

Fifty competing for 'world's best job'

Fifty would-be travellers have come one step closer to snagging the best job in the world - a \$150,000 gig as a tropical island caretaker.

Tourism Queensland (TQ) announced those who had made the cut in the first round of selection for the dream job that drew 34,684 applications from more than 200 countries. Living in free luxury digs on the Great Barrier Reef's Hamilton Island, the successful candidate will spend six months exploring the islands and reporting on their experiences through their blog.

The top 50 candidates come from a host of professions, with a charity fundraiser, dance instructor, physiotherapist, chef, DJ, scientist and an actor all in the running. They represent 22 countries, including the UK, US, Japan, Canada, Germany, Greece, India, China, Kenya, Guam, New Zealand and Australia. Queensland Tourism Minister Desley Boyle said the \$1.7 million viral marketing campaign - which has already generated more than \$70 million worth of publicity for the Sunshine State - had taken on a life of its own, spawning online discussion

groups, blogs and newspaper and radio coverage.

The website stalled on Tuesday morning as people flocked to watch the colourful entries online.

"There's everything from action and adventure, comedy, animation and a choreographed musical number that just stays with you," Ms Boyle said.

The Top 50 will now be narrowed down to 10 by TQ. An eleventh wild card entry will be voted for online. They will then fly to Hamilton Island for the final selection process before the winner starts work on July 1.



Coaster design comp

Create an artwork that educates people about the impact of problem gambling on families.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Do you have the creative skills to create a life-changing artwork that is just 95mm x 95mm?

Do you want your work seen by millions of people across NSW and win fabulous prizes like an 8 GB iPod Touch and a state of the art digital camera?

Are you aged 14-16 years?

Your challenge is to create an artwork that educates people about the impact of problem gambling on families. What makes it an even tougher challenge is that your artwork must be no bigger than 95mm x 95mm - the size of a drink coaster used in pubs and clubs.

Eleven regional winners will each win an 8 GB iPod Touch. They will then become finalists in the state-wide competition.

The overall state winner will also receive an Olympus E520 digital SLR camera worth almost \$1,000. They will have their artwork printed on 100,000 coasters and distributed to pubs and clubs state-wide to help educate people about responsible gambling.

The judges will be looking for entries that:

1. Gambling venue patrons will be able to understand at a glance
2. Are unmistakably about the issue of problem gambling.
3. Educate people on the signs and symptoms that they should look for that might indicate their gambling is a problem.

For entry details go here:

<http://www.gamblinghangover.nsw.gov.au/coaster/>

Entries must be received by 5pm on Friday 20 March 2009

Alexander the Great leads 'Greatest Greeks' TV competition

Greece's Skai Television on March 2 2009 presented the top 10 nominations in its Greatest Greeks show, for which voting remains open until May 18.

The list was topped by Alexander the Great, the third century BCE conqueror. Others on the list are Pericles, Plato, Eleftherios Venizelos and politician Konstantinos Karamanlis.

Like similar productions in other countries, the top 10 was narrowed down by voting from an original list of 100. The final winner will be decided after the showing of documentaries dedicated individually to each of the 10, followed by debates among supporters.

Voting is by internet, telephone and text message. The show is a spin-



off of the original BBC production in 2002 which produced a top 10 list that included no living people.

The original UK version of the show saw Winston Churchill place top, followed by engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and in third place, Diana, Princess of Wales.

Bulgaria is one of about 15 countries to have had similar shows. Its version was won by Vassil Levski, hero of the struggle to liberate Bulgaria from Ottoman rule.

Some countries have hit serious controversy with the series. The South African version was cancelled after a number of apartheid-era politicians and colonial figures, as well as one latter-day unashamed white supremacist, ranked higher on the list than anti-apartheid notables. The show was cancelled before completion, although it emerged that - somewhat predictably - Nelson Mandela was voted the greatest South African.

In Germany, rather than inviting nominations, people were invited to choose from an initial list of 300. The list did not include Adolf Hitler. Germany's version was won by Konrad Adenauer, followed by Martin Luther and in third place, Karl Marx.

The US version of the show was won by Ronald Reagan, followed by Abraham Lincoln and then Martin Luther King.

The French version saw some controversy because it emphasised figures from relatively recent history, and Napoleon was excluded by definition. The winner was Charles de Gaulle, followed by Louis Pasteur and priest Abbe Pierre.

George Calombaris will judge Masterchef Australia

FOODIE of the moment George Calombaris is rumoured to have been paid \$150,000 to appear as a judge on Channel 10's Masterchef Australia.

Despite the tough economic times,

Ten appear to have spared no expense on their big reality TV hope, which is set to turn the Melburnian into a household name when it hits screens later this year.

"We won't be commenting on money but we wanted the best and we got the best," a Ten spokesman said.

The modern Greek food specialist has three restaurants in Melbourne and also one in Greece.

