

# The Sydney Morning Herald

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HD **Robb family restaurant takes top billing**  
BY James Massola Political correspondent  
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Exclusive - Tourism campaign - Boathouse promoted

A Sydney restaurant owned by Tourism Minister Andrew Robb and his family is being promoted by a government-funded \$40 million, 18-month Tourism Australia campaign that targets 17 global markets to sell the Australian "foodie" experience to the world.

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The Robb family restaurant, Boathouse Palm Beach, is showcased on Tourism Australia's "Restaurant Australia" website, which was launched in May, as the "ultimate day trip destination" just an hour from Sydney and the "perfect place for a relaxed family outing".

The \$40 million campaign has recently been launched in Britain, Singapore, South Korea and Hong Kong, while more than 80 of the world's leading food and wine "influencers" - including actress Gwyneth Paltrow, celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal and English food critic A.A. Gill - will be flown to Australia to sample featured restaurants.

A spokesman for Tourism Australia said any restaurant or cafe could submit their restaurant to feature on the government-funded website and that "the best of these experiences have then been curated by Tourism Australia".

Tourism Australia has featured about 800 restaurants, cafes and wineries - with photos and rave reviews - on the promotional website, with 1700 businesses listed.

June 2013 Bureau of Statistics data show there were 69,885 restaurants, cafes, takeaway shops, pubs and bars in Australia.

Mr Robb, widely regarded as one of the Abbott government's better performing ministers, declares a half ownership of two unnamed cafes and a wedding reception venue in his Register of Members' of Interests entry.

The ownership stake is declared in a section that covers "any other interests where a conflict of interest with a member's public duties could foreseeably arise". He has noted in his declaration the stake could be "relevant to my responsibility as Minister for Tourism".

Another section reveals Mr Robb has a shareholding in Boathouse Palm Beach Collective Pty Ltd, the parent company of the Palm Beach restaurant as well as the Boathouse at Balmoral Beach and Moby Dicks at Whale Beach.

Mr Robb declares that he and his wife Maureen are beneficiaries of Ram Consultancy Pty Ltd, a family trust. Australian Securities and Investments Commission records confirm that Ram Consultancy owns 150 of the 300 shares in the Boathouse Palm Beach Collective, with the other 150 shares held by Goldsmith Investment Corporation.

Andrew Goldsmith and Mr Robb's daughter, Pip Robb, are the director and secretary respectively of the Boathouse Palm Beach Collective and run the three restaurants.

A spokesman for Mr Robb said ".

"Mr Robb had nothing to do with the listing, full-stop, nor is he director of the **business**, for very good reason."

**CO**      tourism : Tourism Australia

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