

Travel Daily on location in Antarctica

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Viking Cruises, which is hosting key industry partners on a voyage aboard its *Viking Polaris* in Antarctica.

A CELEBRATORY farewell cocktail party is taking place this evening aboard *Viking Polaris*, with a rapid transit of the Drake Passage possibly giving an opportunity for an extra day of activities in Ushuaia - or perhaps some scenic cruising in the Beagle Channel.

While seas have approached about 8m at times, the ship's size has meant relatively smooth sailing, with many guests taking the opportunity to get really up close with the ocean in "The Hide", a cosy nook in the ship's bow complete with panoramic (and splashy) views of the waves.

Finnair resolves Sabre beef

THE on-again, off-again relationship between Finnair and Sabre appears to be back on, after the two companies recently agreed to terms on a new distribution deal, less than a month after warning the pair would part ways on 30 Nov.

A last-minute agreement was reached which will see the Nordic carrier's content distributed through Sabre and Abacus GDSs beyond 01 Dec, uninterrupted.

"Finnair and Sabre have come to mutually acceptable terms related to the distribution agreement and will continue cooperation," a statement from Finnair confirmed.

"This means that previously announced removal of Finnair's content (*TD* 02 Nov) will not take place and our content will continue to be available.

"We are happy to continue our partnership with Sabre...and will further develop it with NDC

distribution expected to go live soon," Finnair added.

Contract issues first emerged three years ago (*TD* 27 Nov 2019), when the pair failed to reach a deal over a new agreement.

MH to suspend BNE

MALAYSIA Airlines will suspend flights between KL and Brisbane from 27 Mar 2023, citing increased global economic challenges as the reason.

MH insists that despite the cut, other Australian routes will remain unaffected by the change.

Qantas takes a seat

BY the end of Jan 2023, Travelpart will offer the option for agents to select a Qantas seat for clients when using its NDC enabled content, via the Qantas Distribution Platform, through Travelpart+.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news, including a photo page from MTA, Business Events News, plus a page from Tourism Australia.

The final countdown

THERE is only one week left for travel agents to submit nominations for the CLIA Awards taking place in Sydney on 11 Mar 2023 at the Luna Park Big Top.

The awards are open to all current CLIA members in Australia and New Zealand - for more details, see today's edition of *Cruise Weekly*.

Join TA's trivia night

TOURISM Australia is inviting the travel trade to join its online Aussie Specialist Christmas Trivia Evening on 01 Dec at 7pm-8pm AEDT, with a bunch of prizes up for grabs, including a \$250 Myer Gift Card - see the **back page**.

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Holiday up for grabs

ENTIRE Travel Group is giving travel agents the chance to score themselves a \$5,000 holiday package as part of a new sales incentive running until Jun 2023.

To be in the running, travel advisors must use the 'Book Now' feature on Entire's website, with every booking made between 01 Nov and 30 Jun 2023 generating an entry into the incentive.

The winner will be the agent who makes the most bookings during the seven-month period, earning \$5,000 to spend on a holiday package to any of the 28 destinations featured on Entire Travel Group's website.

The release of the new incentive follows a revamp of Entire's website (TD 03 Nov), which saw the introduction of a range of new user-friendly features.

Kirkham passes

THE Australian travel industry has lost another one of its favourite sons, with Brian Kirkham passing away suddenly over the weekend.

Kirkham was a former President of the Sydney Skat Club, assuming the role in 1991.

A funeral notice posted in the SMH read: "Brian loved to travel and the new experiences that brought, he adored his family and most of all, was proud to be a grandfather...his tall tales, sense of humour, warm heart and generous spirit will be deeply missed by all that knew him".

Jacqui honoured

EXECUTIVE Chairman of The Walshe Group, Jacqui Walshe, has been awarded ATEC's Captain Trevor Haworth Award for her contributions to travel.

The industry champion is a former Deputy Chairman and Treasurer at ATEC, and has been recognised for her contribution to helping the travel sector successfully reboot from the pandemic, as well as her many other industry commitments over the course of her career.

ATEC tourism prog

THE Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) has developed a range of new training programs under one self-directed platform.

ATEC Managing Director Peter Shelley believes the recently unveiled Tourism Training Hub (TTH) will be a "game-changer" for export tourism businesses, offering users industry-powered training modules that support the sector's capability to grow Australia's international-ready tourism offering.

Developed in conjunction with industry leaders, the training includes courses on how to pitch for business, enhance digital marketing, work with trade partners, be ready for visitors from India/Japan/Korea/Indonesia, as well as access tools on how to improve the appeal of tourism experiences for domestic Australian travellers.

Access the new hub [HERE](#).



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A new start for El Questro

A NEW chapter for the El Questro Resort in Western Australia has been flagged by owners G'day Group this week, with more accommodation and new cultural experiences to be created in partnership with Traditional Owners.

The announcement was made in partnership with the Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation (WAC) and the Western Australian Government, with a deal struck between the parties for G'day Group to lease back part of the 165,000 hectare parcel of El Questro land, which was this week handed back to the Wanjina Wungurr Wilinggin people by the WA Government 120 years after the area was originally established as a cattle station.

To continue operating a tourism business, G'day Group said they would purchase carbon credits from WAC so it could operate the property with net zero emissions,

as well as implement more employment options for local Indigenous youth.

The site in the Kimberley was purchased by G'day Group from Delaware North in Feb last year (TD 23 Feb 2021), operating two accommodation experiences, the Homestead resort and the Station, which includes a campground and bungalows.

JW Marriott in NZ

MARRIOTT International will introduce the JW Marriott brand to New Zealand for the first time in the middle of 2024.

The company has signed an agreement with Albert Street Operations to convert the current Stamford Plaza in the country's capital to create JW Marriott Hotel Auckland.

Offering 286 rooms, the property will also boast an executive lounge and lobby bar, and a 100-seat buffet restaurant.

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You will need to be able to work in a fast-paced environment producing content to meet daily deadlines. Experience in B2B publishing would be an advantage. Full training in our production and IT systems will be provided, and a generous salary commensurate with experience is on offer.

The role is based in Macquarie Park, Sydney with WFH on Fridays.

Qualifications:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

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business events news



Travel Daily

On Board: Viking Polaris

Aquavit Terrace

Located adjacent to the World Cafe eatery at the top of the ship on deck five, the Aquavit Terrace is a new take on the traditional pool bar concept, offering a unique indoor/outdoor swimming experience with three temperature-controlled pools. It's also a place to enjoy a light meal or coffee, with a relaxing ambience, tables and chairs alongside a selection of comfy lounges.

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Travel Daily



QF cabin crew strike

THE vast majority of Qantas' 1,200 domestic flight attendants have voted in favour of protected strike action if the carrier does not offer a better pay deal.

No dates have been set, with the flight attendant union stating disruptions will be minimal.

"The Apple store of travel"

EXCLUSIVE

FRESH from opening Luxury Escapes' first bricks-and-mortar store in Chadstone earlier this week (**TD** 22 Nov), Chief Executive Officer and co-founder Adam Schwab has revealed to **TD** grander plans for the concept - a future vision he has dubbed "the Apple store of travel".

Although the Chadstone location is pegged as a "pop-up", Schwab said if it is successful, the plan is to develop the site into a permanent presence, followed by a larger footprint across Australia.

"We always knew that we wanted to do something bigger and more permanent," Schwab told *Travel Daily*.

However, he was quick to dispel any thoughts the Luxury Escapes storefront concept will compete directly with travel agencies.

"We're never going to open 500 retail stores, it'll be one, maximum two, per state," Schwab noted.

"We're not going to be Flight Centre...but we think we can compete in a different sense, or have a different offering.

"I think it'll be complementary to what exists out there rather than trying to take market share, more trying to grow the market."

Schwab noted the storefront offers a far better consultation relationship with Luxury Escapes' customers, with the brand using Veuve Clicquot and ice-cream to help differentiate its concept from traditional travel retail.

The first week of the storefront has yielded high conversation rates and increased engagement, Schwab also enthused.



Window Seat

IT IS bad news for Cher and Ye, with the United Arab Emirates changing its entry rules to prevent mononymous people - those with a one-word name - from entering the country.

It is unknown why the change has been made, but it was revealed this week when Indian airlines such as Air India and IndiGo broke the news to passengers.

While mononyms in modernity are most commonly associated by some of the most pretentious celebrities, the practice continues to be used in parts of India, especially in the south.

It is believed the single name practice continues in some instances in India to combat the scourge of casteism.

Travel Daily

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ETC lands TruTravels

TRUTRAVELS has listed the services of the Evolution Travel Collective (ETC) to fast-track the youth travel specialist's Aussie expansion ambitions by working more closely with the trade.

The company recently expanded its range of travel styles on offer, including the Flashpacker and Fitventures, as well as growing its classic range in Asia into other emerging regions such as Europe and Latin America.

"We see ETC's expertise, specifically in the small group/youth sector, as the perfect way to help us ensure we can continue to grow our brand presence with agents in the region," founder Mark Pope said.

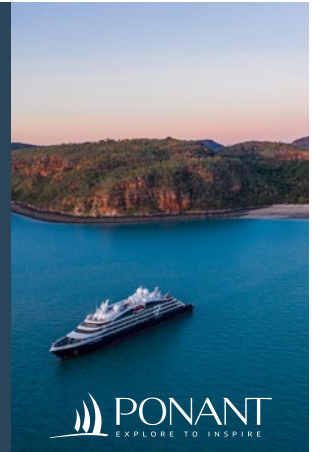
Customer Service and Reservations Consultant

Multiple Positions Available

As the World Leader of Luxury Expeditions with the youngest and largest expedition fleet globally, PONANT is looking to engage several Reservations and Customer Service Consultants to join their Asia Pacific team, both full time and part time.

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MTA says 'Thank You'!

THE drinks were flowing, canapés were tasty, and the atmosphere was buzzing, at the recent MTA - Mobile Travel Agents' nationwide 'Supplier Thank You' events.

Held in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide, in appreciation of the support MTA has received from suppliers over the last two years, there was a record number of suppliers and advisors in attendance at each event.

"The comments we've received from our travel industry partners who attended have been overwhelmingly positive," said Don Beattie, CEO of MTA - Mobile Travel Agents.

"Everyone appreciated the opportunity to reconnect in a relaxed, informal setting.

"We're grateful to have such a high calibre of partners and we're all looking forward to what we hope will be a bumper year," Beattie concluded.



THE Brisbane event had an electric atmosphere with a record number of suppliers and advisors, who were able to enjoy a spectacular view over the Storey Bridge.



ANNA Forlin, Kym Ryan, Amber Smith and Clare Kearns in Brisbane.



DON Beattie with Deb Clarke, Tracey Flower and Kristie Sauer at the Brisbane event.



BRIDGET Kroll, Marriott International; Charlotte Martelli, Hyatt Hotels; Kim Newton, MTA; Tim Chatfield, IHG Luxury & Lifestyle; and Jill Dunlop enjoyed catching up in Sydney.



MTA Advisors Debra Johnston, Carine Boost, Pauline Haldane and Sharon Owen with Fiona Axford, BKB Holidays and Linda Kiernander, MTA at QT Hotel in Perth.



THE Sofitel Adelaide hosted the Adelaide event, where advisors and suppliers were in high spirits.



MTA Advisor Marion Stanley pictured with MTA CEO Don Beattie.



GEORGE Burford, Grand Hyatt with Don Beattie at the Melbourne event.



PAULINE Grummit travelled from Tannum Sands for the Brisbane event and was joined by Paula Cramsie from the Gold Coast.



DAVID Reeves of Wide Eyed Tours with Georgia Traill and Rhona Rodgers from MTA Head Office.



PRETTY in pink Margaret Rae with Head Office Product team members Lorna and Zeena in Brisbane.



Exhibition World Bahrain opens

ASM Global has opened the largest exhibition centre in the Middle East, the 88,260m² Exhibition World Bahrain, with an inauguration ceremony complete with a fireworks show.

The venue, which joins ASM Global's portfolio of more than 350 venues, including ICC Sydney, is set to position Bahrain as a major destination for regional and international conventions.

Event planners can take advantage of the 10 halls, including the Grand Hall with a capacity of 4,000 seated guests, and 94 meeting rooms, as well as 25 food and beverage and retail outlets.

MEA appoints

MEETINGS & Events Australia (MEA) announced new appointments to its Board of Directors at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) yesterday.

Michael Firman from Harry the Hirer was named Chair; Megan Peters, Lateral Event Management as Deputy Chair; Paul Davidson, Sydney Masonic Centre as Treasurer; and Peter McDonald, Meetings & Events Australia as Company Secretary.

MEANWHILE, MEA has unveiled its 2021-2022 Awards Program, which has a longer qualifying period of 24 months, due to the industry's reduced work in 2021 because of the pandemic.

The awards submission portal is now open for 38 awards across nine categories, including three new Awards: Virtual Event of the Year, Skilling Program of the Year and Event Educator of the Year - see [HERE](#) for details.

LIBERALS PLEDGE \$150M EVENTS FUND

VICTORIA'S events industry could potentially score some major wins, depending on the outcome of the upcoming Victorian State election.

The Liberals and Nationals have pledged to enact an enhanced Victorian Events Strategy, including the establishment of Events Victoria, a new body dedicated to supporting, developing and promoting Victoria's event industry.

The proposed strategy also includes a new \$150 million Local Events Attraction and Development Fund to assist local communities to run local festivals, shows, entertainment and business events, as well as a new \$10 million business event attraction package.

Other initiatives put forward by the Liberals and Nationals include support for the enhancement of events workforce skills; a new industry-led ministerial taskforce with a direct voice to government; and the promotion of Victoria as a major, world-class exporter of event services.



Additionally, within its first 100 days in office, a Matt Guy Liberals and Nationals Government would hold a forum with Victoria's leading arts, sport and hospitality leaders to explore ideas to aid the recovery of the state's visitor and event economy.

If elected, the party committed to assessing Victoria's existing major conference, functions and events venues to determine if there is a need for a new or enhanced exhibition and conferencing complex.

A new, business-led Victorian Major Events Company is also on the cards to help restore Melbourne and Victoria's reputation as the events capital of Australia, with a focus on securing more, and better, set-piece events.

Victoria's events industry employs around 70,000 people, runs more than 12,000 events a year and contributes over \$12 billion per annum to the state's economy.

To read the party's full policy agenda, [CLICK HERE](#).

Events on ice

FAIRMONT Resort Blue Mountains is offering event planners exclusive use of its new ice skating rink, which can be hired for conference and incentive groups.

The resort also offers a program of activities, and features extensive facilities for conference groups, as well as several restaurants and bars.

Cvent goes Zoom

MEETINGS and events technology provider Cvent has teamed up with Zoom to power world-class hybrid events.

The partnership will allow customers of the Cvent platform to seamlessly blend the organising of in-person events with virtual components.

Meeting planners enjoy a Sunny Soiree

VISIT Sunshine Coast Business Events recently staged a soiree in Brisbane at Avello Mantra South Bank under the theme 'Sunshine Coast - just the best place on earth!'

The event highlighted the region's best conference and incentive products, in addition to providing updates on new venues, attractions, & activities.

The day also included prize giveaways including accommodation stays, giraffe encounters and team-building packages.

Visit Sunshine Coast's Business & Leisure Events Manager, Ali Thompson, said the Sunshine Soiree would help get meetings and events back on the travel agenda.



"The event brought to life all that our visitors love about the Sunshine Coast and provided a great reminder to the delegates of our competitiveness as a business event and incentive destination," she enthused.

Operators who attended the soiree included Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Australia Zoo, Noosa Springs Golf & Spa Resort, and many more.



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.

Leanne Reeves has joined the team at **Flight Centre Travel Group** in the role of Senior Contracting Manager, Global Supply. Reeves most recent role was Commercial Manager at Aviation Online, where she represented Air Tahiti Nui in the Australian market.

Vista Hospitality Group has named **Raelene Ohlson** as its new Director of Sales & Marketing at voco Brisbane City Centre and Hotel Indigo Brisbane City Centre. Ohlson has worked at some of Australia's major MICE hotels, including Hyatt Regency Coolom.

Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains by MGallery has appointed **Nathan Telfer** to the role of Director of Sales & Marketing. Telfer joins from InterContinental Sydney, where he was Director of Sales. He has also worked at Sofitel in a number of roles, including Account Director.

Three new members have been added to **The Langham, Melbourne's** team of hoteliers, including **Karl Marshall** as the new Hotel Manager, **Bibin Bobby** as Assistant Director of Food & Beverage, and **Kirby Pickrell** as Director of Spa. All three appointees are seasoned hospitality professionals.

Charlotte stinks

CHARLOTTE Pass Snow Resort has been ordered to stump up \$200,000 after being convicted by the NSW Land and Environment Court for polluting waterways in the Snowy Mountains.

The Blyton Group-owned resort failed to maintain and operate its sewage treatment plant properly, resulting in 14 million litres of partially-treated sewage leaking into Kosciuszko National Park's Spencers Creek over 78 days in 2019, potentially causing environmental damage.

Environment Protection Authority Chief Executive Tony Chappel said the resort, which pleaded guilty to the charges, was aware that the plant and equipment needed to be repaired, and condemned its "unacceptable disregard for the environment".

A date with Molly

AN OFFICIAL opening date for Motel Molly on NSW's South Coast has been revealed, with the 16-room, boutique property to start welcoming guests on 01 Dec (TD 08 Sep).

The beachfront property has undergone a multi-million-dollar refurbishment to offer a mix of three-, two-, and one-bedroom apartments & king suites featuring Moroccan-inspired decor.

ibis Styles Indo

ACCOR has announced it will open a new 12-storey ibis Styles hotel in BSD City, the upcoming urban centre in Greater Jakarta, in the second quarter of 2024.

The ibis Styles Serpong BSD will offer 165 rooms, an all-day restaurant, and ballroom.

TM shuffles off to Vegas



TRAVELMANAGERS' Chief Operations Officer Grant Campbell and Operations Manager Troy Coelho recently headed to Las Vegas to attend Signature Travel Network's Annual Conference.

Held at The Venetian Resort, the three-day event attracted around 2,000 global delegates and more than 540 suppliers, and included a two-day supplier trade show and presentations from keynote speakers.

Campbell and Coelho also had the opportunity to hold private meetings with key

members of Signature's senior management team, including President and CEO, Alex Sharpe, and Vice President of Member Engagement, Kimberly Waters.

TravelManagers, who joined the Signature Travel Network earlier this year, was the only Australian travel brand at the conference.

Pictured: Signature's Member Engagement Manager, Jenisse Melo (centre), with Campbell (left) and Coelho (right).

Radisson Hua Hin

RADISSON Hotel Group is set to expand its portfolio in Thailand with the signing of Radisson Resort & Spa Hua Hin, a beachfront resort slated to open in Feb next year.

The new property will feature 243 rooms and suites, all with balconies overlooking Thailand's golden gulf coast, as well as eight restaurants and bars, an outdoor pool, a beach club with private beach access, a spa, a fitness centre, and a kids' club.

Don't go to Haiti!

DFAT has increased its advice level for Haiti to "do not travel" for the entire country.

Australians are being urged not to travel to Haiti due to the very high levels of violent crime, kidnappings, and the volatile security situation, as well as severe shortages of basic necessities such as fuel.



AUSSIE SPECIALIST *Christmas* TRIVIA EVENING



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- 1x case (6 bottles) of Australian wine
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- Merry People Gumboots
- Country Culture Picnic Hamper
- Green Ant Gin & Pepperberry Gin pack

MORE DETAIL:

Thursday 1 December, 7pm-8pm AEDT

Invite a colleague to join! Simply register for the Aussie Specialist Program first, then register for the event below.

[Register here](#)



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