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Travel Daily First with the news

www.traveldaily.com.au Tuesday 10th November 2020

Jetstar reboots flights to Avalon

JETSTAR has announced that flights from Avalon to Sydney will take off again on 18 Dec, marking the first time its services have operated from the airport in close to nine months.

The airline will operate twice daily flights with fares starting from \$71pp, with more routes from Avalon to other destinations to be added in line with demand.

Vaccine's 90% rate

PFIZER has revealed its experimental vaccine currently undergoing trials has so far been 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 based on initial data from a large study of 44,000 participants.

Pfizer's encouraging result is the first to show successful data from a "large-scale clinical trial" of a coronavirus vaccine, and if authorisation is granted by governments around the world, initial distribution will likely be limited and the long-term protection against the virus will still need to be determined.

Australia currently has agreements in place with drugmakers Novavax and Pfizer for the supply of 50 million doses should any vaccine be deemed safe and successful.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has previously stated the country would act "very cautiously" in relation to quarantine-free travel unless a vaccine for COVID-19 becomes available.

TA agent call to action

XCLUSIVE

TOURISM Australia has adapted some of the creative for its Holiday Here This Year campaign (**pictured**), urging consumers to plan their domestic trips with the help of a travel agent.

The advertising is already running in some markets, with AFTA CEO Darren Rudd thanking Tourism Australia for "recognising the professionalism and expertise that travel agents bring to the consumer travel booking process".

The addition of the agent call to action will be welcomed right across the industry, which was disappointed that when the new campaign was announced (*TD* 13 Oct) Tourism Minister Simon Birmingham omitted any mention of travel agents as he urged support for tourism businesses. Tourism Australia MD Phillipa

QF fuels BP loyalty

BP'S rewards program has reached more than one million members, only seven months after launching a loyalty alliance with Qantas which was agreed to late last year (*TD* 04 Sep 2019).

Under the agreement, BP customers can earn Qantas points on fuel and eligible in-store purchases across all participating service stations.

Since the initiative kicked off in Mar, BP Rewards has seen members earn more than 800 million BP and Qantas Points.



Harrison told **TD** "we appreciate the important role that travel agents play, and already provide a range of supports to assist them".

Partnerships are in place with Flight Centre, Helloworld and Virtuoso, she said, while the Aussie Specialist Program has for the first time this year been made available locally (*TD* 20 May).

Harrison also confirmed Tourism Australia would be hosting domestic trade famils for travel agents in 2021, while marketing assets including campaign toolkits, imagery and videos are available free for the industry.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news including our PUZZLE page. Plus a front full page from **Tourism New Zealand**.

Take NZ to the edge

WITH the prospect of a twoway travel bubble creeping ever closer, Tourism New Zealand is reminding agents about all of the high adrenaline activities it can offer Aussie holidaymakers.

From bungy jumping to jetboating, it's all there to enjoy in The Land of the Long White Cloud - see **front page** for details.

Kiwi cruise poddy

NEW Zealand travel podcast, Kiwi Tripsters Travel, will host CLIA Australasia MD Joel Katz and CEO of the NZ Cruise Association Kevin O'Sullivan on 12 Nov to discuss the state of cruise - listen on Apple, Google Play or Spotify.



Scenic invites you and your clients, to join our Virtual Travel Showcase series over the coming weeks. Join us November 17th for an interactive session on South East Asia River Cruising with the Scenic Sales team.



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Mondrian Aussie debut

ACCOR is surging ahead with the global expansion of its Mondrian brand, announcing a new location for the Gold Coast in partnership with SBE Entertainment Group.

Mondrian Gold Coast will be the first of the brand to open in Australia and will also mark SBE's debut in the country.

To be situated at Burleigh Beach, the dual-tower property is being developed in collaboration with Vitale Projects.

The two towers, to be located at First Avenue and The Esplanade, will split the 208-guestroom hotel from the 89 private residences, united by a three-level podium that will function as Mondrian's common space, which will include a fitness centre, spa, restaurants,

Torrens Uni cooks up tourism panel

THE recovery of the tourism and hospitality industries will be discussed by a panel of experts during a free online Torrens University event scheduled to take place this Thu.

Buy from the Bush founder Grace Brennan and New South Wales Minister for Tourism Stuart Ayres will be joined by celebrity chef and lovable wally Manu Feildel, to discuss the path to recovery for the sectors.

Register for the webinar HERE, the latest part of Torrens' Experience Speaker Series 2020. and a swimming pool, all of which will overlook the beach and Burleigh Head National Park. Mondrian Gold Coast follows the recent opening of Mondrian Seoul Itaewon, and the announcement of Mondrian Shoreditch London, both scheduled to open in 2021.

Mondrian Gold Coast will be one of nine properties the brand plans to roll out globally by 2022, with six more hotels set to be announced in destinations such as the Dominican Republic, Germany, the Maldives, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Simla no SLAKker

TRAVEL entrepreneur Simla Sooboodoo's latest initiative, SLAK Flowers, involves hiring the homeless to work in florists, where they will be given training, development, and guaranteed employment opportunities.

SLAK tailors arrangements for events, as well as regular corporate and personal deliveries.

Sooboodoo has previously founded both Empowerment Tourism and Hands on Journeys, both of which also operate with similar themes of the creation of opportunities and empowerment of under-enfranchised peoples.

The dynamo also spoke at the Travel Daily Sustainability Summit held last year (TD 30 Apr 2019).

For more, visit slakflowers.com.





TokyoTokyo **Become a Tokyo Expert Click here to register**

Win a Delta ticket

ATTENDEES to the next BYO Coffee Cluster webinar will have the chance to win a US\$500 Delta Air Lines travel voucher.

Guests will learn about what Delta is doing to support travel agents and travellers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be updated on the Australian market, including flying schedules and the Delta CareStandard. **CLICK HERE** to register.

Cruise sales spike

CRUISE Traveller has seen a record month of bookings for the year following the opening of sales for Tradewind Voyages' Golden Horizon.

The five-masted ship will make her inaugural visit Down Under in the summer of 2021/22, following her launch in Mar.

Cruise Traveller is now selling 14 cruise and stay packages around the country from Dec 2021 to Feb 2022 ranging in length from 14 to 73 nights.

CLICK HERE for more details.

Island Escape return

NEW Zealand's Island Escape Cruises has released details of its new yacht which is currently expected to arrive in Apr 2021. Itineraries on the 32-passenger

vessel have been opened for sale, with the ship to feature a helicopter deck and two Zodiacs. For more details see Fri's issue of Cruise Weekly (CW 06 Nov).



QTIC wants you

THE Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) is offering two free tickets to the Tourism Village Celebration, valued at \$300, when people complete its latest tourism industry survey. **CLICK HERE** for questionnaire.



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*For registration and eligibility, visit tourismnt.com.au/trade-aus **Register** now





News flags "positive volatility"



EXCLUSIVE

NEWS Corp has hailed a jump in consumer travel spend as "promising", with the latest figures (**pictured**) indicating a six point jump this week.

Head of Travel Dwayne Birtles has attributed the volatile numbers to the uncertainty around border restrictions, with the announcement Tasmania would open up and Queensland opening to regional NSW both stimulating consumer confidence.

"It's safe to say the increase in travel-related spend isn't just to the announced destinations, it would be a halo impact due to improved confidence of consumers to book travel to destinations that may still be closed," Birtles said.



Travel hails Biden

THE US Travel Association has congratulated President-elect Joe Biden on his victory in last week's US election, saying the sector is ready and willing to assist in his objective of "helping the industries most heavily impacted by the pandemic".

The travel industry is cautiously optimistic that help may be at hand, with Biden having previously committed to providing more relief to airline and hospitality workers.

He has also promised to immediately reverse the controversial Trump ban on inbound travel to the USA from countries which currently include Libya, Iran, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, North Korea, Venezuela, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan and Tanzania.

Biden's policies are also seen as promoting rail infrastructure, including support for high-speed trains in California and between New York and Washington.

Carnival out to Mar

CARNIVAL Cruise Line this morning announced the extension of its current pause in operations for Australian sailings aboard *Carnival Splendor* through until 02 Mar 2021.

The cruise line had already cancelled *Carnival Spirit* sailings through to late Jun next year, with the company apologising to customers for the disruption to their holiday plans.

"We trust you understand this decision was made with everyone's best interests at heart," Carnival said, with affected passengers offered 100% refunds or the option of a full Future Cruise Credit plus up to \$900 onboard credit for rebookings by 31 May 2021 on sailings through untl 30 Apr 2023.

The Future Cruise Credit offer will be automatically applied unless customers opt for a refund before 31 May 2021.

Beverage, wi-fi and Fun Shop purchases will also be refunded.



OVER-THE-TOP EXPERIENCES AWAIT

Our award-winning Celebrity Eclipse is sailing from the iconic city of Sydney for the first time in 2021-2022. Now, your clients can soak up the scenery from the live grass of the Lawn Club. Dine in world-class restaurants, featuring menus crafted by our Michelinstarred chefs and the most awarded wine collection at sea. And lose themselves in accommodations so luxurious, they won't want to be found.





©2020 Celebrity Cruises Inc. Ships' registry: Malta and Ecuador.



The COVID-19 pandemic has the pay packets of the industry's top earners looking a little more lean than they do usually - read more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

trave**B**ulletin



Tuesday 10th November 2020

Tourism exporters need support: ATEC

IF AUSTRALIA is to enjoy a strong recovery in in-bound tourism following COVID then in-bound tour operators (ITO) will need further govt support beyond Mar, the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) claims.

"[These businesses] have had no income since Mar when international borders closed and they are unlikely to see any bookings until these borders reopen," ATEC said.

"In-bound tour operators continue to hold forward bookings for future int'l visitors and have lost millions of dollars in unpaid invoices following the sudden closure of borders."

The industry body is calling on the Federal Government to extend JobKeeper beyond Mar 2021, so they can retain valued staff during the downturn.

"Importantly, 75% of international visitor spending in regional Australia is facilitated by an ITO and they will be a vital part of the rebuilding of our international tourism success post-COVID," ATEC added.

Xmas Island tour

TRAVEL Directors has released a new 11-day Christmas & Cocos tours for Nov 2021.

Departing Perth on 16 Nov 2021, the itinerary is priced from \$5,100pp twin share, exploring the Christmas and Cocos Islands.



Inspired by Dark Mofo

INSPIRING Journeys is celebrating the opening of Tasmania's borders by releasing a new trip to the state to visit on its Dark Mofo long weekend.

Travelling to Hobart from 18 Jun, guests will enjoy the four-day immersive Dark Mofo (**pictured**) experience.

Travellers will find offbeat theatre productions alongside retrospectives of classic films and late openings of the Museum of Old & New Art (MONA).

Inspiring Journeys is currently offering a 10% early payment discount on 2021/2022 journeys, which is also combinable with the \$99 down payment offer when paid in full.

The trip was \$1,790pp but is now \$1,611 per person with early payment discounts for an adult twin booking, which includes

<section-header>

e info@traveldaily.com.au

10 experiences, five included meals and three nights premium accommodation overlooking the historic docks at the Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart.

For more details, **CLICK HERE**.

New Taiwan airline

NEW Taiwanese carrier Starlux Airlines is targeting flights to 15 North American cities.

Starlux President Glenn Chai said it has applied to Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration, and is aiming for routes to Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Guam, Honolulu, Houston, Miami, Los Angeles, Newark, New York City, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle, Washington DC and more.

The airline said the commencement of flights would depend on aircraft deliveries.

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THE idea seemed perfect, right from the planning stage through to the execution, but once again it was social media boasting that ultimately tripped up a group of Irishmen from getting away with a lockdown loophole drinking session.

With all of the pubs prohibited from opening during Level 5 restrictions in Ireland, a group of beer-swilling enthusiasts were quick to expose a gap in the law - airport bars are still open so long as you are catching a flight.

"When the pubs are closed and the only place serving is the airport, so you book a €9.99 flight (that you have no intention of getting on) to go for beers with the lads, down there for dancing," one of the perpetrators foolishly enthused on social media.

Not surprisingly, the post went viral and exposed their duplicitous scheme to use Dublin Airport as a makeshift boozer, and the foursome now face a possible criminal penalty.

"If, as is claimed, four individuals went through security with no intention to travel, but rather to avail of that food and beverage service, that would be a breach of airport by-laws," a Dublin Airport spokesperson confirmed.



Travel thrown for a loop



AN EXCITING new frontier in travel was put through its lightening fast paces in the Mojave Desert this week, with Virgin's impressive Hyperloop technology tested with humans aboard for the first time.

The two brave occupants (pictured) made their successful maiden voyage on Virgin's newlyunveiled XP-2 vehicle, designed by BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group and Kilo Design, a custom-built travel vessel created with safety and comfort at the forefront.

While the test vehicle could only transport two people, Virgin has already slated plans to manufacture capsules that can seat up to 28 people in each trip.

Human headline and Virgin founder Richard Branson hailed the test as an important milestone in changing the way humans travel forever.

"With today's successful test,



we have shown that this spirit of innovation will in fact change the way people everywhere live, work, and travel in the years to come," he said.

The technology works by creating a system of low pressure tubes where vehicles are propelled along at more than 160km/h in a close to frictionless environment.

In Jul of this year, the US Department of Transportation released a guidance document providing a regulatory framework for Hyperloop's operation in the United States, paving the way for its implementation.

See the full report HERE.



Register, learn and stand a chance to win amazing prizes including two economy class tickets to Kuala Lumpur and 3 nights accommodation at Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur in 2021!

Register Now!









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AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

OF TRAVEL AGENTS

AFTA CEO Darren Rudd is in Canberra again this week, for the fourth week in a row, to further progress discussions with Federal Government AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION supporting agencies with a

travel sector rescue package.

Darren has also had ongoing discussions with The Hon. Bill Shorten and will be meeting with a range of politically diverse parliamentarians when in Canberra.

As a placeholder, we have tentatively scheduled our monthly webinar for 11am on Wed 25 Nov to provide members with a detailed update.

An invite will be distributed to members in due course and AFTA's schedule of strategically planned electoral visits continue.

Last week Darren Rudd met with Senator Hollie Hughes and on Tue, the AFTA team had a constructive meeting with 25 AFTA/ATAS members in the Gosford region with Lucy Wicks MP, Federal Member for Robertson, at the Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club.

And later this month AFTA, together with its members, has a further two meetings organised with Cabinet Ministers in the Morrison Government. These meetings will take place with The Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Member for Farrer and The Hon. Paul Fletcher, Member for Bradfield.

This detailed engagement at an electorate level, between travel agents and their Federal parliamentary representatives is ongoing as we navigate the changes in the travel landscape and the policy adjustments required.

In fact, these meetings continue to prove to be a valuable tool to

connect, engage and educate key decision makers within Government. Through the tremendous and collaborative efforts of AFTA members through the National Mobilisation

Program, together with the grass-roots electoral visits, we have connected with 76% of members within Cabinet – those members of Parliament who are responsible for directing government policy and making decisions about national issues.

Therefore, it is important both now, and for the future of our sector, that we continue to connect with Parliamentarians (Federal and State) so that they understand the critical role that travel agents play in the travel supply chain. AFTA is committed, following the rescue phase, to continue our energetic drive in pursuit of our strategy to navigate the reform, rebuild and restore phases of the travel and tourism sector.

In other good news, Tourism Australia has confirmed a campaign which includes regional print media and radio live reads whereby travel agents are the call to action. We would like to thank Tourism Australia for recognising the professionalism and expertise that travel agents bring to the consumer travel booking process as they plan their holiday here this year.

Additionally, AFTA continues to work with the various state tourism organisations, each one developing a range of tools and resources to support travel agents selling domestic holidays.

More information on how to access the trade resources can be found on the AFTA website - for details CLICK HERE.

malaysia🔊



Whose flag is this?



THIS country used to be combined with two others in its representation which had a white background with a red inverted Y and three gold crowns.

The country also had a coat of

arms with a lion, but no flag of its

own until 1959.

crescent and stars which is usually associated with Islam but that isn't the case in this instance. The five stars represent democracy, peace, justice, progress and equality. Do you know whose flag this is?

The current flag includes a

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.



Good – 21 words Very good – 31 words Excellent – 41 words

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

ANSWERS 09 NOV

Where in the world: Mount Panorama, Bathurst, Australia

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



Catch up on the news of the week

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN

Pub quiz

- 1. Melbourne's Flinders Street railway station is located at the intersection of Flinders Street and which other major artery?
- 2. When was petroleum first discovered in Saudi Arabia?
 - a) In the 1910s
 - b) In the 1920s
 - c) In the 1930s
- 3. Port Macquarie is located at the mouth of which river?
- 4. AYQ would be printed on your baggage tags if you were headed to which airport?
- Approximately how many islands are in the Whitsundays?
 a) More than 70
 - b) More than 80
 - c) More than 90
- 6. What is the current flagship of Cunard Line?
- 7. Which airline is also known locally as Zennikku?
- 8. Are there more indigenous Fijians or Indo-Fijians in Fiji?
- 9. The 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo were postponed by 12 months, and will now occur how many years after the city last hosted the games?
- 10. The Empire State Building is built in what architectural style?

Wed is Sundae Day



AS WELL as being Remembrance Day, this Wed 11 Nov is Sundae Day.

Although we think it's a missed opportunity not to celebrate Sundae Day on a Sun, we'll still be partaking in this treat.

It's unclear when the celebration of this day arose, which is in keeping with the questions over the sundae's origins, with Wisconsin druggist Edward Berners claiming to serve the first sundae in 1881, while Platt & Colt Pharmacy Ithaca, New York is said to have served the first sundae in 1892, with the dessert appearing on an ad for the store as well.

Wherever it started, we're glad that we get an excuse to indulge our sweet tooth.



Perth Zoo educates

TO CELEBRATE National Aborigines and Islanders Day

Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week, Perth Zoo has introduced a new children's education program marking the changing Noongar seasons.

Developed in conjunction with the owner of Djurandi Dreaming and Perth Justin Martin and Perth Zoo educators, the program aims to educate kids about the six Noongar seasons and the animals who reside in the south-west region of Western Australia.

The new program is called Gwabba Boodja, meaning beautiful bushland, with schools able to book a lesson for their students through the Perth Zoo website - accessible **HERE**.

Travel Daily

(15)

1×

NEWS ON THE FLY

Episode 4: Virgin Australia admini

(30)

Fravel Daily - News on the Fly

Village hits hurdle

BGH Capital's proposed takeover of theme park operator Village Roadshow has come under fire from two of Village's independent shareholders, with both equity firms criticising the deal's low sale price.

The proposed acquisition would see the company bought for \$2.20 a share with an additional 25¢ per share dependent on the reopening of its theme parks, however both Spheria Asset Management and Mittleman Brothers have rejected the price tag, suggesting the value of the business is north of \$3 per share.

Since 2014, Village Roadshow's market value has fallen from \$1.2 billion to \$447 million - a drop exacerbated by the health crisis.

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It's sheered genius!



NEVER say travel agents aren't the most resourceful bunch out there, because time and time again *Travel Daily* is furnished with compelling evidence of their collective ingenuity.

Take MTA's Mobile Travel Agent Darren Leckie for example (**pictured**), he would normally be attending the Whittlesea Show, one of Victoria's biggest agricultural exhibitions, but seeing the event was cancelled this year due to COVID, Leckie decided to put on a little show of his own, promoting his travel

Zurich circles project

ZURICH Airport has opened its new district called The Circle, an expansion project nearly five years in the making.

The new area boasts two Hyatt hotels offering a combined 555 rooms, a 5,000m² convention centre, health and wellness facilities and a range of high-end shops and restaurants.

Switzerland Tourism has already flagged plans to welcome travel agents from across the globe to explore the new space when travel restrictions are finally eased - **CLICK HERE** for details. business to people of all 'sheeps' and sizes.

Leckie can confirm, on the back of his proactive display, he now has many people 'flocking' to book their next holiday.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.727

NEWS of a successful COVID-19 vaccine trial (see **page one**) has led to two-month highs for the AUD/USD, jumping more than 5% this week.

The Dow Jones also rose by 5.7% before settling with a 3% gain yesterday, sending safer currencies like the Japanese Yen and the Swiss France tumbling in value.

Wholesale rates this morning.						
US	\$0.727					
UK	£0.552					
NZ	\$1.067					
Euro	€0.615					
Japan	¥76.63					
Thailand	ß22.25					
China	¥4.823					
South Africa	11.209					
Canada	\$0.946					
Crude oil	US\$39.45					

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