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Kotanidis jumps ship

THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection continues to shore up its presence in the local market, appointing Anastasia Kotanidis to the role of Director, Travel Partnerships, Australia and NZ. Speaking to **TD** this morning about her new position, Kotanidis said she was “truly excited” to contribute to the growth of such a renowned and iconic brand in Australia and New Zealand.

“With its unparalleled luxury and exceptional service, it will be a privilege to collaborate closely with our trade community,” Kotanidis said.

“The opportunity to be part of this journey alongside Seb [Seward] is incredibly rewarding, and I am eager to see the brand flourish in this region - growth that is already...underway.”

Air India inks Virgin deal

TRAVELLERS on Air India flights to Australia now have access to 15 onward domestic connections and one NZ port via a new codeshare partnership with Virgin Australia (**TD** breaking news).

The unilateral agreement enables Air India to place its ‘AI’ code on flights operated by Virgin Australia, with the first flight taking off today.

The 16 city connections in Australia include: Adelaide; Ballina/Byron Bay; Brisbane; Cairns; Canberra; Darwin; Gold Coast; Hamilton Island; Hobart; Launceston; Melbourne; Newcastle; Perth; the Sunshine Coast; and Sydney.

Air India’s deal with VA will also see onward connections to New Zealand’s ski capital Queenstown, pending regulatory approval.

Under the agreement, baggage will be checked through to the final destination on a single ticket.

VA’s tie-up with Air India is timely for Australia’s tourism economy, with Tourism Australia increasing its spend to attract more Indian travellers to compensate for a sluggish return



of Chinese tourists.

Commenting on the new deal, Virgin Australia’s Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer Alistair Hartley said it would encourage Indian travellers to move beyond the big cities of Melbourne and Sydney.

“India is a growing tourism market for Australia and this partnership will encourage travellers arriving on one of Air India’s 14 weekly flights to explore more of our wonderful country thanks to seamless onward connections on the Virgin Australia network,” he said.

Air India Chief Commercial Officer Nipun Aggarwal added that Australia is one of Air India’s most important international markets - especially in terms of its growth potential.

“While the partnership provides greater ease and access for the large Indian diaspora spread across the continent, it also opens up a whole new range of destinations for holidaymakers wanting to soak up the beaches of the Gold Coast, discover Tasmania, or to explore the natural wonders of The Great Barrier Reef,” Aggarwal said.

Air India currently flies non-stop daily from Delhi to Melbourne and Sydney. **AB**

ACCC ticks proposal

VIRGIN Australia is a step closer to formalising its proposed codeshare agreement with Qatar Airways, with the ACCC proposing to authorise the plan in an update this morning (**TD** breaking news).

“We consider that the proposed cooperative conduct would likely result in several public benefits, including providing enhanced products and services for air travellers which would include increased choice of international flights, with additional connectivity, convenience and loyalty program benefits for consumers,” ACCC Commissioner Anna Brakey said.

The new air services are still subject to final regulatory approvals by the ACCC and other govt bodies, with the competition watchdog now seeking feedback.

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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features nine pages of travel news, including a photo page from **Visit USA**, our **Sustainability** page, plus a product profile from **Inspiring Vacations** and a full page from **Silversea**.

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Expert advice putting agents in front

INCREASINGLY time-poor travellers are abandoning desires to book their own holidays and are turning to the advice of travel advisors, new research indicates.

According to a study across 10 markets conducted by Expedia Group, accessing expert advice (53%) was cited as the main reason Australians are relying on agents for a leisure bookings.

This was closely followed by the time savings associated with using an agent, along with access to exclusive travel deals.

The study was conducted for Expedia Group by Wakefield Research, which polled 5,000 respondents across 10 markets,



who used a travel agent to book a leisure trip in the past 18 months.

Alongside advice, Australians rely on agents for more than just bookings, the research confirmed, with complex travel insurance, cruise tickets and visa assistance cited as other key reasons.

Further motivators to turn to the trade included accessing personalised services and for the peace of mind in knowing agents can handle travel emergencies.

More than half of travellers preferred to book trips lasting a week or longer with an agent.

The poll also found great customer service was resulting in Aussies remaining loyal to one

travel advisor, with 57% stating the service received was a reason to return next time.

The research found travellers were typically using agents to book relaxation and wellness-focused travel, coupled with the need to make booking a less stressful process in the beginning.

Younger generations however, while still using travel agents, were less likely to remain loyal to one, with 25% shopping around and using three agents or more in the past two years.

Conversely, 68% of Baby Boomers and 54% of Gen X travellers preferred to keep their business with one agent. *ML*

Inspired by America

FEATURING no more than 20 people, Inspiring Vacations is highlighting its best-selling 19-day South America adventure in a new Product Profile - see **p11**.

JQ outage impact

JETSTAR'S booking systems experienced an outage between 8pm Mon 17 Feb and 6am this morning due to a system upgrade, with certain services unavailable to travellers.

Customers were unable to make new Jetstar bookings or changes to existing bookings; check-in for flights via Jetstar's airport kiosks; or check online flight status information.

Great Journey wows

GREAT Journeys New Zealand has opened bookings for its 2025 WOW VIP Train Experience departing from either Christchurch or Auckland.

The two-night package includes return flights, accommodation in Wellington, Gold tickets to the 2025 WOW Show - New Zealand's largest theatrical event, which takes place over three weeks in Sep and Oct - plus a WOW goodie bag and WOW-inspired menu.

Silversea savings

TRAVELLERS can save up to \$9,600 on more than 300 voyages with Silversea in a limited-time offer from the luxury line - for more details, see **p10**.

Win your Qantas Supernova Seat

WIN your seat to Oasis Live '25 in Sydney and the ultimate UK adventure.

We're giving 15 lucky agents the chance to win corporate box seats to the sold-out Oasis Live '25 Sydney concert, including flights and accommodation.

Plus, in partnership with VisitBritain, the top five selling agents will also win return Premium Economy flights to the UK for a famil adventure in London and Manchester, the hometown of Oasis.

[Find out more](#)

QANTAS Spirit of Australia

VISIT BRITAIN

*Competition closes 31 March 2025. T&Cs apply.



Club Med debuts Academy

CLUB Med has launched its first-ever eLearning platform in the Pacific market, allowing travel agents in Australia to access more resources and marketing tools to sell the brand effectively.

Features of the Club Med Academy include 11 education modules, which will cover topics such as Club Med's all-inclusive offering, its Exclusive Collection portfolio, and how best to sell its ski product, and much more.

Travel agents can then test their knowledge through interactive quizzes after completing modules.

Club Med loyalty points will also be earned after each module, which can be used to score a complimentary stay at resorts.

Upon completion of all 11 modules, agents will receive an official certification from the resort brand, enhancing sellers' reputations as a Club Med expert.

The Club Med Academy also offers advisors a specialist



community engagement platform, similar to groups found on many social media sites.

Travel agents can interact with each other via a messaging, post opinions and share knowledge.

Crediting the trade for recent growth, Lisa Bacon, Head of Sales for Club Med Pacific said as the brand evolves, so too do the learning and sales opportunities available to our valued partners.

"At Club Med, we continuously refine our offerings to equip travel agents with the tools and knowledge they need to sell confidently and effectively."

Access the agent portal for more information [HERE](#). AB

New Cal webinars

NEW Caledonia Tourism is inviting agents to log-on to a special training webinar taking place on 19 Feb at 10am.

Marking the return of the series after last year's political turmoil, the 30-min session will feature updates on recovery, stability along with new products, services and increased connectivity from Australia - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Slice Pay into Asia

TRAVEL lay-by service Slice Pay has signed a strategic partnership with AsiaPay designed to benefit both merchants and consumers.

For sellers, the tie-up will unlock an enhanced range of payment options and improve customer satisfaction by driving increased levels of conversion.

Conversely, consumers stand to benefit through a user-friendly payment interface, allowing them to more easily manage their repayment schedules.

Walshe wins Peru

THE Walshe Group has picked up the account for Promperu, with the agency charged with managing all trade and media relations efforts in Australia.

Speaking with **TD** this morning, the Walshe Group said it is working on a couple of projects for Peru centered around the Machu Picchu exhibition at the Australian Museum.

There will be a media event held at Morena restaurant with acclaimed chef Alejandro Saravia serving up dishes, while there will be a trade event at the museum.

"Promperu, headed up in Australia by Trade Commissioner Soledad Campos De Parry, is keen to attract more Australians," Walshe's GM - Destinations Australia Jennifer Gaskin said.

"Eco-tourism opportunities, outdoor adventure attractions and gastronomic traditions are a perfect fit for travellers from Down Under," she added. Helm used to hold the account.



Ultra-Luxury Cruising

LIVE WEBINAR: Join Jason Flesher, Director of Discovery Operations to gain insights of voyages to East Antarctica & The Ross Sea

Wednesday 26 February 2025: 10:00 am (AEDT)

[REGISTER NOW](#)



SQ is loyal to GA

SINGAPORE Airlines is welcoming its newest partner in the skies, Garuda Indonesia, with the partnership between the two airlines (**TD** 08 Jul 2024) going live late last week.

The tie-up will see the two offer joint revenue sharing flights, coordinate schedules, and explore joint marketing initiatives.

QF to renew HKG

QANTAS Airways has requested to renew its determination for 14 weekly frequencies in each direction between Sydney and Hong Kong.

The International Air Services Commission is inviting other applications for capacity on the route by 03 Mar.

MEANWHILE, Qantas is set to return services between Darwin and Singapore, flying four times per week on a Boeing 737-800, which will be upgauged on delay to an A220-300 in Oct.

CLIA finds its X-factor

AUSTRALIAN actor Luke Jacobz (**pictured**) will host the 22nd annual Cruise Lines International Australia (CLIA) Awards, joining a crowd of 500 people to celebrate the industry's brightest stars.

Jacobz will lead a spectacular night of accolades and entertainment, as the Australian cruise sector pays tribute to its travel trade partners at a sold-out event at The Star.

The actor-turned-television presenter is best known for his roles in *Heartbreak High*, *McLeod's Daughters*, and *Home & Away*, before emerging as the long-time presenter of music competition *The X Factor*.

"This year's awards night will celebrate the achievements of our travel agent members with an energy and showmanship to rival our cruise line entertainers," Managing Director Joel Katz said.

"Jacobz is a brilliant fit for a night that promises to reflect the



same excitement we create for our guests at sea."

A total of 75 finalists will be in the running to win at the 08 Mar event, representing the stand-out achievers of CLIA's membership.

Around 800 nominations in 15 categories were received for this year's awards. *MS*

Unforgettable Andy

UNFORGETTABLE Travel Company has appointed Andy Furlong (**pictured**) to the position of Commercial Director.

Furlong brings 30 years of experience to the role, including stints at Travelbag, Mark Warner, Neilson, Europcar, and the Island Cruises joint venture between Royal Caribbean and First Choice.

The travel executive is tasked with implementing long-term commercial strategies and growing the company's digital performance across all Unforgettable Travel Company brands, including cruise brand Unforgettable Croatia.

Following rapid growth in the local market, the company is now looking to appoint more staff in Australia.



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Operated by the **G'DAYGROUP**

Another Link in the chain

INFINITY Holidays and Link Travel Group have announced a new partnership, which will offer members of the invitation-only members group more support, and a better range of products.

The agreement will unlock a range of new benefits for Link

members, including access to Infinity's exclusive offers, more seamless booking capabilities, and itineraries suited to Link's luxury and corporate bookings.

Infinity Business Leader Jo Rendall said the partnership is centred around giving Link members the ability to spend more time building relationships.

"They can almost think of it as having an extra set of hands in their business curating ready-to-sell packages, sourcing industry-leading product deals and offering support," she said.

"The product range and level of support we have on offer will provide Link members with the freedom and flexibility to focus on other areas of their business," she added.

The deal follows a similar pact struck last year between Infinity and the Flight Centre Travel Group's *Envoyage* independent brand (**TD** 31 Oct 2024). *MS*

Vic flight frenzy

TRAVEL deals exclusive to Victorian travellers will be on offer from 7pm tonight as part of a five-day event in partnership with Click Frenzy.

Qatar Airways, United Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Turkish Airlines are among 10 int'l airlines taking part, with a range of discounted airfares and holiday packages on sale until 23 Feb.

Among the deals available will be up to 18% off airfares with Garuda Indonesia, while China Airlines has cut 15% off flights to Japan, London and South Korea.

A whole lotta love for Doha



WITH Valentine's Day being the last night of the Doha megafamil, Visit Qatar and Qatar Airways pulled out their bow and struck the bullseye with their celebration at the Doha Beach Club.

Located on the West Bay coastline, the venue hosted the 80 participants, providing plenty of opportunities to experience the country's fantastic hospitality, and take in the stunning views.

After a day of off-road sand dunes exploration, as well as some self-driven buggy shenanigans, it was certainly the ideal way to catch up and toast the fantastic program Visit Qatar and Qatar Airways provided.

The megafamil showcased the offerings available to clients who utilise Doha as the 'Worlds Best Value Stopover' with an action-

packed itinerary for the 72 hours participants were on ground for.

Pictured: Luke Beecham, centre, hosting the Doha Beach Club. *SH*

IWD adds speakers

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has announced Flight Centre Travel Group's Ashleigh Conwell as its second speaker for its International Women's Day (IWD) Lunch, taking place 06 Mar in Melbourne.

Conwell, who is also the founder of Yellow Falcon and co-hosts the 'Just Life & Lemons' podcast, will share her journey of empowerment as a mother of triplets and a widow.

Additionally, CATO Board member Ingrid Berthelson will serve as Master of Ceremonies.



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Identify new business opportunities, develop and implement strategies to increase revenue, and build strong relationships with clients. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of success in business development and a deep understanding of the industry.

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Two positions available assisting the relevant Product Team in developing competitive products that meet sales and profitability growth targets while providing best practice product administration and planning services.

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Two positions available supporting the relevant Product Team in developing competitive travel products that drive sales, profitability, and business growth. Your responsibilities will include ensuring best practices in product administration and planning while managing key product functions. This role is a 12-month fixed-term contract to cover parental leave.

CUSTOMER RESOLUTIONS MANAGER

Be at the forefront of customer satisfaction, leading a team that handles complaint resolution, proactive communication, and crisis management. Your expertise will ensure seamless solutions, turning challenges into opportunities to delight our customers.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS EXECUTIVE

As a 'people person' and a critical thinker, you enjoy researching, responding and resolving complaints for all customer related issues while on tour and post-tour. You are engaging, empathetic and conciliatory. You are able to process complaints objectively and aim to reach a mutually suitable outcome for ATG and our customers. You are collaborative and enjoy working as part of a team.

GUEST RELATIONS CONSULTANT

Manage pre-tour bookings, working with travel agents and passengers to handle sales, flights, accommodation, transfers, and upsells. You thrive in a fast-paced environment while delivering exceptional service.

ATG-371

Vanuatu appeal can't be shaken



VANUATU is shaping up as a popular holiday choice for Australians as the island nation continues to recover from the Dec earthquake (**TD** 19 Dec 2024), which caused temporary disruptions and a wave of travel booking cancellations.

The destination's appeal remains strong, with Jan bookings showing positive momentum, and all four airlines that fly between Australia and Vanuatu maintaining their schedules.

The majority of Vanuatu's tourism businesses are fully operational, with 80% minimally impacted and resuming operations within days of the earthquake, Vanuatu Tourism Office has confirmed.

"Vanuatu is open and ready to welcome visitors with the same warmth and beauty that have always defined us," said Adela Issachar Aru, Vanuatu Tourism Office Chief Executive.

Although Port Vila's CBD remains closed for repairs, the iconic Mama's Markets and fresh produce stalls (**pictured**) have been relocated around the city, open for visitors to enjoy.

According to Jenny Price, Product Manager at Fusion Holidays, demand for Vanuatu holidays is growing, with forward bookings for Apr to Jun on the up, particularly in May.

"We're seeing steady interest in Vanuatu for the coming months and with more flight options and

fantastic package deals available, we expect this momentum to continue throughout 2025," explained Price.

Ignite Holidays has also noted the trend, with Product Development Director Mark Ferszt reporting strong year-on-year growth in Vanuatu bookings.

"2024 has been a milestone year for us, with bookings soaring by 103% compared to the previous year, a true testament to the enduring appeal of Vanuatu and our commitment to delivering exceptional holiday experiences.

"Even with the liquidation of national carrier Air Vanuatu in May and earthquake in Dec 2024, demand for the destination has remained incredibly strong.

"My Vanuatu's dedicated Customer Service Team successfully rebooked more than 80% of impacted passengers in the months that followed," Ferszt said.

Spotlight on Malta

ORMINA Tours is hosting a free webinar on Malta, featuring insights from their local destination insider.

Agents can register to attend the 30-minute webinar **HERE**, which takes place on Wed 26 Feb at 4pm AEST.

Ormina Tours will run more free webinars in the coming months, covering various European destinations, including the Italian Lakes region.

TRAVEL TECH SPECIAL REPORT

JOIN US ON A DEEP-DIVE INTO THE LATEST
TRENDS IN TRAVEL TECHNOLOGY.

Travel Daily
FEATURE

EXPERIENCE MORE OF HAWAII WITH NCL

Damian Borg, Senior Director Sales, Strategy and Operations APAC, Norwegian Cruise Line



THE timeless appeal of Hawaii continues to be a bucket-list destination for Australian travellers. The

latest Hawaii Annual Visitor Report found that Aussie visitor arrivals increased by almost **20 per cent** year-on-year, driven by the natural beauty and cultural experiences of its islands.

Despite its allure, it can be logistically challenging to navigate its multiple islands.

No one does Hawaii like NCL.

That's where NCL's unique itinerary on Pride of America® comes in – we offer even more ways to experience the best of Hawaii with our 7-day roundtrip inter-island cruises departing Honolulu **every Saturday night**.

An experience like no other – not only do you enjoy spectacular scenery and boundless opportunities for exploration - but the journey delivers seamless travel without the island-hopping costs. I unpacked once but was able to see **four islands in seven days** all whilst enjoying the comfort – and delicious dining options - of the ship.

Guests can access more than **100** hours of port time and more than **100** tour options with **five** ports of call - Honolulu, O'ahu, Hilo and Kona on

Hawaii (the Big Island) plus **two overnight** stays in Kahului, Maui and Nawiliwili, Kaua'i for a truly immersive holiday. Plus, you can explore more with one of our pre or post land tours.

Highlights:

Waimea Canyon on Kaua'i blew me away. Pictures don't do it justice – it's massive. Standing there, looking over this vast gorge, was unreal. The colours were so vibrant and alive that I felt completely connected to Hawaii's beauty. Even now, I can still picture it.

Guests can take in Hawaii's vibrant marine life while snorkelling in Molokini Crater or witness an unforgettable sunset at Poipu Beach, where sea turtles come ashore. Picture this: wine in hand, watching the sun set over the ocean. Just incredible. Those overnight stays make all the difference.

One of my favourite moments onboard was the sail aways from the Waikiki Bar. Live music, a beautiful sunset, and the ocean breeze – the perfect way to say farewell and get excited for the next port of call.

Hawaii by cruise is a stress-free way to enjoy paradise – and an easy sell if you're looking to send your clients on an unforgettable adventure.

It continues to remain a favourite holiday for many of the NCL team – just ask us!

For NCL's resources including Hawaii visit **here**.



**NORWEGIAN
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Visit USA takes over Sydney



YEEHAW! Team Texas with the night's surprise dancers.

MORE than 240 travel agents got a taste of all things America last night, with the Visit USA Expos 2025 launching in Sydney at The Fullerton Hotel.

With a new marketplace-style layout, the action-packed evening saw agents mingle with more than 60 exhibitors, while enjoying exciting activations like espresso martinis, cowboy hat decorating, and hot sauce tastings.

Some lucky agents even walked away with major prizes, like six nights in Las Vegas and LA with a US\$2,000 Delta Air Lines voucher.

"We were thrilled to see such enthusiastic participation from the Sydney travel community," said Caroline Davidson, President of Visit USA.

"This new format really delivers on our goal of creating valuable,

one-on-one interactions while ensuring a dynamic, enjoyable atmosphere for everyone."

The fun will continue tonight, with the Visit USA Expos hitting Brisbane, before moving on to Melbourne on Thu 20 Feb.

Spots are still available but filling up fast - **CLICK HERE**.



VISIT USA Executive Committee Belinda Harvy, Shannon Davis, MC Mike Goldman, Caroline Davidson, Aida Osta and Millie Browne.



THE LA contingent bringing the best of sunny LA.



PINBALL competitions underway at Travel Portland.



HELEN Albrecht from Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood is thrilled to be here.

NEW York State is bringing back the nostalgia of the golden days.



PRESIDENT of Visit USA, Caroline Davidson, joins MC Mike Goldman for an exciting prize giveaway.



DARREN Ross calling for a popsicle Magic Castle Hotel.

CHEERS! Espresso Martinis from Visit Seattle.





SAF registry deal

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) and 123Carbon have announced a strategic collaboration on interoperability between their sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) registries.

The interoperability will increase transparency, avoid emissions reporting errors, and streamline management across registries.

The collaboration will focus on three key elements: a unique identifier and alignment of the relevant data points to exchange between registries; a process for the exchange of information to avoid any potential double issuance; and dispute resolution.

IATA Senior Vice President Sustainability & Chief Economist Marie Owens Thomsen underlined user trust as essential for the integrity of SAF registries.

“The transparency that comes with interoperability will ensure that our registries can function cohesively to maximise SAF’s potential to support aviation’s decarbonisation,” she said.

“The broader the alignment among registry providers, the better...we welcome all entities active in this field to work with IATA and 123Carbon,” she added.

TTNQ LEADS THE WAY ON ECO PROJECTS

THE inaugural Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) *Sustainability Report 2024* has documented the destination’s priorities, and charts the extensive work under way toward reduced carbon emissions.

The report highlighted that Far North Queensland has the greatest number of eco-accredited businesses in any region in Australia, and one of the highest in the world.

The region has 84 operators and 191 experiences with Ecotourism or EarthCheck accreditation, which accounts for 21% of TTNQ’s total membership.

Far North Queensland is also on-track to reach its Net Zero aspiration in 2050 by aiming to reduce the average carbon emissions per visitor from 55kg per day to 42kg in 2032 through the adoption of sustainable aviation fuel, emissions



reductions by businesses through solar, reducing waste to landfill, and transitioning to renewables.

At least 20% of TTNQ members are measuring and offsetting their impacts through local conservation programs, such as Reforest’s Mabi forest rehabilitation for the endangered tree kangaroo.

TTNQ also appointed a Sustainability Coordinator in Sep 2023 to support members

on their sustainability journey, and established a Sustainability Leaders Cluster Group, which has increased from 71 to 113 members in the past year.

“Global expectations are rising for the tourism industry to move beyond providing experiences to ensuring that tourism is sustainable and contributing to the future of our natural environments,” Chief Executive Officer Mark Olsen said. *MS*

Bullo River Station’s sustainability progress

THE 40,000-acre Bullo River Station in East Kimberley has released its inaugural *Sustainability Report*, which showcases its approach to blending conservation with commercial pastoral operations.

On average, 55% of Bullo’s electricity comes from on-site solar power generation (including battery storage) throughout the year, with the rest provided from diesel

generators, while 70% of all beef served to guests is Bullo-grown, as well as 20% of all vegetables served.

Bullo’s direct sustainability contribution aligns with its guest experience, with guides trained to confidently answer sustainability questions from guests, and immersive and culturally authentic experiences offered, including Aboriginal rock art tours.

Te Pae CO2 down

TE PAE Christchurch Convention Centre has extended sustainability leadership, delivering a 12% overall reduction in carbon emissions last year.

The convention centre also used 20% less power in 2024, alongside a 35% decrease in transport emissions.

Other initiatives saw milk kegs brought in, saving over 2,400 plastic bottles.

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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.636

THE Australian dollar has continued on its upward trajectory against its United States counterpart, with experts believing it to be buoyed by US President Donald Trump's decision to delay the introduction of reciprocal tariffs.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of Australia is expected to deliver the first interest rate cut in over four years later today, following the easing of Australia's inflation rate in the final quarter of 2024.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.636
UK	£0.504
NZ	\$1.109
Euro	€0.606
Japan	¥96.31
Thailand	฿21.43
China	¥4.617
South Africa	11.69
Canada	\$0.902
Crude oil	US\$71.26

Sydney on EVE of greatness



INNER city Sydney has a new hospitality destination on its list following the opening of The Eve Hotel Sydney late last week.

Located at the crossroads of Surry Hills and Redfern, with hotel management services provided by TFE Hotels, The Eve sits within a new lifestyle precinct known as Wunderlich Lane.

The property features a range of retail, health, dining and wellness experiences for guests.

Eve Sydney blends contemporary design with art and culture, while at the same time celebrating local influences.

"The Eve is more than just a hotel stay - it's a destination in itself where the guest experience is personalised and guests can immerse themselves in Sydney's rich cultural scene," said General Manager, Ben Mellor.

Featuring 102 rooms and suites, the headline of The Eve Sydney is its rooftop landscaped garden and 20-metre swimming pool.

Guests can mark the opening with a special 'Reveal Package' which is on sale until 01 Jun,

featuring an overnight stay, signature cocktail and keepsake memento gift, priced from \$519 per room. *ML*

Munro to Mildura

BRUCE Munro, the artist behind the Field of Light at Uluru, is bringing his creative vision to Victoria's regional city of Mildura.

The acclaimed artist's latest large-scale light installation, Trail of Lights, will transform the Murray River's Lock Island into a "mesmerising dreamscape" of 12,500 firefly lights.

Tickets are now on sale **HERE** for the installation, which opens in Apr and is expected to boost the region's tourism.

"This breathtaking installation will not only captivate visitors but also showcase the natural beauty of the Murray River in a truly unique way," said Mildura Rural City Council Mayor, Helen Healy.

"It will draw thousands of visitors from across Australia, increasing overnight stays and amplifying spending."

Window Seat

MUSEUMS could soon be offering a fully immersive experience to visitors, allowing them to step back in time not just through visuals and sounds, but also through smell.

Researchers from UCL and the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia have discovered a way to 'measure' the scent of ancient Egyptian mummies by inserting a tiny tube, without taking any physical samples.

"We want to share the experience we had smelling the mummified bodies, so we're reconstructing the smell to be presented in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo," Cecilia Bembibre, one of the researchers, told BBC Radio 4's *Today* program.

Before you balk at the thought of smelling a 5,000-year-old dead body, apparently mummies emit a surprisingly pleasant scent, described by the scientists as "woody", "spicy" and "sweet".

This is because pharaohs and members of the nobility were adorned with oils, waxes and balms during the mummification process - an important part of preparing a spirit to enter the afterlife.

Matija Strlic, a member of the study team, told the *Associated Press* the scents may even suggest what social class a mummy was from.

"We believe that this approach is potentially of huge interest to other types of museum collections," he said.

Experience Raffles

A COMPLIMENTARY 'Sentosa Slings' - an adaptation on the much-loved Singapore Slings - is among the benefits available to guests checking in to the brand-new Raffles Sentosa Singapore.

The beverage is part of a new 'Welcome Home' package released by the new resort ahead of its grand opening on 01 Mar, which will be Singapore's first all-villa resort.



TWO WEEKS ONLY

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EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28, 2025



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TERMS & CONDITIONS: Offer valid on new, individual bookings made between February 13, 2025 and February 28, 2025 on select voyages. Guests booking this offer receive savings of AUD 800 per guest - plus - Reasons to Sail Savings of AUD 4,000 per guest, applicable to the first two guests booked only. Offer valid on Door-to-Door and Port-to-Port fares. Offer is not applicable to Essential Fares, World Cruises, Grand Voyages and Combination Voyages (CB fare code). Offer valid on all suite categories. Offer combinable with Venetian Society Savings, Event Certificates, National Account Amenities, Referral Savings, Onboard Savings, Extended Voyage Savings and Kids Savings. Offer is not combinable with Groups. The promotion is capacity controlled and can be removed at any time without prior notice. Single supplements apply and vary by voyage. Cancel and re-books do not qualify. Other restrictions may apply. Visit [silversea.com](https://www.silversea.com) for full details.



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