



## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features five pages of news, including our **Corporate Update** plus full pages from:

- Ponant
- Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley

## Hurti to Kimberley

**EXCLUSIVE**

**HURTIGRUTEN** Expeditions will deploy one of its vessels in the Pacific in 2025, including the line's first-ever Kimberley season.

The move was confirmed by Tudor Morgan, Hurtigruten VP of Sustainability and Industry Relations, who told *Travel Daily* the line's Aussie guests are keenly interested in Hurtigruten's strong focus on sustainability.

As well as the Kimberley, the ship will operate NZ voyages and traverse the Pacific to French Polynesia during the year.

Read the full story in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

## AFTA Board unchanged

**SIX** incumbent Directors of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) have been reappointed unopposed in this year's election process (**TD** 12 Apr), which did not see any additional nominations for the Board roles up for grabs.

Confirmed at this week's AFTA Board meeting (**TD** 31 May), the successful nominees included vice-Chair Christian Hunter from Travellers Choice; Corporate Travel Management COO Laura Ruffles; Cinzia Burnes, Helloworld Executive Director; Webjet's Shelley Beasley; and Danielle Russom from American Express Global Business Travel.

Under the AFTA Constitution half of the 12-strong Board roles are up for grabs every year.

Graham Turner from Flight Centre - who was not initially up for election but stood for the sixth vacant role at the last moment - was also reappointed,

meaning the two Board positions currently held by FCTG will now rotate on a biannual basis, while the 12th position on the Board remains vacant at this stage.

AFTA CEO Dean Long congratulated the reappointed Directors, saying "I want to thank the Board for their continued commitment and leadership over the last 12 months", which has included the newly unanimously endorsed AFTA Constitution, the ATAS review and other key advocacy successes on behalf of the entire travel sector.

"The projects and work undertaken this year have been significant and will ensure AFTA remains a key driver of growth and unity within our industry," Long enthused.

AFTA's work continues internationally this week, with Long currently in Korea for a meeting of the World Travel Agents Associations Alliance.

## One&Only Wolgan

**AGENTS** can treat themselves to a getaway to Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley in the Greater Blue Mountains by taking advantage of the property's new trade winter escape offer - head to the **back page** for more info.

## Ponant turns 35

**PONANT** is marking its 35th anniversary this month at its roadshow events in capital cities around Australia, where agents and their clients are invited to join in on the celebrations - for details, see **page six**.

## QR Haneda daily

**QATAR** Airways has resumed daily services between Tokyo (Haneda) and Doha, bringing the carrier's total flights from its HQ to Japan to 14 a week.

QR has deployed A350-900s on the expanded route, adding to existing Narita-Doha services.

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## Window Seat

**WE'VE** all heard of (and hopefully experienced) an all-you-can-eat buffet, but how about an 'all-you-can-fly' plane ticket?

It may sound too good to be true, but one Japanese airline has introduced the option, offering its customers a 30-day unlimited fly period.

For the price of \$440, Gen Z flyers (aged 12-26) could take as many Star Flyer flights as they wish between Haneda Airport and Kitakyushu Airport between 15 May and 13 Jun.

The carrier said pax could board as many times as they wanted on weekends and weekdays during the 30 days, but needed to book a seat in advance within three timeslots - "morning, noon and night".

Older generations got the shorter end of the stick, having to fork out \$1,700 - almost four times as much - for the same pass - ageism much!

## Aircalin warms up

**AIRCALIN** has released its New Caledonia Sale, offering Aussie travellers cheaper flights from the east coast to Noumea.

The promotion includes Sydney to Noumea flights from \$579 return, as well as Brisbane to Noumea from \$599 return.

Ticket prices also include all of the standard inclusions, such as one piece of checked luggage (up to 23kg), meals and beverages, and inflight entertainment.

The sale ends 16 Jun and travel dates apply.

## Carnival reshuffle

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has announced a restructure of its global operations into six new operating divisions - with P&O Australia now reporting into Carnival Cruise Line chief Christine Duffy.

Former Holland America Group President, Jan Swartz, is moving to a newly created Executive VP role overseeing global port and destination developments as well as land operations in Alaska.

The departure of Sture Myrmell as Carnival UK chief (**TD** 31 May) is also part of the changes, with Paul Ludlow heading up the British operations including P&O UK and Cunard, while other divisions centre on Holland America Line under Gus Antorcha, Princess Cruises which is headed up by John Padgett, plus leaders for AIDA and Costa.

More in **Cruise Weekly** today.

## Bhutan incentives

**THE** Bhutanese Government is encouraging more longer-term stays from travellers by partially waiving its Sustainable Development Fees (SDF) of US\$200 per night.

Effective from this month and running to at least 31 Dec 2024, the country will provide four nights free of the daily levy when four nights are booked, as well as seven free nights on trips of at least seven days.

Travellers who pay 12 nights of the SDF will receive 18 additional nights without the daily levy.

The SDF is exempt for children of five years of age and below, while there is a concession levy rate of 50% off for children between the ages of six and 12.

## QF's big biz campaign

**QANTAS** has launched a major new campaign for its SME loyalty program, Qantas Business Rewards, with major prizes up for grabs including a year's worth of flights valued at \$100,000.

Until 31 Jul, all new and existing Qantas Business Rewards members who join the campaign are guaranteed to score either 500 or 1,000 Qantas Points, or a \$100 Qantas Hotels voucher.

To go into the draw, registered members need to spend with a Qantas Business Rewards partner, for example, by booking a Qantas flight, purchasing fuel with BP Plus or spending with an American Express Qantas Business Rewards credit card.

To celebrate the campaign's

launch, members can also enjoy up to 15% off the base fare on all eligible flights booked between 01 and 07 Jun.

"We know that earning Qantas Points on everyday business expenses and travel discounts is a real drawcard for small businesses," a spokesperson for Qantas Loyalty said.

"Our program has helped members save millions of dollars when flying plus enjoy a huge range of rewards, with new incentives and benefits added regularly."

Around 500,000 businesses have signed up to the rewards program - for more business travel news, see **page four**.

## Uniworld agent deal

**UNIWORLD** is offering 60% savings for travel agents on select sailings in 2023, such as the seven-night Enchanting Danube cruise, which offers departure dates up until Oct.

Agents will need to complete the Uniworld University training prior to booking their cruise to qualify - click **HERE** for more details and **HERE** to fill out the agent discount request letter.

## BHW winter appeal

**BHW** Hotels is giving travellers the chance to earn up to US\$100 in Best Western gift cards when they stay at any Best Western-branded hotels across Australia and New Zealand.

Loyalty members who stay two nights before 04 Sep will earn a US\$50 Best Western gift card - for more details, **CLICK HERE**.

## Four-day Gallipoli

**MAT** McLachlan Battlefield Tours has launched a new four-day Gallipoli Explorer exploration for 2024, with fortnightly departures from May to Sep.

The itinerary, which was personally designed by historian Mat McLachlan himself, will visit all the key sites where the Anzacs fought and died, as well as special inclusions not offered by any other operator, and a day trip to the ancient city of Troy.

Highlights include a scenic drive along the shore of Sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles; touring Chimpe Fort, part of German commander headquarters during the campaign; and paying respects at Ari Burnu and Beach Cemeteries.

The tour is priced from \$2,599pp twin share, with all bookings requiring a 30% deposit. **CLICK HERE** for details.

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## Bench partnership program

**BENCH** Africa has today announced the debut of AfricaBound, an extensive travel agent famil program which aims to reflect the operator's "ongoing commitment to our valued travel agency partners".

The initiative is centred on the relaunch of Bench's "Safari for Change" program, which also offers travel advisors the opportunity to make a positive impact on local communities and conservation efforts.

Bench Africa Trade Relations Manager, Andy Kirkman, said AfricaBound aimed to help the industry reconnect, via an "extensive collection of exceptional Africa famils, designed to educate industry professionals about the diverse destinations and experiences available throughout the continent".

"These famils are escorted by our knowledgeable team of experts, allowing us to establish

personal connections with our valued industry partners," he said.

A comprehensive suite of training and marketing resources for travel agents will complement the famil program, ensuring advisors are equipped with in-depth knowledge about the company's products & services.

Registrations for the new program are now open, with advisors able to express interest online by **CLICKING HERE**.

## IHG unleashes wi-fi

**IHG** Hotels & Resorts has launched a new "Wi-Fi Auto Connect" feature to its more than 5,000 properties globally.

Described as a first-of-its-kind innovation, the move allows guests with the IHG One Rewards mobile app to automatically connect members to wi-fi upon arrival, with no requirement for a separate login or password.

## AFTA dons its best media gear



**THE** Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) recently attended the National Press Club address by Federal Minister for Trade and Tourism, Don Farrell.

## JQ sells its Seoul

**JETSTAR** is offering discounted one-way fares to Seoul, starting from \$329 departing Sydney and \$423 departing Melbourne.

The sale ends on Mon 05 Jun unless sold out prior - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

Based in Canberra, the National Press Club provides a forum for global decision-makers and influencers to debate the important social issues influencing Australia's future.

You can view the full event on ABC iView **HERE**.

**Pictured:** Liza-Jayne Loch, AFTA; Minister Don Farrell; Jenny Cooper, Queanbeyan City Travel and Cruise; Michelle Everson, Jamison Travel; Vanessa Schmitzer, Travel Associates; and Richard Taylor, AFTA.

## Member Flight Sale

Your Qantas Business Rewards customers can save up to 15% off the base fare of selected flights across Australia, including Red e-Deals.^^

Learn more

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MEMBER  
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^^ Savings are available exclusively to Qantas Business Rewards Members off the base fare of selected fares only and do not apply to taxes, fees and carrier charges. Availability is limited. Offer available between 00:01am 1 June - 11:59pm 7 June 2023 AEDT for travel between 1 June 2023 and 21 May 2024. Member Deals are subject to the Qantas Business Rewards Terms and Conditions at [qantas.com/business](https://www.qantas.com/business).

## CORPORATE UPDATE

### Messinis Locomote COO

**LOCOMOTE** has announced the appointment of Tass Messinis as its new Chief Operating Officer.

Messinis, who is also Chair of the Association of Travel Management Companies (ATMC), has been a Strategic Advisor to Locomote, as well as a non-executive Director, for some months (TD 05 Dec 2022).

He joined Locomote after eight years leading the local operation of BCD Travel (TD 12 Aug 2022), with more than three decades of leadership experience in corporate travel, card and payment services and technology, including involvement with

Locomote in its early years. Locomote CEO and co-founder Ross Fastuca said that since rejoining the organisation six months ago Messinis had worked closely with the company's management team, strategic partners & customers.

"His guidance has played a crucial role in enhancing and accelerating our strategic initiatives, focusing on operations, service delivery, customer experience and marketplace partnerships.

"Having Tass back initially as an advisor was the perfect step forward for us," Fastuca said.

"Now as our COO it will turbo boost our business as we continue our growth strategy and vision for transforming business travel," he added.

Messinis said the decision to join the Locomote team was an easy one after seeing how the business has changed the corporate travel landscape over the last six months.

### Hybrid white paper

**NEW** research conducted by global co-working space operator IWG, the parent company of Regus, Spaces, HQ and Signature, has found hybrid working can reduce travel and building-related carbon emissions by up to 87%.

A white paper prepared in partnership with engineering consultancy Arup details the results - to view, [CLICK HERE](#).

### CTM carbon forecast

**CORPORATE** Travel Management (CTM) has expanded its suite of sustainable travel tools to now include the ability for travel managers to better manage carbon budgets.

New carbon calculator functionality within CTM's Climate+ program allows clients to input data on flight, hotel, train and car hire bookings on the basis of location, route and travel class to accurately predict the carbon footprint of business trips.

Other features of the expanded toolkit includes a 'Green Choice' fare label which shows travel planners the most sustainable travel options at the point-of-search, as well as emissions comparisons between air and rail options on select routes.

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### All smiles on the Sunny Coast



**SEVEN** business event planners from Melbourne had the opportunity to experience the Sunshine Coast's diverse natural environment and unique local experiences on a recent famil trip hosted by Visit Sunshine Coast Business Events.

After touching down at Sunshine Coast Airport, the group checked in at Novotel Sunshine Coast, where they were also able to explore the flexible, high-capacity spaces at the Sunshine Coast Convention Centre, located on the resort's grounds.

The itinerary included a trip to Australia Zoo, where the planners could see the attraction's unique event spaces, and the recently developed Crocodile Hunter Lodge, which offers high-end eco-accommodation.

The group also visited local suppliers, which saw them enjoying Buderim Ginger treats

in handmade tote bags and sampling responsibly caught seafood at the newly opened Lanai Restaurant in Noosaville.

The delegates participated in several high-energy team-bonding activities, including go-kart races at Australia Big Kart Track, motorcycle rides with Sunshine Coast Motorcycle Hire & Tours, and a bush tucker experience on the water with Saltwater Eco Tours.

"The sunshine and green space just puts you in a better mood and opens up the ability to balance deep work with that holiday feeling," famil participant Katie Shaw from Flight Centre said.

**Pictured** at Australia Zoo: Jennifer Schiana, Rosie Kennedy, Symone van der Vliet, Melanie Stayches, Katie Shaw, Erina Kilmore, Ali Thompson, Katrina Field, Emma Hall, Michelle Burgum, and Kim Kerton.

## Travel & Cruise



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## TRAVEL SPECIALS



**WELCOME** to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to [specials@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:specials@traveldaily.com.au)

Aussies have less than a week left to score up to 20% off return flights from Australia to top travel destinations including Fiji, Pacific Islands, Japan and the USA with **Fiji Airways**. The deal also includes up to 35% off exclusive holiday packages to a selection of Fijian destinations. Offer is valid for select travel dates until 31 Mar 2024 - **CLICK HERE** for info.

Stay at **Accor's** extensive portfolio in the capital state, Mercure Canberra from \$187 per night or Novotel Canberra from \$195 per night and Peppers Gallery from \$229 per night. The offer also includes an extra 10% off dining and is valid for stays up to 13 months from the booking date when booked before 30 Aug. Get in touch on [ALL.com](http://ALL.com).

Score up to 40% off with **Royal Caribbean's** biggest deals of the year, including a seven-night sailing in the South Pacific departing from Brisbane priced from \$799pp. Discounts also apply to a six-night sailing to Airlie Beach and Cairns, priced \$849pp, as well as two New Zealand voyages from \$1,349pp. Book now at [www.royalcaribbean.com](http://www.royalcaribbean.com).

Enjoy a three-night stay at Hayman Island from \$668 per night via **Tourism Whitsundays'** latest deals. Cheap stays include three nights at Daydream Island for \$1,079, as well as a 20% discount on the Mirage Whitsundays. More details at [thewhitsundays.com.au](http://thewhitsundays.com.au).

## EK lands A380 in Bali

**EMIRATES'** flagship A380 arrived at Bali's I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport yesterday, becoming the first-ever scheduled A380 service to Indonesia.

With VIP delegations on board, the inaugural flight was celebrated with a water cannon salute and greeted by a host of dignitaries.

The superjumbo aircraft will operate as one of two daily services to the island.

The deployment of the A380 on flights to Denpasar will "significantly contribute to serving the increased customer demand", according to Emirates Country Manager for Indonesia, Mohammad Al Attar.

## Pan Pacific Orchard

**PAN** Pacific Orchard, Singapore has opened its doors today, as Pan Pacific Hotels Group's newest flagship hotel.

The 23-storey luxury hotel features 347 rooms and suites, a high-ceiling, open-air lobby, a 130-seater Pacific Club Lounge, four terraced environments (Forest, Beach, Garden and Cloud), signature restaurant Mosella, an exclusive Orchard Gin venue, and a 600m<sup>2</sup> ballroom.

Nature is heavily incorporated into the design of the property, which is teeming with greenery and water features, as well as energy-saving features like rainwater collection, solar panels and a bio-digester system.

## Caravan park surge

**AUSTRALIAN** travellers have been flocking to caravan parks in greater numbers over the last four years, Ray White's Head of Research Vanessa Rader suggests.

Speaking with *The Canberra Times* this week, Rader said the national occupancy average for caravan, camping and cabins for 2022 was 61.5%, far exceeding the pre-COVID average of 49.4%.

"The current high cost of airfares and accommodation has aided in the uplift in demand for occupiers, keeping vacancies low and the prospect of continued rate increases high," she said.

Recent figures from Tourism Research Australia also show that NSW is leading the pack

when it comes to annual revenue growth for caravan parks, growing at a rate of 43.2%, followed by Queensland (+36.7%), Tasmania (+26.7%), and South Australia (+19.8%), with the Northern Territory the only state or territory to go backwards year-on-year, down 27.2%.

Rader added that given the strong occupancy rates for caravan parks in 2023, there is a surging interest from investors to snap up Aussie assets.

"The viability of caravan parks investment looks sound, particularly due to the long-term potential, coupled with domestic tourism/drive segment levels continuing to increase," she said.

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