

It's our birthday!

TRAVEL Daily has turned 26, with last Sat 04 Jul marking exactly 26 years since the first edition was produced via fax by former Editor Mike Heard in 1994.

Since then we've been through many ups and downs, and survived and grown stronger.

So we're looking forward to brighter days ahead as the industry emerges from COVID-19.

Thanks to everyone for your ongoing support and encouragement.

UK revises global travel advisory

THE UK Govt has confirmed details of its updated travel advice, which now provides exemptions for certain countries "that have been assessed as no longer presenting an unacceptably high risk for British people travelling abroad" (**TD** 03 Jul).

A list of 59 exempted destinations has been published, including Australia and New Zealand as well as 34 European nations, some Caribbean islands, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and more.

However the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office continues to advise against non-essential international travel to countries not on the list, including the USA, Sweden, India, Russia, Portugal, mainland China and the United Arab Emirates.

People entering the UK are no longer required to self-isolate for 14 days if they have only visited places on the exempted list, but quarantine is still required if they have transited through countries which are not listed.

AFTA plots national push

EXCLUSIVE

THE concerns of the Australian travel sector will be highlighted to govt through a "systematic, scalable and repeatable" program of engagement initiated by the new CEO of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA), Darren Rudd.

In his first trade media interview this morning, Rudd told **Travel Daily** the plan involves meetings with travel agents electorate by electorate, alongside their local members regardless of their political persuasion.

"Whether we like it or not, we're a political organisation," he said, with the initiative aiming to allow MPs to get to meet local travel agents and understand their hopes, frustrations and anxieties.

"When you aggregate that on scale, you're bringing a theme of messaging and realism on behalf of our members' interests back

into the party rooms of both parties which will obviously help shape their respective policies," Rudd said.

"It's a sophisticated program but it's a grass-roots approach.

"That's not going to change things overnight but it brings a lot to the table," he added.

On a more immediate front, Rudd has a series of meetings with senior cabinet ministers and shadow ministers planned, including a program which will see them visiting the AFTA office.

"The reality is, be it structural change, be it borders, be it regulatory change, be it industry restructuring, there has to be proximity to government on a systematic basis in a non-partisan way," he said.

"What's more we have to get the narrative package right - number of travel agents, all the economic metrics, the impact, the tax paid," Rudd added, with the campaign complementing and enhancing AFTA's push for JobKeeper to be extended.

Vale Margaret Hill

THE Australian travel industry is mourning the death of Margaret Hill, who worked with Air Canada/Canadian Airlines/CP Air for more than 48 years.

Hill suffered a medical episode last Wed and died shortly after.

She was the long-time Personal Assistant for many of the airline's GMs during her career, and at the time of her retirement she was the longest serving airline employee in Australia and also for Air Canada.

Hill's funeral will take place this Thu 09 Jul at 2pm at Sydney's Macquarie Park Cemetery.

NSW closes border

THE escalation of COVID-19 infection rates in Vic this morning saw the temporary closure of the border with NSW, with NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian saying the move is effective from midnight tomorrow night.

She said the outbreak of cases in Melbourne was putting the gains of the previous months at risk, stressing it was only a temporary measure.

"As I have said before it is in our national interest for borders to be open," the Premier said.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news including our PUZZLE page and a full page from **Tourism Authority of Thailand**.

EVT refinances

ASX-LISTED Event Hospitality & Entertainment this morning confirmed the successful refinancing of its debt facilities, with a \$205 million additional line of credit resulting in a significant increase in liquidity.

CEO Jane Hastings said "the group has completed three years of transformation in three months," with COVID-19 enabling a substantial review and redesign of operations.

Cinemas have reopened, while the majority of the group's hotels have remained open with the implementation of "minimum viable operating models," refined food and beverage offerings and revenue secured from evolving market segments including government quarantine, essential workers and self-isolation guests.

The group's Thredbo ski resort has also seen the development of a new operating model including new products and services and the cancellation or refund of season passes.

Be Amazing today!

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand is inviting travel agent to sign up to its new learning platform to become an Amazing Thailand Specialist.

The platform featured a series of modules and is available to Australian and New Zealand travel agents - see **page eight**.

Malaysia Airlines Introduces Economy Branded Fares
in Australia and New Zealand

For more information

[Click Here](#)



malaysia airlines



QF, Afterpay deal

QANTAS Frequent Flyers will be able to earn Qantas Points when they spend with Afterpay, following a new partnership between the two companies.

Launching later this week, the deal will see Qantas Frequent Flyers who are new to Afterpay earn 500 QF points for linking their accounts and one point per \$1 spent, up to 5,000 points.

Existing Afterpay customers will receive the same earning potential, but the offer only applies to the first 50,000 existing Afterpay members who link their accounts.

Qantas Loyalty CEO Olivia Wirth said the partnership would allow "frequent buyers" to maximise their points earning on everyday spend.

"Financial services is one of the most popular ways to earn points in the program, it's the quickest and easiest way to build your points balance," she said.

Oceania training

OCEANIA Cruises has launched an online training program with six learning modules.

For a limited time, agents who sign up to the platform can also receive \$20 in Oceania Trade Rewards points in addition to earning 10 CLIA accredited points.

Oceania Cruises is also offering agents who complete the course by 31 Jul a chance to win \$250 worth of Oceania Trade Rewards points - for more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Taskforce urges certainty

TOURISM and travel companies in Australia are being "unfairly asked to keep their businesses alive and plan for the future based on media speculation and noncommittal statements by government as to when international travel will recommence".

That's one of the conclusions of a new Tourism Restart Plan released on Sat by the Tourism Restart Taskforce (**TD 29 Apr**), which has identified a clear restart timetable as one of the key priorities to help the industry plan for the future.

Now that the country is at Step 3 of the National Cabinet's plan to recover from COVID-19, there is a need for greater clarity, the report says.

"Travel and tourism is focused on advanced bookings and long lead times between planning and the dates of travel," it adds, urging the Government to allow for lead time in announcing when international border restrictions would be eased.

"The aspiration of the taskforce is to progressively open to markets where there are bilateral health agreements," with the Taskforce urging further openings by Sep this year.

"Most importantly the Federal Government is encouraged to provide to industry an understanding of what the expectation is for source and destination countries to

be included in travel bans being lifted, and under what conditions," the report urges.

The Australian Federation of Travel Agents backed the plan, highlighting key recommendations including the need to establish a trans-Tasman bubble in the coming weeks, and the necessity for JobKeeper or similar to be extended for those businesses directly impacted or completely shut down by Government restrictions.

Other priorities include domestic border openings and more easing of restrictions.

Railbookers to NZ

RAILBOOKERS has launched a new selection of train holidays in New Zealand, with itineraries ranging from 8-19 days.

The trips include the Kiwi Explorer, Essential New Zealand and the Ultimate New Zealand, covering all corners of the country, with Railbookers Head of Sales & Marketing Narelle Ross saying "when explored by train, NZ's destinations offer travellers an entirely new perspective".

Scenic journeys include the Northern Explorer connecting Auckland to Wellington; the Coastal Pacific from Christchurch to Picton; and the TranzAlpine from Christchurch to Greymouth.

Webinars showcasing the new offering will take place this Wed - to take part [CLICK HERE](#).

VA sale alternative

VIRGIN Australia bondholders Broad Peak Investment Advisors and Tor Investment Management have applied for approval to make an alternative proposal to creditors instead of the sale of the airline to Bain Capital (**TD 26 Jun**).

Broad Peak and Tor both manage, represent or advise some large, unsecured creditors of the airline, with Broad Peak reportedly among the companies which were involved in a last-ditch bid for the carrier.

They have labelled the process by the airline's administrators as "unacceptable" and having the effect of excluding an alternative deed of company arrangement being presented at the upcoming second creditors' meeting.

They have requested interim orders to allow access to information, including the terms of the Bain proposed transaction and final orders including a ruling which would enable them to make an alternative proposal.

Creative bonuses

CREATIVE Cruising has introduced a new agent incentive in partnership with Oceania Cruises, allowing agents in its network to earn bonus commission at the point of sale when booking any Oceania Cruises sailing.

The promotion applies to any booking made between 01-31 Jul. Call 1300 362 599 for details.



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Travel Daily



Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

Let's downsize together: Travel Industry Hub

OPINION

Richard Taylor is co-founder of The Travel Industry Hub.

Got an opinion to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to feedback@traveldaily.com.au.



IF YOU'RE a business owner or manager, you've no doubt already given some thought to one of the major costs associated with running a business – your office.

There are countless articles out there about the future of work. Everywhere you look, it seems we'll all be working from home.

There are many great advantages, including the freedom and flexibility, no commuting and that wonderfully satisfying feeling of watching laundry dry whilst on business calls, but it's not for everyone.

The vast majority of us need to congregate, interact and collaborate. Particularly in this industry, seeing we're in the business of selling the polar opposite of sitting around at

home in your underwear.

And then of course, there's the end of JobKeeper, set for Sep.

With travel companies having to rethink their staffing requirements, things aren't looking so good for offices. There will be many empty desks, and they'll serve as a constant

“
The vast majority of us need to congregate, interact and collaborate
”

reminder of what this ghastly virus has done to our industry.

Companies that can escape their lease will do so, downsizing or even ditching offices altogether. Those with longer agreements face a problem.

For those needing an alternative, there are flexible workspaces or co-working spaces to consider. They offer a

significant advantage for those who want to eschew long-term commitments, utility bills and the other headaches of leasing an office. They offer anything from a professional city address through to work and meeting space on demand, private offices and more.

These spaces will explode even further as landlords look to make use of empty real estate. Look out for that, perhaps even in suburban locations to capitalise on people's reluctance to travel far from home during COVID.

The evolution of these spaces is why we launched The Travel Industry Hub. Our concept is similar, but affordable to our industry & around like-minded people, making connections every day. We will re-open (or more accurately, re-launch) in Aug and will look to expand elsewhere.

And what of those stuck in a lease without means to escape?

Increasingly we'll see companies of all industries advertising space within their office, and they'll use words such as “funky” or

“vibrant” in the descriptions.. Some will succeed, but most will fail because they will be marketing alongside everyone else, doing exactly the same thing.

What's more, they'll compete with existing spaces that have significant advantages, such as all the marketing, SEO, memberships, IT security & legal agreements already covered.

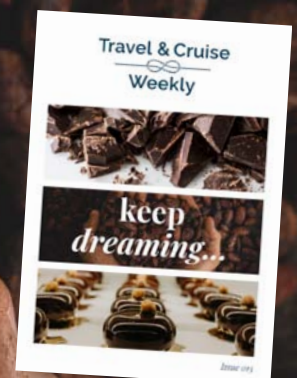
The solution? We propose pulling together and creating a network of travel industry desks, meeting rooms and office space that can be marketed together to minimise costs, opened to people in your area needing to escape home or as part of a newly dispersed workforce. Almost overnight we could create a significant national brand that offers local people an escape from their homes, offering new revenue streams for our industry.

People need to escape. If that cannot be overseas for the time being, we need to think differently in the interim.

Get in touch **HERE**.

Keep your clients engaged and planning their next trip with *keep dreaming...*

Don't miss this week's special chocolate edition!





ART calls for EOI

AUSTRALIAN Regional Tourism (ART) is currently calling for expressions of interest for tourism experts to join its Tourism Ambassador Team.

ART Chair Coralie Bell said the regional tourism space is in need of talented individuals who can champion its cause through a raft of recent challenges.

"Prolonged drought, bushfires and now COVID-19 have made times tough in regional Australia and as an industry, we need to support each other as we move forward," she said.

Expressions of interest are required by 30 Jul.

Insightful webinars

INSIGHT Vacations is hosting two Local Insights sessions this week, informing agents about new product on offer in ANZ.

Register for Wed 2pm session [HERE](#), and Fri 11am [HERE](#).

Lebanon PCR tests

ETIHAD has advised that Lebanon has mandated that all arrivals to the country must now take a COVID-19 PCR test to be granted entry to the country.

The test must be taken by any passenger aged five years and older, and costs US\$100 which collected as an additional YR charge for new and reissued tix.

Travellers who return a positive test result must follow the directives of the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon.

Wendu Wu on sale

WENDY Wu Tours has launched a Let's Go 2021 special, offering savings of \$500pp on a range of group tours, as well as a free single supplement offer on selected tours to Japan, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, China and Latin America.

The company is also offering \$99pp deposits, with the next payment not due until 31 Oct.

For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Contiki's new Aussie trips

CONTIKI has released details of 14 new Aussie adventures under an expansion of domestic product announced in May ([TD 11 May](#)).

Ranging from four to 11 days in length, the trips explore destinations such as North Queensland, Kakadu and Uluru's Field of Lights; plus new destinations including WA's Rottnest Island and Margaret River and a road trip via the Great Ocean Road through SA.

Contiki said the itineraries are "for locals, by locals" and can be locked in for a \$99 deposit, if they are booked by 01 Sep.

Contiki MD Belinda Ward said the new additions allowed travellers to "pack your bags and just show up."

"There's nothing more empowering than getting outside of your 'bubble', meeting new people and making new friends," Ward said.

"We know most millennials and Gen Z want the opportunity to travel together again with the freedom and flexibility to be social whether travelling solo, with friends or a partner – and leave with memories that will

stay with them forever."

The new trips include the nine-day North Queensland Adventure (with sailing), that takes travellers island-hopping from Airlie Beach, through the Whitsundays and to Magnetic Island, priced from \$1,925 per person.

Another is the 11-day Sunshine, Beaches & Breweries, which ventures between Brisbane, Noosa, Noosa Everglades, Fraser Island, Byron Bay, Gold Coast and Lamington National Park, priced from \$2,201 per person.

Contiki said the trips are a way for travellers to support local businesses and communities which were deeply affected by the Australian bushfires and COVID-19.

For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Troy Thomas in crash

WA TOURISM pioneer Troy Thomas died in a tragic helicopter accident on Sat, with Journey Beyond offering its heartfelt condolences to his family.

Thomas was the former owner of Horizontal Falls Seaplane Adventures, which was purchased by Journey Beyond last year and had since then continued a consulting agreement with the firm's founder.

He was piloting his own helicopter during a private flight when the tragedy occurred, with a Journey Beyond spokesperson saying he would be greatly missed.

"Troy was a true pioneer in the establishment of the Horizontal Falls Seaplane Adventures business and was an incredible ambassador for tourism in the Kimberley."

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Travel Daily

Dest BC webinar

A TRAVEL agent webinar will be hosted by Destination British Columbia, focusing on responsible tourism.

Attendees can hear how the province is opening up for domestic travel with safe and responsible tourism, which will resonate with the direction for int'l travel once borders open.

The webinar will also offer two \$100 gift vouchers and two BC goodie bags, and will take place twice on Wed at 8:30am and 10:30am eastern time - **CLICK HERE** to RSVP for the earlier session and **HERE** for the later session.

Walk-in testing

MILITARY services provider Ecolog has announced the opening of a walk-in coronavirus-testing facility at Eindhoven Airport, Netherlands.

Sydney Airport capped

SYDNEY Airport will have arrivals slashed, with two-week passenger caps introduced by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

From midnight last Sat, just 450 passengers are being allowed to arrive at the airport each day for the next fortnight, with travellers being warned flights - limited to a maximum of just nine per day - could be cancelled.

The cap, which was requested by the NSW Government to help in its struggle with the hotel quarantine system, also limits individual flights to a maximum of 50 people.

It follows a ban announced last week on international flights coming into Melbourne to ease similar hotel quarantine demands in Victoria (**TD** 01 Jul).

"If you're scheduled to fly into Sydney in the coming days and

weeks, confirm your itinerary and onward travel plans with your airline," the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said.

NSW Health also warned it was critical hotel quarantining was "not stretched to breaking point"

The cap represents just 1% of pre-COVID levels.

WA wander deals

NEW partnerships between the Government of Western Australia and three tourism operators are set to offer a boost to the state's "Wander Out Yonder" intrastate campaign.

The cooperative marketing partnerships with Britz Australia, Sightseeing Pass Australia and Top Parks are designed to entice Western Australians to travel around the state.

Supported by Tourism WA, Britz's campervans will be included in a promotion of the state's road trips involving top local influencers such as Brooke Blurton and Jarrad Seng.

Sightseeing Pass will run a competition offering the chance to win one of 14 prizes, including short break packages and iconic Western Australian experiences valued at \$10,000.

The Top Parks partnership will include special property accommodation deals which will be advertised across radio, digital and social media from Jul to Sep.

Hotel worker boost

AIRLINE staff have been enlisted to work in Melbourne's quarantine hotels.

Staff from Qantas, Virgin Australia and Jetstar are all part of the recruitment drive, including ground staff, cabin crew, baggage handlers and pilots.

The workers are helping to manage crowds, distribute food and co-ordinate the fresh-air breaks for returned travellers in the hotels.



Window Seat

IT APPEARS that some running repairs recently carried out on San Francisco's famous Golden Gate Bridge has made the tourist attraction's appeal grind to a screeching halt.

Well, at least that's the view of nearby resident who claim new sidewalk railings installed on the bridge are creating a low screeching sound that is causing them "psychological distress".

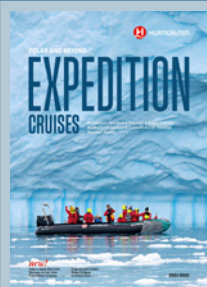
The culprit is reportedly the northwest wind hitting the railings, with the Chief Engineer for the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District claiming the noise was an unintended by-product of the works.

Frankly, we feel the residents should just build a bridge and get over it already.



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.



Hurtigruten - Polar & Beyond 2021/22

Hurtigruten has gone to press with its 2021/22 Polar & Beyond expedition cruise brochure. The 188-page program showcases a range of cruises featuring destinations such as Antarctica, the Northwest Passage & Arctic Canada and Svalbard, Greenland & Iceland. A number of pre- and post- programs and detailed ship profiles are also available, including the world's first hybrid-powered ships, *Roald Amundsen* and *Fridtjof Nansen*. Other highlights include detailing of the

wide range of experiences on board, such as the ship's restaurants, wellness centre, pool, spa, sauna, fitness room and Science Centre.



Australia's North West - Tick Off Your Bucket List

Australia's North West Tourism's new Tick Off Your North West Bucket List brochure provides itineraries designed for guests who want a domestic bucket list-ticking holiday in the northern Western Australia region. Ranging from Broome, the Pilbara and the Kimberley, the 15-page brochure consists of beaches, history, modern cultural experiences, natural sites and phenomena, cruising, gastronomy, nature, and a range of other one-of-a-kind offerings in the region.

TIME to shine

THE Travel Industry Mentor Program (TIME) has launched a full scholarship, TIME to Shine.

Despite being in hibernation since Mar (**TD** 25 Mar), the organisation's board has agreed to restart the program with the announcement of the scholarship today.

The offer is open to all employees of the travel and tourism industry across the country, and is valued at \$2,500.

The scholarship will provide six months of formal mentoring. Applications are open now, and will close on 29 Jul, with the program to begin on 26 Aug.

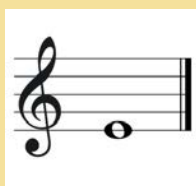
CLICK HERE to apply.

Pub quiz

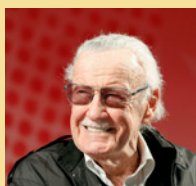
1. What is the capital of Switzerland?
2. What would an Algerian do with some shakshouka?
3. Which US city is referred to as The Mile High City?
4. The pa'anga is the official currency of which Pacific island nation?
5. Where would you find the Sea of Tranquillity?
6. What is the name of Richard Branson's space flight company?
7. What is the name of the only country beginning with the letter "O"?
8. What country is GYAPRAAU an anagram for?
9. What happened to the Ponte Morandi bridge in Genoa, Italy on 14 Aug 2018?
10. Which ocean contains the deepest trench in the world?
11. What country is this collection of pictures spelling out?



+



+



Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

B	E	I
A	C	L
M	N	A

Good – 17 words
Very good – 26 words
Excellent – 34 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

ANSWERS 03 JUL

Pub quiz: 1 Saint Vincent, Antilles, 2 True, 3 White, 4 Stockholm, 5 The Zloty, 6 Norwegian Encore, 7 The Atlantic, 8 Argentina, 9 New Orleans, 10 The Murray River, 11 Bucharest (book + ah + rest)

Where in the world: Traffic Light Tree, Poplar, London, England

8	2	7	1	9	6	4	5	3
6	4	5	3	8	2	9	7	1
3	9	1	7	4	5	6	8	2
9	1	3	8	6	4	7	2	5
2	6	4	5	1	7	3	9	8
5	7	8	9	2	3	1	4	6
1	8	2	6	7	9	5	3	4
4	3	9	2	5	1	8	6	7
7	5	6	4	3	8	2	1	9

Travel the world with mince and meatballs



THIS week we're heading to the US for our mince fix.

This recipe for meatloaf comes from Colorado restaurant, Bent Fork Grill, which has two outposts in Denver and Loveland. It might be a while before we can

head to the US again so why not travel there with your tastebuds and whip up this for dinner this week.

xx *Jenny*

Jenny Piper
Owner,
Business
Publishing
Group



Bent Fork Grill Meatloaf

INGREDIENTS

MEATLOAF

- 4.5kg mince beef
- ¼ cup garlic, chopped
- 1 red onion, finely chopped
- 5 tbsp dried oregano
- Handful Panko breadcrumbs
- 1 ¼ cups tomato sauce
- 8 tbsp fresh mint, chopped
- 8 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
- 5 tbsp kosher salt
- 6 tbsp black pepper
- 2 ½ cups feta (optional, if you want a Mediterranean twist)

MEATLOAF GLAZE

- 2 cups tomato sauce
- 1 cup wholegrain mustard
- 1 tsp Cayenne Pepper
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 1.5 tbsp Paprika
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1.5 tbsp red wine vinegar

METHOD

Preheat oven to 200°C.

Combine all meatloaf ingredients in a mixer and stir until combined well.

Place mixture in an oven safe rectangular dish (5cm deep) and evenly spread out. Bake in oven for 35-45 mins or until internal temperature reaches 74°C.

While the meatloaf is baking, prepare the glaze by mixing all glaze ingredients until smooth.

Once the meatloaf has been in the oven for 35-45mins and is nicely brown, spread meatloaf glaze on top of the meatloaf and bake for another 10 minutes.

Serve family style with selection of vegetables.

First look at QT Auckland



ONLY months away from opening its doors to the public, QT Hotels & Resorts' QT Auckland has recently revealed the first look at some of its rooms.

The 150-room property features meeting rooms, restaurants and a rooftop bar, and will be the third property for the brand to open in New Zealand, joining QT Queenstown and QT Wellington.

The brand is known for its quirky style, a theme that QT Auckland General Manager Doron Whaithe believes has been achieved with the latest hotel's design.

"The experience philosophy behind each QT is to 'expect the unexpected', QT Auckland will certainly deliver this, with unpredictable twists across art and design, throughout the dining outlets, and amplified through our people," he said.

QT Auckland is now taking bookings for stays from 01 Nov - **CLICK HERE** for details.

Pictured: A preview of one of QT Auckland's room.

Centara reopenings

CENTARA Hotels & Resorts has reopened eight hotels in key destinations around Thailand as the government continues to ease restriction nationwide.

Hotels now open include Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao Bangkok; Centra by Centara Government Complex Hotel & Convention Centre Chaeng Watthana and Khum Phaya Resort & Spa.

Touchless technology

FAIRMONT Singapore and **Swissotel** The Stamford have introduced new touchless check-in and check-out options through the web or on mobile device using QR code verification.

Guests are also able to make hotel payments online to, minimise the need for interaction.

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Qld safe for events

THE Queensland Tourism Industry Council and Tourism and Events Queensland have developed a new framework to assist event organisers host COVID-19 safe events.

The new document covers basic standards laid out in the Queensland Government's roadmap to easing COVID-19 restrictions, including essential hygiene standards and physical distancing requirements.

Access the framework **HERE**.

NZ to Invercargill

AIR New Zealand has today resumed its direct A320 jet service between Auckland and Invercargill.

The service will operate on Mon, Thu, Fri and Sun.

The airline also resumed services on its Wellington-Invercargill route yesterday, with one daily return service to operate on this route using the airline's 50-seat Q300 aircraft.

Invercargill-Christchurch flights resumed under Alert Level two.

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