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Bonza terminated?

ADMINISTRATORS for Bonza have conceded a sale is now unlikely for the airline with the deadline to sell lapsing today, flagging instead to pursue a legal claim against its insurers.

A report in the *AFR* also suggested all staff will be axed.



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JB buys vintage operator

JOURNEY Beyond (JB) has moved to bolster its Australian tourism portfolio, this morning announcing the purchase of NSW-based Vintage Rail Journeys for an undisclosed sum.

Founded in 2020 by Simon Mitchell and Danielle Smith, Vintage Rail acquired 17 former Southern Aurora carriages to restore and deploy on several unique NSW rail journeys.

The company currently offers several itineraries to book, including to the state's Golden West, a Riverina Rail Tour passing through regions south of Sydney to Australia's 'food bowl', an exploration of the northern NSW coast, as well as special event rail trips to the Elvis Festival in Parkes and the Bathurst 100.

Journey Beyond, which already boasts iconic rail brands such as The Ghan and Indian Pacific, said more details on itineraries and pricing will be released in Jul in preparation for a 2025 relaunch.

"We will be thrilled to welcome guests aboard these restored carriages in 2025, on one of our immersive rail experiences across regional New South Wales," CEO Chris Tallent said.

Enjoy the King's b'day

TRAVEL Daily is signing off for the week to enjoy the long weekend for the King's Birthday, and will return on Tue 11 Jun to share all the latest excitement in the travel industry.

Speaking to **TD** about the buy, Journey Beyond confirmed spring 2024 scheduled tours for Vintage had been cancelled, as Journey Beyond works through the transitional period and builds on the existing value proposition.

Mitchell and Smith, who built the business over the last five years, will also depart at the end of the financial year.

More info on Vintage Rail's journeys can be viewed [HERE](#). **AB**

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news including our **Corporate Update**.

Goldman connects

GOLDMAN Travel Corporation is gearing up to launch GoldConnect from next month.

Shared on the company's LinkedIn page, GoldConnect is touted as being an "innovative single-platform travel solution". More info will be unveiled soon.



malaysia airlines

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Qantas delays DRW-SIN

QANTAS' bold plan to connect residents of the Northern Territory with one-stop access to Europe and Asia will take a back seat, with the carrier this morning confirming that the planned launch date has been pushed back by three months.

Revealed to much fanfare in Jan (**TD** 18 Jan), Qantas had previously announced its Embraer E190 aircraft would fly five times a week from Darwin to Singapore from 09 Dec, however due to "some engineering and operational requirements across the Qantas fleet", the date has been shifted to late Mar 2025.

A spokesperson told **TD** that customers booked to travel on Darwin-Singapore flights between 09 Dec 2024 and 31 Mar 2025 will be offered the choice of a full refund or to rebook on an alternative flight.

Putting a positive spin on the disappointing news, the carrier



said that while the international route delay from the NT capital was needed, overall Darwin will benefit from extra seat capacity.

An extra 20,000 seats between Darwin and Melbourne will be added by upgauging E190s to larger Boeing 737s between Oct 2024 and Mar 2025, while flights between Darwin and Perth will also be upgraded from an A320 to a B737, offering pax on the route the option to book business class.

Meanwhile, Qantas will add an extra 5,000 seats on Darwin flights in the lead-up to Xmas to Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Alice Springs.

The changes will represent a 21% increase in capacity. **AB**

EY leaves agents out

SEVERAL travel agents have expressed their disappointment at Etihad's decision not to include travel sellers to take advantage of its recently launched stopover promotion (**TD** 09 May).

The carrier's deal offers travellers a free hotel stay as part of flight booking.

EY has been contacted for comment about the decision.

Inspiring Qld agents

ALL agents who attend Inspiring Vacations' upcoming trade evening in Brisbane this month will earn double commission on all sales made in the week following the event.

Part of the operator's 'Learn More, Earn More' series, the gathering will take place at the Legends Bar in the voco Brisbane City Centre hotel, and offers advisors live entertainment, complimentary drinks and canapes, and the chance to score a lucky door prize.

Inspiring Vacations has been making stronger efforts in recent months to attract attention and educate travel sellers, running its first-ever trade faml last month (**TD** 20 May).

The event is free to attend and will run from 5.30-7.30pm AEST.

Register to attend **HERE**.

The evening will be followed by a two-day consumer event, The Greatest Travel Show, which is also held at the voco Brisbane.

Cairns linked to Bali

AIRASIA Indonesia has confirmed plans to launch its first-ever flights to Cairns, with the carrier to link the north Queensland city with Bali (Denpasar) from 14 Aug.

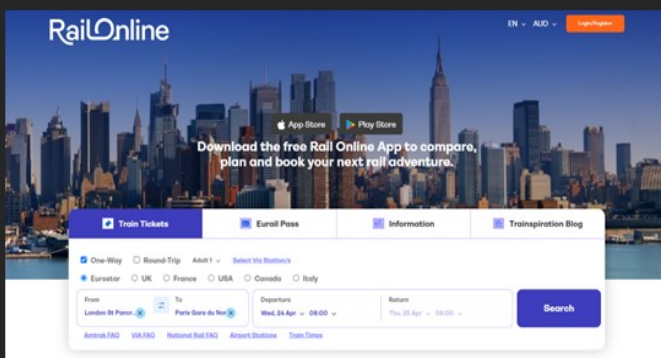
The upcoming service will operate three times a week, as the carrier aims to tap into the ever-popular demand for Bali holidays from Aussies.

The service will inject more than 28,000 seats into the Cairns market in the first year.



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Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

Kings Canyon

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of AAT Kings, which is hosting its Kings Canyon, Uluru and Kata Tjuta tour this week.

TODAY the group will take on the King Canyon Rim Walk, which is shaping up to be our most challenging activity yet. Spanning 6km, the path winds its way around the rim of a red sandstone canyon, and its steep climbs are sure to get our lungs and legs working - the magnificent birds-eye view of the desert landscape will make it well worth the effort, though. We will then pack our bags and head back to Alice Springs, where we will spend one last night before we bid farewell to the Red Centre.

Mint Waaves to advisors

PAYMENT technology provider Waave has announced a new partnership with Mint Payments to introduce real-time, account-to-account consumer payments to Australia and New Zealand-based travel advisors.

Waave said the new collaboration aims to provide travel agents with a broader range of payment methods for their clients, according to an article in *ChannelLife NZ*.

Part of the new partnership will see Mint Payments integrate Waave's 'Pay by Bank' solution into its consumer payments

platform, allowing agents to offer clients the option of paying by direct debit over credit cards.

Benefits for Mint Payments users also include safer transactions and less administrative work for sellers.

The integrated Pay by Bank solution will offer biometric authentication, thereby enhancing security measures when compared to traditional electronic funds transfers.

Waave's technology also seeks to streamline operations for travel agents by eliminating the need to reconcile multiple payment systems, reducing the overall complexity of managing consumer payments. *AB*

Win a Europe cruise

AUSTRALIAN agents who book and deposit a Royal Caribbean Europe cruise this month will automatically go in the running to win a seven-night European cruise in a balcony cabin - the lucky winner will be drawn 03 Jul.

EY-MU want loyalty

ETIHAD Airways has inked a joint-venture agreement with China Eastern Airlines, marking the first time a commercial deal such as this has been forged between a Middle Eastern airline and a Chinese carrier.

The details of the agreement will see the airlines introduce full reciprocity to their loyalty programs in the final quarter of 2024, as well as grow the flight network across major hubs such as Shanghai, Beijing, Xi'an, and Kunming, and several UAE cities.

Ethihad and China Eastern Airlines will formally implement the joint venture cooperation in early 2025, once all regulatory clearances have been achieved.

QF's winter menu

QANTAS has unveiled a new winter menu, along with a revamped spirits selection on board featuring new Aussie gins.

International first, business and premium economy customers will now enjoy Four Pillars Rare Dry Gin as the new standard pour.

INSPIRING VACATIONS

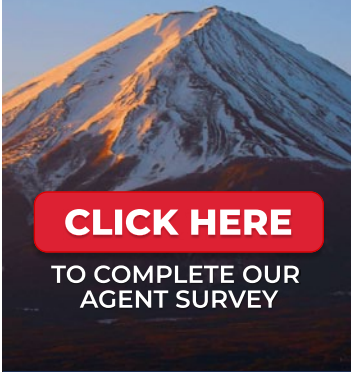
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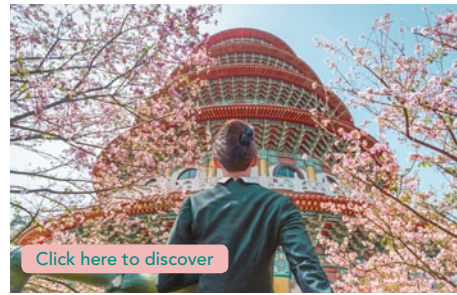
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Discover more NCL

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL), has published its new *Discover a New Destination Nearly Every Day* brochure, which includes an overview of the line's fleet, destinations, itineraries, on board experiences, and much more.

Agents will go in the running to win one of six double passes to the *Burn the Floor* production in Sydney, Brisbane or Melbourne when they order a copy of the brochure and answer two simple questions by 30 Jun - see [HERE](#).



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NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

JQ links Brissy & Bangkok

JETSTAR is preparing to reconnect Queensland and Thailand with direct services between Bangkok and Brisbane from 13 Dec.

Supported by the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, the route will operate three times per week using a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, with a flight duration of just over eight hours - roughly half the time compared to indirect routes between the two capitals.

The new flights are estimated to deliver more than 190,000 additional inbound seats to

Good on ya, Qld!

QUEENSLAND'S new tourism campaign has already generated 2,500 media stories worth more than \$5.8 million in the first 96 hours since going live (**TD** 03 Jun).

More than 130,000 people have visited the campaign web page, generating thousands of leads.

Queensland over three years, generating \$116 million in overnight visitor expenditure.

"We are delighted to be reconnecting two long-time friends, Queensland and Thailand," shared Brisbane Airport Chief Executive Officer Gert-Jan de Graaf.

"This route has been the most frequently requested in comments on Brisbane Airport's social media accounts over the past two years."

Queensland Minister of Tourism, Michael Healy, revealed that "compared to pre-COVID figures, we have recently seen record numbers of visitors from Thailand to Queensland, so it was vital for us to open up a direct route to Bangkok".

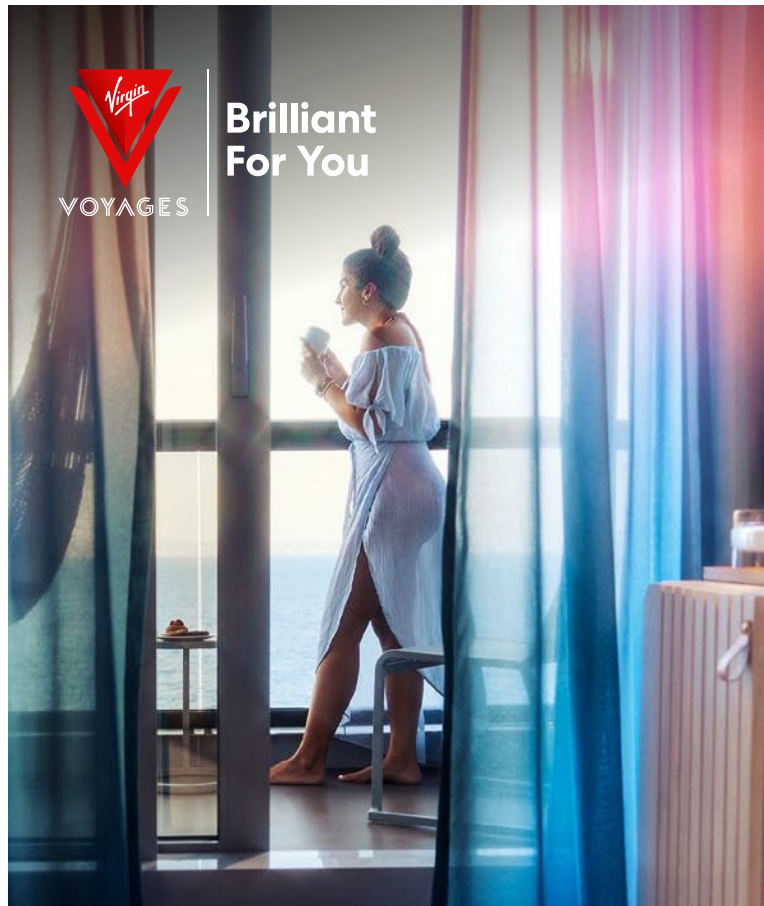
The new route is part of a major expansion of Jetstar's Brisbane operations following a landmark partnership with Brisbane Airport in 2023 (**TD** 19 Jun 2023). *JM*

McCagh joins HLO

HELLOWORLD Travel has appointed Courtney McCagh (**pictured**) as its Franchise Operations Manager for Western Australia and Northern Territory.

McCagh joined the business this week and brings with her previous experience working at Scenic, Royal Caribbean and TopDeck in Australia, as well as in London and Miami.

"We are delighted we found the ideal candidate in Courtney... we know she will bring great results to HLO and our WA and NT networks will appreciate her," Head of Branded and Associate Networks, Nick Sutherland, said.



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Window Seat

A GIRAFFE at a Texas wildlife centre got a little too excited this week when accepting a snack from a young visitor.

Heart-stopping footage shared with *NBC News* shows the animal lifting a toddler out of the bed of a truck with its mouth during a giraffe feeding experience at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center.

Thankfully, the little girl was unharmed, with the gentle giant quickly letting her go back into her parents' arms once realising its mistake.

The toddler's father, Jason Toten, said "it was an accident and the giraffe didn't mean to", adding that he wasn't mad at the giraffe or the park.

Toten also told reporters the incident wouldn't deter his family from visiting the park again, which he described as "a great place to go".

In order to prevent a similar accident from taking place again, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center said it would no longer allow visitors to ride through the park in truck beds.



TA's plush Irish escape



TOURISM Ireland recently hosted a group of seven Travel Associates' (TA) agents on a luxury famil to the beautiful Emerald Isle.

The cohort spent time exploring Ireland's Ancient East and The Wild Atlantic Way, which celebrated its 10-year anniversary this year, as well as getting to enjoy the country's premium accommodation and authentic experiences.

The travel advisors enjoyed stays at high-end properties Cashel Palace Hotel and Dromoland Castle, and embarked on memorable activities such as falconry and horse riding through Mount Juliet Estate.

They were also treated to a yacht ride along the Shannon Estuary, witnessed incredible views of the Ring of Kerry during a thrilling helicopter ride, and indulged in Irish whiskey at the Middleton Distillery in Cork.

"Tourism Ireland was delighted to partner with Travel Associates to organise this group famil to the island of Ireland and immerse these agents in our culture and discover some of the many unique and bespoke offerings in Ireland," said Sofia Hansson, Tourism Ireland's Manager Australia and New Zealand.

"Our aim is that when these travel advisors return home, they will be even more enthusiastic and informed about the destination, helping to secure a greater share of their business for the island of Ireland." JM

Pictured enjoying their time at the Europe Hotel in Killarney are: Viktoria Albrecht, Tourism Ireland; Alison Mark; Melissa Poole; Kelly Little (front); Melissa Madigan; Kate Gaskell; Susan Weber (front); Janine Galanakis; Luisea Nic Lochlainn, By Appointment DMC.

NZ grows its spend

NEW figures from the International Visitor Survey shows visitors contributed \$4.5 billion to New Zealand's economy between Jan and Mar 2024 - representing an increase of 34% (or NZ\$1.3 billion) when compared to the same time period last year.



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CORPORATE UPDATE

Corporate travel at risk

CORPORATE travel to Australia is at the mercy of the sustainable aviation fuel industry, Tourism & Transport Forum Chief Executive Officer Margy Osmond believes.

Speaking at this week's Ecotourism Australia Global Sustainable Tourism Summit (**TD** yesterday), Osmond said Australia's isolation means it is at risk of being overlooked for corporate travel, such as major conferences and events, if the SAF sector does not achieve appropriate scale.

"What you are now hearing overseas is the corporate who would normally support that kind of confidence going to a country like Australia saying, 'oh, no, that's just not feasible', because for all the corporates who would normally come, it'd blow their emissions targets for the month," Osmond told a panel session.

"We [will not] get those very big money-generating opportunities, and we won't get them unless we can solve the SAF problem."

US top biz spender

THE United States was the nation that spent the most on business travel in 2022, a new study from the Global Business Travel Association has revealed.

A total of 429.9 million business trips were taken within the US, with spending averaging US\$632 per trip, and California and New York making up the top markets for corporate travellers.

Virgin Australia General Manager Sustainability, Fiona Walmsley, also speaking on the panel, added the take-up of the airline's sustainability initiatives has been particularly strong among corporate travellers.

"We're seeing our guests being more and more interested in sustainability of their flight...quite strongly through our corporate customers who fly with us, both the bigger [enterprises] and in particular, some of the SMEs," she explained.

"These are organisations that don't necessarily have sustainability teams, but they really want to do the right thing by their own business." *MS*


Biz travel steadies

BUSINESS travellers around the world benefited from cheaper airfares in the first quarter of 2024, according to FCM Consulting's latest *Global Quarterly Trend Report*.

Globally, economy ticket prices came down by 16% compared to Jan 2021, however they remain 11% more expensive than prior to the pandemic.

The report also highlighted stable booking volumes in Q1 2024, showing demand for corporate travel remained steady.



"Corporate budgets are increasing with confidence and enabling steady business travel trends," said Felicity Burke, FCM Consulting's APAC Director.



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Viva bites the Big Apple



HELLOWORLD'S Viva Holidays treated 11 Aussie agents on the "famil of a lifetime" to New York recently, in celebration of the brand's 50th anniversary.

Hosted in partnership with Air New Zealand, the five-night adventure featured must-see destinations and experiences across Manhattan and Upstate New York.

The itinerary kicked off with a VIP tour of the Top of The Rock, where the group enjoyed an aerial view of the city from the observation deck at the Rockefeller Centre.

Next was an exclusive site inspection of the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel and dinner in the Broadway Lounge.

Other highlights included a Secrets of the Statue of Liberty tour; a viewing of *Chicago the Musical* at the Ambassador Theatre; lunch at the iconic Blue

Box Cafe at Tiffany and Co; and an exploration of Long Island. *JM*

Pictured: The group soaking in an incredible view of the city.

Klook gets Lucid

GLOBAL travel and experiences booking platform Klook has engaged The Lucid Agency to handle its media relations in Australia and New Zealand.


Skewed towards younger travellers, Klook has tasked the agency with promoting its disruptive appeal for Aussies and Kiwis booking trips, as well as communicating important milestones such as the experience company's 10th anniversary this year.

Lucid's other travel clients already include tiny house accommodation provider, Tiny Away, and the Japan National Tourism Organization.

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China Airlines has launched a winter sale, offering discounted airfares to 22 destinations across Asia and Europe. Valid for bookings through to 14 Jun, the promotion includes incredible deals across economy, premium economy, and business classes. Travellers can save more than \$3,000 when they book business class on the Sydney-London route. To make a booking, [CLICK HERE](#).

Savings of up to \$2,500 per person are available on select cruises with **Lindblad Expeditions**. Under the 'Explore the World' offer, travellers can experience some of the most captivating destinations at an affordable price point. Eligible itineraries include the 16-day 'Roots of the Pacific' journey, which takes guests on an adventure through New Zealand and Melanesia from \$18,563pp. The offer is valid until 31 Jul - call 1300 361 012 to make a booking.

Lancemore Milawa, a boutique hotel located at the base of the Alpine National Park in Victoria, is offering a cosy getaway for two between now and 26 Sep. Priced from \$820, the 'Embers & Wine' package includes an overnight stay for two guests, breakfast, two glasses of mulled wine, fire-roasted s'mores, and a late check out - more [HERE](#).

Enjoy the 12-night Kimberley and Darwin package by **Cruise Traveller** with savings of up to \$11,580 per couple and \$16,475 for solo travellers. Available for bookings made before 23 Jun, guests will embark on a 10-night luxury expedition cruise aboard *Le Jacques Cartier*, as well as a pre-cruise two night stay in Darwin. The package can be purchased from \$12,520ppts - buzz 1800 507 777 to book.

For those taking the opportunity to travel over the long weekend, **Sydney Airport** is offering 15% on all parking across its domestic and international terminals. Simply type in the promo code "JUNE15" while checking out on the website. Make your booking by 16 Jun for parking before 30 Jun. [CLICK HERE](#) to book now.

There are only a few days left before **IHG Hotels & Resorts'** One Rewards promotion ends. As a loyalty member of the global hotelier group, you can score up to 20% off when you book your stay at selected hotels and resorts across Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific, Singapore, Maldives, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau. Valid for stays until 30 Sep, One Rewards members can enjoy 20% off on IHG's 'Book Now, Pay Later' rates. Learn more [HERE](#).

Hurtigruten has announced its End of Financial Year Sale, with savings of up to \$4,000 up for grabs on select all-inclusive adventures to Antarctica, Iceland, Greenland, Alaska, and more. The offer also includes €150 (A\$250) onboard credit for those who book by 30 Jun for departures in Oct. Travellers can enjoy daily excursions and activities, meals, drinks and more throughout. To learn more about the generous upgrade offer, call 1300 489 869.

nib Travel's big cash splash



HELLOWORLD Travel Camden's Teresa Musico has walked away with \$5,000 after being named the major winner of nib Travel's Cash Splash trade incentive.

The three-month promotion, which kicked off in Mar, offered 26 cash prizes, with agents going into the draw each fortnight to win \$800 cash, or one of four \$50 e-gift cards.

"We are thrilled with the response from our agency partners, with each consecutive fortnight driving a record number of agents engaging in the promotion," said nib CEO and Head of Travel, Rob Hennin.

"Nationally, we had a fantastic response, with more entrants every fortnight, which represents great support from across our national footprint of partners.

"The promotion celebrated the strength of the unwavering relationships we hold with our national network of travel agents," Hennin said.

The Cash Splash marked the first time nib Travel had run an

incentive of this scale and size with partners. *JM*

Pictured: nib Travel reps presenting Musico with her prize.

Tassie has the skills

TASMANIA recorded the highest proportion of workforce employed in tourism of any Australian state or territory at 13%, or one in eight jobs, for the 2022-23 financial year.

The figure represents a 21% increase from the previous year, according to the new data from Tourism Research Australia.

The jobs are in tourism businesses such as tours and accommodation; hospitality venues; food and beverage producers; arts and culture; petrol and transport services; and other ancillary services.

MEANWHILE, the Discover Tasmania app has been downloaded more than 72,000 times, and delivered in excess of 110,000 industry leads since its launch last year (*TD* 02 Mar 2023).