

## New agent tool

**EXPRESS** Tickets has launched an exclusive new feature for travel agents who use PowerSuite, Travelog Online or QuoteCloud Travel Itinerary Software.

The function auto-downloads airline ticket information straight into these platforms, which, depending on the system, happens either as an auto import or by entering the Reloc No. against a relevant booking.

As a result, the transactional information for any ticket type, including NDC, LLC or EDM, seamlessly transfers across, saving time and potential re-keying errors.

For agents using VTO Ultimate, Tramada or CCTE, this function will be available early next year.

Contact [asc@expresstickets.com.au](mailto:asc@expresstickets.com.au) for more information.

## New Caledonia made easy

**NEW** Caledonian airlines, Aircalin and Air Caledonie, have signed a new codeshare agreement this week in a bid to make it easier for travellers to purchase all flights needed to explore the French island chain.

The new agreement means travellers will soon be able to purchase Air Caledonie flights from an international destination under an Aircalin flight number, with all itineraries able to be booked on the one ticket.

Motivating the New Caledonia Government decision, which majority owns both carriers, is both a need to make travel to the destination more seamless as travel rebounds, as well as help its visitor economy disperse tourism volumes to lesser known regions/islands of the territory.

These will likely include encouraging more travellers to visit Lifou in the Loyalty Islands Province, which will soon host the Intercontinental Lifou Wadra Bay resort when it opens in Sep 2023.

“This codeshare agreement is part of the company’s overall plan for the resumption of tourism activity with the intention to mobilise the whole sector for the development of tourist flows,” Aircalin CEO Didier Tappero said.

For Air Caledonie specifically, the agreement is being viewed as a stepping stone to one day providing services to the main international hub of Tontouta Airport with an adapted fleet, directly connected to Aircalin’s international flights, offering journeys either directly to the islands or the mainland, to destinations like Poe Beach in the South Province for example.

The agreement is expected to be active for domestic flights at some stage during Q1, 2023.

The news follows Aircalin increasing its number of flights between Noumea and Singapore from three to four times weekly from 31 Oct (**TD** 05 Oct).

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features five pages of news including our **Sustainability** page.

## EK boosts Bangkok

**EMIRATES** will add a fourth flight between Bangkok and Dubai from 01 January 2023, which will be operated by its flagship Airbus A380 aircraft.

Flights from Dubai to Bangkok will offer passengers a three-class seating configuration, while departing services from Bangkok will operate two-class seating.

The move sees Emirates offer 28 weekly flights to Bangkok.

## IASC gives the tick

**THE** International Air Services Commission (IASC) has allocated Qantas a five-year determination of 464 seats of capacity per week to operate services on the Cook Islands route.

**MEANWHILE**, IASC has also permitted Qatar Airways and Singapore Airways to codeshare on a number of Virgin routes, with both airlines to add their code to VA’s Indonesia routes, and QR on NZ flights.



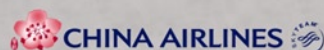
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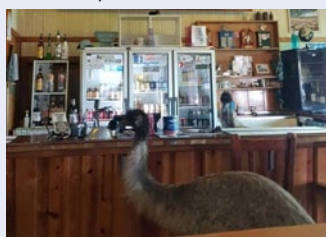
## Window Seat

**DOMESTIC** travellers to outback Australia were aghast upon learning they could no longer visit resident Emus who had made themselves at home inside the The Yaraka Hotel in Qld, after they got slapped with a life ban by the owner.

However, tourists now have the chance to catch up with the barfly emus, Kevin and Carol, if they explore the pub's surrounding hills, where locals say the loved-up couple have put their heavy drinking behind them and had chicks.

The birds became a tourist attraction in 2020 after learning how to climb the steps of the hotel and wreak havoc on the establishment, often stealing food, beverages, and if you believe some of the more intoxicated patrons, boogying on the dance floor.

But it was not the partying behaviour of the drunken birds that got them kicked out of pub life, with the size and regularity of their droppings becoming the biggest (and smelliest) burden.



## Dreaming of a black & white Xmas



**AFTER** being crowned the International Skäl Club of the Year, the Skäl Club of Melbourne wrapped up a successful year with a Xmas party at the Rendezvous Hotel in Flinders St.

The celebration, themed 'I'm dreaming of a black and white Christmas', saw the Club members don their finest black and white attire.

"It was a wonderful night," the Club's President, Tara Strickland, reflected.

"We announced that the Peter McClintock Skalleague of the

Year Award was none other than Past President and tireless Skäl contributor Tony Geraghty."

**Pictured:** Rob Ceconi, Sportsnet Holidays; Jane Tanti, 2021 Skalleague of the Year; Dr Catherine Baird; President Tara Strickland; Dean Cleaver, Emirates; and Alex Dugdale, Expedia.

## Last chance Cathay

**TIME** is running out to take advantage of 10% discounts on return Economy flights with Cathay Pacific.

Travellers who join the airline's loyalty program can access the deal when flying to places like Europe and North America - **CLICK HERE** to join and save.

## HA hits turbulence

**A HAWAIIAN** Airlines (HA) flight travelling from Phoenix to Honolulu on Sun was hit by severe turbulence mid-flight, resulting in injuries to 36 passengers - 11 of which required serious medical attention.

The US National Transportation Safety Board announced it is now investigating the incident involving 278 passengers and 10 crew on board the Airbus A330-200, with HA adding it will also conduct a "thorough investigation" of the plane before it returns to service.

## Soden promoted

**TONY** Soden has been promoted to become Senior Sales Manager Australia and New Zealand with Rocky Mountaineer.

Soden returned to the industry with Rocky in Aug, and is now seeking a BDM to support the trade as part of his growing team.



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## Do you want a chance to win 1 of 3 seats on Jetstar & KTO's famil to Seoul?

The famil will be running from 05/02/2023 to 08/02/2023, with flights on Jetstar, plus transfers, accommodation and tours in Seoul included.

To find out how you can enter for a chance to win as well as the terms and conditions, click here!

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## Batik Air still paying 5% comm



**BATIK** Air Malaysia (formerly known as Malindo Air) held a special trade event at the Hilton Hotel in Sydney last Wed to formally relaunch its daily flights from the NSW Capital to Kuala

Lumpur, Malaysia via Denpasar (Bali), Indonesia.

During the gathering (**pictured**) CEO Chandran Ramamurthy confirmed the premium full service airline will maintain 5% BSP commission for agents in Australia, in contrast to many other airlines which are cutting trade remuneration here.

Ramamurthy also announced that Batik Air Malaysia would shortly be commencing new routes to Vietnam and Japan.

Airline Rep Services, a CVFR Group Company, represents Batik Air Malaysia in the Australian and New Zealand markets.

## Record Tassie spend

**TOTAL** visitor spend in Tasmania for the 12 months to Oct 2022 reached \$3.12 billion, representing the first time that spend has exceeded the \$3 billion mark in the state, according to the latest figures from the *Tasmanian Visitor Survey*.

The average spend per visitor was \$2,952, up 56% from the year ending Oct 2019, while the average spend per night was \$300, an increase of 27% on the corresponding period in 2019.

There were also 1.058 million visitors to Tasmania during the same period, constituting 78% of pre-COVID volumes, meanwhile visitors stayed an average of 9.8 nights, two nights longer than the 2019 average.

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## AFTA UPDATE

from Tom Manwaring, Chairman



**IT'S** been another full year and AFTA is proud of the role we have played in supporting our members through the pandemic recovery period.

As we finish the year, I have been reflecting on how quickly things change.

As we ended 2021, AFTA was in robust discussion to ensure our small and medium sized members received the last tranche of funding of the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program (CTSP) and in March it was delivered.

By July, we were conducting a review of ATAS which resulted in over 100 submissions from industry and consumer groups on what needed to change.

We listened, and a new charter and code was launched in August.

In Oct, we brought back the NTIAs with over 1,200 people celebrating our survival and importantly our future.

Our industry remains in crisis across all facets: staff shortages, workflows, outdated practices, compounded by supplier

capacity constraints, schedule chaos and commission-based structure destruction with surging customer demand, to name a few.

This wave of redesign continues and will be our greatest challenge over the next years.

AFTA/ATAS members have never been more important, as the role of relevant and experienced information, and accessibility, becomes paramount.

Last week the AFTA Board held its final meeting of the year.

The main item for discussion was the updating of the constitution and the voting framework which prompted robust discussion.

The focus of this work is ensuring our structures are representative of our entire membership and that we have clear lines of feedback to the AFTA team and Board.

We look forward to sharing the Board's recommended position with Members in the New Year as part of the consultation process.

I want to thank my fellow Board Directors for their continued hard work and commitment to our industry. On behalf of the Board and the team at AFTA, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Croatia charters

**LATITUDE** Vacations is offering new options to charter yachts and catamarans in Skradin, Croatia, after one of its local operators recently opened a new base in the small coastal town.

Special charter rates for trips departing through to 22 Apr include a five-cabin yacht for seven days from \$4,857, and four-cabin catamarans for a week from \$6,857, valid for bookings by 31 Jan - see **HERE** for details.

## Baillie GM reshuffle

**BAILLIE** Lodges has announced Sonya Boaden will move from Silky Oaks Lodge to The Louise.

She has spent the past four years leading the FNQ property, and will now take up the GM role at the Barossa Valley luxury accommodation - being replaced at Silky Oaks by Drew Bernhardt, well-known from his long tenure at Margaret River's Cape Lodge.

## Azamara returns

**AZAMARA** has marked its long-awaited return to Australia, with *Azamara Quest* sailing into Fremantle in WA this morning.

The ship's crew and her Captain Johannes Tysse received a warm welcome from Director of Sales Victoria Chigwidden, as well as Azamara's growing Australian shoreside team.

*Quest* will depart Fremantle tomorrow for Sydney, when she begins her 14-night country intensive voyage to take in the city's New Year's Eve celebrations, and watch the fireworks light up the sky over Sydney Harbour.

The overall local season includes three back-to-back "country intensive" Australia/NZ voyages.

The arrival follows recent news that *Azamara Pursuit* will visit Australian shores in Dec 2024 (**TD** 11 Nov) - for more information about today's arrival in Fremantle, see today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

### TourRadar assists

**ADVENTURE** booking platform TourRadar has called on all 2,500 tour operators using its technology to have sustainability initiatives in place by 2030 and develop an impact measurement tool for carbon measurement.

To help tour operators achieve the goals, the platform will develop a carbon measurement tool for its dashboard.

### VS cuts the fat

**VIRGIN** Atlantic plans to operate a Boeing 787 from London to New York powered solely by waste oils and fats.

Billed as the “world’s first” net zero transatlantic flight, the airline’s SAF flight will take off next year, and will also be used to fast-track sustainable flights at scale.

## ROYAL FINNISHES DEAL



**ROYAL** Caribbean Group (RCG) is helping the way forward for innovative and sustainable shipbuilding in Finland, after signing a maritime declaration with the Finnish government, represented by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (MEAE) and Meyer Turku Oy.

The agreement outlines a roadmap for the production of climate-neutral ships in Finland, including creating a digital demonstration of a climate-neutral ship as part of the Ministry of Labor and Economy’s sustainable maritime industry development program.

The declaration will also support Royal Caribbean Group’s Destination Net Zero strategy to decarbonise its operations by 2050, as well as its goal to reduce carbon intensity by double digits by 2025 compared to 2019 and the launch of a net-zero cruise ship by 2035.

“This new partnership sets

the stage for future innovations and allows us and the maritime industry to continue pursuing sustainability at the highest level,” RCG President and CEO Jason Liberty said.

The line’s newest and most sustainable ship, *Icon of the Seas*, was built at Meyer Turku shipyard in Turku, Finland.

### Radisson joins sustainability council



**RADISSON** Hotel Group has reaffirmed its commitment to furthering the industry’s sustainability agenda by joining the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC).

Formed in 2007, the objective of the GSTC is to enhance the knowledge, understanding, adoption, and demand for sustainable tourism practices.

Through its membership in the GSTC, Radisson Hotel Group said it will help promote cross-industry cooperation and put in place transparent

and measurable standards for sustainability within the hospitality industry.

Radisson’s Global Senior VP Sustainability, Security, and Corporate Communication, Inge Huijbrechts, added that the hotel group will also work with the Council to align its criteria to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

“Sustainability is not competitive but rather collaborative, together we can aim to help solve global issues we all face,” she said.

### Green seating

**BUSINESS** class seating manufacturer Unum Aircraft Seating has joined the Green Cabin Alliance as the group’s first aircraft seating manufacturer member.

Founded this year, the Green Cabin Alliance aims to decarbonise the airline industry by bringing together organisations involved in the design, manufacture, usage and disposal of parts and products for aircraft cabins.

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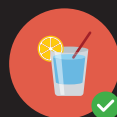
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## MONEY

**WELCOME** to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

**AU\$1 = US\$0.669**

**THE** outlook for the global economy is set to remain very erratic due to the concerns surrounding a global recession, as well as questions the next moves of central banks around the world.

Economists predict the Aussie dollar will continue to fall during the first quarter of 2023; meanwhile, inflation expectations for Nov have dropped from 6% to 5.2%.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.669
UK	£0.551
NZ	\$1.052
Euro	€0.631
Japan	¥91.74
Thailand	฿23.32
China	¥4.673
South Africa	11.61
Canada	\$0.914
Crude oil	US\$74.29

## TM ends the year on a high



**TRAVELMANAGERS** has ended the year on a high note, with the National Partnership Office gathering for a Christmas party at The Greens in North Sydney last Fri, where they enjoyed a social game of lawn bowls and cocktails under blue skies and plenty of sunshine.

With the launch of TravelManagers Customer Fund (TCF) in Aug (*TD* 11 Aug), its national conference in Sep (*TD* 15 Sep), its recognition as Most Outstanding Mobile Travel Advisor Network at the National Travel Industry Awards in Oct (*TD* 17 Oct), and its Personal Travel Managers' achievement of record sales from Jul to Nov (*TD* 13 Dec), the team had plenty to celebrate!

TravelManagers also recently wrapped up its series of Market Day workshops earlier this month, which saw it host more than 50 key suppliers and 175 Personal Travel Managers in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney (*TD* 09 Dec).

**Pictured** at The Greens in North Sydney, front row from left to right: Lynette Hood, Rob Fitt, Michael Gazal, Samantha Seager, Zoe Peters, Tania Myles,

Jacqui Lai, Maria San Pascual, Sandra Reucker, Tina Vitelli, Rebecca Owen, Grant Campbell, Marlene Lane; Back row (L-R): Christine Rokotuinassau, Barry Mayo, Melissa Pasparne, Salvador Tomas, Chenoa Everett, Melissa Petrakis, Tanyu Cilek, Joe Araullo, David McCarthy, Jose Canas, Helen Georganas, Troy Coelho, Kate Rix, Leeanne Freeman, Ozlam Tuncay, & Georgia Thomas.

## AKL duty free update

**AUCKLAND** Airport has selected Aelia Duty Free as its main duty-free retailer from Sep 2023 onwards, as it transitions from a dual model to a single duty-free offering.

The airport awarded the business contract extension to Aelia Duty Free, which is owned by Lagardere Travel Retail SAS, until mid-2025, after which a full tender process will begin for a longer-term contract.

Meanwhile, the airport also confirmed the Loop Duty Free will continue to trade alongside Aelia until its licence expires next year.

## Royal builds future

**ROYAL** Caribbean Group has announced a new partnership with iCON Infrastructure Partners to own, develop and manage strategic cruise port infrastructure in its home ports and key ports of call.

The new partnership will initially include PortMiami Terminal A, as well as several development projects in Italy, Spain, and the US Virgin Islands.

According to President and CEO Jason Liberty, the collaboration was an opportunity "to catapult us into the coming decades of port investments, build further financial strength, and provide exceptional cruising experiences".

## Don't forget meds

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia is reminding travellers to make sure they plan ahead about how they will manage their medicines during the holiday period.

Travellers are being reminded of the importance of making sure they have all of their medicines and prescriptions in order before embarking on travel plans.

Overseas travellers are also being urged to look into what travel medicines their destination may require, including vaccinations, which are now available in pharmacies.

## Cuban casino plan

**CELEBRITY** businessman Mark Cuban has pitched the idea for a new multibillion-dollar integrated casino resort in Texas with space for a new arena for the Dallas Mavericks NBA team.

The idea would see the team partner with Las Vegas Sands and allow guests to spend time in the resort, enjoy the facilities and be able to gamble at slot machines and tables while being in the area to attend basketball games.

Under Texas law, casinos and other gambling facilities are illegal, however, proposed legislation changes to legalise gambling will be tabled in 2023.

## Interchange finished

**HOBART** Airport interchange has been completed, marking a key part of the \$350m upgrade to the state's travel infrastructure.

The interchange will support planned improvements to the airport to cater for increases in travellers, and features on and off-ramp access from the highway to the major aviation gateway.

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