

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news.

Students to NSW

NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet this morning confirmed the state will begin the first stages of opening up to inbound international students by the end of the year, with plans to restart the higher education sector now finalised as part of the state's roadmap to reopening.

Accommodation provider Scape will house returning students for a 14-day quarantine period in the Sydney suburb of Redfern, in a building retrofitted to accommodate up to 650 people under COVID-safe standards approved by NSW Health.

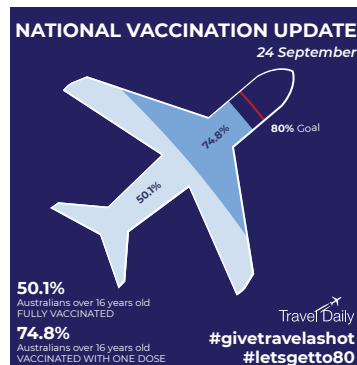
The staggered return of students is stage one of a pilot which will "slowly expand and evolve, as vaccination rates continue to rise in NSW and internationally," said NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro.

"The international education sector sustains thousands of jobs across NSW, and I'm proud that NSW is leading the way with the return of international students to our shores".

The trial will see 500 international students return to NSW on chartered flights, paid for by the students, by the end of the year, with participating education providers to contact prospective arrivals to gain expressions of interest for the pilot scheme which has also been endorsed by

Australia hits halfway mark

MORE than 50% of Australia's population has now received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, with Health Minister Greg Hunt this morning unveiling the milestone achievement which sees us



Emirates IATA pass

EMIRATES has signed a contract with the International Air Transport Association to implement the IATA Travel Pass across its global network.

The carrier trialled the platform in Apr selected routes from its Dubai hub in Apr, expanding the pilot to 12 routes in Jun.

It's now available to EK customers travelling from 50 cities, with the full roll out to more than 120 destinations expected to be completed in Oct.

The IATA Travel Pass includes a repository of the travel requirements to allow customers to find accurate information on testing and vaccine requirements, along with a registry of testing centres and the ability to manage documentation digitally.

inching closer to that magical 80% reopening mark laid out in the National Cabinet plan.

The latest figures (pictured) also indicate 74.8% of Aussies have had their first dose, meaning the tantalising red line where the removal of travel restrictions has been promised is within sight.

The updated graphic is available for downloading and sharing on social media via our industry toolkit at traveldaily.com.au.

Indonesia update

VISIT Indonesia Tourist Office will host a "Wonderful Indonesia Tourism Update 2021" focusing on the nation's wellness, tourism villages and adventure.

The online event, featuring an array of senior Indonesian tourism officials from 3pm AEST on 29 Sep, will be moderated by Miriam Tulevski of VITO Australia, with participants able to win "door prizes" and e-certificates.

To register **CLICK HERE**.

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Fly-cruise delivers *Edge*

EXCLUSIVE

FLY-CRUISE and new-to-industry/new-to-brand were both big focuses in developing *Celebrity Edge's* inaugural Australian season in 2023/2024 (**TD** yesterday), *Celebrity Cruises* Vice President & Managing Director, Australia & APAC Tim Jones told **Travel Daily**.

The cruises for the first-ever *Edge*-class season in Australia, particularly the Queensland, trans-Tasman and Tasmania sailings, had been designed to accommodate *Celebrity's* key fly-cruise market, Jones said.

"We've got two Barrier Reef opportunities in there, because we find a lot of international guests pair up a Barrier Reef cruise with a New Zealand cruise to make it Australia and New Zealand over 21 nights," he said.

Jones said while it was less important for the Australian market, "we've made sure we

position our itineraries that allow guests that opportunity for coming in from overseas."

Another focus of *Edge's* Australia season was both new-to-cruise, as well as new-to-brand, Jones said, with *Celebrity* curating an inviting range of sailings in Tasmania - one of the line's most popular destinations.

"Tasmania has been really growing in popularity for quite a long time now with an international audience," he said.

"It gives people who haven't cruised before an opportunity to try a cruise, and I think we'll have appeal to that first cruise market, because it can do six nights and see if they like it, and we know they will once they've done it."

"I think [Tasmania is] a really great one for people to try out first time or even come across to our brand for the first time."

Edge set sail for the first time in 2018 & accommodates 2,918 pax.

Join the Rat Race

A **UK-BASED** adventure tour company is set to launch in the Australian and New Zealand markets for the first time.

Joel Stephens has been appointed the General Manager of Rat Race Australia, revealing the brand is now on the lookout to "fine tune" its adrenaline adventures by recruiting local travellers to test its products before an official launch in 2023.

Test tours in 2022 are available at discounted rates, taking place in NZ, nth Qld and Tasmania, while 2023 bookings are now on offer - more details **HERE**.

Dine on Uniworld

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has announced new Nights Out evening experiences on its European river cruises from 2022, with five excursions offered solely for Uniworld guests in Basel, Venice, Vienna, Cochem and Amsterdam.

CX Economy changes

MORE choices, more flexibility and more value are available to customers with Cathay Pacific's new Economy fares.

The airline has introduced Light, Essential and Flex fares so customers can choose the fare that suits them best.

The redesigned Economy fares will be introduced progressively across Cathay Pacific's network in phases, and will initially be available for flights from Malaysia, South Korea or Taiwan.

Scenic Eclipse back

ANTARCTICA expedition voyages aboard *Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours' Scenic Eclipse* will recommence from 08 Jan.

This decision to operate the Antarctica 2022 season has been made possible due to the resumption of international travel for residents of many countries.

Scenic said it will continue to manage progress in Australia.

AGENT INCENTIVE + COMMISSION

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Tahiti big ship ban

CRUISE ships carrying more than 3,500 passengers will be blocked from calling at the Islands of Tahiti from 01 Jan 2022, with the French archipelago stating the large vessels put too much stress on its maritime infrastructure and the natural environment of its remote islands.

The decision is part of a wider plan focused on year-round turnaround of small and medium ships, with a new framework for cruise calls also in development which will allow requests to be managed via a single portal.

Exemptions may be granted at the Port of Papeete for higher capacity ships making technical transit on the islands of Tahiti, Moorea and Raiatea.

TA flags targets

TOURISM Australia Managing Director Phillipa Harrison has described Singapore and the United Kingdom as “dead certainties” to open as tourism markets by the end of the year, according to a summary provided by Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA).

Speaking at a TAA NSW Members Update Webinar this week, Harrison said Australia was also focused on targeting the United States, Korean and Japanese tourism markets to open as soon as possible.

The Tourism Australia chief also noted consumer confidence had declined, especially when it came to the domestic market.

We're crazy for carrot cake

WHEN we received one of the carrot cake entries for the second week of the inaugural Great **Travel Daily** Bake Off, we thought we'd been sent a piece of stunning artwork.

Janelle Anderson from Queanbeyan City Travel not only created a scrumptious rendition of her grandmother's favourite cake (**right**) - she also artfully staged it in a delightful presentation to give it the attention it truly deserves.

There are a few secrets - fresh ginger and raisins soaked in pineapple juice, while the all important frosting has cream cheese with added maple syrup, plus a touch of cinnamon - also known as “the king of spices”.

The **Travel Daily** team has also joined in the baking fun this week, with our Production and Editorial Executive **Anna Piper** making some delicious carrot cup cakes (**left**).



And finally our Associate Editor **Myles Stedman** produced his own rendition of a tasty-looking carrot cake too (**right**).

We've also received lots of entries for this week's choc-chip cookies theme which we will publish in an upcoming issue, and next week we wrap up the Sep baking challenge with “Family Favourites” - so keep cooking and send through your efforts for an opportunity to win a \$50 gift card - send your entries to bakeoff@traveldaily.com.au.



Window Seat

WHO says you need to travel to New York City to enjoy its famous subway system?

That's certainly not the case for residents in the city of Mason Ohio at least, who need only dine at the Two Cities Pizza restaurant to experience The Big Apple's train rides, that's because it has bathroom facilities meticulously designed to replicate NYC's trains.

The restroom is fitted out with a subway platform, train car, station stops playing over the speaker, authentic subway handles above the sinks and even graffiti on the walls.

For its diligent efforts, the owners recently won a coveted spot in the America's Best Restroom Hall of Fame (yes, it bizarrely has a Hall of Fame).

But that's not all this pizza joint has to offer, with yellow taxis surrounding the building, steel girders lining the ceiling, and Chicago's Wrigley Field is even paid tribute to with an ivy wall and 400-foot marker.



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CORPORATE UPDATE

Way2VAT lists on ASX

THE \$7 million initial public ASX listing of travel and expense tax claim platform Way2VAT last week was heavily oversubscribed, with the company boasting “highly scalable technology with over 80% gross profit margins”.

Way2VAT allows companies to automatically reclaim GST and value added taxes on business traveller expense claims, using patented artificial intelligence connected to existing expense management systems via an API.

The system analyses any VAT or GST which is recoverable, then automates the reclaim process and submits it to relevant tax authorities.

Way2VAT enables the reclaim of these taxes without labour-intensive manual processes.

The company currently services more than 150 major clients, many based in Europe and the US, including MasterCard, Hitachi, Footlocker and the Boston Red Sox baseball team.

An SME product which launched late last year also allows indirect sales of the technology through partners such as Xero and Sage.

Founder and CEO, Amos Simantov, said the company was playing a leading role in the global shift to digital taxation systems, “and will support and streamline many of the antiquated systems that still exist for VAT collection”.

He said by linking to existing expense management platforms “any invoice can be processed, no matter how small,” with Way2VAT claiming to provide businesses with up to 30% more in reclaimed taxes than rival systems.

It’s estimated that up to US\$20 billion in foreign VAT is left unclaimed each year due to labour-intensive processes where applying for a refund outweighs the value of the refunds itself.

CEO’s grim forecast

GBTA Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Neufang has estimated before a Senate subcommittee that 2021’s global business travel spending will be no greater than US\$842 billion, a US\$550 billion decline from the previous forecast due to the effects of the ongoing pandemic.



travelBulletin

CLICK to read

CATO is forging its own future with a new constitution, accreditation scheme and other reforms. Read more in the September issue of travelBulletin.

The wing of tomorrow



AIRBUS has reached a key milestone in its Wing of Tomorrow research and technology program, completing the assembly of its first full-size wing prototype (pictured).

The overarching ambition of the project is to explore how wing manufacturing and industrialisation can be further enhanced to meet future demand as the travel sector emerges from the pandemic in a more sustainable manner.

Tests include how the use of new composite materials and technologies align with new wing architecture, with the goal of a high-performing wing just one of several solutions to achieve a lowering of carbon emissions,

alongside sustainable aviation fuels and hydrogen.

“Wing of Tomorrow is also an example of how large-scale industry collaboration will be critical to achieving our sector’s agenda for a more sustainable future,” Airbus Chief Technical Officer Sabine Klauke said.

The project is part-funded by the UK’s Aerospace Technology Institute and is a transnational Airbus program involving global partners and teams across Airbus’ European sites.

Melon targets SMEs

FLIGHT Centre-owned Corporate Traveller has launched a new business travel platform targeting the SME sector.

Melon has initially been introduced to the Canadian and American markets only, with the new omni-channel platform boasting features such as seamless switches between mobile and desktop views, AI algorithms that track individual spend and the inclusion of real-time KPI metrics.

“In this ever-evolving travel environment, it is difficult to keep track of the latest developments across the world, Melon ensures our customers are informed at every step of their booking journey,” Senior VP, Corporate Traveller Chris Lynes said.

There are no details as to when Melon will roll out to Australia.

Sentiment wavers

BOOKING sentiment for business travel continues to oscillate as a result of the Delta variant, new polling from the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) shows.

The results indicated that 80% of companies are likely to delay the resumption of non-essential domestic and international business travel due to the Delta variant/other variants, however one in five (22%) travel supplier and travel management company respondents reported feeling more optimistic compared to a month ago, up seven percentage points in Sep compared to Aug.

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Whose animal is this?



TECHNICALLY, the Eurasian brown bear is not the official national animal of this country, with the double-headed eagle the sanctioned animal of the nation.

However it has come to be seen as a symbol of the country over centuries, with products such as 'bear grease' (a cure for baldness), and initiatives such

as a training academy for circus bears both contributing to the world's perception of bears as this nation's national animal.

This country has now embraced the bear, using it as the mascot for the 1980s Olympics which it hosted.

Do you know which country we are talking about?

Answer: Brown bear - Russia

Air NZ plastic trial

AIR New Zealand is piloting new eco-serviceware on board international Economy cabin flights as part of an ongoing push to phase out single-use plastics.

Alternatives in the trial include two different casserole dish materials, bagasse and rotatable plastic, as well as the introduction of birchwood cutlery.

"Our Future Aircraft Cabin Experience (FACE) program has been in motion for a number of years...COVID-19 has given us a chance to accelerate some of that work," the carrier said.

Stay here in Perth

THE Western Australian Government has introduced the next stage of its Stay and Play tourism campaign, with the latest instalment encouraging residents to book a hotel stay.

Adding extra incentives to make a booking will be a range of discounted packages put forward by properties such as The Ritz-Carlton, the Hougomont Hotel and the Colony at Mandoon Estate, with the promotion running until 31 Dec for stays until 31 Jan 2022 - for further details on the deal, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Travel Daily



Boeing comes to Oz

BOEING has chosen Toowoomba in Qld to be the first aircraft assembly site to operate outside of North America.

While the primary aim of the new factory will be to manufacture Boeing's first military jet, referred to as Loyal Wingman, the company's Australia Vice President and Managing Director, Scott Carpendale, said that the long-term opportunities could lead to additional commercial aerospace opportunities.

Toowoomba's Wellcamp Aerospace and Defence Precinct location was chosen due to its access to a flight line, clear flying days, and commercial flight access from major cities.

Aussies ready to go

AGODA has seen a 20% spike in searches from Australians to travel overseas when border restrictions ease, with Thailand, Indonesia, and Philippines ranking as the most popular destinations on its platform.

Cook Is webinars

COOK Islands Tourism is hosting two webinars in the next three weeks, with both sessions to include live Q&A segments.

Webinars focus on wedding and honeymoon ideas, as well as what accommodation options are on offer, with the first taking place on 29 Sep, while the second will be held 13 Oct.

[CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP to the first webinar and [HERE](#) for the second.

TRAVEL SPECIALS

WELCOME to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au

Kids can fly and stay for free with **Jetstar's** Holiday Packages. Book a family getaway now or for next year at any time - [CLICK HERE](#) to view all of the airline's packages on offer.

Queensland's **Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, Port Douglas** on Port Douglas Road, is set to become the epicentre of a foodie heaven as the highly anticipated Taste Port Douglas festival returns from 07-10 Oct. Travellers who are staying from either 07-10 Oct or 08-11 Oct will receive two free tickets to some of Taste Port Douglas' hottest events and more - for bookings [CLICK HERE](#).

Book a last-minute deal with **Intrepid Travel**, with special rates from \$1,995 per person, twin-share on the six day Red Centre Explorer. Valid for the 27 Sep and 13 Oct departures, the itinerary features inclusions such as accommodation, transport, activities, and some meals - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Receive free unlimited wi-fi on select **Azamara** sailings from 02 Oct 2021 to 05 May 2023. Amenities such as gratuities, select beverages, exclusive cultural events and more are always included. Book by the end of next month to take advantage - [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

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

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Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

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