

MU 787s for MEL

CHINA Eastern Airlines is rolling out Boeing 787-9 aircraft on international routes, with GDS screens indicating that the carrier's daily flights from Melbourne to Shanghai Pu Dong will be upgraded to the new metal effective 01 Feb.

Venture Far owed \$500k

FIGURES from the collapse of SA wholesaler Venture Far indicate creditor claims worth over \$500,000 when the business was placed into administration last year (**TD** 24 Oct 2018).

The business traded as The Venture Holidays SA Unit Trust, with the trustee company Clenton Pty Ltd having two directors: Ian Garritt and Robert Mackay.

Records now available from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission indicate after about \$264,000 owed to 15 staff, Clenton's major creditor was Helloworld Travel Limited.

Moneys owed include \$147,751 claimed by Magellan Travel Pty Ltd, along with \$24,761 due to Helloworld Services Pty Limited.

A related company, Magellan Travel Group Pty Ltd, is owed \$7,108, the report notes, while Helloworld offshoot Tourism

Transport Fiji Ltd is owed \$5,664.

Other industry creditors include Tourism Technology Pty Ltd with a \$8,758 debt, while just under \$500 is owed to Toll Brochure Flow and Templar Distribution.

AFTA CEO Jayson Westbury last year (**TD** 24 Nov) said the collapse of the former Magellan Travel Group member resulted in payments of over \$12,000 to agents participating in the AFTA Chargeback Scheme under its supplier failure coverage benefit.

Vale Eddie Raggett

A GIANT of the Australian travel publishing sector has died, with *travelBulletin* co-founder Eddie Raggett succumbing peacefully on 26 Dec after a five-year battle with Parkinson's disease.

Raggett was aged 76, and his extensive career in travel trade media sales culminated in the establishment of *travelBulletin* in 2004, with the business subsequently acquired by the Business Publishing Group a decade later (**TD** 24 Jul 2014).

A service will be held for Eddie at 10.30am next Mon 14 Jan at the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Garden in Matraville, NSW in the West Chapel and a wake at the Rose of Australia in Erskineville from 12pm.

Close friends and colleagues are welcome to attend, but for catering purposes please advise Eddie's son Hugo via email on hugoraggett@hotmail.com.

A&K Japan office

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has confirmed the establishment of a dedicated office in Tokyo, after experiencing "explosive growth" in demand for travel to Japan over the last two years in both luxury small group travel and tailor made private departures.

Canada Corroboree 2019



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ADL 11 Feb
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Bestjet Fiasco site

A NEW website has been launched by the "Bestjet Fiasco Action Group" established just before Christmas to assist victims of the Bestjet collapse - see www.bestjetfiasco.org.au.

It's understood Channel 9's *A Current Affair* will also tonight have a report on the OTA's failure.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has four pages of news and photos, plus full a page from:

- TMS Talent

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOEING 787-9 AIRCRAFT

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FLYING MELBOURNE TO SHANGHAI FROM 2ND FEB

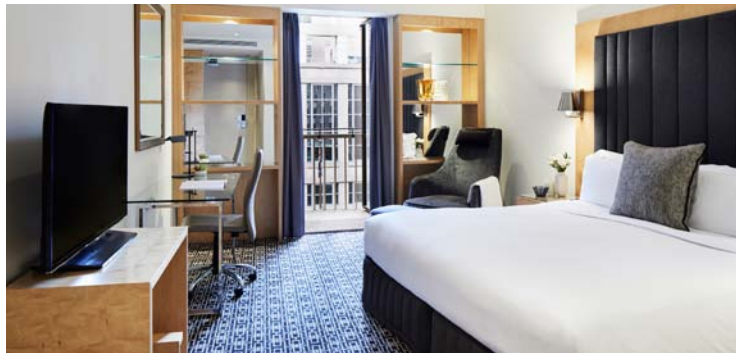
中國東方航空
CHINA EASTERN

Viking Explorer sale

VIKING has launched its 2019 Explorer sale, featuring free or discounted flights, bonus stateroom upgrades, complimentary city extensions and savings of up to \$4,600 per couple, valid until 31 Mar.

CLICK HERE for more.

Sofitel Wentworth reno



SOFITEL Sydney Wentworth is undergoing a major multi-million dollar renovation which is scheduled to be completed by the end of Mar.

All of the property's 436 guestrooms and suites are being refreshed, along with the lobby and library.

The works began in Oct and will see Sofitel Sydney Wentworth receive a major tech overhaul.

The property will launch IPTV (Internet Protocol Television) including Chromecast on all guestroom TVs and the wi-fi

will be upgraded to "the fastest wi-fi in a Sydney CBD hotel", the company told **Travel Daily**.

Last year AccorHotels appointed Philip Logan as the new General Manager at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth (**TD 01 May**).

A refreshed superior room is **pictured above**.

Samoa Airways sale

SAMOA Airways sale fares are available until 21 Jan.

Travellers can fly one way Brisbane to Apia from \$304 and Sydney to Apia from \$331.

Travel periods apply.

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HX denies rumours

HONG Kong Airlines (HX) has released a statement in response to "the untrue and groundless speculations about Hong Kong Airlines ceasing operation and applying for liquidation".

The company stated it has the "right to take legal action against those who deliberately create these rumours".

HX has been and is continuing to operate as normal.

Pabuk passes Thai

TROPICAL Storm Pabuk, which passed through the Gulf of Thailand last Fri has dissipated as it hit the popular tourist island of Koh Samui.

"Aside from it being a major inconvenience for our guests, I am pleased to report that we are all fine and have suffered no damage," said Banyan Tree Samui Resort GM Remko Kroesen.

Normal operations have resumed from Samui Airport.

Hotels and businesses have also reported minimal damage from the lashing winds and rain.

However, "red flag" warnings banning swimming off beaches are still in place.

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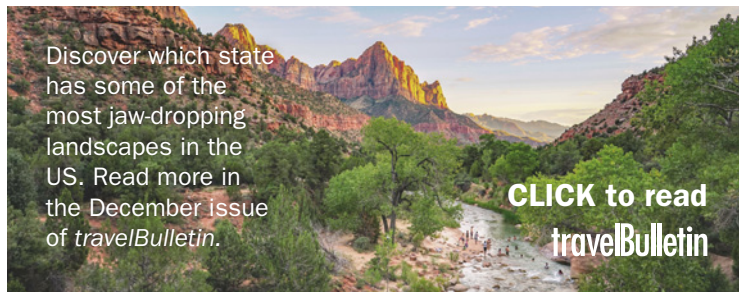
TRAVELMANAGERS recently organised a series of Cruise Masterclasses for 111 of its Personal Travel Managers in Sydney, Brisbane, & Melbourne aboard three large cruise ships.

Majestic Princess provided the venue in Sydney, while *Golden Princess* hosted agents in Melbourne and *Norwegian Jewel* was the venue in Brisbane.

"With the opportunity to

experience these ships firsthand and enjoy a three-course lunch while on board, it's no wonder that PTMs came from as far away as Wagga Wagga and Parkes to participate," said TravelManagers Executive General Manager Michael Gazal.

Pictured: Some of the 55 NSW-based PTMs who took part in the Cruise Masterclass aboard *Majestic Princess*.



Discover which state has some of the most jaw-dropping landscapes in the US. Read more in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

WA terminal redo

THE WA Government has announced the completion of a \$3.25m refurbishment of the Fremantle Passenger Terminal.

The upgrades include new decorative glass panelling, modern furniture, a new steel and glass central canopy, a repainted facade, and updated signage and banners.

The Fremantle Passenger Terminal is expected to service an estimated 60,000 cruise pax in the 2018-19 financial year.

Wu incentive comp

WENDY Wu is currently offering agents the chance to win a spot on a fam to Asia when they make a Wendy Wu booking before 31 Mar.

The top 10 selling agents during the incentive period will automatically win a place plus 15 more will be drawn at random - call 1300 727 998 for more info.



Window Seat

AIRLINES are known to adopt a fairly stringent attitude towards excess baggage, but this approach is typically reserved for suitcases and not people.

Not so for the body-conscious management at Pakistan International Airlines, who distributed a memo to 1,800 of its cabin crew demanding they shed kilos in six months time.

"No one would like to have shabby crew in the aircraft," the memo reads, adding the airline had received complaints about "obese" flight attendants.

Those who do not meet the strict weight limits (e.g. 66kg for those who are 166cm tall) must report monthly to a "grooming cell" to receive clearance - talk about carrying the weight of the world!

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AirAsia 2019 focus

AIRASIA Group CEO Tony Fernandes has confirmed via a twitter post that the company "will not be opening up any more new airlines for the next three years", and will instead focus on growing its existing business in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Fernandes blamed subsidies for competitors as being one of the biggest problems for its low-cost brand AirAsia X, also stating plans for the Indonesian unit to exit operations in Jan will go ahead.

MONEY

WELCOME to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US0.714

THE Australian dollar is clawing its way back up against the Greenback following last week's crash landing of almost 10-year lows against the US currency. The plunge was spiked by a warning from tech company Apple which saw local currency reach lowest levels since 2009. It's not all doom and gloom for travellers though, with dollars set to rise following the release of the US job report last Fri. *Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.714
UK	£0.559
NZ	\$1.058
Euro	€0.623
Japan	¥77.69
Thailand	฿22.84
China	¥4.897
South Africa	9.918
Canada	\$0.950
Crude oil	US\$47.96

UA's Dream family

UNITED Airlines has kicked off the regular service of its latest aircraft, the Boeing 787-10 *Dreamliner*.

The service departed Los Angeles International Airport on 06 Jan bound for Newark Liberty International Airport.

The new addition to the United family makes the carrier the first in the world to operate all three *Dreamliner* models, including the 787-8, 787-9 and the longest model, the 787-10.

The new aircraft offers travellers the brand's signature Polaris Business class seats, as well as the new Premium Plus seats, with the airline confirming it expects its second *Dreamliner* to enter service between San Francisco and New York in Feb.

Ctrip expansion

ASIA'S largest online travel agency Ctrip has plans for further global expansion, calling on Workday Human Capital Management (HCM) to assist with the implementation of a range of updated cloud applications.

The group is "deepening relationships with global partners and extending its international strategy", and follows the development of its Skyscanner and Trip.com brands which collectively attract over 90 million active monthly users globally.

The company has also partnered with digital financial business Wirecard to offer Chinese customers branded Visa cards that can be loaded with up to seven currencies, including AUD.

Australia #2 for Silversea



AUSTRALIA is on the cusp of becoming the second largest global market for Silversea Cruises, according to the company's CEO Roberto Martinoli who is in Sydney this week to help celebrate the inaugural visit of flagship *Silver Muse*.

Speaking at an event aboard the ship on Sun evening, Martinoli (pictured inset with his wife, Silversea Chief Marketing Officer Barbara Muckermann) confirmed that *Muse* would return next year, along with *Silver Explorer* which would cruise out of Dunedin to the Ross Sea in the 2020-21 Antarctic season.

Martinoli and Muckermann have been holidaying in Australia prior to *Muse's* arrival, taking in Adelaide, Kangaroo Island and Port Lincoln.

The company's CEO noted the strong support provided by Silversea's new majority owner, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, which has enabled significant investment across the fleet.

Five new ships will be added to the fleet between now and 2023, with Muckermann noting the growth will see Silversea expand

its destination portfolio to more than 1,050 ports globally.

The ship was welcomed to Sydney's White Bay Cruise Passenger Terminal by the Australian Girls' Choir singing on the pier, while Adam Armstrong, Silversea MD Australia/NZ highlighted a gift to Rural Aid in lieu of a fireworks display to welcome the vessel.

A gift exchange included the acceptance by Destination NSW GM Stephen Mahoney of a print of a 1744 Royal Geographical Society map of Australia, considered to be the first map published in England wholly devoted to Australia.

Some of the Silversea Australasia team are pictured above on board *Muse*, from left: Adam Armstrong, Megan Peterie, Jessica England, Leanne Fonagy, Anne Weinert and Julian Perri.



2018 AFTA TRAVEL PAGES, NOW WITH A COMPREHENSIVE SUPPLIER DIRECTORY.

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Travel Daily

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