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First with the news

Monday 10th April 2017

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HLO name approved

HELLOWORLD shareholders today resolved to change the name of the entity to Helloworld Travel Limited, with ceo Andrew Burnes saying the move is "an important step on the road to further increasing our awareness".

Constellation takes off

FORMER managing director of the APT Group's Captain's Choice, Dan Kotzmann, has launched a new global luxury travel program, opening up fresh competition in the air touring market.

Constellation Journeys is set to commence "all-inclusive global adventures" from Apr next year, and like Captain's Choice, will utilise privately chartered aircraft on its tours.

Kotzmann departed the APT Travel Group last year after 15 years leading the high-end luxury air cruise company (**TD** 12 Aug), at the time saying he would "remain attentive to the travel industry".

Now the founder & managing director of Constellation Journeys, he says his company will capitalise on a trend in tourism towards "experiential, educational & active adventure" for travellers of all ages, to "meet demand from a growing number of Australians seeking streamlined access to exotic travel experiences".

The 21-day launch itinerary for up to 215 pax will depart Sydney on a chartered Qantas Boeing 747 on 22 Apr, visiting Hanoi, Agra, Delhi, the Serengeti, Marrakech, New York, Havana and Tahiti.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news and photos, plus full pages from: (**click**)

- AA Appointments jobs
- Constellation Journeys

Aboard the jumbo jet there will be a six-class configuration, from Superior Class (in Economy class), through to First Class, with prices starting from \$19,500 all the way up to \$78,000 at the pointy end.

Qantas veteran of 35 years Captain David Oliver will be pilot in command, while there will be 18 in-flight cabin crew and a team of seven QF support staff.

The tour will split into multiple smaller groups in each location, with prices including luxury accom, all meals and drinks with dinner and tips while the trip will be fully commissionable to agents.

Kotzmann told **Travel Daily** he was in talks with Qantas about a second charter later in 2018, "but at this stage it is too early to confirm dates or itinerary".

"Constellation Journeys will make the extraordinary accessible, offering discovery and exploration in comfort and style."

View details of the inaugural 'Around the World' trip at constellationjourneys.com.au.

More details on **pages 6 and 9**.

APT C&A pre-release

PRE-RELEASE bookings for APT's 2018 Canada & Alaska and USA program are now open, with a range of special deals on offer for bookings made before 18 May.

The 28-page program features seven itineraries including the 19-day Rockies Explorer & Alaska Cruise - view the brochure **HERE**.

FCTG Asia deal done

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group has this afternoon announced the completion of its acquisition of a larger investment in its new Asia-based DMC, created in conjunction with Vietnam's Thien Minh Group (**TD** 03 Apr).



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Wendy Wu Tours

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Join the cruise survey

TRAVEL Daily's second annual Cruise Industry Survey is now live, giving readers a chance to take part in our extensive research into the booming cruise sector.

Last year's inaugural survey provided invaluable insight into the cruise industry, revealing which brands are highest in the sights of Australian travel agents and showing how they perceive individual cruise lines.

Conducted by StolzNow Research, this year's survey will provide an opportunity to see how things have changed.

Participants will go into the draw to win one of two Fubit Charge 2 watches or one of 25 Event Cinema tickets.

Results will be published in **TD**, **Cruise Weekly** and **travelBulletin**.

CLICK HERE to take part.

Daydream closes for reno

THE battered Daydream Island Resort & Spa in the Whitsundays has brought forward its planned redevelopment, with the iconic resort now not expected to reopen until mid-next year.

Daydream Island, which was acquired in 2015 by China Capital Investment Group (**TD** 10 Feb 15), took the brunt of last month's Cyclone Debbie, suffering "substantial damage".

General manager Dawson Tang said the necessary investment to reopen the property in the foreseeable future "was not feasible...only for it to close again for the refurbishment", already slated for later this year.

"This decision for an extended

closure has not been an easy one but will enable us to concentrate fully on restoring Daydream Island back to the top of the Queensland tourism industry".

The earmarked \$50m revamp will see major infrastructure upgrades including an overhaul of accommodation and renovations to existing attractions.

Guests with forward bookings are being contacted by the resort to arrange refunds.

The forced closure has seen Daydream Island management begin the process of reviewing its resource and staffing needs, with many staff already moved on to other jobs & possible redeployment to Hamilton Island.

"Whilst some redundancies will be necessary in the short term, we are doing everything possible to minimise this," Tang added.

Rain hits Dreamworld

TORRENTIAL rains in south-east Queensland have dampened Dreamworld's recovery efforts after the deaths of four visitors at the park in Oct.

A trading update released today by theme park owner Ardent Leisure Group says Dreamworld's recovery is on track, however revenues were down 34% to \$3.1 million in the three months to 24 Mar, 2017, compared to last year.

The company said unfavourable weather had "negatively impacted the general recovery trend" since the tragedy and that initiatives were underway to boost the Easter and school holiday periods.

Cyclone on the move

CYCLONE Cook is now moving towards New Caledonia after sweeping through Vanuatu over the weekend.

Aircalin has cancelled flights to Noumea from Sydney and Melbourne today and tomorrow, with full details online **HERE**.

DFAT's Smartraveller has updated its advice for Vanuatu, saying areas including the capital Port Vila have been impacted.

Air Vanuatu says today's flights will operate as scheduled.

Bris port progress

BRISBANE is a step closer to building a \$100 million "mega cruise ship terminal" after key stakeholders reached an agreement on commercial and technical issues.

Queensland Minister for Trade and Investment Curtis Pitt said yesterday an in-principle deal between the State Government, Brisbane City Council and Queensland Urban Utilities meant the project could move forward.

The Luggage Point proposal would be able to accommodate mega ships longer than 270m.

Brisbane City Council has committed \$5 million for half the costs of preliminary works to upgrade local roads.

Once approved, the project is expected to be completed during the 2019-20 cruise season.

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EU: OTA prices “misleading”

THE European Commission has acted on “misleading” travel booking websites, after a review found two-thirds of those screened had unreliable prices.

In Oct, The European Commission and EU consumer protection authorities screened 352 price comparison and travel booking websites across the EU and found that prices were “not reliable” on 235 of the portals.

In one fifth of cases, the review identified promotional prices

which did not correspond to any available service and found in one third of the portals, the price first shown was not the same as the final price.

Close to a third of the sites did not clearly specify how the total price was calculated and 25.9% gave the impression certain offers were scarce, without specifying that this scarcity only applied to their own website.

Vera Jourova, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, said: “The companies concerned need to respect the European consumer rules, just like a travel agent would”.

Consumer Protection Cooperation authorities have ordered the websites to bring their practices in line with EU consumer legislation, requiring them to be fully transparent about prices, and present their offers in a clear way, at an early stage of the booking process.

New Ynot partnership

AFRICAN Bush Camps has recently entered into a partnership with Sydney-based boutique marketing and PR agency, Ynot Concepts.

Ynot will support African Bush Camps, which has locations in Botswana, Zimbabwe & Zambia, with its sales & marketing activity in the Australasian region.

Lat 33 free flights

LATITUDE 33 has released a special last-minute Fly Free to Europe offer on its unique gastronomic tour hosted by world renowned chef and owner of The Bathers’ Pavilion at Balmoral Beach, Serge Dansereau.

Guests who book before 30 Apr will receive free return Economy class airfares from Australia as well as a free upgrade from Classic to Superior Veranda Suite on board the *Silver Muse*.

The 26-night tour departs on 06 Aug, with prices from \$23,499pp.



Window Seat

FORGET those overseas beach weddings in Fiji and Bali - why not get married on a plane?

Irish businessman David McGowan is preparing to offer a retired Boeing 767 as a wedding venue from next year, complete with a mock terminal building that doubles as a reception centre for up to 200.

Travel + Leisure reports the former Transaero aircraft is part of McGowan’s wider plan for a transport-themed accommodation park called Quirky Glamping Village, located in County Sligo to the north-west of Dublin.

Due to open around Apr next year, the park also features a series of double-decker buses, taxis and train carriages, all to be offered as accommodation.

QF board addition

FORMER Wesfarmers chief exec officer Richard Goyder AO has been named as a future member of the board at Qantas, pending approval by shareholders.

Goyder has led Wesfarmers for more than 12 years but is set to retire later this year before joining Qantas as a non-executive director in Nov.

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Agents of Change

Conference Program Announced

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New Scenic Club gear

FROM next month, Australian and New Zealand members of Scenic's loyalty program Scenic Club will have a new range of luggage and travel related merchandise to choose from.

Scenic Club Gold members can choose from a branded backpack or unisex carry satchel; Platinum members will receive a premium backpack and choice of either an umbrella, luggage scale or TSA combination luggage lock and Diamond members will receive a hard shell trolley case with a built-in USB charger.

Customers will also be given newly designed document wallet and luggage tags, depending on their level of membership tier.

PPHG free brekkie

PAN Pacific Hotels Group (PPHG) is celebrating autumn by offering free brekkie at its four Australian properties for two adults for stays until 30 Apr - [CLICK HERE](#) for info.

Maria Island ferry

TASMANIA'S Maria Island is now more accessible with a new, year-round regular passenger ferry service launched by Tasmania's Minister for Environment and Parks Matthew Groom.

Encounter Maria Island will offer up to five sailings each day during the peak period between Triabunna and Darlington.

A new bookings system is also being introduced to streamline the booking process.

Kakadu food trucks?

KAKADU National Park is calling for Expressions of Interest for the roll out of food truck services in the iconic NT landmark.

"Base your business in one of two spectacular high visitor flow sites and benefit from being the sole food provider," Kakadu says in marketing collateral.

The flagged visitor sites are Nourlangie and Gunloom - more at parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu.

Make sure your clients escape the wedding pitfalls in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**



"Still no place like Queensland"

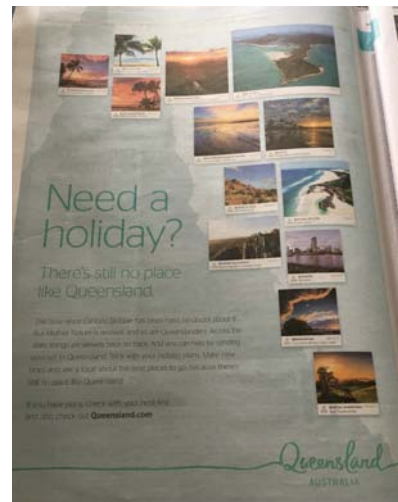
QUEENSLAND is reiterating the message the majority of the state has been unaffected by Cyclone Debbie, running full page ads in major national newspapers last weekend with the caption "There's still no place like Queensland".

The advertisement, **pictured** in yesterday's *Daily Telegraph* reads: "The time since Cyclone Debbie has been hard, no doubt about it. But Mother Nature is resilient, and so are Queenslanders."

"Across the state, things are already back on track. And you can help, by sending yourself to Queensland."

"Stick with your plans. Make new ones and ask a local about the best places to go, because there's still no place like Queensland."

Accompanying the message is a collection of post-cyclone social media posts from regions across



Queensland depicting beautiful weather in locations such as the Whitsundays, Mackay, Cairns, the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

On Fri, Tourism Whitsundays ceo Craig Turner said the community, tourism industry and stakeholders had come together and "all signs were looking good for the coming Easter weekend."

Achieving new heights

Daily from Sydney and Brisbane to Vancouver and beyond.

2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation and the 80th Birthday of Air Canada. In this landmark year, Air Canada is primed to reinforce its position as a global, customer-focused organisation with a truly Canadian spirit.

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The Africa Safari Co roadshow



THE Africa Safari Co. has completed its 2017 Africa roadshow throughout Australia and New Zealand last week.

Product information as well as updates were provided on Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi and Namibia.

Six agents won a safari to Africa courtesy of Africa Safari Co. industry partners.

Pictured above from top left are Steve, Personal Africa; Mike, Malawian Style; Norman, &Beyond; Herbie, Africa Reps and Rob, Ynot Concepts.

Middle row: Sonia, Thompson Africa; Jonica, Sunlux; Leanne, The Africa Safari Co. and KJ, SAA.

In front are: Susie Potter, The Africa Safari Co. managing director and Julian, The Africa Safari Co.

Swiss code on CX Aus

SWISS International Air Lines has opened reservations for codeshare services with Cathay Pacific on three routes to Australia, starting 26 Apr.

The routes include CX-operated services from Hong Kong to Cairns, Sydney and Melbourne.

The move is part of a wider codeshare partnership between Cathay Pacific and Lufthansa Group, which is set to begin on the same date (**TD** 28 Mar).

HLO for biz SME tool

HELLOWORLD for Business (HWFB) has announced the development and delivery of a new purpose built SME Technology Tool that will deliver substantial benefits to members.

In partnership with Serko, the serko.travel SME tool has been designed for HWFB customers and will offer businesses with up to 150 employees a new way to manage every aspect of their businesses travel directly with individual HWFB members via HWFB.com.au.

It will allow users to make bookings online and will give them access to expert HWFB member support.

Heysen Trail push

TOURISM operators and conservation groups took part in a forum to explore ways to encourage more people to enjoy South Australia's walking trails.

The SA Government is pushing the Heysen Trail and the recently opened 61-kilometre Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail and is looking for partnership opportunities to encourage more people to enjoy the trail, which spans 1,200 kilometres from Cape Jervis on the Fleurieu Peninsula to the Flinders Ranges.

Monday 10th Apr 2017

Another Blossom date

WENDY Wu Tours has released more 2018 Japan tours during the Cherry Blossom season, with five group tour itineraries exploring the country during the peak season.

Head of product for Wendy Wu Tours Bernadette Holmes said the expansion came off the back of a busy Mar sales period where extra departure dates were added to cope with demand for the 2017 season.

Cherry Blossom tours include return airfares from major cities.

Exotic Tours options

RECENTLY launched in Australia, Exotic Tours is offering itineraries that take in some of Asia's busiest festivals.

Exploring Mongolia's national holiday, the Naadam/Ulaanbaatar Festival takes place on 11-13 Jul, plus travellers can watch the horse race competition.

Later in Jul, Exotic will give travellers a chance to explore a boat festival on the Tenjin Matsuri festival tour in Osaka.

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Brochures

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



On The Go Tours - Egypt, Israel, Jordan & Morocco 2017/18

On The Go Tours has launched its 2017/18 brochure for Egypt, Israel, Jordan & Morocco, offering tours to incredible sights like the pyramids of Giza, the rose city of Petra and the holy city of Jerusalem. The brochure also includes a useful information section with details on visa requirements, what to pack, climate information and currency.



SeaLink - Kangaroo Island & South Australia 2017/18

For the first time, SeaLink's Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail packages appear in the Kangaroo Island Brochure for 2017/18. Twenty-four pages are devoted to camping and caravan options over Kangaroo Island. New tours are included such as the two-day Food, Wine and Natural Wonders of Kangaroo Island and Kayak Tour.



Sunlover - Perth & The West Coast 2017/18

The Sunlover Holidays Perth & the West 2017-18 brochure showcases new touring options such as a Dolphin & Scenic Canal Cruise from Mandurah, a Penguin Island & Wildlife Cruise and a Swim with Wild Dolphins option, from Rockingham. There's a new chapter dedicated to Albany featuring tours to Albany's historic Whaling Station.



Ponant - 2018 Cruises Apr/Nov

Ponant's 2018 brochure for Apr-Nov includes a number of cruise options across the Mediterranean, Asia & Oceania, The Far North & the Arctic and Northern Europe & the Baltic, as well as themed cruises like music-based, wine and gastronomy. The guide also features pre-bookable tours and must-see destinations like the Marquesas Islands in Polynesia.

Mercure Goulburn

MERCURE Goulburn was officially unveiled on Sat by the NSW city's Mayor Bob Kirk.

The 4.5-star hotel underwent a multi-million dollar refurbishment across its 74 guest rooms and its on-site bar and restaurant, Edge.

Located behind the Big Merino, the hotel now offers complimentary wi-fi and Foxtel.

Sydney STR levels

STR'S preliminary hotel data for Sydney in Mar showed a 4.2% growth in supply, a 7.1% rise in demand and jump in occupancy of 2.8 points to 91.2%, the highest recorded for that month in Sydney since 1996.

The Adele Live 2017 concerts on 10 and 11 Mar pushed occupancies to 95.2% and 98.1% over the two days.

Brissie Boxing Coup

QUEENSLAND'S success securing the World Boxing Organisation Welterweight World Title Fight has been heralded as a "major coup" for Brisbane and the local tourism industry by Minister for Tourism & Major Events, Kate Jones.

Queenslander Jeff Horn will take on world champion Manny Pacquiao in the world title bout on 02 Jul at Suncorp Stadium.

The clash is expected to lure up to 55,000 boxing fans from across Australia and overseas, delivering an expected \$15.8m economic boost to the city.

"This blockbuster event will raise Queensland's profile in many of our key international tourism markets including the US, UK, New Zealand, China and South East Asia," Jones said.

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Constellation in the cockpit



CONSTELLATION Journeys founder and managing director Dan Kotzmann (pictured right) has privately chartered a Qantas Boeing 747 for his brand new round the world tour (see pg 1).

He is pictured with Captain David Oliver, QF Boeing 747 fleet senior training captain.

Sanctuary specials

TRAVEL operator Sanctuary Retreats is offering 25% savings on selected 10 & 11 night cruises on the Irrawaddy and Chindwin rivers aboard *Sanctuary Ananda*.

Prices start at US\$1,874.25 per person twin share (normally US\$2,499) on an 11-night Upper Irrawaddy Cruise, departing on 06 and 16 Jul.

Gladstone free shuttle

CUSTOMERS will be eligible for a free bus service when transferring from Rockhampton to Gladstone Airport from today until (and including) 14 Apr as the region continues to mop up after floods last week.

Rockhampton Regional Council and the Rockhampton Airport are providing return coach services due to recent flooding.

Return services are available from Rockhampton Stockland.



Round 6 Winner

Congratulations

CATHERINE DE GIORGIO

from **LATAM Airlines**

Catherine is the top point scorer for Round 6 of Travel Daily's NRL footy tipping competition. She's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.



Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is two return economy class airfares to any one of **EMIRATES** 39 European destinations.

Vested interest in Perth



TOURISM WA's international market managers convened in Perth last week to discuss their 2017/18 marketing plans and to meet with key industry members.

The team gathered with various stakeholders including the regional tourism organisations and Perth airport, learnt more about Perth's transformation and met with the Dept of Parks and Wildlife for an update on the work around national parks.

Staying at the Four Points by

Sheraton, participants inspected the property and took a tour of the 60,000 seat Perth Stadium.

They also networked with industry at the joint Tourism Australia and Tourism Western Australia briefing on Wed night.

The final days of their trip were spent on a famil in the Margaret River Region, where they took part in B2B workshops & enjoyed attractions and experiences.

The market managers are pictured at Perth Stadium.

Win tickets to UK/Europe

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Singapore Airlines' flights to/from Australia, Singapore Airlines is offering Travel Agents in Australia the opportunity to win two return Business Class tickets from Australia to any Singapore Airlines destination in UK/Europe!

To win, correctly answer each daily question in April. The lucky winner will have the most correct answers as well as the most inspired final entry. Send your answers to singaporeairlines@traveldaily.com.au



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Q4. What are the 3 Premium Economy booking classes from lowest fare to the highest?



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Longer Buller hours

MT BULLER is launching new 'Twilight Sessions' for the 2017 winter seasons, extending the hours of operation in Jul and Aug on Sat and Sun.

The Bourke St lifts and Village Toboggan Park will run continuously to 8:30pm each evening, all under lights.

A program of afternoon entertainment including music and films will be offered and the Mt Buller Ski & Snowboard School will run additional Twilight Discover and private lessons.

The Village Toboggan Park hours will be extended, there will be reduced resort entry fees after 3pm and shuttle buses will run until 9:30pm.

neoRomantica to Asia

COSTA neoRomantica has become Costa Cruises' fifth ship to be based in Asia.

Operated under the Costa Asia brand and fresh from a refurb, *Costa neoRomantica* will begin sailing a new Japan schedule.

From 26 Apr to 08 Oct, the vessel will depart from Fukuoka on new five- to eight-day itineraries visiting ports including Maizura, Niigata, Sakata & more.

SLH new additions

NAXIAN Collection Luxury Villas and Suites, Greece and Sikelia, Italy have been added to the Small Luxury Hotels collection.

On the island of Naxos, the hill-top Naxian Collection Luxury Villas and Suites offers ten villas & suites approx 3km from town.

The 20-room Sikelia features a restaurant serving vegetables grown in the hotel's garden and wine from the owner's estate.

Virgin wine award

VIRGIN Australia has nabbed the award for Best Onboard Beverages at the Onboard Hospitality Awards in Hamburg.

The Duo, a customised wine from the Barossa developed for consumption at high altitude, won the airline the global accolade.

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Jet eyes CDG, AMS

INDIAN carrier Jet Airways is reportedly planning to add new direct services to Paris Charles de Gaulle and Amsterdam as part of an expansion of its relationship with Air France-KLM and Delta.

The *Business Standard* is reporting the airline is likely to commence operations from early winter using Airbus A330s.

Jet Airway's planned flights are said to be flying from Bengaluru to Amsterdam and out of Chennai to Paris.

SUPER RUGBY

Round 7 Winner

Congratulations

GARY TOWNSEND

from Virgin Australia

Gary is the top point scorer for Round 7 of Travel Daily's Super Rugby footy tipping competition. He's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.

Expedia TAAP

Emirates

Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is return economy class airfares to Dubai flying with **EMIRATES**. Emirates has 77 flights per week to DXB.

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