

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news including our PUZZLES and a full page from:

- Tourism Authority Thailand

Industry lunch event

WHAT must be the first travel industry event as coronavirus restrictions ease will take place next Mon 15 Jun, aboard Sydney's Journey Beyond Cruise vessel.

Walter Nand from Ride the World Motorcycle Tours is convening the gathering to coincide with Men's Health Week.

The Executive Lunch will feature former NRL star Wayne Wigham who will share "what it's like to be a big tough guy with depression".

Social distancing restrictions mean just 30 spots are available, with both men and women more than welcome to attend.

It's priced at \$115 per person including food and beverages, and all profits will be donated to the Black Dog Institute - for info and to book, [CLICK HERE](#).

Massive Thai prizes

HUNDREDS of prizes including gift cards, care packs and luxury hotel accommodation are up for grabs for travel agents in Australia and New Zealand who take part in the Tourism Authority of Thailand's new Amazing Thailand Specialist training program.

Participation is free so check it out on the **last page of TD** today.

Tourism leaders honoured

YESTERDAY'S Queen's Birthday Honours list showcased the achievements of some of the country's top travel and tourism executives, including Helloworld CEO Andrew Burnes who was named an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) (**TD** breaking news).

Burnes, who has led Helloworld Travel since 2016, was also the founder of The AOT Group in 1987 and over the years has held a range of senior Board roles including as a Director of Tourism Australia and Chair of the Australian Tourism Export Council.

The official citation also highlighted his involvement as Honorary Federal Treasurer of the Liberal Party, as a Director of the Humpty Dumpty Foundation

which raises money for hospital children's wards across Australia and as a supporter of the School of St Jude in Arusha, Tanzania.

Also honoured yesterday was BIG4 Holiday Parks co-founder Desmond Watts, who was recognised for his outstanding service to the tourism accommodation sector with a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Watts has been a member of Ballarat Tourism for 20 years, and has been widely hailed for his contribution to the Caravan Industry Association of Australia.

Former Tourism Western Australia Chair Kate Lamont was named a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her significant service to the state's tourism and hospitality sectors.

She's also served on the Tourism Australia Board and the Perth Convention Bureau.

Queensland's Patrick Jackman was recognised with an AO for "distinguished service to the community through support for educational and medical research organisations, and to tourism and business".

As well as a wide range of other roles in public and private organisations, Jackman was Tourism Queensland Chair from 1998 to 2006.

AFTA pushes agents

SENIOR politicians across the country are being urged to promote the importance of booking through travel agents, in a concerted campaign being undertaken by the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA).

As restrictions on travel within and across State and Territory borders slowly lift, AFTA said the nation's leaders should take this "very easy and powerful step which will greatly assist travel agencies" decimated by COVID-19.

The lobbying is in addition to ongoing submissions to Federal Treasury for further financial support for the hard-hit sector.

China travel alert

THE Chinese Government has issued a formal warning to its citizens not to travel to Australia, citing a "significant increase in racist attacks on Chinese and Asian people".

The move is the latest escalation in a war of words, with China defending itself against claims it mishandled the COVID-19 outbreak.

Federal Tourism Minister Simon Birmingham rejected the claims of racism, saying "Australia is the most successful multicultural and migrant society in the world".

"The Chinese-Australian community is a significant and valued contributor to that success story," Birmingham said.

NZ restrictions gone

NEW Zealand's success in containing COVID-19 has seen the country return to normality - apart from maintaining ongoing stringent border controls.

Effective midnight last night, all limits on gathering sizes were dropped, as well as rules relating to physical distancing after the country declared itself coronavirus-free.

EK boosts flights

EMIRATES is expanding passenger services to 16 more cities from 15 Jun, including the resumption of flights to both Perth and Brisbane, in addition to already reinstated Sydney and Melbourne frequencies.

Other new destinations include Bahrain, Manchester, Zurich, Vienna, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Dublin, New York JFK, Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta, Taipei and Hong Kong.

SIA secures S\$10b

SINGAPORE Airlines has confirmed the success of its recent Rights Issue (**TD** 27 Mar), raising S\$10 billion of liquidity from existing shareholders incl the Singapore Government.



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