement list was the working group's proposal to remove the rule requiring brokers to advertise the physical street address of the full TAANZ member.

"[That requirement] will be officially removed once we conduct the postal vote in the New Year," says Olsen. "Probably the most contentious area for brokers has been the perception of a barrier to opening business on the 'High St' if they did not wholly own the High St location."

Olsen says the agent body has adapted the criteria for the branch location approvals 'to now focus on risk and financial controls which is a timely modernisation giving members the opportunity to expand their footprint in the community'.



Luxury Cruising in Tahiti

10 night fly/cruise package from \$5479 per person, share twin

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS

GO HOLIDAYS!

Skroo for Aussie PM?

Flight Centre founders Graham (Skroo) Turner and Geoff Harris are said to be in talks with Aussie entrepreneur Dick Smith to launch a new political party in Australia.



According to a report in *The Australian* newspaper, the trio would look to secure three to four senate seats with a new Dick Smith Sustainable Australia Party.

Smith is quoted in the newspaper report as saying he was 'very seriously considering' the plan proposed by Turner and Harris.

The party's key policies are said to be centred around campaigning against a 'big Australia' and foreign ownership of farmland, and lowering immigration and population growth.

Industry Icon Passes

Much-loved industry identity Murray Tanner (pictured) passed away earlier today.



The Tanner family has been involved with the industry for decades and *Travel Today* has fielded widespread support for Murray's wife June, sons Steve and Peter and their families. Renowned for his trumpet playing, tributes have described Murray as a gentleman. '[He was] decently mannered in an old fashioned way, acutely intelligent, dry of wit and legally impeccable in his contributions on the vast number of issues that confronted travel agents and the travel industry over that long period of time,' says TAANZ boss Andrew Olsen. Murray served as a TAANZ director for 18 years. Funeral details will be advised tomorrow.

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QANTAS



NZ Sales Support

Air New Zealand advises agents that its Agency Sales Support teams will be attending training tomorrow (15 Dec) from 1400 for the afternoon, so there will be reduced staff numbers operating. It is likely there will be an increase in call hold time delays, it says. Normal opening hours will resume 16 Dec.



THE TAAP TOP TEN

The 10 most popular destinations booked by New Zealand travel agents through TAAP for NOV15:

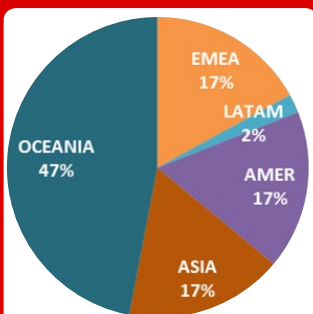
- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 Auckland | 6 Singapore |
| 2 Sydney | 7 Brisbane |
| 3 London | 8 Kowloon |
| 4 Melbourne | 9 San Francisco |
| 5 Los Angeles | 10 New York |

Expedia TAAP users earn Expedia+ points (2 points per \$1).

TAAP advised significant YOY growth through November. 348 different destinations were booked by NZ Agents last month. The top destinations booked through Expedia TAAP NZ were Auckland, Sydney, London, Melbourne, Los Angeles, Singapore, Brisbane, Kowloon, San Francisco and New York. Christchurch, Oahu, Wellington and Fiji were just outside the top 10.

Oceania remained the dominant destination last month up 1% to 47%. Asia down 1% to 17%, AMER up 3% to 17% and EMEA down 3% to 17%.

Some of the out of the way destinations booked last month include Casablanca Morocco, Raleigh NC, Kanto Japan and Noida India.



KEY: AMER (USA/Can); Asia; EMEA (Euro/Mid East/Africa); LATAM (Latin America); Oceania (NZ/Australia).

Your great service and our great rates, keep your customers coming back.

New Star Alliance Model Targets LCCs

Routes operated by low-cost and hybrid carriers will be able to connect to the Star Alliance network without the carriers becoming members, under a newly launched 'connecting partner model'.

Star chief executive Mark Schwab says the alliance is 'breaking new ground' with the model, which aims to grow the alliance's network reach. "We see a definite trend of convergence between the 'traditional full service' and 'low-cost' business models in the airline industry," says Schwab. "At the same time, our customers are telling us that they need

access to markets where we do not yet provide ideal coverage. In many cases network carriers are not in a position to fill this gap and hence working with future connecting partners will allow us to provide an extended network to our travellers." Connecting partners will be 'carefully assessed' for their fit and will need to comply to Star's 'high operating standard'—but won't need to become a member of the alliance itself.

Customers travelling on an itinerary which includes a transfer between a Star member airline and a connecting partner will be offered alliance benefits like passenger and baggage through check-in. Gold Card holders will be offered extra benefits in line with the partners.

Connecting partners will enter into bilateral commercial agreements with selected Star members, which may include additional Frequent Flyer based privileges, says the alliance. South African LCC Mango has been selected as the first connecting partner under the new model.

TN A Top Airline

Air Tahiti Nui says it has been named best airline in the South Pacific in *Global Traveler's* survey of frequent and luxury business travellers. "We pride ourselves on sharing the beautiful and unique attributes of Tahiti's culture, lifestyle and people with each and every guest so this accolade is a welcome pat on the back," says TN's regional manager New Zealand and Australia Alan Roman.

Shanghai Sale Extension

Air New Zealand advises agents that its short-life return economy class (KS-VSH54R) sale fares to Shanghai have been extended to 18 Dec. The GDS and airnzagent.co.nz have been updated.

Tokyo Route Popular

Sydney Airport has welcomed the first flight of All Nippon Airways' new daily direct Tokyo Haneda-Sydney service, with unique livery of Star Wars character R2-D2—ahead of the 17 Dec opening of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Japan has been Sydney's fastest growing outbound destination over the last three years, and is increasingly popular with business and leisure travellers, says Sydney Airport. The roundtrip flight was fully booked and forward reservations are high.

Iran Money Advice

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has updated its travel advice for Iran with advice on accessing funds in the country. MFAT says travellers often have difficulties accessing funds in Iran and it's very rare for credit cards to be accepted because of financial sanctions. The availability of ATMs and money transfer services is extremely limited and travellers should carry sufficient cash on them, in the form of USD or EUR, to meet their needs for the duration of their stay. The restrictions may continue to apply even after sanctions have been formally lifted, MFAT notes.

Travellers who intend on entering neighbouring countries by land should also be aware of possible taxes, import charges or levies at these borders. Some countries also have minimum money entry requirements, and travellers may need to prove they have sufficient funds to support themselves.

See safetravel.govt.nz/iran

KLM's New Services

KLM is expanding its medium-haul network with services to five new destinations next northern summer. The carrier will operate flights to Southampton, Inverness, Dresden, Genoa and Valencia. It is also stopping flights to Koln from 01 Feb.

Kuta Surveillance

There are plans in place for 100 new CCTV cameras to be installed throughout Kuta, in a bid to reduce high crime rates and keep both locals and tourists safe, say local reports. Installation will begin next year, and will see 90 new camera surveillance points throughout the district.

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Wellington ✈
Nelson

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jetstar.com

Jetstar

Celebrity's Big Plans For 2017/18

Clients with their sights set on a Europe cruise in 2017 or 2018 can start to lock in their plans as Celebrity Cruises' new sailings have opened for bookings.

The cruise line will have five ships in Europe for 2017-2018—Celebrity Reflection, Celebrity Equinox, Celebrity Constellation, Celebrity Eclipse and Celebrity Silhouette—and clients will have the choice of many signature event sailings, destination experiences, more time to explore cities with overnight stays and more.



Security Dogs Onboard

With New Zealand's cruise season well under way, the government is sending biosecurity staff, as well as MPI detector dogs, such as Emmett (pictured), to meet ships when they arrive at ports around the country. Clients arriving at ports around New Zealand are advised to leave any food onboard. If you need to refresh your memory on the full biosecurity rules, [CLICK HERE](#)

There's 86 overnights in 24 cities and four double overnight stays in Europe for clients to choose from; the chance to enjoy the French Open, The British Open, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Cannes Film Festival as part of the line's Signature Event Sailings; as well as to experience each destination through local foods, both onboard and through shore excursions.

The brand's 2017-2018 Europe line-up also includes new 'Uniquely Celebrity' experiences, such as mingling with the locals at the Rialto market in Venice; sailing on a luxury boat in Greece to explore secluded caves and remote beaches; as well as experiencing life like a local farmer in Spain, just to name a few.

To celebrate, clients can secure a Go Big, Go Better or Go Best offer. See celebritycruises.com/gobigbetterbest for further details.

Hurtigruten Goes Hybrid

Hurtigruten is looking to develop hybrid explorer ships powered by battery technology and algae fuel, advises local GSA Discover the World. "The cruise and maritime transport industries must accept greater environmental responsibility," says Hurtigruten's chief executive Daniel Skjeldam, speaking at the recent Paris climate change conference. The cruise line has partnered with Norwegian environmental NGO Bellona Foundation in a bid to 'explore how the vision of offering zero emission explorer cruises may materialise.'

Silver Muse Build

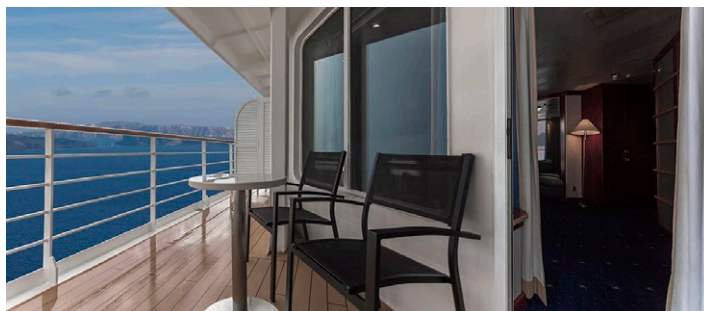
Silversea Cruises has celebrated the keel-laying ceremony of its newest ship, Silver Muse, signaling the start of its construction.

Weighing 40,700 GRT, Silver Muse has 298 suites onboard which can accommodate up to 596 guests and from Apr 2017 she will sail throughout Europe, Canada, North and South America as well as the Caribbean.

For further details see silvermuse.info

Italy, Croatia Highlights

Voyages to Antiquity has a 16-day Italian & Croatian cruise-tour, where guests will sail from Venice along the Adriatic to Croatia and Sicily. Cruise Holidays says clients will visit the Greek theatre at Taormina; check out the historic sites on mainland Italy; as well as the chance to explore the French Riviera, just to name a few. Departing 18 May, it is priced from \$6875pp, including a 25% earlybird saving for bookings to 31 Jan.



Balconies A Key Focus For Celestyal

Celestyal Cruises has installed 43 new balconies on its Celestyal Crystal—26 on Deck 6 and 17 on Deck 7. Crystal now has 43 balcony junior suites, eight balcony suites and two imperial balcony suites, a total of 53 all up. Each balcony extends 1.4m from the ship's bulkhead, while the length of each is between 2.8-5.8m. Local GSA Discover the World says the balconies are part of an extensive refurbishment program which will see two other vessels, Celestyal Olympia and Celestyal Nefeli, also have work done. Both ships' cabins and public spaces will be redecorated.



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IAH's Advantages

Air New Zealand's new flights have a particular significance for Houston's George Bush International Airport, says visiting Houston Airport System chief operating officer Lance Lyttle.

"With this [NZ] flight we'll be the only airport in the Western Hemisphere that has direct flights to all habitable continents on earth [when defining Australasia as a continent]," says Lyttle.

There's plenty of reasons to send travellers through Houston as a gateway, says Lyttle—including the city's geographical advantage which means convenient connections to a wide range of destinations.

"We can get you to anywhere in the US in a very short time, as well as Latin America, and throughout the Caribbean," he says.

The airport is also undergoing plenty of development, including installing seven new widebody gates at its international terminal, and has made strides in the self-service area. Kiwi travellers can use kiosks when arriving in IAH, making their journey quicker, adds Lyttle.

Hoverboards Grounded

American, Delta and United airlines have become the latest carriers to ban so-called hoverboards over safety concerns. The issue centres not on falling off the boards, which are a latest craze, but of the fire risk they may pose in the cargo hold. Some carriers are permitting them in carry-on luggage. IATA is aware of the risks but has said it is up to airlines to make their own risk-based analysis on the carriage of the hoverboards.

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News & Product

Texans Explore Kiwi Potential

Houston tourism officials are expecting the majority of travellers on Air New Zealand's new direct flights will be business travellers to begin with—but the city is confident leisure travellers will soon follow once word gets out.

NZ's flights to the Texan city launch tomorrow, and a delegation from Houston and Texas was in Auckland this morning training agents on what the city can offer their clients.

Houston is home to plenty of industry such as oil and gas, and this 'will drive travel at the beginning', says Jorge Franz of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau (GHCVB).

"What we see with a lot of our new routes is business travellers that will extend their stay," he says.

Once in Houston, there's easy flight connections throughout the US and beyond—but what the GHCVB would really like to see is people opting to stay on and explore its own attractions.

Houston is America's fourth largest city and is home to attractions like

New AKL Beauty Offering

As part of Lagardere Travel Retail's ongoing development of their Aelia Duty Free concept at Auckland Airport, Urban Decay, a cosmetic brand, has made its debut into New Zealand, opening a counter in the Perfume & Cosmetics floor. Urban Decay products can also be ordered on-line at aeliadutyfree.co.nz and collected at the airport for departing or arriving passengers.

Malaysia Outlet Sale

Kuala Lumpur's Mitsui Outlet Park KLIA, which opened near the airport in May this year, is holding its biggest sale ever from now until 03 Jan to coincide with the official 1Malaysia Year End Sales 2015.

The outlet mall has proven 'hugely popular' with tourists, says Tourism Malaysia, and features more than 130 shops offering luxury and branded products, fashion and accessories, perfumes and cosmetics, chocolates and confectionery, kids wear and sportswear, household goods and luggage.

Its Christmas sale will see savings of up to 90%, as well as entertainment and giveaways from a host of outlets. The mall is five minutes from the airport, shuttle buses operate all day, and there's on-site check-in for travellers flying with Malaysia Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways, KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines and Bangkok Airways.



the NASA Space Center, top museums, the world's largest rodeo, some of America's best cuisine, and shopping—travellers can also claim back their tax.

"We're also hosting the Superbowl in 2017, so there's \$1.5 billion of new infrastructure going on in downtown Houston—including new hotels, new retail and new restaurants," says GHCVB chief operating officer Mike Waterman. "That really broadens our offerings from both a business and tourism perspective."

... Kiwi Plans

This week's visit was an 'exploratory mission' for both Houston and Texas, as the tourism bodies look to see what opportunities exist in promoting the state, and in encouraging wholesalers to package up more of it—particularly some of the more diverse offerings, says Texas Tourism's Brad Smyth. "We've been doing marketing in Aus-

tralia for several years now, with this flight it will make it much easier for us to consider adding New Zealand into that marketing mix," he adds.

Texas will be back in Feb for the Visit USA roadshow.

Pictured: **1** Lauren Walker and Jonathon Riki of helloworld.

2 Millie Toal of GO Holidays won the major prize of a trip to Houston for two, including Air New Zealand flights. She's pictured with Wayne Mitcham of Brand USA and Mike Waterman, president of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau.

3 Team Houston is (back) Mike Waterman and Jorge Franz, Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau; Thomas Gentz, Air New Zealand; Brad Smyth, Texas Tourism; Lance Lyttle, Houston Airport System; and Wayne Mitcham of Brand USA; with (front) Pilar Florez, GHCVB; and Saba Abashawl and Molly Waits from Houston Airport.

Merry Christmas

**Fri 18 Dec is our last issue for the year,
Mon 18 Jan is the first issue for 2016**

Again this year **Stop Press** e-mail broadcasts will be published in between these dates should there be important breaking news.

Holiday Update e-mail broadcasts will also be available for timely or important product announcements by suppliers.

Contact Tony 021 388 315
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TABS ON
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TODAY**
Incorporating Tabs On Travel

New At Viva

Viva Expeditions and Chimu Adventures have appointed Jo Saunderson in the new role of relationship manager. Saunderson has been in the travel industry for 21 years, the last 16 years as a sales manager for Peregrine and then Tempo Holidays.



"It is with great pleasure that I am now working with the team at Viva Expeditions and Chimu and I get to specialise in South America and Antarctica product, destinations I feel very passionate about. It is fantastic to be specialising in these regions and I am keen to get out and see as many agents as possible in 2016," she says.

Asia Pacific Airports See Growth In Sep

In Sep 2015 Asia Pacific airports reported growth of 6.5% whereas the Middle East grew at 15.7%, says Asia Pacific Airports Council International.

For the year to date, growth in the first three quarters was 8.3% for Asia

Pacific and 11.7% for Middle East.

Despite slowdown in regional trade activities, passenger traffic experienced solid growth in Sep. A number of major airports recorded year-over-year growth in excess of 20%. This included Bangkok Don Muan +31.8%, Kunming +21.4% and Osaka Kansai +21.1%. In the Middle East the three largest hubs continued to generate robust growth for the month: Doha +21/4%, Abu Dhabi +18.2% and Dubai +8.2%. Air freight remained weak for the month, continued to be impacted by slowdown across Asian export markets and oil producing economies. In Sep, freight volumes were essentially flat in Asia Pacific +0.5% and slight decrease in the Middle East -3.9%.

Opera House Welcome

The Sydney Opera House has opened its new Welcome Centre, where clients explore its cultural and architectural heritage and contemporary programming. Located on the Opera House's lower concourse, the centre incorporates heritage interpretation of the site and digital content showcasing the performances inside, along with a retail store, tour meeting point, cloak and ticketing area. The aim is to provide an information and orientation hub for the 8.2 million annual visitors.

Domestic AB's Packages

All Blacks Tours has released domestic packages for next year's Investec Rugby Championship and Bledisloe Cup encounters in New Zealand, including two matches against Australia in Wellington and Auckland and a game against Rugby World Cup 2015 semi-finalists Argentina in Hamilton.

A match between the All Blacks and South Africa in Christchurch will be on sale in the New Year.

Packages just released include the All Blacks vs Australia in Wellington on 27 Aug and a second Bledisloe test in Auckland on 22 Oct, with two nights priced from \$925pp.

The Argentina game in Hamilton 10 Sep is from \$455pp including one night's accommodation.

All packages are commissionable to agents at 10%.

For more information on the packages see allblackstours.com

Industry Diary

JANUARY 2016

Rocky Mountaineer & Adventure World Road Show Breakfasts

Dunedin: Tue 26.

Christchurch: Wed 27.

Wellington: Thu 28

Location & times tbc.

FEBRUARY 2016

Brand USA Discover America Events

Christchurch: Mon 22, Rydges Latimer Hotel, 1700-2130.

Auckland: Tue 23, The Cloud, Queens Wharf, 1700-2130.

JAWS Roadshow

Dunedin: Mon 29, Scenic Southern Cross Hotel, 118 High Street, 1700-2000.

MARCH 2016

JAWS Roadshow

Christchurch: Tue 01, Rydges Latimer Hotel, Latimer Square, 1700-2000.

Nelson: Wed 02, Rutherford Hotel, 27 Nile Street West, 1700-2000.

Whangarei: Tue 08, Forum North, 7 Rust Ave, 1700-2000.

Napier: Mon 14, War Memorial Conference Centre, 48 Marine Parade, 1700-2000.

Wellington: Tue 15, Rydges WLG, 75 Featherston Street, 1700-2000.

Palmerston North: Wed 16, Distinction Hotel, 175 Cuba Street, 1700-2000.

New Plymouth: Thu 17, Novotel Hotel, Cnr Of Hobson and Leach Streets, 1700-2000.

Tauranga: Tue 22, Tauranga Yacht Club, 70 Keith Allen Drive, 1700-2000.

Hamilton: Wed 23, Novotel Tainui, 7 Alma Street, 1700-2000.

Cook Islands Tourism Feel Rare Roadshow

Christchurch: Tue 08, the Hagley Oval, breakfast.

Wellington: Wed 09, Rydges, breakfast.

Auckland North: Wed 09, Spencer on Byron, Takapuna, evening.

Auckland South: Thu 10, Waipuna Conference Suites, Highbrook, breakfast.

Auckland CBD: Thu 10, The Heritage Hotel, evening.

APRIL

Tourism Fiji Roadshow

Palmerston North: Mon 04, Distinction Hotel, 0700-0930.

Christchurch: Mon 04, Tait Conference Centre, 1730-2015.

Wellington: Tue 05 April, Amora Hotel, 1730-2015.

Hamilton: Wed 06, Ferrybank Reception Centre, 1730-2015.

Auckland: Thu 07, Stamford Hotel, 1730-2030.

Auckland North Shore: Fri 08, QBE Stadium, 0700-0930.

Asia Now roadshow

Dunedin: Tue 05.

Christchurch: Wed 06.

Wellington: Thu 07.

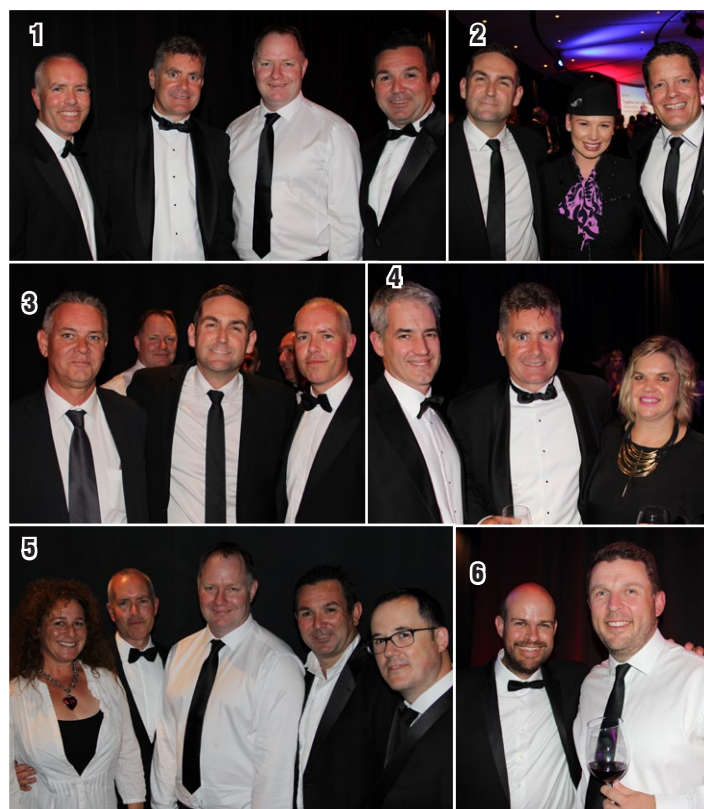
Tauranga: Mon 11.

Hamilton: Tue 12.

Auckland North: Wed 13.

Auckland East: Thu 14.

Venues, times tba.



Air China's Auckland Launch Celebrations

Air China hosted a gala dinner in Auckland on Fri night to celebrate the launch of its new daily Beijing services, in conjunction with Air New Zealand. The evening was a cultural extravaganza from a powhiri and waiata to lion dancers and a memorable Chinese orchestra performance.

1 APX's Andrew Dale with Air NZ's Cam Wallace and helloworld's Simon McKearney and Adrian Turner. **2** Air NZ's Karl Bradford and newly appointed NZ regional manager Americas Nick Judd with an NZ crew member. **3** Rob Beecher from Global Travel Network with Air NZ's Karl Bradford and Andrew Dale from APX. **4** Auckland Airport chief executive Adrian Littlewood with Air NZ's Cam Wallace and Jodie Burnard from Flight Centre. **5** Airtickets' Kate Porter with Andrew Dale from APX, helloworld duo Simon McKearney and Adrian Turner and APX's Garrick Loft. **6** Flight Centre's Sean Berenson with Callum Murchison from House of Travel.

High Flyers Trip

22-26 November 2015

travel managers Where your travel experience begins

Travel Managers Group of High Flyers for 2015 and their partners were recently flown to Las Vegas for a 4-day indulgence of the senses by Air New Zealand.

The group met in the newly up-graded Koru Lounge at Auckland Airport. Most of the group were able to experience the mid to front end of the plane with up-grades for most of their round trip journey.

Other key sponsors included; Go Holidays, Amadeus, Sabre Pacific, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Cirque du Soleil Interna-

tional and Papillion Helicopters. With options that included; a walking & tasting tour to 4 top Las Vegas restaurants, Machine Guns Vegas for those keen, golf, endless shopping, optional zip lining at night, an evening of dinner out and the Cirque du Soleil Show KA and of course casino watching, there was plenty to cram into those 4 days.

An early start on Day 3 was rewarded with a spectacular scenic helicopter flight over the Grand Canyon with a champagne breakfast on one of the plateaus overlooking the expansive views across the Grand Canyon. The final evening was a night to remember with Air New Zealand hosting a wonderful dinner celebration at Todd English's Olives restaurant with the backdrop of the spectacular Bellagio Fountains playing right at the windows of the restaurant.

PICTURED:

- 1 Kelly Bowater, Kristin & Phil Edgeworth, Amanda Springer
- 2 Vincent George
- 3 Dave Wallace
- 4 Daniel Collins, Jason Buckley, Rafael Sandoval, Briar Collins
- 5 TMG Helicopter Las Vegas 2015

THE GROUP INCLUDED:

Top 10 Brokers TMG

David Coley
Sue Mist
Angela & Peter Manase
Kristin Edgeworth
Vince George & Roseann Connolly-George
Bhagavan Srinivasa
Johnny & Novita Parulian
Kelly Bowater
Heather McKenzie
Vicki Hyslop

Top TMG Branch

Daniel Collins

Top Travelsmart Office

Jane Hinds

Top Executive Brokers

Carmel Sheehan
Karen Bowring



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