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## Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages packed with news plus a cover page from Norwegian Cruise Line.

## Norwegian bonus

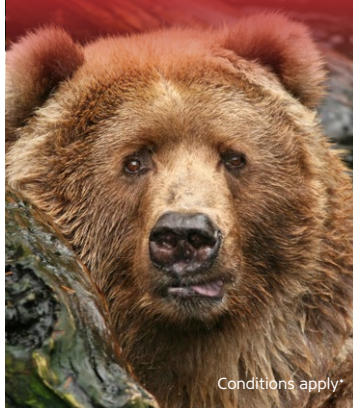
NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is offering double Partners First Rewards points to its travel industry partners in conjunction with the all-new 2023/24 season of its Norwegian Jewel.

For details see the **cover page**.



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## New AFTA Board nominees

### EXCLUSIVE

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) is expected to shortly announce details of an election process for vacancies on its board, with eight candidates nominating for six available positions this year.

Potential additions to the board for 2022 include MTA Travel co-founder Roy Merricks as well as BCD Travel's Tass Messinis, recently named as Chair of the Association of Travel Management Companies (TD 20 May).

They join six existing Directors who are up for election under the normal two-year rotation process laid out in the AFTA Constitution, including AFTA Chairman Tom Manwaring from Express Travel Group, David Greenland from Reed & Mackay representing CT Partners, Helloworld Travel Limited's Julie Primmer, Spiros Alysandratos from Consolidated Travel and Flight Centre's Graham Turner and David Smith.

Ballot papers will be dispatched shortly, and members will have until 22 Jul to vote in the election process, which is being conducted by an independent third party.

The results are expected to be announced in mid-Aug as part of the AFTA Annual General Meeting, at which point the newly constituted board will elect office bearers from among the Directors, in accordance with its normal practice.

It's the third year running that additional candidates who are not currently on the board have been nominated as AFTA Directors.

Last year's election also saw Messinis throw his hat in the ring, alongside Thuy Carroll from

Adelaide's Tweet World Travel, Paul Gorman from Luxury Escapes and former Travel Corporation executive Katrina Barry, who was the only successful newcomer.

Barry subsequently resigned after taking a new role outside the travel industry (TD 11 Jan).

In 2020 the election was conducted under the leadership of then AFTA CEO Darren Rudd, with board outsider nominations from Travlr's Simon te Hennepe and Australian Travel Agents Cooperative GM Michelle Emerton (TD 23 Sep 2020), both of whom were unsuccessful.

AFTA Directors who are not up for re-election this year include Webjet's Shelley Beasley, Laura Ruffles from Corporate Travel Management, American Express GBT VP Joanne Sully, Travellers Choice CEO Christian Hunter and Helloworld's David Padman.

The AFTA Constitution, which is currently undergoing a review led by CEO Dean Long, stipulates a complex formula whereby agency head office groups get additional votes based on the number of locations in their networks.

## Sky out of the sky

QANTAS this morning announced that ABC News will be shown in its lounges and across the domestic jet fleet, replacing an existing eight-year pact with Sky News Australia.

The carrier has also signed deals with News Corp Australia and Nine which will give passengers connecting to the wi-fi in QF lounges access to all content from *The Australian* and *The Australian Financial Review* from 01 Aug.

## Eclipse II slips out

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours is celebrating the float-out of its *Scenic Eclipse II*, which entered the water for the first time at the company's Croatian shipyard.

Sister to *Scenic Eclipse*, the ship is on track to launch in Apr next year featuring a range of enhancements inspired by guest feedback, with her maiden voyage sailing from Lisbon to Barcelona.

More of the latest cruise news in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

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## Window Seat

**SUSTAINABILITY** is becoming a watchword for tourism across the globe, and a new beer launched in Singapore is looking to tap into the trend.

So-called NEWBrew is made with recycled sewage, and is now on sale in supermarkets across the Lion City.

Created by craft brewery Brewerkz, NEWBrew is made using NEWater, a Singapore brand of drinking water recycled from the city's treatment plants.

"I seriously couldn't tell this was made of toilet water," according to one 58-year-old fan quoted by *Bloomberg*.

We're not sure whether the tittle will resonate with tourists, but drinkers say it's a "refreshing, light-tasting ale that's perfect for Singapore's tropical climate".

## Merger proposes sell-off

**APOLLO** Tourism & Leisure (ATL) has advised the market that it is prepared to sell a number of assets in order for its proposed merger with Tourism Holdings Limited (THL) to go ahead.

The two RV rental companies announced the merger plan late last year (*TD* 10 Dec 2021), but hit a major snag in Apr when the ACCC, along with New Zealand's equivalent the NZCC, raised concerns about the purchase's implications for fair competition.

"Our inquiries have not identified that new entry or expansion by other RV suppliers is likely to provide a strong competitive constraint on a combined THL and Apollo," the ACCC Commissioner Stephen Ridgeway asserted in Apr.

However, this morning Apollo confirmed the merged entity would be willing to part ways with select assets in order to obtain a clearance to proceed.

The proposed divestment of assets include: a significant portion of ATL's four-six berth motorhome rental fleet in Australia and New Zealand, ATL's premium Star RV brand, a portion of forward bookings associated with the fleet sold, and any surplus of property leases on an as needed basis.

Meanwhile from THL's end, the business has entered negotiations with Next Capital's Jucy Rental brand in Australia and New Zealand to acquire the mooted divestment assets.

"Shareholders should note that discussions in relation to the proposed divestment will be subject both to the ACCC and NZCC being satisfied," ATL stated.

While the ACCC is yet to respond to the proposal, the NZCC confirmed it would undertake a public consultation process in relation to the divestment compromise.

## CTM 1000MTG deal

**CORPORATE** Travel

Management today confirmed the acquisition of the 1000 Mile Travel Group founded seven years ago by Ben Ross and Nicola Veltman (*TD* breaking news).

The share component is valued at just over \$2m according to an ASX update lodged this morning.

1000MTG was a member of the Helloworld for Business network, offering corporate consultants the ability to work remotely linked to offices in Melbourne and the UK.

Ross said the acquisition paved the way for significant growth for the company and its network of 50-plus independent business owners, while Veltman said becoming part of CTM "will help us achieve our founding vision of a global work from anywhere company".

CTM CEO Jamie Pherous said the company was "well-placed to expand the 1000 Mile Travel model into our largest markets of North America and the UK".

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The Metaverse is quickly approaching, but what does that mean for the travel industry? Read all the details in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read

travelBulletin

## D-Day arrives for agents

**YESTERDAY** was the final day before many carriers in the Australian market slashed base commission payable to the travel agents who sell their products, with the change expected to drive significant evolution in the local industry.

The collapse in travel agency base remuneration was led by Qantas, which announced the move more than a year ago (**TD 20 May 2021**), at the time assuring its long-time supporters that “travel agents remain an important partner”.

The Qantas initiative was followed in quick succession by a host of other carriers including:

- American Airlines (**TD 10 Jun 21**)
- Air NZ (**TD 10 Dec 2021**)
- Emirates (**TD 17 Dec 2021**),
- Cathay Pacific (**TD 14 Jan**),
- Hawaiian Airlines (**TD 20 Jan**)
- Singapore Airlines (**TD 31 Jan**)
- Etihad (**TD 03 Mar**)
- Thai Airways (**TD 31 Mar**)

- British Airways (**TD 01 Apr**)
- SAA (**TD 23 May**)

Carriers which have confirmed they are continuing to support the trade by paying base agency commission include Air Canada (**TD 15 Jun**), Qatar Airways and Delta Air Lines (**TD 19 May**).

A number of *Travel Daily* agency owner readers have noted that from today they will actively switch selling clients towards supportive airlines, while other responses will see advisors forced to impose additional service fees on itineraries involving commission cutters.

Flight Centre MD Graham Turner is expecting carrier market shares to shift, recently noting during an event to celebrate the company’s 40th anniversary (**TD 11 May**) that “the reality is, if airlines don’t pay for the distribution of their product, intermediaries will move the sales onto other airlines who do pay.”

## Club Med Hokkaido

**CLUB** Med is set to open a new resort in Hokkaido in Dec.

The new Club Med Kiroro in Japan will be a takeover and combine two existing properties to create one integrated snow resort located just a short buggy or gondola ride apart.

Club Med Kiroro Peak and Club Med Kiroro Grand will offer different experiences for guests of various backgrounds.

## Tahiti hotels session

**TAHITI** Tourisme is inviting the travel industry to discover The Royal Polynesia hotel chain during a 30-minute webinar.

Royal Polynesia Sales Manager Vaitiare Manuel will inform viewers about the three hotels in the chain, which are located on three of French Polynesia’s most sought-after islands.

The webinar will take place on 03 Aug at 10am - **REGISTER HERE** to attend and for more details.

## Meetings are back

**TRAVELLERS** Choice member meetings are back, with this weekend commencing the first series to be held in three years.

The first event is in Sydney, with meetings to follow in Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

The events will be hosted by Managing Director Christian Hunter and Chairman Trent Bartlett, who will brief member shareholders on Travellers Choice’s growth strategies.

Members will also receive an update on the company’s financial performance.

## Vivid lights it up!

**VIVID** Sydney 2022 has smashed visitor records, with data showing total numbers were up 7.5% on 2019 to 2.58 million.

The festival of light, music and ideas event celebrated its largest-ever opening night, with more than 140,000 attendees, plus its biggest-ever opening weekend.

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## Visit Cal boosted

**VISIT** California has been allocated an additional US\$15 million in funding by the US Government to stimulate more arrivals to the state.

Funds will be used to create more marketing programs aimed at promoting family travel and professional meetings to California's urban hubs, which continue to be disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Visit California is now chasing pre-COVID volumes by 2023.

## ANA discounts

**ALL** Nippon Airways (ANA) has launched new "Inspiration of Japan" Economy class promotional fares for passengers on the Sydney to Japan route.

The sale will take place from today until 18 Jul for travel from 18 Jul to 06 Dec, with blackout dates of 27 Sep to 04 Oct.

Lead-in prices include return from \$1,295 and one-way from \$907, including all taxes and fees.

View the full fare sheet [HERE](#).

## SA off the grid

**SOUTH** Australia's newest off-grid luxury tiny cabin called Maldhi has launched (**pictured**).

Boasting world-class views, Maldhi is nestled on the edge of a picturesque gully overlooking the coastal cliffs of Sleaford Bay, located on the southern coast of the Eyre Peninsula.

Maldhi features a solar powered/battery system powered purely by the sun.

Rainwater is captured in Port Lincoln and transported to the tiny cabin.



## ETG links with Collette



**EXPRESS** Travel Group (ETG) has signed a three-year preferred partnership agreement with Collette, which will see the tour operator's travel collection promoted through member networks, Select Travel Group, Independent Travel Group, Independent Travel Advisors and italktravel & cruise.

ETG's Head of Product & Events, Amber Kelly, said Collette's product range and business values made the deal the perfect match for both parties.

"Collette's extensive portfolio of travel experiences, including its growing range of small group touring programs, are a rich complement to our preferred product range," Kelly said.

"[The brand's] flexible and trade-friendly approach highlight their strong commitment to travel agents and customers, values that

are closely aligned with ours at Express Travel Group."

Collette's Head of Marketing, James Hewlett, said he was confident that providing ETG advisors with over 160 tours worldwide would provide the agency with a competitive edge.

"As a leader in group travel there is great potential for advisors to add significant earnings to their businesses - and we make it easy," he said.

The tie-up follows another preferred partnership agreement signed between Rex Airlines and a number of travel agency groups last month (**TD** 24 Jun 2022).

**Pictured:** Kelly and Hewlett embrace the new agreement.

## EY ready for spike

**ETIHAD** Airways is set to welcome more than 2.7 million guests during the upcoming northern summer period.

EY has bolstered operations both locally and globally in response to the predicted surge.

"As travel rebounds from the impact of the global pandemic, Etihad has witnessed a vast increase in bookings over recent weeks," Aviation Group COO Mohammad Al Bulooki said.

## Ovolo pay day

**OVOLO** Hotels is putting its employees first by passing on the Fair Work Commission's mandated wage increase for award workers three months ahead of the Oct deadline.

Although the Commission chose to postpone the increase for industries "at risk" such as hospitality (**TD** 15 Jun), Ovolo will still pass on the 4.6% increase to all its award workers from today.

"We're all about shiny happy people," CEO Dave Baswal said.

"Hospitality is a people business; we are nothing without our team - they are our biggest asset," he added.

## Choose your holiday

**WYNDHAM** Destinations is inviting travellers to "choose their own adventure" these school holidays, with three deals that take advantage of the newly reopened borders across South East Asia.

Discounted stays are on offer at Wyndham Tamansari Jivva Resort Bali, which is only a stone's throw from Lepang Beach and boasts a beachfront pool and open-air bar and restaurant.

Guests can also access reduced rate stays in a Deluxe Room at the Wyndham Opi Hotel Palembang or a Grand Deluxe room at Wyndham Casablanca Jakarta, with complimentary inclusions such as wi-fi and breakfast.

The offers are available for bookings made before 31 Jul - contact [reservations@wyndhamjivvabali.com](mailto:reservations@wyndhamjivvabali.com).

## Mauritius eases

**TESTS** on arrival to Mauritius for vaccinated and unvaccinated passengers have been waived from today, along with the need to wear facemasks in most places.

Masks will still need to be worn in public areas such as hospitals, ports, airports & public transport.

## Bawah refreshed

**ANAMBAS** Island eco resort, Bawah Reserve, has announced it will reopen on 01 Sep after being closed for two years due to the pandemic.

The property has unveiled two new room categories which have been worked on during the shutdown, a two-bedroom Infinity Pool Villa and a two-bedroom Garden Pool Villa, as well as a redesign of its 11 lodges, featuring new art and furnishings.

Additionally, six new cliffside lodges will be available to guests from 01 Nov, forming the Elang Private Residence, which offers a private getaway to groups of up to 20 people over the age of 18 and includes exclusive access to a private beach.



## CORPORATE UPDATE

### Less travel, less revenue

**MORE** than two-thirds of companies expect to spend less on business travel over the next six months compared to the same period in 2019, despite agreeing that reducing business travel will negatively impact long-term revenue, according to the Quarterly Business Travel Index.

The survey, which is part of the Quarterly Business Travel Tracker launched in Apr by J.D. Power, the US Travel Association and Tourism Economics, also revealed that half of companies still have travel-restricting policies in place.

Despite these findings, the business conditions leading index, which measures the business environment for travel, anticipates “moderate improvement” for the third quarter, reaching a score of 103 for Q3, which is up slightly from 102 in Q2.

### Aon joins Amex GBT SAF program

**BRITAIN-BASED** insurance company Aon is the first customer to join American Express Global Business Travel’s (Amex GBT) sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) pilot program (TD 24 Jun).

James Platt, Aon’s Chief Operating Officer, said, “we are proud to be among the first to join this initiative in piloting a solution for SAF that will help Aon and others meet their emissions reduction targets and sustainability commitments”.

Discussions are in advanced stages with several other global and multinational customers and airlines, Amex GBT also revealed.

### Emirates rewards

**EMIRATES** is offering a bonus 10,000 business rewards points, which is the equivalent of an Economy return ticket, to eligible micro, small and medium enterprises who join its business rewards program before 10 Jul - **CLICK HERE** for details.

These predictions fall in line with US Travel’s latest forecast, which expects domestic business travel to grow considerably in 2022 before slowing in the coming years.

The survey identified several potential barriers to business travel growth, including rising interest rates, high inflation, labour shortages and supply chain challenges, as well as companies setting aggressive goals in an effort to reduce their carbon footprint, which could see cuts in business travel.

### Africa travel rises

**CORPORATE** travel specialist ATPi Australia announced it has employed extra staff in Johannesburg to help manage the growing travel demand from Australia.

The move follows Qantas’ decision to introduce flights from Perth to Johannesburg, which will begin operating three times a week later this year (TD 24 Jun).

ATPI Regional Managing Director Australasia and Africa Peter Muller believes the direct flights will be “the catalyst for the return of increased corporate travel to Africa as companies, particularly in the mining industry, seek out new and expanded business opportunities”.

### Microsoft win for Cytric by Amadeus

**MICROSOFT** has joined forces with corporate travel booking platform Cytric by Amadeus, which will integrate into Microsoft 365 to enable its employees to plan, book and change their business trips.

Amadeus Cytric Solutions Executive Vice President Rudy Daniello described the news as a “hugely exciting opportunity” that will “push the boundaries of what the corporate travel sector has seen until this point”.



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### Business Travel Show Europe



**MORE** than 180 exhibitors and 80 industry experts came together in London over 29-30 Jun for the Business Travel Show Europe, including Australian representatives from FCM and CTM, as well as Visit Melbourne. The conference included a ‘Post-Covid travel manager’ session and covered a range of

topics, such as air and ground transport, accommodation, risk management, technology and data management, and corporate social responsibility.

**Pictured:** Moresand Group Chief Operating Officer, Joe Karbo with Elena Diez del Corral, Director of Sales at Smyrooms (Logitravel Group).

## travelBulletin

### A NEW ERA IS COMING FROM JULY 2022

In an evolving time, *travelBulletin* is expanding its digital presence with new online offerings to meet the new needs of the post-pandemic travel industry.

#### EDM

A twice weekly EDM, including an all new **Saturday** wrap up of the week that was, highlighting the big stories from *Travel Daily* and *Cruise Weekly*.

#### NEW WEBSITE

Featuring the in-depth commentary that *travelBulletin* is renowned for, updates from peak industry bodies, analysis of big industry issues and the travel statistics that interest you most. Plus our new space, ‘Rants & Raves’ for you to have your say.

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## Closer eye on insurance

AUSTRALIANS are taking more time to read and understand their travel insurance policies, new data from Allianz Travel Insurance has shown.

The insurer said it had noted "a significant rise" in pre-sale call volumes and an increased call duration when compared to pre-pandemic levels.

"Customers are taking extra time to consider different scenarios, what may be covered and what is not, and are showing a strong appetite to understand the coverages provided if they become sick with COVID-19," Allianz Partners Chief Marketing Officer Damien Arthur said.

While Aussie travellers are spending more time on the phone to customer services reps to understand the ins and outs of their prospective policies, Allianz had also seen a 15% swing towards customers making their final purchases online.

The report also suggested the pandemic has focused travellers' attention on short-term travel planning, with sales for multi-trip policies only a fraction of pre-pandemic volumes.

"We anticipate as confidence grows our customers will start planning out further and sales of multi-trip policies will increase," Arthur added.

## 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](mailto:specials@traveldaily.com.au)

**Airtrain** has launched its "best ever deal", offering a free return journey between Brisbane Airport and any South East Queensland rail station for all online bookings. This offer is non-refundable, but it is transferable so long as Airtrain is notified before the date of travel. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details and to book tickets.

Offers are available on a French walking holiday with **On Foot Holidays**. Experience the golden autumn warmth of the Dordogne in Southwestern France on a week-long, inn-based walk next year at 2022 prices. The offer on the baggage-free walk is available to those who book by the end of Sep - [CLICK HERE](#).

**Viking's** weekly deal is an Egypt river cruise - the 12-day Pharaohs & Pyramids, sailing roundtrip from Cairo. The cruise is selling fast for 2023 and 2024 departures, priced from \$7,295 per person, which includes savings of up to \$2,000 per couple. For additional information, phone Viking on 138 747.

Save up to 50% this summer with **Palladium Hotel Group**. Those booking a stay with Grand Palladium Hotels & Resorts will also get \$1,500 resort credit and one child free, while TRS Hotels guests can additionally score \$1,500 resort credit - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

## PNG Air marks 35 years



PNG Air yesterday celebrated 35 years of operation by bestowing all passengers on flights to Gurney Alotau with special gift bags containing a bunch of goodies, including miniature aircraft models.

Founded as Milne Bay Airlines by the late John Wild Snr in 1987, the carrier's humble beginnings saw it operate only a few flights around the Islands of Milne Bay and the Southern Region.

After gaining traction over the next 10 years, the air service rebranded to Airlines PNG in 2001 and then PNG Air since 2015, today operating flights to multiple destinations in PNG and linking Australia to the country via services from Cairns.

"It is a huge honour to mark PNG Air's 35th anniversary, as we celebrate the humble beginnings of the then-fledgling airline," PNG Air Chief Commercial Officer Simon Pitt said.

"Today, we pay tribute to all the team members on the ground & in the air for their hard work."

The anniversary also marked the release of a special anniversary video from the airline, highlighting the carrier's staff and key executives - view the full video [HERE](#).

## Game of Thrones cruise in Croatia

**SAIL** Croatia has launched a new *Game of Thrones*-inspired cruise to mark the upcoming release of the prequel, *House of the Dragon*.

The seven-day sailing will take fans via small ship to several famous filming locations, including the city of Dubrovnik, (home of Kings Landing), as well as Lokrum Island, which was the stand-in location for the city of Qarth, and Klis Fortress, the setting for the city of Meereen.

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

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