

TD Awards finalists

TODAY we can reveal the hotly anticipated list of finalists in the travel agent categories of the **2020 Travel Daily Awards**.

The agent finalists listed on the **back page** of today's **TD** have been selected from nominations by industry suppliers, with the overall winners to be chosen by our panel of eminent judges.

Voting continues in the supplier categories, with submissions open until next Mon 14 Sep.

[Click here to vote](#)

Air NZ grounds 777

AIR New Zealand says it will ground its Boeing 777 long-haul fleet until at least Sep 2021 due to the impact of COVID-19.

Three 777-300s will remain in Auckland where they are able to return to the skies if needed, while NZ's 777-200s & four other 300s will be put into desert long-term storage in the USA.

We need an armistice

AFTA CEO Darren Rudd has implored agents to drop arms and accept this week's decision to appoint Webjet CCO Shelley Beasley to the Federation's board, calling on the sector to present a united front in the lead up to the Oct Federal budget for the sake of the survival of the industry.

Speaking with **TD** Publisher Bruce Piper during part two of a wide-ranging chat hosted by The Travel Industry Hub, Rudd said it was crucial that all parts of the industry work together to get the best outcome from government.

"Today, I have to declare an armistice, we have to draw a line in the sand now and we all have to get on one side to approach government for the very existence of the sector," he said.

"I know there's a lot of raw emotion attached to this issue but unless we fill in those trenches and we get on the same side, this sector will not survive in

the form that it is," Rudd added.

He also revealed the industry body would be opening the door to its AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS) to non-members for the first time, including wholesalers and operators, to ensure the success of its proposed budget submission.

"It requires us to represent the entire sector," Rudd said.

AFTA's chief emphasised that the main focus over the coming weeks would be a strong grassroots push, calling on everyone in travel to approach their Federal MPs to organise a meeting to press the industry's case, and promising that he and AFTA Board members are also happy to join in.

"We cannot leave anything on the football field, we have to give this everything," he implored.

"The only battle we have to face is to get funding...and to survive." More from the chat on **page 4**.

Bonner departs

CELEBRITY Cruises has a new regional chief, with the appointment of Tim Jones as its new Managing Director for Australia, NZ and Asia.

Jones will take the place of Susan Bonner, who is leaving the company after 12 years with the Royal Caribbean Group.

Bonner became Celebrity's local MD in Jan this year, but is now returning to her family in the USA to pursue other opportunities.

Jones joins Celebrity from National Geographic Partners, with his career also including a decade with Tourism Australia - more from Celebrity in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Additional industry appointments on **page six**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page and a full page of **TD Awards Finalists**.

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Subsequent years cost US\$100; for more info [CLICK HERE](#).

WA Minister ignores agents

TRAVEL industry fury at Western Australian Tourism and Small Business Minister Paul Papalia has been stoked with the launch of a Tourism WA “staycation in Perth” campaign with a call to action urging bookings via US-based Expedia rather than local travel agents.

Papalia yesterday announced the partnership with Expedia offshoot Wotif.com as part of a \$500,000 campaign promising locals 15% off Perth hotel rooms booked with the US giant.

The confusing message has also seen the Minister suggest that the best deals are accessible by calling hotels directly, with Christine Ross-Davies from Attadale Travel taking him to task on Perth’s 6PR radio yesterday.

Ross-Davies highlighted the last “seven months of continually getting kicked in the guts” while agents continue to work to repatriate refunds and pivot to

domestic bookings in support of the WA tourism sector.

Despite this, Papalia’s Wotif deal bypasses the industry and instead sends all the profits offshore.

“We’d love a shout-out from Government to support us, for the support we are showing WA tourism,” Ross-Davies said.

Gofundme for Ashleigh Conwell

THE travel industry is reeling at the tragic sudden death last week of Matt Conwell, husband of currently stood-down Flight Centre brand Marketing Implementation Manager Ashleigh Conwell who is pregnant with the couple’s triplets.

An outpouring of support has seen the establishment of a Gofundme page to help Ashleigh with expenses, so far raising almost \$220,000.

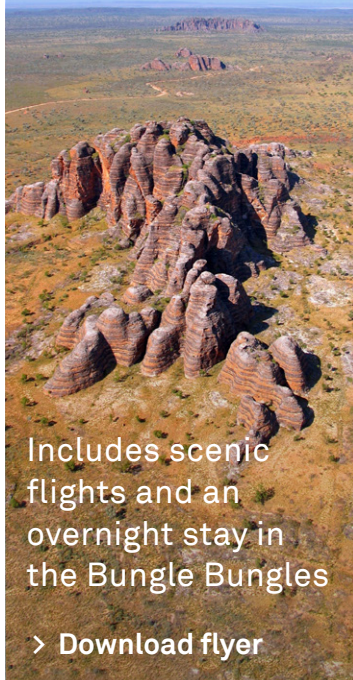
To contribute [CLICK HERE](#).

Hotelbeds Ascott

HOTELBEDS has announced an agreement with The Ascott Limited which will see the group’s 160 Ascott, Somerset, Quest and Citadines properties accessible to over 60,000 B2B travel buyers under the Bedsonline and Hotelbeds distribution brands.



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Voting closes Monday



VOTE FOR THE FINALISTS NOW!

Nominations have now closed and it’s time to vote for the suppliers who you believe deserve to be recognised for their support.

[Click here to vote now!](#)



Quincy Aussie debut

TOGA Far East Hotel's CEO Antony Ritch has confirmed the Quincy Hotel Melbourne will open its doors to the public early next year, marking the brand's debut in the Australian market.

The 241-room property will have a "uniquely South-East-Asian-meets-Melbourne spin", and will be aimed at social urbanites with a penchant for top culture in the upper mid-scale category, Ritch said.

Flinders Lane will be the location of the property, the heart of the city's lifestyle precinct.

Fairmont Nth Qld

THE Fairmont Port Douglas in North Qld is scheduled to open in 2023, and will feature 223 rooms, several restaurants and bars, a day spa, a treetop walk and conference facilities.

The luxury property has been designed with sustainability and the environment in mind.

Virgin cuts eight routes

VIRGIN Australia has withdrawn services from eight destinations "for the foreseeable future", with flights to Nuku'alofa, as well as Albury, Cloncurry, Hervey Bay, Mildura, Port Macquarie, Tamworth and Uluru scrapped due to Virgin's fleet simplification and ongoing customer demand.

Virgin Australia said that despite the cuts, it remained committed to rural Australia and the remaining 20 regional destinations it still flies to.

"We will continue to review our network as travel restrictions ease and demand returns," a Virgin Australia spokesperson told *Travel Daily*.

VA said it would contact affected guests who booked direct to advise them of their options, while those booked through a travel agent will need to contact them directly.

The underperforming routes

were under review prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with shutdown accelerating the carrier's decision to withdraw.

MEANWHILE, Virgin's recent restructuring has also seen its partnership with Delta Air Lines temporarily suspended.

The two airlines have held a pact for nearly a decade on services between Australia and the United States (*TD* 11 Dec 2009), and plan to resume their partnership once long-haul flying can recommence.

VA said despite the pause, there was no real change for consumers, with the partners continuing to offer reciprocal frequent flyer benefits and final destination checked baggage.

Delta will also continue to codeshare on Virgin domestic routes, and VA guests will be able to book through-travel on DL flights to North America.



Window Seat

BURNT out from years of work at high-profile magazines, Melissa Mylchreest is now embracing a change in career, developing the Kiama Passport for Kids (*pictured*).

With over 80 pages and featuring seven itineraries, the Passport offers a chance to learn about the NSW coastal town's local nature and habitats, info on mindful adventuring and seasonal sights, activities, colouring-in, stickers, and space for kids to write about their exciting adventures.



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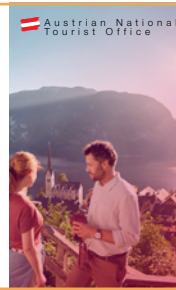
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Travel Daily



COVID insurance

A COVID-19 travel insurance product “has to become a reality”, AFTA CEO Darren Rudd told *Travel Daily* during an interview yesterday at The Travel Industry Hub (TTIH).

“We are working with one particular provider on what that could look like by way of product design,” Rudd revealed.

“I have also asked DFAT to look at setting up a sub-committee of their Smartraveller group to specifically look at this issue.”

Rudd was responding to a viewer question posed during the TTIH-hosted interview, with the idea put forward that agents could sell COVID insurance to help propel their recovery.

The first meeting discussing a possible COVID insurance product will kick off next week.

It's time to be heard



THE time for travel agents to connect with each other and contact their local Federal Representatives is now, says AFTA CEO Darren Rudd, who this week formally kicked off AFTA's National Mobilisation Program to secure sector-specific support of \$125m from the Federal Govt.

“Right across Australia we want everyone in our sector to come together in an organised way so that we cover each and every electorate,” he said.

“This has to be democracy at its finest and our members at their finest...everyone is in Canberra asking for money, but not everyone is doing it with this kind of holistic, grassroots approach.”

Access the toolkit for how to coordinate a meeting with your local MP by **CLICKING HERE**.

Pictured discussing the finer details of the program are **TD's** Bruce Piper, AFTA's Darren Rudd and The Travel Industry Hub co-founder Richard Taylor.

AFTA funding plan

AFTA has shed more light on the composition of the body's \$125m budget submission, revealing the core element to be a tiered grant system, forecast to be an average of \$40,000 based on TTV for the 2019 financial year.

AFTA is also lobbying the Federal Government for conditional loans of up to \$100,000 per agency as part of its travel agent support package, as well as further rental relief and a safety net for the businesses and staff in the event that they are forced to exit the sector entirely.

AFTA CEO Darren Rudd said that in addition to the federal submission, the group was also working with the states and territories to stump up their own support packages to assist agents.

“We're in negotiations now about a package for South Australia and we will be announcing that soon, along with several other states and territories,” he said.

“This is a separate and additional amount of money that will help people get through this crisis,” Rudd added.

AFTA's home truth

RESPONDING to concerns that home-based agents will not be catered for in its support package proposal to govt, AFTA chief Darren Rudd confirmed to **TD** that their needs would be “nuttled out” once the concept gets approved by budget.

“Those people that feel they have been left out because they form part of a wider home-based travel network group are not, they will be allocated in the framework for the budget on the grant side as we refine it.”

Constitutional reform flagged

AFTA head Darren Rudd has signalled the industry body will soon be examining constitutional reform for the first time since 2014, a move he said was needed because “the trenches have to be filled in” between traditional bricks-and-mortar travel agents and OTAs.

“That process will be widely consultative, we will go to everybody, and everyone will have input into the redesign of the AFTA constitution,” Rudd said.

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Know your brands

LOGOS are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don't even need to see the company's name to know who it is.

See if you can identify these four logos.

1



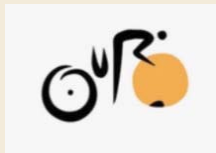
2



3



4



Whose animal is this?



THE bull is sacred in a number of different cultures and religions but there is only one country for whom the bovine is their national animal.

In particular there is a type of breed of bull (we can't tell you its name as that would give the country away) which is the national animal, and some

genetic studies have indicated that the breeding stock may date back as early as the Roman Empire.

The breed is characterised by its aggressive behaviour and is usually black or dark brown in colour.

Do you know whose national animal is the bull?

Where in the world?



THIS street is one of the most iconic in this city and a stroll down the pedestrian-boulevard is a must for any visitor.

It stretches for 1.2km starting at the epicentre of the city and is filled with street performers,

stores and restaurants, though be warned, most venues are fairly touristy.

One stop not to miss is the street market where you can taste local produce.

Where is this street located?

ANSWERS 09 SEP

Pub quiz: 1 Pegasus, 2 The air traffic control tower, 3 MGM Resorts International, 4 Balkan Peninsula, 5 Montana, 6 Newcastle, 7 SeaDream Yacht Club, 8 Liuyang, 9 Wamos Air, 10 Adelaide

Whose flag is this: Botswana

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

Macao word search

E	D	Y	I	M	T	U	G	T	R	O	S	E	R	N
L	R	E	X	P	C	U	U	N	Z	M	C	C	G	U
G	A	C	S	A	A	X	I	G	V	R	D	I	N	B
N	G	C	S	M	A	C	A	N	E	S	E	A	I	P
I	O	I	I	A	S	X	L	V	H	V	T	V	L	O
M	N	O	B	P	T	N	I	N	K	C	I	A	B	H
O	B	H	M	F	O	R	G	R	H	L	D	V	M	C
T	O	U	I	B	L	R	H	A	P	S	E	B	A	K
O	A	H	Y	R	H	W	T	O	W	D	M	B	G	R
U	T	P	A	T	U	E	H	B	A	E	N	C	Z	O
R	G	E	U	S	M	B	O	O	U	C	P	A	B	P
I	P	Q	X	P	H	B	U	S	X	S	A	Z	R	C
S	M	D	L	C	S	A	S	Q	M	F	Y	M	Y	G
M	R	E	A	T	A	N	E	D	L	E	T	S	A	P
T	I	P	O	R	T	U	G	U	E	S	E	B	N	O

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

CASINO
DRAGONBOAT
GAMBLING
GRANDPRIX
GUALIGHTHOUSE
MACANESE
MACAO
MING

NATCHATEMPLE
PASTELDENATA
PEARLRIVER
PORKCHOPBUN
PORTUGUESE
RESORT
SUBTROPICAL
TOURISM

Marriott plans cuts

MARRIOTT International has announced plans to slash its corporate workforce by 17% next month as COVID-19 continues to drive down occupancy. The news follows a 72% revenue plunge to \$2.1 billion for the months of Apr and Jun.

Whitsundays success

A RANGE of Tourism Whitsundays campaigns have generated a 20:1 return on investment since being launched at the beginning of Jun. With a collective outlay of more than \$170,000, in excess of 5,600 bookings were generated, which in turn led to more than \$3.5 million for the industry. Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer Tash Wheeler said the organisation is excited by the result of the campaigns.

QM2 world cruise

CUNARD Line has announced a 2022 classic world voyage on *Queen Mary 2*. The cruise line's flagship will embark on a 104-night journey through Australia, Asia, Europe and the Middle-East, departing Southampton on 10 Jan 2022 and priced from \$21,599ppts. In addition to seven Australian calls, stops include Abu Dhabi, Bali, Dubai, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy & Oman - more details [HERE](#).

Accor rewards more

ACCOR Live Limitless (ALL) members can currently earn up to 6,000 reward points via its ALL power boost offer. Travellers must complete three stays of two nights across Accor Hotels & Resorts by 15 Dec, with members eligible to earn 500 bonus reward points on their first stay, 2,500 bonus points on their second stay and 3,000 points on their third, at participating Asia-Pacific properties.



TRAVEL Counsellors Australia has concluded its first-ever TC Community Cup. Designed to encourage community engagement and lift the spirits of members dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the two-week program involved activities and group challenges led by team leaders.

Held virtually, groups selected two activities each week to complete together, such as sharing cocktail recipes, hosting themed video calls, sharing

hobbies & skills, and cook-alongs with travel-inspired recipes. Teams shared pre-recorded videos and photos of their activities on the weekly digital TCTV program, which saw Travel Counsellors across the country tune in and ready to celebrate with each other. **Pictured** getting stuck into the Community Cup are, top row: Susan Burns, Cheryl Andrews, Donna Jones & Glenda Carter and Andrew Turner; bottom row: Christine Balch and Andrea Ellis.

Win and dine with Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney

Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney offer a true epicurean discovery of New South Wales. Featuring seasonal and regionally sourced ingredients paired with a range of complimentary wines from some of the state's most prestigious wine regions. Dining experience is best described as personal, stylish and distinctly Sydney, whilst showcasing our iconic harbour. Christmas Party bookings now available!

Journey Beyond is giving away two prizes, the first being a luncheon for 2 (valued at \$238) with the second prize a dinner for 2 (valued at \$350).

To win, send us your answer in 25 words or less to journeybeyond@traveldaily.com.au

Q: Tell us what makes an experience on Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney so unique?



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.

Fusion Hotel Group has named **Marc Bittner** as the General Manager of the **Maia Resort Quy Nhon** in Vietnam. Bittner was most recently the General Manager of Aman Hotels and Resorts based in Indonesia, and has more than 10 years of experience in hospitality.

Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) has appointed **Jan Hutton** as its new Chief Executive Officer. She brings significant private sector and government experience, with her most recent position being General Manager Marketing for Destination New South Wales.

Simon Stobbs has taken on a new Chief Sales Officer role with **Wilderness Safaris**. He replaces the outgoing Tracy Bamber in the position, and arrives from his previous role as the company's North American Business Unit Manager.

Australian Federation of Travel Agents has announced the appointment of **Shelley Beasley** to its board, Webjet's Chief Commercial Officer. An electronic ballot will be conducted for six other directors soon who are up for reappointment.

For confidential tip offs, connect with *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)

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TRAVEL DAILY AWARDS

TRAVEL AGENT FINALISTS

MOST SUPPORTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTANT - ACT

- Anthony Allardyce, Travel Makers
- Ariel Elderfield, Civic Travel Service
- Cathy Schroder, Southlands Travel & Cruise
- Emma Sullivan, Weston Cruise & Travel
- Maria Slater, Maria Slater Travel

MOST SUPPORTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTANT - NSW

- Debbi Ashes, Helloworld Travel Lane Cove
- Elizabeth Ellis, Cherrybrook Travel
- Emily Kadinski, itravel Carlingford
- Gai Campbell, Mary Rossi Travel
- Lena Nielsen, Jones & Turner Travel Associates
- Lexie Miliatis, Flight Centre Blacktown
- Maria Tadros, Tadros Travel
- Sharon Godden, Travel View

MOST SUPPORTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTANT - QLD

- Bradley Kennedy, Flight Centre
- Brenda Hayward, Noller & Turner Travel Associates
- Cathy Donaghy, Helloworld Travel Strathpine
- Chris Rose, Corporate Travel Management
- Craig Mathieson, Helloworld Travel Toowoomba Ridge
- Fiona Gent, MTA

MOST SUPPORTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTANT - SA

- Becky Kent-Perchalla, Perchalla & Turner Travel Associates
- Brianna Schwarz, Helloworld Norwood
- Jan Smith, Enhance Travel
- Robyn Buteyn, Helloworld Brighton
- Sandra Paddick, Helloworld Kadina

MOST SUPPORTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTANT - TAS

- Courtney Bell, Andrew Jones Travel
- Lonnie Bevis, Andrew Jones Travel
- Robyn Sinfeld, Home Travel Company

MOST SUPPORTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTANT - VIC

- Anita Coombs, Pakenham Travel
- Anthony Goldman, Goldman Travel Group
- Chloe Moreland, Flight Centre Knox
- Chris Moloughney, Emerald Travel
- Karsten Horne, Reho Travel
- Kathy Pavlidis, Travel Associates Kew

MOST SUPPORTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTANT - WA

- Barry Downs, Bicton Travel
- Christine Ross-Davies, Attadale Travel
- Jo Deveson-Frances, Global Travel Solutions
- Jodee Sorrell, Globetrotter
- Phil Smethurst, Bicton Travel

MOST SUPPORTIVE LEISURE TRAVEL AGENCY

- Bicton Travel
- Ignite Travel Group/My Cruises
- Travel Associates Kew
- Travel Counsellors
- Travel View
- Wentworth Travel

MOST SUPPORTIVE CORPORATE TRAVEL AGENCY

- Corporate Travel Management
- CT Connections
- FCM Travel Solutions
- Globetrotter Corporate Travel
- Platinum Travel Company
- The Travel Authority

Agent winners will be selected from the finalists by a panel of judges.

Voting for the supplier categories is open until 14 September. [Click here to vote now!](#)