



Today's issue of TD

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

- The Travel Junction
- APT
- Crystal



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Chinese carriers back to BNE

QUEENSLAND is firmly in focus for the recovering Chinese aviation market, with both China Eastern and China Southern Airlines announcing expansions into Brisbane today.

Key Qantas partner China Eastern Airlines will resume Brisbane-Shanghai services for the first time since the pandemic at the end of next month, initially with three weekly flights but boosting to daily from 08 Dec during the summer travel peak.

China Southern Airlines has also committed to Brisbane, with four weekly BNE-Guangzhou services to kick off on 17 Nov and also going daily between 08 Dec and 25 Feb next year.

BNE CEO Gert-Jan de Graaff said the addition of the two airlines was "another sign Queensland's Chinese tourism market is set to

roar back to life".

"With two carriers now set to resume services from mainland China, we're forecasting China will likely regain its spot as Queensland's number one source for inbound tourists in 2024.

"This is big news for the Gold Coast, Brisbane and North Queensland," he enthused.

The China Eastern flights are the 26th international connection facilitated by Qld's Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, with the state's Tourism Minister, Stirling Hinchliffe, saying operators are already seeing strong holiday bookings from both Shanghai and Guangzhou. *BP*

Hutchinson joins Big Red Group

ANDREW Hutchinson has taken a new role as GM Supply and Memberships at Big Red Group.

Hutchinson moves from The Travel Corporation where he was most recently AAT Kings GM Product & Contracting and also formerly Head of Product and Operations at Adventure World.

He said he was looking forward to being part of Big Red's mission to "serve an experience every second by 2030".

More appointments on [page six](#).

Crystal local cruises

CRYSTAL is offering up to \$1,500 off fares for two local 23/24 *Crystal Symphony* voyages.

Itineraries on offer on the fully refurbished ship include Perth-Auckland and Auckland-Sydney - see the [last page](#) for details.

Titan bonus comm

TITAN Travel is paying 5% additional commission on all bookings from the Australian trade confirmed by the end of Oct regardless of departure date.

There's also a 10% client discount on departures until the end of Jan 2023, with details available via the dedicated Australian trade portal which is online at titantravel.co.uk.

Batik adding Manila

BATIK Air Malaysia is set to expand its network to the Philippines, with GDS screens now indicating the scheduling of daily Kuala Lumpur-Manila services effective from 01 Dec using Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

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AA GOL codeshare

AMERICAN Airlines is boosting its codeshare partnership with Brazilian carrier GOL, adding the AA code to routes from Rio de Janeiro to Curitiba, Florianopolis, Goiania, Navegantes, Porto Alegre and Sao Paulo Viracopo/Campina effective from 01 Oct.

CVFR seals Vietnam MoU



EXCLUSIVE

VIETNAMESE carrier Bamboo Airways is a key signatory to a new Memorandum of Understanding signed in collaboration with Australia's CVFR Travel Group and ground operator HTS International aiming to further develop the Australian tourist market in Vietnam.

The pact was formally sealed in a signing ceremony earlier this week (pictured) in Ho Chi Minh City, and will see Bamboo Airways "promote cooperation with partners to provide an internationally oriented aviation service experience to customers within Australia" - one of the key markets targeted by Bamboo.

Bamboo Airways operates two weekly flights from both Sydney and Melbourne to Ho Chi Minh City, adding a third seasonal frequency to MEL for the upcoming peak season.

The airline's Deputy Director, Truong Phuong Thanh, said he hopes the collaboration of CVFR, HTS International and the Khanh Hoa Department of Tourism "will

help Bamboo Airways expand its flight network and improve the quality of services for Australian tourist travel".

Hoang Van Vinh, Chairman of the Nha Trang-Khanh Hoa Tourism Association, said connections between tourism and aviation businesses are critical in enhancing tourism opportunities in both countries. *BP*

Banyan Tree Dubai

ACCOR'S Banyan Tree Group has signed a deal with UAE-based Dubai Holding to introduce the Banyan Tree Dubai.

Set to launch in Nov this year, the refurbished property will replace the existing Caesars Palace Dubai in Dubai's Bluewaters precinct, with 179 rooms including a new four bedroom villa with its own private entrance, pool and beach.

A signature Banyan Tree Spa will also be on offer, and there will also be 96 private residences, all co-operated by Banyan Tree Group and Accor's Ennismore.

WIN film tickets!

LIMELIGHT Arts Travel is offering TD readers the chance to win two double passes to the Italian Film Festival kicking off next week across Australia - to win, email limelight@traveldaily.com.au and answer *Who is leading Limelight's next Essential Sicily tour?*

itravel



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Also, congratulations to Zoe Gentle & Janis McDonald, for being nominated for the 'Most Outstanding Sales Executive - Air' category!



The Chat with Jenny
Travel Daily
A Conversation with Jean Summers-Reeves of Clean Cruising
CLICK HERE to listen

WIN with Seattle and Washington

VISIT Seattle, the Port of Seattle and the State of Washington Tourism Board are offering a six-night trip including flights, accommodation and car rental to a lucky travel advisor from Australia or NZ who completes a new agent training webinar. Entries close tomorrow week Fri 22 Sep, with full details [HERE](#).

TTC earlybird sale

TTC Tour Brands is offering 10% off select Insight Vacations, Trafalgar and Costsaver trips for travel in 2024 as part of a special Early Bird Travel Sale. The offer is valid for bookings made before 14 Dec on trips departing 01 Apr-31 Oct 2024. Travellers who have been on a TTC Tour Brands holiday in the past are also eligible for a further 5% discount, with bookings now available online at agents.ttc.com.

SA rallies Qantas, lauds QR

BRING back Qantas international flights to South Australia - that's the rally cry from the state's Premier Peter Malinauskas who told the *AFR* that it was "disappointing" that the national carrier had continued to overlook Adelaide. Qantas hasn't operated an international flight from the SA capital in more than 10 years, after it dropped a direct connection to Singapore, something which Malinauskas said was not the behaviour of an airline that wants to be known as the 'national carrier'. "If they want to uphold that, I think they should be looking closely at Adelaide. "It's a disappointing state of play, and we'll be encouraging Qantas to change it," he said. At the same time, he lauded rival Qatar Airways for investing in international flights into the southern capital.

Malinauskas insisted he would be taking up the conversation with new CEO Vanessa Hudson at "an appropriate opportunity". Other airlines to fly international routes into Adelaide include Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and most recently, Fiji Airways with flights to Nadi, while Qantas subsidiary Jetstar connects the city directly with Denpasar. Emirates has also announced plans to resume the ADL to DXB route from mid-2024. *DF*

Collette turns 105

TO CELEBRATE its 105th birthday, Collette is giving away a \$105 gift card for every new booking made with deposit paid between 12 Sep - 31 Oct. There's no limit to the incentive, which is open to all registered Australian travel agents, so 10 bookings = \$1,050 in gift cards!

Window Seat

CANADIAN media have had a field day recently with an image of Indian PM Narendra Modi grabbing the hand of their own PM, Justin Trudeau, and ushering him off stage after a few tense days at the G20 Summit in New Delhi. It seemed time for a stylish getaway by the man the *South China Morning Post* recently declared to be the "most handsome" world leader. Unfortunately for PM Ken, sorry, Trudeau, his ministerial Airbus didn't get the memo, breaking down and rendering itself unable to do the one thing it was designed to do. Canada sent another govt. jet to get the stranded Trudeau while a spare part was flown commercially to New Delhi, arriving, wait for it, on time.

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LATAM celebrates MEL return



LATAM celebrated its return to Melbourne with around 200 of Victoria's travel industry joining them at a party hosted at Eureka89 last week on Thu.

VIPs included Ivanyr Barros, the wife of the Consul General of Brazil, and Nasly Bernal, the Consul General of Chile.

Executives from Melbourne Airport and Visit Victoria also attended the celebrations.

LATAM Airlines' first flight to MEL in almost three and a half years, LA805, touched down at 5:30am on 02 Sep with 292 pax.

The carrier will offer three direct flights per week between Melbourne and Santiago, Chile, on a Boeing 787-9.

Lorie Argus, Melbourne Airport CEO, said, "we're incredibly proud to welcome them (LATAM) back to Melbourne". *DF*

Not a super idea

EIGHT percent of Australians would withdraw their super early to go on a holiday, according to the latest data from comparisons website Finder.

In a survey of 1,090 consumers in Jun, 'go on a holiday' was the fourth most popular response, with 'I would not use my super even if I could access it before I retire' topping the responses with 44% of sentiment.

The latest CommBank iQ report showed Australians are indeed prioritising travel with growth in expenditure up 39% in the Jan to Mar period 2023 compared to the same period in 2022.

Extraordinary QR

QATAR Airways has launched its Extraordinary Adventures, offering discounted prices for travel between 20 Sep 2023 and 31 May 2024.

The offer runs for five days and ends on Sep 19 - **CLICK HERE**.

Rendezvous dances

RENDEZVOUS Melbourne has debuted its new baroque-style ballroom and conference space.

The latest refurbishments come off the back of a multi-million-dollar hotel renovation last year which saw updates to the rooms, restaurant and lobby of the hotel that is over 100 years old.

Paddle, play, stay

REFLECTIONS Holiday Parks has partnered with Valley Outdoors to create canoeing experiences in the Burrinjuck Waters.

Self guided canoeing starts at \$55 in open design canoes that allow passengers to take ample supplies with them.

Accommodation starts at \$30 for camp sites while cabins start at \$97 per night.

Peter Chapman, General Manager of Sales & Marketing for Reflections Holiday Parks said the partnership "aligned perfectly" for both of the businesses.

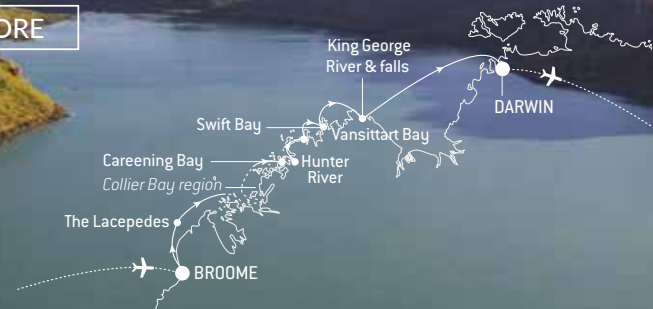
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BESYDNEY PUTS A NEW FACE FORWARD

BUSINESS Events Sydney (BESydney) has debuted a brand refresh, complete with a redesigned logo, new website and a complete revamp of its content, to signal it has “come of age” in a new era of business events.

The new branding and website followed what GM Content, Creative & Corporate Affairs, Carolin Lenehan, described as “the most comprehensive review and re-calibration of our content strategy in our organisation’s 50-plus year history”.

The new look features a vibrant new colour palette, which Lenehan said reflects Sydney’s blue skies, sea and sand, as well as its “vividness and buzz of energy”, while the company’s overhauled website is easier to navigate and now offers simplified content, including



news and insights, case studies, information on sustainability, a supplier directory, and more.

She added, “we feel we have captured Sydney’s unique duality as an iconically recognised and aspirational visitor destination with a globally competitive business heart”.

BESydney Chief Lyn Lewis-Smith shared that the “bold change”

comes at a time when “the world of business events has shifted dramatically, with new business models, new ways of working, connecting and gathering”.

“We have come of age on the global meetings stage - and our new brand and logo reflect that confidence.”

Check out the new website at besydney.com.au. JM

An Adelaide win

BUSINESS Events Adelaide has secured Philanthropy Australia’s 2024 national conference, which is set to attract more than 700 delegates from around the world to the Adelaide Convention Centre between 05-07 Aug 2024, marking the first time the event has been held in South Australia.

Pier One events

PIER One Sydney Harbour is inviting event planners to a meetings & events showcase on 11 Oct, where they will get to sample the venue’s new Day Delegate Menu, see its event spaces, and take advantage of great offers - reserve your spot [HERE](#).

NZICC appoints

THE New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC) has appointed Loryn Blaikie as its new International Sales Manager starting 18 Sep.

Blaikie, who joins from the New Zealand Institute of Directors, is preparing to embark on her first international trip in her new role in Nov, when she will head to Europe to connect with prospective international associations.

Vic chefs shine for Starlight at the MCEC

THE Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) sponsored and hosted the Starlight Children’s Foundation Five Chefs Dinner last week, bringing together some of Australia’s best chefs to help support the charity.

The event raised \$535,000 towards Starlight’s delivery of hospital programs at the Royal Children’s Hospital and Monash Children’s Hospital, and featured a five-course degustation designed by five of



Victoria’s leading chefs.

Guests were served with canapes from live cooking stations upon arrival, adding a unique interactive element to the event, which MCEC Executive Chef Peter Haycroft said “allowed us to showcase our creativity and culinary skills”.

Pullman Auckland

THE newly reopened Pullman Hotel Auckland, which boasts one of the largest conference facilities in the New Zealand city, has unveiled refurbished event spaces following a renovation of the 324-key luxury property.

Situated on the top floor, the Top of The Town conference venue has been refurbished to offer “an elevated conference experience”, while the Princess Ballroom on the lobby level offers indoor space and an outdoor terrace for cocktail events for up to 1,000 guests, or dinners for up to 500 guests - learn more [HERE](#).

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BWH Hotels has appointed **Rod Munro** as its Managing Director of Operations for Australasia. Munro will directly report to Vice President, International Operations for Asia Pacific, Oliver Berribin, while leading the Australian team to support and grow pipelines of new and existing hotels in the region. The seasoned director brings a wealth of experience to the role, including a recent stint at Stamford Hotels & Resorts.

Arriving from Ace Hotel in Sydney, **Elliot Miller** has become the Director of Sales, Business Events, Entertainment, Sports & Groups at **Accor Pacific**. Continuing to be based in Sydney, Miller has over two decades of international sales, marketing, PR and distribution leadership experience in the hospitality and tourism industry.

Grant Hunt has been appointed as the chair of the **Tourism and Events Queensland** board, replacing the departing Brett Godfrey, who has led the board since 2017. Hunt is well-known for advocating for nature-based and Indigenous tourism, and is currently the Director of Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, the G'day Group and Discovery Parks.

Japanese hotelier group **Nesuto** has expanded its commercial team with two new appointments. **Ritu Rawat**, boasting 13 years of experiences in sales, marketing and business development, has become the Associate Director of Sales for Nesuto Docklands in Melbourne. Meanwhile, **Wenyuan (Wen) Qu** has joined the group as its Commercial Support Executive with a fruitful resume in both Australia and China.

Scott Beck will soon oversee operations at the **San Francisco Travel Association**, as he is set to succeed the outgoing Joe D'Alessandro becoming the organisation's President and CEO, effective from 30 Oct. With more than 35 years of experience, Beck carries in-depth knowledge to the role and have proven his expertise in operating at renowned tourism bodies including Destination Toronto and Visit Salt Lake.

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Motel Caloundra



MOTEL Caloundra is gearing up to reopen on 29 Sep after undergoing a transformation led by hotel developers and designers Lucy and Andrew Pink (**pictured**), in partnership with Maeva Hospitality's Scott Armstrong.

The nine-room property has been modernised with new double-glazed windows for soundproofing and insulation, while all rooms now feature king beds with organic cotton sheets and smart TVs, with Superior king rooms given a private outdoor balcony and dedicated car spot.

The Pinks also upped the property's eco credentials by installing a rooftop bank of 47 solar panels, which will provide most of the hotel's energy needs.

Set opposite The Events Centre and the site of the new Sunshine Coast Regional Gallery, the motel is a short walk from Caloundra's town centre and beaches, with rates starting from \$180 a night.

United goes large

UNITED Airlines has opened the largest United Club lounge in the world with the debut of the 3,250 square metre Denver International Airport (DEN) lounge yesterday.

United is investing nearly US\$1 billion in upgrading DEN.

The new lounge is spread across three levels, features more than 600 seats and uses Denver's brewing heritage as inspiration for the design, with brewery-inspired elements and a new beer tasting experience at the feature bar on the mezzanine level.

Denver's urban area also serves as inspiration for the space with details such as concrete flooring, hand-crafted decor and exposed ceilings while a sculpture by artist Will Schlough made out of dozens of skateboards also features.

JQ South Korea

AUSSIES can snag one-way fares to Seoul from \$259 with Jetstar's South Korea Sale, while Club Jetstar members will have exclusive access to further reduced fares from \$245.

The sale ends 18 Sep for travel dates between early Feb and late Jul - [CLICK HERE](#) to book.

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Jetstar

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EDITORIAL

Publisher - Bruce Piper
Editorial Director - Damian Francis
Editor - Adam Bishop
Associate Publisher - Anna Piper
Contributors - Myles Stedman, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai, Jenny Piper
info@traveldaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan & Nicki Harford
advertising@traveldaily.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER

Davy Adams
davy.adams@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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