

New Big Red role

FORMER 7Travel chief Sally McFadyen has been appointed as Director of Commercial Partnerships at Big Red Group.

McFadyen led the 7Travel team from its inception in 2017, prior to the venture being wound up by Seven West Media about 12 months ago (**TD** 28 Nov 19).

More appointments on **page 5**.

EasyJet axes flights

UK-BASED low-cost carrier EasyJet has announced a major wind-back of its operations due to the British COVID-19 lockdown, urging pax currently overseas to return home as soon as possible.

New UK restrictions introduced in response to surging coronavirus cases include a ban on non-essential travel, although the Government has advised that people who are abroad at present can remain until the end of their holidays.

EasyJet will axe most of its international network, operating repatriation flights until 10 Jan and thereafter focusing on “maintaining essential connectivity between key cities in the UK, including domestic services from London, Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool, Newcastle, Belfast and Scotland”.

The carrier said it was contacting customers whose flights had been cancelled, offering options including transferring to other services or receiving a voucher or refund.

Tehan defends grant bungle

NEWLY appointed Tourism Minister Dan Tehan has spoken out about the inconsistent way the Government’s controversial COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program (**TD** 01 Dec) is being administered, saying the use of Business Activity Statements (BAS) to determine grant tiers has helped minimise the paperwork required.

The use of the “G1” sales figure in applications has resulted in a wide disparity in funding for identical agencies, because some have reported Total Transaction Value on their BAS, while others have reported business income.

Earlier this week Austrade hastily amended the eligibility criteria to block the ability for businesses to amend their previously lodged BAS figures (**TD** yesterday), likely due to concerns the \$128 million scheme would be quickly exhausted.

Tehan said the program had been designed in consultation with the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA), and complemented other support including JobKeeper, PAYG cashflow boosts and loss carry back provisions, according to a *Nine Publishing* report today.

“Total Transaction Value figures are not collected by the government and cannot be easily verified,” the Minister said.

“Using BAS to determine turnover will mean support payments can be delivered swiftly

with minimum red tape.”

Just before Christmas, AFTA confirmed there were multiple flaws in the program, and assured the industry it was continuing to work with “other key influencers” to ensure the Government and Austrade address the problems.

However it now appears it’s full steam ahead with the existing implementation, meaning many mid-sized agencies who had correctly been reporting their business income rather than TTV are expected to collapse.

The *Nine* report cites WA agents Christine Ross-Davies from Attadale Travel and Jo Francis of Global Travel Solutions, who have been at the forefront of the battle and now expect their businesses not to survive because they will only get a fraction of what they had been led to believe they would be paid under the grant.

They said despite the issues they had been advised by Austrade to apply for the grant ASAP, because “in time they may run out of money and then you may end up with nothing”.

Tehan confirmed that “many travel agents have already made their applications, and payments will begin to flow this week”.

AFTA wasn’t able to comment prior to **TD**’s deadline today.

Korea wants tests

ALL foreign visitors entering South Korea will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test, under new regulations effective tomorrow.

Those who do not fulfil this requirement will be denied boarding, with tests having to be issued within 72 hours prior to boarding, according to an update from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Today’s issue of TD

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

G Adventures sale

G ADVENTURES has launched a Great Adventure Sale with \$1 deposits and savings of up to 30% on trips departing through until 30 Jun 2022.

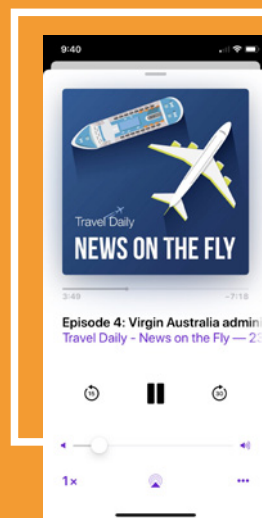
The offers are valid for bookings made by the end of the month, with the option for travellers to cancel and rebook their trip up to 30 days prior to departure.

More info on 1300 796 618.

Avalon Rhine deal

AVALON Waterways is offering 2022 Rhine river cruises starting at just \$2,911 per person, as part of an array of itineraries giving travellers the opportunity to “dip their toes” into the experience.

Savings of up to \$3,300 per couple are on offer on select departures - for info **CLICK HERE**.



Do you listen to *Travel Daily - News on the Fly* to catch up on the news?

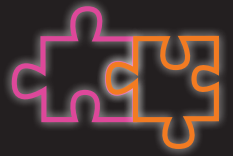
Use the podcast to update our listeners with your company’s news.

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Travel Daily

Carnival Corp extends pause

CARNIVAL Corporation continues to adapt its business to the ongoing pandemic, overnight extending the operational pause for several of its cruise brands.

The changes include the cancellation of *Carnival Spirit's* 15-day cruise from Singapore to Brisbane in Jun, but will not impact Carnival's local resumption date of 27 Apr.

Princess Cruises has deferred its resumption by a further six weeks, until 14 May 2021, impacting sailings in Alaska, the Caribbean, California and Europe, with impacted guests to receive a refundable Future Cruise Credit equivalent to 100% of the fare paid, plus an additional 25% non-refundable bonus credit.

Travel agent commission is also being protected on bookings for fully paid cancelled cruises, in recognition of the "critical role" the industry plays in the cruise line's business and success,

according to President Jan Swartz.

"We appreciate the patience from our loyal guests and travel advisors as we work to meet the health and safety requirements for our return to service," she said.

"We continue to prepare our ships for our return to service and are eager to see our guests back on board to create memories."

Holland America Line (HAL) has also suspended all departures through until 30 Apr, as well as selected voyages in Alaska and the Mediterranean into early Jun, and Canada/New England departures during Aug.

HAL said it was closely following the protocols laid out by the US Centers for Disease Control, and was preparing ships and implementing procedures to meet all requirements for approval to sail after the pause.

Carnival Corporation says it will provide a formal update on its overall business next Mon.

DL wi-fi switch

DELTA Air Lines has confirmed the selection of Viasat as its new provider of in-flight internet connectivity, after ending its partnership with Gogo last year.

DL will use Viasat's proprietary Ka-band satellite connectivity on over 300 narrow-body planes, including both existing aircraft and new additions to its fleet.

The carrier said the change would come along with a new user interface allowing more personalised content, as well as a faster and more consistent connection and more capability to stream content.

QR chief at CAPA

THIS month's CAPA Live online gathering will include a presentation from Qatar Airways Group CEO Akbar Al Baker, who will join other aviation chiefs in sharing their predictions for 2021.

Applications for free passes to the summit are available [HERE](#).

Window Seat

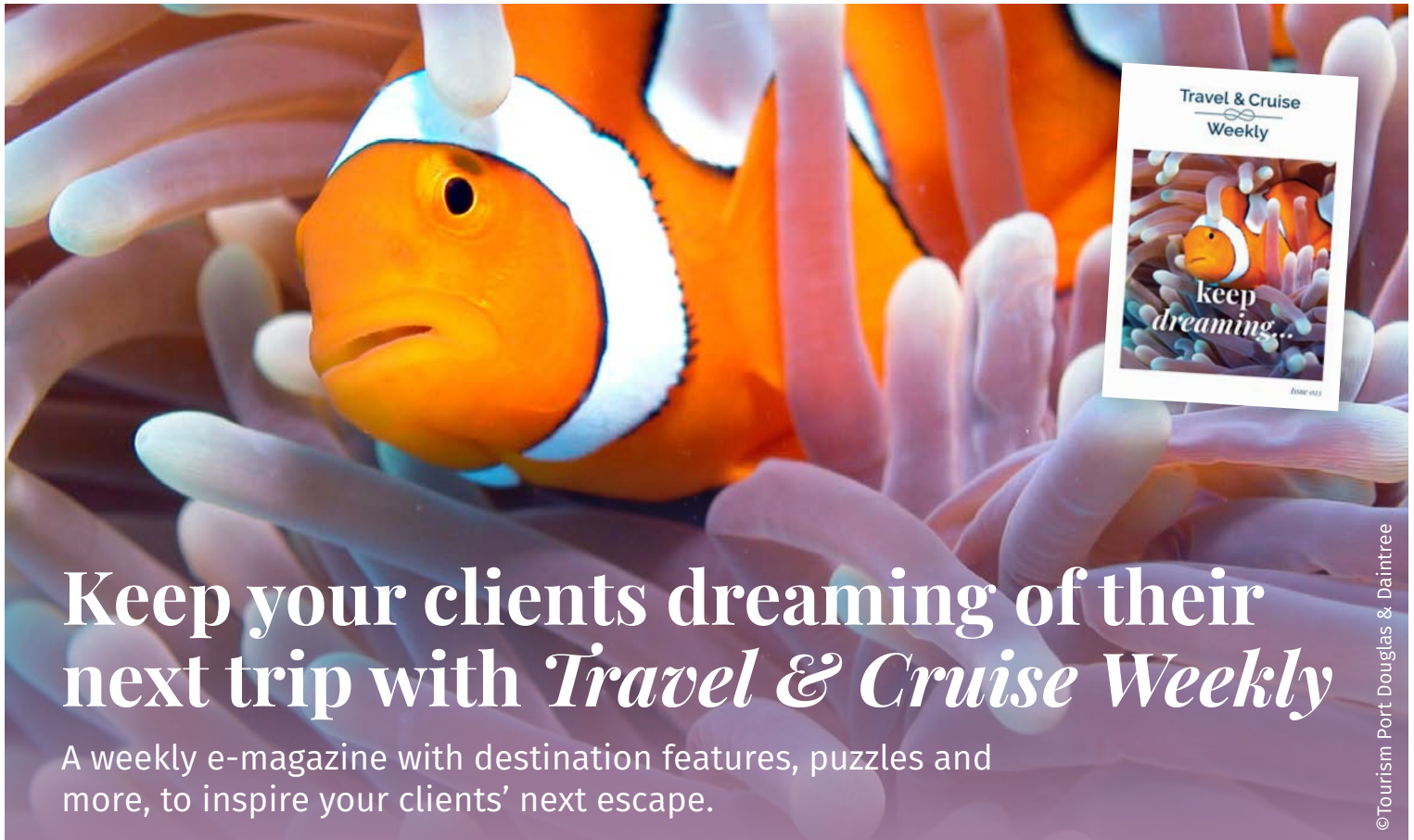


SPECULATION that outgoing US President Donald Trump is planning to nurse his battered ego by heading to his Turnberry golf resort in Scotland during the inauguration of Joe Biden in less than two weeks has been dampened by Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Authorities at Glasgow's Prestwick Airport had been briefed to expect a US military aircraft on 19 Jan, with reports suggesting Trump may be taking a post-presidential holiday.

However Sturgeon noted current COVID-19 restrictions don't allow people - including Trump - to come to Scotland without an essential purpose.

"Coming to play golf is not what I would consider to be an essential purpose," she said, declaring the trip out of bounds.



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Qld in the driver's seat

QUEENSLAND-BASED Back Track Adventures has launched new self-drive, 4WD safaris between Cape York and Cairns - a concept the company has successfully operated previously in Africa.

Ranging from nine to 16 days in length, the collection of four new expert guided tours involve a combination of sealed roads, specialist 4WD tracks, unsealed roads, as well as a range of popular attractions to stop off and visit along the way.

"Rather than sit back and wait for travel to miraculously revive, we analysed all our operations and have taken the concept of our successful, self-drive, 4WD safaris...and launched the concept in Australia," said the company's Director Jim Drapes.

Prices for the shortest journey lead in at \$4,160 per person, triple share, and includes stops at Eliot Falls, Punsand Bay, Loyalty Beach, Chillli Beach and the Lakefield National Park.

PM to revisit policy on UK return trips

A TIGHTENING up of the return traveller protocols from the United Kingdom is on the cards at a special meeting of National Cabinet to be held tomorrow, in response to the rapid spread of a more contagious strain of COVID-19 in Britain.

The agenda reportedly contains proposed new measures to prevent the variant from reaching the Australian community, such as mandatory testing of passengers before they board a flight back to Australia.

The meeting follows concerns expressed by the head of the Biosecurity Research Program at UNSW's Kirby Institute, Raina MacIntyre, who told Nine Publishing this week the new strain could undermine a vaccine passport program required to reboot outbound travel.

"You will explore sites opened to us by our indigenous peoples, the early explorers, gold hunters, cattlemen and more recently a generation of 4WD adventurers," the company states.

"Travelling with Australian 4WD Adventures you are in good hands, our guides are fun-loving professional adventurers, knowledgeable and experienced in 4x4 driving in the Cape."

In addition to the four base tours, the operator also has a range of optional extra adventures to take advantage of, such as a Roko Island fishing charter, as well as trips to Lizard, Green or Fitzroy Islands.

Back Track Adventures also notes that in the event that government border restrictions impact any travel arrangements due to COVID-19, customers will receive a 100% credit.

For more information on the tours available, call 07 3850 7655.

Royal's Jan sale

ROYAL Caribbean International is hosting a Jan wave season sale. Savings of up to 40% per stateroom are available, as is up to \$250 of discounts per guest.

Crown and Anchor Society members will also receive double points on all 2021 sailings.

For more information regarding the offer, call 1800 745 500.

SIA extends loyalty

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has announced it is automatically extending all existing PPS Club and KrisFlyer Elite statuses by another 12 months for accounts that were due to expire between Mar 2021 and Feb 2022.

Any Elite miles earned by KrisFlyer Elite members in the 12 months prior to the latest extension will also be automatically credited, while members can now earn Elite miles on Scoot flights which count toward renewals or upgrades.



Discover all the different Aboriginal cultural experiences travellers can engage in in NSW. Read more in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

The view ahead looks great



IN SOME welcome travel news to bring in the new year, APT and Travelmarvel guests have enjoyed the first trip in Tasmania for the operators in close to a year.

The two brands have three tours on the road at the moment in the Apple Isle, a sign the companies believe travellers are eager to "get out there and explore our own backyard".

This week saw Travelmarvel guests explore the wilderness of Cradle Mountain among other nature-based adventures.

"Tassie put on an amazing show for the first APT tour of the year with some lovely sunny days and lots of wildlife spotting," said APT Tour Director Sue Gibbon.

Pictured: Travelmarvel guides

travellers through the natural wonders of Cradle Mountain in Tasmania (photo credit Rod Menzler).

Trafalgar breaks free

TRAFALGAR has launched its 2021 Break Out & Break Free promotion, offering savings of up to 12.5% per person on 2021 and 2022 trips.

Highlights in the 2021/22 program include the 14-day Treasure of Spain and Portugal adventure visiting 11 cities across the two countries, such as Valencia, Porto, Madrid, Barcelona and Granada.

Another popular option is the Best of Britain tour, taking in the best tourist hot spots of England, Scotland and Wales.

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Travel Daily



Know your brands

LOGOS are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don't even need to see the company's name to know who it is.

See if you can identify these four logos.



Whose flag is this?



THIS flag was possibly influenced by the French tricolour but the colours are unique to this nation - green for independence, white for Roman Catholic religion

and red for union of the country. The centre emblem shows the foundation myth of the Aztec empire in graphic form.

Do you know whose flag this is?

ANSWERS 06 JAN

Pub quiz: 1 Ginza, 2 Papua New Guinea, 3 Perth, 4 Broome, 5 Exmouth, 6 Kununurra, 7 False – Disneyland was completed before his death, 8 Calgary, 9 d) Qantas, 10 Christchurch

Seen it at the movies: Billy the Kid, 2001: A Space Odyssey, The Legend of the Lone Ranger, Forrest Gump, Mission: Impossible 2, Cars (a spoof of Monument Valley called Ornament Valley), The Lego Movie, A Million Ways to Die in the West

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

Whose animal is this?



THE mouflon is a wild sheep, native to the Caspian region of the world.

The subspecies of these animals are native to the country of which they are the national animal of, and are distinctive for their horns, which in males can grow almost a full revolution.

The mouflon is an important symbol for this country and appears on the island nation's 1-, 2- and 5-cent coins, as the symbol for its airline and is both the symbol and the nickname for the country's national rugby union team.

Do you know whose animal it is?

Walt Disney World search

P	M	S	R	U	O	T	R	A	T	S	Y	F	M	H
T	O	W	E	R	O	F	T	E	R	R	O	R	O	O
S	D	T	W	P	A	N	D	O	R	A	E	U	D	L
L	G	Q	D	I	Z	S	C	F	J	Q	P	G	G	L
D	N	O	J	I	I	A	K	K	V	L	C	H	N	Y
A	I	N	A	M	Y	R	O	T	S	Y	O	T	I	W
J	K	F	L	O	R	I	D	A	J	A	T	L	K	O
B	L	I	Z	Z	A	R	D	B	E	A	C	H	C	O
P	A	S	G	N	I	R	P	S	Y	E	N	S	I	D
Y	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	S	P	A	C	E	G	S
Q	I	O	D	N	A	L	R	O	A	B	F	J	A	T
K	N	G	T	O	O	X	T	S	U	O	Y	U	M	U
W	A	L	T	D	I	S	N	E	Y	W	O	R	L	D
N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M	H	S	A	L	P	S	I
T	Y	P	H	O	O	N	L	A	G	O	O	N	V	O

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

ANIMALKINGDOM
BLIZZARDBEACH
DISNEYSPRINGS
EPCOT
FLORIDA
HOLLYWOODSTUDIO
MAGICKINGDOM
MISSIONSPACE

ORLANDO
PANDORA
SPLASHMOUNTAIN
STARTOURS
TOWEROFTERROR
TOYSTORYMANIA
TYPHOONLAGOON
WALTDISNEYWORLD

W Melbourne reveals date



THE W Melbourne has finally revealed when its doors will open to the public after the COVID-19 outbreak in Victoria scuttled its plans to open last month.

The highly anticipated property will welcome guests from 04 Feb, with the hotel billed as bringing “rebellious luxury” to Melbourne.

Amenities of the 294-room W Melbourne include a fitness centre, an indoor pool with poolside bar and DJ booth, as well as 830m² of event spaces.

Heralded as the property’s “jewel in the crown” is the Great Room, a 426m² pillarless ballroom that exhibits an abundance of natural light and 4x5m LED wall.

“From our Flinders Lane address to being styled by the streets that surround us, we’ll deliver an unmistakable Melbourne experience, matched by our iconic ‘whatever/whenever’ service promise,” said General Manager Damon Page.

“This is the luxury lifestyle hotel that Melbourne deserves, and we’re committed to delivering what’s new and next in Design, Music, Fashion and Fuel.”

Pictured: A preview of the guest rooms with a view and inset a glimpse of the Great Room.

HK e-Boarding gates

HONG Kong International Airport has installed new e-Boarding gates that the hub’s management say will create a more speedy and safe boarding experience for travellers.

The new gates use modern biometric technology to scan a person’s face and grant entry to flights without the need to touch a single surface.

Skroo Turner on Flight Centre, the pandemic and what the future holds for the business and industry - read it all in our exclusive interview in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin



Change NSW rules

MURRAY River Paddlesteamers is calling on the Victorian Government to make changes to the NSW border crossing rules so that cruisers from Victoria can visit both sides of the river.

“This simple decision will effectively save the summer holiday season for the tourism industry,” said the company’s Director Craig Burgess.

MEANWHILE the company is also lobbying the Federal and Victorian Govts to support hard hit tourism businesses by creating a second test so they can possibly qualify for JobKeeper 3.

The line argues that businesses down less than 30% revenue due to COVID-19 YOY for the Dec quarter, currently making them ineligible for JobKeeper, should be broadened to the period between Jul and Dec 2020.

DL sells jets to e-tech giant

DELTA Air Lines (DL) has made the decision to sell seven of its Boeing 767-300ERs to global marketplace Amazon.

The carrier has declined to disclose the sale price of the jets but the sell off arrives at a welcome time for DL which recently posted a US\$5.4 billion loss for the third quarter (**TD** 15 Oct), flagging in Oct that major staff cuts were likely on the cards, including the standing down of more than 1,700 pilots.

DL plans to retire the remaining 49 of its 767-300ER aircraft by the end of 2025.

One of the few companies not the feeling the pinch of the pandemic, Amazon has also boosted its cargo air fleet by purchasing four Boeing 767-300 planes from WestJet.

APPOINTMENTS



WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily*’s Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

The Emerald Tourist Railway Board has named **Peter Abbott** as the Chief Executive Officer of **Puffing Billy Railway**. He will replace current outgoing Chief Executive Officer Steve O’Brien, who is due to complete his term on 29 Jan.

Rattler Railway Company has appointed **Julie Cullen** to its board. An experienced Sunshine Coast tourism industry professional, she joins RRC as the owner of Tourism Tap, a business that provides strategic advice and hands-on assistance to a wide range of Queensland-based tourism organisations.

James Air has taken on a new Regional Manager Europe role with **Vacaay**. He joins the travel tech platform, which is on track to reach one million users in its first 12 months, from previous sales and publishing roles in the travel industry.

For confidential tip offs, connect with *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click **HERE**



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