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ACCC airport concerns

THE "unconstrained monopolies" of Australia's four main privatised airports remains a key concern of the national competition watchdog, which has highlighted their rising profits and high charges for services including parking.

In its annual airport monitoring report released today, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has also warned it is vital to avoid restrictions on Sydney's planned Badgerys Creek gateway, so that it can operate without the curfew and hourly aircraft movement limits that constrain the city's existing facility.

The ACCC says Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney airports earned a combined \$757.6 million in operating profits

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news and photos, a front cover wrap for **Scenic**, plus full pages from:

- Albatross Tours
 AA Appointment
- AA Appointments jobsMalaysia Airlines



"We remain concerned that the current regulatory regime... doesn't constrain the market power of four of Australia's major airports," ACCC chairman Rod Sims said.

"Unconstrained monopolies often have an incentive and ability to charge excessive prices while lacking strong incentives to improve services," he said.

Profits per passenger had also risen, which Sims said was reflected in passengers paying higher ticket prices.

CLICK HERE for the full report.

Scenic Arctic deals

EARLYBIRD savings of up to 10% are on offer for Scenic's 2019/20 Arctic & Fjords program, with itineraries taking in Svalbard, the White Sea, fjords in Norway and Greenland, and the famed Northwest Passage.

Marketing tools are also available at scenic.com.au/hub see the **cover wrap** for details





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Velocity teaser

VIRGIN Australia has sent a titillating email to Velocity members, warning them not to transfer any points from card or hotel partners over the next week.

The message didn't say why, but hinted at a "record breaking deal" set to launch on 01 May.



Save on Spain, Portugal, France & Italy small groups and we'll even provide the luggage!

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO *Conditions apply. Valid to book until 30 April 2018.

Chimu teams up with QFFF

CHIMU Adventures today launched a new partnership with the Qantas Frequent Flyer Program, with members able to earn one QF point per dollar spent on Chimu land packages or cruises to Latin America, Antarctica or the Arctic. The offer applies to minimum

Vale Bill Galvin

THE tourism and travel sector is this week mourning the sudden death of Bill Galvin OAM, chief executive of Tourism Training Australia and chair of the Tourism, Hospitality and Catering Institute.

Galvin was a long-term friend to the travel sector, with AFTA Education & Training director Rick Myatt saying he will be "sorely missed for his selfless efforts in advocating for the travel and tourism industry".

A funeral service will take place on Thu 03 May 2018 at Christ Church St Laurence, Sydney.

Reservations 02 9260 4300 au.flyasiana.com bookings of \$3,000 made in Australian dollars effective from today (excluding taxes & flights), with the fine print indicating that the points will be credited to the QFFF member account on the day of the trip's departure.

ISLAND EXPEDITION

Chimu Adventures and its three South American DMCs are partowned by Intrepid, which bought a 50% stake in the company last year (**TD** 15 Aug 2017) as part of an expansion into polar product.

The company is currently promoting savings of up to 16% on Antarctic departures in 2019/20 for bookings made prior to 30 Apr - chimuadventures.com.

BA SCL, IAD boost

BRITISH Airways is increasing frequencies on the Santiago route from four per week to five on 28 Oct, and adding a further three weekly flights to Washington DC (taking the route to five per week), effective 29 Oct.



Swaziland no more

coralexpeditions

SMALL SHIP EXPEDITIONS

INDONESIA & MELANESIA

DISCOVER MORE

THE Kingdom of Swaziland will revert to its "ancient, native" name of eSwatini, the landlocked nation's King Mswati III has said.

The King declared the country would be called the Kingdom of eSwatini as it celebrated its 50th year of independence last week.



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ANA A380 Biz reconfigured

ALL Nippon Airways (ANA) has announced the reconfiguration of cabins on board its A380 aircraft, with new features set to include four classes, a changing room, bar counters in all cabins and new couch options in Economy.

The redesigned A380s will operate Tokyo-Honolulu services from spring 2019 and will cater to the appetites of Japanese families

QF CGK change

QANTAS will formally relocate its operations to Terminal 3 at Indonesia's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, commencing 11 May.

The move is in line with the airport's ambition of making Terminal 3 a "world-class facility".

A number of other international carriers will also make the move across to Terminal 3 at the same time including Singapore's Jetstar Asia, part of the Qantas Group. and newlyweds heading to Hawaii on their honeymoons.

Changes will see Business class seating arranged in pairs instead of the typical staggered design on other ANA aircraft, creating an added incentive for couples.

New attractions for Economy passengers will be 60 couch options that convert to a flat bench with a mattress once the leg rests are folded up, the first time a Japanese carrier has added the feature to its fleet.

The refit will also incorporate Hawaiian-inspired wall colourings & lighting and a bar in each cabin. Families will be able to take

advantage of a new multipurpose room behind the main deck where mothers will be able to tend to the needs of their babies.

Each of the A380's upper decks will feature eight First-class, 56 Business class and 73 Premium Economy seats.

View images of the cabin HERE.





LA supports AA/QF

THE City of Los Angeles has voiced its support for the joint business application and antitrust immunity request of American Airlines and Qantas.

Citing a similar tie-up between American and British Airways, LA Mayor Eric Garcetti this week said the pact had resulted in five daily frequencies from London to LAX.

Similarly, the partnership of American Airlines and Japan Airlines has delivered triple daily flights from Tokyo to Los Angeles.

Mayor Garcetti said the QF/ AA alliance would "significantly bolster existing services between the US and Australia and New Zealand, especially Los Angeles".

He said the organisation was also "concerned that AA's and QF's new services will not be sustainable without their proposed joint venture.

"The loss of these services would be a huge blow to the region, would reduce convenience for passengers, and would deprive the Los Angeles community of important investments made by the two airlines," the Mayor said.

Japan roadshow

THE Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) has announced it will be hosting a roadshow in Australia and New Zealand next month.

Three events will be hosted by the JNTO including Auckland on 17 May, Sydney on 22 May and Melbourne 24 May. Register for the roadshow **HERE**. NEW to 2019 Impressions from the Seine River Cruise From Paris along the River Seine to the coast of Normandy and back! Starting from \$5,740°pp no single supp in Cat 1 Cabins



THERE'S some bad news for lovers of so-called "Rocky Mountain oysters" - the annual Testicle Festival in Montana, USA, has been cancelled.



The "Testy Fest" event has been held at the Rock Creek Lodge in the town of Clinton for the last 35 years, and was basically a wild weekend based around the curious cuisine of deep fried cattle testicles.

The festival's motto was "have a ball" and key activities included a wet T-shirt contest, a testicle-eating competition and the "Undie 500" tricycle race.

While everybody enjoys themselves, things do sometimes get out of hand.

After several stabbings, DUI arrests and other incidents, last year's event tragically ended in the deaths of two revellers in a shuttle crash, and that was the last straw for Rock Creek Lodge owner Matt Powers.

He also noted that the rise of social media had led to a drop in attendance in recent years, with some guests not keen to have footage of their festival exploits uploaded to Facebook.



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Swansea eco-resort

PLANS for a \$100 million ecoresort development at Dolphin Sands near Swansea on the east coast of Tasmania have been revealed by the local govt.

Cambria Green Agriculture and Tourism Management's project will include the 100-120 room luxury Cambria Sky Hotel, along with 70 villas and 240 units.

The proposed development also includes an 80 unit health retreat, golf course and landing strip.

Regent incentive

AGENTS can earn themselves a free Mediterranean cruise with Regent Seven Seas Cruises when booking three eligible European sailings between 02 Jul-18 Nov.

To help agents achieve their sales goal, RSSC is offering savings of up to 30% on select departures and a reduced 10% deposit throughout this month.

CLICK HERE for more info on the "Sell Three & Sail Free" promo.

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



A CONGLOMERATE of some 100 Australian travel agents have spent the past week exploring 22 regions of New Zealand as part of the 100% Pure New Zealand Specialist Program.

The familiarisation, hosted by Tourism New Zealand and backed by Air New Zealand, saw 10 groups divide and conquer NZ's

Interested parties please register here:

Submissions must be received by 4pm

powerof

Registrations open at 10am AEST Monday 23 April 2018 and close at 4pm

https://bit.ly/2vn7ZQw

AEST Friday 4 May 2018.

AEST Friday 11 May 2018.

Australian Red Cross

BLOOD SERVICE

north & south islands over a week, before concluding in Wellington for a day of group training with regional tourism organisations.

TNZ trade development mgr Australia Sandra Etter said travel agents remained the "most preferred way to book a holiday in Australia, so it's important to ensure they are educated on New Zealand and all it has to offer".

"Familiarisation trips like this one are an effective way to showcase New Zealand's tourism offering to agents so they can create memorable holiday

TK Paris increase

TURKISH Airlines has added a further three services to Paris Charles de Gaulle (ex Instanbul Ataturk), taking its total frequency to 38 per week. The new capacity is on TK1833/ TK1834 on Mon, Fri and Sun. itineraries for their clients."

One group explored the Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa and Wellington region, with participant STA Travel's regional sales manager Nicole Borg saying she found the experience valuable.

"Through this trip I have learnt about a part of New Zealand I previously knew nothing about.

"I was captivated by the hospitality and natural beauty of these regions and am excited to paint a picture of this for my clients and sell them similar journeys," Borg remarked.

New BoltBus link

PREMIUM US express bus line BoltBus has introduced a new service connecting Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington DC, operating Thu through Mon.

BoltBus will offer the route on 14 roundtrip schedules per week.



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page 4



JTB reef restoration program

THE JTB Group has announced funding for a series of Australian conservation and cultural projects, including efforts to regenerate damaged parts of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Japanese tour operator has allocated \$55,000 to three local organisations, including the Cairns-based

Reef Restoration Foundation which has established a coral nursery at Fitzroy Island as part of its regeneration program.

Other beneficiaries include the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the Gold Coast which provides care to injured animals, and the Mutijulu Foundation at Uluru which supports health and education programs for local Indigenous communities and promotes economic participation.

JTB has also embarked on a global destination campaign to

Osuite to Shanghai

QATAR Airways will deploy its Qsuite Business class cabin to Shanghai from 15 May, the first destination in China to receive the luxury product.

The Doha-based airline operates 31 flights per week to six Chinese gateways, which also include Beijing, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Chongqing and Chengdu.



promote travel to Australia in 2018, in a joint marketing effort with Tourism Australia.

Pictured at a signing ceremony held on the Gold Coast on Mon are the ceo of Reef Restoration Foundation, Stewart Christie, with the president and ceo of JTB Corporation, Hiroyuki Takahashi.

Seven new Designs

DESIGN Hotels has added seven new properties to its portfolio. They include the Bikini Island

& Mountain Hotel Port de Soller on the Spanish island of Mallorca and the Boutique Hotel Sant Jaume in the island's capital of Palma de Mallorca.

Other additions are the Myconian Avaton in Mykonos, the four-room Autor Rooms in the Polish capital Warsaw, the Tortue Hamburg in northern Germany, the Suarga Padang Padang in Bali, and the Hotel Amapa in Puerto Vallarta on Mexico's Pacific Coast.

EK-FZ landmark

EMIRATES and flydubai have marked six months of operations as partners, having carried more than 400,000 passengers since the start of their tie-up.

The pair initially began codeshare operations on flights to 29 cities and have since expanded their joint services to cover 90 points across their networks.

New codeshare services were recently launched to Krakow, Dubrovnik and Kinshasa, while others coming online soon include Catania from 13 Jun and Thessaloniki from 15 Jun.

MEANWHILE, flydubai is adding Finland to its network, with the planned launch of daily 737 MAX-8 services from Dubai to Helsinki, also in codeshare with Emirates.

The first flydubai flight to the Finnish capital is scheduled for 11 Oct this year.

Eurostar hotels

THE Eurostar cross-channel high-speed train has announced the launch of a hotel program, allowing it to offer customers accommodation packages with its rail services.

The city-centre hotels have been selected across various price points and grouped in different themes including "design gems" and "gastronomic hot spots".

Eurostar says it is also planning to introduce a range of experiences that can be added to packages, including music, theatre and entertainment.

Dubai visitors up

DUBAI welcomed a record 15.8 million overnight visitors during 2017, a 6.2% increase over the year prior.

Dubai Tourism yesterday released its annual visitor report for 2017, showing 99.4% of visitors surveyed said they were either 'happy' or 'extremely happy' with their Dubai visit, with 99.3% saying that would be 'likely promoters' or 'active advocates' of the emirate.

The organisation also released first quarter figures for 2018, showing a record 4.7 million int'l overnight visitors and growth of 2% over the same period in 2017.

Dubai has set a target of 20 million international visitors by the year 2020.

AS Basic Econ plan

ALASKA Airlines is planning to follow other US carriers in introducing a basic Economy class product later this year.

The restricted "Saver Fare" will involve passengers boarding last and sitting at the rear of the aircraft, however the carrier says it will break from the similar products offered by rivals in allowing seat selection.

MEANWHILE, Virgin America has operated its last flight, VX1947 from Los Angeles to San Francisco, following its takeover by Alaska Airlines.

Branding has been removed from airports and aircraft are in the process of being repainted.

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RCI cruise bargains

A RANGE of new deals have been launched by Azamara Club Cruises, Celebrity Cruises and Royal Caribbean International.

The worldwide WOW sale from Royal Caribbean offers up to 30% off cruise fares, plus up to US\$400 onboard credit per stateroom, and is available for voyages departing after 24 Apr.

Azamara is offering a "spend or save" offer, which includes a choice of saving \$3,000 or receiving the same amount as USD onboard spend, while Celebrity Cruises is offering US\$150pp onboard credit, free w-ifi, plus an additional US\$150pp credit.

AFL

AFL ROUND 5 WINNER

Congratulations

LEE BENTLEY

from Corporate Traveller

Lee is the top point scorer for Round 5 of *Travel Daily*'s AFL footy tipping competition. He's won \$100 travel credit courtesy of Expedia.





The major prize for the 2018 footy tipping competition is return economy class airfares to Dubai flying with **EMIRATES**.

Thursday 26th April 2018

Wendy Wu self-fams

WENDY Wu Tours has

announced a new set of famils designed to offer travel agents a unique experience in Asia when travelling solo, or with friends.

The new tours will offer special rates to agents and up to three friends and family, and will visit Borneo, China, India and Vietnam.

Prices start at just \$550 per person twin share, up to \$1,115 per person twin share.

Plug & Play, SQ pact

START-UP platform Plug and Play has welcomed Singapore Airlines to its 2018 program, which aims to promote creativity and innovation in the airline industry using a range of digital solutions.

The program provides connections to interested corporations, mentorships and access to funding.

Fairmont Maldives

THE new Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi resort has officially opened its doors, with the luxury accommodation offering 120 villas and a range of premium amenities.

The property features 200m of infinity pools, the Kata rooftop bar and lounge, as well as a wellness spa featuring treatments using local ingredients.

The new resort is located on the Shaviyani Atoll and can be reached by a 50-minute domestic flight from Male International Airport.

Alps to Ocean tour

BOOKINGS on the 2018/19 Alps to Ocean cycling itinerary are now open, with cycling holiday specialists Adventure South NZ declaring all tours for the coming season will be guaranteed to run.

Trips depart from Christchurch, and run for six days through the South Island.

For more details, CLICK HERE.

WELCOME to Industry Appointments

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily*'s Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Michelle Allen has been appointed as the new Head of Travel for **Google Australia**. She has over 13 years experience in the travel industry, including in France and Spain.

Traveltek Group has welcomed four new Business Development Managers to its North American team. **Kevin Walker, Ivonne Turcios** and **Yenedi Perez** will be based in Miami, while **Clarice Bonoglan** will work out of Los Angeles.

Claire Bolte this week steps into the role of Marketing Manager AU/NZ at **Corporate Travel Management** following a brief career break.

Randal Linhart has joined the global team at **Wharf Hotels** as Group Director of Restaurants, Bars and Events. He brings over 25 years' experience in senior roles across Australia, Asia and Europe.

ATPI has appointed **Judy Peplinski** as Global Head of Energy, a new role created to support the company's strong growth. Peplinski will take on the role alongside her current position as US Managing Director.

EK home check-in Bar

TRAVELLERS flying with Emirates are now able to check-in from anywhere in Dubai.

The new service, available for all classes of travel, enables pax to complete the security check and check-in from their home, hotel or office and have their luggage transported to the airport prior to their flight.

Emirates will deploy a checkin agent at the pax's preferred location to weigh, tag bags and issue boarding passes.

It's available to book up to 12hrs prior to flight and costs AED 350 (AU\$125) for up to seven bags.

Banyan Tree buyout

EVENT organisers looking for a luxe private group getaway can now book exclusive access to the clifftop retreat Banyan Tree Ungasan in Bali.

The hotel offers 54 pool villas, wedding and event spaces, restaurants, pools, restaurants and beach access, as well as no limitations on preferred timings for booked events.

The buyout is available all year round, starting from IDR 563,100,000 (A\$53,371) per night with daily breakfast and full resort access included.

CLICK HERE for information.



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Southern GBR show

THE Southern Great Barrier Reef is set to be the subject of an international TV special to be screened on the Seven Network in late May.

The 30-min promo spot will showcase the best of the region's islands and on-shore attractions including Great Keppel Island, the Cooberrie Park Wildlife Sanctuary, and the town of 1770.

The footage will also be disseminated down the track as one minute vignettes via international web outlets with a reach of 500 million users.

KK Collection reps

THE Unique Tourism Collection has secured a contract to represent the Sri Lankan boutique hotel brand KK Collection in the Australian market.

The collection contains both the Kahanda Kanda and KK Beach hotels created by interior designer George Cooper.

HX Sabre renewal

SABRE has inked a new content distribution agreement with China's Hainan Airlines. The deal provides HX with access to 425,000 travel agents.



Win flights to anywhere on Royal Brunei Airlines' network

Royal Brunei Airlines is celebrating four years of flying from Melbourne to London with the 787 Dreamliner.

Show us in a photograph or meme how you would best celebrate with Royal Brunei Airlines on the 787 Dreamliner to London. Make sure you include the RBA Dreamliner in your entry (you can take a screenshot of the picture from the first day of the comp).

The most creative entry will win two return Economy Class tickets from Melbourne to anywhere on the Royal Brunei network.

Send your entries to rba@traveldaily.com.au by COB 30 April.





Divine weddings at Trisara Resort



DIVINE Destinations recently hosted a group of wedding industry agents and media representatives from Australia to explore the facilities at the luxury Trisara Resort located on the Thai island of Phuket.

Famil participants toured the hotel's range of on-site wedding facilities and venues, and dined at the property's Pru restaurant, which is based on European cuisine sourced from Trisara's farm, Pru Jumpa. Further treats included an oceanfront dinner at one of the hotel's private residences.

Divine Destinations represents the Trisara Resort in Australia.

The group (**pictured**) exploring one of the hotel's secluded wedding locations: Robert Lai, My Overseas Wedding; Jacqui Lawrey, Divine Destinations; Sarah Willcocks, Polka Dot Bride; Tori Van Brugge, i-do.com.au; Timothy Chen, My Overseas Wedding and Vincent Gerards, Trisara Resort.



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We are looking for an experienced travel industry sales exec or BDM to join this expanding sales team. Your day will involve building relationships with clients, training & educating on product offering, identify & negotiate any new opportunities & representing the brand all to reach goals. A great package is on offer for the right candidate. Strong relationship building, analytical, negotiation & time management skills required.

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