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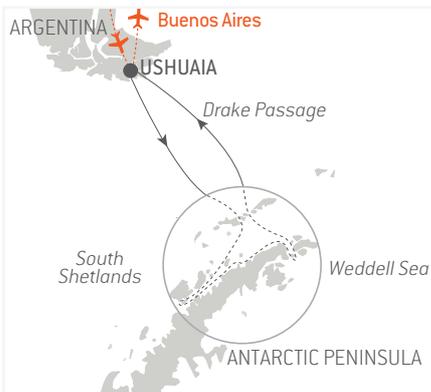
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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news, plus a front page from **Ponant** and a full page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**.

ETM expands in NZ

CORPORATE Travel Management has announced the expansion of its Event Travel Management (ETM) division into New Zealand, appointing Jess Ogg as Events Leader - NZ.

ETM Global GM, Tracey Edwards, said 2022 was going to be a year when events return, as businesses look to reconnect and reward their employees.

"We view this as the perfect time to have someone as experienced & passionate about events as Jess join the team."

Tokyo winners

TOKYO Tourism has announced the winners of its Expert Program, with prizes given away to a select number of agents who have participated in the destination's education program.

Penny Treyvaud from TravelManagers walked away with the grand prize, a four-night stay at the Hotel New Otani The Main and Executive House Zen.

Two night stays at various Tokyo hotels thanks to Preferred Hotels & Resorts also went to: Belinda Ferguson, Savenio; Evelyn Lee, Middy Travel; Kirsty McKenzie, TravelManagers; and Maxine Barron, FBI Travel.

\$75.5m more for survival

THE surprise announcement that the Government will release the remainder of the funds under the \$258 million COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program (CTSP) will help support a "decimated sector that won't see revenue return before late 2022," according to AFTA, ATEC, CATO and CLIA.

A third round of the program, worth \$75.5 million, will be made available shortly (**TD** breaking news Sat), with Federal Tourism Minister Dan Tehan confirming that applications for maximum grants of \$90,000, down to a minimum of \$7,500, will open on 29 Mar and close on 20 Apr.

"The program will support eligible travel agents and tour arrangement service providers who continue to support consumers to rebook their travel using existing COVID-related travel credits," Tehan said.

Details are still being finalised, with Round Three guidelines to be made available before the round opens, according to Austrade, the agency which is again administering the scheme.

However it's understood that the third round will be open to businesses which received a payment in CTSP Round Two or a Round Two Multi-outlet payment.

Grants will be provided based on the eligible turnover and reference period previously calculated under Round Two.

There will also be a new stream for eligible businesses which

commenced operations in the calendar year 2019 and achieved a pro-rata business turnover of between \$50,000 and \$20 million during that year.

AFTA CEO Dean Long welcomed the government decision, saying "securing support for our people and the wider sector has been an intense campaign which AFTA has invested in over every single day of the past two years".

The Council of Australian Tour Operators also hailed the move, with MD Brett Jardine saying "this will continue to be a challenging 6-12 months ahead for our sector as revenues are not realised until travel takes place, and businesses will be required to honour their commitment to deliver on travel credits...with this funding support, businesses can now start to invest as they rebuild, re-employ and retain staff in the industry, and put in place processes to ensure Australians are able to travel safely and with confidence".

Peter Shelley, MD of the Australian Tourism Export Council noted while international visitors are now free to come to Australia, it's likely to be up to a year before inbound tour operators (ITOs) see any meaningful business.

"This additional funding will help our ITOs get over that last hurdle and back into the market... we are pleased the Government has recognised the unique needs of these segments of the tourism industry," he said.

Ponant to return

PONANT is set to be the operator of the first international cruise ships to recommence sailing in Australian waters.

Le Laperouse will kick off a northern Australian season on 28 Apr - just 11 days after the human biosecurity emergency period lift (**TD** 17 Mar).

Chairman Asia Pacific Sarina Bratton told **TD** *Le Soleal* will follow a month later, with both vessels currently stationed in Noumea meaning they are poised for their local return.

They will both cruise out of Darwin under the Northern Territory's current restrictions which limit vessels to a maximum of 350 passengers and crew.

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

Thailand eases rules

TRAVELLERS to Thailand will be allowed to enter the country from 01 Apr without needing to show proof of a negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours of travel.

The changes will be made in line with a new four-phase COVID downgrade strategy, with relaxed entry from next month allowable under Thailand's test & go, Sandbox, and Alternative Quarantine tourism schemes.

MEANWHILE Myanmar has announced that it will allow all international flights to resume from 17 Apr, with travellers needing to isolate for a week, be fully vaccinated, and undergo two PCR tests after arrival.

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

AWT polishes purpose plan

EXCLUSIVE

ADVENTURE World Travel (AWT) has unveiled a new brand identity this week, refreshing its logo and releasing a new Charter to better reflect its core mantra of "travelling with purpose".

The Travel Corporation (TTC) owned brand said the new repositioning was designed to highlight its unique selling points and trumpet in particular its unwavering commitment to sustainably-led travel, notably through its partnership with TTC's The TreadRight Foundation.

TTC Chairman Brett Tollman indicated to **TD** exclusively that Adventure World Travel and The TreadRight Foundation have "the strongest of synergies", and that the Adventure World's rebrand is further testament to their shared eco principles.

Accompanying the new AWT emblem featuring "earthier tones", is a new Charter,

detailing its mission to operate responsibly in destinations and criteria by which it will judge its future progress.

"Our intention is to have an open and honest dialogue with our agents and travellers by articulating our proven credentials on sustainable travel practices but to also call out where we aim to improve," AWT's MD Neil Rodgers said.

Adventure World, which expanded into the North American market last year (**TD** 28 Jul 2021), revealed the new brand identity alongside a "Travel with Purpose" campaign running in partnership with Destination BC over the next six weeks, with all agents who book BC Canada product with Adventure World to receive a one-year whale sponsorship with BC Whales and entry into a draw to win a place on a BC eco adventure family - more info **HERE**.

SYD Feb traffic

TOTAL Feb passenger traffic at Sydney Airport was down almost 64% on the corresponding period just before the pandemic's onset in 2019, with a total of 1.23 million pax passing through last month.

Domestic numbers just cracked the 1 million mark with 1,002,000 in Feb 2022, down 52% on 2019, while international passenger numbers were down 82.6% at just 230,000 for the month.

SYD's CEO Geoff Culbert said the figures indicated the "two-speed recovery" emerging between domestic and international.

However internationally, airlines are now putting on more capacity, and by the end of this month it is predicted that 12 of the 21 international carriers which pulled out during the pandemic will return to fly scheduled services.

He also noted those not yet back are still maintaining staff and offices "which gives us confidence they intend to return".



Window Seat

HOLLYWOOD mega-hunk Ryan Reynolds is bringing his superstardom to the air, spruiking a new partnership between British Airways and Aviation Gin, which he continues to represent after selling the business for a pretty healthy US\$660 million in 2020.

Reynolds appears in a new "Rejected Airline Safety Video" promoting the airborne tippie now available on all BA flights - including its use as a flotation device (pictured) - see it at traveldaily.com.au/videos.



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Travel Daily

New Qatar, Australia bilateral

EXCLUSIVE

A NEW Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) covering updated air services arrangements between Australia and Qatar is behind Qatar Airways' recent addition of daily scheduled services between Brisbane and Doha (**TD 04 Feb**).

It's understood the revised pact was finalised in Jan by aviation officials from Australia and Qatar, with the updated bilateral taking effect immediately.

The MoU enables up to seven passenger services per week by Australian and Qatari airlines into each of Australia's four designated major international gateways of Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane, or a total of 28 weekly flights.

Previously the bilateral had only allowed for a maximum of 21 weekly frequencies via the major airports, with Qatar Airways also operating to non-designated

Australian destinations including Canberra and Adelaide prior to the onset of the pandemic.

The new agreement also provides for open capacity between Qatar & Australia for dedicated air freight operations.

Qatar Airways ramped up its Brisbane services earlier this month, and is believed to be currently recruiting for more sales and operational staff to service the Queensland market.

Taylor has talent

MARK Taylor has joined specialist travel and tourism recruitment firm Tourism Talent as its GM for NSW.

Taylor is well known to the industry through a range of former roles, most recently at Luna Park Sydney, while Tourism Talent is led in Australia by ex Pacific Asia Travel Association chief Chris Flynn (**TD 25 Sep 2019**).

ANA ticket change

ALL Nippon Airways is allowing one free date change for tix so long as travel is completed by 30 Sep, with the reissue to be made by an ANA sales team member via email ausales@ana.co.jp.

VA chops Coffs

VIRGIN Australia has elected to cut its Sydney to Coffs Harbour services due to a lack of demand following the continued spread of the Omicron variant.

The carrier declined to commit to a future resumption date, but did state it would revisit the route's viability down the track.

VA only introduced the service in Nov last year after a 7-month absence (**TD 08 Oct 2021**).

In a statement to **TD**, VA said it remained committed to the Coffs Harbour market, revealing it would maintain services between Melbourne and Coffs Harbour, and from 28 Mar, services on the route would move to year-round.

Come back to Oz!

AUSTRALIA is making a big push to win back major international events to the country's shores, with Tourism Australia this week unveiling two new marketing campaigns to help the battered events sector.

The overseas marketing push will see the concept that there's nothing like Australia for business events, while a domestic-targeted campaign will promote the slogan, "Event Here This Year".

Tourism Australia's Executive General Manager of Commercial & Business Events Australia Robin Mack said overseas markets like the United Kingdom, wider Europe, North America, South South-East Asia, New Zealand and China will be targeted in the new double-pronged activity.

"The international campaign highlights that Australia is home to friendly people with fresh perspectives, that have shaped by our unique landscapes and way of life," Mack said.



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** Applicable for tickets issued for travel until 30 September 2022 only. Visit our Trade Portal for more information.



Tourism landslide

THE landslide victory of Labor's Peter Malinauskas in the South Australian election over the weekend should see a windfall for the state's tourism sector, with the party pledging earlier this month to allocate an extra \$60 million to help attract more major events (**TD** 02 Mar).

Eco can influence

TRAVELLERS are becoming more savvy when it comes to assessing the sustainability credentials of travel brands, Intrepid Managing Director Brett Mitchell believes.

Speaking with **TD** last week, Mitchell noted that travellers are increasingly factoring in eco responsibility into their purchasing decisions.

"I definitely think there is a trend all over the world...where people are looking at supply chains, they're looking at how things are made and then making decisions based on that," he said.

"That has been a trend that's been picking up pace and I think it will continue to accelerate - particularly within the younger generation.

"Those under the age of 40, we can absolutely say the vast majority of our clients booking with us is because of that commitment to purpose... so maybe in some of the older generations not so much, but as a general trend this is definitely happening across the travel industry," Mitchell said.

Oklahoma, OK!



TRAVEL Oklahoma last Fri marked two years since Australia's borders closed to the United States with a celebration of the return of international tourism the only way the state knows how.

Hosted alongside Brand USA and United Airlines, more than 100 travel industry peers celebrated at The Hard Rock Cafe in Sydney, cheering on five brave and talented colleagues who led a display of show tunes from the musical *Oklahoma!*

With a trip to the state on the line, the five singers each performed some of the musical's best-known numbers for the expectant crowd, including 'Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin', 'The Farmer and the Cowman', and the titular tune, 'Oklahoma!'.

After a crowd vote, Globus Outbound Sales Representative Clinton Griffiths was announced as the victor of the talent

showcase, winning two tickets to the state aboard United.

Griffiths wowed the audience with his rendition of 'The Surrey with the Fringe on Top', made famous in movie adaptation of the musical by Shirley Jones and Gordon MacRae.

"[The event] was a hell of a lot more work than we ever imagined, but we really wanted to make it happen, because we felt it was really fun," Linkd Tourism Director Kylee Kay told **Travel Daily**.

Pictured are master of ceremonies and former *The Bachelor* heart-throb Matty J; United Leisure Sales Manager Belinda Condon and Marketing Manager Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti & South East Asia Tommy Lindblad; and Brand USA Senior Manager Global Trade Development Suzy Shepard with Clinton 'The Flying Cowpoke' Griffiths.

Great Southern start

DESTINATION NSW's Great Southern Nights initiative, boasting hundreds of live music events in Greater Sydney in Mar and Apr, has kicked off.

Running in partnership with the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA), the swathe of events are intended to turbocharge NSW's visitor economy in the wake of COVID restrictions, funnelling travellers to places like Katoomba, Kingscliff, Goulburn and Gosford.

UK drops masks

BRITISH Airways, Virgin Atlantic and Heathrow Airport have all announced plans to phase out mask mandates over the coming month, following policy shifts from the UK Government to drop all remaining travel restrictions.

Heathrow was the first to make the change, with both airlines indicating they will follow suit.

BA will initially only require its passengers to wear a mask on flights where the destination requires it, starting this Wed.

Malaysia added

AIRASIA Thailand has revealed it will recommence flights to Malaysia from next month, unveiling plans to operate three new routes in Apr and May.

On 13 Apr, the carrier will launch flights between Penang-Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur-Hat Yai, and then Johor Bahru-Bangkok on 03 May.

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Great Ocean push

THE Victorian Government has launched its Stay Close, Go Further campaign, highlighting the tourism appeal of the Great Ocean Road and the region's lush hinterland and local produce.

Running across television, print, radio, digital and social media, the marketing push is designed to increase the number of visitors to the area in the off-peak seasons.

Warrnambool, Port Fairy, Nelson, Torquay, Anglesea, Lake Elizabeth, Great Otway National Park, and the 12 Apostles will all feature in the campaign.

DL links with Airbus

DELTA Air Lines and Airbus have announced plans to collaborate on research to accelerate the development of a hydrogen-powered aircraft and the ecosystem it requires.

The carrier has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Airbus to help scale and advance sustainable technologies, with DL stating that hydrogen power had "great potential" to speed air travel toward net zero carbon emissions.

The deal will build on DL's Flight to net zero sustainability targets.

Hawaii wants to lu au Aussies back



WITH Australia's many travel restrictions now lifted, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority invited a number of its travel partners to come together as an "ohana".

Hosted at the Amora Hotel in Sydney, the night saw Hawaii look forward to an exciting year in store across the Islands.

Attendees were treated to cocktails and canapes, followed by a sit-down meal.

The night also saw a prize giveaway, and Hawaiian entertainment, with attendees learning basic steps to a traditional dance.

Pictured are Marketing & Campaigns Executive Melanie Lambert, Account Director AU/NZ Jennifer Gaskin, and Trade & Partnerships Manager Kris Phadungkiatipong.

BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Quark Expeditions Antarctica 2022/23

The latest brochure from **Quark Expeditions** contains all of the latest exciting details about the inaugural season of its *Ultramarine* vessel, as well as its highly-anticipated helicopter program. The cruise line has the longest-running helicopter program in the Polar regions, and offers guests the chance to embark from the ship's deck for some "flightseeing trips", alpine heli-trekking, and exclusive heli-landings. Highlights of the Antarctica program also includes whale watching between mid Dec and mid Feb, and overnight camping in a bivy sac. **CLICK HERE** to view.



The Explora Society Ultimate Safari Guide

Explora's latest brochure aims to cut through the mystery of safari trips in Africa and give simple, informative and entertaining advice towards planning a client's trip. The publication attempts to provide advice on the often-whispered questions from Aussie travellers about the dark continent, such as will I die in Africa? Do I need tour guides? and is Africa too expensive to visit? A range of destinations are also presented, along with expert analysis about each country's environments, such as South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Botswana. See **HERE**.

BNE cleans it up

BRISBANE Airport has committed to the Clean Skies for Tomorrow pledge, the World Economic Forum's 2030 Ambition Statement on carbon emissions.

As a signatory, BNE has committed to working with more than 100 other airports, airlines, fuel suppliers and industry stakeholders to follow the path to net zero emissions by accelerating the supply and use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to 10% by 2030.

Deadline extended

DESPITE most of Pandaw's itineraries already being fully booked, the cruise line's US\$100 deposit offer has been extended for all new reservations until the end of next month.

Pandaw pushed out its deadline, as countries across Asia slowly open for tourists, and guests scramble to arrange suitable flight options.

Full terms and conditions can be found **HERE**, and **CLICK HERE** to view Pandaw's full range of expeditions.

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