



Uniworld buys two

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has announced the addition of two new ships to its fleet, with the *S.S. Victoria* and *S.S. Elisabeth* set to join the company from next year.

The duo of new vessels will begin sailing in Europe in 2024 and 2025 respectively, and were procured from Seaside Collection under a three-year, bareboat charter agreement.

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

New team for a new world

EXCLUSIVE

A NEED to be better prepared in a "dramatically changed" travel landscape has been listed as one of the reasons Globus decided to shake up its sales team this month (*TD* 28 Sep).

Speaking with *TD* yesterday, the operator's Head of Commercial Australasia Brett Simon said it wasn't a case of something not working and was more about ensuring the business is able to service its retail partners in a constantly reshaping market.

"We've got as many sales roles as we had before but they are now far better aligned to what our retail partners are telling us so that we can service their needs better," Simon said.

The company's sales chief also hinted Globus may look to increase its BDM team moving forward following a few recent hires, citing the importance of being on the road and chatting to agents - particularly new advisors or those who haven't sold the Globus product in a while.

"With Gia [Acitelli] coming in as well, she can do a good overview of where else we may need some

extra help, so we're completely open to growing that team and creating new roles where the trade needs us," Simon said.

More off-the-shelf product making it easier for agents to sell was also flagged as a key pillar of future growth, especially as Australians start to travel for longer and go further afield.

Its new Independence by Globus bundles, which it only recently brought to Australia, has been "really well received", Simon said, with between eight to 10 more packages due to launch to the market soon. *AB*

Accessibility session

A TOURISM Australia webinar exploring accessibility will take place next week on 19 Oct, not today as stated in *TD* yesterday. Sign up for the session [HERE](#).

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest news including **Business Events News**, plus a special update from **Tahiti Voyages**.

Unlock Tahiti magic

TAHITI Voyages is highlighting why travel agents should book their clients on a holiday to the Islands of Tahiti.

The tropical destination's exotic appeal, diverse experiences, and its commitment to sustainable tourism are all reasons to visit, with agents able to earn competitive commissions.

Travellers can also take advantage of Tahiti Voyages' deal of the month - see the **back page** for further information.

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Taking agents for a Jayride

EXCLUSIVE

JAYRIDE'S Chief Growth Officer Darren Carbine has revealed the airport transfer company's new travel agent portal is already delivering "promising" results.

The bespoke trade platform allows advisors to book every ride company at every airport to every destination in a single location, with Carbine revealing its flexibility is one of its most compelling user selling points.

"The portal suits all needs, whether it is for a luxury sedan or a people mover; an Economy, Business or luxury class ride; from one person in one vehicle to large groups and whole fleets," he said.

"Agents are enjoying all of the new options that the portal provides them and...we are in the process of migrating existing agents from our old portal to the new portal," he added.

When asked about how the take-up was tracking, Carbine



(pictured) said Jayride had already attracted over a dozen agency groups, representing thousands of individual agents.

"We are working with these agency groups to onboard and train their agents," he said.

"We also look forward to scaling up significantly from here and working with every agency group...travel agents are fantastic and we love to work with them to provide outstanding door-to-door service for their clients.

"We're now equipped to work with agents and agencies the world over," Carbine added.

New advisors can sign up to use the portal now [HERE](#). AB

QF rescue mission

THE Federal Government confirmed that at least three Qantas repatriation flights will depart Israel to help Australian citizens escape the escalating military conflict in the country.

Flagged by the government yesterday (TD 11 Oct), at least two flights will leave Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport tomorrow as many stranded Aussies experience difficulties in booking flights as operators from all over the world suspend services to the war-torn region.

The Qantas flights will fly to London free of charge for Australians who do not already have plans to leave through other commercial options, with the carrier confirming it will absorb all of the operational costs.

"Arrangements for onward flights for those wanting to travel back to Australia are still being worked through," the airline said, with Qantas expected to deploy 236-passenger B787 Dreamliners.

Bali bat screening

AUSTRALIAN tourists travelling to Bali will be screened for the deadly Nipah bat virus, local Indonesian health authorities have confirmed this week.

Responding to a spike in cases in India, the Head of the Bali Provincial Health Services, Nyoman Gee Anom, said detection measures have been put in place at Denpasar International Airport.

"There is a temperature detection device and if a tourist's temperature is found to be above normal, it will be followed up with an interview," he said.

"If the tourist is found to have recently travelled to an area where the Nipah virus is in circulation and has symptoms including a raised temperature and an acute respiratory tract infection, they will be transferred to a hospital for assessment".

According to the World Health Organisation, the fatality rate for the virus is between 40-75%.

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JOURNEY BEYOND



Tax hotels too please

FOLLOWING a decision by the Victorian Government to slug short-term accommodation platforms with a levy (**TD 20 Sep**), Airbnb has hit back this week by calling for Melbourne hotels to be hit for short-term stays as well.

The comments were made by the company's Head of Public Policy for Australia, Michael Crosby, who also added the policy to increase affordable housing in the state is unlikely to work.

"It's difficult to see how the levy will actually result in an increase in the properties available to long-term rentals across the state," Crosby argued.

"We have a number of questions about how the government will implement the scheme and how the nuts and bolts will fit together.

"We have said that the levy would raise a lot more and cost consumers less if it was completely accommodation agnostic and apply to any form of accommodation," he added.

In response, the Victorian Government said Airbnb's idea had "no relevance to regulated accommodation".

W Sydney is now open

MARRIOTT International this morning formally opened the doors of the new W Sydney, with Area VP Sean Hunt saying the momentous occasion "signals a new era for the brand".

It's Australia's third W hotel, and is located in the Darling Harbour precinct with a distinctive curved design (**pictured**) by Australian architectural firm Hassell.

The property features four new dining and bar venues, an AWAY Spa, FIT Gym and a 30m open-air infinity pool on the WET Deck.

GM Craig Seaward said "W



Intrepid adds 100

INTREPID Travel has released its 2024 trip range, which includes more than 100 new itineraries and experiences.

As part of the release, five new trips have been added to Intrepid's "Sell 10, Get 1 Free" incentive which allows travel agents who sell 10 trips to experience a small group adventure for themselves.

More details on the Intrepid agent hub - **CLICK HERE**.



Window Seat

A BLOGGER in America has brainstormed some innovative ideas that she thinks might be good recovery options for Disney's short-lived Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser attraction.

The installation at Disney World was billed as the ultra immersive experience for Jedi fans when it opened, however, its run was cut short by a lack of interest, with many observers citing the huge US\$6,000 price tag as the primary reason.

Now *The Disney Food Blog* has tossed some suggestions of its own in the pan, including converting the ride into a Star Wars themed restaurant, replete with alien veggies.

Other ideas put forward included using the space to expand Toy Story Land, or creating a brand-new *Guardians of the Galaxy* attraction instead.

"Star Wars takes place in space, the Guardians of the Galaxy hang out in space...space is space, right," the blog asked.

Beond gets closer

MALDIVES-BASED Beond, described as "the world's first premium leisure airline", has unveiled its first aircraft at an event in Male, in the lead-up to the launch of flights next month.

The specially configured Airbus A319 carries just 44 passengers in an all-flatbed configuration, with the first service to operate to Riyadh on 09 Nov followed by Munich on 15 Nov and then Zurich two days later.

Beond has also flagged the addition of Milan and Dubai in Mar next year, while flights to Perth are also believed to be on the radar (**TD 03 Jul**).

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The ideal applicant should demonstrate a proven track record in achieving sales targets, implementing marketing programs to support the sales efforts, a deep knowledge of the travel agency network distribution system and the ability to work with a dedicated management team.

Whilst formal qualifications are welcomed, in-depth experience in a similar role is paramount. For the right person an attractive remuneration package is available.

If you meet these specific criteria, send your resume to **Peter at BLJ Consulting** email pdm999@bigpond.net.au



CATO quick to act on crisis

COUNCIL of Australian Travel Operators (CATO) members have suspended all upcoming tours to Israel to ensure the safety of their passengers and staff.

The industry body confirmed this morning that the policy had been put in place 30 hours ahead of the increase of recent travel warnings published by DFAT.

"This highlights the proactive approach of CATO members who base their decisions on multiple data sources, including their on-ground teams and agents," CATO said in a statement this morning.

"At this stage travel to Israel will remain suspended for some time; travel agents and travellers should check with individual CATO members for the latest information on travel to Israel," the body added.

Reflecting on the tragic events unfolding in the Middle East in recent days, CATO said it was "incredibly saddened" by the news coming in from Israel and



the Palestinian Territories.

"Our thoughts are with all of the innocent people impacted by these events," CATO said.

"As an industry focused on building connections and understanding between cultures, we condemn all violence and hope that peace soon prevails."

The body was also keen to let the travel sector know that while the military conflict has closed off parts of the region, travel to countries such as Egypt and Jordan remain open for business.

"Security measures generally in each country have been increased but all hotels and tourist sights are open," CATO said, adding no significant cancellations have been noted in either market." AB

MEL VA expansion

MORE than \$80 million will be invested to almost double the size of Virgin Australia's arrivals hall at Melbourne Airport.

Due to be completed in 2025, the major upgrade will include construction of a new baggage carousel and oversized baggage collection point, the refurbishment of three existing carousels, as well as new central arrival escalators and set of anti-pass back gates.

The upgrade will give Virgin Australia passengers 85% more baggage carousel space from which to collect their bags, with the airline confident it will also enable faster baggage delivery.

"Virgin Australia is now the biggest domestic carrier at Melbourne Airport with millions of passengers passing through Terminal 3 every year, so it's important we build now to cater for future growth," Melbourne Airport Chief of Aviation Jim Parashos observed.

E-rail tix for Japan

AUSTRALASIAN rail wholesaler International Rail has commenced offering e-tickets for Japanese point-to-point rail experiences to the Aussie trade.

"Previously tickets in Japan needed to be sent to their clients' accommodation," Managing Director Jonathan Hume said.

"This development is a game-changer for our business, our dedicated travel advisors, and their clients travelling to Japan."

Travellers can now purchase and receive point-to-point Japan Rail e-tickets prior to their departure from Australia.

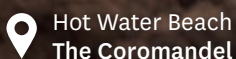
To celebrate the new service, International Rail is offering a special promotion for agents, who when booking any bullet train service to or from Tokyo between 11 Oct and 01 Dec, will earn their clients a complimentary 24-hour Tokyo Subway ticket.

The offer is valid for travel through to the end of 2023 - call 1300 387 245 for more details.

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ART part of the tribe

AUSTRALIAN Regional Tourism (ART) members now have access to digital learning platform Tourism Tribe under a new agreement.

Cheaper rates to access Tourism Tribe's Digital Academy is now on offer for all ART members, with training services including fortnightly support calls with digital marketing experts, access to a library of digital marketing resources, updates on the latest industry trends and technologies, as well as a range of exclusive discounts on additional services.

Fiji repatriation

FIJI Airways has completed its first repatriation flight from Tel Aviv in Israel to Nadi this morning, returning around 243 passengers to safety.

Citizens on board the flight included an Australian contingent, as well as nationals from Fiji, New Zealand, the United States, Canada and the Philippines.

Agents drop by Bamboo jet



BAMBOO Airways' NSW/ACT Sales Manager Graham Ware recently hosted a couple of travel agents on a tour of one of the carrier jets in Sydney.

The aircraft inspection last Wed saw Lauren Zakrzewski from Flight Centre Birkenhead and Krystal Brazel from Everything Travel have a good look around the passenger cabin.

Return to S America

CHIMU Adventures has partnered with LATAM Airlines to launch a new Discover the Big Five campaign, designed to encourage Aussies to return to the continent in once-strong pre-pandemic numbers.

The trade element of the push will include educational webinars.

TWU's double swipe

THE Transport Workers Union (TWU) has taken aim at Virgin Australia's return to profitability this week (**TD** 11 Oct), criticising the carrier for failing to cite the efforts of its "overworked" and "underpaid" staff.

The union said it was yet to receive a response from VA's parent Bain Capital to its five-point claim delivered in Jul, which included a proposed annual \$1,000 employee share scheme in conjunction with any IPO.

MEANWHILE Qantas Chairman Richard Goyder's departure is not early enough for the TWU's liking.

Goyder's attempt to "retire in dignity" after presiding over "illegal conduct" under the banner of board renewal is nothing more than a shuffling of the deckchairs, the TWU said.

"Joyce did very little right in his tenure at Qantas, but the one thing he did do was take an early exit & Goyder should follow him," Secretary Michael Kaine said.

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NT INSPIRES BIZ EVENT PLANNERS

EXCLUSIVE

BUSINESS event planners from across Australia recently had the opportunity to discover what makes Darwin an ideal hosting destination.

NT Business Events invited PCOs, corporate planners, association and event management company representatives to its Darwin Showcase 2023, which coincided with the Darwin Festival.

The four-day famil program included site inspections of key business events infrastructure including the Darwin Convention Centre, meeting venues, and accommodation, such as Hilton Darwin, where the group stayed on to enjoy lunch at the hotel's PepperBerry Restaurant.

Attendees were also able to experience festival events including Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, the National Indigenous



Music Awards and the National Indigenous Fashion Awards.

The program was made even more memorable with a gin-blending workshop at Charlie's of Darwin, which overlooks Raintree Park in the city.

NT Business Events Director Rebecca McCaig said the program "highlighted the many ways in which events and festivals can enhance a business event held in the Northern Territory".

"We're fortunate to experience these distinctive events first-hand and have an opportunity to enrich our business events visitors' experience and their connection to the land, the people and the ancient culture."

Pictured: Darwin Showcase attendees engaged in the Welcome to Country ceremony conducted by Saltwater Cultural Tours (image credit - Charlie Bliss & Tourism NT). JM

ICC shapes future

INTERNATIONAL

Convention Centre Sydney (ICC) has nominated a senior team member, Gabriella Alberici, to represent the venue at the International Association of Convention Centres (AIPC) Future Shapers leadership program.

The Senior Manager for Business Development - Corporate, Government and Events will participate in the eight-month accelerated leadership course, which aims to hone the skills of high-performing industry talent.

After completing the program alongside eight other global candidates, Alberici will present a pitch to the worldwide AIPC convention centre community at the 2024 AIPC Conference in Costa Rica next Jul.

SA ampitheatre

ARCHITECTURE firm Architectus has revealed plans for a new ampitheatre, as part of a proposed riverside precinct in South Australia's Thebarton.

Located in the inner-west of Adelaide close to parklands and public transport, the venue's design features an "eel-like arbour", and would be one of several community hubs used to host events.

Penrith Panthers prowl the new WSCC

AFTER making football history last weekend, Penrith Panthers players congregated at the newly opened Western Sydney Conference Centre (WSCC) for the prestigious Penrith Panthers Merv Cartwright Medal awards ceremony.

More than 700 VIP guests, including advocates, peers and supporters had the opportunity to experience new \$110m precinct built by Panthers



Group, while celebrating the undefeated team's third consecutive NRL victory.

Guests enjoyed the venue's impressive gastronomic menu and speciality cocktails.

Big month for Newy

MORE than 230 regional tourism representatives from across the country convened in Newcastle for the 2023 Australian Regional Tourism convention over the past two days.

The harbour city beat out 30 other destinations to secure the prestigious event, which is just one of 11 large-scale business events set to take place in Newcastle this month.

The line-up will bring around 2,800 delegates to the city and inject \$3.5m into its economy.

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APPOINTMENTS

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BWH Hotels has announced the appointment of **Rod Munro** to the position of Managing Director of Operations for Australia and New Zealand. Munro will be responsible for expanding the brand's exposure across the trans-Tasman region, while leading the hotelier into a new era of growth and success. Carrying over 20 years of relevant experience, Munro will be based in Sydney, where he will report to Vice President, International Operations for Asia Pacific, Oliver Berrivin.

Previously the director of hotels at The Star Sydney, **Rikesh Rajakulashinham** has taken on the role of General Manager at **The Star Brisbane**. The newly created role will allow Rajakulashinham to take control of the 340-key property and charge the mass-recruitment process of appointing 350 front-line team members across operational and service positions. The new GM was also the director of hotels at Treasury Brisbane.

Adding to her three-year tenure at **Destination NSW**, **Samantha Antoun** has been promoted to the role of PR Manager, International Campaigns & Agencies. Moving up from the position of PR Manager - International Projects, Antoun now leads the DMO's international marketing strategy, overseeing activity in key markets, including the United States, China, India and the United Kingdom.

Jose Cil has joined the **Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH)** Board as an Independent Director, making him the ninth member. Cil was most recently the CEO of RBI for more than four years, whose brands include Burger King, Tim Hortons, Popeyes and Firehouse Subs. He also carries experience as a board member for Carrols Restaurant Group, serving as a director between 2015 and 2020, and is currently the Director of Restaurant Brands Iberia.

The **Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)** has welcomed **Tarryn Kille** to the board. Kille is currently an Associate Professor, Program Director and Aviation Discipline Lead at the University of Southern Queensland. With an extensive career as a professional pilot, she brings experience across aviation research, regulatory policy and operations.

Geoff Pearson has become the new General Manager of **Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa** on Hawaii Island. He will take charge in overseeing the daily operations and management of the resort, as well as integrating Hawaii's cultural elements into diverse guest experiences. Pearson joined Outrigger earlier this year as the Director of Sales and Marketing, and prior to that he held the same role at Halekulani Hotel.

Collette has named **Jaelyn Leibl-Cote** as its newest CEO, who has become the first female to take on the role in the company's 106-year history. Leibl-Cote succeeds Dan Sullivan, Jr, who will immediately transition to the role of Executive Chairman.

Aussies to embrace Fiji spirit



FOLLOWING the Wallabies' heartbreaking exit from the Rugby World Cup 2023, Tourism Fiji, along with Fiji-born rugby legend Lote Tuqiri (**pictured**), is encouraging Aussies to ditch green and gold to support the Flying Fijians, the country's national rugby union team.

For the first time in 16 years, Fiji will enter the quarter-finals to face England, and Wallabies player Lote Tuqiri has become the trailblazer after announcing that he will don the black and white jersey of Fiji.

"Standing behind Fiji to show your support of the Flying Fijian isn't just about rugby spirit," Tuqiri enthused.

"It embodies Pacific brotherhood and mutual respect that binds us on and off the pitch," he added.

With Australian travellers making up 41% of the total visitor figure to Fiji in Aug this year, Tourism Fiji CEO Brent Hill said, "Aussies already love Fiji's sun, sand, and culture, and they love Fiji's players too".

"Fiji welcomes more Aussie holiday-goers than any other

nation...that's why we want to help support the happiness of our Pacific neighbours by uniting both countries behind one team."

The tourism body is encouraging Aussies to share a picture of the Fijian flag on Instagram and tag @tourismfiji. *MW*

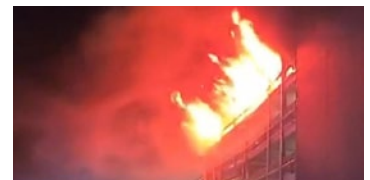
Luton fire delays

FLIGHTS were forced to divert from Luton Airport overnight after the hub was rocked by a massive fire in one of its car parks.

The carnage saw 1,500 vehicles destroyed, five people hospitalised, and a massive 140 flights cancelled.

It is speculated that around 25,000 passengers were impacted by the blaze, which has now been extinguished and flights resumed.

A fire investigator told local news the incident was likely started inside a diesel car, before spreading to nearby vehicles.





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Diverse Experiences: Tahiti offers a wide range of experiences, from romantic getaways to adventurous activities and rich cultural encounters.

Adventure and Romance: Clients can explore crystal-clear waters, lush

landscapes, and over-water bungalows, making it perfect for both adventure seekers and couples.

Easy Access: Air Tahiti Nui is your gateway to Tahiti, offering exceptional service, comfort, and a taste of Polynesian hospitality on every journey.

Sustainability: Tahiti's commitment to sustainable tourism aligns with the trend towards responsible travel, appealing to environmentally conscious clients.

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