

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2014**

### **AFTA Chairman elected and new director appointed**

Following the AFTA AGM held last Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in Sydney at which the constitution of the Federation was changed to include mandatory participation of the ATAS accreditation scheme for travel agent members, the board held a meeting to elect office bearers.

Mike Thompson (helloworld) was re-elected unanimously as the Chairman of the AFTA board of directors. In addition two Vice Chair positions were elected and they again were unanimous with Elizabeth Gaines (helloworld) and Graham Turner (Flight Centre) taking the positions.

In addition, as a result of the recent resignation of Peter Brady (CWT) the board invited Tom Manwaring of Orient Express Travel Group to fill the casual vacancy and AFTA is pleased to report the appointment of Tom to the board of AFTA.

“The AFTA board has shown great solidarity of purpose over the past few years and one of the reasons for this is the consistency of Mike Thompson as Chairman” said Jayson Westbury Chief Executive.

“I am delighted to have been re-elected Chairman of AFTA, a role that I greatly enjoy within an industry that I love” said Mike Thompson Chairman.

“The board will continue to set the policy agenda for the organization and the addition of Tom Manwaring to the board will clearly increase the representation across a diverse travel agency community in Australia” said Westbury

“The OETG business covers a broad range of travel agency businesses across the country and I look forward to contributing to the future of the industry as an AFTA Director” said Tom Manwaring CEO OETG.

The AFTA board will come together for the first time in September to consider the many issues facing the industry at this time.

End.

MEDIA CONTACT:

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## Notes to Editors:

The Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) is the peak body in Australia representing the retail travel industry. Founded in 1957, AFTA represents the majority of travel agents in Australia and includes all of the major travel agency groups.

AFTA's role is to uphold the interests of members in matters relating to the operation of all travel agencies in Australia. In broad terms these issues are ones that are not addressed by agent chain or corporate entities on behalf of their members, and are ones that involve the industry as a whole.

**ATAS -TRAVEL ACCREDITED:** The AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS) is an industry accreditation scheme that sets the benchmark of quality for the travel industry.

AFTA is committed, through ATAS, to elevating travel industry standards in Australia by driving increased and continued participation by travel intermediaries in ATAS and raising consumer awareness of the benefits of booking travel through an ATAS accredited agent.

The accreditation scheme is open to all travel intermediaries.

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