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First with the news Tuesday 28th May 2019



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### SATC gets froggy

**GIGANTIC** Haigh's chocolate "super frogs" are being offered by the South Australian Tourism Commission for agents who complete the South Australia Experts Program which is online at trade.southaustralia.com more details on the cover page.



**Complete TRACKS** and become a **Rocky Mountaineer** Specialist today!

ALL ABOARD AMAZING

## **Bestjet summons for Michael James**

### XCLUSIVE

MICHAEL James, the disgraced former CEO of the collapsed Air Australia, is among 22 people who have been formally issued with a Federal Court of Australia summons to attend a public examination in Jul, in relation to the failure of Bestjet Travel just before Christmas (TD 19 Dec 18).

The liquidators of the company, Nigel Markey and Bradley Hellen from Pilot Partners, lodged documents with the court last month prior to the summonses being issued, including affidavits and written submissions which have been ordered to remain confidential at this stage.

Pilot Partners confirmed it had obtained orders for a formal Public Examination of the failure (TD 03 May), with documents obtained by Travel Daily identifying the people ordered to testify and produce documents relating to the collapse.

Relevant documentation must be provided to the Court by 12 Jun, followed by an initial oral examination scheduled for 17 Jul at which Robert Bruce McVicker (Junior) will be asked to testify alongside his father, plus

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has eight pages of news and photos, a front cover page for **SATC**, plus full pages from: • TMS Talent

Tauck

Brendan Balasekaran, a partner in the private clients division of Brisbane accounting firm BDO, and Chris Jury who was a senior executive at the former McVickerowned Morris Corporation.

It's understood BDO advised the McVickers regarding elements of the Bestjet purchase which was settled five weeks before the OTA was placed into administration.

Further public examinations will take place on 24 Jul, with the list for that date including Bestjet founder Rachel James along with former staffers including David Lanning.

Also set to testify is Michael James himself - who has claimed no management involvement with Bestjet since its 2012 inception - plus senior Bestjet staffer Craig McKim-Hill, and eight executives from the collapsed firm's credit card processor, IntegraPay.

IATA regional chief Matteo Zanarini is also listed for an

appearance, plus Michael Georghiou from accounting firm Hanrick Curran (now renamed as Mazars) which Rachel James claimed conducted an IATA audit of Bestjet after it changed hands.

Others on the list include Tai Parata, Sabre Corporation's Singapore-based Senior Director Online Business, and Rocco Bevinetto, Sabre's Head of Online for Australia/NZ, along with a representative of CVFR Consolidation which processed tickets on behalf of Bestjet.

All of the summonses have been made pursuant to section 596 of the Corporations Act 2001 which relates to "frauds by officers".

The most recent report to creditors also confirmed legal action was being taken against a separate company, Bestjet Singapore Pte Ltd, which is owned by yet another company, Bestjet Travel Holdings Pty Ltd, itself 100% held by Rachel James.







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### Adv World rewards

**ADVENTURE** World is offering agents the chance to receive a \$100 Giftpay card when booking and depositing a group.

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Disneyland STAR WARS

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## New FCTG youth brand

announced the launch of "Universal Traveller" (**TD** breaking news), a new youthfocused brand targeting travellers aged 18 to 35.

Effectively replacing the existing Student Flights operation, Universal Traveller (UT) will offer "tailored and exclusive products to a broader range of travellers," according to Flight Centre MD Graham Turner.

"Student Flights, the brand that we have traditionally used to target this demographic, was launched in Australia in the mid-1990s as a dedicated flight offering for students and backpackers," he said.

"Since then the customer base and product offering have significantly evolved, but this evolution into a full-service agency - with world class offerings for younger travellers across a number of key product



ranges - was not reflected in the brand name," Turner added.

He said Universal Traveller more accurately reflected the brand's focus and would resonate with students, backpackers and young professionals targeted by its core products.

The 52 Student Flight stores across Australia will be rebranded to UT later this year, with Flight Centre also planning to expand the network in the future, mainly in the "youth precincts in major shopping centres".



Breakfast in the sky... Lunch on the beach Fly Melbourne to Vanuatu direct from 18 June 2019 Every Tue, Thu, Sat



### **TAUCK** is today highlighting a range of family-friendly packages including a nine-day Rhine cruise, an eight-day Costa Rican jungle

Tauck family trips

()→) + ()→) + ()→) + ()→) = 💛

and rainforest adventure and a 10-day Tanzanian safari. Departure dates range from Jun 2019 until Dec 2020 - see **page 10**.







ENJOY TODAY www.expedia.com.au/taap telephone 1800 726 618 email expedia-au@ discovertheworld.com.au

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To all the Express Travel Group finalists for the 2019 AFTA Travel Industry Awards - Good luck in July!



Travel Daily



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## TRAVLR allies with 8common

**TRAVEL** technology disrupter TRAVLR has announced a new alliance with ASX-listed expense management provider 8common, providing an "end-to-end leisure travel platform" for staff at some of Australia's largest corporations.

The employee travel benefits platform, dubbed Benefits8, aims to address a growing opportunity in the so-called "bleisure" space where respondents add personal extensions to corporate travel.

8Common Executive Chairman Nic Lim said the partnership would offer "an industry-leading network of flights, hotels & resorts, Agoda homes inventory, cruising, as well as more than 200,000 experiences and activities from across the globe".

According to TRAVLR founder Simon te Hennepe, the platform has been developed over the past 10 years, "seamlessly using technology to create the very best experience for travellers. "In 2019 'bleisure' travel, adding a leisure portion of travel to a business trip, will become a hugely popular way to make the most out of business travel, with 68% of business travellers globally taking at least one bleisure trip per year," he said.

Key clients of 8common's Expense8 business include Woolworths, Amcor, Broadcast Australia as well as 117 State and Federal Government agencies, who utilise the system's pretrip approval function for both managers and employees to meet strict government and corporate compliance requirements.

"With this powerful alliance, 8common aims to offer a seamless ecosystem that keeps the lines clear between business and leisure travel," Lim said.

TRAVLR is seeking new hotel, airline, cruise & tourism partnerships; more info via Gordy Bayne on gordy@travlr.com.





1300 661 666 www.greecemedtravel.com.au

## Regent's new logo

Group (IHG) has unveiled Regent Hotels & Resorts' new logo and monogram/wordmark (**below**).

The logo recreation is an extension of Regent's full rebrand, commenced last year.

IHG engaged a panel of leading creatives and fashion experts for the rebrand, including Andreas Neophytou, Bibhu Mohaptra, Simon Spurr, and Tanya Golesic, President of Jimmy Choo.

## REGENT

### SC meeting space

QUEENSLAND Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones has today opened the \$10m Sunshine Coast Convention Centre at Novotel Twin Waters Resort.

The space has been purposebuilt by Shakespeare Property Group, who purchased the resort in Sep 2018 for \$100 million.

The centre will offer a choice of six different dynamic meeting and events spaces across 3,300m<sup>2</sup>.

The new Minyama room will cater for 1,500 theatre style or 1,000 banquet style.

The Minister said the 3,330m<sup>2</sup> centre, capable of hosting more than 2,700 people, would be a "game-changer".

"This centre has enough capacity to house 200 trade stands at once," Jones said.

"It will be instrumental in securing events the Sunshine Coast has never been able to host in the past."

Brazil

Up to



**IF YOU'RE** on the hunt for a used jet and have a spare threequarters of a million dollars, you're in luck.

Hong Kong's Airport Authority is looking to get rid of a 27-yearold jet which has stood idle in a hangar for years.

The Transaero jet landed at the airport in 2015, with the airline collapsing shortly thereafter.

The plane was later impounded for non-payment of airport fees.

Given there are no maintenance records for the plane, it is unlikely to fly again without substantial work, meaning even if you stump up for the \$795,000 price tag, you'll be up for a lot more if you want to fly it home and park it in your driveway.

### Virgin dir reshuffle

VIRGIN Australia Holdings has announced a change of Non-Executive Director and Alternate Director on the Virgin Australia Board of Directors.

Hou Wei has been appointed as Non-Excutive Director and the nominated representative of HNA, following the resignation of Zhang Kui, with Du Ming named as Hou's Alternate Director, replacing Luo Jiaqui.

Both appointments are effective as of today.

OFF



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### NCL cruise guide

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line has released its new Alaska Cruising Guide, featuring a series of sevenday itineraries departing from Jun 2019 to Oct 2021.

Guests can choose voyages starting from Seattle, Seward and Vancouver, taking in ports including Icy Strait Point, Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan.

CLICK HERE to view the guide.

### AFTA supports TTA

**THE** Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has announced its support of Tourism Training Australia (TTA) and the 2019 Tourism Training Awards.

The TTA Teacher/Trainer of the Year Awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge, promote and encourage trainers to excel in a particular area of vocational education and training.

The Tourism Training Awards will be celebrated 24 Jun at the Four Seasons, Sydney.

### Tuesday 28th May 2019

### **Everest awareness**

THE Nepal Tourism Board has stated "it recognises the need to work closely with expedition companies and teams to control safety" following the deaths of nine climbers traversing Mount Everest this season.

The Nepalese tourism organisation issued a statement yesterday extending its "heartfelt condolences" to the family and friends of the deceased, citing a need for the international travel community to be more aware of all the risk factors that accompany climbing peaks above the 8,000 metre mark.

"Intense training, precautions and attention to every minor detail, are of extreme importance for climbing the Himalayan peaks," the body said.

"The tourism industry of Nepal is committed to working with the global climbing community to establish the right model for enabling trekking".

## Tourism 'pivotal' to Vic

**CAMPSITES** and outdoor adventure businesses in Victoria are set for a funding boosts following yesterday's release of the 2019/20 State Budget.

State Treasurer Tim Pallas announced \$145.8 million in funding aimed at boosting tourism across Victoria, in the budget reveal.

In the budget papers the Government said "tourism is pivotal to the strength of local economies and local communities", throughout Victoria.

Pallas allocated \$106 million to attracting visitors to the state's great outdoors, providing capital for 60 new and upgraded campsites, and to developing a Sea to Summit hiking trail in East Gippsland, while reducing camping fees.

The state will also invest \$32 million to attract international, interstate and intrastate visitors to different parts of Victoria, and generate new jobs.

The budget papers revealed plans to bring steam trains back to the Yarra Valley for the first time in 40 years, with \$3.8 million earmarked for the project.

The Andrews Government has also set aside \$3 million

to strengthen environmental protections and upgrade facilities at Hanging Rock, the sacred Aboriginal site located in the Macedon Ranges.

A further \$1 million has been budgeted to make the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail "bigger and better", attracting more tourists to the region and creating new iobs in the area.

A \$63 million package will be provided to support multicultural organisations, festivals and events in the state, while the National Gallery of Victoria has been awarded \$47.7 million to support its summer program and triennial exhibitions.

The role of the horse racing industry in attracting tourists to the state has also been recognised in the state budget, with Pallas announcing a \$72 million investment program to "deliver club upgrades, integrity measures, training facilities and race day attraction programs".

"Recognising racing's role as a key employer - supporting more than 33,000 jobs across Victoria - the budget also includes a \$40 million boost in prize money, ensuring this important industry can continue to prosper," the budget papers said.



### Immerse yourself in Malta

In the vibrant capital Valletta, your customers can indulge in the best of Maltese cuisine, revisit history in the medieval city of Mdina, or explore the grottos, caves, cliffs and lagoons located throughout the islands. With over 300 days of sunshine, it is always a good time to visit Malta.

Fares per person from\*:

Economy Class	from AUD	1,159
Business Class	from AUD	5,889



\*Offer valid until 9 June 2019, unless sold out prior. Fares quoted above are for departures from Perth and are the lowest adult return prices per person including taxes, fees, and airport charges. Fares shown above are valid for travel between 4 June 2019 and 10 December 2019, however seats at this fare may not be available during peak seasons. Other sale dates may be available. Other sale fares are available from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Canberra. Fares may vary due to currency or tax fluctuations. Seasonal surcharges and weekend surcharges may apply. For all other terms and conditions please review at time of booking. Malta flights start 4 June 2019



### Nepal DFAT update

DFAT has advised that several explosions occurred in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu on 26 May, with a number of deaths and injuries reported. Smartraveller is urging

Australians to avoid crowded areas and remain vigilant.

The level of advice remains at "exercise a high degree of caution" in Nepal.

### Hyatt APAC push

**HYATT** Hotels Corporation is set to open 21 new hotels and resorts in the Asia Pacific region by the end of 2020.

This expansion is comprised of seven Park Hyatt branded properties, six hotels each under the Grand Hyatt and Andaz brands and two Alila branded resorts, boosting Hyatt's portfolio in the region by more than 25%.

One of the new additions is Park Hyatt Auckland.

### Dreaming big in Oz

**GENTING** Hong Kong has flagged plans for Dream Cruises to use its two upcoming Global Class vessels to operate cruises in Australia and New Zealand.

The ambition was revealed by the company's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay on board *World Dream* during Genting's recent 25-year anniversary celebrations.

The first of the two Global Class vessels will launch in 2021, with both ships boasting a 9,000-passenger capacity, as well as onboard theme parks featuring roller coasters and cinemas.

### **CINZ tomorrow**

**NEW** Zealand's largest business events industry showcase, CINZ MEETINGS 2019, will kick off in Auckland tomorrow.

Over 190 suppliers and 500 conference, event & incentive organisers are expected to attend.



**THE** latest inductee into Skal International Perth's branch was officially welcomed at a networking event held at The Shoe Bar in early May.

Contiki Sales Manager WA Luke Cousins was inducted by club President and Travellers Choice GM of Sales Nicola Strudwick, in front of fellow members and guests at the networking event.

In accepting his induction, Cousins spoke of his travel industry experience and the ability through Skal to continue to build his network of like-minded travel industry professionals. The Perth branch of Skal International was formed in 1961 and is among the largest travel and tourism industry associations in Western Australia.

**Pictured** are Nicola Strudwick and Luke Cousins.

### Pick & Mix charters

**EUROPEAN** Waterways has enhanced its family charters with a wider range of excursion options for 2019, allowing guests to "pick and mix" their daily tours and activities.

Options include theme parks, water parks, laser tag, wildlife parks, archery lessons, swimming, tours of prehistoric caves, canoeing, golfing & other sports.



### Itching to go on a break? Book your next travel with Philippine Airlines' Mid-Year Seat Sale!

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BANGKOK	AUD 619	LONDON	AUD 1,099

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FARE CONDITIONS: Blackout Period: June 22 - July 6, 2019, September 16 - 28, 2019. Seats are subject to availability. Seasonality and blackout dates apply. Fares quoted are inclusive of government taxes, fees and surcharges. Taxes and charges are subject to change with or without prior notice by the authority. Minimum/Maximum stay is 3D/3M for Economy, Premium Economy and Business Class, Minimum/Maximum stay does not apply for one-way fares. Weekend surcharge is AUDSO for SYD Outbound (FR/SA/SU departures). Ticket is non-transferable. Ticket is non-refundable is Economy. For Premium Economy, refund is subject to AUD125 for totally unused tickets and non-refundable for partially used tickets. Change fee is AUD255 for Economy, For Premium Economy and Business Class, first rebooking is free of charge and succeeding at AUD100. No-show fee is AUD255 for Economy, For Premium Economy and Business Class, first rebooking is free of charge and succeeding at AUD100. No-show fee is AUD255 for Economy, For Premium Economy and Business Class, first rebooking is free of charge and succeeding at AUD100. No-show fee is AUD255 for Economy, 100% mileage accrual for Premium Economy, and 125% mileage accrual for Business Class. The subject to AUD125 for active thirds fare is 75% of adult fare. Infant fare for infant without a set under 2 years is 10% of adult fare. 10% mileage accrual for Premium Economy, 100% mileage accrual for Premium Economy, and 125% mileage accrual for Business Class. The based and the publicable to Philippine Travel Tax (PH tax). PH tax shall be paid directly at the airport before departure. PH tax is applicable to Philippine passport holders, foreigners holding a Philippine resident visa, and foreign tourists or expatriates who have stayed in the Philippines for more than one year. Other travel conditions apply.

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### Park walking tours

PARK Hotel Group has introduced two self-guided walking trails around the city of Singapore to commemorate the island's bicentennial.

The two full-day itineraries cover some of the city-state's national monuments and local spots, and includes a taste tour of traditional Singaporean dishes in the Civic & Cultural District.

### Hotel VIC rebrand

**HYATT** announced a deal with an affiliate of Sun Hung Kai Properties to rebrand the 665room Hotel VIC on the Harbour to Hyatt Centric Victoria Harbour Hong Kong by Q3 of 2019.

The property will be the first Hyatt Centric hotel in the Greater China region, joining the first Asian location in Tokyo.

### China 737 MAX

**SEVERAL** Chinese airlines, including Air China and China Southern are seeking compensation from Boeing, claiming the grounding of the 737 MAX could cost them around 4 billion Yuan if the suspension lasts through to Jun.

A total of 96 of the Chinese carriers' jets have been suspended, and the airlines were previously planning to introduce a further 130 of the planes in 2019.

### **Bentours Alaska**

**BENTOURS** is offering savings of up to \$5,500 per cabin on 2020 sailings of Hurtigruten's Alaska and British Columbia - Inside Passage, Bears and Aleutian Islands itinerary.

The voyage sails for 18 days aboard the *MS Roald Amundsen*.



### Senior Inside Sales Agent - Melbourne

As one of the world's largest global airline brands, we are in search of the best talent. This is a great opportunity to be part of our Commercial team based in Melbourne.

As Senior Inside Sales Agent you will provide comprehensive administrative and sales support to the Regional Sales Manager and the Sales teams covering VIC, SA, WA and TAS including up-to-date account maintenance and regular reporting from Commercial sales systems.

Proven experience in the travel/airline industry is essential, with strong knowledge of airline reservations and ticketing. Skilled use of Microsoft Office packages, Salesforce, CBI and MARS is required. In addition, you must be self-motivated and proactive, with the ability to work on your own initiative.

Applications close on Sunday 02 June, 2019. For more information and online application please visit emiratesgroupcareers.com using job reference 190000KS.



**THE** Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) went head-tohead with Westeros by hosting a networking evening on the night of the *Game of Thrones* finale.

Presentations were delivered by Michelle Ashcroft, General Manager at Phil Hoffmann Travel, and TIME Mentor Peter Egglestone, who recalled many of his own experiences in and around the program.

"Our gatherings are always abuzz with inspiration and energy", said Penny Spencer, Founder of TIME Program.

"No matter where or why they

### Passions hits 30

**CAIRNS** reef operator Passions of Paradise has celebrated 30 years of showing people the Great Barrier Reef.

Over the past 30 years, Passions of Paradise has taken about 60,000 passengers to the Great Barrier Reef and collected around \$1.5 million in visitor fees which help the Great Barrier Reef Management Authority manage the environment.

### Sri Lanka progress

**SRI** Lanka's tourism industry is expected to receive a revival after China lifted its travel ban to the country on Sat, downgrading its advisory from "do not travel" to "cautious".

Smartravellers' advice for the destination remains at "Reconsider your need to travel" following last month's bomb attacks on the island, which prompted a wave of cancellations (**TD** 29 Apr). night, TIME events draw some of the local industry's finest minds and most ambitious people."

"It was a great evening," said program graduate and Adelaide TIME coordinator Ben Walters.

"As you'd expect, the networking and conversation was lively across a range of travel brands & businesses," he added.

Adelaide's next TIME event is scheduled for Aug.

**Pictured**: Deb Falvey, Journey Beyond; Ellise Saunders, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Anne Ford, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Ruby Smith, Phil Hoffmann Travel and Ben Walters, Cover-More.

### Thai insurance plan

**THAILAND** announced last week plans to add a mandatory health insurance fee for all foreign visitors.

While details are yet to be confirmed, the official announcement said the plan is set to be rolled out within about six months, and could cost around 100 Thai Baht (AU\$4.54).

Thailand already charges visitors from many different countries for a visa, and it is not clear whether those covered by their own insurance policy would have to "double-dip".

### **Raibookers maps**

**RAILBOOKERS** has launched free downloadable rail route maps to help agents and travellers plan trips.

Upon signing up to its newsletter, Railbookers will allow users to download its train maps. **CLICK HERE** to sign up.

### TIME takes on GOT



## Intrepid stands to attention



**FULLY** prepped with brochures and deals in hand, the team from Intrepid tackled the crowds in Melbourne this past weekend as part of the World Travel Expo

## SUPER S RUGBY SUPER RUGBY R15 WINNER Congratulations

### MARK TAYLOR

### from Luna Park Sydney

Mark is the top point scorer for Round 15 of *Travel Daily*'s Super Rugby footy tipping competition. He's won \$100 travel credit courtesy of Expedia.



Travel Daily Super Rugby tipping competition is sponsored by Emirates, with the top tipper for the season winning flights from Sydney to Christchurch.



NSW permit LTPS/19/31793 / ACT permit TP 19/02664

rolling out nationally. Intrepid Group GM of Marketing APAC Sarah Clark said the company was seeing heightened inquiry for Peru, Galapagos Islands and the national parks of

the East Coast USA. Clark said deals across the Intrepid and Peregrine American product range boosted sales, adding that "our stand was constantly full of excited travellers".

**Pictured** are some of the Intrepid team working the stand. From left is Kel Swan, Sales & Customer Service, Charlie Riewoldt, Partnership Growth Manager VIC & TAS and Yvette Thompson, Head of Industry

## Partnerships & Contracting.

**DOMESTIC** air traffic in India dipped by 4.5% in Apr to 10.9 million passengers, down from 11.5 million for the same period 12 months ago.

The latest figures arrive after a sustained period of air growth over the last couple of years, with a levelling off observed at the start of 2019.

Factors leading to the decline include the collapse of Jet Airways which ceased all operations in mid-Apr, as well as SpiceJet's decision to ground its 737 MAX fleet.

Another contributor to the slowdown in numbers was IndiGo's expansion plans being hampered by a pilot shortage.

## AFTA UPDATE

from Jayson Westbury



WELL there we have it ladies and gentlemen, the people of Australia have decided and delivered

a majority government to the Liberal/National coalition with a couple of seats to spare.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has been elected with a clear majority & has already gotten on with the job of running the country.

One of the key points that I made prior to the election was that whichever party were to win, the hope was that it would be with majority, and this outcome has achieved that, meaning those crossbench members in the lower house do not hold any balance of power or much influence in the future of the country.

Morrison's new cabinet includes a few surprises, but for the travel industry, the key Ministers who we deal with in the main have not changed.

These include Senator Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Simon Birmingham, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer, Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Home Affairs, and Michaelia Cash MP, Minister for Small Business and Employment Skills.

All of these people have been

### China lounge growth

**HONG** Kong-based Plaza Premium Group has revealed plans to open more than 40 airport lounges in China by 2024.

The company currently manages two airport lounges in Beijing and six in Shanghai, flagging the development of new partnerships to spur growth.

### Banyan branches out

**BANYAN** Tree Hotels & Resorts has revealed plans to build 24 elevated treehouses as part of its upcoming eco-resort project to open in Singapore.

There will be a mix of standard and family rooms available at the 338-room property, which is scheduled to open in Singapore's new Mandai wildlife district in 2023 under a strict environmental framework. working with the industry across a range of **policy** areas and we continue to do this going forward.

For Labor, the wait is over with the declaration of new Leader, Anthony Albanese MP, becoming the opposition leader of Australia yesterday (Mon 27 May).

Albanese is very well known to AFTA and the travel and tourism industry as he has been the opposition spokesperson on tourism for the prior term of government and from when Labor was last in government, so he is well across all of the issues the industry does face.

We must now wait to see how the Labor front bench is formed, which no doubt will come in the next few days, and then the battle lines are drawn.

The 46th Parliament of Australia has now been formed and the show continues.

I do feel that this next term of government will bring change in many ways and my new hope for the future is that we can all get on with driving the economy, building our nation and getting on with our lives, perhaps with a little more in our pockets and more Australians taking a holiday.

I promise this will be my last word on the election.

We have new things to talk about and I can't wait – as I am sure many of you are.

### Crown appointment

**CROWN** Perth has appointed Trudy Cook to the role of Crown Towers Perth General Manager, while Anthony Mauro takes on a new role as GM of Crown Metropol Perth and Crown Promenade Perth.

Cook's appointment comes after two years as Crown Towers Perth's Hotel Manager, while Mauro previously held the position of Hotel Rooms Division Manager at Crown Promenade.

### Dusit's hot springs

DUSIT International has announced a new hotel management agreement with Jiangxi Honglv Real Estate to manage the 300-room Dusit Thani Hot Springs Resort Wugongshan in the Chinese province of Jiangxi.



## Accor & Wests Tigers NRW



## MONEY

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

### AU\$1 = U\$0.692

THE temporary cooling off of tensions in the Sino-US trade dispute has seen the Aussie dollar make ground against most of the majors.

Travellers will find slight relief in exchange rates, with financial analysts predicting the Aussie to hold steady against the US in the short-term.

Our dollar has also gained ground on the Euro and British pound over the last two days.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.692
UK	£0.545
NZ	\$1.057
Euro	€0.618
Japan	¥75.80
Thailand	ß22.02
China	¥4.773
South Africa	9.988
Canada	\$0.9629
Crude oil	US\$68.69

ACCOR Hotels and NRL team Wests Tigers kicked off National Reconciliation Week (NRW) at the Novotel Sydney Brighton Beach.

The two organisations have partnered with the NRL School to Work Program, and hosted a special event on 24 May to celebrate the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community. With the theme for this year's

NRW "Grounded in Truth: Walk Together with Courage", Accor and its partners brought the culture of Indigenous Australia to life through storytelling, art, music, food, and hospitality workbased experiences.

A customary Aboriginal smoking ceremony and welcome was also given by Aunty Ali Golding.

### Cruising in fashion

FASHION show fashion2sea will take place aboard HapagLloyd Cruises' Europa 2 in Aug, with prominent fashion designers Otto Drogsler and Jorg Ehrlich to showcase their latest collection.



This month Centara and Travel Daily are teaming up to offer readers the chance to win a seven-night stay for two in a Deluxe Room at Thailand's Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin with daily breakfast.

Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin is one of Thailand's most famous hotels - originally built as the King's guesthouse in the 1920's it has been lovingly restored and extended over the years to a luxurious five-star resort. It is a short walk to the famous markets of Hua Hin with fabulous seafood, shopping and entertainment.

To be in the running, correctly answer each of the weekly questions across the month and have the most creative answer to the final question. Send your responses to centara@traveldaily.com.au

Q4: Suggest in 25 words or less why Hua Hin would make an ideal holiday destination?

### Cambria kicks off

THE first sod has been turned for the Cambria Hotel Fort Lauderdale Beach, franchised by Choice Hotels International.

The 104-room property is due to open in 2020 and will feature amenities such as a pool with oceanfront views and a multifunction meeting space.

### **ONT** posts increase

**PASSENGER** volumes at Ontario International Airport increased by nearly 7% for Apr when compared to the corresponding period last year.

The airport processed 445,000 passengers for the month, with the figures adding to steady growth recorded at the major air hub over the last 12 months.

### Florida sheds jobs

CENTARA

GRAND

BEACH RESORT & VILLAS

HUA HIN

Terms and conditions

**UNITED** States marketing agency Visit Florida has dramatically downsized its workforce, laying off 44 people following a significant reduction in government funding.

The tourism organisation was only afforded US\$50 million in its latest funding round, down from US\$76 million allocated in the previous period.

The drop in funding will see Tourism Florida alter its marketing strategy, dispensing with costly TV ads in exchange for a heavier focus on social and digital channels.

"We are confident that we can continue to deliver great value for Floridians," said Visit Florida President and Chief Executive Officer Dana Young.

### LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC INDUSTRY SUPPLIER?

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## TAUCK (

# TAUCK BRIDGES

## THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

### Castles on the Rhine Family Riverboat Adventure

8 Days Amsterdam to Basel and reverse Departing Jul-Aug 2019 & Jun-Jul 2020

### Starting from **\$6,140**\*pp twin share & solo travellers. **Children under 12yrs SAVE \$670!**

#### EXPERIENCE WITH TAUCK

- TAUCK EXCLUSIVE Private medieval evening including tour and dinner at a historic moated castle, Burg Satzvey
- All gratuities to Tauck Director, local guides and drivers
- Riding the world's highest cogwheel train with sweeping views of the Swiss Alps
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- Small group departures are limited to 30 guests for a more intimate safari experience
- Multiple-night stays in tented camps and lodges mean more time for safari drives
- Gratuities to Tauck Director, local guides and drivers included
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- Multiple-night stays in tented camps and lodges mean more time for safari drives



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Uncommon Access for Tauck Guests only



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### Contact our Inside Sales Team | CALL 1300 732 300

\*Prices are per person in Australian dollars and are correct as at 20 May 2019. Prices are subject to availability and seasonal surcharges. No Single Supplement applies to Category 1 Cabins on the Castles Along the Rhine Itinerary. Pricing is based on a category 1 cabin on all July 2020 departures, pricing may vary on other departures. Tarzania: A Grand Family Safari pricing is based on In-Aug 2020 departures, surcharges apply for December 2020 departures. Costa Rica Jungles & Rainforests pricing is based on 2019 departures, 2020 pricing may vary. International airfares from Australia are not included in advertised prices. Change and cancellation conditions apply and will be advised at the time of booking. Lic 27003774

### Costa Rica Jungles & Rainforests

8 Days from San Jose to Liberia Departing: Jun-Aug & Dec 2019 or Mar-Apr, Jun-Aug 2020

## Starting from **\$4,490**\*pp twin share **Children under 12yrs SAVE \$270!**

#### EXPERIENCE WITH TAUCK

- TAUCK EXCLUSIVE On-tour film vignettes custom-made for Tauck by BBC Earth natural history experts plus other select BBC Earth touches
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- Zip line adventure for extraordinary views of Arenal Volcano and the lush rainforest canopy
- Jungle river-rafting adventure with an expert wildlife guide
- Guided pineapple tour includes tastings of field-fresh
  pineapples and pineapple treats
- Hands-on demonstration in making chocolate



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