# Travel Daily

First with the news

Thursday 9th August 2018



#### The World at Your Feet!

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#### **Activists target Qantas and Virgin**

AIRLINES' role in repatriation of refugees from Australia is set to be highlighted by the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsiblity and the Refugee Advice and Casework Service.

The activist groups have taken aim at Qantas and Virgin Australia, highlighting concerns that the carriers risk exposing refugees to human rights violation by transferring them between points of indefinite detention, according to Fairfax.

Virgin Australia is being called on to follow the lead of sister brand Virgin Atlantic, which earlier this year pledged to no longer participate in deportations on behalf of the UK Home Office.

A Qantas spokesperson said "the government and courts are best placed to make decisions on the legal immigration status of individuals seeking to remain in Australia, not airlines".

#### TC promotion

**TRAVEL** Counsellors is today promoting its network, highlighting "greater flexibility and work/life balance".

The home-based network is emphasising its support offering, earning potential and technology. For more information, see page eight of today's edition.

#### TigerAir Hobart-GC

TIGERAIR will recommence flights between Hobart and the Gold Coast from 30 Oct, offering thrice weekly services.

The carrier said it would be the only LCC to offer direct flights on the route and that it previously operated it seasonally Dec-Apr.

#### Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news and photos, plus full pages from:

- AA Appointments jobs
- Travel Counsellors





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#### Double QF credits

**QANTAS** this morning launched a "double status credit" offer. valid for frequent flyers who book an eligible QF-operated domestic or international flight by 14 Aug, for travel 21 Aug 18 to 08 Aug 19.

The deal requires members to register from an emailed link in order to access the bonus, after which multiple bookings can be made in order to earn double status credits during the promotional period.

**Qantas Business Rewards** members are told to book under their QBR login or via a preferred travel agent to access savings.

More info at gantas.com.

# Alliance flags charter growth

**ALLIANCE** Aviation Services says it plans to focus on inbound and domestic tourism operators in the coming year, as it boosts its fleet amid a "general increase in charter activity".

The Brisbane-based company today reported a 33% increase in pre-tax profit to \$26.1 million for the year to 30 Jun, along with record operating cash flow and a 23% increase in revenue to \$248m for the year.

Alliance said it had increased flying activity across all revenue types - contract, wet lease, charter and regular passenger

transport (RPT) - with ceo Lee Schofield saying the company's 530-strong workforce in Australasia and Europe should be "very proud of what has been achieved this year".

He said the growth of Alliance's activity in the tourism sector for both new and existing clients, as well as a boost in wet lease flying, had been particularly significant.

The company has a positive outlook for the 2019 financial year, with the resources sector showing signs of growth from existing clients as well as several new mines being established.

Alliance Aviation operates 20 Fokker F100 and 9 Fokker 70LR jets along with five Fokker 50 turboprops, with additional aircraft entering service in FY19.

#### **Bris Rail Trail opens**

THE Brisbane Valley Rail Trail through South-East Queensland is now open.

State Member for Ipswich West Jim Madden said the Queensland Government contributed \$1.8m towards works to complete the final link of the rail trail between Toogoolawah and Moore.

"This completes a longstanding vision for a continuous 161 kilometre trail delivering a unique and exciting recreational experience for bushwalkers, cyclists and horse riders," he said.

Qld Minister for Transport & Main Roads Mark Bailey said the rail trail will be "a tourism asset".

#### **LATAM MEL flights**

**LATAM** Airlines has today announced an increase of flights on its nonstop service between Melbourne and Santiago, Chile, from three to five weekly.

The 787-9 capacity boost reflects increasing demand (TD 02 Aug) and is effective 01 Jan 2019.







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# Crown Barangaroo lawsuit

**CROWN** Resorts Limited has today launched legal action against Sydney's Barangaroo Delivery Authority, seeking an injunction that would require consultation about any changes to the project that would impact sight lines for the new Crown Sydney from the Harbour Bridge to the Sydney Opera House.

The company released its financial results for the year to 30 Jun, confirming that the new Crown Sydney Hotel Resort was on schedule for completion in the first half of 2021.

Net profit after tax for the year was \$326.7 million, an increase of 5.8% before significant items.

Non-gaming revenue within the company's Australian resorts portfolio was \$747.7 million, up 4.1%, reflecting a "solid performance" from the Melbourne properties and continued subdued trading in WA. Occupancy at Crown Towers, Metropol and Promenade Melbourne was well above 90% reflecting "very strong demand for luxury hotel accommodation" in the Vic capital, while Crown Towers Perth occupancy was 77%.

#### Belmond for sale?

**THE** owners of the Belmond portfolio of upmarket hotel, train, river cruise and restaurant properties have announced a "comprehensive review of strategic alternatives to enhance shareholder value".

The company owns or manages 46 luxury offerings in 24 countries including hotels, the Venice-Simplon Orient Express and New York's famous '21' Club.

Options on the table include a range of "strategic, operational and financial alternatives... including a possible sale," the Belmond board said.

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#### Maldives incentive

**THE** newly established Maldives Travel Connection (*TD* 18 Jul) has unveiled its first travel agent incentive, giving consultants the opportunity to win a seven-night trip for two to the destination.

The prize will go to the agent with the highest number of bookings through the wholesaler before 30 Nov, with double entries for reservations made with the three incentive partner resorts of Centara Ras Fushi, Centara Grand Island and Sheraton Maldives Full Moon.

See maldivestravel.com.au.

#### Pentridge Adina

A NEW 19-storey TFE-managed Adina Apartment Hotel is set to open in 2020 on the site of the former Pentridge Prison in Melbourne's Coburg.

The 120-room Shayher Group project was approved yesterday, and will include the option for stays in converted prison cells.



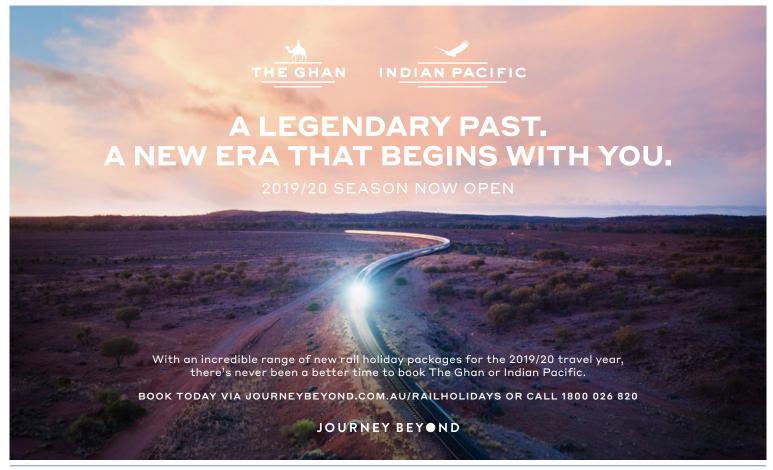
### Window Seat

FACEBOOK is under fire again, this time for automatically posting balloons and confetti on posts about this week's earthquake in Indonesia.

An algorithm apparently detected the word "selamat" in messages about the disaster which killed hundreds of people and left 20,000 homeless.

"Selamat" has multiple translations including "happy", "unhurt" and "safe," with the issue highlighted by a student at Northeastern University in the US who saw Facebook posts where users had written "I hope people will survive" decorated with the festive animation.

Facebook has apologised, saying the automated "Text Delights" software had now been disabled in Indonesia.





#### Fair trading power

**THE NSW Government is** proposing to run a pilot program that will give the Commissioner for NSW Fair Trading new powers to issue a "consumer guarantee direction" for complaints lodged after 01 Jan 2019.

The move is expected to speed up the resolution process between consumers and businesses for goods and services purchased six months prior in a cost range of \$25-\$3,000.

#### Airbnb ResOnline

**RESONLINE** has collaborated with Airbnb to develop a new tool for property managers such as independent boutique hotels, bed and breakfasts and apartments to access prices and bookings in real time.

"This integration...will enable hospitality businesses to reach the millions of customers around the globe who utilise the Airbnb platform on a daily basis," said ResOnline director Tony Shine.



# **Hobart waterfront vision**

**THE** Tasmanian tourism industry has unveiled a vision for Hobart's waterfront in which a parcel of prime government land would be transformed into a public space celebrating the island's seafood, produce and maritime history.

Developed by Destination Southern Tasmania (DST), the concept has been presented as an option for Castray Esplanade, close to the Salamanca markets, which may become available if current CSIRO operations move.

Likened to Sydney's Barangaroo headland park, the concept involves open spaces, a waterfront promenade and capacity for public events.

It would also involve integration of the Princess Wharf shed as a year-round market for Tasmanian food producers and fishmongers.

DST ceo Alex Heroys said the plan would engage locals yearround and attract significant public events.

"There will be a reactivation of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race, and the maritime history, which we're already famous for, will be concentrated at this point," Heroys said.

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#### Sun Island brochure

**SUN** Island Tours has introduced its 2019 Egypt, Jordan and Israel brochure including five new Jordan tours with overnight stays in the Bedouin style tents of Martian Domes in the desert wilderness area of Wadi Rum.

All Egyptian tours listed are accompanied by Egyptologists, who share their expertise of the country's ancient history and civilisation with guests.

The operator's most popular Egypt in Style tour leads in at \$2,590 per person.

Discounts of 5% are also available on select itineraries when booked by 31 Mar 2019.

**CLICK HERE** for the brochure.



The Tasmanian Government has welcomed the plan.

"The tourism industry's vision for the Castray Esplanade area is well worth considering, especially as we continue discussions with the Federal Govt about the development of a major science and Antarctic precinct as part of the Macquarie Point development," said Tas Minister for Growth Peter Gutwein.

























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#### Queenstown's smart hotel



MIPAD Holdings has opened an energy-conscious smart mipad hotel on the shores of Lake Wakatipu in Queenstown, NZ.

The six-storey hotel (pictured) features 57 rooms with in-room tech, multiple social spaces and a rooftop terrace.

Guests can book using the hotel's personal app "mia" which also acts as a room

key and enables guests to set temperatures, mood lighting, request room service or alert hotel staff that they don't want to be disturbed.

"Mi-pad is the result of 15 years of research, travelling the world and finding the places that did accommodation really well," said Queenstown property developer Lewis Gdanitz.



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# Industry Appointments

**WELCOME** to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily*'s Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Amber Kerwin has taken a new role as Sales Manager, Events at Event **Travel Management**. She joins the company after more than four years at ATPI Voyager, and prior to that almost a decade at Flight Centre.

Alterra Mountain Company has appointed Timothy B. Donahue as Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President. Donahue's duties include oversight of all areas of finance and supporting the leadership of the company's destinations and corporate functions.

Wynn Resorts' Board of Directors welcomed Phil Satre as its newlyappointed Vice Chairman. Satre is currently president of the National Center for Responsible Gaming and has more than 25 years of experience in the gaming industry.

United Airlines announced Jake Cefolia has been promoted to senior Vice President of Worldwide Sales. Cefolia will be responsible for directing a team of 725 sales professionals who manage sales programs, services, relationships and revenue with corporations, travel management companies and distributors around the world.

Cook Islands Tourism has announced the appointment of Matt **Brookfield** who will join the Cook Islands Tourism Australian team as Sales Ambassador. Brookfield has previously worked in the Aviation, Transport and Travel/Tourism Insurance industries.

#### Save with SeaLink

**SEALINK** South Australia has partnered with Fly Pelican to create two Adelaide, Murray Princess and Kangaroo Island package deals, offering savings of up to \$750.

The two packages include a three-night Adelaide and Kangaroo Island package and a seven-night Adelaide and Murray Princess package.

Call 13 13 01 for more info.

#### **USA MegaFam**

**BRAND** USA and Air New Zealand have announced the 30 Australian travel agents to secure spots on the 2018 USA MegaFam, which will take place 16-23 Aug.

The 30 Australian and 30 New Zealand agents will be split into six groups, and spend the first five nights exploring six itineraries in various US destinations.

The group will then come together for a finale celebration in Las Vegas, Nevada.

To secure a spot, travel agents were asked to sell Economy, Premium Economy or Business PremierTM return Air New Zealand flights to the USA during the campaign incentive period which ran from 08 Jun to 15 Jul

**CLICK HERE** to see the latest announcements.

#### SpiceRoads cycle

**SPICEROADS** Cycling has welcomed three new destinations - Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda to its cycling portfolio.

Travellers can cycle through wild landscapes within sight of Mt Kilimanjaro, dense jungles, white sand beaches, and highlands of East Africa.

To find out more. CLICK HERE.

#### Phi Phi mates rates

PHI Phi Island Village in Thailand has launched a special industry rate starting at 4,200 THB (A\$170) per night from now until Apr 2019.

The offer includes a superior bungalow, breakfast for two, service charge and all taxes.

Guests staying between 01 Sep and 31 Oct will also receive a complimentary room upgrade. **CLICK HERE** for info.

#### TreeTop Junior

**QUEENSLAND** ecotourism company, TreeTop Challenge, has opened an adventure park specifically for juniors aged three to seven at Mt Tamborine.

The Adventure Park includes four courses, comprised of 50 challenges from ground level to a height of eight metres, which can be completed over two hours.



## Veriu Green Square begins



**CONSTRUCTION** has commenced on the \$45 million Veriu Green Square hotel development in Sydney.

The 144-room property is slated to open in late 2019 and is located 120 metres from the Green Square Train Station.

"As Sydney's infrastructure continues to develop,

there is a need for a quality accommodation option in this area to service business and leisure guests in close proximity to the CBD, sporting and entertainment facilities and the airport," said Veriu Hotels & Suites co-director Rhys Williams.

A render of the new hotel is pictured above.

#### **EXHIBITOR SPOTLIGHT**



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Q7. True or false - butler service is for all guests?

#### Walt Disney famil

THREE more winners on the "A Very Merry Toy Story Land Christmas Mega-Fam" to Walt Disney Resort in Florida have been announced.

Rebecca Forster from Flight Centre, Mandy Finlayson from Wow Travel and Lauren Priestley from italktravel will head off on the famil later this year.

There are 10 spots still up for grabs, for more information, **CLICK HERE.** 

#### Sichuan delivery

THE first Airbus A350-900 has joined the fleet at Sichuan Airlines, making the carrier the first Chinese mainland operator via leasing to take delivery of the modern aircraft.

Sichuan Airlines operates on an all-Airbus fleet of 135 aircraft, including 123 A320s & 12 A330s.

#### SC hotel for sale

THE Best Western Plus Lake Kawana Hotel on the Sunshine Coast is up for sale, with expressions of interest being taken by CBRE Hotels and Ward Commercial Hotels until 05 Sep.

Potential buyers can purchase the property vacant, or under the Best Western banner.

#### PATA 2nd PTIC

**PACIFIC** Asia Travel Association (PATA) has announced a second Pacific Tourism Insights Conference (PTIC) will take place in Apia, Samoa on 03 Oct.

The event will run in partnership with South Pacific Tourism Organisation and the Samoa Tourism Authority, covering themes and influences on Pacific tourism and exploring how best to respond to challenges such as new technology and disruption.

#### THE WHO'S WHO OF SUPPLIERS ARE IN THE 2018 AFTA TRAVEL PAGES SUPPLIER DIRECTORY.

VIEW HERE



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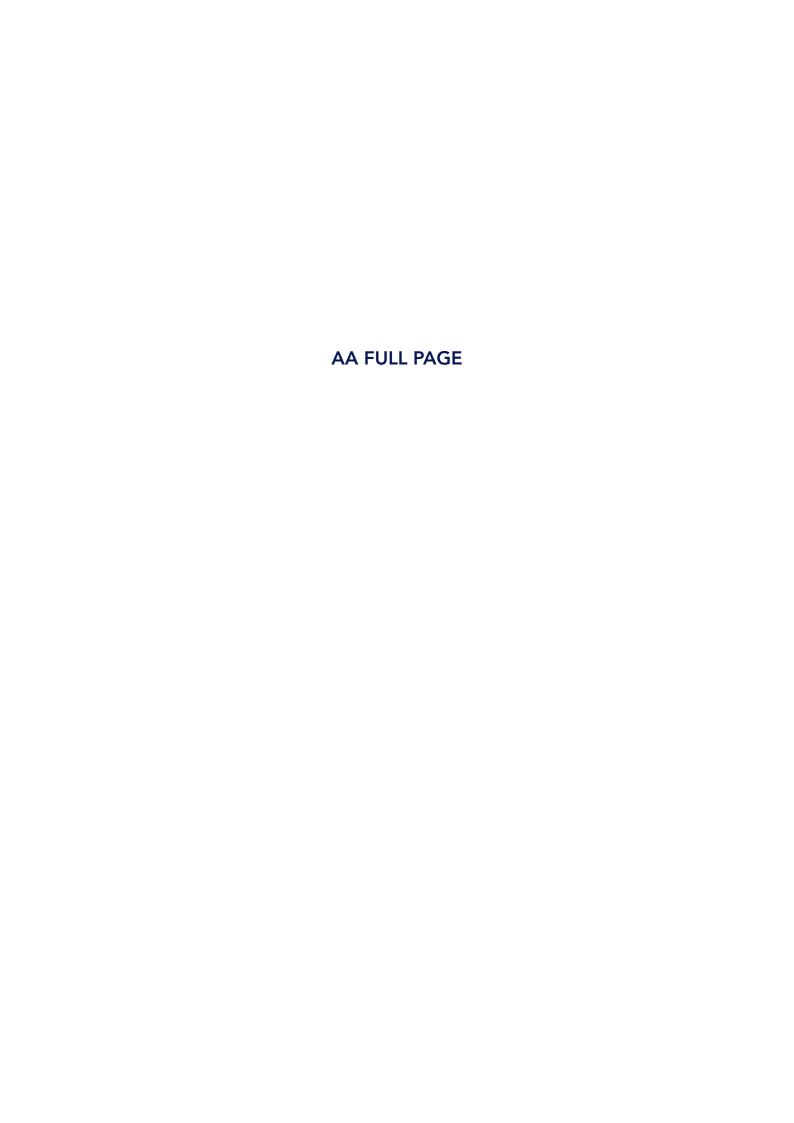
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