PRESS RELEASE

IT'S THE MISSING LINK FOR BACKPACKERS – AND IT'S BUILT ON FACEBOOK® PLATFORM!
A new application on Facebook Platform solves backpackers' biggest headache

Backpackers have for years been searching for the missing link between the two most important things at the heart of travelling: finding great places to stay and meeting great people.

Whilst finding a hostel and checking if it is clean or has private showers is easy online, such functional basics don't really get the heart racing. What travellers have not been able to do so easily is choose accommodation based on who is staying there, stay in touch with their new (and old) friends and find out what their plans are so that they can easily meet up again.

Now at last it is possible with the launch of the *Hostels* application on Facebook Platform. *Hostels* finally gets to grips with the people element by integrating users' future hostel bookings, and past hostel ratings, reviews and experiences into their Facebook profiles so that their friends can check where they'll be and organise to meet up with them.

The idea for the *Hostels* Facebook application came from Chris Guzowski, a 22 year-old traveller and entrepreneur from Sydney, Australia, who created the Facebook application to provide everything a backpacker needs in one place.

"What has been missing in the information-overloaded world of the web so far is an easy way of knowing where your friends will be, so you can catch up with them" says Chris.

"The *Hostels* Facebook application means the last missing piece of the travellers puzzle is in place. There is now no need to go to more than one site and then email or call friends to track where they're heading next, because all the information you might want is provided by the *Hostels* Facebook application. So many people are already using Facebook every day, and this is simply extending its functionality for the backpacking and travelling world."

The *Hostels* application on the Facebook Platform lets travellers log any past, current or future stays at hostels around the world and proudly show their friends how far and wide they've travelled. Further, travellers can easily and in a fun way rate hostels, read and write reviews as well as make bookings and blogs – whilst effortlessly sharing all this with their friends. Individual hostels will soon also have the ability to add their own photos and information about their events, parties and social calendars.

"The site is really by travellers for travellers – I wish there was something like this available to plan my previous travels – it would have been so much easier and saved so many organisational hassles!"

The *Hostels* Facebook application gives travellers access to more than 9,000 hostels around the world and they can make instant reservations with no booking fee!

Facebook users can easily find the *Hostels* application by going to Facebook (www.facebook.com) and searching for Hostels, or by going directly to http://apps.facebook.com/hostels. Facebook users simply add the application and can drag the 'green hostels' icon further up their application list.

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Media Contact:

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Notes to Editors:

1. *Hostels* is a third party application easily accessible on Facebook. The application represents a new dimension to the social networking site **Facebook** which has only recently integrated third party applications such as **Hostels**.
2. Facebook is a social utility that offers an efficient way for people to stay connected with their friends and the people around them.
3. Users of the Hostels site can control who sees their booking information or choose to make it available to all site users.
4. The **Hostels Facebook** application has been created by Chris Guzowski, founder of *Hostelbook.com* in association with *Online Systems,* an Australian-based hospitality technology provider.