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THE TRAVEL JUNCTION

HAWAII TOURISM OCEANIA

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news plus a cover wrap from **Tourism New Zealand**.

Green button pushed

TOURISM Ireland's Green Button campaign is now live in Australia and New Zealand, a major marketing push that will target people who have the highest potential to travel Ireland and make travel bookings for late 2022 through 2023.

"Australia and New Zealand remain important markets for tourism to the island of Ireland, in 2019, we welcomed 252,000 Australian and New Zealand visitors, whose visits delivered €245 million for the economy," Tourism Ireland Australia and New Zealand Manager Sofia Hansson said.

The online and social media push is expected to reach 10.7 million Aussies.

Check out more details about the campaign by clicking [HERE](#).

CT Partners meeting

CT PARTNERS is bringing back its Annual Member Meeting after a two-year COVID-induced absence, with the 15th iteration set to take place at Mandarin Oriental Bangkok from 24-26 Oct.

Under the theme 'Connected Community', delegates will convene with a record number of representatives from airlines, cruise, hotel, car & land partners.

NTIA 2022 will be packed

THE highly anticipated 2022 National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) is expected to be fully sold out, with close to 1,200 travel professionals from across Australia in attendance, according to AFTA CEO Dean Long.

Long told **TD** demand for tickets to the industry night of nights had been unprecedented, as the travel sector shakes off the disruption and gloom of the past two years and prepares to once again celebrate.

"This will be the single largest gathering of the travel industry in Australia since the pandemic crippled our sector and many parts of the community," he said.

Preparations for the 2022 NTIAs are well advanced, with huge interest in the awards

process which saw 800 votes on average cast in each of the voted categories during the voting period which wrapped up last week.

The NTIA judging panellists have also been very busy, conducting over 400 hours of face-to-face interviews as well as reviewing hundreds of written and video submissions.

Anticipation is now building towards the event and the announcement of the winners, which will take place on Sat 15 Oct at Sydney's International Convention Centre.

More from AFTA on [page five](#).

ANZCRO on sale

ANZCRO has launched a Signature Australian Experiences collection, comprised of more than 20 commissionable and ready-to-sell Aussie holiday packages, which travel agents can book via the brand's self-service booking platform.

Priced from \$3,499pp, the four-day Wildlife and Ocean Encounter takes travellers to iconic South Australian destinations such as Port Lincoln and the Eyre Peninsula, with the opportunity to swim with bottlenose dolphins and sea lions, and sample ocean-fresh local oysters - view all the packages [HERE](#).

Get TNZ certified

TOURISM New Zealand is currently inviting travel agents to become a certified 100% Pure New Zealand Specialist.

Travel advisors can sign up for the interactive online training modules to get inspired, increase your sales and enhance your knowledge of New Zealand, while unlocking a range of benefits - see [front page](#) for more.

Disney Q&A session

DISNEY Cruise Line will hold a Q&A session with Aussie travel agents this Fri at 11am (AEST).

To register to attend and learn more about the line, [CLICK HERE](#).



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Window Seat

THE incredible allure of culinary tourism has been clearly demonstrated in Europe this week where a man has cycled about 1,400km in order to taste a lavender croissant.

CNN Travel has reported on the strange floral fascination of Belgium's Albert Van Limbergen, who set off from Liege for a two-week journey to Nice.

He was heading straight to Boulangerie Roy Le Capitole, an artisan bakery which features signature baked delights using lavender grown in the nearby Cote d'Azur hinterland region.

Sadly, Van Limbergen said after tasting the unique croissant "it was good, but could be improved even more".

Intrepid bolsters offering

INTREPID Travel's acquisition of a majority stake in WA-based Jump Out Of Bed (JOOB) (*TD* breaking news) will see the company expand its operational bases across the country, with Intrepid CEO James Thorton saying the deal "completes the puzzle" of its strategy to operate its own in-house DMCs in markets across the globe.

"We've built exceptional global operational capability over the years, and Intrepid's vertical integration has been a core part of our strategy," Thornton said.

"However the missing piece has been our own DMC in Australia," he added, with the deal seeing JOOB CEO Simon Mendelawitz join Intrepid as GM of its Australian DMC operations.

Mendelawitz said "at JOOB we believe adventure, giving back to communities and having some fun along the way are all important, and that's why we're

such a perfect fit for Intrepid".

Locally Intrepid has grown its range by 45% since 2019 and offers 66 trips in all states and territories except the ACT, with today's deal adding 30 additional tours to the portfolio.

JOOB operates trips across the country, under brands including walking company Inspiration Outdoors, foreign-language specialist Waratah Adventure Tours, & Perth kayaking business Sea Kayak Rottnest Island.

Intrepid's other acquisitions over the last 12 months include a majority stake in NZ's Haka Tours and ANZ Nature Tours, as well as the purchase of Wildland Trekking in the USA (*TD* 27 Jan).

These DMCs operate the majority of Intrepid's trips, as well as itineraries for other leading travel brands, while Intrepid has also recently invested in sustainable accommodation business CABN (*TD* 09 May).

NZ taps Nth America

TOURISM New Zealand has teamed up with Air New Zealand to encourage greater visitation from the US and Canada, launching a new campaign in North America today featuring deals and incentives.

Part of the push is marketing special offers for flights to Auckland in the low and shoulder seasons, with options to add-on visits to Air New Zealand's 20 domestic destinations.

Air NZ will also leverage its partnership with United Airlines to foster more growth from the North American source markets.

"The campaign will encourage visitors to travel more widely around Aotearoa to accelerate and support the sector's recovery," Tourism NZ Chief Executive Rene de Monchy said.

MEANWHILE Air New Zealand has confirmed face masks will no longer be required to be worn by passengers from today in line with new government advice.

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INDEPENDENT HOLIDAY PACKAGE EXPERTS



VA partners with Myer

VIRGIN Australia's Velocity Frequent Flyer program has partnered with major retailer Myer, offering its loyalty members the option of using points to purchase a range of consumer products online.

The strategic deal applies to shopping done online at myer.com.au, and will see VA loyalty members who are also Myer One members receive one Myer One credit for any Velocity Points redeemed.

The carrier's decision to ink an agreement with Myer follows a raft of reciprocal deals signed over the past 18 months in order to give its loyalty members more bang for their buck, including with brands like UA, Qatar Airways, 7-Eleven and Medibank.

"We are incredibly focused on providing our members more ways to redeem points by unlocking new partnerships and rewards that have significant

value and meaning to them," Velocity Frequent Flyer CEO Nick Rohrlach said.

"As Australians face rising inflation, we know that value is more important than ever and our members will easily find impactful ways to use their Points online at Myer to stretch their dollar further," he added.

Velocity's membership base has now grown its ranks to almost 11 million people, with one person in every Australian household on average now having a Velocity Frequent Flyer membership.

"With the return of travel, we have seen strong growth in new Velocity members this year and are well on our way to 11 million members...showing the depth, breadth and importance of the program to Australian consumers," Rohrlach added.

Shoppers need to select Velocity Points from the payment dropdown on Myer's site.

Sharp rise in claims

THERE has been a sharp rise in the number of travel cancellation and lost luggage claims being made by Australian travellers - especially for domestic trips, insurance company Allianz claims.

New figures from the insurer show that claims relating to domestic cancellations rose by 279% between Apr and Jun when compared to the same period in 2019, with the steepest spike noted in Apr, when there was a surge in domestic airline sales.

Domestic lost luggage claims were also shown to be steadily climbing in 2022, with claims peaking in Apr and May this year, including around the Easter family holiday period.

"COVID...has given Australian travellers a sharper awareness for what can go wrong on their holiday, and an increased appetite to understand the minute detail of their insurance policy," Allianz Head of Travel Damien Arthur said.

VV agent platform

VIRGIN Voyages has launched LetsGoBook, a revamped platform that allows Aussie agents to send a dedicated link to clients via social media, email or text message, with 16% commissions earned on the voyage fare.

The Star unsuitable

AN INQUIRY into Star Entertainment Group has today found the company is an unsuitable candidate to operate its casino in Sydney.

The investigation of The Star's conduct was launched following allegations of money laundering and organised crime links.

"The Star treated the (NSW Independent Liquor and Gaming) Authority with disdain, as an impediment to be worked around," the review found.

Eight submissions have been put forward by The Star, making its case as to why it's now suitable to retain its gaming licence.

Disney Magic at Sea

Coming to Australia in 2023/24



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QF reports on sustainability

QANTAS CEO Alan Joyce says the carrier has made “great progress” towards implementing its sustainability framework over the last year, with much more action in QF’s future pipeline.

The carrier last Fri released its 2022 Sustainability Report, detailing initiatives including the increasing use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), which is already being used in blended form on the Kangaroo route between London and Sydney.

“Establishing a domestic commercial SAF industry is critical to reaching our targets, and will require airlines, industry and government to work together,” Joyce noted, with QF partnering with Airbus in establishing a US\$200 million fund to help kick-start the local SAF sector.

Qantas is also undertaking a huge domestic fleet renewal program for up to 134 Airbus A321XLRs and A220 aircraft to

replace its Boeing 737s and 717s as they gradually retire - an order which will see emissions reduce by at least 15%.

“We’re also making changes in the way we manage waste, setting targets this year for zero single-use plastics by 2027 and zero general waste to landfill by 2030,” the QF CEO noted.

Customers are being encouraged to act sustainably when flying and in their everyday lives through the new Green Tier Frequent Flyer program.

Qantas Chairman Richard Goyder highlighted the launch of the Qantas Group’s Climate Action Plan (**TD 31 Mar**), which has made sustainability become one of the carrier’s four key foundations and a focus area of the Group Corporate Strategy.

Executive remuneration has also now been linked to a climate-related target, Goyder added.

To view the report [CLICK HERE](#).

Caravanning brochure

WORLDWIDE Caravan & Motorhome Holidays has published a new 84-page brochure detailing its motorhome holidays throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, USA, South Africa, NZ & Australia.

The specialist operator offers small group, locally guided motorhome tours plus tailor-made itineraries for independent travellers - [CLICK HERE](#) to view or order through TIFS.



Royal sale for Sep

ROYAL Caribbean is offering up to 30% off and a balcony upgrade across all 2022-23 sailings for the month of Sep, in celebration of the cruise line’s return to Australian shores next month.

Guests can choose from a range of two- to 12-night sailings across Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific islands on *Ovation of the Seas* and *Quantum of the Seas* from \$500.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

Vanuatu update

TRAVELLERS to Vanuatu no longer need to show a negative COVID-19 test result before entering the country via air or by sea, DFAT has confirmed.

Full vaccination is also not mandatory, and once in Vanuatu, travellers will not need to undergo quarantine or arrival testing.

Vanuatu reopened its borders to international travellers for the first time on 01 Jul (**TD 22 Jun**).

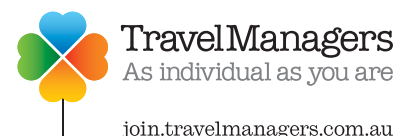
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Very fine chalets

ACCOR'S luxury private rental brand onefinestay has added three new chalet collections in ski resort destinations across the Colorado Rockies, including Steamboat, Breckenridge, and Vail & Beaver Creek.

Each of the three mountain destinations offer two expansive chalets with the capacity to fit upwards of 12 guests, providing access to skiing, mountain scenery, and nature-based activities.

The Colorado chalets offer tailored amenities, 24/7 support from a dedicated concierge team, and professional management to help maximise their holiday, including curated experiences such as rock climbing, mountain biking, dining and more.

The new additions follow onefinestay's established chalet collections in Aspen, Jackson Hole and Park City, after the brand expanded into the US mountains in 2021.

SITA's Launchpad

AVIATION industry IT provider, SITA, has unveiled a new partner platform designed to build new partnerships as it embarks on a reinvigorated growth strategy.

Through the new platform, Launchpad, the company aims to build new partnerships in four key areas, including digital identities, advanced analytics and data management, security and safety at airports, and sustainable alternative energy sources.

SITA specified that it is looking to collaborate with partners inside and outside the transport industry to complement its expertise, drive innovation and trial new sustainable solutions within its operations.

"We have a strong investment and innovation program...to accelerate this program, we are inviting new partners working in these four areas to join us so we can reshape the air travel industry together," Chief Executive Officer David Lavorel said.

AFTA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



NTIA is only four weeks away and I am really pleased to announce that the night will be a sellout with close to 1,200 travel professionals in attendance.

This will be the single largest travel industry gathering in Australia since the pandemic crippled our sector and many parts of the community.

With the judging process now close to complete, we had on average 800 votes cast in each voted category, over 400 face-to-face interviews all stemming from over 300 submissions.

For the 2022 NTIAs, we have seen new finalists fight it out, using amazing video and written submissions showcasing what they have achieved as individuals and as businesses.

This year we will not be holding the after-party at an external venue, rather we have tripled the size of the dance floor and we will keep the drinks and food rolling when the formal awards proceedings come to an end.

This ensures all of those that

wish to dance the night away can do so without the need to join another line.

For the close to 1,200 attendees, we will be celebrating the 30 winners and also reconnecting with colleagues from across groups, agencies, brands and business lines.

As I have mentioned several times in this column, with this year's event we have experimented with the approach (especially given the impact of the past couple of years) and we will have many learnings which we will be applying to the 2023 process and evening.

Thank to those who have provided feedback both direct and indirect.

Next year, we will return to a more standard approach as we continue to safeguard the NTIA's status as the sector's preeminent & independent awards program.

For the team at AFTA, we are extremely proud and working tremendously hard to ensure the industry's night of nights is one that will put the final paragraph of COVID's chapter in our recovery.

With that we continue the count down to 15 Oct for the 2022 NTIA's at Sydney's International Convention Centre.

Airfare, ticketing & ground arrangements specialist

Australia's leading small ship specialist, Cruise Traveller, based on the Gold Coast is looking to expand its team with the addition of a permanent part time airfare & ticketing specialist.

The position is the equivalent of 2 full days per week, and flexibility is available to the right candidate. Cruise Traveller is open to candidates who wish to work remotely.

You must have extensive GDS experience (Sabre preferred) and be able to deliver a high level of customer service in support of the main cruise reservations specialist team.

The role involves making air bookings, understanding how to price and ticket and/or reissue domestic and international fares (liaising with our consolidator where required) and managing queues. You would also be involved in booking land arrangements and other administration tasks as required.

You would be an important part of a friendly professional family owned & operated business with a huge focus on service quality in keeping with the premium travel products that we represent.

Please only apply for this position if you have at least 2 years' experience in a similar role or position.

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Applications close 21 September 2022. Only successful candidates will be contacted. No agencies.



Kota Kinabalu introduces platform

SHANGRI-LA Rasa Ria, Kota Kinabalu has launched a new online booking platform allowing guests to book bespoke Rasa Ria Reserve activities in advance.

Bookable activities include water sports like jet skiing, horse riding on the beach, ATV, a night walk with night vision goggles, a hike to the top of Timpak Pogimpaan, and the Junior Ranger Experience where kids learn basic jungle survival skills.

The new platform can be found at www.rasariareserve.com.

MONEY

WELCOME to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.689

THE Australian dollar is heading for a multi-year low after losing around 3% of its value since May, despite continuous efforts from the RBA to stop its decline.

Sensitive to fluctuations in the global economy, the AUD is unlikely to make a comeback anytime soon in the midst of China's bleak growth prospects, a strengthening US dollar, and an overall global economic slowdown.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.689
UK	£0.589
NZ	\$1.121
Euro	€0.679
Japan	¥98.17
Thailand	฿24.99
China	¥4.773
South Africa	11.79
Canada	\$0.895
Crude oil	US\$87.78

All smiles in Brisbane for deal



QATAR Airways and Virgin Australia celebrated a new strategic partnership at a launch event at Brisbane Airport last week, featuring dancers representing various countries that can be accessed via both airlines' networks.

First announced in May (*TD* 11 May), the collaboration significantly expands the networks, lounges and loyalty programs of both airlines, and opens up a new gateway of travel between Australia, the Middle-East, Europe and Africa.

Members of Privilege Club will be able to earn Avios and QPoints on flights operated by Virgin Australia, and Velocity Frequent

Flyer members can now earn Velocity Points and Status Credits for Qatar Airways flights.

The duo also revealed plans to launch a proposition providing more choice and value for business flyers travelling between Australia, the Middle East and Europe in the near future.

Galapagos luxury

AQUA Expeditions has introduced a luxurious superyacht experience to the Galapagos, with the 50-metre seven-suite *Aqua Mare* recently completing her inaugural sailing.

Boasting 30% more indoor space than most yachts her size, the new vessel offers a one-to-one crew to guest ratio and a Peruvian Japanese-inspired menu featuring fresh and sustainable ingredients from local suppliers.

Guests can choose from seven- and 14-night itineraries that explore both the east and west of the Galapagos archipelago, featuring a range of outdoors activities including scuba dives, snorkelling and guided hikes - for more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Airline loyalty hack

THOUSANDS of Philippine Airlines' frequent flyers have had their privacy breached after one of the airline's IT providers, Accelya, was hacked.

The attack, reported on 08 Sep, impacted members who joined between 2015-2017, with personal details taken including names, date of birth and more.

NZ to Cook is back

FLIGHTS to and from Auckland, New Zealand and Pape'ete, Tahiti have been reinstated, with COVID-19 vaccinations no longer required for entry to the Cook Islands.

Smartraveller is advising travellers to exercise a high degree of caution, however, due to the impacts of COVID-19.

UA's electric dreams

UNITED Airlines has announced a US\$15 million investment in Eve Air Mobility and a conditional purchase agreement for 200 four-seat electric aircraft plus 200 options, with the first deliveries expected in 2026.

United Airlines has become the first major airline to publicly invest in two eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing vehicle) companies, after also placing a US\$10 million deposit last month for 100 electric flying taxis from Archer Aviation.

The vehicles have a range of 100km and have the potential to offer a sustainable commute with a major reduction in noise levels.

Noku Phuket opens

NOKU Hotels has announced the opening of its fourth property, Noku Phuket, positioned along Chalong Bay, 45 minutes from Phuket International Airport.

The property features 91 villas and lofts, as well as private pools, large bathrooms and balcony overlooking the forested hills.

The hotel also includes a restaurant, a bar, wellness centre, gym, yoga room, and complimentary shuttle services to nearby beaches, the Phuket Old Town and shopping malls.