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By Angie Christofis

HOLIDAYS MAKE KIDS SMARTER

With research showing holidays are not just important for our health and well being, they actually make our kids smarter, here's a new way to take more holidays more often.

The enchanting holiday moments we enjoyed as children remain embossed in our minds as precious memories. We remember our noses painted with zinc, our skin glistening with salt water and the elaborate sandcastles we built. We remember riding on Dad's shoulders, ice cream dripping down our arms, the excitement of catching our first fish and the sweet scent of the beach bakery with its bread still warm from the oven.

Most vivid are those feelings of happiness, connectedness, discovery, laughter and love.

With life so busy these days, it is even more important to allow our children the time to relax, to dream, to break from routine, to play, discover and bond with friends and family. Holidays bring defining moments to our lives. They also allow us precious time to get to know our children.

[A recent study from the U.S. Department of Education](#) found that children who travel over summer break – whether to a beach, historic site or a national park – did better in reading, math and general knowledge than their peers who didn't holiday.ⁱ

“The data is clear,” said Dr. Bill Norman, Clemson University in South Carolina, “providing kids with the experience of travel broadens their horizons and opens their mind to learning.”

Closer to home, Tourism Australia’s [‘No Leave No Life’](#) campaign has been promoting the importance of holidays to Australians. ‘No Leave No Life’ research tracked annual leave accrual in Australia since 2005 and revealed that Australian employees have stockpiled a staggering 118 million days and \$33.3 billion worth of unused annual leave. Over a third of these Australian ‘leave stock-pilers’ have dependent children at home, which means that more and more kids are missing out on family holidays.ⁱⁱ

“The timeshare industry has always promoted the importance of regular holidays,” says Barry Robinson, CEO, Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific. “These studies give hard working parents a reminder not to put off holidays any longer - to take time out not only for our own health but for the wellbeing and development of our children.”

Vacation Ownership is a flexible way to secure tomorrow’s holidays today. Families buy into the WorldMark South Pacific Club by Wyndham that offers them a choice of resort locations and experiences year after year. Many Australians are turning to this style of timeshare, as offered by Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific, as a means of holidaying affordably, regularly and in quality accommodation.

“Many families see their only affordable holiday option as camping, which is fun, but doesn’t really give parents a break,” says Barry Robinson. “Our Club Owners enjoy spacious, self-contained apartments and a wide choice of fabulous destinations and ways to holiday here and abroad. One of the major advantages of Vacation Ownership is the ability to stay in spacious, self contained apartments and also to choose a different location each time they

stay,” says Barry Robinson.

“Life before the Club was one-star camping trips or staying with friends and family on their living room floors!” says Cheryl Devenish of Brisbane, who has been an Owner with WorldMark South Pacific Club by Wyndham for 10 years.

“Becoming Owners gave us the chance to explore locally, interstate and overseas in comfort. We’ve enjoyed arriving, putting on the kettle and the kids in the pool before even unpacking. We have loved exploring new places, visiting family and friends and always going back to a wonderful, comfortable apartment ... turns out it (Vacation Ownership) has been the most rewarding thing in our lives,” says Cheryl Devenish.

“We have had lots of fantastic memories from all of our holidays, we have stayed in Cairns, Port Macquarie, Hunter Valley, Tasmania, Ballarat and Nelson Bay,” says Yvonne Bodey, a WorldMark South Pacific Club Owner since 2000, “we have found all the venues fantastic.”

“We go away at every chance we get,” says Cheryl Devenish. “The family now has high values and expectations after staying in WorldMark resorts and we truly value the opportunity to be part of such a rewarding lifestyle.”

Over 38,000 Australians choose to own their holidays with Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific. With so many families turning to Vacation Ownership as a great way to holiday, how does one find out more about it?

Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific holds regular presentations throughout Australia to showcase the resorts, destinations and holiday options available through WorldMark South

Pacific Club. In a 90-minute session you'll attend a group presentation with the chance to hear from existing WorldMark Owners and will have a no-obligation personal consultation to explore options that best suit your holiday needs. By the end of your session, you'll have all the information you need to determine if you want to join more than 43,000 other WorldMark Owners and their families in the Asia Pacific region who are already enjoying a lifetime of holidays - and whether you choose to join or not, you'll even receive a reward to say thank you for your time!

Spend some time with one a Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific Consultant to find out how Vacation Ownership can enrich your life, freecall: 1800 807 097 or visit: www.wyndhamvrap.com/holiday.

ⁱ J.L Parker (2006) The Relationship Of Family Summer Vacation Trips And Academic Achievement Among First Graders: A National Study [Data File] , 2 – 93.

ⁱⁱ Data File - No Leave No Life Research Findings, Tourism Australia, 2009