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INDEPENDENT HOLIDAY PACKAGE EXPERTS

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of news including Business Events News plus a photo page from Air Canada.

Eclipse collection

SCENIC Group has today unveiled the details of its Scenic Eclipse Europe and The Americas 2023-2024 Collection.

The series features seven new ultra-luxury voyages with personalised onshore excursions and exclusive 'Scenic Enrich' experiences offering once-in-a-lifetime moments.

Among the additions are four new itineraries in the Caribbean, which will see Scenic Eclipse cruise along the Panama Canal and among the smaller and lesser-known islands.

Guests will also discover small ports on the east coast of the United States, filled with vibrant cultures, diverse heritage, picturesque architecture, and welcoming communities on the 11-day Autumn Colours of New England voyage.

For the full details of the collection, call 1300 173 812.

Farrell looks to fill jobs

RECENTLY appointed Federal Minister for Tourism and Trade, Don Farrell, has highlighted the current workforce crisis in Australian tourism, travel and hospitality businesses as evidence that the country needs to become self-sufficient when it comes to servicing the visitor economy.

Speaking in Sydney yesterday, Farrell acknowledged what the industry has gone through over the past two years, saying that while in opposition he had sought to provide constructive solutions after speaking to many business owners who had lost their homes, savings, superannuation and even marriages in some cases.

He also cited the huge outflow of staff from industry businesses.

"What's happened over the last two years is that hospitality and tourism has been such an unreliable source of employment for a lot of people.

"They've had to find jobs somewhere else, and a lot of those people haven't come back."

Farrell said one of the lessons of the pandemic was that Australia has not built up sufficient skills

in the local workforce, to ensure that if a crisis comes along "we'd be able to fill the jobs we need".

Accordingly, a key initial priority for the incoming government is to "ramp up the TAFE system so never again will we find ourselves in a situation where hotels can't get waitstaff to open all their tables, & motels don't have enough cleaners to open rooms".

"Our first objective will be to try to build those skills in Australia, but also to get people thinking about coming back to the industry," the Minister said.

He said it was important to change perceptions that working in travel, tourism and hospitality is too uncertain.

"It's a fantastic industry with lots of opportunities, we've got to sell those opportunities particularly to young Australians.


"And if all those measures don't solve the problem immediately, we of course have to try to get workers back into the industry from overseas," Farrell added.

"We're not out of the pandemic by any means yet, we've got to become self-reliant," he said.

US back to normal

THE Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) has lowered its travel advice level for the United States.

Smartertraveller is now advising Australians to exercise normal safety precautions in the country.



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QR doubles MEL

QATAR Airways will double frequencies between Doha and Melbourne from once to twice a day from 01 Oct.

The two daily services equate to 250,000 seats a year, and will be operated by a B777-300ER plane.



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Bali measures ramped up

THE Federal Government has implemented a number of new travel protocols to prevent returning travellers from Bali from spreading foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

Reacting to confirmation this week from the Indonesian Government that Bali was currently suffering an outbreak of the disease among local cattle populations, biosecurity officers will now be present on every arriving flight from Indonesia, while biosecurity sniffer dogs will also be deployed to Darwin and Cairns airports to detect the virus, shoring up the existing canine workforce stationed at other major airports such as Sydney and Melbourne.

Travellers will have new in-flight messages played on all returning flights to reinforce education around why the prevention of FMD is important to Australian agriculture, and new signage

and flyers will be distributed at Australia's major airports.

The Federal Government also confirmed new social media campaigns will be launched targeting Australian travellers regarding their biosecurity responsibilities, while all airport biosecurity staff will undergo enhanced training over the coming weeks.

While tougher measures will be put in place to stop the spread, a flat-out travel ban to Bali, first proposed by Global AgriTrends analyst Simon Quilty in May (**TD** 27 May), is unlikely to be entertained, according to Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Murray Watt.

"We've got to keep our relationship with Indonesia strong...and at this stage that sort of action isn't necessary," Watt said, adding the use of chemical foot baths at airports were also unlikely to be installed.

Linking CBR & CFS

LINK Airways will begin flying seasonal flights between Canberra and Coffs Harbour from 22 Sep, operating two return services per week using a 34 passenger Saab 340B Plus aircraft.

Flight time will be just over 90 minutes, and will offer passengers in-flight cabin services including hot and cold beverages, as well as premium snacks served with complimentary beer/wine on all afternoon and evening services.

The one-way, all-inclusive tickets are available to book now, priced from \$189 per person.

HK to cut isolation?

HONG Kong's new Chief Executive, John Lee, has hinted that the current seven-day COVID-19 quarantine measures in place may soon be wound back.

Speaking at his first media appearance this week, Lee noted the importance of HK being an open and convenient destination.

Passing of 'Bluey'

PROMINENT hotel executive Brian 'Bluey' Deeson has passed away after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Deeson became one of Sydney's youngest General Managers when he was appointed the GM of Hyatt Kingsgate in his mid-twenties, before going on to hold senior roles with companies like Accor, becoming its Senior Vice President, Asia Pacific in Sydney.

He also held the position of President and CEO of Century International Hotels, a company he founded to target the rising middle-class Asian traveller, and was a former Chair of The Pacific Asia Travel Association.



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To celebrate the launch of our all-new Asia 2023 & 2024 season on board Norwegian Jewel we're rewarding Travel Partners with Double Points!

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Air NZ improves

AIR New Zealand's revenue passenger kilometres increased by two-thirds in May 2022 versus May 2021, reflecting growing demand as the airline continues to reboot its network.

Air NZ's total of 1,113,000 RPK for May was 66.6% higher than the prior corresponding period's total of 668,000, as the airline continued to scale back rules.

Available seat kilometres also increased by 21.2%, to 1,328,000 from 1,095,000; and total passengers carried increased by 5.6%, to 891,000 from 844,000.

Unfortunately, all three main metrics remain down on pre-pandemic figures, with revenue passenger kilometres down 58.5%, available seat kilometres down 58.3%, and passengers carried down 30.5%.

Air New Zealand recently unveiled more details about its new Business Premier Luxe, soon available to travellers aboard its Dreamliners.

Ahoy there Port Douglas!

PORT Douglas has become the latest Aussie destination to drop anchor on cruise ship tourism, this week welcoming back its first passenger cruise vessel in more than two years.

Princess Cruises claimed the mantle as the first line to come back to the north Queensland city, with its 1,970-passenger *Coral Princess* vessel sailing into port this week for a maiden call as part of her winter season from the new homeport of Brisbane.

Visits from *Coral Princess* (pictured) are expected to generate \$4.9 million for Port Douglas' visitor economy, with Bob Wood Cruise Group General Manager Carmen Stevenson hailing the cruise sector for its ability to positively impact many aspects of a city's community.

"It's been great to finally see consistent business returning to the tourism operators of Port Douglas, and in town there is a



real sense of energy and buzz that we have not felt in a very long time," she said.

The visit is one of nine calls the Princess vessel will make during her winter season.

Holiday Park cover

HOLIDAY Park operators can access damage & liability cover through a new single system created by Cover Genius and property management system RMS Cloud.

The software allows park operators to offer liability and natural disaster coverage that also protects short-term rentals, with optional upgrades based on property values also on offer.

French Riviera party!

THERE'S a new place for Australian travellers to party on the French Riviera this European summer, with Villa Rosa at Hotel Belles Rives opening to visitors last week.

The new venue will operate every Thu evening until 01 Sep, providing a vibrant spot for travellers to stop and take in the views of the Cote d'Azur, located on the Mediterranean coast of southeastern France.

Guests can order cocktails at sunset, as well as a range of tapas options, all to the musical backdrop of DJ entertainment.

More information on the full list of venue features can be viewed online [HERE](#).



VISIT USA EXPOS ARE BACK!

Registrations are now open for our August Shows

Monday 1 Aug – **Brisbane**, The Sofitel

Tuesday 2 Aug – **Melbourne**, Pullman on the Park

Wednesday 3 Aug – **Sydney**, The Fullerton

Over 30 exhibitors

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Great prizes to be won



Window Seat

FOR all of the happily married couples out there, perhaps this story isn't for you.

A recent study by online relationship cheating site Ashley Madison has revealed that 62% of its members are "likely" to actively pursue an affair whilst they are travelling alone.

And it appears Australia is a popular pick for cheating partners to embark on a shady relationship, ranking the fifth most attractive tourist destination to conduct an affair.

Ahead of Australia on the list was the United States in top spot, followed by Brazil, Canada, the United Kingdom and Mexico.

The reason for a heightened chance of an affair while travelling, according to relationship therapist Tammy Nelson, is because it feels easier to do while travelling alone, but also because "a lot of people become someone new when in a new place", leading to increased levels of flirtation and risk-taking behaviour.

Janine outsells to Italy



JANINE Methven from Travelrite in the Melbourne suburb of Balwyn has walked away with \$5,000 to spend on a holiday package after winning Entire Travel Group's recent travel agent incentive.

The tenacious advisor was victorious after outselling her fellow agents through Entire Travel Group's website between 01 Feb and 31 May.

Reflecting on her big win, Methven said that while winning the competition was fun, choosing where to travel to will be her real challenge.

"Making a booking through

Entire Travel Group's website is easy because it's so user-friendly, the hard part has been deciding where to now go myself," she mused, adding that she was leaning toward taking her husband to the Amalfi Coast.

Entire Travel Group Sales & Marketing Director, Greg McCallum, said the incentive was one of the most popular in the company's history.

Pictured: Methven being presented with her prize in person by McCallum.

Refresh the Balkans

INTREPID Travel has introduced a new Bosnia and Herzegovina Expedition tour to its stable, with adventurers to kick off in 2023.

The new eight-day journey offers travellers the chance to eat dinner cooked by residents in the city of Sarajevo, a white-water rafting trip down the Neretva River, an expert-led guided tour of Mount Cincar, and the chance to step inside an underground nuclear shelter left over from the volatile Yugoslav era.

Prices for the trip lead in from \$1,995pp, and includes seven nights accommodation, as well as 11 meals and transport.

Launching the trip is part of Intrepid's wider efforts to develop sustainable tourism to Bosnia and Herzegovina as a reinvigorated travel destination.

"We're honoured to have been chosen as a key tour operator partner for this project, as expanding sustainable travel options around the world remains one of our key priorities," Intrepid's Chief Purpose Officer Natalie Kidd said.

View the new trip in full [HERE](#).



HOLIDAY & TRAVEL SALES EXECUTIVE

Interested in Travel Events? We are a wholly family-owned Event Organising company based in Frenchs Forest and we are looking for a high-performing Holiday & Travel Sales Executive to help us meet our customer acquisition and revenue growth targets in the Holiday & Travel Events sector.

Responsibilities

- Achieve growth and meet and manage sales targets.
- Follow a strategic business plan, expanding the company's customer base.
- Build and promote strong, long-lasting customer.
- Present sales budgets and realistic forecasts to the management team.
- Identify emerging markets.
- Being fully aware of new products and competition status.

Requirements

- Successful previous experience as a sales representative.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate, present and influence credibly and effectively at all levels of the organisation.
- Proven ability to drive the sales process from plan to close.
- Strong business sense and industry expertise.
- Experience in the Holiday & Travel sector desired but not essential.

Interested parties should contact garyf@expertiseevents.com.au.

Picturing wellness

THE Singapore Tourism Board has uploaded 70 new images for travel sellers to use in order to promote wellness tourism to the popular destination.

All new photos on the country's Tourism Information Hub are free to use and include images across three categories, including wellness activities, experiences and city options.

Register to access the hub **HERE** and select the wellness tab.

Cruising the fields

LOVERS of baseball, Kevin Costner and cruise trips can marry all of their passions with American Queen Voyages' new Field of Dreams experience.

Available on the cruise line's Upper Mississippi River voyages, guests will be able to disembark in the city of Dubuque in Iowa and visit the iconic corn field baseball diamond made famous by Costner's film *Field of Dreams*, where they can run the bases or sit in the bleachers.

The tour will also visit a number of filming locations, including an elementary school and University of Dubuque, which were transformed to look like Boston for the movie's shoot.

Departures are on offer from this month through to Oct - more details available **HERE**.

Qld hails Indigenous tourism



A NUMBER of prominent Queenslanders gathered this week to recognise the importance of Indigenous tourism to the state at the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) NAIDOC Corporate Breakfast.

More than 330 guests attended the morning event, with speakers extolling the virtues of First Nations visitor appeal.

Indigenous tourism experiences account for roughly two million visitors to Queensland each year, with 12% of all international visitors to the state participating in First Nations activities and events prior to the pandemic.

NAIDOC week provided an authentic forum for tourism leaders to reaffirm the economic value and future growth prospects of Indigenous tourism, with QTIC CEO Brett Fraser

informing attendees that the space is increasingly becoming a more important part of the overall visitor economy mix.

"We're seeing a growing demand from both domestic and international visitors for greater authentic cultural experiences," Fraser said.

"Our theme parks and adventure tourism experiences will always draw big crowds, but increasingly we're seeing guests wanting to connect with the rich cultural experiences and stories of our state's first inhabitants."

An impressive lineup of guest speakers graced the program, including the first Aboriginal woman to serve in the House of Representatives, the Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney (pictured with SBS presenter John Paul Janke).

Sabre plugs & plays

TRAVEL software company, Sabre Corporation, has announced a partnership with Plug and Play's Travel & Hospitality program, which is based in Silicon Valley.

The partnership aims to "enhance [Sabre's] visibility" and help it "gain early access to the global startup community".

President of Sabre Labs & Product Strategy, Sundar Narasimhan, said the partnership is a "milestone" in its journey, and is "excited to engage with their world-class community of forward-thinking...entrepreneurs to shape the future of travel".

Holiday Inn Gurgaon

IHG Hotels & Resorts is gearing up to open Holiday Inn Gurgaon NH 8 in India's National Capital Region, with doors expected to open to guests during the first quarter of 2025.

The 139-key property will be located off the NH8 highway, which connects Delhi Airport to Gurgaon, and will position guests in close proximity to established residential and commercial development, as well as all of the attractions of the city centre.

The hotel's plans include an all-day dining and bar, a lobby lounge, a swimming pool, a gym, and meeting and event spaces.



Marketing Manager - Asia Pacific

We are looking for a Marketing Manager to join us on our journey.

As the Marketing Manager - Asia Pacific, you will be responsible for the optimisation of the APAC Marketing budget and achieve best in market ROI for all media activity. The objective is to achieve the best exposure of all activity to the widest target audiences. To develop and implement Go-To-Market campaigns for APAC markets supporting the global strategy and delivering local solutions across B2B, B2C, traditional and digital, above and below the line activities.

The APAC head office is in Melbourne and this role is best placed in Melbourne or within an agreed territory.

To learn more visit

<https://www.hurtigruten.com/group/people/>



Marketing Specialist

We are looking for a Marketing Specialist to join us on our journey.

For 130 years, we've been committed to continuously improving what we do for our guests and the people we work with. As Marketing Specialist - Industry & Trade you will share the responsibility of cultivating strong relationships with existing customers, driving brand awareness, and supporting new customer prospects across existing and new distribution networks. You will be required to effectively represent the Hurtigruten brand to the travel industry and trade partnerships.

The APAC head office is in Melbourne and this role is best placed in Melbourne or within an agreed territory.

To learn more visit

<https://www.hurtigruten.com/group/people/>

Air Canada is back in Brisbane

AIR Canada is once again proudly offering the only non-stop flights between Brisbane and Vancouver - a development Queensland travel agents were delighted to help the airline celebrate recently at a pre-launch gathering in the state's capital.

More than 100 travel agents and suppliers gathered at the stylish Lina Rooftop Bar in South Brisbane to celebrate Air Canada's return, with guests enjoying some classic poutine and delicious maple leaf cookies.

They also got the chance to step inside an 'igloo' filled with snow foam, and take part in an interactive quiz, with the winner, Global Jetsetting's Sarah Butcher, taking home two return tickets to Vancouver.

Air Canada's new 787 Dreamliner service from Brisbane launched on Sun 03 Jul and is now operating four times a week to the award-winning Vancouver International Airport (YVR), providing Queenslanders with not only a faster journey to Canada, but also the fastest route to New York.

The airline's South Pacific network - which now includes Sydney and Brisbane - will expand further in Nov, with the introduction of Auckland-Vancouver services.

For further details, visit Air Canada [HERE](#).



THE Air Canada team with the AC36 flight crew.



AC'S Zoe Gentle introduced passengers to some friendly Canadians.



AIR Canada's Rick Pomery celebrates Brisbane's return with (left) Flight Centre Travel Group's Leanne Woolstencroft and Candace Drabol.



BRISBANE Airport's Ryan Both and Air Canada's Janis McDonald.



BRISBANE Airport's Sam Ekkelenkamp and AC's Janis McDonald kick up their heels!



QUIZ winner Sarah Butcher with AC's Vic Naughton and Janis McDonald.



MCB e-guide

THE Melbourne Convention Bureau has launched an e-guide to help business event organisers plan their next event in Melbourne.

The new tool, whose creation was supported by Tourism Australia, includes an interactive map with videos, images, product descriptors, hyperlinks and 360° views of Melbourne's event offerings.

Planners can also use the tool to create custom conference and event participant tours, including a real-time direction feature accessible by mobile phones.

MEANWHILE, the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) is set to attract more than 21,000 visitors to its venue this weekend, with four big events lined up including the Cake, Bake & Sweets Show, the Spa and Pool show, the Backyard and Garden Show and the Pregnancy, Babies and Children's Expo.

ACB mourns Spurr

THE Adelaide Convention (ACB) Bureau has expressed its sadness over the passing of Bill Spurr (pictured), who has held various leadership roles in the events industry, including holding the role of Chairperson for Adelaide Venue Management Corporation over the last seven years.

The ACB said Spurr leaves an "extraordinary legacy" and was known for his "humility and kindness".



ASSOCIATIONS BOUNCING BACK

PROFESSIONAL associations have seen an increase in membership retention, signalling a positive change from last year's decrease, according to Association Forum's recently published *2022 Association Membership and Services Survey*.

The survey also discovered that associations continue to offer discounted membership rates to members who specifically state that they are unable to afford the cost due to pandemic-induced financial constraints - however, it was found that free or discounted memberships were less likely to be offered now.

COVID-19 continues to disrupt the hosting of association events, with restrictions on face-to-face gatherings causing postponements and cancellations, the forum stated.

Findings also revealed that associations are starting to

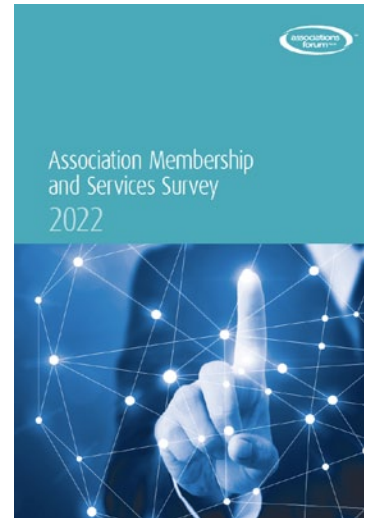
adopt hybrid event models, with nearly all participants permitting both face-to-face and online attendance to association events.

Associations continue to alter the way they provide service for their members, based on the restrictions of the current climate, as well as taking into account members' wants and needs, the survey concluded.

The study, which has been conducted annually for 13 years, aims to set a benchmark for the sector by developing an understanding of the services offered by a wide range of associations and charities.

With over 600 members, the forum is Australia's largest broad-based network of associations, and aims to "bring associations together to boost performance" by delivering information, training and advice.

Forum members reap a number



of benefits, including access to an advice help line; event discounts and free member activities; free access to survey results on salaries, boards, events and membership; discounted access to its Jobs Board; plus myriad resources, guides, and tools.

ICC wins at AIPC

ICC Sydney received an award in innovation at the International Association of Convention Centres (AIPC) Congress in Budapest this week, in recognition of its digital event platform, Connect Hub.

Additionally, two of the venue's members were recognised for their achievements as part of the AIPC Future Shapers 'EventShaper' team.

Cannes in Cairns

THE Cairns Convention Centre welcomed over 700 delegates last month for the inaugural Cannes in Cairns advertising industry conference, which kicked off with a welcome party at a sugar cane farm, complete with a ferris wheel!

Birdsville's biggest Big Red Bash yet

THE Big Red Bash kicked off on Tue, drawing a record-breaking crowd of 11,000 to the small town of Birdsville in Queensland's Simpson Desert.

Aussie music legends such as Jimmy Barnes have taken to the stage, and festival-goers have participated in a sunrise yoga session, sand dune surfing, dune volleyball, the annual Birdsville Race, an Australian Record beer can-crushing challenge, and the



RFDS Bashville Drags race and fashion shown.

The annual celebration, which concludes today, pours around \$15 million into regional Queensland's economy.

EEAA re-elects Prez

THE Exhibition & Event Association of Australasia's (EEAA) Board of Directors has re-elected Nicole Walker as its President for another year, with the announcement made at a meeting held earlier this week.

Walker highlighted the EEAA's "renewed focus to continue advocating for the people of this industry".

Southwest in Syd

DESTINATION NSW has won the bid to host the annual South by Southwest (SXSW) event in Oct 2023 in Sydney, marking the first time the futurist conference and festival of creativity will be held outside of North America in its 36-year history.



APPOINTMENTS

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Kara Wallace has been promoted to the role of global Chief Marketing Officer **Royal Caribbean International**. In her role, she will be charged with taking ownership of the brand's strategy and vision across key areas, such as social media, consumer insights and e-commerce. Wallace was previously in the role in an acting capacity.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises has appointed **Tracey Brennan** to the role of Business Development Manager in the company's New Zealand team. In her new position, Brennan will be responsible for the development and execution of sales strategies in the region, working closely with the line's travel partner network across both the North and South Islands.

Christine Poole has taken on the role of Trade Account Manager (East Coast) for Tourism Western Australia with the **The Walshe Group**. In recent times, Poole has worked outside of the travel and tourism sector, wrapping up with Delta Air Lines in Aug 2020 to work in sales with Coca-Cola Amatil.

Paul Connell has joined **Big Red Group** as its new Chief Marketing Officer, working across a number of the company's marquee experiences brands, including RedBalloon, Adrenaline and Experience Oz. He joins the company at a time of renewed growth in the domestic tourism experience space, and brings with him experience working with Unilever across FMCG brands like Pukka and Ben & Jerry's.

Hamad proves pricey

HAMAD International Airport in Doha, Qatar, has the world's most expensive airport parking, at US\$278 for a week's stay, according to new research compiled by Zutobi.

The study compared parking prices at the busiest airports in every country, and found London Stansted Airport to be the second-most expensive for parking (US\$263), ahead of Abu Dhabi International Airport (US\$228) and Barcelona El Prat Airport (US\$212).

Turkey's Sabiha Gokcen Airport was found to offer the cheapest parking, costing travellers the meagre sum of US\$16 a week.

EK reaches the SKY

GREEK carrier SKY Express has signed a new interline agreement with Emirates, with the two airlines hoping the deal will boost inbound tourism from the New York market through Dubai (DXB) and on to Athens (ATH).

The new tie-up will enable Emirates passengers on the carrier's Newark to DXB route via ATH to continue seamlessly via SKY Express to any of the 34 Greek destinations the Athens-based carrier serves.

The new strategic agreement is expected to see a spike in travellers to Greece via Dubai from key source markets, including Australia.

Jayride's record quarter

SYDNEY-BASED airport transfer company Jayride has announced a record number of trips booked during the fourth quarter of 2021/22 financial year.

Overall the company saw 136,000 bookings made globally, up 81% when compared to the previous quarter and a whopping 190% when contrasted with the same period last year.

The surge in bookings also resulted in an all-time high increase in revenue, with Jayride raking in \$1.09 million for the quarter, a rise of \$506,000 on the previous period.

Importantly for the business, operating costs did not increase significantly, resulting in a positive cash flow, one of Jayride's key recovery objectives.

Most of the bookings growth

was recorded in the company's European operations, increasing by 40,000 trips on a quarter-to-quarter basis, while North America was the next best, increasing by 12,000 bookings to 42,000 for Q4.

In Australia's region of Oceania, overall volumes remain small, with the market only accounting for 8,000 trips, however the report did note that rapid growth in Oceania bookings could be achieved as the region still has its sharpest recovery phase ahead.

Jayride's Managing Director, Rod Bishop, said he was "delighted" with the latest booking numbers, flagging the company's intentions to leverage the current sales momentum and "capture the once-in-a-generation market opportunity in front of us".



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