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## Tasman tourism opportunity

**NEW** Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern has today urged tourism bodies on both sides of the Tasman to collaborate more closely to market Australia and NZ in long-haul markets.

"We can and should do more together," she told attendees at an event in Sydney convened by Tourism Australia in conjunction with Tourism NZ.

"Many long-haul travellers see us as a package deal," she said.

"We need to look at how we can collaboratively benefit".

However, Ardern also spoke about the ongoing evolution of the Kiwi visitor sector, with a concerted NZ Government focus on "regenerative tourism" strongly focused on sustainability.

In those terms the NZ PM also highlighted the need for a "level regulatory playing field" to allow businesses such as airlines and tour operators to compete fairly.

The event also included a panel

discussion featuring Australia's newly appointed Minister for Trade and Tourism, Don Farrell, his NZ counterpart Stuart Nash, Tourism Australia MD Phillipa Harrison and Tourism NZ CEO Rene de Monchy.

The wide-ranging discussion convened by Nine's Karl Stefanovic saw de Monchy once again raise the perennial possibility of a single visa for visitors to both Australia and NZ, while Farrell and Nash each highlighted the significant workforce challenges being experienced by the industry.

Harrison backed the principle of joint promotion of Australia and NZ in some markets, noting that "both countries are in the top five wishlists" for long-haul visitors.

"There is no problem with demand - our issues are related to time, cost and distance, so surely we can help to solve those together," she said.

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features six pages of news including a special feature from **Mint Payments** plus full pages from:

- Express Travel Group
- TAFE NSW

### Explora lands Nicole

**FORMER** NCL executive Nicole Costantin has been appointed as the Head of Sales for Australia and the Asia-Pacific for Explora Journeys - read more about the appointment in tomorrow's edition of *Cruise Weekly*.

### QF's day in the sun

**QANTAS** has added 100 dedicated Points Planes flying between Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, representing thousands of seats for loyalty members for travel between Aug and Nov.

Qantas operates five return flights per week between Australia and New Caledonia.



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## Swanky Vietnam

RADISSON Hotel Group has signed a deal to construct a brand-new upscale resort in Mui Ne, Vietnam.

Scheduled to open in the third quarter of next year, Radisson Resort Mui Ne, located on Vietnam's south coast, will be a short drive from Ho Chi Minh City.

## BARA appoints Pearse

THE Board of Airline Representatives of Australia (BARA) has appointed Stephen Pearse to Executive Director, replacing Barry Abrams who's been in the role for nine years.

Pearse (pictured) has extensive executive experience in the aviation sector, having previously held senior positions with Emirates, United Airlines, Fiji Airways and CAPA Centre for Aviation.

Former roles have included being Vice President Australia for Emirates and the local Country Manager for United Airlines.

BARA Chairperson, Tim Clyde-Smith, said the new appointment would hold BARA in great stead, particularly when it comes to negotiating important agreements on behalf of airlines.

"[Pearse] will be a cogent advocate for supporting safe and efficient international aviation in Australia, and continue BARA's effective representation



in negotiating the provision and pricing of airport services with the operators of the major international airports on behalf of member airlines," he said.

"Australia's international aviation industry faces many challenges as it recovers from the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic."

BARA also thanked outgoing Executive Director Barry Abrams for his service over the past nine years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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[ryan.fripps@amadeus.com](mailto:ryan.fripps@amadeus.com) for more info.

## Princess Seacation

PRINCESS Cruises is currently giving away four special 'Seacation' cruises to those who register for the line's Princess Academy by the end of Sep.

Those who enrol can win one of the two-to-three night cruises, departing Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, or Adelaide.

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## It's time to #LoveCruise

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has announced the return of Cruise Month this Sep for the first time in two years, an event that will promote the theme #LoveCruise through a range of creative promotional campaigns.

Cruise lines, travel agents and cruise retailers will have the opportunity to use the hashtag in various marketing pushes throughout the month, using CLIA's Cruise Month toolkit to invite travellers to explore new cruise holiday ideas and book upcoming itineraries.

The promotional month will incorporate four weekly themes, including Ocean Cruising (04-10 Sep), River Cruising (11-17 Sep), Expedition Cruising (18-24 Sep) and finishing with Luxury Cruising (12 Sep to 01 Oct).

CLIA Managing Director Australasia, Joel Katz, said Cruise Month would serve as the perfect way to propel the sector back into vitality for the busy peak summer period after the arduous challenges and period of shutdown during the pandemic.

"Cruise Month will herald the approach of our first summer cruise season in more than two years, allowing us to capitalise on interest around returning cruise ships & new travel opportunities they offer," Katz said.

"It will help mark our region's reunification with the global cruise industry and build more excitement around new cruising opportunities in Australia, New Zealand and around the world."

Further details about the big month of cruise will be announced by CLIA ahead of its Cruise360 Australasia conference to be held on 25 Aug.

Register for Cruise360 [HERE](#).

### Elevate

Taking the traveller experience to new heights

Did you know that travel search data is almost back at pre-pandemic levels?

Are you ready to elevate your business?

Join Amadeus as they discuss emerging travel trends and the role of travel technology in the industry's recovery with Travel Daily and The Travel Community Hub.

Thursday 14th July at 1pm

[Elevate your business here](#)



## Vale Colin Lippiatt

**THE** Australian travel sector is today mourning the sudden death of former Virgin Blue and Virgin Australia corporate communications executive, Colin Lippiatt, who unexpectedly died in his sleep a few days ago.

Lippiatt was with DJ/VA for about six years from 2007, and also worked closely with aviation and tourism PR consultant Heather Jeffrey.

## NT tourism grants

**MORE** than \$1 million worth of government grants have opened this week to assist tourism operators in the Northern Territory, with funds to be used to improve the visitor appeal of on-the-ground experiences.

Grants on offer include cash for tourism accessibility improvement, sustainability projects, a domestic and international tourism distribution program, second rounds of the Tourism Evening Experiences grants, as well as funds for the Tourism Town Asset program.

"We are bouncing back with over 1.25m domestic visitors already spending over \$1.5 billion in the Territory, throughout the year ending Mar 2022," NT Minister for Tourism and Hospitality Nicole Manison said.

"These grant programs...will help fill gaps in our tourism sector, lift the visitor experience and build the NT's reputation as a world class destination."

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Calls for Bali curb

**EXPERIENCED** veterinarian and former CEO of the NT Livestock Exporters Association, Ross Ainsworth, has called for tighter travel protocols to Bali to help stop the spread of foot and mouth disease (FMD) to Australian cattle.

Ainsworth has this week renewed pleas first made in May (**TD** 27 May) for Australia to put stricter regulations in place for travellers returning from Bali.

"In my opinion, the risk [of transmission of FMD from Indonesia to Australia] is extremely high over the next one to six months," he wrote in his blog, *Southeast Asian Beef Market Report*.

"Until Bali is fully protected by vaccination of its cattle and pig populations, an increase in the attention paid to tourists returning to Australia, especially their footwear, seems to be warranted," he added.

Going even further was Global AgriTrends's Simon Quilty, who said last month Australians should be banned from Bali.

## Abu Dhabi session

**THE** Abu Dhabi Department of Culture & Tourism is hosting a 'Family Fun' webinar on 19 Jul.

Together with hosts YiFei Lu from Abu Dhabi's iconic theme parks and Ema Holubeva from Yas Island Rotana, viewers will learn about various attractions such as Ferrari World and Yas Waterworld - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

## RFP - Secretariat & Events Manager



Visit USA Organisation (Australia) is an industry body that promotes travel to the United States of America and hosts the annual Visit USA Expo Week. The Organisation is now accepting proposals for the position of Secretariat and Events Manager. Full details, schedule and key contact information is available [HERE](#).

**RFP CLOSING 15 JULY 2022**





## Visit USA Events Manager sought

**VISIT USA Organisation**  
Australia is inviting interested individuals and travel management companies to apply for the joint role of Secretariat and Events Manager.

The role, ideally suited to a management consultant, is responsible for the administration, accounting and events of the organisation, and will work closely with the Visit USA Committee to reach the goals set out in its 2022/2023 vision.

The request for proposals will formally close on 15 Jul, and the appointment is expected to be announced on 29 Jul - **CLICK HERE** for further details.

## More from Auckland

**AIR** Tahiti Nui has announced it will be adding extra weekly services on its Auckland-Papeete route from Jul.

The additional capacity will see three services operated by the carrier per week, enabling travellers more opportunity to connect with services to Los Angeles and Paris.

## Meet and greet in Crete



**A TEAM** of Australian Virtuoso advisors recently travelled to the Greek island of Crete as guests of Blue Palace Elounda, a Luxury Collection Resort.

The tour was hosted by La Collection (LC), seeing the agents enjoy morning tea with the local Ladies Co-operative, before touring an 1,100 year-old church, and taking part in a special soap-making class.

"Blue Palace is more than a luxury hotel, it's easy to be completely immersed in the local Cretan culture here, which is

exactly what we experienced," LC Director of Sales Craig Farrell said.

The group, which included Aussies Kate Ferguson, Jigsaw Travel; Anna Rizzi, Toorak Travel; Martina Parker, MTA; Susie Myers, MTA; and Leanne Sheard, FBI Travel, are **pictured** sightseeing around Elounda.

## Spicejet concerns

**BUDGET** Indian carrier Spicejet is facing an investigation after experiencing seven mid-air incidents in just 17 days.

The majority of the issues were related to mechanical failures, with two emergency landings required for a Delhi-bound Boeing 737-800 and a Jabalpur-bound Bombardier Q400 Dash 8 aircraft flight.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is now conducting a full probe of all seven incidents.

## Tauck agent events

**TAUCK** has announced three exclusive travel agent events, including two breakfast events in Sydney and Melbourne on 20 and 22 Jul respectively, and a cocktail reception in Brisbane on 20 Jul.

Agents who are interested in attending must RSVP before 12 Jul - spaces are limited and are on a first come, first service basis - click **HERE** to register for the Sydney and Melbourne events, and **HERE** for the Brisbane event.



## Window Seat

**THE** airline industry now has a new record to its name, with Boston-based Bette Nash becoming the world's longest-serving flight attendant.

The 86-years-young hostess started out in the industry in 1957 for Eastern Air Lines, a career that continues to this day with American Airlines, without any breaks along the way.

Nash's tenure is so impressive that Guinness World Records this week formally recognised the employment feat, clocking up 65 years in the job and counting.

While the plucky octogenarian said she has enjoyed her vocation considerably over the last six decades, she admitted the life for cabin crew had changed for the better.

"You had to be a certain height, you had to be a certain weight, it used to be horrible," Nash recalled.

"You put on a few pounds and you had to keep weighing yourself, and then if you stayed that way, they would take you off the payroll."

**Pictured** then and now, and Bette hasn't aged a bit.



## Masks off in WA

**PASSENGERS** and staff on commercial recreational and tourist vehicles in Western Australia, including tour buses, will no longer be required to wear masks from tomorrow, the WA Government has announced.

However, mask mandates continue for public transport, including trains and buses.

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## All MH lounges open

**MALAYSIA** Airlines has reopened its Platinum Lounge at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, with a focus on premium service offerings.

The reopening of the flagship Lounge also marks the full restoration of all of Malaysia Airlines' lounges at Kuala Lumpur International, as the airline proactively sinks efforts into ramping its international capacity and strategic route expansions to cater for demand.

## Canada meets TED

**DESTINATION** Canada has announced a collaboration with conference media organisation TED to host a one-day event on 23 Feb 2023 at the TED Theatre in New York.

The TED@DestinationCanada event aims to "refresh and elevate the perception of Canada as an ideal place to travel" and will feature two performances and inspiring talks presented by 14 expert speakers connected to Canadian tourism.

## Cebu touches down in Sydney



**OVER** the weekend, Cebu Pacific (CEB) marked the return of its direct flights to Sydney from Manila after two years, following the loosening of travel restrictions in both the Philippines and Australia.

The Sydney to Manila service will operate three times weekly, every Tue, Thu and Sat, while the flights from Manila will operate every Mon, Wed, and Fri.

The airline's Chief Commercial Officer at Cebu Pacific, Xander Lao, said the route resumption

will allow Filipinos to reunite with friends and family.

"We know that many are excited to visit our beautiful country, boasting of its beaches, natural beauty and charm," he enthused.

**Pictured:** The Cebu Pacific crew are all smiles at Sydney Airport.

## ACCOMMODATION

**WELCOME** to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to [accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



The newly built **Mercure Hotel** in Pakenham, Victoria is preparing to open its doors in Sep. The hotel will comprise of 64 guestrooms and suites with a lounge and cafe area, a restaurant, and businesses services with conference, function and boardroom facilities. The property is conveniently positioned within the Pakenham Race Club Precinct, close to Pakenham CBD, Cardinia Cultural Centre and train station.



The Hotel Cristallo in Italy's Dolomites is set to be transformed and rebranded as **Mandarin Oriental Resort**, as a result of an agreement between Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group and Attestor Limited.

Large-scale renovations will begin on the hotel next year, which will see the property receive a new extension, 83 guestrooms, various restaurants and bars for entertainment and events, and a spa and wellness facility that includes a swimming pool.



Remote eco-resort, **Bawah Reserve**, will once again welcome guests on 01 Sep for the first time in over two years. The Anambas Islands property has undergone an extensive refurbishment, including the addition of the Elang Private Residence, made up of six new cliff-side lodges and featuring an open-air, two-storey Club House restaurant and bar, a Beach House, Kau Spa, a dedicated activities lawn and a saltwater infinity pool.

## KAL adds routes

**KOREA** Air has announced plans to restore four more routes to Europe, as a result of the South Korean Government's lifting of travel restrictions in Jun.

Three-weekly flights from Seoul Incheon (ICN) to Milan Malpensa and Vienna will resume this month, while the ICN routes to both Barcelona and Rome, also thrice-weekly, will resume in Sep.

The carrier is also set to restart daily flights between ICN and Bali, Indonesia later this month.

## Sofitel Bastille

**SOFITEL** Hotels and Resorts is set to bring Bastille Day celebrations to its Australian properties this month, with a range of 'truly magnifique' experiences.

Guests at Sofitel Sydney Wentworth can partake in French-inspired culinary delights at Soiree, while Sofitel Melbourne on Collins will serve an iconic French pastry, Sofitel Paris-Brest.

Sofitel Adelaide will celebrate La Fete Nationale with a four-course menu of French specialties; Sofitel Noosa Pacific Resort will offer a Bastille Day Dinner at Noosa Beach House; and Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach will serve complimentary champagne and traditional macarons on 14 Jul.





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