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Eat & drink in NZ

TOURISM New Zealand is today showcasing the country's reputation for "extraordinarily fresh food and wine that's original and world class".

With a Tasman bubble in the offing (**TD** yesterday) see the possibilities on the **cover page**.

TA adds more star power

TOURISM Australia (TA) has enlisted comedy, media and skincare power couple Hamish and Zoe Foster-Blake to inspire Aussie travellers to book their next domestic holiday.

The pair appear in the latest iteration of TA's Holiday Here This Year campaign, aiming to further drive domestic demand ahead of the peak summer travel season.

The new campaign was flagged last week by TA Managing Director Phillipa Harrison (**TD** 07 Oct), who said "it is crucial that we continue to remind people of all the incredible destinations and tourism experiences that are right on their doorstep".

"Our goal is to try and get Australians travelling differently by using the Holiday Here This Year campaign platform to urge them to start ticking off their holiday bucket list or heading interstate for a trip of a lifetime, and in turn providing a much needed boost especially to those areas most affected by the bushfires and COVID-19," she said.

Federal Tourism Minister Simon Birmingham said the campaign was about getting more Australians onto planes and spending in cities and tourism regions of the country.

"Tourism employs one in 13 Australians and is the backbone of so many businesses across Australia, but the industry has been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis," he said.

"We are urging Australians

to support our airlines and airports, tour operators, hire car companies and accommodation providers, while also giving people the chance to enjoy some of the incredible experiences our country has to offer".

Birmingham said it was vital to boost domestic travel, confirming that international borders were "expected to remain closed for the foreseeable future".

The new campaign will roll out across print, social media, radio, search and outdoor advertising, and will be supported by a domestic media hosting program, and amplified via industry and content partnerships.

Activity will be executed in phases across the states to reflect local travel restrictions.

A new TVC featuring Hamish and Zoe went live on social media this morning - view it at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

QF hub update

QANTAS has reduced the number of "learning bites" on its Learning Hub for travel agents, saying the move has been implemented to "align our content with changed market conditions" and the current QF product and network offering.

In early 2021, the QF Learning Hub will also migrate to a new platform, smaller than at present, with all registrations and learning status to be reset to reflect the site's new content.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today is packed with eight pages of news and opinion, including our daily PUZZLE page, plus a cover page from **Tourism New Zealand** and a product profile from **Tourism Malaysia**.

evergreen

Canada & Alaska 2021

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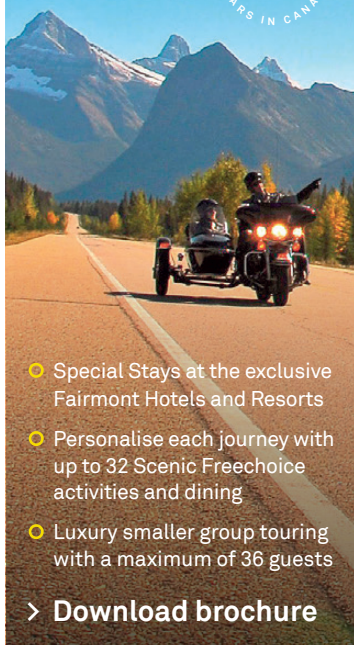
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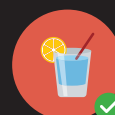
PORT CHARGES



TAXES & FEES



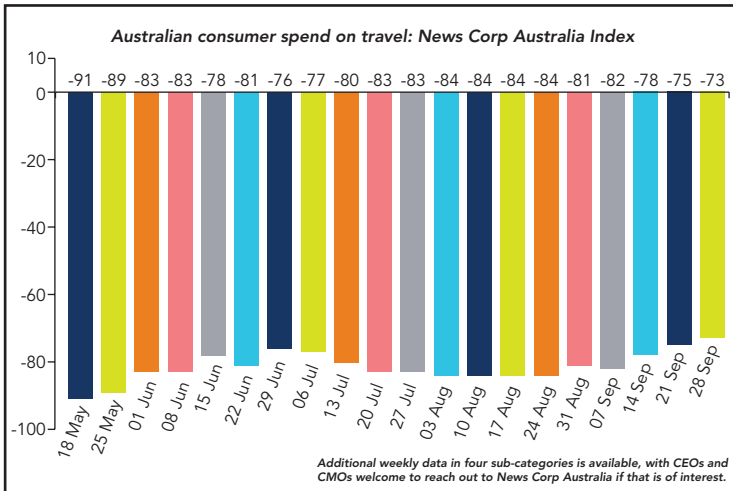
PRE- & POST-CRUISE EXTENSIONS



DRINKS PACKAGES*

*If booked prior to departures

Pent-up demand warning



EXCLUSIVE

TOURISM dollars earmarked for domestic holidays could be redirected to international bookings if travel bubbles or fully flexible overseas packages become available before Qld and Vic re-open to NSW tourists, according to an analysis of the latest consumer travel spending figures from News Corp Australia.

This week's results continue to show a slow but steady recovery in confidence, with the company's MD Food & Travel Fiona Nilsson saying there is clearly "plenty of pent-up travel demand".

She said the results for the week of 28 Sep (pictured) reflected the rapid sell-out of the Qantas "trip to nowhere", as well as a number of overseas packages offering total flexibility with dates and cancellation which are clearly proving attractive to consumers.

The data is an index of

Botanica Lord Howe

APT Travel Group's Botanica World Discoveries has added a new Lord Howe Island tour to its burgeoning domestic portfolio.

The eight-day small group tour departs Sydney on 08 Apr 2021 and includes return flights, all meals, sightseeing and accom.

It will be hosted by local expert and botanical guide, Dr Ian Hutton OAM who has lived on the island for over 40 years.

consumer spend with major brands across accommodation, air, cruise, OTAs, travel agents and tour companies, with Nilsson saying it was a "good week overall," but patchy in some areas.

Travel intent for residents in NSW during Sep focused on intrastate travel as well as Canada and the USA, Nilsson added.

Amex GBT acquires

AMERICAN Express Global Business Travel this morning announced the acquisition of 30SecondsToFly, a technology start-up specialising in artificial intelligence and messaging for business travel.

The company said the deal would enable it to enhance the travel experience for travellers, by "increasing the number of service options available to them throughout the trip lifecycle".

In addition to live chat via the Amex GBT mobile app and Apple Business Chat, travellers will be able to initiate automatic servicing requests from their favourite messaging service.

"We believe that intelligent chat is the new standard for corporate travel service," said 30SecondsToFly Chief Executive Officer Riccardo Vittoria, adding "we are very proud to help drive this at scale for GBT and thrilled to be joining the global leader in business travel".



New GM for Helloworld in NZ

THE pending departure of Helloworld Executive GM for New Zealand, Simon McKearney (**TD** 26 Jun) has seen the company appoint Chris Hunter as its new GM for NZ (**TD** breaking news).

Hunter takes the role following a recent restructure which has seen the departure of a number of senior leaders (**TD** 24 Aug).

"The role has been revised with the intent of ensuring HLO continues to meet the needs of its stakeholders in New Zealand

and takes advantage of the group's wider synergies.

"Chris will be focusing on the revamping of both our retail and corporate offers by further leveraging systems and processes already successfully adopted by the Group," said Helloworld Travel CEO Andrew Burnes.

"New Zealand is a key market for Helloworld and one that we see as key for the resumption of our business in a post-COVID world," he added.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH PACIFIC (BASED IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA)

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) is a government-subsidised body tasked to market and promote Hong Kong as a travel destination worldwide and to enhance a visitor's experience once they arrive. Our reputation as one of the world's best Government Tourist Offices is built on our staff's dedication and professionalism. The HKTb is looking for a Regional Director for its Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific operations, based in Sydney.

The successful applicant will act as the key representative of the HKTb in the region to reinforce the tourism brand of Hong Kong and drive continuous growth of visitor arrivals. Key responsibilities include devising the overall strategy; supervising implementation of marketing and trade initiatives and programmes which align with the strategic direction from the Hong Kong Head Office (HO) to achieve set business objectives and KPIs; identifying business opportunities, aggressively driving for win-win partnerships with stakeholders; keeping abreast of the latest market development and providing feedback about business environment to senior management in HO for strategic planning and building a high performance winning team.

We are seeking a high performance leader, an all-rounded professional with solid experience in integrated marketing, business development, sales/ project/ stakeholder and budget management. Strong commercial understanding, ability in reading market trends as well as excellent communication, interpersonal, influencing and people management skills are expected. Candidates must be a degree holder with minimum 15 years of relevant experience, of which at least 5 years are in senior management, preferably from the tourism industry in the region.

Given the nature of this role, the successful applicant will be required to travel and spend time overseas. Remuneration package is attractive and negotiable based on experience.



Applications should be sent to: recruitment@hktb.com



AFTA makes News pact

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has hailed the success of a new collaboration with News Corp Australia, which sets out to illustrate the plight of agents in the mainstream media.

“The News Corp support brings those conversations out into the open, making it very real and further ramping up awareness,” said AFTA CEO Darren Rudd, with the initiative aiming to “tell the devastating reality of being at the frontline of travel” in as many of the 120 News Corp local mastheads as possible.

Multiple stories have so far appeared in local papers in Hornsby and the Central Coast in NSW as well as in South Australia.

AFTA noted that many of the online newspapers require subscriptions, suggesting to “pop into your local newsagency to grab a copy of the article”.

MEANWHILE, AFTA has confirmed the number of MPs successfully lobbied by travel agents has reached 42, part of its National Mobilisation Campaign.

“Having members meet with their local Federal Reps and lay bare the reality of homes being on the line...makes those conversations even more real,” Rudd said.

Learn about Canada

TRAVELMARVEL is hosting a Canada-inspired Facebook Live event tomorrow at 1pm AEDT.

The North American country was the overwhelming request from Travelmarvel guests when surveyed on their topic of choice for the next event.

Canada’s natural wonders will be on show, with the event to be hosted by Travelmarvel’s Camille Moore and Natalie Wuthrich - [CLICK HERE](#) to join.

Viking Mekong deal

VIKING’S 15-day Magnificent Mekong itinerary, travelling from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi or vice versa, is now on sale, priced from \$7,695pp, including savings of up to \$1,000 per couple when booked before 30 Nov.

Call Viking on 138 747 for info.

Eccles falls on sword

VICTORIA’S Department of Premier & Cabinet Secretary Chris Eccles has resigned amid the hotel quarantine inquiry.

Eccles stepped down following revelations he was the person who called the state police’s former Commissioner Graham Ashton during a crucial timeline as private security was being engaged for the program.

Premier Daniel Andrews said he was “shocked” to discover Eccles was the individual who had made the call, and acknowledged the Secretary’s decades of public service.

QF revamps domestic fares

QANTAS has updated its domestic fare structure to “better reflect changed market conditions,” as the carrier delivers on its three year recovery plan.

The changes, which become effective for all ticket issues and reissues made on or after 12.01am AEDT on 04 Nov 2020, will see M class fares move from the Flex fare family to the Qantas Red e-Deal fare family.

At the same time K class will form the new lead-in Flex class and the remaining fare classes will be mapped to fare families as they are today.

There are no changes to fare conditions within each fare family, the carrier noted.

The changes mean Red e-Deal conditions now apply to classes M, L, V, S, N Q, O and E.

Flex fare classes will comprise Y, B, H and K, while Business fares will be in J, C, D & I classes.

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CYC Travel placed into administration

SYDNEY-BASED travel agency CYC Travel Services Pty Ltd yesterday had Daniel O'Brien from DV Recovery Management appointed as administrator.

The agency's website is still live, indicating offices in Haymarket, Eastwood, Hurstville and Chatswood, but all phone numbers appear to be disconnected.

The first Creditor's Meeting is scheduled to occur on 22 Oct at 11.30am (AEDT) in Sydney's CBD.

The company's directors are Anne Ho, Shao Ping Wu and Hon Biu Yuen, all based in Sydney's southern suburbs.

BA CEO steps down

BRITISH Airways has announced that its CEO Alex Cruz will step down from the role effective immediately and be replaced by Sean Doyle.

Doyle was previously the Chief Executive of Aer Lingus, a role he had held since Jan 2019, with no replacement yet named.

P&O UK's new ship

THE UK's P&O Cruises officially welcomed its new ship *Iona* to its fleet last week, the largest cruise ship ever built for the UK market.

The official handover ceremony took place at the Meyer Werft shipyard, with *Iona* being the first British cruise ship to be powered by liquefied natural gas.

TW makes SA trade push

TOURISM Whitsundays (TW) has launched a travel trade campaign in South Australia, having only just yesterday launched a consumer-focused Wonders of the Whitsundays campaign (**TD** yesterday).

The South Australia push is being conducted with Phil Hoffmann Travel, with 11 different Whitsundays companies offering deals bookable with the travel agency.

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer Tash Wheeler said it was exciting to see the region break into the South Australian market.

"As a destination, the Whitsundays traditionally focuses its marketing spend in South East Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria as well as internationally, however right now, with international borders

closed, there is no better time for South Australians to experience the wonders of the Whitsundays," she said.

"Phil Hoffmann is one of the most respected and trusted travel brands in South Australia and we are thrilled to be working with them on this campaign."

The travel agency's Head of Marketing Bianca Hoffmann said they were delighted to partner with Tourism Whitsundays, as the tropical destination shows strong potential to become an increasingly popular place to travel for South Australians, especially during the winter.

Splendor pauses

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has cancelled five *Carnival Splendor* voyages from Sydney scheduled for Jan and Feb.

The cruise line announced the move overnight, amid wider cancellations in Miami and Port Canaveral from next month.

Australian guests and travel agents are being notified, and will be offered a combination future cruise credit and onboard credit, or a full refund, in line with that being offered to guests who were cruising from Florida.

Carnival said it continues to work on "protocols and procedures that would allow for the resumption of cruise operations with a gradual, phased-in approach".

Tas/NSW border call due on 19 Oct

TASMANIA will decide on whether or not it will open its borders to New South Wales travellers this Mon.

Tassie was the first state to close its borders during the COVID-19 pandemic, and is set to open to travellers from all states except NSW and Victoria from 26 Oct.

Tasmanian Premier Peter Gutwein said the situation in NSW was being "monitored".



Window Seat

WE ALL love to take home souvenirs to remember our travels, but that didn't work out too well for a Canadian woman who visited the ancient city of Pompeii in Italy 15 years ago.

The unnamed female, only identified as Nicole, has posted a package containing two ceramic tiles to a travel agent located near the volcanic ruins, along with a letter confessing to illegally removing the artefacts when she visited the World Heritage site in 2005, aged 21.

Since then she has suffered significant misfortune, including financial hardship and two diagnoses of breast cancer.

"I wanted to have a piece of history that nobody else could have," she wrote, but then found the stolen items had "so much negative energy linked to that land of destruction".

"Please, take them back, they bring bad luck," she wrote.

"I don't want to pass this curse onto my family or children," she wrote, according to several media reports in Italy.

Authorities in Pompeii have battled thefts for years, and have even established a museum to display artefacts that have been returned by tourists who were later overwhelmed with guilt.

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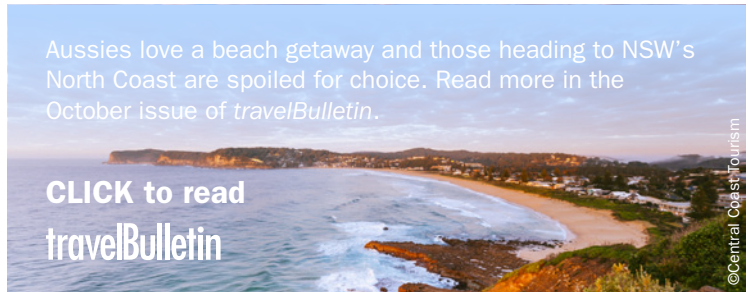
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We need action not just words...

OPINION

Danny Englman is
Director of Leisure
Sales at Melbourne
travel agency FBI
Travel.



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

IN AUSTRALIA we are facing one of the largest humanitarian crises that we have ever seen in this country.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) recently said at least 28,000 Australian nationals are stranded overseas.

The truth is that this figure is just the tip of the iceberg, as it is only the people that they actually know about.

It does not include countless others who have not registered with DFAT and it definitely does not take into account the thousands of people who desperately need to leave Australia for the most urgent of reasons - caring for sick relatives, saying goodbye to dying loved ones, dealing with child custody issues - but cannot risk travelling as they will not be able to return in the foreseeable future.

Yes, I know these people are not starving in refugee camps, but nevertheless their needs are very pressing, and we should be putting in place a framework to assist them.

The greatest travesty of this crisis is that it is totally avoidable, even in this current COVID era, with very minimal risk.

There is no doubt that our current hotel quarantine system needs to be overhauled to make

for a more streamlined approach.

We hear the Prime Minister talking of various different options for this, but even with the system operating under the current form we can solve this issue almost immediately!

The sad reality is that NSW is the only state that is really doing anything truly tangible for this country in this regard.

I am embarrassed to say that my own state of Victoria is not accepting a single person and other states, Qld, WA & SA, are taking token amounts of people so they can claim politically to the public to be doing something.

The result of this is a huge backlog that is growing worse by the day.

To make matters even worse, the airlines that currently do operate some of the routes are pulling out because they view them as no longer commercially viable - such as Etihad, which suspended its Brisbane flights just last week.

This is just adding to the backlog because now those passengers who did have confirmed seats now have had them cancelled as well, and they too must join the waitlist.

The time has come that we stand together as a country to fix this. We are all Australians, not just parochial residents of each state. We know we can achieve this and owe it to our fellow countrymen to do what is

necessary to get them home.

We know this is true, but for some reason our leaders do not. What truly amazes me is that these state leaders do not realise that it is their own state residents that are stranded!

We are a country built on "mateship" and looking out for each other. This is not just jingoist flag waving talk; this is the reality of our shared history. We are a nation of immigrants who came here for a better life and

“
The result of
this is a huge
backlog that is
growing worse
by the day
”

therefore cared about the country we were part of. In both peacetime and war, we have always prevailed because of our commitment to each other.

We created the legends of the ANZACS, of Kokoda and of Long Tan. We were there

helping out in Aceh, East Timor and Bali when needed. We all have etched in our minds the images of the long convoys of CFA, CFS, RFS vehicles carrying volunteers across state borders to assist each other every single bushfire season.

The current situation is so much easier than all other humanitarian missions, because no one is actually asking for any handouts - they are pretty much all willing to pay their own way, and all they need is the framework to make this happen.

We can definitely do this!

We are currently accepting around 6,000 people a week

into the country. If we work out a proper system correctly with a unified national approach, but administered locally, we could achieve an ambitious target in the vicinity of 15,000 a week.

The benefits of doing this right will mean that even under this current COVID environment our people can travel safely to and from Australia if they need to for any urgent reason, whilst at the same time the rest of the country remains safe. The secondary benefit of this is a huge injection of capital into the travel and hospitality industry, without any government assistance.

- Travel agents will once again be able to book some international travel and repatriate citizens.
- Hotels/resorts in or around major cities will have the opportunity to once again make some revenue from returning passengers.
- Private MICE companies could be brought in with their expertise to assist governments with logistics. (Obviously police/ADF & health officials need to oversee safety and security).
- Countless other industries like catering, transport, cleaning, etc would be stood up once again.

We have the capacity, we have the know-how, we have the expertise and most importantly we have the will to help each other out.

All we need from our political leaders is to assist to put together a framework to make it happen.

So, the message to our national and state leaders is - we are ready to make this a reality - let's do this!





Travel sentiment strong

REDBALLOON CEO David Anderson believes consumer sentiment toward the travel industry has not changed, citing his company's quick bounceback from a brief pandemic-related downturn (**TD** yesterday).

Speaking to *Travel Daily*, Anderson said RedBalloon had been able to normalise its own demand against available data, which has revealed important details about traveller intentions.

"Consumer sentiment hasn't changed," Anderson insisted.

"Yes, they're restrained by the government and there are restrictions to mobility, but we've seen a high correlation between demand relative recreation and retail mobility within the states.

"What we've seen over time

is demand starting to outstrip mobility...the experience economy is still a viable and growing economy...if not actioned upon today the appetite to do so is integrated."

Anderson said the lack of projected overseas travel in 2021 created a "captive market" for potential customers, with current interstate travel restrictions playing into its brand.

"Beyond that we're also seeing ourselves go through a glass ceiling in terms of e-commerce adoption and mobile traffic rates, which have never been higher.

"We're now seeing an older generation buying online for the first time so we're seeing new audiences come to us as well.

"While metro consumer rates remain relatively low there is a demand to get out into the country.

"If someone goes to do a hot air balloon ride in the Hunter, they stay overnight, they have dinner, we estimate there to be a 10-times multiplier compared to what they spend on the hot air balloon ride," Anderson said.

MH in trouble?

MALAYSIA Airlines has conceded it may have to shut down if a proposed restructuring scheme fails to go ahead.

The cash-strapped airline's plan has been opposed by aircraft lessors, but Malaysia Aviation Group Chief Executive Officer Izham Ismail said it will have "no choice" but to close if the proposal is rejected.

"There are creditors who have agreed already, there are others still resisting, and another group still fifty-fifty," he explained.

Izham said the restructuring plan aims to bring Malaysia Airlines to break-even levels by 2023, based on the expectation that domestic and South East Asian markets return to pre-pandemic levels by mid-2022.

WE WOULD like to assure members that the door is still open and we are discussing financial support for travel agents, travel wholesalers and tour operators as negotiations with the Federal Government continue.

Last Wed, the day after the budget announcement, AFTA CEO Darren Rudd met with representatives of the Prime Minister's office to continue discussions on sector specific support.

The government has asked that we provide additional data to demonstrate the rationale behind the modelling in our pre-budget submission. This constructive and open dialogue continues with a further series of meetings this week.

Additionally, the outstanding effort from members as part of the National Mobilisation Program has assisted the process greatly. The number of known meetings with Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet Ministers, along with House



afta

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS

of Representative members and Senators is 42.

Last week at the Joint Coalition Party Room, four Members of Parliament raised the need for targeted support for travel agents and requested

that the expenditure review committee consider this urgently.

At the same time, AFTA has successfully partnered with News Corp, to tell the devastating reality of being at the frontline of travel in as many of its 120 local mastheads.

This is in addition to AFTA's ongoing media campaign.

Multiple stories have already appeared as part of a wider sector support initiative and AFTA will be circulating these stories with members.

We need to keep maintaining the momentum in our efforts to rebuild and re-establish the travel sector. We will provide regular updates during the course of this and next week, including timelines once they have been finalised.

Oakwood selects

OAKWOOD Serviced Apartments & Hotels has appointed About Partners-Luxury Brands Collection (APLBC) as its global sales solutions partner.

Starting immediately, APLBC will be charged with expanding Oakwood's presence in Asia, Europe and the United States.

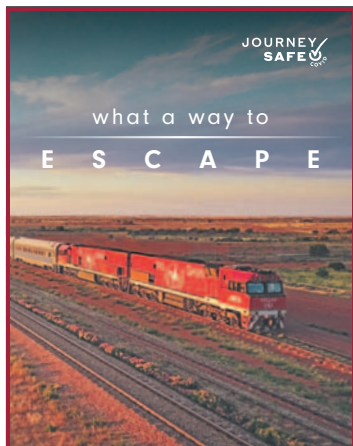
"We see this partnership as a tremendous opportunity for us to demonstrate our capabilities as we leverage APLBC's extensive global network of partners," said the Collection's founder and Chief Executive Officer Linda Bekoe.

Flying through hols

AIR New Zealand will operate a direct A320 jet service between Auckland and Invercargill over Christmas and New Year.

From 21 Dec to 10 Jan, there will be 10 additional return services, with Air New Zealand Head of Tourism & Regional Affairs Reuben Levermore hailing the news as fantastic for the Invercargill region.

He said the airline had been encouraged by the strong appetite from Kiwis to travel recently, with the flights also welcomed by Invercargill Airport.



JOURNEY SAFE

what a way to

E S C A P E

THE GHAN

DARWIN - ADELAIDE


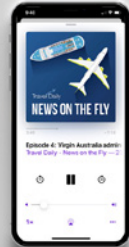
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JOURNEY BEYOND

Catch up on the news of the week

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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.

J	I	E
D	C	D
A	N	U

Good – 13 words
Very good – 19 words
Excellent – 25 words

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

Dessert Day



ALTHOUGH the origin of this day is unclear, we're still happy to celebrate Dessert Day, held on 14 Oct every year.

Don't feel the need to restrict your celebrations to consuming any one kind of sweet treat - on dessert day any kind of pastry, cake, chocolate, donut or similar can be eaten to mark the day.

Desserts have only been around

as a concept since the 1600s, where the idea of serving a meal in courses began, and it didn't become popular for a long time, restricted only to the wealthy due to the difficulty of sourcing sweeteners.

Today, sugar in all different forms is abundant so feel free to use Dessert Day as an excuse to indulge the taste buds.

ANSWERS 12 OCT

Where in the world: Royal Crescent, Bath, UK

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

Pub quiz

- In addition to the five recognised nuclear weapon states, which three other states claim to possess such arms?
- Frank Bainimarama seized power of which country following a 2006 coup?
- Which airline's callsign is "red cap"?
- Yangon, also known as Rangoon, is the former capital of which country?
- Which cruise line was founded in 1840 as the British & North America Royal Mail Steam-Packet Company?
- American television series *The Love Boat* made famous which cruise line?
- Which airline is older: All Nippon Airways or Japan Airlines?
- What is the name of the only casino in Cairns?
- What is the name of the former Prime Minister of Thailand who is now living in self-exile, having been found guilty of corruption?
- Newcastle in the UK, is located on the northern bank of which river?

Whose flag is this?



UP UNTIL 1959 the flag of France was flown in this country, despite it becoming an autonomous republic in 1958, and independent in 1960.

The flag doesn't include the standard pan-African colours like many of its neighbouring countries' flags do.

The orange represents the

desert, which covers a large portion of the country, while the green is a symbol of agriculture and hope.

Because of the similarity in colours to the flags of some other countries, the sun in the centre was added.

Do you know whose flag this is? Check tomorrow for the answer.



WITH the downturn in tourism brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Arcadia Travel in Noosa has responded by transforming its agency into a hybrid travel agency/art gallery/bike hire shop (pictured).

Owner Ralph Jackson posted the photo on LinkedIn this week, along with the question to his followers about whether or not the travel agency should also add a chess academy to its list of new services - check mate health crisis!

AirAsia fleet shrink

AIRASIA is set to shrink its fleet size by 25%, the airline said in a statement this week.

The move will be carried out by returning planes to lessors, with the airline stating it has no plans to buy new planes "for a number of years".

AirAsia has already deferred deliveries on existing Airbus orders, with the group currently leasing 245 planes.

"We are going to return as many as we can...I estimate by the end of next year we'll be flying 180 planes," Group Chief Executive Tony Fernandes said.

AirAsia last week announced a rebrand to transform it into a "lifestyle platform" (**TD** 09 Oct).

Airbnb cleans house

AIRBNB has introduced a raft of enhanced health and safety measures for users of its services in response to the ongoing threat posed by COVID-19.

Hosts and guests must agree to follow Airbnb's updated COVID-19 Safety Practices, which include both guests and hosts wearing a mask and enacting safe social distancing when meeting.

Changes have also seen the release of a new five-step cleaning guide for hosts, such as collecting and washing dirty sheets as soon as possible, ventilating accommodation while cleaning, wearing protective equipment, as well as using a prescribed list of chemicals.

Events go digital

VICTORIA'S multicultural and art festivals have gone digital to ensure attendees are entertained in a COVID-safe way.

Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence yesterday announced more than \$800,000 to help enable 148 community organisations across Victoria deliver their multicultural festivals and events in a vibrant digital format.

The funding is designed to encourage the community groups and organisations to get creative, build their long-term digital capacity and move their events online.

Some of the first participating events include the Tet Lunar New Year Festival, Wyndham Diwali, the SalamFest Digital Edition and the African Music & Cultural Virtual Festival, which are expected to attract in the realm of 10,000 people each.

Spence added the Government was committing to supporting multicultural and multi-faith communities into the future.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.720

THE Australian dollar rallied well at the end of last week against the greenback, reaching a three-week high.

Driving the gains was global sentiment of a Democratic clean sweep in next month's US presidential election, where it is speculated the United States will enjoy the fruits of a broader stimulus program.

The Aussie was also higher against the Euro and the Yen.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.720
UK	£0.551
NZ	\$1.084
Euro	€0.610
Japan	¥75.93
Thailand	฿24.46
China	¥4.86
South Africa	11.899
Canada	\$0.945
Crude oil	US\$42.85

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Travel Daily
www.traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

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Experience the best of Malaysian hospitality with Malaysia Airlines

Malaysia Airlines (MH), the national carrier of Malaysia, is the only full-service carrier providing non-stop direct flights from Australia and New Zealand to the Malaysia's capital city, Kuala Lumpur.

Beyond Kuala Lumpur, the carrier connects to 16 destinations across peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah operated in conjunction with full service regional turboprop subsidiary – MASWings & Firefly. Inspired by Malaysia's diverse richness, no other Malaysian carrier offers a comparable travel experience when travelling to, from and within Malaysia capturing its rich traditions, culture and cuisines and warm hospitality on board.

As a member of oneworld®,

Malaysia Airlines and its partners in the global alliance offer a seamless travel experience to more than 1,000 destinations across the world.

The "Malaysian Hospitality Begins with Us" brand campaign was launched globally in 2018. This campaign aims to give all Malaysia Airlines customers "a unique end to end experience with warm, genuine, and efficient service from the heart". It is about making all passengers feel like they are home capturing the essence of the country – warm and inviting. The airline code MH even stands for Malaysian Hospitality.

Staying true to the airline's brand promise of Malaysian Hospitality, Fly Malaysia Campaign was launched last year reiterating Malaysia Airlines as the national icon and reminding Malaysians of its proud history and warm

hospitality. In partnership with Tourism Malaysia, this campaign heavily promotes Malaysia as the preferred holiday destinations to tourists from all around the world including Australia & New Zealand. The campaign aims to elevate travel into a truly Malaysian experience from the moment a passenger comes onboard.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pre Covid-19, Malaysia Airlines operated 61 weekly services from Australia & New Zealand to its hub in KL International Airport (KLIA), Kuala Lumpur.

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