



MTA Sarah Fenton



THINKING ABOUT YOUR OWN TRAVEL BUSINESS?

With you all the way

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of the latest industry news including our Sustainability page, plus full pages from:

- Silversea
- Helloworld

FCTG returns Luxperience

MORE than 120 travel professionals and 75 travel suppliers have convened in Sydney today for the first face-to-face Luxperience to take place since the pandemic.

Hosted at the International Convention Centre Sydney, the event consists of three jam-packed days of business meetings and social gatherings with the aim of driving luxury travel sales.

Half of the suppliers and 75% of the buyers in attendance this year are new to the trade event, pushing it past 2019 levels, with first-time exhibitors including Explora Journeys, Queenstown's ultra-luxe Roki Collection, the French Tourist Bureau and Italy's Grand Hotel a Villa Feltrinelli.

Luxperience was acquired by Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) earlier this year, and integrated



into the group's Luxury Travel Collection (TD 15 May).

"We are extremely pleased with the calibre attracted to the boutique event this year, and with almost 60% of travel suppliers new to Luxperience, it's going to be a brilliant week of networking and discovery," FCTG Global CEO of Leisure James Kavanagh shared.

Pictured are FCTG Global Brand Leader Luxury Anna Burgdorf, Event Director Lynn Ormiston, and Travel Associates Managing Director Rachel Kingswell. JM

Hervey Bay coup

MELBOURNE (Tullamarine) and Hervey Bay in Qld will be directly connected by Jetstar for the first time from 20 Jun 2024.

When it launches, the route will operate three times a week and represent around 1,200 extra budget seats per week.

The airline noted the service will encourage a greater number of Melburnians to visit tourist attractions near Hervey Bay, such as K'gari and the Fraser Coast.

To celebrate the launch, a 12-hour flash sale has kicked off, offering seats from just \$49pp.

MSC adds two more

MSC Cruises is eyeing off having five liquefied natural gas (LNG)-powered vessels in its fleet after confirming an order for two more ships with French builder Chantiers de l'Atlantique along with the option for adding a fifth.

Currently referred to as World Class 3 and World Class 4, the duo of sustainable ships will be delivered in 2026 and 2027, and joins *MSC World Europa* and *MSC World America* as the line's premier energy efficient options. More details in **Cruise Weekly**.

Viva hits the big 5-0

VIVA Holidays has been delivering innovative trade solutions for half a century, including local support, great family opportunities, an unmatched product range, and more.

To learn more about what makes Viva tick, see **back page**.

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Rocky rides Tauck

TWO new North American journeys have been added via a collaboration between Rocky Mountaineer and Tauck.

Available to book now is the eight-day Salt Lake City to Denver by Rocky Mountaineer tour, priced from US\$7,590, as well as the 10-day Best of Western Canada & Rocky Mountaineer trip, leading in from US\$10,990.

The pair of new trips add to an existing Vancouver & the Rockies by Rocky Mountaineer itinerary.

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People make their Choice

FIVE finalists have made it to the short-list for the coveted People's Choice Award at this year's National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) in Melbourne.

The esteemed nominees were selected after a whopping 12,000 Australians voted for their favourite ATAS-accredited travel brand, with the poll run in partnership with News Corporation's Australia's travel media masthead, *Escape*.

Travel brands nominated this year include: Abercrombie & Kent; Capricorn Travel, WA; Clean Cruising Company, QLD; Dream Maker Travel, QLD; and Trafalgar.

ATIA CEO Dean Long said the People's Choice Award was important for many reasons, but perhaps most notably because it reaffirmed the importance of ATAS-approved businesses.

"This is such an important celebration of all that choosing an ATAS-accredited business provides - congratulations to everyone who was nominated and especially to all of our finalists," Long said.

Reflecting on the importance of sponsoring the award in 2023,

News Corp Australia General Manager, Travel and Partnerships, Liz Glover, said the recognition for whoever wins will be testament to the cornerstone of travel success - customer service.

"The best judges of Australian travel are the thousands of exceptionally satisfied clients who have had fulfilling, stress-free holidays thanks to these brands," Glover noted.

The major prize winner will receive two return Economy class tickets on Singapore Airlines for travel from any Australian city and a 12-day Best of Germany tour experience for two people, courtesy of Trafalgar.

Second place will score two nights of accommodation at Sails in the Desert - Ayers Rock Resort and a \$500 TravelPay Mastercard gift card, while third place will earn themselves a one-night stay in a Deluxe Room at Crown Towers Melbourne and a \$500 TravelPay Mastercard gift card.

This year the competition was expanded to include cruise lines, ATAS-accredited travel agencies, as well as ATAS-accredited tour operators. AB

21ST CLIA CRUISE INDUSTRY AWARDS

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

SYD marks the spot

SYDNEY Airport has partnered with Google to create an internal map called Indoor Live View to help pax navigate through the hub's three terminals.

The new AI tool, which took five years to develop, provides arrows, directions and distance markers laid over the camera view to direct travellers to where they want to go, whether it's one of the 130 retail stores, 70 food and beverage outlets, 62 gates or 55 bathrooms.



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Travel Daily

Tuesday 14th Nov 2023

EK gets X factor with Boeing

EMIRATES has committed to ordering an additional 95 Boeing aircraft, in an agreement worth US\$52 billion signed yesterday at the Dubai Airshow.

Already the world's largest operator of Boeing 777 aircraft, the airline has placed firm orders for 55 new 777-9s and 35 of the 777-8s, bringing its 777-X order book to a total of 205 planes.

Emirates also agreed to purchase 202 GE9X engines to power the extra 777X aircraft ordered yesterday, taking its total GE9X engine order to 460 units.

Additionally, the UAE flag carrier has boosted its existing order of 30 Boeing 787-9s to a total of 35 Dreamliners, including 15 Boeing 787-10s, and 20 Boeing 787-8s.

The momentous deal was signed by Emirates Airline Group Chairman and Chief Executive HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum and Stan Deal, President and CEO of Boeing



Commercial Airplanes.

"This order is an incredible vote of confidence in the efficiency and versatility of the 777-X family to meet Emirates' needs for global long-haul travel," Deal said.

"The 777-9 and 777-8 are the perfect airplanes to support Emirates' growth plans, improving environmental performance and unmatched payload capability."

From its previous order of 115 of the aircraft, Emirates will take delivery of the first 777-9 in 2025, and will continue to induct new 777-9s to its fleet until 2035.

The latest order will also see the carrier become one of the first to acquire the 777-8 passenger variant, with first deliveries expected in 2030. *JM*

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Mal impacts Fiji

FIJI Airways has moved Sydney flights to Nadi forward by two hours today as a precautionary measure to avoid any possible storm activity currently brewing in the Pacific through Tropical Cyclone Mal.

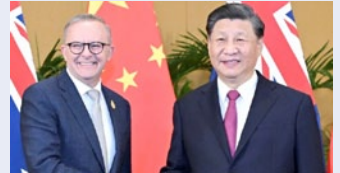
The carrier has also moved forward other Nadi services to Los Angeles and San Francisco, with real-time updates regarding any future changes able to be monitored by the trade **HERE**.

Fiji's domestic carrier Fiji Link has also cancelled a range of flights today and rescheduled many others, a spokesperson for the carrier told *Travel Daily*.

MEANWHILE Qantas stated that while it is monitoring the storm cell closely, it has not yet needed to cancel any services.



Window Seat



AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has earned himself the nickname of 'Airbus Albo' with certain members of the Federal Opposition, after accruing 385,586km in air trips since taking office last year.

As recent analysis conducted by *The Advertiser* rather gleefully pointed out, the distance Albo has travelled overseas is now longer than the stretch astronauts take when rocketing from the Earth to the Moon.

We hope he is earning plenty of frequent flyer miles.

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TTC says hi to Ki

KI WILLIAMS has joined TTC Tour Brands as Key Account Manager, where she will be charged with working to help drive more sales opportunities in the Australian market and nurture key trade partners.

The appointment signals a return to TTC after three years, having previously held the position of Sales Manager in QLD for the Trafalgar and Costsaver brands from 2015 to 2020.

She joins from the Globus family of brands, where she was a BDM for close to two years.



What's so funny, WA?



BRITISH comedian Bill Bailey has teamed up with Tourism Western Australia to unearth some of the state's best locations, from south to north.

Bill Bailey's Australian Adventure will be released as a four-part TV series on Channel 4, with the first episode available now, **HERE**.

Focusing on the state's hotspots as well as uncovering its lesser-known gems, Bailey will traverse Perth, Margaret River, and Ningaloo, all while connecting

with memorable locals.

The show will bring the audience along as Bailey explores Esperance, checks out the Big Wave in the Golden Outback, and visits some of the region's most idyllic beaches and forests, and lots more.

Coinciding with the launch of the show, Tourism WA is giving agents the chance to win a goody bag when they complete the WA module in the Aussie Specialists Program this month - **CLICK HERE** to participate. *MW*

Collette goes early

COLLETTE is offering Australian travel consultants early access to its 2023 Black Friday sale promotion until 19 Nov, offering savings of up to 15% when tours are booked during the presale.

To access the deals, agents need to use the promo code 'TRAVEL23' at the time of booking, with promotions including Collette's Sicily and Its Isles adventure, which is normally priced at \$5,399ppts, but is available for \$4,589ppts under the Black Friday offer.

For more details, see **HERE**.

Bonza shows Flair

BONZA has welcomed its first wet-leased aircraft from Canadian sister airline Flair Airlines, with the jet to operate from the carrier's Gold Coast base.

The arrival follows a reciprocal supply chain deal inked in Aug (**TD 07 Aug**), with both airlines owned by 777 Partners.

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Azamara referrals

TRAVEL advisors can get a \$200 gift card from Azamara if they refer someone who has not sailed with the cruise line in the past five years.

The referee can also receive a \$200 gift card when booking - more in today's *Cruise Weekly*.



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Japan's sun rising again

THE latest figures released by the ABS demonstrate the ongoing strong resurgence of the Japanese market for Aussie travellers, with the number of outbound trips in Sep surpassing pre-pandemic volumes.

Japan enjoyed a healthy rise in Australian travellers for the month, recording more than 38,000 visits and outstripping 2019 traffic, which was just shy of 31,000 visitors.

The numbers were a world away from the COVID-stricken Sep 2022 period, which only managed to attract 4,250 Aussie visitors.

Another strong performer in Sep was Italy, which only recently appointed The Lucid Agency to lead The Italian National Tourist Board's local media and marketing efforts (*TD 15 May*).

The popular European market has also eclipsed 2019 levels this year, rocketing past the 34,640 Aussies who visited in 2019 to record 52,920 in Sep this year.

Italy now stands as the fifth most popular outbound market.

While the resurgence was evident for Japan and Italy, the countries were still no match for the dominance of Indonesia, which once again topped the list for Australian travellers.

In Sep, there were 131,860 Australian travellers making their way to our northern Asian neighbour, well ahead of 2022 levels, which saw just 90,390 Aussies making the trip.

Indonesia has been at the top



of the outbound list for many months in a row, as travellers pivot away from traditionally stronger long-haul markets in Europe to reign in the budget for cheaper destinations like Bali. *AB*

Bali mpox outbreak

TRAVELLERS arriving in Bali will need to undergo additional screening measures at the airport in light of the current monkeypox (mpox) outbreak in Jakarta.

The country's government officials also confirmed that tracing efforts are underway in the Indonesian capital to help ensure public safety during the outbreak, which has so far affected around 3,600 people.

VA strike looms

TRAVELLERS flying with Virgin Australia may soon face disruptions as the airline's cabin crew and ground workers seek to take action over claims of "poverty pay, job insecurity and unsafe conditions".

VA members of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) have applied to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) for a protected action ballot, which, if granted, means they can vote to take industrial action.

A spokesperson for VA said the carrier "has continued to bargain in good faith" with the intention of reaching "an amicable solution on a new agreement".

EY's dreamy growth

ETIHAD Airways' newest Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner is on display at the Dubai Airshow this week.

The aircraft is one of four new Dreamliners to join the fleet, and will fuel Etihad's growth plans, as it adds 12 new destinations.

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Global Stars shine in WA



HELLOWORLD'S latest batch of Global Stars from across Australia and New Zealand were given the opportunity to soak up the natural beauty of the Margaret River region during a reward trip hosted by Tourism Western Australia.

The top-selling agents (pictured) enjoyed a luxury stay at Smiths Beach Resort, a walk along the Cape to Cape track with Cape To Cape Explorer Tours, and a tour

of the stunning Ngilgi Cave with Koomal Dreaming.

A trip to the Margaret River region wouldn't be complete without checking out some of the incredible wineries like Leeuwin Estate, while beer was also on the cards at Black Brewing Co.

The WA adventure culminated with a memorable gala awards night at InterContinental Perth City Centre. *JM*

ATIA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



THE 2023 NTIA's are upon us, where we will recognise the success of 195 finalists from across the industry and crown the top 35 businesses and individuals.

When sitting down to write this column, I reflected on the people who have been involved in shaping the 2023 NTIAs and wanted to share some insights into how it all came together this year. Planning for this year's event started back in Oct 2022. Yes, that's right - three weeks prior to the 2022 NTIAs.

Discussions began between myself and Greg McJarow about the future of these awards and how our partnership with Singapore Airlines could evolve to recognise the best of our industry.

In Jul, 2023, Singapore Airlines and ATIA signed a multi-year deal ensuring NTIA would continue to be the industry's night of nights, for years to come.

In Jan 2023, we started the process of selecting the inaugural NTIA Custodians and in Mar we announced six industry leaders (Ann-Catherin Jones, Barbara Whitten, Tony Gothard, Jean Summers, Damian Borg, Dick Webster and Chris Fundell) who would take up this role. Each of them conducted a thorough review of every element for the event, consulting widely on categories, assessment criteria and the design of the Gala Dinner.

Their contributions over the last eight months are to be commended, as the standards set to win the 2023 NTIAs, have never been higher or as comprehensive. In Jun, plans were well progressed with Viking to bring back the NTIA afterparty.

The 2022 event survey told us that everyone wanted the afterparty and we knew it was only

going to be possible if we had the right partner.

Since our discussions begun with Michelle Black and Lee Siefken, they have been focused on making sure that the afterparty would be the perfect way to top off a night to remember.

Viking has taken it to another level so stay tuned this week for some exciting announcements.

In Jul, it became evident that we had an opportunity to do something a little different. With this in mind, Richard Taylor commenced work on the Fri welcome functions. We reached out to Viking and Ram Chhabra from CVFR with the idea of connecting finalists and our partners. Both jumped at the opportunity and the Fri night welcome events were created.

Finalists were announced in Sep and the process of assessing 129 applications begun. Twenty judges volunteered their time to review and provide feedback on each application. The ATIA Board approved significant investments into a new judging and voting platform, making it easier for the industry to be involved.

Finally, I must call out the ATIA team. Jenny Le, the NTIA lead, has been responsible for securing sponsorship, judges, and the design of the Gala Dinner. Daria Donjerkovic has been working almost non-stop to confirm tickets and secure your preferences for seating. Nina Hedges, Amanda Rixon and Gina Dounis have helped nominees submit their applications and calmed finalist nerves before their interview with the judges, ensuring everyone put their best foot forward. LJ Loch and her team have overseen comms to ensure the industry was completely informed on all of the activities.

We can't wait to welcome the 1,300 people to Crown Palladium on Sat night.

It is certainly going to be another special evening.

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Harry's hypocrisy

THE Duke of Sussex has come under intense scrutiny after taking a private jet from his Californian home to attend a Katy Perry Concert in Las Vegas.

Prince Harry reportedly boarded a private jet owned by a Texan oil heir earlier this week with his wife Meghan Markle, along with a whole host of Hollywood stars, for a 40-minute flight to watch the pop star's performance.

The Duke, who founded sustainable tourism initiative Travalyst, has been criticised for his "hypocrisy" and compared to his brother Prince William, who in the same week took a commercial British Airways' flight to Singapore ahead of the Earthshot Prize awards.

Many critics are calling for the eco-travel organisation to terminate Harry's involvement.

Coral Hall of Fame

CORAL Expeditions has recently been inducted into the Ecotourism Hall of Fame, demonstrating the cruise line's strong commitment to advanced and sustainable tourism practices.

After being ECO Certified for more than 20 years, Coral has been recognised by Ecotourism Australia as one of "Australia's first sustainable tourism innovators".

OZ RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO PRODUCE SAF

AUSTRALIA'S highly anticipated Jet Zero Council has only met once since launching in Jun, despite the ever-growing urgency to establish a local sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) industry.

Chaired by Australian Transport Minister Catherine King (**pictured**), the new council's mission is to support the local aviation industry reach net zero emissions by 2050 (**TD** 21 Jun).

Airbus Australia Chief Representative Stephen Forshaw has expressed concern over the fact that the council has only met once, and for just two hours, despite the clock ticking on Australia's opportunity to produce its own SAF.

He emphasised that the council should meet more regularly, and pointed out that the high-quality agricultural waste needed to



produce SAF is increasingly going offshore, as well as there being no policy framework to support a SAF industry.

"We don't have other options so the use of SAF is going to be

the biggest opportunity to drive decarbonisation," he stressed.

Australia is among the top 10 biggest users of aviation fuel in the world, guzzling around 9.2 billion litres a year; in contrast, only 300 million litres of SAF was produced globally in 2022.

"We are no small player when it comes to the demand for aviation fuel and we should be taking a very meaningful and thoughtful approach to how we play on shore with the development and production of SAF here in Australia," Forshaw said.

The Airbus rep emphasised that importing eco fuel was not a viable alternative to developing a domestic SAF industry, given the huge costs associated with getting the fuel shipped to Australia, which would then get passed on to airline passengers. *JM*

50 Degrees North officially recognised for positive impact

SCANDINAVIAN tour specialist 50 Degrees North has become a Certified B Corporation after completing an intensive 18-month process demonstrating its commitment to sustainable and ethical business practices.

The new certification means that the operator is now part of a global community of businesses that meet high standards of social and environmental impact.



In order to achieve B Corp status, 50 Degrees North underwent a comprehensive assessment, which looked at its impact on employees, customers, the environment,

and the affected communities, to ensure that it met the required standards.

"Becoming a Certified B Corp is a significant milestone that reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainable and responsible travel," Founder and CEO Tietse Stelma shared.

He went on to explain that the certification "also makes us more resilient in the face of increasing environmental and social challenges".

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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.638

ACTING RBA chief economist Marion Kohler has advised that the path to tame inflation could be "bumpy" and lengthy, hinting another interest rate hike could be in the stars to curb inflation.

Meanwhile, the Aussie is weaker this week, dragged down by losses in the oil and real estate markets, trading at under 64 US cents against one Australian dollar.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.638
UK	£0.519
NZ	\$1.085
Euro	€0.596
Japan	¥96.74
Thailand	฿22.94
China	¥4.647
South Africa	11.94
Canada	\$0.880
Crude oil	US\$81.43

Bellissima and chill

MSC Cruises' purpose-built *MSC Bellissima* will be featured in the upcoming Japanese film *In Love and Deep Water*, premiering on Netflix on 16 Nov.

To better convey the joy of cruising, the movie will be set on the cruise line's second Meraviglia-class vessel, boasting 12 dining venues and more than 20 bars and lounge on board.

The romance thriller will be available to view in 14 languages and 32 different subtitles.

An electrifying experience



THE DriveAway team was given the opportunity to test drive the Polestar 2 EV last week, courtesy of Hertz Australia - one of the Sydney-based self-drive specialist's key partners.

The lucky staff were able to experience the cutting-edge features and sleek design of the all-electric, mid-sized liftback sedan, which is produced by the Swedish automaker Volvo under its Polestar sub-brand.

Delivering even more thrills, a professional driver also took the DriveAway team for some hot laps in the Polestar 2, showing off the full range of capabilities the car really boasts.

"As we gear up for the future of mobility, it's no secret that electric vehicles are set to double in car sales by 2030...now is the perfect time to be part of the electric revolution," a DriveAway spokesperson enthused.

Travellers can experience the Polestar 2 or other EV models

with DriveAway.

Pictured behind the wheel is DriveAway's Claire Turner, a BDM for Queensland. *JM*

Grand Hyatt Utah

HYATT Hotels Corporation has announced the debut of its Grand Hyatt brand in Utah in the United States, set to open in late 2024 as the first luxury hotel within the famed Deer Valley Resort, as part of its upcoming expansion.

Located 40 minutes from the Salt Lake City International Airport, the property will offer 387 guest rooms, including 40 suites and 55 private residences, as well as large indoor event spaces.

Guests of the Grand Hyatt Deer Valley can dine at an apres ski bar and grill, a signature bar and restaurant, and coffee bistro, while also enjoying a heated year-round pool and whirlpool, fitness centre, and outdoor event terrace with mountain views.

Easy-ier luggage

BRITISH low-cost carrier EasyJet has launched a new door-to-door luggage collection and delivery service for customers flying to any of its European destinations from London Gatwick and Geneva, Switzerland.

The new service, which will be managed by the airport, will allow customers to organise their luggage to be taken care of during departure, arrival, or both - **CLICK HERE** for more info.

Oz offers Tonga help

THE Federal Government has played a key role in helping to deliver a new aircraft to Tonga-owned Lulutai Airlines, which will operate the Polynesian country's domestic route.

The de-Havilland Twin-Otter has arrived in Tonga after undergoing final preparations in Australia during the final week of Oct, the Tonga High Commission Office in Canberra has confirmed.

The announcement comes after the Australian Govt provided the Tongan Govt with \$1.25 million to assist with transporting the aircraft, training pilots to fly it, purchasing any necessary spare parts, and ensuring its smooth transition into servicing the people of Tonga.

FZ's first widebody

DUBAI-BASED Flydubai has inked a new deal with Boeing to acquire 30 787-9 Dreamliners.

The announcement was made during the Dubai Airshow, with the carrier confirming it will purchase its first widebody aircraft to help boost capacity and expand its future network of long-haul services.



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