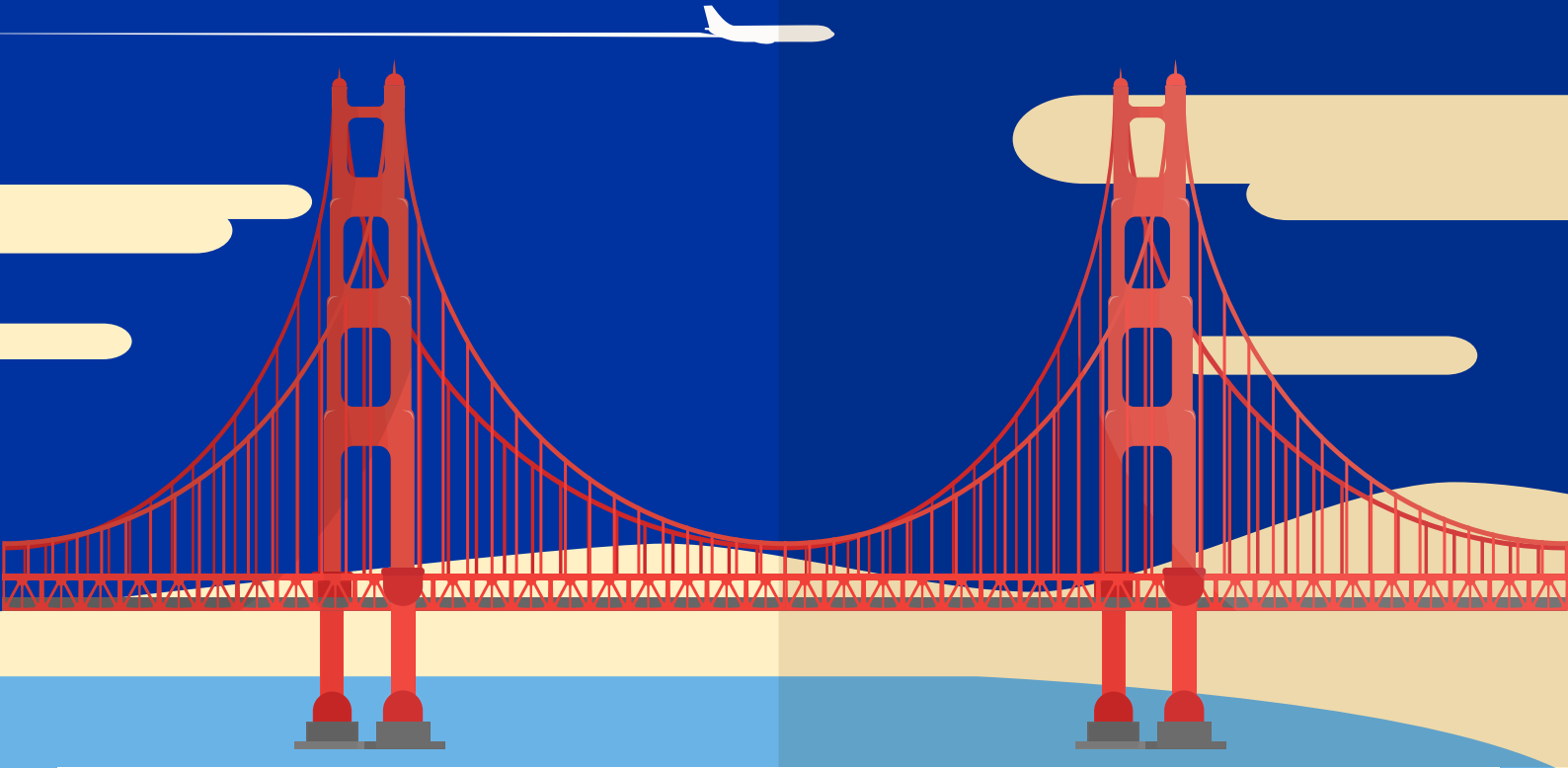


BRISBANE AIRPORT & UNITED AIRLINES PRESENT

SHOW & GO



Brisbane Airport is excited to invite you to this exclusive travel agent event at the International Terminal.

Pack your bag and bring your passport - four lucky agents will be on the next United Airlines flight to San Francisco.

The winners will spend three nights at the Handlery Union Square Hotel in San Francisco, plus enjoy a Redwoods & Wine Country Tour, courtesy of Extranomical Tours. They will also spend the night of the event at one of Brisbane Airport Hotel Groups amazing hotels.

Monday 28 August 2023 - 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Brisbane Airport, International Terminal

[RSVP: Click to Register Now](#)



Get ready to fly!

BRISBANE Airport is inviting travel advisors to pack their bags for its next Show & Go event featuring United Airlines, with four lucky attendees to be on the next UA flight to San Francisco.

RSVPs are now open for the 28 Aug gathering at BNE at 6pm - see the **cover page** for details.

Alliance profit takes off

ALLIANCE Aviation today reported a hefty \$52.2 million annual profit, a huge turnaround from last year's \$7.1m loss.

MD Scott McMillan said the six months to 30 Jun had seen the company start to realise "substantial financial return" from its multi-year investment in its now 33-strong Embraer E190 jet fleet, many of which are on wet lease contracts to QantasLink.

E190 activity increased by 160% compared to the prior half-year, through a combination of extra capacity and higher utilisation.

Total revenue was up 40% to \$517 million, with McMillan confirming a decision during the year to relinquish Alliance's major inbound tourism charter contract so aircraft could focus on more profitable operations.

Traditional FIFO flying also continues to underpin Alliance's operations, providing a "secure and stable contracted revenue and earning profile".

Despite the strong result, Alliance is not paying a dividend to shareholders as it continues to fund growth, with the airline expecting to take delivery of 20 additional E190 aircraft next year.

Francis to join BPG

TRAVEL Daily is thrilled to announce the appointment of Damian Francis to the newly created role of Editorial Director of the Business Publishing Group.

The highly regarded Francis is currently at media and marketing publisher Mumbrella, which will next week stage its annual Travel Marketing Summit - marking his swansong with the organisation before starting here on 21 Aug.

In his new BPG position, he will oversee our expanding team of experienced journalists and content creators, reporting to recently appointed GM Davy Adams (**TD 24 Jul**).

More appointments on **page 6**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of the latest news including a photo page from **Viking and Business Events News**, plus a front cover wrap from **Brisbane Airport Corporation** and a full page from **The Travel Junction**.

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NTIA tickets now on sale

THE Australian travel sector is in a frenzy this morning after the opening of ticket sales for the 2023 National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) (**TD** breaking news). The night of nights will return

to Melbourne for the first time in almost two decades, taking place on Sat 18 Nov at the Crown Palladium ballroom.

Tickets cost \$230+GST for ATAS Accredited Businesses and AFTA Allied Members, and \$270+GST for other industry stakeholders, and can be purchased either individually or as tables of 10.

AFTA CEO Dean Long said with more than 1,700 award nominations and many ticket enquiries already received, NTIA 2023 is set to be the hottest ticket in town, urging the industry to get in quick to secure a spot.

He also hailed the support of major sponsor Singapore Airlines and afterparty sponsor Viking as critical to helping celebrate the whole industry's success.

To buy tickets **CLICK HERE**.

Busselton biz case

THE WA Government along with the City of Busselton and other regional local governments have confirmed \$250,000 in funding to develop a business case for the expansion of the Busselton Margaret River Airport.

A consultant will assess the long-term demand and "asset sustainability" of the facility, with the move following the securing of direct Jetstar flights between Melbourne and Busselton last year which have "unlocked new opportunities for investment and job creation".

Aurora top bidder for Vantage Travel

AURORA Expeditions has won an auction for the assets of collapsed US travel company Vantage Deluxe World Travel, including the business name and customer database.

Aurora is believed to have offered US\$2 million plus 5% of future revenues through to 2028, as well as allowing Vantage clients to redeem credits as part payment for future cruises.

More details in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Bhutan B2B event

TRAVEL advisors are being invited to a special presentation at Sydney's Grace Hotel next Fri 18 Aug showcasing Bhutan, with a group of about 18 suppliers in attendance, coordinated by Enticing Bhutan.

The event will highlight the "beauty that is synonymous with this revered country" as well as explain the recent changes to visitor fees and charges - RSVP to enticingbhutan@gmail.com.

Greece warning

DFAT has issued a new Smartraveller advice for Greece, advising Aussies travelling there to beware of potential "violent clashes" between supporters of rival sporting teams.

The overall advice remains at the lowest "exercise normal safety precautions" level.



Window Seat

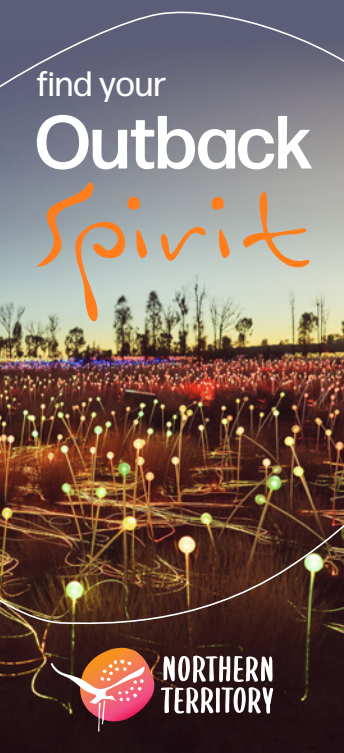
WELL known for its reputation as a peanut producing area, Queensland's Kingaroy region is also making a play for carnivorous visitors with the promotion of this year's massive BaconFest.

Organisers are hoping to attract thousands of meat-loving visitors to the event, with promises to Australia's "swine set" that this year there will be "more bacon than ever before".

Spokesperson Anitta Stallwood, whose official title is Chief Baconeer, said "everyone loves pork-inspired creativity when it comes to bacon", with a wide variety of special products on offer such as bacon jam, pork belly bacon bites, so-called "porky" road and even bacon-infused peanut brittle.

Naturally there's a bacon-eating contest, with the winner to take home a full year's supply of the tasty smoked meat - and there are still spots available in both the adults and kids' divisions.

There's also a series of Meat versus Sweet cook-offs, a special theme song which is online at traveldaily.com.au and even a BaconFest-themed beauty pageant - see kingaroybaconfest.com.au.



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QF adds QBR bookings

MEMBERS of the Qantas Business Rewards (QBR) SME loyalty scheme can now book flights, hotels and car hire directly from the platform, under a major revamp of the program website announced this morning.

Qantas noted that over 450,000 Australian businesses are part of the program which offers flight discounts and the ability to earn points on everyday expenses.

The expansion of the program into travel management will enable businesses and their staff to book and manage trips from end-to-end including flights, hotels and car rental, as well as set up business travel policies which can be applied to bookings "for better efficiency and to give travel managers visibility of booking behaviour".

Users can also access detailed reporting and analytics in real-time, with the new platform to be trialled with select customers

over the next few months ahead of a wider release later this year.

The platform has been revamped in partnership with travel tech firm Spotnana, which took on the project after a competitive tender process, with Qantas Loyalty CEO Olivia Wirth saying the investment "will make it easier for our members to manage their business travel needs and make the most of their rewards all in one place".

Gold Coast change

DESTINATION Gold Coast will become part of the newly formed Experience Gold Coast, after an historic vote which took place at the Gold Coast Exhibition and Convention Centre yesterday.

Over 200 members voted in favour of the proposal, with Chair Adrienne Readings saying the move would make Destination Gold Coast "part of a stronger and broader organisation".

Intrepid celebrates new hub



MORE than 40 travel agents gathered at Intrepid Travel's Melbourne headquarters to celebrate the launch of the operator's new Agent Hub and incentive (**TD** 01 Aug).

Attendees were given a tour of the new platform by two of Intrepid's Key Partnerships Managers, Issy Limn and Charlie Riewoldt, as well as the opportunity to try out the mobile-friendly platform on their devices.

A highlight of the event was an Intrepid-themed treasure hunt which saw four agents find prizes on the hub, with one lucky agent getting to travel on one of the trips from the incentive trip list found on the hub.

Throughout the next two weeks, the Intrepid Partnerships team will feature an exclusive series of 'hot tips' on how to use the platform on the agent Facebook

group **HERE**, while agents can access the new hub **HERE**.

The event's lucky prize winners are **pictured**.

PEPR to rep Virgin

VIRGIN Australia has selected PEPR Agency to manage its Aussie media famil program across its domestic and international network, with the account to be overseen by PEPR Founder and Director, Philip Engelberts.

The Sydney-based PR is tasked with developing bespoke itineraries to showcase popular destination experiences, in-air and on-ground product and services and ancillary offerings, as well as the airline's Velocity Frequent Flyer loyalty program.

VA will continue to work with its existing marketing partners, ENTHRAL & The Precinct Studios.

The Chat
with
Jenny
A Conversation with
Rachel Kingswell
Travel Associates AU NZ
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Brisbane 20 September, Lightspace, Fortitude Valley

Sydney 21 September, View by Sydney, Walsh Bay

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Viking achieves triumphant returns

VIKING embarked on a triumphant journey to Adelaide and Perth last week for their eagerly anticipated Viking Vor trade training nights, marking a return for the first time since 2019.

These events proved to be a success, with record numbers of attendees across both cities and Viking hosting close to 400 travel agents.

The Perth event garnered such overwhelming interest that tickets sold out within weeks of their release, prompting Viking to extend the venue to accommodate the influx of agents. "The energy in the room - from the MC, the fun hats, and the interactive quiz, together with well-presented information all made for a wonderful event. Being new to the industry, I learnt a great deal and took away a lot of selling points for Viking," said Erin Capsis, Helloworld Travel Alexander Heights.

The room was filled with friendly competition, as everyone was putting their knowledge to the test to win a Viking voyage for two. Winners of the quiz included Tammina Cole, Flight Centre Midland; Abbie Copeland, Flight Centre Baldivis; Erin Capsis, Helloworld Travel Alexander Heights; Jim Smithson, Complex Travel Group; Liam Shaughnessy, Complex Travel Group and Calliope Zacharoyannis, Phil Hoffmann Travel Norwood.

The nationwide Viking Vor tour is ending, with only one location remaining. Agents are encouraged to secure their spots for the upcoming Newcastle event before they fill up.

CLICK HERE to register.



TEAM Viking in Adelaide.



ATTENDEES pose for a snap at Adelaide's Vor night's photowall.



PERTH Vor night's Kahoot winners included Erin Capsis, Helloworld Travel Alexander Heights; Tammina Cole, Flight Centre Midland; and Abbie Copeland, Flight Centre Baldivis.



WINNERS at the Adelaide Vor night, snatching some amazing prizes.



BOOM!
Your prize winners at the Perth event.



THE Flight Centre Midlands team.



IT WAS a full-house at the Adelaide Vor night.



SYDNEY'S NEW CONFERENCE CENTRE

A **BRAND-NEW** conference centre has opened in Western Sydney's Penrith, forming part of a \$110 million business, entertainment and leisure precinct (**TD** 06 Jul).

Described as "an organiser's dream" for conferences, events, formal dinners and wedding celebrations, Western Sydney Conference Centre (WSCC) boasts a 1,000-seat capacity across 1,250m² of space.

The conference centre features a column-free design and 6.8-metre high ceilings, complete with four tailored room configurations, including Conference, Banquet, Cocktail and Expos, which can fit up to 80 booths.

The flexible spaces can easily be transformed from a mixed rooms layout to a single-room formal dinner in less than an hour, thanks to advanced in-house and all-



wireless audiovisual technology and smart wall mechanics.

Planners will also appreciate the terrace which adjoins the function and pre-function spaces and can be used for pre-event cocktails, along with the central lawn for recreation activities and a lobby lounge and bar serving cocktails and barista coffee.

With the Western Sydney International Airport (WSI) due for

completion in 2026 (**TD** 24 Apr), business travellers coming from overseas and interstate will have an easy 30-minute drive to WSCC.

Accommodation arrangements will also be convenient, with delegates able to stay at the adjoining five-star Pullman Sydney Penrith hotel, which offers 153 rooms, a fitness and wellness centre, and sleep therapy services - learn more about WSCC **HERE**.

Events at Accor

THE International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney has developed a bespoke digital event app, event check-in and badge printing service for Accor Pacific, which it showcased at EmPOWERed Leaders Conference last month.

The app features engagement tools & real-time analytics, while displaying agenda, speaker and sponsor information on the delegate's phone as well as allowing organisers to capture leads and engage with delegates.

MEANWHILE, Accor has announced a "Choose Your Bonus" offer, allowing conference organisers to select a complimentary upgrade when they book by 31 Dec - see more **HERE**.

Arinex commits

ARINEX has become the first events management company to formalise its commitment to reconciliation, after its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) received endorsement from Reconciliation Australia.

The RAP sets out a four-phase pathway, and will bring Arinex closer to its goal of becoming a more inclusive and culturally respectful organisation.

BEV hits the road

BUSINESS Events Victoria (BEV) is heading to Sydney and Canberra in early Sep for its 2023 Regional Victoria Interstate Roadshow.

The dinner events will offer valuable insights and the chance to develop connections with venue suppliers and destinations from regional Victoria.

Places are limited - email info@businessesvictoria.com to secure your spot.

Mining meets

THE annual NSW Minerals Council Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) Conference attracted a record 550 attendees from across the state this week.

Considered one of the NSW mining industry's most important annual events, the conference saw hundreds of industry participants, technical experts, govt and community representatives gather in the Hunter.

Positive about MICE

EVENT planners in Australia are optimistic about the industry's future, according to a new study from Cvent, which shows 79% expect to host more in-person events in 2023 compared to 2022.

Planners in Victoria expressed the most positive outlook (87%), followed by NSW (83%).

Most respondents (90%) expect to pay more for meetings of the same size and complexity this year versus last year, with 96% saying they are willing to increase their budget to book their preferred hotel/venue.



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APPOINTMENTS

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Wendy Wu Tours has appointed **Emma Newton** as its State Account Manager responsible for trade relationships in Western Australia and South Australia. Based in Perth, Newton has a deep understanding of tourism within the region, as well as strong connections within the sector. Most recently, she was the BDM for WA and the NT for Air New Zealand for five years.

Extending her tenure in the travel industry, **Janeene Lewis** has become **HelloWorld Travel's** Franchise Operations Manager. Lewis specialises in delivering customer service and account management and has an extensive history in the travel & tourism industry through different managerial roles at CTM, Cassaform and ETG.

Alice Bowden has been promoted as **Tourism NT's** new Global Brand & Content Director. Bowden specialises in brand management, product development and marketing strategies, bringing close to 20 years of experience in the industry. Bowden enjoyed a two-year stint as Tourism NT's trade marketing manager prior to joining.

Daydream Island Resort & Living Reef has recruited **Marcus Taylor** as its new General Manager. Relocating from regional NSW, Taylor arrives with a strong commitment and passion for the Whitsundays, as well as a wealth of senior management experience through his time at Rydges Port Macquarie and Sails Port Macquarie by Rydges.

Bringing over 25 years of global experience, **Joerg Zobel** has been appointed as Chief Operating Officer at **Rosewood Hotel Group**, effective from 25 Sep. The accomplished executive will be based in the group's Hong Kong office to spearhead its ambitious vision and growth strategy across the brands of Rosewood Hotels & Resorts, New World Hotels & Resorts, Asaya, and Carlyle & Co.

Destination Gold Coast Business Events has announced two prominent appointments to strengthen the promotion of the region. **Brooke Campbell** has become Head of Business Events, and **Mark von Itzstein** joins as the new Destination Gold Coast Ambassador. Campbell joins the organisation with 15 years of experience and is looking forward to helping promote the region as an ideal business event destination.

Ahead of its opening in Nov, **The Lana, Dubai** has made a series of appointments, with **Alexandre Hulen** becoming the new Director of Sales & Marketing; **Carlotta Cavallari** as the new Director of Marketing & Communications; **Carol Shaw** joins as the Executive Housekeeper; **Edoardo Buffin de Chosal** appointed as the Director of Rooms; **Jakub Adamowicz** as the new Director of Engineering; **Marco Conte** becomes the Hotel Manager; **Nicholas Caupain** as its Director of F&B; **Nina Ptok** as the new Director of People & Culture; **Oliver Jackson** as the Executive Chef; and **Yana Zapryonova** as the newest Director of Residences.

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The best of the best!



THIS year's "Best of the Best" roadshow has wrapped up after a series of glittering events in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

Each gathering attracted about 70 luxury travel advisors, celebrating collaboration and relationships with laughs, chats, fine wine, gourmet dinners and amazing prizes - in fact, over \$240,000 worth of prizes were given away over the three nights.

The Best of the Best team is pictured, including reps of Como Hotels & Resorts, Anthony Knox & Associates, Inspired Luxury, Qantas, Seabourn, Taj Hotels and The Legian Seminyak, Bali.

Please leave Maui

VISITORS who are on non-essential travel to Maui are being asked to leave the island, Hawai'i Tourism Authority has warned, due to the wildfires that are continuing to burn in multiple areas of the island.

Non-essential travel to Maui is also being strongly discouraged at this time.

The wildfires have resulted in the evacuations of thousands of visitors and residents, and closures of multiple roadways.

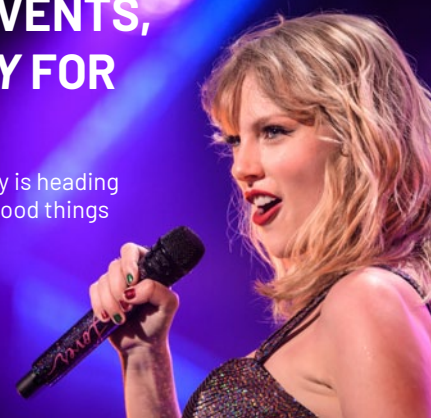
They are also burning in Kohala on the island of Hawaii.

TOURISM & EVENTS, A LOVE STORY FOR THE AGES?

Taylor Swift's Eras economy is heading to Australia, and it means good things for travel.

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