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## Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page.

## Vale Beth Malcolm



**BETH** Malcolm, founder of Gold Coast-based agencies The Travel Masters and The Travel Studio, has died after a brief illness.

Malcolm had an extensive industry career spanning almost 50 years, and was widely acknowledged as a pioneer in both small group travel and international cruise holidays.

The Travel Masters MD Neil Kirby said "her passion for luxury overseas travel, specifically in Africa and South America was clear to all who knew her.

"Beth's commitment to serving her clients at the highest level resulted in many becoming close personal friends," he said.

"Beth will be greatly missed by all," Kirby added.

In line with her wishes, a private funeral service for close family will be held in Central Queensland close to Malcolm's place of birth.

## Qantas flags int'l return

IN A positive sign that international travel is edging closer to reality, Australia's flag carrier Qantas has reopened bookings for most international flights from 01 Jul, a move in line with forecasts CEO Alan Joyce delivered back in Oct.

Qantas is opening the sale of routes across its international network, including key markets such as the United States and the United Kingdom which have been brought forward from Oct 2021, however there are also a small portion of flight services which remain blocked.

These include previously available non-stop flights from Sydney to Santiago, as well as the New York to Los Angeles route and flights to Fiji.

The decision to start selling international tickets from Jul reflects previous comments from the airline that there would be no material flying overseas until at least the end of Jun 2021, with a spokesperson telling **TD** that it would continue to make changes subject to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, such as vaccine rollouts and border closures.

## Air NZ HNL stopover

**AIR** New Zealand aircrew will be allowed to overnight in Honolulu on its North America flights, rather than LA or San Francisco.

The move is part of efforts to reduce COVID-19 transmission.

"We continue to review and update our international schedule in response to the developing COVID-19 situation.

"Recently we have aligned the selling of our international services to reflect our expectation that international travel will begin to restart from Jul 2021."

The news follows more ramping up of capacity domestically, with Qantas adding seven regional routes last month (**TD** 18 Dec 2020), bringing its total local routes to 62.

## Qatar flexibility

**QATAR** Airways is offering passengers a full year of flexibility in 2021, allowing unlimited date changes and fee-free refunds for all tickets issued before 30 Apr.

Applicable on travel completed this year, Qatar is also allowing the option to exchange tickets for a travel voucher with 10% additional value when booking travel via [qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com).

Passengers wanting a voucher can apply online and receive it within 48 hours.

The news comes after the airline on Fri took delivery of three brand new Boeing 777s.

Reflecting on an extraordinary year in 2020, Qatar revealed it took home more than 3.1 million passengers, organising over 470 charters and extra sector flights with governments and companies around the world.

## Regent upgrade

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has announced its largest ever suite upgrade promotion.

Upgrade Your Horizon will allow guests to access a two-category suite upgrade, providing the option of going right up to a Penthouse suite, where pax can enjoy additional perks and amenities including a personal butler and 50% reduced down payments, except on Grand Voyages and World Cruises.

The promotion also offers guests the option of unwinding in their embarkation city with a free one-night pre-cruise hotel stay when they upgrade to a Concierge suite.

The offer is available on all published cruises when booked before Mar, with travel advisors to receive a free \$250 Visa gift card for each new deposited booking made by this month.

For more details on the upgrade, call 1300 455 200.

## SIA extends rebook

**SINGAPORE** Airlines Group (SIA) has extended its complimentary rebooking policy through to the end of Feb.

Covering all Singapore Airlines and SilkAir tickets issued from 05 Mar 2020 through to 28 Feb 2021, the extension gives customers the flexibility to adjust their travel plans without incurring change fees.

For those requiring assistance, phone 1300 308 168.

## Picture yourself here...



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## INTRODUCING THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY 'HUB'

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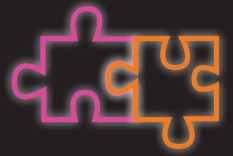
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## CT Partners chief dies

**THE** Australian travel sector is reeling at the untimely death of CT Partners General Manager and Australian Federation of Travel Agents Director Ian Edwards just before Christmas.

Edwards (**pictured**) was a very private person and had been undergoing cancer treatment for some time, but was only very recently diagnosed as terminal.

While he had been given only a short time to live, the suddenness of his passing was unexpected, according to Barry Mayo, Chair of House of Travel Australia and CT Partners Director.

Edwards had a stellar career in the travel industry, having started out as a travel consultant with Thomas Cook in the late 1970s before rising to become the



company's GM Australia.

He then became GM Leisure for Harvey World Travel (HWT) when it acquired Thomas Cook Australia and NZ in 2001, facilitating many former Thomas Cook managers to become HWT franchisees.

Edwards later became head of CT Partners in Feb 2008 when the group broke away from S8 Limited, which had acquired Harvey World Travel in 2005.

"Ian was much more than a General Manager, and with his passing all of us at CT Partners have lost a special friend and cherished confidante," Mayo said.

"It is with profound sorrow that we convey this heartbreaking news," he added.

It's understood that a celebration of Edwards' life will take place once the current COVID-19 restrictions are eased.

### SA vouchers for all

**THE** South Australian Tourism Commission has today launched the second wave of its Great State Voucher program, providing \$100 vouchers for use at participating properties in Adelaide as well as \$50 vouchers for regional stays.

The \$2 million program is valid for bookings made 07-31 Jan, for travel through to 31 Mar 2021 - and has been expanded to include interstate visitors as well as smaller operators with five or more rooms - half that of the 10-room limit in the first tranche.

Vouchers are available now at [southaustralia.com/voucher](http://southaustralia.com/voucher).

### Rex slams rumours

**REGIONAL** Express (Rex) has debunked claims reported in News Corp papers last week that it is seeking to employ foreign pilots to fly domestic routes.

The carrier described the suggestion as a "malicious rumour from its detractors," noting that all pilots and flight attendants employed for its new 737 mainline jet operation are former Virgin Australia, Tiger and Qantas staff.

"Rex is not seeking to employ foreign pilots for its domestic operations, nor is it entitled to do so under the conditions of a Labour Agreement entered into with the Commonwealth in 2019," the company said.

"If any airline should get credit for recruiting and training Australian pilots, it is Rex.

"Rex, unlike the two major domestic carriers, has invested heavily in pilot training academies, in Wagga Wagga and Ballarat, and a cadet program that provides young Australians a chance to develop a good career in aviation," the airline added.

### Village delisted

**THEME** park operator Village Roadshow Limited is no longer being publicly traded on the Australian Securities Exchange, after the finalisation of its long-running takeover by private equity group BGH (**TD** 18 May).

### FCTG UK vax sites?

**FLIGHT** Centre in the UK has offered up its dormant shop network as possible sites to support the country's COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

The company's UK Head of Retail Marketing, Yvonne Hobden, addressed PM Boris Johnson in a Tweet backing a similar initiative by Scottish beermaker BrewDog.

"Our shops are going unused right now, and with back-of-house kitchens, fridges and plenty of space we reckon they'd be the ideal vaccination space," she said.



### Window Seat

**WHILE** some Australians thought holding a fireworks display this year was controversial, spare a thought for the people of Lebanon, where in some parts of the country it is customary to celebrate the new year by firing a gun mindlessly into the air.

It is this unusual practice which is believed to have caused inadvertent damage to three new MEA aircraft parked at Beirut's Rafic-Hariri International Airport.

The stray bullet holes were thankfully found by engineers on the tarmac (**pictured**), and as a result, the jets have been withdrawn from service to be repaired before flying again.



### Viking discovery sale

**VIKING** Cruises has launched a major sale on voyages departing in 2022 and 2023, "delivering a new optimism for future travel and the certainty that travellers need to plan ahead".

Ocean, river and expedition voyages are featured in the sale which was showcased in a newspaper insert over the recent New Year holiday period, with savings of up to \$5,600 per couple - for details **CLICK HERE**.

### WA Instagram hack

**TOURISM** Western Australia has confirmed a pre-Christmas hack of its Instagram page was quickly resolved.

After working with Facebook, control of the account was regained in under 12 hours, with no follower data compromised.

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## INTRODUCING THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY 'HUB'

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## Google travel insights

**GOOGLE** has launched Travel Insights with Google, aiming to help the industry understand demand and booking trends in greater detail.

Travel Insights with Google offers three new tools, Destination Insights, Hotel Insights and the Travel Analytics Centre, helping industry stakeholders have a deeper gauge of pent-up demand and leverage the data to assist in their travel business' recovery.

Destination insights provides details about the top sources of demand for a destination, and destinations within countries that travellers are most interested in visiting, while Hotel Insights is designed to help properties of all sizes understand where travel demand may be coming from.

Users also have access to new tools, advice, and tips for how to stand out more online.

Travel Insights with Google also hosts the Travel Analytics Center, available to Google's commercial partners, which will help organisations combine their own Google account data with

broader Google demand data.

The Travel Analytics Center will offers insights on how businesses can manage their operations and find new opportunities to reach potential clients - visit [travelinsights.withgoogle.com](https://travelinsights.withgoogle.com).

## Canada requires negative test

**CANADA** will require air travellers over the age of four to test negative to coronavirus before entering the country.

Minister of Transportation Marc Garneau said starting tomorrow, Canada will tighten its restrictions amid soaring local numbers.

Passengers will need to have a negative PCR COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to their scheduled departure to Canada.

However the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has expressed "deep frustration" with Canada's decision, particularly the country's move to maintain its quarantine measures despite its elevated testing requirements, which IATA called "the worst of both worlds".

## Tassie tastes great



**INSIGHT** Vacations' inaugural Australian trip has kicked off, with its first Local Escapes departure.

The first trip operating globally for Insight since the commencement of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tasmania's Food, Wine & Whiskey itinerary recently departed Hobart.

Over six days, guests experienced pristine wilderness, went behind-the-scenes in iconic locations, enjoyed VIP winery tours & unique local dining experiences, and partook in a gourmet day tour of Bruny Island.

"We're thrilled we have been able to provide our Australian guests the opportunity to still experience all that they love from an Insight Vacations journey, a little closer to home," said CEO Ulla Hefel Bohler.

"I congratulate our Australian team for working endlessly to ensure our guests are able to enjoy such unique and exclusive experiences across the country."

Managing Director Australia Karen Deveson added that recent research it conducted showed Aussies enjoyed a healthy appetite for domestic travel.

"We're glad we can provide an opportunity for our travellers to take a holiday and connect with local communities who really appreciate the support," she said.

"Until we're able to travel

internationally again, we hope our Local Escapes can be the break that many of us have been looking forward to."

Insight's Local Escapes collection includes five itineraries across Australia, as well as New Zealand, with departures continuing throughout the year.

Other trips include Flavours of Adelaide & the Barossa Valley and Perth and the Margaret River Explorer.

**Pictured:** Guests enjoying the Salamanca Market in Hobart.

## Emirates Pass back

**MY EMIRATES** Pass is returning this year, offering a range of discounts for those travelling to the United Arab Emirates.

Customers can get up to 50% off in more than 300 restaurants across the country and in over 35 spas in a range of hotels.

Also available are offers at tourist attractions, such as the Aquaventure Waterpark and At the Top, Burj Khalifa.

The My Emirates Pass is valid to passengers who fly to and through Dubai until 30 Sep.

Travellers can take advantage of the offers by presenting their EK boarding pass and a valid form of identification at any participant.

The full list of more than 450 participating outlets can be found by **CLICKING HERE**.

## Catch up on the news of the week



Travel Daily

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

## Bean Day



**FOR** those who have over-indulged during Christmas and new Year, Bean Day, celebrated tomorrow 06 Jan, is the perfect time to start your health kick.

Beans are a common food around the world and are great for you - they're rich in fibre and protein and are very versatile.

Bean Day is celebrated on 06 Jan to honour the work of

geneticist Gregor Mendel.

Mendel died on 06 Jan, and his experiments breeding pea plants formed the basis of modern genetics study.

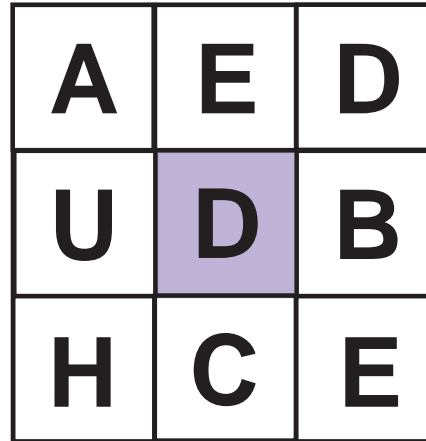
To fully commit to celebrating Bean Day, try adding beans to all your meals tomorrow - baked beans with breakfast, red bean icecream as a lunch dessert and chilli con carne for dinner.

## Pub quiz

1. British fighter aircraft the Supermarine Spitfire is closely associated with what city?
2. *Titanic* was operated by what cruise line?
3. Marunouchi is Tokyo's home of which industry?
  - a) Finance
  - b) Textiles
  - c) Agriculture
  - d) Legal
4. Are the Turks Islands or Caicos Islands larger?
5. Elizabeth Quay is a development project in which Australian city?
6. What is the highest-tonnage port in Australia, receiving over 452 million tonnes of cargo a year?
7. The Hickman crater is located in which country?
8. Which two states in Australia are wild koalas not found in?
9. What is the largest town on Kangaroo Island?
10. Marramarra National Park is closest to which Australian capital city?

## 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.



Good – 15 words  
 Very good – 22 words  
 Excellent – 29 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 maybe less

famous travel names. Can you figure out who the eyes, nose and mouth in this picture belong to?

### ANSWERS 04 JAN

Where in the world: US Bank Stadium, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Pick the nation: Canada

Whose mascot is this: Screech - Washington Nationals (baseball)

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

Will the COVID-19 vaccine be the cure-all every is hoping it will be? And what will the challenges in implementing it be? Read more in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK to read** **travelBulletin**



## Virgin incentives

**VIRGIN** Voyages has launched a new sales incentive offering 10% off any cruise rate and up to \$400 in onboard credit when bookings are made before 09 Feb.

Ship credit can be used for both on and offshore experiences, including deep tissue massages, Champagne toasts and sunset catamaran journeys.

The promotion also includes an extra \$100 in bar value when a \$300 tab is purchased.

After a range of setbacks, Virgin Voyages is due to make its inaugural voyage in May.

## Sri Lanka bubble

**SRI** Lanka has kicked off a pilot travel program which has seen the first tourists arrive in the country since Mar.

Under the trial travel initiative, visitors are allowed to visit designated tourist locations, with tourists from the Ukraine the first to be accepted.

Sri Lanka has reported approximately 41,603 COVID-19 cases, including 194 deaths, and the trial will run until 24 Jan.

## Kids spoil Rotty

**CHILDREN** under the age of 12 can travel for free to Rottnest Island on same-day trips until 31 Jan under a new WA State Government promotion.

The deal is designed to attract more family travellers to the tourist attraction, and complements an existing deal to waive the \$19.50 admission fee for adults who take a same-day trip after 2pm.

## Helping just a Middlemore



**IN A** year that tested the resolve for many in the travel sector, Air New Zealand has revealed it donated more than one million items to charity during 2020 to help alleviate the hefty financial and emotional burden caused by the global pandemic.

On the eve of Christmas, the carrier donated more than 6,400 items of bedding, crockery, amenity kits and kids in-flight packs to the Middlemore Foundation in one week alone - a charity helping those in South Auckland in Aotearoa.

Air New Zealand Chief Customer and Sales Officer Leanne Geraghty said it was a creative and philanthropic staff member who first suggested the airline should donate its surplus goods to those in need.

"When we realised the impact COVID-19 would have on the airline, we set to work donating the things that wouldn't be able to be enjoyed by customers on board this year," she said.

"It's been fantastic to see these

items going to people who really need them," Geraghty added.

**Pictured:** The Middlemore Foundation and Air NZ redistribute in-flight goods.

## Vaccine challenges

**WITH** the prospect of the travel sector recovering tethered to the rollout out of an effective vaccine, a new study published by Roy Morgan paints a concerning local picture, with Australians now 10% less likely to take a COVID-19 vaccine than back in Apr.

Around 77% of Aussies said they would take the vaccine if it was made available today, with men (83%) more likely than women (72%) to take the jab when the time arrives.

In terms of interstate intentions, Tasmania leads the way with 84% stating they would be vaccinated, followed closely by NSW (81%), Victoria (79%), and South Australia (77%), while lagging behind is Queensland (70%) and Western Australia (69%).

## Max back in the US

**THE** troubled Boeing 737 Max aircraft is officially back in service in the United States after a lengthy absence from the market, with American Airlines recently reintroducing the jet on a route from Miami to New York.

The carrier plans to gradually return the Max to services across a number of routes over the coming months, and follows the global return of the aircraft late last year for GOL Airlines in Brazil.

## MONEY

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

**AU\$1 = US\$0.766**

**WITH** Asia leading the economic recovery charge around the world, the Aussie dollar has fared well with a driving up of export demand in the region, this despite the ongoing stoush with China which continues to put the pinch on many primary sectors.

Other factors keeping the value of Aussie strong for now include high iron ore prices and the country's relatively successful strategy to contain any major COVID-19 outbreaks.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.766
UK	£0.565
NZ	\$1.068
Euro	€0.625
Japan	¥79.05
Thailand	฿22.93
China	¥4.953
South Africa	11.27
Canada	\$0.979
Crude oil	US\$51.80

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*Travel Daily* is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

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