

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including a photo page from **ATE**, **Business Events News** plus a full page from **Get Local**.

BEN joins the party

BUSINESS Publishing Group's **Business Events News** publication will now make a regular appearance every Thu within **Travel Daily** (**BEN** special alert).

Today's issue includes the first special page on **page four** dedicated to the meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions and events space, which will replace the standalone weekly edition of **BEN**.

A free subscription to **Travel Daily** is available for **BEN** readers to keep up with the latest news.

MEANWHILE, Get Local 2021 will be held at ICC Sydney on 29 & 30 Jul, boasting an impressive speaker list that includes TA MD Phillipa Harrison - see **back page**.

AA follows QF comm cuts

EXCLUSIVE

AMERICAN Airlines has confirmed it will reduce base commission for Australian travel agents, with the move coming hot on the heels of QF's shock BSP cuts last month (**TD** 20 May).

AA's decision will also be implemented on the same day as the Qantas reductions, with the carrier confirming that "effective 01 Jul 2022, American will decrease up front agency commissions payable on Australia to North America flights".

A spokesperson for AA told **Travel Daily** "the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has caused prolonged and significant reduction in international customer demand, particularly in Australia and the Pacific region".

"American is focused on recovery, and has been improving efficiencies across the company since the start of the pandemic."

The airline said reducing base

BSP commission "will enable American to continue operating services to connect countries and those customers eligible to travel, in these challenging market conditions".

The confirmation of AA's cuts comes less than three months after the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission formally re-authorized the trans-Pacific alliance between American Airlines and Qantas for a further five years (**TD** 25 Mar).

The alliance agreement explicitly permits AA and QF to "collaborate on distribution strategies, including travel agency arrangements".

AA did not confirm the scope of its commission cut for agents, but it's expected to align with QF's 80% reduction, from 5% to 1%.

Lets be city slickers

TRAVEL mag *Australian Traveller* has partnered with Tourism Australia to compile a collector's edition for families to help boost travel to Aussie cities.

The 172-page edition launches today and can be accessed **HERE**.

VA appoints new Commercial Chief

VIRGIN Australia has announced the appointment of Dave Emerson as the airline's new Chief Commercial Officer.

Currently a Senior Partner at consulting firm Bain & Company, Emerson has been working with VA since last year, leading many initiatives across the company.

Prior to this, Emerson led Bain & Company's global airlines practice, and has more than 25 years of experience in the aviation and tourism industries.

More appointments on **page 6**.

Victoria's new gig

HURTIGRUTEN'S Head of Marketing APAC Joel Victoria has taken up a new role as Brand Evolution Director for full service marketing agency iD Collective.

Victoria leaves the cruise line after joining the team in Sep 2019, and before that was the General Manager of Marketing Sales at Captain's Choice and Marketing Director for AAT Kings.

Despite leaving the travel sector, Victoria said he "would always have an affinity for the industry".

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Air NZ Norfolk deal

AIR New Zealand has announced it will establish a temporary pilot and cabin crew base in Brisbane to support its extended Norfolk Island services.

The airline has expanded its agreement with the Federal Government to operate flights between Norfolk Island and Australia from 30 Aug until the end of Aug 2023, with the base planned until the end of Nov to ensure potential disruptions to the travel bubble do not affect the continuity of services.

NZ will utilise an Airbus A320 to operate up to three flights per week from both SYD and BNE.

Air New Zealand has been operating between Australia and Norfolk Island since 2012, and was the only airline operating scheduled services last year.

Visitor economy input call

AUSTRADE is reminding the industry that tomorrow is the final deadline for submissions to the Reimagining the Visitor Economy panel convened by Tourism Minister Dan Tehan just over a month ago (**TD 30 Apr**).

Chaired by former Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson, the expert panel has been created to build on work undertaken towards the development of Australia's Tourism 2030 strategy, which was put on hold as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold.

So far the panel has engaged with "a wide range of relevant businesses, associations and individuals in person across Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane and via electronic meetings" as part of a listening and engagement process.

Over 100 people have also been involved in conversations with panel members, and further meetings are planned over the coming months in Canberra, Perth, Hobart, Cairns and Darwin.

Responses to the discussion paper at austrade.gov.au are due by 5pm AEST tomorrow, and can be made in writing or via a brief

confidential survey which can be accessed by **CLICKING HERE**.

The discussion paper notes that Australia's visitor economy employs one in 20 local workers, involves over 312,000 businesses and was worth \$138 billion in 2019, comprising Australia's fourth largest export sector.

Key industry trends identified as influencing the future direction of the industry include experiential tourism, sustainable travel, enhanced digitisation, safety and security, the ageing population and the rising Asian middle class - as well as the pandemic-driven pivot to the domestic market.

WestJet CEO gone

WESTJET Chief Executive Officer Ed Sims has announced he will retire from the position at the end of the year.

The long-time airline industry executive will return home to New Zealand, saying the decision had been made "in the best interests of my family".

Sims said WestJet is well positioned for a full recovery.

Job ads plummet

THERE were fewer new jobs in tourism in May, new figures from Seek show, with job ads falling by 8.7% when compared to Apr.

The report's result saw the industry drop to the bottom three of all sectors in May, ahead of sport & recreation & real estate.

Tourism job creation was in stark contrast with the national average, as job ads nationally continued to be at high levels, up 27.2% compared to May 2019.

SQ bubble hopes

SINGAPORE Airlines Regional Vice President Louis Arul said the airline remains committed to working with all levels of government to reopen travel between Australia and Singapore.

"We are keen to progress the safe, staged reopening of borders to facilitate the return of more Australians, international students...and our aviation on the path to recovery," he said.

The comments coincide with planned talks this week between PM Scott Morrison and Singapore's PM Lee Hsien Loong to open up a travel bubble soon.

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Wayward is back

WAYWARD Bus is back with its first trip in a decade, a "slow travel operator" which returns from 01-06 Jul with a six-day trip from Noosa to Sydney.

The adventure offers a walk along up to 90km kilometres of coastline, including 60km in the Solitary Islands Marine Park.

Prices start from \$480 per person - more details **HERE**.

CX shuts down Syd

CATHAY Pacific has confirmed it will shut its Aussie pilot base in Sydney in a move that will see 120 staff forced to relocate or take a redundancy.

Cathay Pacific has reportedly cut 5,900 jobs since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Window Seat

WELL we suppose it was only a matter of time before TikTok became a legitimate platform for gleaning future travel trends, with luggage storage app Bounce recently analysing the social media company's posts for where the hottest travel destinations around the world will be post-COVID.

Based on the number of influencers and hashtags, New York came out on top with 216 billion views, light years ahead of the second placed Dubai (37.1 billion), Istanbul (16.9 billion) & London (13.9 billion).

And who we hear you ask is the most powerful TikTok travel influencer? Well, it's Alex Ojeda of course, who earns an average US\$6,400 per post to his massive 6.4 million followers.

Skal gathers in Sydney



SKAL International Sydney yesterday held a networking event at the Apprentice Restaurant Sydney TAFE, providing a chance for tourism professionals in NSW to foster stronger relationships and promote professionalism.

The catch up also saw General Manager National Operations/ NSW for the Accommodation

Association of Australia, Carol Giuseppe, deliver a keynote speech, a leadership expert who holds an MBA in Strategy and Organisational Behaviour from the University of Technology Sydney.

Pictured: Walter Nand, Unique Cruises; Kathy Labbozzetta, Your Travel & Cruise and Lance Mumby, CruiseAlong Pty Ltd.

Coral adds more

CORAL Expeditions has added 10 new departure dates in the Kimberley in 2022 aboard the new *Coral Geographer* following strong domestic demand.

The new product creates 1,200 new berths in the region between Apr and Jun, with Commercial Director Jeff Gillies revealing the bookings for cruises of Australia's northwest waters remained a hot ticket amongst Aussie cruisers.

"We have seen a very strong demand over the past months with our successful restart in the Kimberley and it looks like being the hot destination for travel in 2022," he said.

The cruise line has also opened up bookings for 2023 Kimberley sailings between Apr and Oct in response to a need for certainty.

"We want to provide confidence and early planning opportunities for our guests and travel industry partners," Gillies said.

For more details, **CLICK HERE**.



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NSW scholarships

THE NSW Government is now seeking applications for 18 Diploma of Event Management scholarships which are being offered in partnership with Meetings & Events Australia.

The online program aims to maintain and build excellence, giving students in regional areas the opportunity to further their career and contribute to the growth of their local economy.

Applications close on 04 Jul - see meetinns.com.au.

Tassie event hunt

IN LINE with the Tasmanian Govt's \$21.5m election commitment, negotiations have commenced with the organisers of six of the state's events to deliver multi-year funding agreements.

The six events - Australian Wooden Boat Festival, Dark Mofo, FestivaLe, the Junction Arts Festival, Mona FOMA and Targa Tasmania - attracted nearly 40,000 visitors to the state in 2019-20, with a return on investment of \$170 million.

Securing the events will also complement Tasmania's \$8 million Events Support and Attraction Fund.

Sharon joins team

VENUE management company Tourism Portfolio has appointed Sharon Levingston as its GM.

With a career spanning all sectors from MICE, corporate travel, sports groups and hospitality, Levingston's deep industry roots & partnerships will see her create innovative and strategic solutions for the business, and connect partners.

Levingston was previously The Events Authority's General Manager of Events.

SEE WA VENUES FOR YOURSELF

BUSINESS Events Perth has introduced a range of new digital tours showcasing some of Western Australia's best conference venues.

The new service is intended to disrupt the way site visits are conducted by event planners, with detailed 3D viewings of blue chip venues now on offer via any smart device, including the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre, and Optus Stadium.

"Event planners are now able to take a virtual self-guided walk through a Perth meeting venue and feel like they're really there, no matter where they are in the world," Business Events Perth CEO Gareth Martin said.

"This is a game-changer for reigniting that confidence to plan and book a business event here in Western Australia," he added.



The digital tours are part of the body's broader collateral push, including refreshed destination marketing content, more delegate boosting assets and upgraded venue and service searches.

For details on the new virtual tours, **CLICK HERE**.

MEANWHILE Business Events Tasmania has launched a virtual tour of its own, asking

meeting planners to "re-imagine Tasmania's Launceston" online.

A new high-res video promotes the virtue of hosting a major 500-person event in the city, highlighting the destination's relaxed vibe, nature attractions, high-tech venues and great food and wine venues - view **HERE**.

Pictured: The Perth Convention Exhibition Centre.

BEIA marks 25

NEW Zealand's business events industry celebrated MEETINGS' 25th anniversary last Thu at Cordis Auckland.

"MEETINGS has marked a turning point for our industry, and a quarter of a century after our first gathering, this is a coming-together to be truly celebrated," BEIA said.

MyCEB COO

NOOR Ahmad Hamid has been named the new Chief Operating Officer of the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB).

He will play a key role in implementing Malaysia's recently launched Business Events Strategic Marketing Plan 2021-2030.

Melbourne lockdown shifts Evolve date

EVOLVE 2021 has been moved from 01 Jul to 08 Sep as a consequence of Melbourne's ongoing lockdown.

The conference will proceed with a live event in Melbourne on the new date, as a sign of Meetings & Events Australia's (MEA) continued support of in-person events and the city of Melbourne (**BEN** 11 May).

"The health and wellbeing of MEA members and the wider community is at the forefront of our decision and members' safety is our main priority," said

MEA Chairperson Nigel Collin.

"It's important to support live events and we want more delegates to travel to Melbourne to support the state, its venues and our sponsors, which is why we will still host Evolve 2021 in Melbourne in Sep.

"It's a great opportunity for the industry to come together and focus on best practice and rebuild confidence."

In-person attendance will proceed at the main hub at Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.

Get Local grows

GET Local has expanded its footprint at the ICC Sydney to cater for a growing interest it has been receiving from exhibitors and buyers.

The show will now be hosted in both The Gallery and Parkside Ballroom to accommodate delegates attending the Education Program featuring keynotes and a panel discussion, to be held live on 29-30 Jul.

Co-owners Donna Kessler and Gary Bender said the interest for the show had been overwhelming.

"The support we have received from the industry has been truly outstanding... Donna and I are pleased to say we have sold out of the NSW, Qld and National Zone exhibition areas, but we still have some availability in other zones," Bender said.

"We never expected we would need to expand the show footprint at this stage."

All on board for ATE2021

THE first phase of this week's Australian Tourism Exchange wrapped up yesterday, with the ATE Live event taking place at Sydney's International Convention Centre with more than 1,000 buyers and sellers in attendance.

ATE Online continues from today until 17 Jun, facilitating connections with more than 1,200 Australian specialist sellers and international buyers who are unable to travel here in person.

Tourism Australia MD Phillipa Harrison said demand for the event had been "extraordinary," with more than 57,000 meetings scheduled across the event.

"The tourism industry was one of the hardest hit, first by the impacts of the 2019-20 summer bushfires and then the COVID-19 pandemic, and while we know it will take time for the industry to fully recover, maintaining business connections is critical," Harrison said.

Attendees on the opening day

included some of the Tourism Australia Board, **pictured** above from left: Jeffrey Ellison, SeaLink Travel Group; Bob East, Experience Co; Hayley Baillie, Baillie Lodges; Tourism Minister Dan Tehan; Penny Fowler, News Corp; Clarence Slookee (who did a fabulous Welcome to Country); Katie Page, Harvey Norman; and John Hart, Australian Chamber - Tourism.



TOURISM Minister Dan Tehan welcomed delegates to ATE, funded to the tune of \$6.5 million by the Government.



DAVE Hosking, The Travel Corporation CEO with Megan Moss and Taryn Welsh from Contiki Holidays.



A SAD sign of the times...



ANDREW Sullivan from Adelaide travel agency The Don't Forget Travel Group with Tourism Australia MD Phillipa Harrison.



STU Freeman from NZ trade publication Travelinc Memo with Peter Smith of Vox Tours.



FIONA Dalton from Virtuoso with Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia MD Matt Cameron-Smith.



KATY Georgiou, ATS Pacific with Andrew Clark of Destination Gippsland and Peter Graham, Voyages.



EVAN Petrelis from Renaissance Tours pitching his upcoming new collection of domestic tours for spring and summer.

Ticket sales kick off

TICKETS are now on sale for the 2021 Bledisloe Cup match at Optus Stadium in Perth on 21 Aug, rugby union's traditional rivalry between the Wallabies and the All Blacks.

Priced from \$49 and available through wallabies.rugby, the match will be the only chance for Aussies to see a Bledisloe match played on local soil this year.

The corresponding fixture in 2019 saw Western Australia benefit from a \$12.5 million injection into its economy after 7,500 travellers flew interstate to see the game, with the best part being a rare Wallabies win, 47-26.

Hurtigruten surges

EXPEDITION cruise line Hurtigruten has revealed its bookings for 2022 are currently 45% ahead of bookings at the same time in 2019, notably before the pandemic struck.

"There is a huge pent-up demand for travel, and we see a substantial and growing demand for authentic adventure travel," CEO Daniel Skjeldam said.

"After a very challenging year and a half for the entire travel industry, we are extremely excited about our step-by-step return to operations," he added.

See some of what Hurtigruten has to offer by **CLICKING HERE**.

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.

Tourism Accommodation Australia NSW has appointed two new members to its board, with General Manager Parkroyal Darling Harbour **Jeroen Meijer** and General Manager Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort **Shaun O'Bryan** both joining as Directors. Meijer and O'Bryan bring more than 45 years of combined experience to the Board.

Travel marketplace **Skyscanner** has recruited **Clive Peoples** to be its new Senior Vice President of Marketing. Peoples will be based in the company's London office, and is the former Customer Marketing Leader at eBay and Expedia. He is charged with leading Skyscanner's global marketing strategy and driving customer acquisition.

The upcoming **Cora Cora Maldives** resort has appointed **Peter D'Souza** to be its Pre-Opening Resort Manager. Opening to the public in Oct this year, the property benefits from D'Souza's 23 years of resort experience as it prepares to attract families from Asia, Europe and the Middle East in the recovering travel market.

Stefan Vasic has been appointed **Swiss International Air Lines'** (SWISS) new Head of Marketing, a role he will commence from 01 Jul. Vasic was previously the Head of Sponsoring & Events, Social Media and Tourism Partnerships for SWISS' sponsorship portfolio and in his new position, he will be responsible for the airline's global marketing plan.



Discover the results of Travel Daily's Survival Survey, bad news for Bestjet creditors and more in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin

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itravel proves it's a one of a kind



THE generous team at ittravel The Junction Store have warmed the hearts of many people in need during the colder months by delivering a car full of winter coats as part of the annual Winter Jacket Appeal this week.

The warm clothing was donated by philanthropic residents in the Hunter region.

"With the temperature dropping and the winter chill setting in, it's the perfect timing for them to be given to those in need," a spokesperson for ittravel said.

Those who want to get involved with the charitable initiative can do so before 31 Jul, with jackets needing to be clean and in a relatively good condition - more details **HERE**.

Pictured: Darienne Hunter with Andrew Minto, Director ittravel The Junction.

Now vax a factor!

THOSE who have been fully vaccinated are four times as likely to book an international trip this year than people who have not had their jabs, a study compiled by Tripadvisor has found.

Globally just 5% of unvaccinated respondents said they would make a booking to travel overseas this year, in contrast to the 21% of vaccinated people who said they would have no issues booking a trip by the end of year.

Of those who have booked an overseas trip, 91% of respondents said being vaccinated had factored into their decision.

Gay-friendly cities

MELBOURNE is the third most gay-friendly city in the world according to Flight Centre.

The company said the city's collection of progressive bars, clubs and gay and lesbian events made it the number one Aussie gay-friendly city to travel to.

Taking out top spot however was Tel Aviv, mainly for its gay attractions on Rothschild Boulevard making it the "gay capital of the Middle East."

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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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Associate Editors – Adam Bishop,

Myles Stedman

Contributors – Nicholas O'Donoghue,

Jenny Piper

info@traveldaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Hoda Alzubaidi

advertising@traveldaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8213 6350)

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MANAGING DIRECTOR
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