

Keen interest in VA

MORE than 10 companies are interested in taking a “meaningful stake” in Virgin Australia, according to the airline’s Administrator, Vaughan Strawbridge from Deloitte.

He said initial expressions of interest would be considered in the next three weeks or so, with a further process thereafter with the hopes of selling the business as a whole.

Interested parties are believed to include private equity firms BGH Capital and Indigo Partners, as well as Oaktree Capital Management which helped recapitalise Nine Entertainment when it was placed into administration in 2012.

Speculation is also swirling around the possible involvement of Richard Branson.

The Federal Government has appointed former Macquarie Bank chief Nicholas Moore as its representative in any discussions.

IATA urges confidence boost

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has released the results of a new survey showing that 60% of recent travellers anticipate returning to the skies within one to two months of containment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However it will be vital for governments to boost consumer confidence before any large-scale resumption of travel is likely, with the voluntary administration of Virgin Australia cited by IATA as evidence that the risk to global aviation “is not theoretical”.

The IATA poll found the other 40% indicated they may wait six months or more, while almost 70% said uncertainty about their personal financial situation could also see a delay to their return.

The report particularly highlighted input from consumers in China and Australia, “where new coronavirus infection rates have fallen to very low levels”.

In Australia, demand has continued to deteriorate even after the rate of new infections fell into single digits, which by contrast triggered an initial recovery in the Chinese domestic market, IATA said.

“In some economies, the spread of COVID-19 has slowed to the point where governments are planning to lift the most severe elements of social distancing restrictions,” the report noted.

“But an immediate rebound from the catastrophic fall in demand appears unlikely...people still want to travel, but they are telling us that they want clarity on the economic situation and will likely wait for at least a few months after any ‘all clear’ before returning to the skies.

“As countries lift restrictions, confidence-boosting measures will be critical to restart travel and stimulate economies,” said IATA CEO Alexandre de Juniac.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLES.

Automation delay

QANTAS has confirmed that due to the current global COVID-19 situation the implementation of its International Ticket Reissue policy automation will be postponed until further notice.

Oktoberfest is off

GERMANY'S annual Oktoberfest celebration has been cancelled for this year, with organisers saying the risk is “simply too high” given the COVID-19 outbreak.

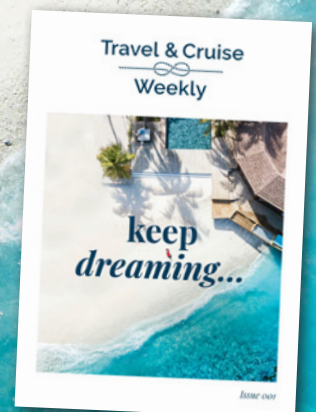
The festival had been originally scheduled to take place 19 Sep-04 Oct in Munich, with an estimated attendance of almost six million.

Oktoberfest 2021 is scheduled for 18 Sep-03 Oct next year.

Keep your clients engaged and planning their next trip with *keep dreaming...*

A weekly e-magazine with destination features, puzzles and more, to inspire your clients' next escape.

Plus click here for a toolkit to help promote the magazine.



How are airlines facing the challenge of the flight shaming movement? Find out in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



AC drops US flights

AIR Canada has announced the suspension of scheduled services to the USA effective from 26 Apr, after an agreement between the countries' respective governments to extend border restrictions for an extra 30 days.

Air Canada plans to resume service to the US on 22 May, subject to any further regulations, and is waiving change fees for impacted customers with bookings during the period to allow them to reschedule trips with no additional fee.

Intrepid digs in

INTREPID Travel is celebrating Earth Day today by announcing that more than 100,000 trees have been planted in Kenya as part of its Offset Earth project.

Although travel is on pause, the company is still committed to doing its part for climate action by matching subscribers to the program tree-for-tree.

Intrepid's trees are being planted in Kenya's Kijabe Forest by Eden Reforestation Projects, while supporting the livelihoods of the local community to keep the forest safe.

The Offset Earth subscription service helps users set goals to reduce their carbon footprint overall, such as by refusing single-use items, reducing their meat intake and taking public transportation to work.

See offset.earth/intrepidreforest.

Air NZ domestic reboot

THE easing of COVID-19 restrictions in New Zealand to "Alert Level 3" next week will see Air New Zealand add limited capacity to its domestic network, effective from 28 Apr.

The carrier will operate a mixture of A320, Q300 and ATR planes on several routes to enable essential travel and also keep freight moving.

The key Auckland-Christchurch corridor will be operated twice a day Mon-Sat and once each Sun, while a daily frequency will operate between Auckland and Wellington.

Services from Auckland to Tauranga and Napier will be reintroduced, along with a daily flight from Christchurch to Dunedin, double daily frequencies Mon-Fri from Wellington to Christchurch, and limited services between Wellington and Nelson.

Air NZ GM Networks, Scott Carr, said there were still significant travel restrictions.

"We have made some slight

UA issues stock

UNITED Airlines is seeking to bolster its balance sheet with a US\$1 billion equity capital raising.

The offering of 39.25 million new shares is underwritten by Morgan Stanley and Barclays.

United's shares have slumped 67% since the beginning of the year due to the coronavirus crisis.

adjustments to our domestic schedule in the coming weeks, and that includes adding several services a week between Auckland and Napier and Auckland and Tauranga.

"We'll also be adding additional capacity between Christchurch and Dunedin, with flights in and out of Dunedin across the week."

Customers are urged to check the latest information on the travel and transportation section of the NZ Government's COVID-19 website prior to making any bookings.

New Zealand's Alert Level 3 permits "essential personal movement," such as in response to court orders, compassionate reasons, emergencies, or relocating a home or business.

However "this is not a time to take a holiday [or] travel between regions to celebrate birthdays," the NZ Government said.

See covid19.govt.nz.

FlyPelican resumes

FLYPELICAN has recommenced services out of its Newcastle, NSW hub, with the relaunch of 40 scheduled services per week across its network with the support of the Federal Government.

Services include flights covering destinations such as Sydney, Canberra, Ballina, Dubbo, Taree, Mudgee and Cobar, and all are available now for booking via GDS under airline code FP-166.

The schedule includes the resumption of Sydney-Newcastle and Sydney-Taree flights, as well a triangulated route covering Ballina-Newcastle-Sydney-Newcastle-Ballina.

The resumption will provide much needed connectivity for communities over the coming months, the airline said.

Agents with any GDS booking queries can call the carrier on 1800 922 976 or email helpdesk@flypelican.com.au.



Window Seat

THOSE famous gondoliers in Venice are not completely out of work despite the COVID-19 shutdown, with a local charity using the city's canals to deliver food to people who are unable to shop for themselves.

Wearing masks, the "Row Venice" group - which normally offers rowing lessons and is dedicated to the preservation of the "Venetian aquatic tradition" called Voga - are now supplying organic fruit and vegetables to the city's senior citizens.

They're also offering their rowing services to any suppliers wanting to deliver their products throughout the historic centre of Venice.

Check out their efforts at traveldaily.com.au/videos.



WTTC campaign

THE World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has launched a new #TogetherInTravel marketing campaign, aiming to galvanize the global community and show how the sector is a "vital part of our zest for life".

The campaign encourages people from across the world to share videos demonstrating their passion for travel and to spread a "message of solidarity" via the #TogetherInTravel hashtag.

The initiative also features a microsite at togetherintravel.com which will host the videos as well as user-generated content.

"Our sector touches everyone... it builds communities, reduces poverty in the world and improves the social impact of everyday lives," said WTTC CEO Gloria Guevara.

shout out to...

Nominate someone who has gone above and beyond and win a voucher for yourself, and them!

CLICK HERE



Virgin blast from the past



THE team from AA Appointments has dived into the archives and sent through some vintage Virgin photos from when AA recruited for Virgin Blue.

“One of the highlights of my career was when I stood on the tarmac with the first 300 passionate staff whom AA Appointments had helped place at Virgin Blue,” AA Appointments

MD Adriana D’Angelis said.

“Since then, we have been loyal frequent flyers and have enjoyed the same amazing customer service as that inaugural flight, which has never wavered.

“To all the Virgin Australia staff I want to say a big THANK YOU and send you our support.

“We hope to be flying with you again soon.”



See inside the iconic Atlantis The Palm in Dubai

Travel & Cruise Weekly

CMV bookings surge 55%

CRUISE & Maritime Voyages (CMV) is aiming to help restore confidence in cruising by introducing a highly flexible travel policy for all new bookings from now until the end of May.

The policy offers fully transferrable deposits for new bookings, applicable on any sailing or any ship departing in 2020, 2021 or 2022, up until 90 days prior to sailing.

All standard administration and transfer fees will be waived.

Despite the onset of COVID-19, in Feb and Mar this year the company saw a 55% year-on-year uplift in bookings for the European 2021 summer season.

CMV Australia MD Dean Brazier said “during a period where people are spending more time at home and perhaps planning for better days, we want our guests to feel inspired for their next trip, whether it’s later this year, or in

two years’ time.

“When they are ready, we’ll be here for them,” he said.

CMV’s bookings reflect strong demand for Northern Lights cruises, accounting for almost half of all reservations made, while Arctic voyages taking in Iceland, Greenland and Scandinavia had also been “exceptionally popular,” Brazier said.

More info on 1300 307 934.

CAPA webinar

THE Centre for Aviation (CAPA) will tonight hold a Masterclass with Chairman Emeritus Peter Harbison, aviation consultant John Byerly and the EU’s Director of Aviation Filip Cornelis, which will look towards a post-COVID-19 global aviation regulatory regime.

The webinar will be at 11pm tonight, but those who register will receive the recording sent to them - **CLICK HERE**.

 Wendy Wu Tours®

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Stay connected. We're all in this together

OPINION

Adrian Piotto is Managing Director for G Adventures Oceania. He has penned this open letter for the Australian and NZ agency community.



Got an opinion to share? Let us know in up to 400 words to feedback@traveldaily.com.au.

TRAVEL isn't just something we do, it's a part of who we are. The current situation has presented travel and tourism providers with the most challenging circumstances we have experienced in the 30 years we've been in business — and we've seen a lot. While we don't know how long this will last, we do know people will travel again. When they are ready, we want our agency community to know that we are ready to support you.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our agency partners for all the hard work you continue to put in to support travellers as we wait to

see what the other side looks like, and to organisations such as AFTA and CATO who have been doing some incredible work behind the scenes lobbying for our industry. We remain positive about the future and firmly believe there will be no better time for travel that gives back than when we emerge from this pause.

“
There will be no better time for travel that gives back than when we emerge from this pause
”

But for now, it's our duty to stay home, be kind to others, and stay connected. It's a great time to nurture our travellers and clients, and provide them with inspiration to support their passion for travel at a time where they can't see the world with their own eyes.

Our industry is about tackling distance, breaking down barriers,

and bringing people from around the world together. We create communities through shared experiences, and while we can't come together in person, we can still bridge that distance and make connections thanks to the gift of technology. We'll be sharing some fun initiatives soon to help agents remind their customers why they love to travel.

Right now, we know that many of our travellers are at home desperate to explore again. They, like us, are sheltering in place, and dreaming about their next trip. Now is not the time to stand still — people are planning, and we are here to support the agency community as they discover new ways to reach potential customers. When they are ready, know that we are too.

While we might not be moving people around, we're still a community. Travel teaches us resilience and we know that we'll get through this and return to changing people's lives through travel, together.

Stay well, stay connected.

New Avalon ports

AVALON Waterways has unveiled details of its itineraries in 2021, with the aim of inspiring travellers to dream about and plan their next getaway.

Avalon's European river cruises next year will take in several new ports including Ilok in Croatia, the country's easternmost town where guests will be immersed into a 1,000-year-old wine making tradition and the local medieval fortress.

Also new is Golubac in Serbia, one of the best preserved fortresses in Europe, as well as the Black Sea port of Constanta in Romania.

Avalon is also adding ports in Austria to its itineraries, including Ybbs and Hainburg.

New 2021 voyages include the nine-day Balkan Odyssey, from Bucharest to Zagreb along the Danube and Drava Rivers; the nine-day Danube from Croatia to the Black Sea (Zagreb to Bucharest); and the 16-day Danube from Germany to the Black Sea (from Deggendorf to Bucharest).

All trips sail on Avalon's Suite Ships - avalonwaterways.com.au.

Windstar delay

WINDSTAR Cruises has extended its operational pause through until 30 Jun, with impacted guests offered a refund of the amount paid or a 125% future cruise credit.

The line will also have to abide by the Centers for Disease Control "No Sail" order (**TD** 14 Apr) which remains in effect for 100 days from mid-Apr, or until health officials determine that COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency.

Cheesy Rail Europe

RAIL Europe is offering a whopping prize of 2kg of Swiss cheese - worth \$140 - as part of its latest Once Upon a Train quiz series - check it out online at www.railplus.com.au.

AirAsia challenge

MALAYSIAN low-cost carrier AirAsia has issued a formal appeal against a conviction for breaching consumer protection laws.

Malaysia's Mavcom regulator initially fined AirAsia RM200,000 (about AU\$72,000) for promoting pricing but not including credit card fees in advertised fares.

Then in Dec last year the penalty was increased ten-fold to more than \$700,000 because of ongoing violations.

The carrier is now seeking a judicial review of the decision, on the basis of "natural justice" and that it was unable to adjust the fare structure in its booking system by the court deadline.

AirAsia said complying would have also forced it to remove its multi-city booking tool.

ATTENTION NZ TRAVEL INDUSTRY



To our Kiwi cousins, in this time of upheaval make sure you stay up to date. Sign up for a **FREE** *Travel Daily* subscription.

Travel Daily

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Sudoku

MEDIUM

THE aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes.

9					7			2
7	6	2				5		
			2			7		4
	7				1	3		
1				3				5
		6	4					2
5		8			4			
		1				2	5	8
6			3					1

www.sudokuoftheday.com - visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

Pub quiz

1. How many species of kiwi bird are there?
2. What is the name of the Roman Wall built from coast to coast across England's northern region?
3. Which country is often referred to by its nickname 'Land of Smiles'?
4. According to the United Nations, how many countries are in Africa today?
5. Which Australian city has the most bars?
6. The dish we call French toast first appeared in a recipe book in which century?
7. What is the longest river in Europe?
8. Sweden has land borders with how many countries?
9. True or false: snow never falls in Iraq?
10. Which American state has the most national parks?
11. What city does this collection of pictures spell out?



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Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the **TD** Window Seat archives to give you blast from the past. Here's some gems from 17 Jul 2014:

TRANSPORTATION Security Administration officers at Orlando Airport in the USA are set to undergo some special geography lessons, after one of them demanded a passport as identification from a traveller based in Washington, DC.

Apparently the official thought that the District of Columbia was based overseas, and didn't accept the passenger's drivers license as a form of ID.

Unfortunately the incident gathered significant attention in the media, because the traveller in question happened to be a newspaper reporter.

AUSTRALIA Zoo on the Sunshine Coast is claiming a major psychic victory, after one of its resident kangaroos managed to correctly predict the outcome of the soccer World Cup earlier this week.

For every major match the roo, with the assistance of Bindi Irwin, selects between two food bowls representing the opposing teams, and has apparently achieved some uncanny results during the tournament.

The Eastern Grey kangaroo, formerly named Flopsy, now carries the catchy moniker of "Predictaroo" and has more than 18,000 Twitter @Predictaroo followers and her own web page.

Where in the world?



WHEN you think of a sculpture commemorating bureaucrats, this monument probably wouldn't be what you expect - usually it's

great statemen on horseback.

Can you tell us where you would find this unusual artwork?

Check tomorrow for the answer.

ANSWERS 21 APR

Pub quiz: 1 Hoodoo, 2 France, 3 Honolulu, 4 Angel Falls, Venezuela, 5 Blackawton, England, 6 130 places, 7 China, 8 Norway, 9 London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Newcastle, 10 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, 11 Fremantle (free + man + tell)

Unscramble: cent, centre, cere, cert, cite, citron, coin, coir, cone, core, corn, cornet, cote, coterie, cretin, crone, eject, ejection, ejector, encore, enteric, entice, enticer, erect, erection, erotic, icon, inject, neoteric, nice, nicer, niece, noetic, notice, once, oncer, otic, recent, recit, recite, recto, reject, REJECTION, rejoice, rice, terce, tierce, tonic, torc, toric, trice

Whose flag is this: Mozambique

Hyatt's happy Easter



A NEW kind of guest has been checking in at Hyatt Regency Perth recently - those mandated to a 14-day in-room isolation order - but rather than lower standards due to a captive market, the hotel has put together a thoughtful and tailored experience to support their guests from a distance.

Guests checking in for quarantine periods have received a welcome gift of a bottle of wine and complimentary minibar; multiple care packages with wellness recommendations,

podcast suggestions, puzzles and online activities; social media competitions; a daily allowance of \$80 to spend on in-room dining; cleaning supplies; personal crockery and cutlery; frequent communications and updates from guest services; and kid packages with activities, colouring, pencils, fruit and juice.

Over the Easter weekend, hotel also surprised isolated guests with a delivery (pictured) of chocolate and freshly-baked hot cross buns, and a handwritten Easter note.

Marriott scrubs up

MARRIOTT International has launched a Global Cleanliness Council to promote higher standards of hygiene.

The new multi-pronged platform will encourage increased safety measures for guests and associates, while the company will roll out enhanced technology to help counter the spread of COVID-19.

360 degrees of WA

TOURISM WA is offering a range of nature, wildlife, food and drink, and cultural experiences that can be sampled virtually.

The tourism board is highlighting a number of online options showcasing different aspects of the state's tourism, such as "Wake up to WA" on the board's Facebook (CLICK HERE) and Instagram (CLICK HERE).

NEED A DISTRACTION AMID THE DOOM AND GLOOM?

Check out our daily puzzle page.

Korean Air up PPE

KOREAN Air is now providing its cabin crew with protective gowns and goggles.

Crew on all flights are wearing goggles, in addition to masks and gloves, with protective gowns being provided on medium- and long-haul inbound flights.

StayWell video

STAYWELL Holdings has put together a heartfelt global initiative in support of its employees.

The video, titled Hearts Across the Globe, shows staff from around the world coming together as a team to send positive vibes and a message of support to each other.

View the video [HERE](#).

Quest healthcare

QUEST Apartment Hotels has launched Quest Healthcare Assist service for health care workers.

The initiative provides healthcare companies and workers heavily discounted rates on self-contained apartments across Australia.

Celebrity at home

THE Celebrity Cruises culinary team have been making the most of their COVID-19 down-time to produce cooking videos, including daily recipes with step-by-step instructions - and fitness videos to help burn all those calories off.

See them all at facebook.com/CelebrityCruisesAUSNZ.

Relive Qld holidays

TOURISM and Events Queensland (TEQ) is inviting travellers to relive their favourite Queensland holiday to help support the state's tourism.

Tourism and Events Queensland has put together five suggestions for travellers to take part in to keep their travel dream alive, including taking a trip down memory lane through a photo album, and writing a review for a Queensland travel businesses you visited and loved.

TEQ has also suggested travellers learn more about the places they visited, recreate the tastes and aromas of a certain meal enjoyed while on holiday in Queensland, and plan a future holiday in the state.

ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Australian residential developer Crown Group **Crown Group** has secured land in Los Angeles' downtown district for its first property in the United States, with plans to develop a mixed-use high-rise condominium and hotel tower. The proposed 43-storey tower is expected to comprise 319 condominiums and a 160-key luxury hotel in the low-rise portion of the building.