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Expedition webinar series with Exclusive offer: Scan the QR code to learn details about our insightful webinars 8 June and 13 of June ranging in topic from Antarctica to Australia's Kimberley. Be sure to share these webinar details with your clients as they will receive **exclusive savings** by registering.



Place your camera in front of the QR Code and follow the link.
For some smartphones a QR Reader would be needed.



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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of travel news including our **Luxury** feature page, plus a front cover wrap from **Silversea Cruises** and a full page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**.

Silversea's kicker!

SILVERSEA has doubled the kicker commission point from 1% to 2% on all expedition bookings made in Jun, while clients can also enjoy reduced door-to-door all-inclusive fares by up to 25% as well as 15% reduced deposits. See the **cover page** to learn more about the promotion.

Due date extended!

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has granted an extension on Semester 1 of its Class of 2023, which means agents now have until 30 Jun to win big! See the **back page** for more.

Crompton to lead Gow-Gates

EXCLUSIVE

GOW-GATES Insurance Broking Group is expanding into the travel insurance sector, this morning confirming the appointment of Judith Crompton to the newly created role of Director, Travel Insurance Services.

Crompton's previous roles include being CEO of Cover-More Asia Pacific (**TD** 19 Sep 2016) and she was also formerly Virgin Australia's Chief Commercial Officer (**TD** 26 Jun 2012) and has held senior roles at Etihad (**TD** 17 Sep 2010), Qantas and QBT.

"With a wealth of experience in travel, tourism and insurance, both Judith and Gow-Gates are poised to revolutionise product offerings and service standards for the travel insurance industry," the company said.

"She brings an international perspective to this position, gained from her impressive career in Australia, Europe, India,

China and Southeast Asia."

Crompton said she is excited to join Gow-Gates, saying "drawing upon existing partnerships and pursuing expansion through novel distribution channels, this venture promises a fresh and dynamic entry into the realm of travel insurance for travel agents, tour operators and suppliers".

The appointment coincides with Gow-Gates Group's 60th birthday, making it one of the country's longest operating insurance brokers - gowgates.com.au.

TK, ITA codeshare

ITA Airways has announced a codeshare partnership with Turkish Airlines effective from next month, with the ITA code placed on TK's Rome-Istanbul flights, while Turkish Airlines will codeshare to nine popular Italian destinations on ITA from flights departing from Rome.

Joyce cashes out

QANTAS CEO Alan Joyce looks to have taken advantage of the airline's strong share price to sell almost all of his stake in the company.

A formal Change of Director's Interest Notice lodged with the ASX yesterday noted that on 01 Jun he sold 2.5 million Qantas shares in an on-market trade for an average price of \$6.75, netting him \$16.87 million.

Joyce still holds 228,924 shares in the company.

ACCC timeline slips

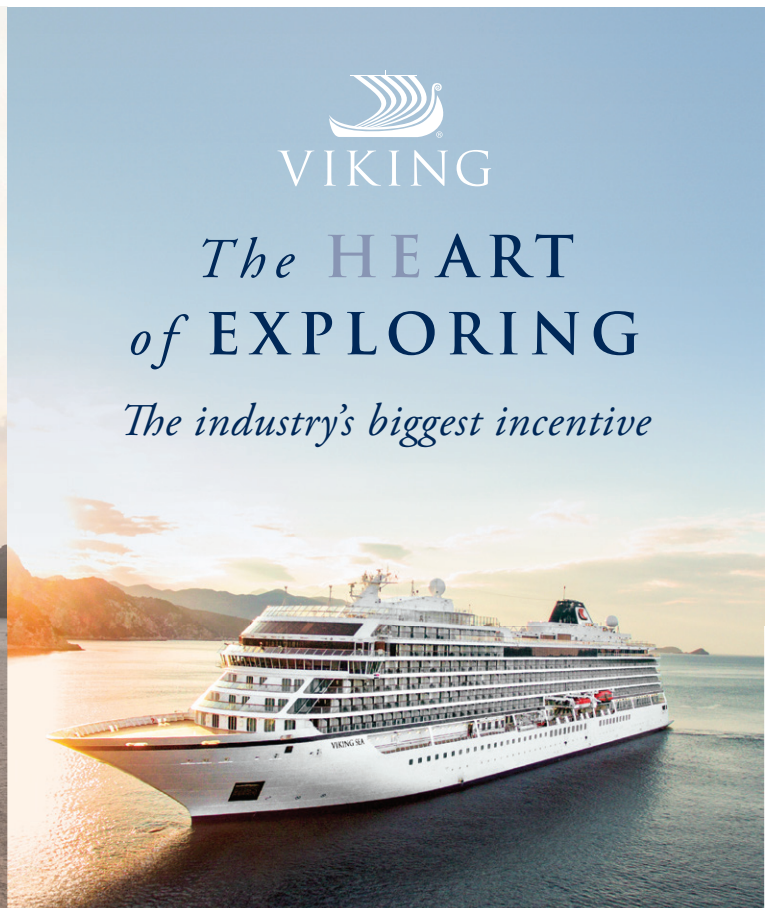
THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has revised its timeline for the highly anticipated ruling on the renewal of the Qantas-Emirates alliance.

Previously scheduled for a draft decision in May, the ACCC is now indicating a Jun judgement, followed by a public consultation period and then a final determination next month.



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Earn triple EK miles with IHG stays

IHG Hotels & Resorts has teamed up with Emirates Skywards to allow IHG One Rewards and Emirates Skywards members to earn triple Skywards Miles when booking a stay at any IHG property before 30 Jun.

Guests will earn two Miles per US\$1 spent for stays at InterContinental Hotels & Resorts, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, Regent, Hualuxe, Crowne Plaza, Hotel Indigo, EVEN Hotels, voco, Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Holiday Inn Club Vacations, avid Hotels and Vignette Collection hotels, and 1 Mile per US\$1 at Candlewood Suites, Staybridge Suites, Atwell Suites and The Palazzo at The Venetian Las Vegas – [CLICK HERE](#).



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AFTA makes Aussies count



THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) CEO Dean Long recently attended the global World Travel Agent Association Alliance (WTAAA) in the South Korean capital of Seoul to ensure local advocacy is being secured on the global stage.

Long was accompanied by colleagues from New Zealand, the United States, Canada, South America, Korea, South Africa and Europe (**pictured**) to review the latest decisions by made by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

AFTA is a founding member of the WTAAA, which is a key driver

SIA revamps Perth SilverKris experience

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has revealed plans to replace its current SilverKris lounge at Perth Airport with a larger, renovated facility in a new location.

Scheduled to open by the end of the year, the revamped lounge, capable of accommodating 140 guests, will be located in the International Departure Terminal, offering enhanced facilities such as showers and productivity pods, as well as a large buffet area with a live cooking station and full bar.

The lounge will be open to Business class pax, members of the PPS Club and KrisFlyer Elite Gold, and VA Velocity Beyond, Platinum and Gold card members departing on SIA flights, and STAR Alliance Gold members travelling on STAR Alliance member flights.

of IATA and travel agency matters globally and is made up of 11 regional markets.

“Many of the regulations that are implemented in Australia are set globally and they do have a direct impact on Australian consumers and trade,” Long said.

“As we enter a new recovery phase locally, the work we do globally to shape the international framework is critical especially given so many of the local issues in each market are born from global decisions.”

During the recent meeting in South Korea, AFTA signed off on a project relating to its international requirements for the future of NDC, which Long said will ensure its members’ clients can access the products and services they wish to purchase through its members.

PNG dreams big

PAPUA New Guinea’s bid to open up more tourism channels has been helped along this week by the purchase of two 787-8 Dreamliners by its national carrier Air Niugini, which will enable the carrier to grow its network across Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

“The excellent capability of the 787 allows Air Niugini to open Port Moresby to more destinations, increasing tourism and economic growth in the South Pacific region,” Boeing VP, Commercial Sales and Marketing, Southeast Asia and Oceania Erika Pearson observed.



WITH so much talk about the new frontier of space tourism, the likes of Elon Musk and Richard Branson will no doubt be looking at how commercial passengers can be dazzled with tasty meals in orbit.

Proving there is no existential threat too complex to take on for science, food experts from Greece’s University of Thessaloniki have created a specialised automated fryer, specifically designed for frying up chips in space.

Successful experiments were carried out in a weightless environment using a “carousel-type apparatus” to test zero-gravity frying, which normally would not be possible because frying requires buoyancy for bubbles to form on the surface.

Finally, an important step closer to frying sauces!

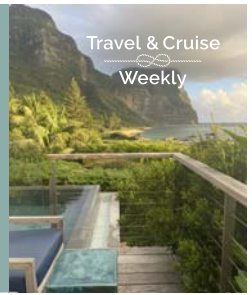
First Caption debut

AUSTRALIA is set to get its first-ever Caption by Hyatt Hotel in early 2025, with construction already kicking off on the upscale, “lifestyle-forward” property in Haymarket at the southern end of Sydney CBD.

Caption by Hyatt Sydney will offer 174 rooms as well as ‘Talk Shop’, the brand’s food and beverage concept, a welcome area and all-day lounge that serves as a workspace, coffee shop, and cocktail bar.

The hotel’s design is described as “contemporary-meets-urban industrial”, featuring playful colours and textures, with hand-drawn graphic art adorning the social and dining spaces.

Hyatt has hinted at additional Caption by Hyatt properties in the pipeline over the next two years, including more openings in Australia, as well as China, Japan, and Vietnam.



Europe impacted by cost

AUSSIES planning a trip to Europe are becoming more conscious of cost in a climate of rising living expenses, with a new report suggesting one in three is now choosing the destination based on how pricey the associated experiences are.

The finding is contained in a new report from Eurail and The European Travel Commission, which surveyed travellers from its

biggest visitor markets, including Australia, also finding that value-for-money has solidified as a key consideration for travellers as they weigh destination options in Europe, most notably the cost of local tourism products and services has seen a 10% increase in importance compared to the summers of 2021 and 2022.

Reducing shopping expenses (37%) was selected as the top budgeting strategy, with travellers also cutting back by booking more all-inclusive packages (30%), using loyalty programs (30%) and booking cheaper accommodation (30%), as well as eating at less expensive restaurants or opting for self-catering options (26%).

Affordability joined safety (39%) and tourism facilities (35%) as the most crucial booking factors.

The study also revealed that 38% of Aussie respondents are keen to take a holiday to Europe between Jun and Aug this year.

WA Tourism Minister

INCOMING Deputy Premier for Western Australia, Rita Saffioti, will add the portfolio of tourism to her transport responsibilities under a new reshuffle of the front bench revealed today.

The changes comes as the state's new Premier and former Tourism Minister Roger Cook appoints his new team following the shock resignation of Mark McGowan last week.

VV cancellations

VIRGIN Voyages (VV) has made adjustments to its Australian schedule to now offer more round-trip voyages from Melbourne and Sydney.

Four cruises to New Zealand have been cancelled as a result, including: *Resilient Lady's* 23 Jan, 02 Feb, 14 Feb, and 24 Feb departure dates.

The axed cruises will be replaced with shorter domestic voyages from Australia.

RCG biofuel test

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) will test a new type of biofuel aboard Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Apex* and Royal Caribbean International's *Symphony of the Seas*.

During the three-month test this European summer, *Apex* and *Symphony* will cruise on a biofuel blend which is produced by purifying a range of raw renewable materials.

TNZ backs in Brock

PAUL Brock has been appointed as Tourism New Zealand's (TNZ) new Chair, replacing Jamie Tuuta in the key board position.

Brock arrives with a strong background in governance, management, brand development and marketing, and has enjoyed a long career in the financial sector, most notably as co-founder of Kiwibank and as CEO of both Westpac & Trust Bank.

"Paul's skills and experience will be valuable to the organisation and the sector as it continues to rebound from the pandemic," TNZ CEO Rene de Monchy said.

Brock is also the Chair of the New Zealand Story Group, Foley Wines, Massey University Business School Advisory Board and the Innovation Programme for Tourism Recovery Advisory Panel, and officially starts in his new position on 01 Jul.

Former Chair Jamie Tuuta was also thanked for his efforts to leave TNZ in "great shape".

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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.

VIPs get into the Outback Spirit



OUTBACK Spirit hosted a VIP dinner on Mon at Doltone House venue, Jones Bay Wharf, situated near Sydney Harbour.

The night's excitement included updates from Outback Spirit for 2024, and also saw Planetdwellers Managing Director Mario Paez win a grand prize of

a trip for two on Outback Spirit's Red Centre Spectacular!

Pictured: Gareth Coakley, Business Development Manager NSW/ACT, Journey Beyond; Mario Paez, Managing Director, Planetdwellers; and Renee Cornelissen, Sales Manager Australia & NZ, Journey Beyond.

Catching up in paradise



TWO TravelManagers' Business Partnership Managers (BPM) recently took off on roadtrips around regional NSW and Queensland to catch up with personal travel managers (PTMs).

NSW/ACT BMP Melinda Rowe, who spent 15 years as a PTM, spent a week on the Mid North Coast, during which time she met up with nine local PTMs on a one-on-one basis as well as enjoying lunch as a group.

Rowe was joined by Sandy Allan, BDM for APT, who made a day-trip to Forster to host a group of PTMs

for drinks and a product update.

TravelManagers' Queensland BPM Noree Kahika followed a similar itinerary, meeting up with PTMs in Townsville and Cairns.

"I loved spending time getting to know my PTMs on a more personal basis and seeing how they are running their own successful businesses...that they are located in a tropical paradise is definitely an added perk of an already rewarding job," she said.

Pictured catching up in paradise: Townsville PTMs Lauren Compton, Jodie Payne and Angela Hill.

Canada woos at Rendez-vous



MORE than 1,500 delegates from 29 countries convened in Quebec City from 30 May to 02 Jun for Rendez-vous Canada, Destination Canada's signature tourism marketplace.

There were several Australian buyers in attendance, including Adventure World, APT & Travelmarvel, Entire Travel Group, Helloworld, Inspiring Vacations, Intrepid, Luxury Escapes, Scenic Tours and Travel Associates.

Sellers and media had the opportunity to explore Quebec City on an array of tours, including an exploration of

history, culture and food with the Huron-Wendat Nation in Wendake, with delegates also participating in famils throughout the region after the trade show.

Pictured: Sean Lane, Tourism Yukon; Paul Hocking, Inspiring Vacations; Brooke Rolley, APT Travelmarvel; Sam Treby, Entire Travel Group; Joanne Motta, Destination BC; Nathan McLoughlin, Destination Canada GSA; Emi Weir, Adventure World; Julie King, Destination Canada GSA; Eliza Fair, APT Travelmarvel; Laura Hughes, Luxury Escapes; and Taylare Maddern, Intrepid.

Art deco delight for Sydney



A RESTORED heritage hotel is set to open on Pitt Street in the heart of Sydney next week, featuring 82 art deco-style guest rooms and a wine bar.

Housed within an Italian renaissance building which originally opened in 1929, Hotel Morris will be operated by Accor, and will be one of Australia's first Handwritten Collection hotels.

The guestrooms are adorned with golden mustard tones and Jarrah wood accents, with Calacatta and blue Roma marble, brass detailing and bold amber

onyx stone finishes.

The intimate 40-seat Bar Morris (**pictured**) will offer a menu featuring reinvented Italian classics using simple, seasonal produce and a wine list offering both local and Italian drops.

The decadent venue, which launches on 14 Jun as part of Vivid's new Chef Series for a four-night collaboration, is characterised by brazen rich red tones contrasted with reflective brass and tiling finishes, plus velvet seating, leather-clad walls and natural wood flooring.

Dorchester refresh

THE Dorchester has unveiled a range of upgraded rooms and suites, which are available to book now.

Reimagined by designer Pierre Yves-Rochon, the rooms (**pictured**) and suites mark another milestone in The Dorchester's comprehensive renovation.

The highly-anticipated spaces take inspiration from the neighbouring Hyde Park, bringing the outside indoors, while blending the 1930s glamour of the hotel with a contemporary edge.

Colour schemes chosen pay homage to the traditional English garden.



Meriton adds luxury

MERITON Suites is continuing to elevate its luxury Penthouse Collection offering, adding new amenities across the properties.

Penthouse offerings now include high-end bathroom products from French luxury fashion house Balmain, as well as fresh flowers.

Meriton is promoting the Collection as "ideal for special-occasion stays".

VIRTUOSO EVENTS MAY GO GLOBAL

VIRTUOSO Asia Pacific is this week hosting Australia's first-ever all-day "Virtuoso On Tour" events in Sydney, and the organisation's other regions are watching closely, according to Michael Londregan, Virtuoso Senior Vice President of Global Operations.

Organised by the local team led by GM Fiona Dalton, the two-day event at Sydney's International Convention Centre is a new model in which exhibitors have booths and conduct 10-minute presentations to small groups of advisors throughout the day.

The program is identical on both days, with an overlap last night including a social function and other formalities, and according to Dalton and Londregan has resonated strongly with Virtuoso agents and suppliers.

"The only difficulty has been getting people out of the office - once they are here the feedback has been sensational," Londregan said, with about 150 advisors in attendance on each day.



Previously Virtuoso would host events in several cities across Australia and NZ, with the new format providing more immersion and making it easier for suppliers to offer deeper insights to their products and destinations in an extended booth-style format.

Advisors have travelled from across the country to attend, as well as a cohort of Kiwis.

Londregan told **TD** "we're watching it very carefully...if the advisors like it and the suppliers

find it is good value I'd like to see it expand every year".

A plenary session in the afternoon also saw top Virtuoso producers honoured for their performance, with winners including Frontier Travel, Tribe Travel, Goldman Travel, MTA Mobile Travel Agents, Main Beach Travel and Travel Associates.

Anthony and David Goldman are **pictured** accepting their award from Virtuoso's Kara Heaslip, Fiona Dalton and Kerrie Fellowes.

Silversea webinars

SILVERSEA Cruises has announced a series of webinars led by its destination experts, which will provide insight on its expedition offerings.

The webinars will run concurrently with its season's best all-inclusive fares - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

First class would be pointless, says QR boss

QATAR Airways won't include First class on its next-generation aircraft, the carrier's Chief Executive told *Fortune*.

CEO Akbar Al Baker said investing in the most luxurious seats don't justify the returns, given that Qatar's Business class offering provides many of the same perks.

"Why should you invest in a subclass of an aeroplane that already gives you all the amenities that First class gives you," Al Baker reasoned.

"I don't see the necessity." Al Baker also hinted at a potential investment in Virgin Australia, saying "it depends, we'll see" when asked directly.

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ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Guests staying at **Mandarin Oriental, Geneva** will be able to enjoy the new meeting facilities and new rooms and suites with views of the Rhone River. Large meeting spaces have been redesigned, offering more flexibility and up to 11 separate rooms. Also new is a gallery for accessing the lounge, as well as various rooms and suites including the Luminous Rooms, Corner Suites, while the Deluxe Suites have also been redesigned.



IHG Hotels & Resorts has announced the opening of **voco Osaka Central**, located a short walk from the Osaka metro stations of Higobashi, Honmachi and Yodoyabashi. The hotel features 191 guestrooms and suites with each fusing western and traditional touches. Amenities include a 24-hour gym, meeting and event spaces, as well as the hotel's signature restaurant, Lokal House, an open kitchen serving western grill dishes.



The five-star luxury hotel **InterContinental Bangkok**, located in the heart of Thailand's capital, has returned to serving its guests after a multi-million-dollar renovation. The lobby and 381 guestrooms (including Club InterContinental rooms) have been redesigned with the city's most signature attractions in mind. Guests can also fulfill their cravings at one of the four new dining options on offer, as well as enjoy the revamped spa and fitness centre facilities.

EK to buy 150 jets

EMIRATES is preparing to purchase between 100 and 150 aircraft, the Dubai-based carrier confirmed at the IATA AGM in Istanbul yesterday.

The order will potentially include more Airbus A350 and Boeing 777X twinjets, as well as 787 Dreamliners, and will be in addition to the portfolio of 200 planes the carrier already had on order, including 50 A350-900s.

An official announcement is expected later this month.

Off our mountains!

IN YET another tourist crackdown, Bali has announced a ban on all tourist activities on all of its mountains and volcanoes, effective immediately.

The blanket ban, which also applies to domestic tourists and local residents, aims to preserve and respect the Indonesian island's most holy places.

The announcement rules out trekking and sunrise adventures on Mount Batur - one of the most popular tourist day trips in Bali.

Qld shells out for eco-project



AFTER acquiring the Turtle Sands Holiday Park at Mon Repos in 2022 (*TD* 13 Dec 2022), NRMA Parks and Resorts has partnered with the Queensland Government to transform the holiday destination into a massive year-round ecotourism attraction.

NRMA's tourism arm has this week announced a \$28 million commitment to revamp the park, which will see the operator also work closely with the Gidarjil Development Corporation to create itineraries for the best cultural experiences and nature encounters for guests.

Qld Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the project was estimated to be worth around \$13 million and over 90,000 visitors annually to the state.

"This is a terrific partnership with NRMA Parks and Resorts who see the value in delivering more quality-based tourism infrastructure," he enthused.

"Tourism operators tell me there's a strong global desire for more meaningful ecotourism experiences and Turtle Sands Holiday Park ticks all the boxes," Hinchliffe concludes.

The region is home to one of

the largest colony of nesting marine turtles in Australia, where NRMA and the government will implement interactive education programs with hands-on conservation initiatives.

Pictured announcing the plan are: Christina Canendo, Qld Tourism, Innovation and Sport; Di Ellis, NRMA Parks and Resorts; Katherine Reid, Bundaberg Tourism; Mayor of the Bundaberg Regional Council, Jack Dempsey; Patricia O'Callaghan, Tourism Events Queensland; Paul Davies NRMA Parks and Resorts CEO; Kerry Blackman, Gidarjil; Brett Fraser, Queensland Tourism Industry Council; Cr Steve Cooper, Bundaberg Regional Council; and Elsa Dalessio, Queensland Tourism Industry Council.

Slam on the Blakes

HERTZ Australia has announced Aussie comedian and TV personality Hamish Blake as its official brand ambassador.

The two-year partnership will kick off with a new campaign starring Blake, set to roll out across various media platforms - see one of the videos **HERE**.

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