

FCTG doubles down on cruising

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has announced the relaunch of its Cruiseabout retail brand, along with a new dedicated wholesale cruise division.

Primarily focusing on the fly-cruise segment, Cruiseabout will offer "tactical cruise deals and exclusive rates as well as exclusive product with key suppliers", according to FCTG's Global CEO of Leisure Brands, James Kavanagh.

"We want to be part of the cruise industry's growth story with our revived offering," he said, with the plan including centrally located "concept stores" starting in 2024, complemented by online bookability and a Gold Coast-based call centre.

The cruise wholesale operation will offer a "new-age B2B model" for the whole industry, with recruiting for roles across the new cruise operations to start shortly.

More in today's **Cruise Weekly**.

QF flags fare reductions

QANTAS CEO Alan Joyce this morning claimed that the "normalising of international capacity and the unwinding of inefficiencies from the return of flying will put downward pressure on fares" while at the same time strengthening the airline's financial performance.

He made the statements as part of the carrier's annual results announcement (**TD** breaking news), which confirmed a whopping statutory after-tax net profit of \$1.74 billion for the year to 30 Jun, with an "underlying" result of \$2.74 billion.

Joyce said the strength of the recovery was helping QF invest heavily in customer experience, with the confirmation of a fleet renewal and upgrade program including firm orders for a further 12 Boeing 787s and 12 Airbus A350 widebody aircraft to replace the ageing Qantas A330 planes.

"It's because we're in a strong

financial position that we're able to invest in new aircraft, new destinations and new training facilities - all things that will make us better in the future," he said.

Joyce said fares had peaked in the Oct-Dec quarter last year after increasing due to strong demand and supply chain issues.

"Additional capacity, moderating fuel costs and a stronger Australian dollar applied downward pressure in the second half, with fares falling by around 12%," he said.

"In inflation-adjusted terms, domestic fares are now 4% higher than pre-COVID levels, and international fares are 10% higher," the outgoing QF chief said.

The Qantas Board has approved a \$500 million on-market share buyback starting next month, while Joyce noted ongoing strong trading conditions as consumers continue to prioritise travel.

More from Qantas on **page five**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of the latest news including **Business Events News**, and full pages from:

- Virtuoso
- Entire Travel Group
- Emirates

Be a Virtuoso!

VIRTUOSO is inviting travel advisors to explore a career in luxury travel via its new Advisor Recruitment Program.

For details see **page nine**.

Own it Entirely...

ENTIRE Group Journeys is offering agents the opportunity to secure exclusive departures for their own clientele "with absolutely no financial commitment until six months prior to departure".

The new touring brand is also offering guaranteed departures, \$500 per couple earlybird savings and agent incentives - **page 10**.

THINKING ALASKA? THINK NCL

7 AWARD-WINNING SHIPS | SAILINGS AVAILABLE THROUGH TO 2025 | YOUNGEST FLEET IN ALASKA



NCL NORWEGIAN *Feel Free*
CRUISE LINE®

©2023 NCL Corporation Ltd. Ships' Registry: Bahamas and USA. 1102176 07/23



**MOST OUTSTANDING
SUPPORT - CRUISE**
2022 WINNER



1300 225 200 OR 0800 969 283
AUSTRALIA BASED RESERVATIONS TEAM



**BOOKING
SUPPORT**



Travel Daily
Learn more about
Italy with Travel Daily
Training Academy

[Click here to discover](#)

New Ponant role for Sarina Bratton

AUSTRALIA'S "first lady of cruising", Sarina Bratton, has been named as Ponant's new Senior Strategic Advisor and Honorary Chairwoman Asia Pacific, transitioning from her former role as the cruise line's regional Executive Chair.

The switch comes a decade after Bratton commenced with Ponant and established the local business entity and structure (TD 25 Nov 2013) - a period which has seen the Asia-Pacific region grow in scale from just 1% to now 20% of Ponant's worldwide market.

Ponant global CEO Herve Gastinel said the local operation's expansion had a "profound effect on the accelerated growth of the company...in working closely with Sarina, I have the utmost respect for her as a person and as a professional".

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

CVFR to represent Sabre

SABRE Corporation has announced a new "strategic alliance" with CVFR Travel Group's Airline Rep Services, which will see the Sydney-headquartered representation business promote Sabre solutions to travel agents in Fiji and the South Pacific.

The pact will bring a local presence for Sabre into Fiji, while growing the technology firm's distribution presence across the South Pacific region.

"With the help of Airline Rep Services, travel agents will be better able to access Sabre's advanced technology, including Sabre Red 360," the company said.

"The intuitive interface unlocks a full spectrum of bookable content, including NDC offers, flights, lodging and insightful information so agents can efficiently create, sell and service tailored trip experiences."

CVFR Travel Group CEO Ram Chhabra told *Travel Daily* "this is

a big one for Airline Rep Services".

"With strong travel demand in Fiji and the South Pacific islands and airline capacity returning, it is imperative that travel agents across the region have access to the right technological solutions to capture and create demand, streamline operations, grow revenue and create optimal travel experiences," he said.

Brett Thorstad, VP of Sabre Travel Solutions, Agency Sales Asia Pacific, said the deal will further enhance the company's strong marketplace presence in the South Pacific.

"This new agreement brings together Sabre's leading-edge technology with Airline Rep Services' deep local market expertise," Thorstad added.

The new alliance will centre on CVFR's office in Nadi, including a dedicated space to bring the industry together for joint engagements and training.

AKL to pay dividend

AUCKLAND International Airport this morning reported its results for the year to 30 Jun, including the payment of a 4c dividend and an underlying profit for the first time since 2020.

Passenger numbers almost doubled to 15.9 million, and the airport is continuing its major infrastructure upgrade program which is paving the way for a new domestic terminal - despite the objections of airlines who are being hit with increased charges.

Scheduled for a 2028/29 opening, the new terminal will be integrated with international operations, transforming the experience for travellers.

Accor pedals on

ACCOR this morning announced an expanded fitness partnership with Peloton, seeing bikes installed in over 50 Australian properties with the opportunity for guests to earn points while they work out.

BONJOUR MELBOURNE!

UNDER 4 HOURS TO NOUMEA

Earn
5% BSP
commission
with
Aircalin
New Caledonia

DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM
MELBOURNE TO NOUMEA
FROM 8 DECEMBER 2023

ON SALE NOW! BOOK WITH



new
caledonia
Pacific heart



Aircalin
New Caledonia

More Wintjiri Wiru

VOYAGES Indigenous Tourism Australia has announced the addition of a third nightly Wintjiri Wiru show in response to strong demand, just three months after the cultural storytelling experience first launched (**TD** 12 May).

Priced at \$190 for adults and \$95 for children, the new Twilight session includes a dessert and cheese hamper and is available to book now, **HERE**.

Wintjiri Wiru Twilight will join the three-hour Sunset Dinner and the 1.5-hour After Dark shows.

Korea drops rule

AUSTRALIANS entering South Korea are no longer required to register their personal info in Korea's Advance COVID-19 Defence (Q-code) system.

Air NZ grows fleet & profit

AIR New Zealand has announced it will add four new aircraft to its regional and short-haul fleet between late 2024 and 2028, providing an extra 768,000 seats on its network per year.

The Kiwi carrier will welcome two new 214-seat Airbus A321neo aircraft, boosting capacity on its Tasman and Pacific Island routes by more than 9,000 seats per week.

Air New Zealand also has two new 68-seat ATR72-600 turboprop planes on order, which it will use to fly customers to regional destinations like Tauranga, Nelson and Gisborne.

The airline's CEO, Greg Foran,

said the new aircraft will help meet demand for travel, which in turn will help soften fare prices.

The announcement comes as Air New Zealand reveals strong results for the 2023 financial year, bringing in NZ\$574 million in statutory earnings before tax - a nice recovery from the NZ\$810 million loss posted in FY2022.

The carrier's operating revenue for FY23 was NZ\$6.3 billion, up 132% from last year, while its net profit after tax was NZ\$412 million, representing a 170% gain on FY22's results.

"After several volatile years it's great to be back in the black and standing on our own two feet especially given we have more than \$3.5 billion in aircraft investment coming over the next five years," Foran shared.

The carrier's domestic capacity has recovered to 94% of pre-COVID levels, while international capacity is at 71%.

Exp Co makes gains

ADVENTURE tourism company Experience Co has improved its financial position over the 12 months to 30 Jun, revealing a net loss today of \$542,000, a marked improvement on the \$13.58 million loss it posted last year.

While the company is yet to return to the black, revenue enjoyed a healthy surge over the previous 12 months, growing from \$55.81m to \$108.58 million.

Its Reef Unlimited brand in Far North Qld led the charge, reporting a 66% increase in booking volumes.

Looking ahead, CEO John O'Sullivan said continued rises in international arrivals would help fuel a further booking rebound, particularly from the Chinese market, which recently added Australia as an ADS country after a long hiatus (**TD** 11 Aug).

"We look forward to the key milestones of Golden Week in Oct and the Chinese New Year in early 2024," he noted.

Experience Co also observed that a number of proactive moves had helped the business improve its financial position, including opening up two more Treetops Adventure sites in Sydney, as well as greater investment in its CRM and consumer websites.

Intrepid, FC link up

INTREPID Travel has partnered with Flight Centre to launch a new travel consortium aimed at measuring and addressing modern slavery supply chain risks across the industry.

The consortium is open to all travel and tourism companies around the world, with Intrepid and Flight Centre currently rolling out surveys and tools to their suppliers globally - more **HERE**.



Window Seat

WHEN it comes to getting dad what he wants most this Father's Day, you simply can't go wrong with a relaxing island escape...at least, that's what many Aussie sons and daughters are thinking this year, according to new data.

Hamilton Island is set to be a popular choice for Aussies looking to treat their dad, with the Whitsunday destination rising to number nine (up 41 spots!) on the Booking.com Father's Day search data list.

Sydney took out the top spot for domestic travel this Father's Day, followed by the Gold Coast and Melbourne, with Cairns, Hobart, Airlie Beach and Jindabyne also featuring on the list.

For those of us who can afford to splash out even more and whisk dad away on an overseas vacay, Bali is top-of-mind for many, with Seminyak in first place, and Kuta, Legian, Ubud, and Nusa Dua also appearing in the top 10 list.

Tokyo is sure to be a hit with dad, with the city rising 86 spots to reach third spot.



itravel



STEFANIA SCUDERI

Jetsetter Travel Ayr QLD
itravel link Affiliate

"The experienced and passionate itravel team give us the support and resources to continue delivering excellence to our clients"

LET'S TALK

MOBILE | FRANCHISE | LINK | LUXE

CAPA
Australia Pacific
AVIATION SUMMIT 2023

AVIATION
WEEK
NETWORK

Hear from C-Level executives from Air New Zealand, Jetstar Airways, Bonza and more.

14-15 SEPTEMBER | BRISBANE



Greg Foran
CEO
Air New Zealand



Stephanie Tulley
Chief Executive Officer
Jetstar Airways



Tim Jordan
CEO
Bonza



Andrew Barr
ACT Chief Minister
ACT Government

VIEW SPEAKERS



Bonza links Tassie to GC

LOW-COST airline Bonza will connect the Gold Coast to Launceston for the first time via year-around flights from Nov.

Launceston marks the Tasmanian debut for Bonza, and is the 18th destination for the carrier launched this year.

From 21 Nov, travellers will be able to fly directly between the Gold Coast and Launceston three times a week on Tue, Fri and Sun,

with prices starting from \$79pp via the FlyBonza app.

Launceston Airport CEO Shane O'Hare said the new route will open up more leisure opportunities for Tasmanians searching for a sunny holiday.

"These year-round services will make it much easier for Tasmanians to enjoy Australia's favourite holiday hotspot, but it also opens the door for thousands more tourists from south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales to visit our state," he said.

Bonza CCO Carly Povey said the carrier's buzz is already reaching Tasmanians, who have downloaded its app 11,000 times, adding "there will be more destinations for Launceston, and Bonza's wider route map, to come", with details to be revealed "when the time is right".

The flights are subject to regulatory approval.

Viking from Sydney

VIKING has announced a new 85-day Grand Voyage, which sets sail from Sydney in Feb 2025 to explore the history, traditions and landscapes of 19 countries.

The Australia, Asia & the Mediterranean grand voyage is a combination of seven of Viking's popular ocean itineraries, and visits 50 ports, with overnight stays in nine cities.

Highlights include witnessing Egypt's Great Pyramids of Giza, exploring the architectural treasures of Mumbai, and meeting the Komodo dragon.

"We are so excited to finally bring this itinerary to our Australian and New Zealand guests, who have been booking these seven itineraries back-to-back for a while now," Viking MD ANZ Michelle Black said.

Prices start from \$64,795pp in a Deluxe Veranda Stateroom, including a \$2,000 flight credit per couple - **CLICK HERE**.

MCEC social toolkit

THE Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has launched an online toolkit to help customers implement corporate social responsibility into their event planning.

The *Positive Impact Guide* provides information on recognising Traditional Owners, reducing waste, and children's charities - access it **HERE**.

More events news on **page 7**.

Capstone plugs in Portage



CAPSTONE Hotel Management has been appointed as the new management company for Portage Resorts in New Zealand's Marlborough Sounds.

The South Island-based company, whose portfolio includes properties throughout NZ, ranging from CBD hotels to luxury lodges and wilderness retreats, will oversee trade enquiries and reservations for Portage.

Capstone will also host an open day on 06 Oct for local tourism operators and the community to meet the new management team and learn about their refresh plans for the property.

"We look forward to adding the Capstone touch and reintroducing the property and new leadership team to the international tourism sector and recementing its place in the heart of locals," Capstone Managing Director Clare Davies enthused.

Close to the popular Queen Charlotte Track and overlooking the Kenepuru Sound, Portage Resort features 42 hotel rooms, a restaurant and bar, plus an outdoor pool and a number of onsite activities.

Click Frenzy travel

AUSSIE travellers will be able to take advantage of a whole host of major deals thanks to Click Frenzy's Travel Event, which is set to unleash savings on flights, accommodation and experiences.

The mega-sale kicked off on Wed 23 Aug at 7pm AEST and will run for five days until Sun 29 Aug, featuring offers from brands like Air New Zealand, Flight Centre and G Adventures.

Aussies can expect to snag discounted Air NZ flights, such as a one-way ticket from Sydney to Auckland from \$269, and 25% off select G Adventures tours to Thailand, Cuba, India and Peru.

Click Frenzy will also host a Daily Destination Giveaway this year, giving members the chance to win a holiday to destinations like Bali, Fiji and New Zealand.

Members will also get early access to the Travel Event - sign up for free **HERE**.

Camplify rebounding

CAMPLIFY has released its FY23 results this week, recording a net loss after tax of \$3.6 million, representing an improvement on its FY22 loss last year of \$8.2m.

Despite still being in the red, the peer-to-peer caravan and motorhome company noted green shoots, with revenue more than doubling to \$38.2m, while operating expenses also dropped as a percentage of revenue.

In Australia alone, Camplify's fleet size grew 45% while bookings increased 30%, leading to the region delivering a 71% increase in revenue.

Camplify noted that in Australia it has just 1.3% of the addressable market, leaving significant future opportunity.

The country makes up 56.4% of Camplify's global business.

The Chat
with Jenny
A Conversation with
Anne Rogers
Tour Designer &
Business Consultant
CLICK HERE to listen



QF's "multi-billion" fleet plan

TODAY'S announcement of a firm order for 24 new Qantas wide-body aircraft (see **page 1**) has been branded as "Project Fysh" in honour of QF co-founder Sir Hudson Fysh, who led the carrier when it commenced international flying in 1935.

The multi-billion dollar order will see the first of 12 Boeing 787s (four 787-9s and eight 787-10s) and 12 Airbus A350-1000s delivered over a decade from 2027, plus additional purchase right options evenly split between the two manufacturers.

Qantas said the deals will give it flexibility for future growth, as well as the ability to "ultimately replace its 10 A380s with A350s from around FY32".

The average age of the increasingly venerable QF A330 fleet will be 21 years by the time the replacement program starts, but planes scheduled to leave the fleet in the 2030s will undergo a refurbishment from 2025.

Outgoing Qantas CEO Alan Joyce said the new orders are in addition to 149 aircraft also in the

SAF to flow for QF

QANTAS' new aircraft order with Boeing and Airbus also includes access to up to 500 million litres of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) each year starting from 2028.

The supply agreement has the potential to meet up to 90% of the group's interim SAF target for 2030, with access to the fuels enabled by partnering with both manufacturers on several SAF projects, including in the USA.

"Qantas expects to purchase the SAF at favourable prices due to supportive government policies in the US," the carrier said.

While the agreements support the group's interim targets, "access to an Australian SAF industry is critical to reaching the industry's broader commitment to reach net zero by 2050," a Qantas spokesperson reiterated.

pipeline to continue renewing the QF and JQ domestic fleet, as well as the non-stop Project Sunrise flights to London and New York.

"These are generational decisions for this company...the aircraft will arrive over a decade or more and they'll be part of the fleet for 20 years.

"They'll unlock new routes and better travel experiences for customers, and new jobs and promotions for our people."

Vanessa Hudson, who will become Qantas CEO when Joyce departs later this year, said "our ability to afford these aircraft comes from years of restructuring and strengthening our balance sheet, and our confidence about the future".

QF Loyalty record

SIGNIFICANT ongoing growth within Qantas Loyalty drove a record underlying earnings result of \$451 million for the division, according to this morning's QF results announcement.

Frequent Flyer membership rose by about 7% to 15.2 million, while the Qantas Business Rewards scheme saw a 19% uplift in members, which now claims one in five of all Australian SMEs as points-earning participants.

A record number of points were earned across financial products such as credit cards, while Qantas Health Insurance policies grew by 41% and Travel Insurance policies by over 60% year-on-year.

\$340m for QF staff

QANTAS today confirmed previously announced bonuses for employees including the Sep 2021 allocation of up to 1,000 shares each which will now vest.

A further \$5,000 "recovery boost" will be paid to eligible employees as new enterprise agreements are finalised, while all non-executive staff have today been awarded an additional \$500 staff travel credit.

Some ETG days are diamond...



One billion points

QANTAS is sharing the joy of its mammoth profit (see **p1**) with members of its frequent flyer program, gifting over a billion Qantas Points to anyone who has taken at least one QF flight over the past 12 months.

Members may also opt to receive Status Credits instead, with eligible customers today sent an email inviting them to choose between 1,000 points or 30 Status Credits.

Those who flew 10 or more times will be gifted 5,000 Qantas Points or 75 Status Credits, while QF and Jetstar also today put over one million.

International to 81%

QANTAS and Jetstar International flying is now back to 81% of pre-COVID levels thanks to the return to service of seven refurbished Airbus A380s over the last 12 months, along with the delivery of two new Boeing 787s and eight new A321LRs.

"This activity, combined with strong demand, particularly in premium cabins, helped drive underlying EBIT of \$1.1 billion," QF said, with passenger loads averaging above 85%.

LAST weekend's ETGX conference in Singapore (**TD** 18 Aug) wrapped up with a Sat evening gala dinner during which the network's top performers were honoured with awards.

The top agencies for the network across the Select Travel Group, Alatus, italktravel & Cruise, Independent Travel Advisors and Independent Travel Group brands all received special "Diamond" awards, and are **pictured** with Express Travel Group CEO Tom Manwaring.

\$1.5b QF domestic

QANTAS Group domestic operations delivered more than half of the airline's whopping underlying earnings over the last 12 months, recording \$1.5 billion of EBIT due to strong leisure and business travel demand.

"The combination of Qantas' network, frequency, lounges, loyalty program and inclusions like in-flight wi-fi helped it retain its share of corporate and small business travel, while Jetstar continued to offer millions of low fares to popular leisure destinations," QF said.

Demand from the resources sector also drove significant revenue for the division.

URBAN AIR MOBILITY IS NO FLY-BY-NIGHT FAD

The once-fanciful aerial transport is now within reach, and aerospace manufacturers are furiously working on getting the concept of Urban Air Mobility off the ground.

[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)

travelBulletin

Golden time for ATEC's 50th anniversary

AS IT marks 50 years of representing inbound tourism, ATEC has been rolling back the years and sharing some of the fun and challenging times that mark the history of this amazing industry.

From its beginnings as the Australian Incoming Tour Operators' Association (ITOA) driven by businesses looking to band together and support each other in growing our tourism industry, the organisation worked alongside the Australian Tourism Commission (now Tourism Australia), and airlines to profile Australia to an international audience, and was instrumental in getting destination Australia into the US and Japanese markets through its trade missions.

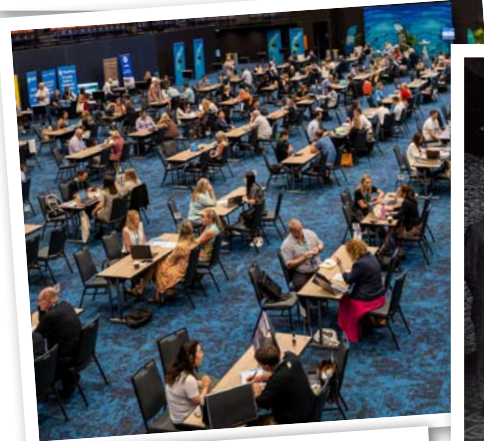
The fast growth of the 1980s saw an influx of new operators and a broadening remit to include supplier members, with a greater reach and representation eventually leading to ITOA being rebranded to the Australian Tourism Export Council we know today.

While ATEC continues to provide the essence of its original purpose in delivering a range of unique national and local business-to-business events for its members, the organisation is equally well known for its extensive range of market-specific training programs, industry leadership and mentoring for a collective voice representing the interests of the inbound tourism sector to government.

It's been a fascinating and exciting journey for tourism exporters who now help support a \$59 billion visitor economy.

Take a look at ATEC's 50th anniversary page [HERE](#).

ATEC National Board of 2023.



MEETING Place B2B in Cairns 2022.



A MISSION to Japan in 1974.



THE Aussie Host monorail in 1993.



CELEBRATING ITOA's 25th anniversary in 1996.



HOBART Symposium 2000.



THE ELITE event in 2018.



ANSETT sponsored famil in the 1980s.



THE ITOA Board meeting in 1997.



Syd lands arts tour

SYDNEY Showground will host the CCURRENTT World Tour, a multi-city contemporary Chinese and arts festival, which is coming to Australia for the first time on 26 Nov - tix on sale **HERE**.

SOOS in Hobart

MORE than 250 Southern Ocean experts from 25 countries convened in Hobart last week for the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) inaugural symposium.

Held at Hotel Grand Chancellor, the conference was secured thanks to Business Events Tasmania's Business Events Attraction fund (BEAF), and is considered the world's foremost oceanic scientific gathering.

ICC SYDNEY STEPS UP FOR FUN RUN

THE International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney has shown solidarity in its commitment to Australia's First Nations People by teaming up with community partner KARI for the iconic 2023 City2Surf event.

A record number of 20 ICC team members (some pictured) participated in the fun run, trekking 14km from Sydney's CBD to Bondi on 13 Aug and raising upwards of \$6,000 for the Indigenous not-for-profit organisation.

ICC Sydney CEO and Group Director - Convention Centres, ASM Global (APAC), Geoff Donaghy said the achievement demonstrates the Centre's commitment to reconciliation.

"This was a powerful opportunity to help make a tangible difference in the lives of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander



Peoples who KARI works tirelessly to uplift," he shared.

"ICC Sydney's team members benefited too and were able to connect with peers from across the business while prioritising their health and wellbeing in this fun setting."

KARI CEO Cain Slater said "their unwavering commitment and

enthusiasm for our cause truly makes ICC Sydney a champion in every sense of the word".

KARI will use the funds raised by ICC Sydney in a number of community projects for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and families, focusing on education, cultural preservation, and family support.

VSC heads to Brissy

VISIT Sunshine Coast (VSC) is inviting Brisbane business events buyers to the new Crocodile Hunter Lodge at Australia Zoo for a Sunshine Soiree on 01 Sep.

Guests will arrive via coach with networking drinks and canapes on arrival at Warrior Restaurant, as well as enjoy a cooking demo from a yet-to-be-revealed guest celebrity chef, live entertainment, and the chance to win prizes.

The Brissy event (waitlist **HERE**) follows the "overwhelming success" of the Sydney Soiree last month (**TD** 02 Aug).

Vic to pay \$380m

THE Victorian Government has agreed to pay \$380 million in compensation to Commonwealth Games bodies after its controversial cancellation of the 2026 event (**TD** 20 Jul).

The state's Premier, Daniel Andrews, said the settlement falls under funds set aside in the 2022/23 budget for tourism and major events.

A parliamentary inquiry into the cancellation has begun.

Big value for BEIA

BUSINESS Events Industry Aotearoa's (BEIA) MEETINGS 2023 was the largest in its 27-year history, generating a projected NZ\$157 million in business value over the next five years.

The two-day event, which was held in Wellington in Jun, featured a record-breaking 24 exhibition stands representing 19 regions, and over 400 buyers, including 100 from Australia.

The Perfect win

AUSTRALIAN events company The Perfect Events Group has won the contract to manage the Northcote Rise Festival, which returns in Feb '24 after a 13-year break.

Supported by a \$450,000 grant from the Vic Govt as part of its efforts to help revive street festivals in Melbourne, the family-friendly event will feature local artists, stalls from local traders, and outdoor dining.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR DYNAMIC MENTEES

TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Strategic career planning & access to new networks
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture, and processes

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT - www.travelindustrymentor.com.au

APPOINTMENTS

Send your new appointments to:
appointments@traveldaily.com.au

Qantas has today announced the appointment of **Heather Smith** as its new Non-Executive Director. Smith joins the industry with two decades of experience in the Australian public service, where her latest position was the Secretary of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science between 2017 and 2020. She is currently the Non-Executive Director at the ASX, as well as the National President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

Adding to her successful tenure at Tourism Malaysia, **Baizuri Baharum** has been appointed as the new Director of **Tourism Malaysia Sydney**. Baharum has spent the past 22 years with the organisation, and is an experienced expert in marketing, promotion and tourism product development. She was previously the Director of Tourism Malaysia HK.

The new Director of Marketing and Communications at **Sofitel Darling Harbour** is **Mandy Dwyer**. The public relations specialist has more than three decades of public relations experience, bringing extensive expertise to the property, where she will be charged with steering the hotel's image and promotion. Before joining Sofitel, Dwyer was most recently the Group Public Relations Manager at The Star in Sydney.

Topi Manner has resigned as Chief Executive Officer at **Finnair**, electing instead to join the Finnish-based telecommunication company Elisa Corporation as its CEO. Manner was instrumental in steering the airline through difficult periods, including the COVID-19 pandemic. He will continue to serve as the CEO of Finnair until Mar 2024. A replacement has not yet been named.

Reginald Charlot has been promoted as the new Senior Vice President of Tourism Market Development for Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the US, Luxury and LGBTQ+ markets at **NYC Tourism + Conventions**. Previously the Managing Director of Tourism Market Development, Charlot has 15 years of experience in leading the European markets, which are now much larger source markets for NYC.

Daydream Island Resort and Living Reef has welcomed **Craig Robertson** as its Executive Chef. The experienced culinary artist brings over 35 years of hospitality experience, holding various senior positions including a stint at The Langham Gold Coast as its Executive Chef and the same role at InterContinental Hayman Island Resort. Robertson will oversee all culinary offerings within the resort.

Global hotelier **Accor** has announced the appointment of **Gilda Perez-Alvarado** as its Group Chief Strategy Officer, who will also become a member of the Management Board effective from 01 Oct. She will directly report to Accor's Chairman and CEO Sebastien Bazin in her new position as she oversees the global strategy, relations and strategic partnerships at the company.

Connect with your clients and ramp up your social media content

Travel & Cruise Weekly

Travel & Cruise Weekly have ready-made social media toolkits to inspire your clients.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Rex to Hobart, a piece of cake



LAST week's launch of new Rex Airlines flights to Hobart (**TD 18 Aug**) included a celebratory reception on the tarmac complete with the cutting of a spectacular cake.

Rex Deputy Chairman, John Sharp, did the honours alongside dignitaries including Tasmanian Premier and Minister for Tourism, Jeremy Rockliff, Hobart Airport CEO Norris Carter and Tourism Tasmania CEO Sarah Clark.

The new 737-800NG route connects the Apple Isle to the mainland with an additional 128,000 annual seats between Melbourne and Hobart.

AC heads to Croatia

MARRIOTT International's AC Hotels brand has made its debut in Croatia with the opening of AC Hotel by Marriott Split.

The new property has 214 guest rooms and is located on the higher floors of the city centre's Westgate Tower with stunning Adriatic views, a gym & in-house Croatian Laureto Restaurant.

Rail Online adds new Italy fares

RAIL Online has expanded its offering with an "unprecedented" range of B2B Trenitalia fares which deliver price reductions of up to 70% off high-speed Freccce journeys, discounts of up to 60% for groups of three to five people, and 50% off for couples.

The new range of Freccce Special, Together and Me&You fares is complemented by functionality allowing Eurail Pass holders to make Trenitalia seat reservations directly on the Rail Online site.

Free fares for children under 15 years of age are available on Trenitalia InterCity trains, while savings of up to 40% on base fares are also available.

Rail Online GM Kirsty Blows said the company's strong Trenitalia relationship had opened up an "unrivalled B2B portal to discounted inventory" with the added bonus that all fares are priced in Australia or NZ dollars.

Agents can also self-manage changes - see rail.online.



VIRTUOSO



Curious

ABOUT A CAREER IN LUXURY TRAVEL?

Find out how Virtuoso can enrich your career as a luxury travel advisor

Become a Virtuoso

Join the leading global network dedicated to delivering the world's most extraordinary leisure travel experiences and gain access to over 2,300+ of the best luxury brands in travel. As a Virtuoso Advisor, you'll provide exclusive access to extraordinary places and invite-only experiences while offering in-the-know expertise and amazing benefits.

As a travel advisor with a Virtuoso agency, you'll have the power of the exclusive Virtuoso brand supporting you.

Through our connections and award-winning professional development, we provide our advisors with the tools needed to develop strong relationships, offer support and growth throughout your career, and provide access to superior products that help you attract – and retain – high-value clients.

Join your travel dream team through Virtuoso's Advisor Recruitment program.

Visit becomeavirtuoso.com to apply today.

*Virtuoso does not hire travel advisors directly, we do refer applicants to our carefully vetted Member agencies. We have a broad range of agency sizes and types across multiple countries with varying needs.



ENTIRE

GROUP JOURNEYS



GUARANTEED DEPARTURES



SMALL GROUP SIZES



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL



ENGLISH-ONLY EXPERT GUIDES



MORE ADVENTURES



SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDED



SLOWER-PACED ITINERARY

2024 EARLY BIRD SALE

Save \$500 per couple on all 2024 departures
Extended until 30 September 2023

TRAVEL AGENT INCENTIVE

Receive \$100 digital Mastercard for every
website booking!

SECURE YOUR OWN EXCLUSIVE GROUP JOURNEY DEPARTURE

Are you a travel agent looking for an extraordinary opportunity to create unforgettable experiences for your clients? Look no further than Entire Group Journeys! We are thrilled to present you with a unique offer that allows you to secure exclusive departures for your own clientele, with absolutely no financial commitment until six months prior to departure.

For more information and to start planning your exclusive departures, contact our National Sales Manager Roberta at **0499 561 993** or **roberta@entiretravel.com.au**.

www.entiretravel.com.au





Alright Swifties, Let's create a Love Story and Win a Private Suite ticket to **Taylor Swift** in Sydney*

Shake it off and find out how to enter

Issue 1 (one) Adult Return ticket from Australia to anywhere on our Emirates Network between **1 August 2023 - 30 September 2023** for travel departing between **1 October 2023 - 30 November 2023**.

Be one of the top 38 (thirty-eight) selling agents during the competition period to win!*

Every eligible ticket you issue is an entry!

Your Wildest Dreams AKA The Prize

1 (one) Private Suite ticket to see **Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour** concert on one of the dates below:

- ◆ Friday 23 February 2024 at Accor Stadium, Sydney; or
- ◆ Saturday 24 February 2024 at Accor Stadium, Sydney

The ticket includes premium food and beverage, an outstanding view of the concert with an exclusive outdoor balcony and seating.

To ensure there's no Bad Blood, let's get to the End Game!

Head to our **Emirates Partner Portal** for further details on how to submit your eligible bookings.

[Find out more here](#)

*The prize is a single concert ticket only. Competition terms and conditions apply.