

## Caps still in place

**PRIME** Minister Scott Morrison has confirmed that the current caps on international arrivals will continue until 30 Apr, after the matter was discussed at a National Cabinet meeting on Fri.

The limits stay in place despite the country's leaders reaffirming a "shared priority to supporting Australians to return home".

Western Australia is in the process of a staged return to a cap of 1,025 weekly passengers from 26 Mar, while a commitment from Vic to resume international passenger flights into Melbourne "as soon as possible" was noted.

The Commonwealth and NT Governments will also expand the capacity of the Centre for National Resilience at Howard Springs after the end of the current cyclone season, which will increase capacity from 850 persons per fortnight to 2,000, with a ramp-up from late Apr 2021 subject to capital works.

## HLO relents on wage cuts

**EXCLUSIVE**

**HELLOWORLD** Travel Limited has retracted its controversial requests that staff accept pay cuts (**TD** 05 Feb), with the Australian Services Union (ASU) citing the outcome of a conciliation before the Fair Work Commission.

The issue, which became a political football over unrelated proposed changes to employment legislation, followed letters to workers from HLO CEO Andrew Burnes and the company's GM of Human Resources, Alex Trifonidis, asking staff to return to full-time hours while agreeing to pay cuts of between 19 and 27%.

"On 04 Feb 21, the ASU wrote to Helloworld seeking to arrange a meeting with the company to discuss the proposed pay cuts and the impact on the company's enterprise agreements," the union wrote to members last week.

"Helloworld did not respond to this letter or return calls to the

ASU...with the company refusing to engage with the ASU in any way, the union lodged a dispute in the Fair Work Commission under the dispute resolution clause of the two enterprise agreements," the ASU said.

After a conciliation hearing, "Helloworld confirmed in writing that the proposed pay cuts were only intended for senior managers and executives.

"Employees covered by the two enterprise agreements were sent proposed pay cuts in error... further Helloworld confirmed that none of the employees who were sent correspondence regarding proposed pay cuts in error had their salaries reduced, and all impacted employees continue to receive their substantive salaries."

The union said it was continuing to demand answers from HLO about the ongoing stand down of employees and what is happening when JobKeeper ends.

## Today's issue of TD

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

## Extragreen closure

**THE** Extragreen Travel Group looks set to cease operating after shareholders agreed to wind up the company and appointed Peter Gountzou and Michael Carrara from SV Partners as liquidators.

ASIC records confirm that Extragreen Holidays (Aust) Pty Ltd (ABN 16 065 037 167) and Extragreen Travel Franchises Pty Ltd (ABN 36 113 995 789) have been placed under external administration, with the business trading under a range of names including Amazing Vacations, Melbourne's Best Tours and Extragreen Holidays Sydney.

The agency's website is still active, citing multiple airline awards, six retail stores in Vic, Qld and NZ as well as wholesale and inbound businesses.

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## Flight Centre joins TAANZ

**THE** NZ travel industry has a united representative organisation for the first time ever, after Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) agreed to join the Travel Agents' Association of New Zealand (TAANZ).

The move is effective immediately, and follows months of combined lobbying by the NZ leaders of Flight Centre, House of Travel, First Travel Group and Helloworld Travel.

TAANZ President, Brent Thomas, said there was an urgent need to deliver a "strong and proactive leadership position on behalf of the New Zealand travel industry as one voice".

"To do that, we need all of NZ's biggest players on board," he said.

TAANZ has adjusted its membership arrangements to accommodate Flight Centre's business model, while FCTG and TAANZ have agreed to collective funding of NZ\$100,000 in support of industry lobbying.

The move will also see Flight Centre NZ MD David Coombes and the company's New Zealand

GM of product, Victoria Courtney, join the TAANZ board.

Coombes said it was vital that the industry continue to speak with a single consistent voice as lobbying efforts continued.

"Additionally, TAANZ and FCTG are aligned on the fact that the association needs reform in light of COVID-19," he said.

"By being a constructive member, we can effectively contribute to that change in line with our aligned objectives," Coombes said.

TAANZ recently underwent a major restructure, with former CEO Andrew Olsen stepping down as the organisation confirmed that amid the disruption caused by COVID-19, "the role of Chief Executive Officer is no longer affordable" (**TD** 08 Sep 2020).

Some aspects of the TAANZ operations are being overseen by a part-time administrative role, with the balance of the work to be carried out by members of the organisation's board.

## NSW plays 1st chair

**CHRISTINE** McLoughlin has been named the new Chair of Destination NSW, replacing John Warn in the position.

McLoughlin will be charged with leading the recovery and growth of the state's damaged visitor economy and implementing the key pillars of the recently unveiled Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 (**TD** 18 Jan).

Her previous roles have included being the Director of Venues NSW, Director of Cochlear Limited, Chancellor of the University of Wollongong & McGrath Foundation Director.

"NSW is well positioned to not only recover from the combined impacts of drought, bushfires and COVID-19 in the short term, but also for our visitor economy to thrive over the next 10 years," NSW Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres believes.

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## All Vör one, and one Vör all!



## Tourism restart 3.0?

**THE** Tourism Recovery Taskforce has released the third edition of its proposed "Tourism Restart Timetable," which now envisages the opening of a two-way NZ Safe Travel Zone from early Apr 2021.

The aspirational schedule also sees the lifting of caps on inbound international travel as early as 01 Sep, while more OS travel zones could be phased in over the next six months.

Expedition, New Zealand and Pacific cruising (with domestic pax only) could commence by 01 May, according to the timetable, with hopes that all cruising could be permitted from Sep.

Australian Chamber - Tourism Chairman John Hart said "this is our aspiration for reopening Australian Tourism - let's all make it happen!"

**THE** Viking Cruises team took the company's Viking Vör trade training program to South Australia last week, as the first stop in a national roadshow named after the Norse goddess of wisdom.

Guests were treated to the latest on Viking's ever-expanding global portfolio of river, ocean and expedition cruises over a dinner at Adelaide's brand new SkyCity hotel.

Initially launched in Jun 2017, Viking Vör events are designed for agents who are new to Viking as well as those keen to brush up on the latest in product knowledge.

**Pictured** at the SA event are, from left: Lucy Bellamy, Bellamy & Turner Travel Associates; Kate Collins, Angas Travel; Leon Hill, Viking Cruises; and Kirsty Reynolds, Bellamy & Turner.

## Plug the gap: ATIC

**AUSTRALIAN** Tourism Industry Council (ATIC) has called on the Federal Government to provide "immediate" support to the tourism sector or risk companies making mass redundancies.

The peak body's Executive Director Simon Westaway argues a package would only need to support tourism until the vaccine rollout is complete.

"Tourism businesses only require short-term assistance until the national vaccine rollout brings back confidence in domestic travel," he said.

"The tourism Industry is not looking for more grant programs or pork-barrelling in a few regions...financial assistance should go to all tourism businesses at risk including sole traders and small family businesses," Westaway added.

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## Spreading good Sharma



**TRAVEL** agents in the eastern Sydney electorate of Wentworth were recently putting their case for support forward with MP Dave Sharma (**pictured**), with the Minister providing some encouraging words of optimism after the meeting convened.

"Thanks to each of you for taking the time to meet with me today and sharing your own personal stories and experiences within the industry," he said.

"I've been in touch with Dan

Tehan since we met to convey the main concerns and themes we discussed, and he has assured me that the government is working on a package, and I remain hopeful we will be in a position to make an announcement within the next week or two."

The stoic group of advisors were accompanied by AFTA chief Darren Rudd.

## Cairns Holiday \$\$\$

**THE** struggling tourism economy in Cairns has received a welcome boost from the Qld Government, which has launched 15,000 \$200 vouchers for Queenslanders to visit the city.

Residents of the state have until 11 Mar to score a voucher which can be used for holidays between 15 Mar and 25 Jun on tourism experiences such as Great Barrier Reef trips, guided tours, bungy jumping, day spas and entry to wildlife parks and zoos.

"It's expected the initiative could generate an extra visitor spend of up to \$14 million for the Cairns and Great Barrier Reef economy," said Qld Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk.

"To have almost a third of your visitor economy wiped out by COVID's closure of the international border is a big hit in anybody's language," she added.

**CLICK HERE** for more details.


## Marriott powers up

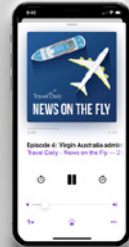
**JW MARRIOTT** Gold Coast Resort & Spa has partnered with Jaguar Land Rover to offer hotel guests a more environmentally-friendly transport option.

The deal will see Jaguar supply the resort with two electric Jaguar I-PACE vehicles to service special events and driving programs in a bid to lower the property's carbon footprint.

"The resort team is passionate about making a difference to the environment and will continually look at ways to improve our sustainability efforts with better facilities for our guests," said JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa General Manager Ravinder Dhesei.

Vehicle features include a 3D surround camera that provides a 360° digital plan view and a central touch screen.





### Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

## Crown commission

A **ROYAL** commission is set to be held into Crown Perth's suitability to hold a casino gaming licence following the findings of a NSW Inquiry of suspected money laundering and junkets linked to organised crime.

The commission will examine Crown's operations and existing regulatory frameworks, with three Commissioners appointed - former Supreme Court judges Lindy Jenkins and Neville Owen, and former Auditor General for Western Australia Colin Murphy.

Interim findings are expected to be delivered in Jun and a final report handed down in Nov.

Also investigated will be any actual or perceived conflicts of interest by officers involved in casino regulation, and any matters that might enhance the Gaming and Wagering Commission's (GWC) future capability and effectiveness.

The GWC has already directed Crown to no longer hold junkets, and the casino will have to obtain the GWC's approval to establish gaming bank accounts, to ensure the activities highlighted in the Bergin Inquiry cannot occur.

## Window Seat

**WHAT** do you do when you get furloughed from your job as a pilot during a global pandemic?

Well, naturally you go on national TV and date a gaggle of fawning women and aspiring social media influencers.

That's the plan at least for flying studmuffin Jimmy Nicholson, with the grounded Jetstar pilot selected to be the star of *The Bachelor Australia* in a search for true love.

Channel 10 describes Nicholson as "an intelligent and passionate go-getter who is ready to find his happily ever after", but we'll just have to wait and see if this hunk brings any excess baggage to the show, or whether he will touch down in the heart of one lucky lady.



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

www.sudokuoftheday.com - visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

## Where in the world?



THIS area is one of the most picturesque in this city, and is distinguished by its group of bright, terracotta-red colonial Dutch buildings, constructed between 1660 and 1700.

It is one of the oldest surviving parts of the city, and one building is said to be the oldest-existing

Dutch building in the east.

That same building originally was the official residence of the Dutch governors and was then used as a town hall throughout the nation's British administration.

Do you know where in the world this is?

## 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



## Whose mascot is this?



LIKE many other live mascots, Thunder is the third iteration in his family's lineage.

He has been ridden and trained by Ann Judge since 1998, and the two lead the team out on the

field at the start of every home game, and gallops down the side of the field every time his team scores, to rapturous applause from the fans.

Whose mascot is this?

### ANSWERS 05 MAR

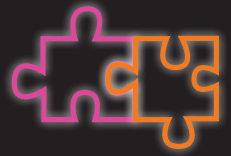
Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 Vientiane, Laos, 2 Johannesburg, South Africa, 3 Longreach, Australia, 4 Frankfurt, Germany, Airline liveries - 1 Egyptair, 2 China Airlines, 3 Airnorth

Pub quiz: 1 Amsterdam, 2 Austria and Hungary, 3 Seventh Avenue, 4 6.8 kilometres, 5 Vladivostok, 6 Greenwich, Kew Gardens, Tower of London and Westminster Abbey, 7 Seattle, 8 Los Angeles, 9 Kazakhstan, 10 Adelaide

Icon under a microscope: Notting Hill, London, United Kingdom

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Travel Daily

## Lufthansa purchase

**LUFTHANSA** is eyeing off the purchase of 20 Boeing 777X aircraft by 2025, according to a report released by the airline late last week.

As part of its modernisation and standardisation strategy, Lufthansa wants to take delivery of the 20 airplanes between 2023 and 2025, with the carrier expecting to operate all 20 of the Boeing 777-9s it currently has on order by the end of 2025.

## The Oscar goes to..

**TURMOIL** has engulfed the luxury \$50 million Oscar Seppeltsfield (**TD** 07 Apr 2020), with the winery's owner Warren Randall threatening to take the proposal to another South Australian oenological region.

The proposed hotel is a six-star, 12-storey complex, with a court case planned for later this month to potentially determine its fate after the local community objected to it on visual grounds.

## Women stand united



**CELEBRITY Cruises'** history-making all-female bridge and leadership team (**pictured**) have reunited one year on from their inauguration (**TD** 10 Mar 2020). The cruise line's all-female top deck set sail for the first time on 08 Mar 2020, just days before the COVID-19 pandemic suspended sailings indefinitely.

Celebrity reunited the team ahead of today's International Women's Day to reflect on the historic sailing, discuss the

challenging year that followed, swap stories, and more.

The team will also gather virtually from their homes across the globe, and even directly from on board *Celebrity Edge*, which is stationed in the Bahamas.

The women will also be answering guest-submitted questions - **CLICK HERE**.

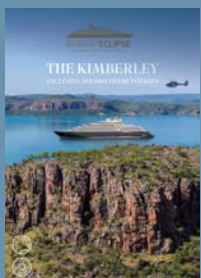
## BROCHURES

**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).



### Coral Expeditions - 2021 & 2022 Australia's West Coast Voyages

Coral Expeditions has launched an eight-page brochure for its 2021 & 2022 Australia's West Coast Voyages. Travelling to the Houtman Abrolhos & the Coral Coast, highlights include swimming with sea lions, snorkelling the region's reefs and exploring world heritage sites. The season will also visit the Ningaloo Coast, where travellers can snorkel & dive the rarely visited Worley Shoals, accompanied by Coral's onboard marine biologist. Guests are also offered the chance to "dusk dive" the reefs of the Murion Islands at Exmouth's Navy Pier.



### Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours - The Kimberley Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours has announced its exclusive Scenic Eclipse 2021 Kimberley season.

The new program features two 11-day Kimberley Discovery Voyages itineraries, which operate between Darwin and Broome. Departing from 19 Jun to 08 Aug, the Voyages will be available for up to 228 guests. During the season guests will be the first to enjoy *Eclipse's* latest innovations, such as new cabanas, a Panorama Bar on Deck 10, a reimagined Yacht Club, Asian fusion dining at the new Night Market @ Koko's, and a range of culinary masterclasses at Epicure.

## MSC serves up more

**MSC Cruises'** soon-to-debut flagship *MSC Virtuosa* is set to introduce two new specialty dining concepts - Cantina & Indochine Restaurant and HOLA!

Indochine will offer guests Vietnamese classics with a French twist, while HOLA will provide a laid-back, Latin-flavoured dining experience.

## Tas lends support

**THE** Tasmanian Government is providing mental health support for the state's tourism businesses as part of a new \$100,000 support package administered through the Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania (TICT).

The program has been developed in recognition of the financial and mental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Tasmania's small businesses and their employees.

TICT will deliver the package across the balance of the year.

Got a confidential tip? Contact *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click **HERE**

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