



Bunnik chat soon

COUNCIL of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) Chairman Dennis Bunnik will be the latest member of the travel industry to join **TD** Editor-in-Chief Bruce Piper for a Travel Community Hub webinar (**TD** 08 Feb).

Taking place at 9.30am (AEDT) tomorrow 17 Feb, the pair will discuss what the coming months have in store for the industry, the likelihood of multiple false starts ahead, as well as the concept of “crisis fatigue”.

The sessions will also feature time for Q&A - **CLICK HERE**.

Today's issue of **TD**

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page plus a full page from **Tokyo Tourism**.

Inspire 100% HLO-owned

EXCLUSIVE

INSPIRE Travel Management, the joint venture Indigenous TMC formed between Helloworld's QBT and In Travel Group (**TD** 30 Jan 2018) has been fully owned by Helloworld since Oct last year.

In Travel Group founder Dwayne Good confirmed to **Travel Daily** he had “exited Inspire Travel and sold my shares to Helloworld... from my side I am no longer involved in Inspire,” with ASIC records confirming his resignation as a director effective 28 Oct 2020.

When the JV was formed it was touted as a key collaboration to create opportunities for Indigenous people, as well as working closely with clients who have strong corporate social responsibility values.

The business, which was later awarded the Australia Post travel program (**TD** 25 Feb 2019), was also said to tie in closely with the Australian Government Indigenous Procurement Policy.

The discrepancy over Inspire's ownership came to light with revelations that Good's own 100% Indigenous-owned business, In Travel Group, had become part of CT Partners this year (**TD** 12 Feb).

CT Partners requested a correction to part of the story linking Good to Inspire Travel Management, saying “Dwayne sold his interest in Inspire Travel back to HLO in Oct last year and no longer has any association

with them”.

“In Travel wouldn't be able to join CT Partners if Dwayne was still in partnership with HLO,” said CT Partners' GM Supplier Partnerships, Nicole Hague.

The Inspire Travel Management website claims it is the “only majority Indigenous owned, Supply Nation accredited, large market TMC in Australia”.

The company's directors are Helloworld Travel CFO David Hall and QBT chief Nick Sutherland.

Helloworld did not respond to requests for comment.

MEANWHILE CT Partners confirmed the addition of In Travel yesterday, alongside the group's other new member, Tribe Travel Group in Melbourne, established by industry veterans Kelly Gelfand and Leon Burman.

CT Partners Chairman Barry Mayo said he was delighted to welcome both organisations to the group, which has also announced the extension of its long-standing Qantas partnership.

A new three year deal with the carrier is viewed as “delivering certainty where our members' post-COVID recovery and future growth is concerned,” Mayo said.

Qantas Exec GM Global Sales and Distribution, Igor Kwiatkowski, said the airline was “delighted to continue working together, focusing on opportunities that benefit our customers as the travel industry recovers”.

Looping in agents

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) is reiterating calls for its members to complete Tourism Australia's Aussie Specialist Program so they can be featured as part of the Holiday Here This Year campaign.

New collateral has added “or talk to your local travel agent” as part of the call - see **p3** for more.

Govt seeks advice

THE Federal Govt is set to approach the market to tender for “Travel Management Services to Federal Senators, Members of Parliament, their staff and other entitled persons” according to a planned procurement advised on tenders.gov.au - the formal docs are expected to be released in the Jul-Sep quarter of this year.

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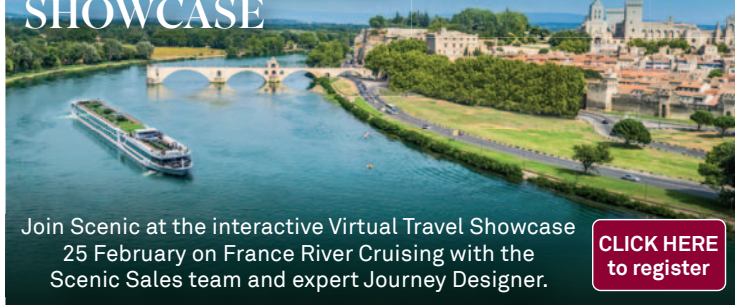
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News Corp Australia

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Top End's Uluru, Just Wow

VOYAGES Indigenous Tourism Australia has launched its first brand campaign in 10 years, using the brand platform "Just Wow" in a bid to lure domestic visitation over the coming months.

The renewed marketing push also aims to encourage Australians to move Uluru from their bucket lists to their "to do" lists and persuade travellers to visit the iconic tourism attraction sooner than later, as well as showcase the plethora of surrounding Indigenous experiences on offer.

"The intent for this new platform is to actively drive a sense of urgency to encourage visitation to one of the most iconic destinations in the world," said Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia Chief Marketing Officer Ana Sofia Ayala.

"By showcasing the multitude of things to do and see from five-star culinary experiences to

stargazing with an indigenous guide, and sunset heli-tours to exploring Uluru on a segway, we are also letting our audience know that this is a destination for all ages and interests."

The campaign will run across TV, print, outdoor & digital, and engages the local Anangu community in its creation.

Watch an instalment of the exciting new campaign [HERE](#).

Officially rejected

CROWN Resorts has been formally informed it is no longer suitable for the Restricted Gaming License by the New South Wales Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (ILGA).

The ruling means it will lose the license for NSW's second casino, as foreshadowed last week.

ILGA also confirmed Crown had breached the VIP Gaming Management Agreement.

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GET IN TOUCH

FLT retention plan

FLIGHT Centre yesterday notified investors of the issue of about 1.2 million share performance rights to senior executives, as part of the "Flight Centre Travel Group Post Covid Retention Plan".

Details of the plan will be made available later this year in the company's Annual Report, with Melanie Waters-Ryan, Adam Campbell and Christopher Galanty each receiving 140,000 rights; while James Kavanagh, Steven Norris and Charlene Leiss were each assigned 80,000 rights.

The same group of executives were also issued a total of 572,000 rights under the company's existing Long Term Retention Plan revealed in the 2020 Annual Report.

Last year's report also confirmed the 26 Oct 2020 cessation of the company's long-running Business Ownership Scheme (BOS) under which staff could invest in their businesses via unsecured notes.



Window Seat

WHILE many associate Valentine's Day with romance, others associate it with something else entirely - shelling out some cash.

For Valentine's Day this year Ovolo offered Australian couples the country's most expensive dessert.

Ovolo's Suite Desserts dusted in gold looking flakes are available across the hotel brand's restaurants such as at Alibi Bar & Kitchen for \$269, Mister Percy and Monster Kitchen & Bar for \$199, and ZA TA Bar & Kitchen for \$150.

For those staying the night, there are also some "after dinner" developments pioneered by the brand which **TD** considers too raunchy to detail - [CLICK HERE](#) to read on.



JOURNEY BEYOND
THE GHAN

AS SEEN ON

THE AMAZING RACE

You saw Cruise Whitsundays featured on Travel Guides, and on 16 February tune in to watch another Journey Beyond experience as competitive teams race on The Ghan taking part in heart-stopping challenges from Alice Springs to Adelaide.

THE GHAN SPECIAL OFFER



A by Adina debut



TFE Hotels has debuted its new A by Adina brand globally this week by opening the doors to the A by Adina Canberra.

The 130-key property is perched on the doorstep of the Parliamentary Triangle at Lake Burley Griffin and features studio, studio deluxe and one-bedroom accommodation, as well as two fitness centres, smart parking, and a 24-hour reception area.

TFE has also flagged the opening of a second location in Sydney in Apr this year, with the 194-room hotel to be located in George Street and offer several on-site

bars and restaurants.

The brand is described as bringing “contemporary Australian, detailed simplicity and quiet confidence” to the Aussie hotel landscape.

“A by Adina hotels will appeal to those confident travellers who appreciate incredible design and quality of finishes as well as impeccable, personalised hospitality when they receive it,” said TFE Hotels CEO Antony Ritch.

“When you step inside an A by Adina, you’ll find that perfectly suited balance between a hotel and a private apartment...we want the entire experience to be understated, but impactful.”

Pictured: One of A by Adina’s common area spaces.

IHG drives change

IHG Hotels & Resorts has unveiled its Journey to Tomorrow initiative which aims to implement positive culture change over the next 10 years.

Goals of the program include achieving gender diversity across its global staff, driving economic changes in impoverished communities, minimising wastage, reduce energy emissions and conserving water usage.

A recent IHG survey showed more than 80% of guests think it’s important to choose a hotel that embraces sustainability goals.

Crystalbrook CEO

CRYSTALBROOK has formally appointed Geoff York to be its Chief Executive Officer after serving out a period of time as the company’s interim chief.

York, a founding member of the company, will be charged with growing the brand under the ethos of “responsible luxury”.

“Travelling with a lighter environmental footprint must be at the forefront of everything we do,” he said.

“This is all about empowering all our staff to think environmentally, acting smarter to create less waste such as the removal of plastics, embracing renewable resources and...working with local suppliers to reduce our carbon.”



What time of year has the best weather in Thailand?

Head to the *Travel Daily Training Academy* to find the answer and learn more about this and other destinations.

AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

LAST week’s visit to Adelaide was a very positive one.

AFTA CEO Darren Rudd met with 24 agent members over the course of the week in addition to other key stakeholders.

The focus of the consultations was to help Darren understand the operations of the businesses pre-COVID, the concerns and challenges experienced by the business throughout 2020 and to fully appreciate what the impact will be should state and territory government support not continue. Additionally, it was to seek input on what can AFTA do better for our members.

This feedback was fed directly into Darren’s meetings with South Australian Premier Stephen Marshall, South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) and Tourism Industry Council South Australia (TICSA).

In fact, Darren spent five hours over the course of the week with the Premier, discussing travel agents, state-based funding, rent relief and the mandatory code of conduct and various tourism initiatives including extending the voucher program to incorporate travel agents.

It is pleasing to share that the South Australian Government’s Small Business Grants delivered \$2.253 million to 137 travel agent and tour operator businesses in 2020.

Darren also had a very productive meeting with Dennis Bunnik in his capacity as Chair for CATO, where they discussed joint projects and initiatives for the sector to ensure collective success and more planned collaboration. Additionally, last



afta
AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION
OF TRAVEL AGENTS

Tue 09 Feb, new print advertising hit the market as part of Tourism Australia’s Holiday Here This Year Campaign. The campaign creative calls on Australian travellers to

“plan an incredible

trip with your local travel agent today”. The creative will run until Jun across News Corp, Nine, 7West and the ACM networks and is estimated to reach more than 4.6 million consumers. We’ve received some feedback from members who are unaware of the work Tourism Australia has been doing to support industry, and so it is worth highlighting that AFTA has been working with Tourism Australia since the onset of COVID-19 and that they do in fact recognise the important role travel agents play in the travel booking supply chain.

Specifically, Tourism Australia has updated the Aussie Specialist Program for Australian travel agents so their businesses could benefit as much as possible from domestic bookings.

To date, more than 2,000 Australian travel agents have completed the program, adding to the 27,000 agents globally who are part of the push to sell Australia.

We urge all travel agents if you have not yet completed the Aussie Specialist Program to do so. Only travel agents who complete the program will be featured on Australia.com’s “find a travel agent near you” link, which clients can then use to book with a local agent.

Additionally, Tourism Australia also modified its ‘Holiday Here This Year’ campaign messaging to include a call to action for agents.

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

R	I	C
Y	H	N
E	M	A

Good – 24 words
 Very good – 36 words
 Excellent – 47 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Famous faces



THERE are three different faces that make up this picture.

They are a mixture of famous celebrities and travel names. Can you figure out who the

eyes, nose and mouth in this picture belong to?

And don't worry if you can't guess them all, two out of three ain't bad!

ANSWERS 15 FEB

Where in the world: Alhambra, Granada, Spain

Pick the nation: Korea

Whose mascot is this: Keggy the Keg - Dartmouth University Big Green (college football)

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

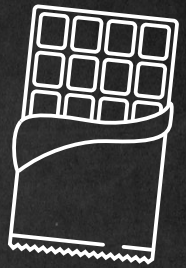
Get your chocolate fix

IT'S hard to go past a brownie for your chocolate fix, and this recipe comes from Taste Fiji, a local family-run cafe in Nadi.

The cafe is known for their decadent sweet bar and barista coffee.

Until borders open and you can enjoy the real deal, here's the recipe to make your own.

Make sure to send your recipes to chocolate@traveldaily.com.au.



xx *Jenny*

Jenny Piper
 Owner,
 Business
 Publishing
 Group



Coconut Chocolate Brownie

INGREDIENTS

- 250g butter
- 500g brown sugar
- 125g cocoa
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 100g desiccated coconut

METHOD

Line a 24cm square cake tin with baking paper and preheat the oven to 180°C.

In a small saucepan gently melt the butter with the sugar. Add the cocoa and mix well.

In the bowl of an electric mixer beat the eggs and vanilla until light and fluffy.

Pour the chocolate mixture and coconut into the eggs, mix until well combined.

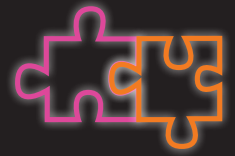
Turn the batter into the prepared cake tin.

Bake for 40 minutes, the centre will still be a little soft which is as it should be.

Allow to cool and then cut into 16 pieces. Enjoy!

**NEED A DISTRACTION
AMID THE DOOM
AND GLOOM?**

Check out our daily puzzle page.



Travel Daily

Townsville theme park bites the dust

ANOTHER Townsville tourism business has fallen over, with the announcement of the Barra Fun Park shutting its doors this week after 20 years of operation.

The park revealed it was forced to close down after failing to secure an insurer to renew its public liability insurance.

Barra Fun Park owner Brent Stevenson was scathing of the insurance sector's unwillingness to back sectors such as his that are being challenged existentially by the pandemic.

"Everything that I have worked for and the sacrifices that my family and I have made are being taken away for no reason," he told *Australian Leisure*.

Book a trip up here



NEWLY-APPOINTED CEO of Destination Gold Coast, Patricia O'Callaghan, has been out and about in the last week promoting the tropical destination as ideal

for domestic travellers in 2021.

Filming from Burleigh Beach last week (pictured), the tourism body's chief was wooing Aussies into booking their next trip north on the Gold Coast, with the body actively targeting NSW, Victoria and New Zealand as its primary sweet spot markets.

"We are reminding Aussies how important it is to come and visit us on the Gold Coast and how can you not when you look at what is behind me," O'Callaghan said.

"This is a \$6 billion industry that lost \$3 billion alone last year, I know this is a critical issue for many of us in the industry."

MEANWHILE, in a blow to the region's tourism sector, the Gold Coast is reportedly set to lose the hosting rights to the Corona Open surf competition after the Qld Government balked at paying for the associated quarantine requirements for the event's competitors.

The World Surf League (WSL) is understood to be shopping the event to NSW surf spots.

AC buy approved

TRANSPORT Canada has formally approved Air Canada's plan to purchase rival carrier Air Transat for C\$520 million, with the deal now passing shareholder and court approval to proceed.

However the acquisition is bound by certain conditions in the interests of fair competition, including the preservation of Air Transat's head office and brand in Quebec, launching new destinations within five years and actively encouraging other airlines to take up Air Transat's former European routes.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.778

THE Australian dollar continued its move toward higher values overnight as a cold snap across North America pushed oil prices to post-pandemic highs.

The AUDUSD gained 0.4% to near three-year highs, while the AUDEUR and AUDJPY both arrived at new two-year highs.

The Aussie however lost ground on the Canadian dollar as it was propelled by oil prices.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.778
UK	£0.559
NZ	\$1.076
Euro	€0.641
Japan	¥81.98
Thailand	฿23.25
China	¥5.025
South Africa	11.247
Canada	\$0.993
Crude oil	US\$62.43

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