

## Alliance adds two

**ALLIANCE** Aviation has acquired two more E190 aircraft which will bring its future aircraft fleet to 32.

The carrier, which currently has seven of the jets operating in Australia, is undertaking a significant E190 expansion campaign, recently inking an expanded lease agreement with Qantas to allow up to 18 Embraer E190 regional jets to fly under the QantasLink banner (**TD** 17 Jun).

The two aircraft had previously flown for Helvetic Airways in Switzerland before joining the Aussie fleet in the coming year.

## Air NZ retirements

**AIR** New Zealand will bid farewell to two of its Directors in the last quarter of 2021, with Rob Jager and Linda Jenkinson both announcing plans to retire.

Jenkinson has been a Director for three terms, while Jager has sat on the board since Apr 2013.

## NZ bubble paused

**THE** New Zealand Government has paused the trans-Tasman bubble with all of Australia until at least 11:59pm tomorrow.

A reduced number of Air NZ flights will continue to operate to Australia so that travellers holidaying in NZ can return home.

Air NZ has also revealed the cancellation of services to NZ will delay its inaugural Auckland-Cairns and Auckland-Sunshine Coast services that were due to launch today and tomorrow.

## CATO's "Watershed moment"

### EXCLUSIVE

**THE** Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) is pressing on with significant reforms, with the adoption of a new constitution and national structure paving the way for a new future for the organisation (**TD** breaking news).

Dennis Bunnik, who was last week re-elected as Chairman of the organisation for another two year term, told **Travel Daily** "this is a watershed moment for CATO...it enables us to move forward on a journey that was started at a strategic planning day by the Board in early 2019".

Members unanimously supported the proposal to transform CATO into a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, as well as the introduction of a new Member Code of Conduct and Advertising Code of Conduct.

The new constitution also "removes the requirement for members to be ATAS accredited," with CATO to instead launch its own accreditation scheme which is fit for purpose for the land supply sector of the industry.

MD Brett Jardine said "in times of adversity, opportunities arise".

"One positive outcome of COVID was the time our Board had to discuss, plan and develop solutions to arising issues."

CATO will "engage with and encourage wider participation from all tour operators and wholesalers nationally, with a view to seeking best practice and

greater consistency across all participants," Bunnik said.

"We will continue to collaborate closely with other industry bodies including AFTA, CLIA, ATEC and ACCI in areas of mutual benefit."

**MEANWHILE** the CATO annual general meeting last week was told that the organisation had retained 94% of its membership over the last 12 months despite the impacts of the pandemic, with total member numbers actually increasing by 20% across all categories to a total of 180.

The organisation recorded a surplus of \$76,000 for the 12 months to 31 Mar, with the funds used to support members by way of a 30% reduction in membership fees for 2021/22.

Key CATO activities over the last year include engagement in a significant increase in government lobbying and education on behalf of members, with multiple and ongoing meetings with senior politicians from all parties.

The organisation has collaborated with AFTA and ATEC to lobby on the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support program as well as the SME Loan Recovery Scheme, and has also joined the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).

### Today's issue of TD

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

## New CATO Board

**AN ELECTION** for new Directors at last week's Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) annual general meeting has seen Julie King of Julie King and Associates re-elected, along with Brett Mitchell of Intrepid, while joining the CATO Board for the first time is The Travel Corporation's Finance Director, James O'Donnell.

The three vacancies - contested by a record six nominees - were part of the normal rotation of board seats, with the trio and re-elected Chairman Dennis Bunnik joining mid-term Directors, Liz Anderson of Sundowners Overland as Vice-Chair and Board members Brad McDonnell from Entire Travel Group, Globus Family of Brands' Peter Douglas, Lisa Pagotto from Crooked Compass, David Walker of Sno'n'Ski and Aaron Zoanetti from Pointon Partners.

Standing down from the Board is former Bench Africa CEO Martin Edwards, who for the last 12 months has been an Emeritus board member after leaving Bench just before the pandemic, while the term of Amanda McCann from Collette also ended.

"I look forward to working with the appointed Board across our four pillars in another challenging year head, in order to implement significant, positive and much-needed changes to our industry," Chairman Dennis Bunnik said.

He also paid tribute to Edwards and McCann for their many years of contribution to CATO.

## Jetstar Group Bookings – AU Domestic Promotion

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## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

TUES: TAHITI & VANUATU

WED: EDINBURGH, THE HOTEL CONNECTION

THUR: CANADA DAY CATCH UP & QUIZ

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## Lockdown bites down hard

**THE** Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) estimates the latest two-week lockdown in Sydney will account for about a third of total tourism revenue losses during the school holiday period.

Economic data commissioned by the industry body shows NSW's tourism sector stands to lose business worth more than \$2 billion alone following the latest set of travel restrictions, equating to approximately \$153 million a day, while the country's total tourism economy will likely leak \$6 billion during the same period.

While acknowledging the obvious health threats posed by the latest outbreak, CEO Margie Osmond suggested the impact on travel booking confidence in particular would be disastrous.

"The tourism industry continues to suffer from a lack of international travel and the lack of confidence among Australians in the domestic travel market and

in planning holidays is diabolical, making it difficult for businesses... to stay afloat," she said.

"Our data shows that in the equivalent 2019 school holidays, over 1.7 million Australians travelled domestically but we are predicting the Sydney lockdown will see that number drop drastically by 73% to just over 460,000 travellers."

Osmond added that given the scale of the forecast losses resulting from restrictions around the country, it would be pertinent for the Federal Government to "look very seriously" at further support for the tourism sector.

"This quickly evolving situation confirms the Federal Govt's decision to end the JobKeeper wage subsidy particularly for the tourism industry in Mar was somewhat short-sighted... ongoing support for the tourism sector is needed to ensure we come out the other side."

## QR gets down to Biz

**QATAR** Airways has debuted its new Business class suite aboard its Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, which took off from Doha to Milan for the first time on Fri.

Arranged in a one-two-one configuration, the new Adient Ascent Business class suite embodies a personal yet functional design, featuring a 79 inch fully-flat bed, direct aisle access via a private sliding door, and wireless charging technology.

## Pelikin inks Nium

**TRAVEL** app Pelikin has linked with payment tech company Nium to offer travellers more seamless digital financial services.

The tie-up (**TD** 24 Jun) allows Australian users of the Pelikin app to access its virtual and physical travel cards immediately in more than 100 global markets.

Pelikin CEO Sam Brown said the deal will change the way Aussies manage money overseas.

## HLO digital fizz

**THE** appointment of Nic Cola as Helloworld Travel Limited's new Head of Retail and Commercial (Australia) (**TD** breaking news Fri) will "fast-track Helloworld's transformation of its agency and broker networks," according to CEO Andrew Burnes.

Announcing Cola's promotion from his previous role as head of Cruisecco, acquired by HLO late last year (**TD** 23 Nov 2020), Burnes said he would "give Helloworld's retail distribution members a 'best of both worlds' outcome" alongside the rollout of the new ResWorld platform and the enhanced mid-office functionality it will deliver.

Cola said he was excited to take the position, saying "we now have the capacity to provide our agents with a broad suite of technologies to deliver greater efficiencies in their operations, a very broad suite of product to sell, and world-class information and customer care".



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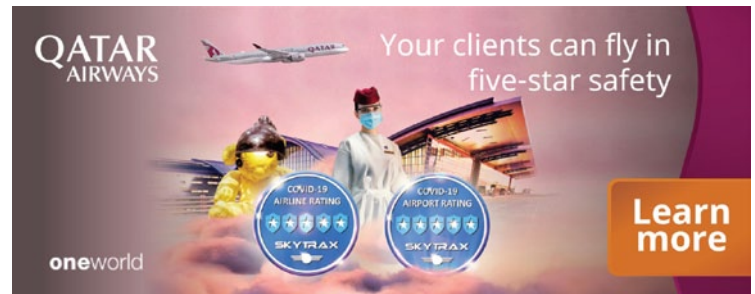
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## Window Seat

**TRAVELLERS** will tell you that it's hard enough to get insurance for risks like contracting COVID-19, let alone the threats associated with exploratory space travel.

But that's the problem facing Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos and his pursuit to be the first tech businessman to travel beyond Earth's atmosphere in a spacecraft he funded, with reports he is struggling to find an insurance company willing to take on the travel liability.

Even though the first Blue Origin trip will only last 11 minutes, Australian National University astrophysicist Brad Tucker believes insurance companies will balk at writing up any policy given how new the form of travel is for humans.

"It's obvious no one wants to insure this, it's not just about accidents in space and, yes, we know there will be accidents like there are in every industry, but it's more the long-term effects of people going into space," Tucker argues.

"We already know astronauts have a variety of health problems, from clots to bone density and cardiovascular issues, even those just in space for short stints. You can see it when they come down, you'll never see an astronaut standing up because all the blood is suddenly drained back down from their brains by gravity and they're pale and dizzy."

## MEL single-minded

**MELBOURNE** Airport has moved to eliminate single-use plastics by the end of 2021.

The decision will see all front-of-house hospitality venues and lounges remove single-use plastics in exchange for recyclable materials like bamboo across items such as plates and cutlery.

## A gentle way to space travel



**TICKETS** are now on sale for rides aboard a new "spaceballoon" set to take off from Kennedy Space Center at the start of 2024.

Billed as the first "luxury spaceflight experience", the upcoming Neptune One balloon will offer amazing views of planet Earth from 30km above terra firma during a six-hour trip, propelled by a state-of-the-art spaceballoon that is roughly the same size as a football stadium.

The craft can accommodate up to eight guests on each trip who will experience the comfort of plush, reclining seats in the capsule, which will be furnished with a bar and a bathroom.

Tickets are priced from US\$125,000 each, very

## QF High Court win

**QANTAS** has won a High Court appeal against unions representing its workers who alleged the carrier was obliged to pay sick leave while they were furloughed during the pandemic.

"The courts have found we administered JobKeeper as the government intended and we always made JobKeeper payments according to advice from the Australian Tax Office," Qantas said.

Unions had unsuccessfully argued the airline manipulated rosters and paid workers no more than the basic JobKeeper wage despite working shifts that would normally attract penalty rates.

reasonable in comparison to other space flight options, with seats on Virgin Galactic to set travellers back around \$US250,000 per person.

"This transformative opportunity...opens up the possibility of exploring space to a wider audience than has historically been possible," operator Space Perspective said.

"The space curious who would have considered it either too risky - or expensive - now have the opportunity to experience the exhilaration of travelling to space, with a safe and gentle ascent."

**Pictured:** Neptune One render.

## More help needed

**THE** Australian Federation of Travel Agents has reiterated its call for further govt support for advisors, citing a recent Tourism Australia report that revealed border closures had cost the sector \$80 billion (**TD** 23 Jun).

"We need ongoing support for Australia's travel agents...who are performing such important work in supporting customers and whose skill and expertise will be so heavily relied on as Australians start travelling again given the complexities of COVID-travel," said AFTA Chair Tom Manwaring.

## Sheraton Perth deal

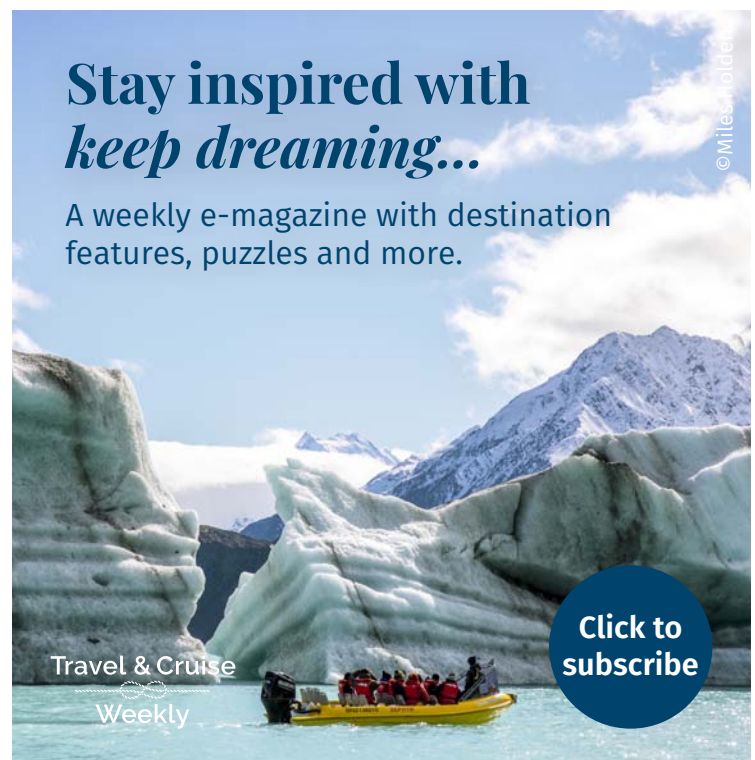
**FOUR** Points by Sheraton Perth has launched a series of travel packages designed for families.

Offers include accommodation bundled with experiences such as mini golf at Holey Moley or family cinema tickets.

The hotel has also introduced the rise and shine earlybird deal, offering a two-night stay, Australian breakfast with barista coffee for two people every day and a late checkout of 1pm for \$299 - more details **HERE**.

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## Where in the world?



**THIS** rock formation is famous, appearing on many postcards, picturesque posts and even the number plates of cars registered in its home state in the US.

The natural arch is free-standing and rises 16 metres into the air. To see the arch in person,

travellers can walk to a view point or to get closer, hike a 4.8km round trip which climbs 146m from the nearby carpark.

Can you name where this arch is located and bonus points if you know the specific name of the arch?

## Pick the nation

**COUNTRIES** have unique geography, ethnicities and cultures which come together to often form very distinctive symbols.

Based off the four different symbols and famous faces, see if you can figure out which country they represent.

1



2



3



4



## Pub quiz

1. Bantam is the main settlement in which Australian overseas territory?
2. What city is often known as the City of Dreams?
3. You would find Raffles Hotel in which city?
4. Roughly how many native languages are there in India?
  - a) Over 300
  - b) Over 400
  - c) Over 500
5. In 2012, New Smyrna Beach in Florida was dubbed the world capital of what kind of bite?
6. Set off the coast of Townsville, Magnetic Island is located in what bay?
7. Derbari Yerrigan is the Aboriginal name of what river?
8. What road is known as both the Main Street of America and the Mother Road?
9. Australia's two most famous Little Italys are in which Sydney and Melbourne neighbourhoods?
10. Is Monaco or the Vatican City smaller?

## Sudoku

TRICKY

**THE** aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes.

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

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Pick the nation: Cambodia

Carton, 10 Vatican City  
 River, 8 Route 66, 9 Leichhardt and  
 5 Shark, 6 Cleveland Bay, 7 Swan  
 2 Vienna, 3 Singapore, 4 b) Over 400,  
 Pub quiz: 1 Cocos Keeling Islands,  
 States  
 Arches National Park, Utah, United  
 Where in the world: Delicate Arch,

ANSWERS 28 JUN

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

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## FAA ticks Galactic

**THE** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the United States has given formal approval to allow Virgin Galactic Holdings to proceed with commercial space travel plans.

The decision follows a successful third crewed test flight conducted on 22 May which saw the first-ever spaceflight from Spaceport America, New Mexico.

“Approval by the FAA of our full commercial launch license, in conjunction with the success of our 22 May test flight, gives us confidence as we proceed toward our first fully crewed test flight this summer,” Virgin Galactic said.

## Thai islands ready

**THE** Government of Thailand has confirmed the popular tourist islands of Koh Samui, Koh Phangan and Koh Tao will reopen to vaccinated tourists from 15 Jul.

Travellers will be restricted to “sealed routes” and be required to spend their first three days in a government-approved hotel.

**MEANWHILE** from 01 Jul, vaccinated arrivals will be free to enter Phuket without quarantine but will be required to remain on the island for 14 days before travelling elsewhere in country.

The sandbox scheme is only open for low-risk countries which, as of 16 Jun, includes Australia.

## A big “V” for vaccination



**THE** signs are starting to look a little brighter in Fiji as the staff at Tourism Fiji’s head office travelled to Nadi International Airport last week to get their final dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

“We are so pleased to do our bit to keep Fiji safe and look forward to welcoming international visitors back, when the time is

right,” Tourism Fiji said.

“Thanks to Fiji’s Ministry of Health and Medical Services for their hard work on rolling out the vaccination so efficiently.”

Fiji has so far fully vaccinated around 18,000 of its population.

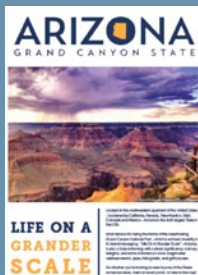
**Pictured:** Tourism Fiji staff salute the march towards the restoration of inbound tourism.

## BROCHURES

**WELCOME** to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily’s* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you’d like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to [brochures@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).



**Ambassador Cruise Line - 2022/23**  
Ambassador Cruise Line has released its inaugural 2022/23 brochure, offering 33 sailings aboard the 1,400-pax *Ambiance*. Itineraries will explore the British Isles, Norwegian Fjords, the Baltics, St Petersburg, Greenland, the Arctic, Iceland, the Canary Islands and Cuba. Sailings range from four to 42 nights, and visit more than 90 ports. The maiden season will sail out of Tilbury, running from 06 Apr 2022 to 16 May 2023.



**Arizona Office of Tourism - Life on a Grand Scale**  
Arizona Office of Tourism’s new Life on a Grand Scale destination guide provides a new, locally produced asset to help agents promote and sell the Grand Canyon State. The guide includes a quick overview of Arizona’s five key regions, along with some of the must-see experiences in each. Also included are some of Arizona’s most spectacular accommodation options including world-class wellness resorts and wild west dude ranches, along with some of the top places to dine across the state.

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