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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest travel industry news including a photo page from **La Collection**, our **Luxury** page, plus a full page from **Luxury Escapes**.

Bonza disembarks

THE dream is officially over for Bonza, with creditors voting to liquidate the failed carrier yesterday afternoon at a meeting with accountants Hall Chadwick (**TD** breaking news).

After a snap grounding over two months ago (**TD** 30 Apr), the financial outlook went from bad to worse for the airline, which launched with the pledge of catering to underserved areas across regional Australia.

While many questioned the viability of its model, the last couple of months revealed the primary reason for its downfall was the financial unreliability of its parent company 777 Partners.

The Miami-based investment company has its finger in a lot of pies - primarily sporting teams.

After running into money troubles, the company it shared ownership of aircraft with, AIP Capital, had had enough, pushing the eject button on repossession and leaving Bonza without a fleet.

Around 60,000 creditors remain after the failed venture, with the accumulated losses believed to be up to \$133 million.

The sudden collapse also left 500 staff out of pocket.

Australia's own Route 66

EXCLUSIVE

THE Outback Highway Development Council recently gathered in Canberra to discuss how to leverage more tourism opportunities from the ambitious Outback Way project.

The planned sealed road, which will link Laverton in Western Australia with Minton in Queensland, is being viewed as a key piece of outback infrastructure, which will spur on a wave of tourism development in the country's Red Centre.

Speaking with **TD** this morning, the Council's GM, Mel Forbes, said that when completed in 2032, it will be a "game-changer"

Changi is a holiday

CHANGI Airport has launched a new marketing campaign in Australia and NZ aimed at raising the profile of the various traveller experiences on offer at Singapore's largest air hub.

The marketing push led by Connecting Plots calls out the appeal of Changi's entertainment and retail complex, which includes swimming pools, a mirror maze, and robots serving premium whisky.

"Being able to enjoy such a wide range of incredible experiences while breaking up your journey is an enticing proposition for travellers from Australia and New Zealand," Connecting Plots said.

View the campaign [HERE](#).

for the country's tourism sector.

"The road will be sealed in time for the Brisbane Olympics and will benefit all of the small places dotted along the road like Longreach and Winton, which will all see increased tourism visitation," Forbes said.

She recently led a think tank to develop a deeper plan around cultural and bespoke tourism opportunities, which will present themselves once the route, dubbed 'Australia's Route 66', is completed for visitors.

"We anticipate seeing a life-changing increase in the volume of tourists travelling through the Outback as a result...and this will rival the US Route 66 because it will pass by Uluru and take in the stunning Macdonnell Ranges and showcase something different for international visitors." AB

Grand reservations

SINGAPORE'S iconic Grand Hyatt will begin its phased reopening from 10 Jul after a major two-year renovation that has transformed the property.

Guests can now book rooms in the nature-inspired Terrace Wing, with the Grand Wing expected to reopen from early next year.

The hotel's 699 rooms have been reimagined as a "Grand Living Room" and wellness space, which will offer travellers a variety of tranquil spaces among lush gardens and water features.

Agent Hub promo

LUXURY Escapes is offering \$100 credit for agents to put towards their own adventures when joining its newly launched Agent Hub and making their first booking - see **page eight** for more information.

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Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

THE KIMBERLEY

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Scenic, aboard *Scenic Eclipse II*.

WE'RE just three days into our Kimberley adventure, with each morning promising new discoveries as we explore this jewel of Australia's cultural and panoramic heritage.

It's hard to believe we can explore such remote regions as today's Hanover River from six-star luxury, as we experience unique wildlife such as sea turtles, snakes, coastal birdlife and even rare marsupial rats.

Back on board, there's also plenty to overwhelm our senses, from spa treatments to entertainment, and of course lavish culinary delights - more on socials @cruiseweekly.

First step for Iconic Walks

LEADING Australian conservationist, Peter Mooney, is at the centre of a new multi-day guided walking holiday business, offering eco-friendly explorations in Australia, Canada and Nepal.

Iconic Walks has today launched its website and unveiled its debut product range, consisting of four itineraries crossing the Himalayas, Nepal's Langtang Valley and the Bugaboos in British Columbia.

Closer to home, the company has also formed a joint venture with the Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation to develop a 62km walk on the Jatbula Trail in the Northern Territory, from Nitmiluk Gorge to Edith Falls.

"It is a tremendous privilege to be accepted to form such a partnership with the traditional land owners, and to support Jawoyn Association's vision," Mooney commented.

A new itinerary in Tasmania immersing travellers in an iconic



part of the Apple Isle's coastline is also in development.

On each tour, travellers set out to explore local highlights, with the company working with traditional land owners to gain special permission to access places off-limits to private hikers while ensuring no environmental impact is left behind.

Joining Mooney in the Iconic Walks venture is former Virgin Blue Airline Group founders, Rob Sherrard and Bruce Highfield, the latter acting as an advisor.

Travel agents booking Iconic Walks can earn 20% commission.

CLICK HERE for more information on Iconic Walks. *ML*

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

SINGAPORE

Today's issue of *Travel Daily* is coming to you from ILTM Asia Pacific in Singapore, where day two of the luxury travel conference is underway.

DAY one of ILTM saw a jam-packed conference centre host a range of press conferences, meetings & speed networking, before media were treated to a special dinner at Nobu in the Four Seasons.

Day two promises just as much action with Japan, Crystal Cruises, Banyan Group and Accor, among others, taking the media room stage.

Guests will then convene at IHG, which will host cocktails this evening as the high-profile luxury travel conference slowly draws to a close.

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Travel Daily
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Window Seat

WHO knew taking a selfie could be quite so dangerous?

Two men this week proved that no argument is too petty to initiate a punch up, with the pair brawling on Mount Everest over the best vantage point in which to take a photo next to the Everest Elevation Measurement Monument.

Police broke up the fracas, with the only pics taken on the day being sheepish mug shots.



Qatar flexes profit muscle

THE Middle Eastern carrier with designs on rapidly expanding its presence in the Australian market has posted an impressive net profit result for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Qatar Airways posted a record-breaking net profit of US\$1.7 billion (A\$2.55 billion), a result spurred on by a 26% increase in the number of passengers carried, which surpassed the 40 million mark during the period.

The carrier also revealed that passenger revenue spiked by 19%, while capacity also rose by 21%, largely driven by the airline's highest-ever load factor of 83%.

"Our continued focus on profitability, efficiency and customer experience have been underpinned by a strategic program of network growth and fleet expansion, resulting

in the highest revenues and profit margins in the history of the airline," Group CEO, Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, said.

The airline's private charter arm also delivered healthy results, with Qatar Executive enjoying a revenue rise of 17%, and flying hours increasing by 21% - fuelled by rising demand from Europe, the United States, and Asia.

Qatar's Privilege Club loyalty program also yielded significant growth, with membership increasing by 26%, and Avios collection growing at over 50%.

QR made waves last week with reports it is poised to purchase a 20% stake in Virgin Australia (TD 27 Jun), with an update speculated to be made this week.

If it goes ahead, the equity grab would see the carrier make a move on the Aussie market after being rebuffed by the Fed Govt for more capacity last year. AB

Entire Tahiti deals

SAVINGS of up to \$9,950 per couple can now be enjoyed with Entire Travel Group, which has launched a sweeping promotion for the islands of Tahiti.

Discounted packages are on sale until 13 Jul for travel to 31 Mar 2025 and include a five-night stay at Moorea's Manava Resort, and flights from \$3,616pppts.

Higher-end luxury is also on sale with five nights at St Regis Bora Bora, pre- and post-nights and flights included, priced from \$9,945 per person, twin share.

Mt Fuji restrictions

CLIMBING season has opened at Japan's famous Mt Fuji, with authorities imposing an access fee and a daily cap on numbers to combat overtourism.

A maximum of 4,000 hikers can scale the main Yoshida mountain trail each day, with a new entry fee of ¥2,000 (A\$18.50) charged.

Three other hiking routes on the mountain remain free of charge, with an online reservation system now live to manage numbers.

Peru dengue warning

THE worsening dengue fever outbreak in Peru has led the Federal Government to advise Australian travellers to reconsider their need to visit parts of the South American country.

In a fresh advisory issued yesterday, DFAT is suggesting travellers avoid the Valley of the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro rivers, located roughly 300km east of the capital Lima.

The rise in dengue cases is not localised to Peru, with the number of infections growing rapidly in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Colombia, as well as parts of southern Europe.

Disease experts have warned the increase in cases is likely linked to warmer conditions brought on by climate change.



Envoyage in Africa

ENVOYAGE has announced it will bring its Worldwide event to South Africa next year, following the "resounding success" of the inaugural Worldwide in Santiago, Chile in May (TD 02 May).

Taking place in Sun City from 12-15 Sep 2025, anticipation for the event is already building, with several key partners confirmed.

Worldwide 2024, which was Envoyage's first major global event, attracted more than 300 travel professionals from the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

GM Nick Queale said, "this isn't just an event; it's a movement towards more meaningful impactful connections".

Registration will open late 2024, along with details about exclusive pre- and post-conference famils.

Travel Daily
The Chat
 with Jenny
 A conversation with Penny Spencer

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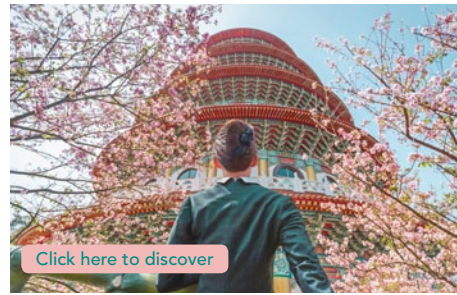
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NCL cruisetours

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has expanded its cruisetours collection in Europe, which is now available in 11 ports.

The pre-cruise program combines selected sailings with a multi-day land exploration, with new the new adventures released through Nov 2025.

Lisbon has joined the collection, joining Athens, Barcelona, Copenhagen, and Istanbul.

Betteridge at TTW

TRAVEL The World (TTW) has welcomed Michael Betteridge (pictured) as its new Chief Commercial & Operations Officer.

Betteridge joins Travel The World with more than 25 years of experience in the industry, bringing a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new role.

He is a highly accomplished commercial leader with a proven track record of driving growth and innovation, having previously served as General Manager for the NRMA Group's Tourism Development and the General Manager for Sales and Marketing for NRMA Marine.



Pielli goes loco-motive



RAIL Europe has announced the winner of its Dream Journeys campaign, Travel Associates Belconnen's Justine Pielli.

The lucky travel advisor submitted a catchy poem and detailed her dream to experience some of the world's most scenic trains in Switzerland.

Her submission also included photos of herself superimposed into some of the trains sold by Rail Europe (pictured), one of which she will be embarking on as part of her prize.

Pielli's submission was just one of numerous creative entries received, which has led Rail Europe to reward a number of other advisors for their originality.

Aaron Marr, Helloworld Coffs Harbour; Matt Carter, Journeys

Retold; Rita Malik, Tailormade Travelling; and Alexander Taylor, The Fabulous Travel Consultants; have also been awarded with Eurail Passes and \$100 vouchers for their highly-engaging entries.

"We have been overwhelmed by the number of incredibly high-quality entries pouring in for this campaign," General Manager Richard Leonard said.

"It's evident that European train travel is the 'new black' and highly popular among our travel advisors, with so many demonstrating their knowledge of train routes and destinations, and their keenness to experience it for themselves."

Leonard added there will be the chance to join two specifically designed rail journeys in Oct. *MS*

La Collection growth

LA COLLECTION has expanded its portfolio with the exclusive ANI Private Resorts locations in Thailand and Sri Lanka.

The two properties will become a part of LC Private, the villa and private home arm of luxury representation company La Collection, with co-founder and Director of Sales Craig Farrell saying he is thrilled at the addition.

"ANI's commitment to exceptional experiences aligns perfectly with La Collection's core values, and their stunning resorts in Thailand and Sri Lanka whisk clients away to unforgettable private escapes," he said.

The LC Private collection was first introduced just a few months ago (*TD 20 Mar*).



Be Swift for tickets

G ADVENTURES customers are being urged to speak now if they want one of the company's vaunted 'karma' cards, offering them a place at a Taylor Swift concert in London.

One more karma card is now available, with any Australian travel advisor who can showcase their enthusiasm for Swift in the running - more info **HERE**.

Discover the all new *River Cruise Special Report*



La Collection's luxury European getaway

LUXURY representation company La Collection recently completed the European leg of its highly anticipated 2024 educationals.

Travel advisors were treated to some of the best hotels across Italy and Greece, along with some first class service for which La Collection is known.

Lea Seguier hosted advisors from Mosman Travel and Frontier Travel to Villa Spalletti Trivelli in Rome, Borgo Santandrea on the Amalfi Coast, while San Montano Resort and Spa was their home on the island of Ischia.

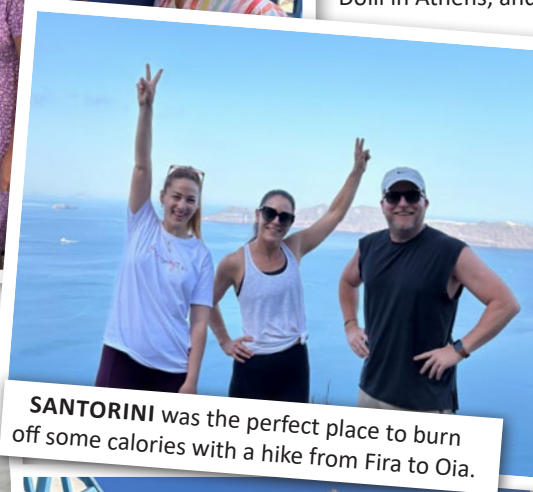
A similar itinerary was enjoyed by a group of Virtuoso advisors earlier in May, hosted by Craig Farrell.

Greece was the word for the next two lucky groups, who enjoyed stays at the brand-new Myconian DEOS on Mykonos, iconic Mystique on Santorini, while on Paros, COSME offered the perfect launchpad to explore the island.

A group of Smartflyer advisors also extended their Greek adventure to include Cape Sounio on the Athens Riviera, The Dolli in Athens, and Blue Palace on Crete.



THE first stop on the Smartflyer famil was the stunning Blue Palace.



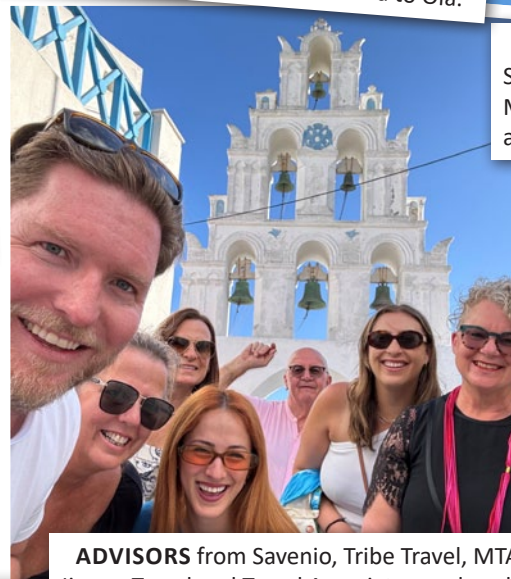
SANTORINI was the perfect place to burn off some calories with a hike from Fira to Oia.



LEA Seguier and Antonella Gatto from Borgo Santandrea hosted drinks with Kate Vasiliou, Mosman Travel; Donna Phillips; Sonia Jones; and Kevin Garwood, Frontier Travel.



JACQUI Keating, Smartflyer and Craig Farrell enjoy lunch in Mykonos Town.



ADVISORS from Savenio, Tribe Travel, MTA, Jigsaw Travel and Travel Associates explored Megalahori village on Santorini, and enjoyed lunch at O by Myconian Collection, on Mykonos.



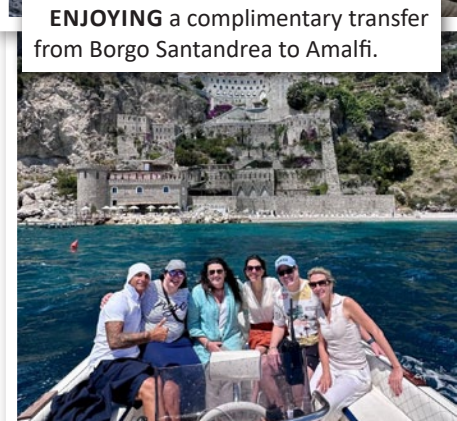
FARM to table at Blue Palace, Crete.



ENJOYING a complimentary transfer from Borgo Santandrea to Amalfi.



DEBBIE Collins from Spencer Travel and Gena Summons, Travel Associates explore Ischia.



Hyatt boosts wellness

HYATT Hotels has lauded Australia as an Asia Pacific leader in the wellness tourism space as it expects the value of the sector to hit US\$1.3 trillion by 2027.

Speaking at ILTM, Kate Atkinson, VP of Global Sales ASPAC for Hyatt Sales Force, said guests valued authentic experiences rooted in holistic wellbeing and that they were “seeking purpose-driven experiences over purchase”.

She suggested that the international wellness guest was of significant value to the industry, saying that on average, they spend 35% more than typical overseas guests, and that domestic wellness visitors spend 177% more than the average.

“People are travelling to disconnect and enrich their lives, and secondary is travelling to a destination or hotel where they want to incorporate an experience to enrich their time,” she said.

According to Atkinson, Thailand and Japan will join Australia in leading the wellness tourism charge.

Hyatt has been investing in its wellness credentials, including collaborating with sleep ambassador Nancy H. Rothstein to provide guests with the knowledge they need to get the best night’s sleep while travelling.

DIOR GETS THE EASTERN EXPRESS

BELMOND’S Eastern & Oriental Express has announced a key partnership with Dior that will see a Dior Spa on the famous train starting this month.

Announced at a special breakfast event during ILTM in Singapore, which *Travel Daily* attended, the partnership was announced by Nicolas Streff, Vice President of Strategy and Communications.

It will be Dior’s first spa in the region and will offer guests the ultimate relaxation experience while the train meanders its way through the landscapes of Southeast Asia.

“We bring the expertise of two brands that deliver the best experience and most incredible excellence and create the most



beautiful wellness experience in motion,” Streff explained to the media delegates.

“The treatments are inspired by Southeast Asia.

“The design features a lot of wood, and the colours chosen are really, truly, celebrating the local destinations - Malaysia, Singapore, Southeast Asia.”

Streff added that the train will feature the Dior Spa “from mid-

Jul, so we still have a few weeks to wait to experience it”, but that he felt it was some of the most exciting news to come from Belmond this year.

The Eastern & Oriental Express was relaunched in Feb 2024 and offers travellers itineraries beginning in Singapore that cross into Malaysia and proceed to wind their way through the country’s unique landscapes. *DF*

Los Cabos attracting luxury-seeking travellers

LUXURY hotels are descending on Los Cabos, Mexico, with more than 10 locations opened over the last decade, despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking to *Travel Daily* at ILTM in Singapore, Rodrigo Esponda, Managing Director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board, added that 10,000 Australians were visiting the region, often via Los Angeles.

He pointed out that this number is growing, despite overall tourism numbers flattening out after significant

growth post-COVID.

He said that the focus for the region now was not necessarily to boost tourism numbers overall, but to grow the percentage of those that are luxury travellers.

Among the luxury hotels set to open in Los Cabos before 2027 are the 99 room St Regis, the 99 room Four Season Resort Cabo del Sol, the 30 room Soho House and the 168-room Park Hyatt, among others.

Also coming to the region are four new golf courses, including a second by Tiger Woods.

Fregate revamped

ULTRA-LUXURY private island in the Seychelles, Fregate Resort, has updated media on its renovation progress after it closed in 2022 for major work.

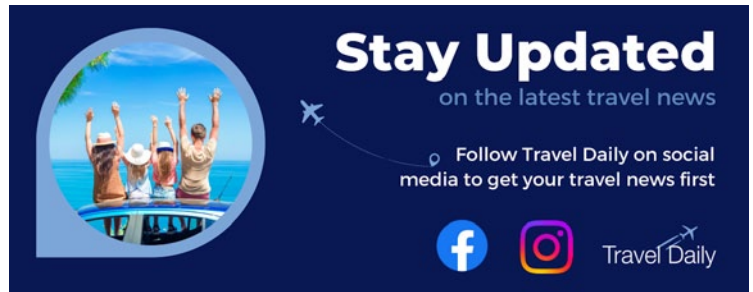
Head of Sales & Marketing, Angelika Vater, shared at ILTM that progress was on track for a late 2025 opening, with the new resort to be roughly on the same footprint of the original.

The villas will have Starlink, be slightly larger than before, and the resort will feature a helipad, spa, and restaurants.



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After a temporary closure earlier this year, **The Keith Motel** in Victoria is scheduled to reopen this month after receiving a significant facelift. Designed to exude "casual and coastal chic vibes", the 16-key resort boasts a communal cabana, BBQ facilities, sun loungers and umbrellas, and four outdoor picnic tables that can seat six to eight guests. Each guest room also houses a kitchen, microwave and mini fridge.



Braeside Homestead, located in the Southern Downs and Granite Belt region of Queensland, has recently unveiled changes to elevate guest experience. The 150-year-old homestead has rejuvenated its gardens, as well as announcing The Residence - a luxury accommodation that was exclusively reserved for previous owners - is now available to book. Braeside has also revamped its website to make booking easier, and introduced a new online art gallery.



Located in the heart of Chow Kit in Kuala Lumpur, **Fairfield by Marriott Chow Kit Kuala Lumpur** - formerly Fairfield by Marriott Jalan Pahang - has unveiled its new identity with a rename and property revitalisation. The hotel now embodies a modern, calm aesthetic along with new room categories, including Superior Coroner Room, Deluxe Coroner Room, and Premier Room. The hotel has also expanded its meeting spaces.



Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island, Fiji has reopened its doors following a multi-million dollar transformation, which includes the enhancement of the resort's Waitui House and Sala Lounge & Pool Bar. The signature restaurant has been revitalised with new furnishings and updated menus, and exudes a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere.



The 122-key **NH Collection Samui** will open from 01 Jan 2025, following a property upgrade to align its standards with Minor Hotels, as the latest addition to brand's portfolio. The Thailand resort houses several restaurants, bars and shops, as well as a fitness centre, water sports area, kids' and teens' facilities, including a cinema and indoor and outdoor play areas.

New York State front of mind



NEW York State Division of Tourism recently concluded a week-long series of trade events to promote the wonders of New York beyond the five boroughs. The delegation enjoyed sales calls and networking lunches with trade partners in Brisbane, before moving on to Sydney to take part in the Good Food and Wine Show. **Pictured** above is Michael Cassis, Carolyn Nightingale and

Trina Shepherd, Linkd Tourism; Alfredo Gonzales, Long Island Tourism; Kirsten Tibbals, Celebrity Chef; Dawn Hopper, Dutchess County Tourism; Heather McElhiney, New York State Division of Tourism and Belinda Condon from United Airlines.

Noosa's Sweet Life

TOURISM Noosa and Sunshine Coast Airport have joined forces to launch a new destination campaign encapsulated by a one-minute mini film.

Dubbed 'The Sweet Life', the campaign focuses on the Sunshine Coast's natural beauty and landscapes, set to a soundtrack featuring crashing waves and beach vibes.

The campaign aims to leverage the Sunshine Coast's direct flights from Auckland, which resumed late last month (**TD** 27 Jun).

Travellers from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland are the campaign's main targets and will see it via outdoor signage and on public transport.

Gorge on photos

CARNARVON Gorge Eco Tours has partnered with Australian Nature Guides to launch a range of photography workshops for travellers to hone their craft at the Central Queensland attraction. Taking place in Jul and Aug, visitors can select from a variety of hands-on workshops including field sessions, editing techniques, technical guidance and creative inspiration, all led by experts.

Queensland Country CEO Peter Homan said the workshops can help to enhance mental wellbeing - **CLICK HERE** to find out more.

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