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Dear Industry Colleagues,

To ring in the New Year, we've refreshed the look of QNews! In this issue, we bring you news of a new service by Philippines Airlines to Brisbane, exciting kids' activities at the Australia Zoo and Whitsundays updates.

Warm regards
Tourism Queensland team

Philippines Airlines



From March, Philippines' national carrier will fly A330s twice weekly to Brisbane, departing every Thursday and Saturday. The new direct service will make it easier for international visitors to visit the sunshine state.
www.philippineairlines.com

New Koala Haven



Couran Cove Island Resort, located on South Stradbroke Island, now boasts a new environmental project – a new koala haven! With this newly built enclosure set amongst mature gum trees, guests staying at the resort will have an up close experience with one of Australia's favourite animals.
www.couran.com

Hop On for a Tamborine Mountain Tour



Explore the Gold Coast hinterland on a new Hop On - Hop Off tour! The Mountain Explorer Pass allows visitors to explore local attractions at their own pace on tram-style trolley buses, with scenic stops at wineries, cafes, galleries and national parks. Daily between 10am and 4pm. Transfers from the Gold Coast are available.
www.tamborinemountaintours.com

Kids' Specials at the Australia Zoo



Crikey! The Crocoseum is set to go wild when Terri and Bindi Irwin take center stage to feed one of the massive Saltwater Crocodiles in the Crocoseum every day through until 17 January! Bindi will also perform live daily. Also treat the little ones to superhero Ben 10's special appearance at the Australia Zoo from 12 to 25 January.
www.australiazoo.com.au



Gourmet Traveller Packages at The Limes Brisbane

The Limes Hotel has linked up with two of Brisbane's premier restaurants, Phillip Johnson's Ecco Bistro and Matt Moran's new Aria Restaurant, to create mouth-watering 'stay-and-play' Gourmet Traveller packages. The package includes a night's stay and Dello Mano Chocolate Brownies, a dining voucher and other options. After dinner, guests can enjoy a drink on the hotel's rooftop bar or exquisite hand-made Dello Mano brownies in bed. For more information, call +617-3852-9000.
www.limeshotel.com.au

Stingray Splash at Daydream Island



Handfeeding stingrays is the newest attraction at Daydream Island Resort and Spa's Living Reef, one of the world's largest man-made coral reef lagoons. The new 45-minute Stingray Splash offers groups of up to four people the opportunity to walk knee-deep into the massive man-made reef to hand-feed resident stingrays and sharks, and pat the stingrays. The Stingray Splash experience costs A\$38. Free educational feeding sessions are held twice daily at 10am and 12.30pm daily.
www.daydreamisland.com

Whitsunday Ngaro Sea Trail



The Whitsunday Ngaro Sea Trail, a spectacular series of walks and sea excursions involving three Whitsunday islands is now open. Travel by boat between South Molle, Hook and Whitsunday islands, the traditional country of the Ngaro people, then walk from seashore through rainforests to the summit for breathtaking views of other Great Barrier Reef islands and the Coral Sea. This unique trail was constructed over the last two years at a cost of A\$1.3 million.
www.derm.qld.gov.au

Resort Makeover in Port Douglas



The 128-villa Rendezvous Reef Resort has completed its multi-million-dollar refurbishment, with each villa offering a kitchen, laundry facilities, high speed Internet access, TV and DVD player. Set in 15 acres of lush tropical gardens, the resort features three lagoon style pools with a children's area, a 25-metre lap pool, poolside sundeck, tennis courts, gym, BBQ area and pitch 'n' putt golf.
www.rendezvoushotels.com

What's On



**Buderim Ginger Festival
21 to 24 January**

Join in the fun at the 15th Annual Ginger Flower & Food Festival at Yandina which brings together a fabulous line-up of celebrity gardeners, floral artists, foodies and chefs. The Buderim Ginger Cooking School's Michelin-starred chef, Erik Van Alphen will also run a series of masterclasses together with a very special celebrity guest chef.
www.gingerfactory.com.au

Lim Mui Khim
Regional Director, Southeast Asia
Tourism Queensland
51 Goldhill Plaza
#16-04
Singapore 308900
Tel: (65) 6253 2811
Fax: (65) 6253 8653
E-mail: khim.lim@tq.com.au

Ivan Teh
Market Development Manager
Tourism Queensland
12, Jalan Lang Perut Putih 8
Taman Sri Bintang
52100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : (6012) 383 2093
Fax : (603) 6275 2093
E-mail: Ivan.Teh@tq.com.au

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