

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news plus a full page from Tokyo Tourism.

VA executive quits

MOKSHA Watts, Virgin Australia's Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, has resigned from the carrier amid "an ongoing internal review about her workplace behaviour" according to CEO Jayne Hrdlicka.

Watts joined the VA team earlier this year (TD 18 Jan), with Hrdlicka telling the AFR that the airline's corporate affairs division is now reporting to Chief People Officer Lisa Burquest.

TravelPay rewards agents

TRANSACTION volumes at travel industry specialist payment provider TravelPay have more than tripled in recent months, with the TravelPay and TravelPay B2B platforms adding more than 750 new clients combined during the pandemic.

CEO Andrea Slark said TravelPay would also shortly be announcing a restructured Qantas Points offering for agents and suppliers making and receiving payments via the new B2B Pay system (TD 24 Jun), and in the meantime is offering triple QF Points (three points per \$20) to travel agents on customer payments received

during Dec and Jan.

"Seeing travel start to come back is worth celebrating, and as part of our commitment to clients, we want to reward them even more over the busy festive season," Slark said.

"We're proud to have continued supporting the industry during COVID, including existing agents, many new agents and suppliers and indeed our own team members," she added, with no redundancies made during the COVID-19 downturn as staff were redeployed to other parts of TravelPay's Zenith Payments parent company.

Slark said the business had seen strong interest in its American Express Membership Rewards 'Pay with Points' options, and its B2BPay SME payment product which enables travel businesses to earn up to one Qantas Point per \$3 when paying rent, utility bills, other business expenses and the Australian Taxation Office.

"Between our TravelPay, TravelPay B2B and B2BPay solutions, industry participants can earn Qantas Points not just when making and receiving travel payments, but also when paying all the other bills that come with running a business," she added.

See travelpay.com.au/rewarding.

New Tokyo modules

TOKYO Tourism has launched new modules in its travel advisor training program.

Participants who complete the updated program will go into a draw to win a luxury stay courtesy of Preferred Hotels & Resorts - see the **last page** for details.

Border opens more

PRIME Minister Scott Morrison this morning announced Australia will move to the next phase of its reopening plan, with the national double-dosed vaccination rate now surpassing 85%.

It's understood the change will initially focus on allowing the entry of visa holders including overseas students, refugees and skilled migrants to help accelerate economic recovery and address shortages in the labour market.

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Travel Daily on location in Doha, Qatar

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Discover Qatar, Qatar Airways, and Visit Tourism which are this week hosting their Qatar Mega Fam Trip.

TODAY begins *Travel Daily's* journey on the Qatar Mega Fam Trip, with attendees stepping off a Qatar Airways airplane and into a day packed with some of the destination's best offerings.

In the morning, attendees will be taken on a scenic Doha tour to get a feel for the city, before discovering the National Museum of Qatar, and exploring the Souq Waqif.

Over the next three days, attendees will discover what goes into making Qatar one of the world's best stopovers.

More from Qatar on [page 3](#).

Free AA/BA testing

AMERICAN Airlines and British Airways have announced a new collaboration with American Express Global Business Travel, offering free COVID tests for premium class travellers on trans-Atlantic flights.

The rapid antigen tests, approved by both the US and UK governments, are from testing provider Qured and produce results in 20 minutes to provide verification that pax can travel.

QF announces MEL-DEL

QANTAS this morning announced the launch of a new flight route between Melbourne and Delhi in India, as the Vic capital once gain reopens up to international services.

The new flights will commence on 22 Dec, for the first time ever connecting Vic to the Indian capital with year-round four times weekly services with same-day connections from Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra.

Carnival 23/24 out

CARNIVAL Cruise Line this morning unveiled its 2023-24 Australasian cruise program, with a total of 115 sailings now on sale leaving from Sydney and Brisbane aboard *Carnival Splendor* and *Carnival Spirit*.

Itineraries include 20 short cruises to give guests the opportunity for a quick and easy getaway, while there are also two cruises to Papua New Guinea taking in Alotau, Kitava and the Conflict Islands.

VP Kara Glamore said "after an incredibly challenging two years for the Australian travel industry, it was extremely important for us at Carnival to invest in the local economy with our 2023-24 program".

About 60% of the departures will call at ports in Australia and New Zealand, with the remaining 40% visiting the South Pacific.

More details in tomorrow's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Flights from Melbourne to Delhi will initially operate via Adelaide, while the return services will fly non-stop.

Last month QF also announced a new Sydney-Delhi service (**TD 22** Oct) which saw the fastest booking surge for flights leaving Australia since the carrier announced its international restart plans in Aug.

This morning QF international flights from Melbourne restarted for the first time since Mar 2020, with flight QF35 heading for Singapore at 11.50am.

"Victorians have done it tougher than most over the past two years, and we think many will see the restart of Qantas international flights as another important step towards life getting back to normal," said QF CEO Alan Joyce.


Qantas will also relaunch Melbourne-London services on 27 Nov, while Melbourne-Los Angeles will return on 19 Dec.

The carrier has today opened a Qantas First Lounge at Melbourne International Airport, which as well as for Platinum Frequent Flyers, will temporarily be accessible by business class, Gold frequent flyers and Qantas Club members until the neighbouring Business Lounge reopens.

MEANWHILE Qantas has also announced an agreement with Optus, giving frequent flyers the ability to earn up to 20,000 QF Points and 10 points per every dollar on selected new mobile phone plans.

Cruise webinar

DON'T forget tomorrow's Travel Community Hub "Repositioning Cruise" webinar featuring CLIA's Peter Kollar, Nikki Glading from Holland America Line/Seabourn and Uniworld Boutique River Cruises' Alice Ager - for details and to register [CLICK HERE](#).



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Throw off the shackles: QR

EXCLUSIVE

QATAR Airways Group Chief Executive Officer Akbar Al Baker has told *Travel Daily* he hopes his airline's unwavering commitment to Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic will be recognised by the country's Government.

Al Baker noted that, unlike other airlines, Qatar never stopped operating to Australia, even at peak of the pandemic, during which it added Brisbane to its network (*TD* 14 Oct 2020).

He said he hopes the Australian Government will recognise its efforts, and grant Qatar the additional access it has been requesting for the last 15 years (*TD* 06 Dec 2019).

"We are there to serve the Australian population, we are not there just with you at good times," Al Baker enthused.

"[Qatar has] been very diligent in the way we have been operating, and the way we have been spreading our network."

ANZCRO to snow

ANZCRO has released snow earlybird packages for travellers hungry for a ski season in New Zealand.

Catering for every winter adventurer, the earlybird package collection features eight snow-filled holidays.

Wine-lovers will delight in the six-night Earlybird Ski & Wine deal that combines a four-day lift pass at Coronet Peak or The Remarkables with a private Gibbston Valley Cave & Winery Tour, with prices starting from \$1,295 per person.

Travellers with kids will have four family-centric packages to choose from, such as the six-night Earlybird Family Ski Adventure.

It features a spacious two-bedroom apartment at Scenic Suites Queenstown, a four-day Lift Pass to Coronet Peak or The Remarkables and more.

[CLICK HERE](#) for further info.

Bilateral constraints and government deadlocks have in the past prevented Qatar from expanding within Australia, with Al Baker once threatening to pull the airline out of the Oneworld alliance over criticism levelled by Qantas Airways (*TD* 15 Nov 2018).

However, Al Baker now hopes it has demonstrated a show of faith in Australia over the past two years and will cause a rethink at a government level to allow Qatar to deepen its offering in the country.

He said as the Australian inbound market recovers, it will need Qatar, and its extensive network and large passenger volumes, to help the country's tourism recovery.

"Australia is a big tourism market and [it] needs services from other airlines to bring larger volumes of tourists," he said.

"It's a very intriguing place for people to visit with all the natural resources and beauty that Australia has, so you need to encourage more airlines to come and the airlines that are already there to expand."

The Star gift cards

AUSSIERS can now give the gift of a five-star experience via The Star, as the casino operator launches new digital gift cards.

Able to be used on accommodation, dining, and spa experiences anywhere across The Star Gold Coast, The Star Sydney, and Treasury Casino & Hotel Brisbane, the digital gift cards can be accessed via guests' mobile phones to book luxury hotel rooms, spa treatments, or dining and dining.

The Star's digital gift cards have a three-year validity and cannot be used to purchase tobacco, nor can they be used on a gaming floor.

For more information and to purchase The Star's Digital Gift Cards, [CLICK HERE](#).

The first official interview with new AFTA CEO Dean Long, the disunited states of Australia and more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin

CLICK to read



Qatar Mega FAM kicks off



DISCOVER Qatar, Qatar Airways and Tourism Qatar recently took six travel industry partners from Sydney and Melbourne on the country's first Mega FAM trip - perhaps the first famil embarked on by Australians since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Although it was initially thought Aussies may not be able to come on the famil, due to the country's closed borders, recent developments in both New South Wales and Victoria saw the group of six take off earlier this month, travelling in QR's luxurious Qsuite Business class product.

Arriving last Mon, the first day of the famil saw attendees check into their hotels - Four Seasons Hotel Doha, Marsa Malaz Kempinski, and Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels by Tivoli - before they were introduced with the country's capital Doha on a scenic city tour, before heading to the striking National Museum of Qatar.

After lunch, guests checked out the waterfront Katara - The Cultural Village Foundation, before heading to the Souq Waqif traditional market, before returning to their hotel for dinner.

MEANWHILE, a number of lucky Australian travel advisors will also be invited on the famil next year, thanks to a competition



run by Discover Qatar, Qatar Airways and Tourism Qatar.

The first two lucky winners are TravelManagers' Ally Casey and The Don't Forget Travel Group's Andrew Sullivan.

For your chance to join them, [CLICK HERE](#) to enter the competition today.

FURTHERMORE, it is your last chance to register for Qatar Airways' stopover training webinars.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register, with the first to be hosted tomorrow at 1pm AEST.

Pictured: Sydney-based invitees Room-Res.com co-founder and co-Chief Executive Officer Nic Bryant, House of Travel Australia Finance Director Grant Campbell, Bay Corporate Travel National Account Manager Samantha Ellis, and Flight Centre Travel Group Regional Sales Manager Martin Cummings, as they prepare to take off; **inset:** Express Travel Group Head of Product & Events Amber Kelly, with Cummings and Ellis, as a group of the Australian contingent prepares to explore the National Museum, which opened at the beginning of the pandemic.

keep dreaming...

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Travel & Cruise
Weekly



Window Seat

WITH Japan gearing up to open quarantine-free travel with Australia, families should take note that kids will be able to ride the country's famous bullet trains for free in a bid to incentivise tourists to visit.

The Japanese tourism campaign will run until 19 Dec and will cover the Nozomi super-express services that stop at major stations, including Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Shin-Osaka and Hakata.

To be eligible for the free trips, seats for kids need to be reserved in advance through members-only systems, with credit card payments for adults & kids needing to be made at the time of booking.

Child fares will be refunded around two weeks later.

Virgin's points bonanza

VIRGIN Australia has launched a new loyalty promotion that provides Velocity members access to book every Economy seat on the carrier's domestic network for travel between 01 Dec and 31 Mar 2022 using reward points.

Available until midnight tomorrow, the promotion has no blackout dates and offers reward seats from 7,800 Points plus taxes, fees and carrier charges.

"We're putting the power back in Velocity members' hands to use their points, their way, in this promotion," Velocity Frequent Flyer CEO Nick Rohrlach said.

In further news, Velocity is also offering a 20% discount on points purchased between 1,000 and 100,000 points until 17 Dec.

VA said that the Melbourne-Sydney, Sydney-Brisbane, Melbourne-Brisbane, Melbourne-Gold Coast, Sydney-Gold Coast, Brisbane-Cairns, Melbourne-Cairns are currently some of the

most popular domestic trips for reward seat bookings.

MEANWHILE Virgin Australia has announced it will provide 400 free return Economy flights to encourage COVID-19 vaccination among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The move forms part of a VA initiative to help lift COVID-19 vaccination rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland ahead of border restrictions easing in Dec, and helps to support work the airline is doing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander charity Deadly Choices.

Part of the push will see a number of vaccination events take place over the next six weeks, featuring Deadly Choices Ambassadors and high-profile sporting stars, with free flights and sporting tickets to be given away as prizes for people who get vaccinated on the day.

Come & see Ireland

AGENTS who secure the most revenue for Collette tours between 01 Nov and 30 Jun 2022 will score themselves a place on the brand's nine-day fami to Ireland departing late next year.

The trip requires a \$500 flight contribution per agent, and includes meals & accommodation - call 1300 792 195 for details.

DL expands LATAM

DELTA Air Lines (DL) has widened its codesharing deal with LATAM Airlines, adding 20 international routes between the United States and South America.

DL has put its code on 12 international routes operated by LATAM group across the continents and added its code to six regional routes in South America, while LATAM has slotted its code on eight international routes operated by DL that connect South America and the United States.



Win a spot on our 2022 Qatar fami

For your chance, complete the Qatar Tawash training course, ensure your agency is signed up to the Discover Qatar portal and tell us what you think makes a stopover in Qatar so unforgettable.

With only a few more spots available, don't miss your chance to enter.

Competition ends 28 November 2021.*

To enter, learn more at qatarairways.com/tradeportal

*Terms and conditions apply



Webster gets ball rolling



SARAH Webster from Travel Partners Australia recently held a travel expo at Aveo Newstead in Brisbane, which saw 18 suppliers in attendance.

Webster added that she intends on holding an expo of a similar size every six months, as well as smaller events in between.

Next on the calendar is a festive chat with Euan & Julie-Anne Landsborough from Albatross Tours on 21 Dec.

Pictured at the recent gathering were: Jacqui Tufala, Silversea; Michelle Nickelson, Alliance Airlines; Shelley Martin, Cruise Whitsundays; Tomas Malmberg, Insight Vacations and Luxury Gold; Claire Turner, Driveaway; Leon Hill, Viking Cruises; Emma Smith, Abercrombie & Kent; Gary Webster, Wayfinder Travel & Cruise; Leanne Willmot, Scenic, Emerald Cruises/Evergreen; Valeria Noleto, Event MC, Honorary Consul of Brazil for

UA reboots SIN

UNITED Airlines has announced it will restart flights between San Francisco (SFO) and Singapore Changi (SIN) on 05 Jan next year.

Services will operate four times per week using Boeing 787-9 aircraft, and before the pandemic, the route was the second longest in the airline's network behind Houston to Sydney.

UA hopes to reboot San Francisco to Melbourne and Houston-Sydney flights in 2022.

QLD; Sarah Webster of Wayfinder Travel & Cruise/Travel Partners; Camille Moore, APT, Travelmarvel; Craig McLaurin, NCL; Janis McDonald, Outback QLD; Jerry Pilgrim (on behalf of Lindblad Expeditions/National Geographic); Dylan Hearne, Backroads Touring; Angelina Briscoe, Wendy Wu; James Sitters, Oceania Cruises; Anna Powell, Aurora Expeditions; and Elsa McLean, RSSC.

NSW nature boost

THE NSW Government has allocated an extra \$91.5 million towards improving nature-based tourism projects across the state.

Upgrades will apply to attractions such as walking trails and "family-friendly amenities", including a \$3.45 million upgrade to the elevated rainforest boardwalk in Budderoo National Park; \$3 million to build new visitor precincts in Georges River National Park; and \$3 million to create better visitor infrastructure at Ebor Falls in Guy Fawkes River National Park.

"From Western Sydney to the Far West of NSW, families are flocking to national parks and we want to make sure facilities are up to scratch and able to meet this increased need," NSW Treasurer and Environment Minister Matt Kean said.

Before COVID struck, NSW national parks enjoyed 60 million annual visits, generating visitor \$18 billion in economic activity.

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Hiking Mount Kosciuszko is a must-do when exploring the Snowy Mountains region, after a road trip to Jindabyne and a Thredbo chairlift ride to kick

start your ascent.

Sydney also offers plenty of high altitude opportunities, with experiences such as the Sydney Tower Eye (**below**) where guests can take a breathtaking tour atop the city's highest construction before celebrating the day with a fine dining culinary encounter at the Infinity revolving restaurant 81 storeys up.

Take a flight with Sydney Seaplanes, feeling the thrill of a bird's-eye view of the famous harbour - or for a bit more adventure why not try skydiving in Byron Bay, Lake Macquarie or Wollongong.

So many ways to get a new perspective on life.

Head to visitsw.com for travel inspiration, itineraries, and ideas on how to #FeelNew in NSW.

Images: ©Destination NSW



JNTO wraps up tour

JAPAN National Tourism Organization's (JNTO) recently concluded its virtual trade roadshow in Australia and New Zealand, seeing more than 80 members of the trade in attendance to hear from 35 Japanese suppliers and Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways.

Hosted through TravTrade's virtual events platform, two curated virtual events saw 400 meetings take place, equipping Australian and New Zealand trade to sell Japan once international travel resumes soon.

View JNTO resources **HERE**.

Windstar goes all in

WINDSTAR Cruises has added an all-inclusive pricing option on all of its sailings as it seeks to become more in line with luxury offerings in the cruise industry.

The cruise line will now offer the option of one price to include unlimited wine, beer and cocktails, as well as wi-fi, all gratuities and the cruise fare.

The new pricing system will also be available for Wind Class yachts, with the company's site and sales materials now updated with the new all-inclusive prices, which are listed in US dollars based on double occupancy.

Terminal of the future starts



CONSTRUCTION on the long-awaited Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport's passenger terminal is finally underway, with work officially commencing at the site late last week (**pictured**).

The design of the upcoming terminal pays tribute to Western Sydney's Aboriginal heritage, and will feature multiple retail locations, restaurants and cafes, as well as an outdoor plaza that can host events like local food festivals, markets and community celebrations.

Transportation links will see the terminal connected to the Sydney Metro – Western Sydney Airport line and Sydney's motorway

network via the new toll-free M12 Motorway.

Western Sydney Airport Chief Executive Officer Simon Hickey said the terminal represented an opportunity to build a facility with future technology in mind.

"We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build an airport from the ground up with consideration not only for emerging technologies, such as air taxis, but also technology that has yet to be imagined," he said.

"We're also aiming to make the anxious wait around the baggage carousel a thing of the past...our baggage system will give passengers the option to track their bags via an app so they know exactly when they will arrive," Hickey added.

Marriott ups CRM

MARRIOTT International will update its CRM via a new deal with Amadeus, which will deploy its Amadeus Central Reservations System (ACRS).

The ACRS software will expand the hotelier's ability to offer travellers a more personalised experience, including greater flexibility in choosing guest room attributes, and purchasing extras like wellness products.

Kimpton Khao Yai

KIMPTON Hotels & Restaurants has signed an agreement to open the Kimpton Khao Yai in 2024, with the 100-room Thai resort to feature multiple restaurants and bars and 30 pool villas.

Further amenities will include a swimming pool, a fitness centre, a spa and resort centre and 50m² of meeting room spaces.

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.



Norwegian Cruise Line - Discover Europe 2022/23
Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) has launched a new digital brochure so that travellers can start planning their 2022/2023 European sailing adventures. The latest brochure is packed full of itinerary, destination and shore excursions, including a range of departure ports from the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean, such as Amsterdam, Copenhagen, London (Southampton), Reykjavik, Stockholm, Athens, Barcelona, Rome, Venice and Dubai.



TTNO - Deeper into the Dreamtime
Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNO) has collated a new brochure called Deeper Into Dreamtime, encompassing a range of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences that travellers can enjoy in the state. Features of the new online resource includes a traditional custodian map of Qld, a comprehensive list of upcoming Indigenous festivals, as well as a huge array of native tours. Highlights include star navigation trips, bushtucker adventures and rainforest treks.

Win

a Balcony stateroom on the Azamara Onward Pre-Inaugural Cruise!

Azamara and Travel Daily are providing one travel agent and guest with the once-in-a-lifetime experience of sailing on the

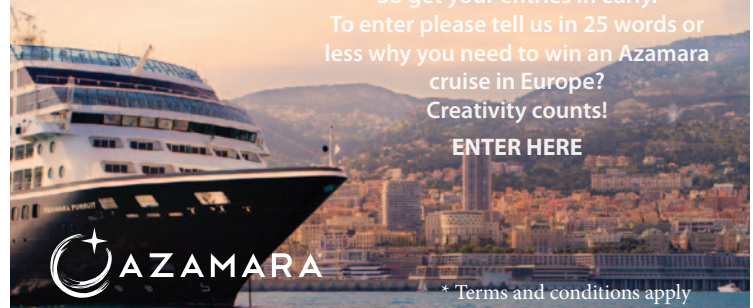
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So get your entries in early.

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