



Hong Kong, buy heavens

July to September is the best time to shop in Hong Kong. The Central District is home to Harvey Nichols and luxury brand boutique Joyce, and is the place to mix your favourite pieces with basics from H&M and Zara. Practise bargaining skills at Stanley Market. At Times Square, try Jade Garden's dumplings or Lane Crawford for Western shoe sizes and the latest from Stella McCartney and Miu Miu. See chic and cheap fashions at Causeway Bay. For great-value hotels and holiday packages call Qantas Holidays on 13 14 15 or visit www.qantas.com.au/holidays



Pearling lugger, 1950s

Pearler of a month

Pearl is the birthstone for June and throughout the month, Paspaley's Sydney boutique features a pearling exhibition in which the veteran pearling family shares its colourful history. Exhibits include cool pearling memorabilia, from dive helmets to amazing finds such as the priceless Paspaley Pearl. June 2-30 at Paspaley, 2 Martin Place, Sydney. www.paspaley.com

PILOT TRAINING

Having become the first airline in Australia to offer a fully funded trainee program for commercial pilots earlier this year, QantasLink expects its first graduates to be flying this month. On graduation, the pilots will be contracted to QantasLink for an initial four-year period, based in Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Melbourne, Mildura or Sydney. More than 100 pilots will be trained over the next year.

QantasLink trainee pilot Andrew Hadfield



watch this space



the big tick

Manometro makes its mark.

Good news comes from Italy in the unusual shape of the Manometro watch from the Florentine studios of self-taught designer Giuliano Mazzuoli. Taking his cues from "everyday objects", he's designed pens in the shape of an Italian coffee pot (the Moka), and now a watch with the heft of a pressure gauge. The Manometro is "robust, functional and designed for perfect legibility" – no false boast as it's 45.2mm across and a fat 14.8mm deep. Further making sure you won't confuse it with any other timepiece, the crown is positioned at either two or 10 o'clock. Alligator straps are fixed to the case with tiny screws and, on chronograph models, the sub-dials for minutes and seconds are offset at a curious angle, which Mazzuoli explains was done to maintain "the congenial positioning of the text on the dial". Inside is a Swiss mechanical movement, but it's the exotic metals and combinations offered that have attracted enthusiasts – cases not only in polished or brushed steel, but also bronze-coated titanium, brushed gold and carbon, through to total carbon case and dial. Original model with brushed steel case and ivory dial (pictured), \$4500. **1800 237 847.**

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