

TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Monday 25 July 2016

Issue 3357

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New Zealand Travel Has Talent Is Back

The trade entertainment extravaganza that is New Zealand Travel Has Talent is back; and event organiser, Royal Caribbean Cruises' Mark Kinchley is promising this year's event will be bigger and better than last year's showcase.

Something of a runaway success, Kinchley says last year's trade appreciation event was so well received that the cruise line is doing it all again—but he stresses the event will only be a success if the trade really gets behind it again and auditions.

The cruise line is calling for auditions from across the industry—from those in hotels, airlines, travel agencies and anyone connected to the travel industry. "There are so many talented people out there, this is their chance to have a go and be in to win an incred-

ible cruise prize," says Kinchley. "The trade auditions are the key—and the event will be bigger and better if we can get entries from around the country."

Last year's event finalists ranged from a singing dog through to the eventual winner Hayley Ngametu's (from GO Holidays) hip hop dance moves.

Details of this year's trade thank-you event, being staged at Auckland's Langham hotel 30 Sep, are firmly under wraps—but Kinchley is promising an improved venue, more audience fun, more surprises and more celebrity judges.

"We already have a lot of people wanting to attend with agent groups from Northland to Wellington making the trip to Auckland—people are making such an effort," says Kinchley. "It's going to be bigger and better this year."

Industry contestants will be competing for the grand prize of a Caribbean cruise for two, including airfares, in a balcony cabin on Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas. "It's a massive prize—one of the biggest agent travel prizes this year," adds Kinchley. Royal Caribbean trade sales from this market are sitting on another possible record year, says Kinchley. "The brands are going from strength to strength and the trade has supported incredibly well," he adds.

For more details or to submit an audition, [CLICK HERE](#)

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TAANZ AGM In Sep

The TAANZ annual general meeting is being held in Auckland Fri 09 Sep, from 1500. TAANZ members are asked to diarise the date. A venue will be advised in due course and the relevant documentation will be circulated.

QLD Vs Wicked

Queensland's Attorney-General is reportedly set to introduce legislation allowing the state to ban Wicked Campers bearing offensive slogans. The new law will mean vehicle registrations will be cancelled if they don't comply with Advertising Standards Bureau regulations. Complaints about the slogans are met with 'deafening silence' by vehicle owners, says the A-G.

ZQN Alert Disrupts

Aviation Security and Police were on heightened alert at Queenstown Airport yesterday afternoon after a cleaner found a note mentioning a bomb on a Qantas aircraft around 1430.

The airport's passenger terminal was then evacuated, two incoming domestic flights were diverted and two outbound flights cancelled—on the last day of school holidays for most New Zealand schools.

The QF plane was searched by Aviation Security and Police and no evidence of explosives were found, say the police in a statement.

... Operations Resumed

Normal flight operations resumed at the Queenstown Airport from 1630, with the evening services resuming as scheduled to and from ZQN, while the airport company worked with the airlines to minimise disruptions to passengers.

7 Pages This Issue

News..... p1, p2, p4, p5, p6, p7
Cruising Today..... p3

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Hawaii Storm Warning

The Hawaii Tourism Authority advises that the tropical storm warning for Hawaii Island has been called off. The warning remains in effect for Maui County, Oahu and Kauai until Tropical Storm Darby completes its track past those islands. A warning means heavy rain and high winds are already occurring or imminent.

The STO says while there have been numerous temporary closures of parks and postponement of events for safety reasons, all airports have remained open and only two flights have been cancelled.

Visitors are advised to continue exercising caution while outdoors and to stay safe until the storm has passed the islands. For the latest information on Tropical Storm Darby, see weather.gov/cphc.

NF \$199 For Kids

Air Vanuatu has re-released its \$199 fare for children ex Auckland to Vanuatu, available for sales to 07 Aug and travel 01 Aug-30 Jun (blackouts apply). The fare is available for children aged two-16 (NF reminds agents that anyone aged over 12 needs to pay the VU departure tax and UV domestic tax). At the same time, NF has also released an Island Hopper fare for Tanna and Santo.

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TAANZ Urges Agents: Share IATA Survey

The IATA Global Passenger Survey aims to give an independent, in depth and objective snapshot of the views of air travellers from around the world—and TAANZ is urging Kiwi agents to share the survey with their clients.

The air travel survey looks at what travellers want, how they behave, why they make choices and on what they spend their money. It also assists IATA to identify the preferences of air travellers from the point of travel browsing to when they collect their bags at their final destination.

“We’re happy to support collection of information that will provide user views to make the end to end process easier for our mutual customers,” says TAANZ boss Andrew Olsen. “Some of the matters in the survey are in fact in front of the local APJC. For example, reschedules and disruptions could potentially be rejigged so that the original PNR is amended and directed to the customer without agency involvement.

“We’re encouraging our members to engage with their customers to give

NTIA Industry Rate

Sky City has released a special industry rate for those in the trade heading to Auckland for the NTIAs, or those wanting to stay overnight in town. Skycity room rates are from \$229, and at the Skycity Grand from \$259. For details, e-mail bradley.garnett@skycity.co.nz

NZ Shanghai Changes

Air New Zealand has adjusted its planned seasonal service expansion on its Auckland-Shanghai route. The service will still increase from seven to 10 services a week, however the increase is now effective from 10 Jan—instead of the original 17 Dec start dates, shows the GDS. The new flight NZ287/284 will also see schedule changes with red-eye departure and arrival in Shanghai. See the GDS for details.

their views to have their say in shaping the future of travel,” adds Olsen. IATA says the survey also helps airlines and industry understand consumer priorities and preferences when travelling by air.

For the link to the survey [CLICK HERE](#)

MH 10% Commission

Malaysia Airline is offering agents double commission of 10% for sales and ticketing of fares ex New Zealand from 16 Jul-15 Aug. MH’s new commission level of 5% was introduced on 16 Jul. Agents need to approach their preferred consolidator for access to the 10% commission, notes MH.

SQ Appointment

Singapore Airlines has appointed Kate Mayo as manager Wellington and South Island as the carrier prepares for the launch of its new ‘Capital Express’ service in Sep. Mayo has been with SQ since 2012, including as manager South Island since



2014, and has ‘shown great potential and leadership’, says SQ’s gm New Zealand Simon Turcotte. Mayo will relocate to WLG for her new role, which takes effect 01 Aug.

At the same time, Jessica Cribbens is moving from SQ marketing to take the sales manager South Island role; and Sandy Mcfadyen-Rew is now sales supervisor Wellington, with both roles reporting to Mayo. Paula Kerr has been promoted to agency and distribution manager within SQ Marketing.

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