

## ACCC ticks VA

**VIRGIN** Australia has welcomed the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) final tick of approval to allow the carrier to explore coordinating routes with Alliance Airlines on several regional and short-haul international routes.

Under the deal, VA will work with Alliance on expanding its regional footprint, including the potential redeployment of B737 aircraft to higher-density routes across its domestic network.

VA will also be able to coordinate and determine pricing, capacity and scheduling with Alliance under the agreement.

The ACCC has granted the authorisation until 31 Mar 2023.

## WA joins NZ bubble

**PREMIER** of WA Mark McGowan has confirmed his state will join Australia's travel bubble with New Zealand starting 19 Apr.

McGowan said New Zealand would initially be classified as "very low risk", meaning travellers arriving in the state will no longer be required to self-isolate.

However, travellers from New Zealand will be required to complete a G2G PASS before arriving in Western Australia.

## Round two just the start

**DISCUSSIONS** about the need for more travel sector support in the upcoming Federal budget continue to be a key focus for the Australian Federation of Travel Agents, which has welcomed yesterday's announcement of further details of the \$130 million second round of the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support program (**TD** breaking news Sun).

New payment tiers which will see most Round One recipients receive additional funding have been implemented, following detailed conversations by AFTA, CATO and ATEC with Austrade and Tourism Minister Dan Tehan.

However applications for the new funding round are not yet open, with the Government's announcement flagging expectations the industry may be able to apply later this month.

The framework for Round Two also clarifies the difference between "TTV" and "Revenue" in terms of calculating the grant, and proposes that to be eligible, businesses must sign a declaration of solvency and that they intend to continue operating throughout the Jun quarter.

Applicants must have also qualified for and received a payment under Round One of the program, make best endeavours to retain staff, and "commit to continue to trade and to meet your business obligations including to process refunds and travel credits to Australian consumers and to continue

to provide services to your customers," Austrade noted.

To address the inequities of the initial funding round, eligible applicants who were assessed on a turnover of \$500,000 or more will be subject to an additional audit by Austrade, and those found to have received a payment based on TTV that was greater than they would otherwise have received if Round One and Round Two payments were calculated on turnover will not be eligible for a Round Two payment.

"Consideration is also being given to the circumstances of mid-sized agents who operate multiple outlets under a single ABN," the new framework advises, and as with Round One it is proposed that the guidelines will include a provision for exceptional circumstances.

AFTA Chair Tom Manwaring said it was pleasing that the new round would offer increased support for agents with turnover between \$200,000 and \$1 million.


"With the resumption of international travel slipping further away and our AFTA members still facing the reality of revenue falls of 90%-plus, we are also continuing our discussions on the need for support in the Federal Budget and beyond to sustain members' business through at least the first half of the 21/22 financial year," he said.

The updated framework is now online at [austrade.gov.au](http://austrade.gov.au), with a FAQ document online **HERE**.

## Singapore in depth

**VISIT** Singapore is asking agents to reimagine travel by becoming a Singapore Travel Specialist today and complete the new online training modules available.

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## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a full page from **Singapore Travel Specialist**.



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## ScoMo maps travel plan

**THE** Federal Government has tasked an expert medical committee to determine the feasibility of allowing vaccinated Australians to travel overseas.

Speaking at a press conference on Fri following a National Cabinet Meeting, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) would inform government about the risk profile and timelines of allowing such travel to take place.

"The AHPPC will look into the potential of Australians who are vaccinated being able to travel overseas and return to Australia and not have to go into hotel quarantine, potentially even going into home isolation - that will be a major change," the Prime Minister said.

The committee will also be charged with investigating the potential of travelling to other 'low risk' nations with similar

vaccine arrangements, but Morrison was quick to qualify that these types of decisions won't be made overnight.

"Nobody is saying that any of these things are coming in today but what we are working and planning for and have tasked the medical professionals to advise us on what are the marks we have to meet to enable us to open Australia up more than we have right now," he said.

"We already have the New Zealand open arrangement, we welcome that and we look forward to the success of that in the coming months, that will give us a greater deal of confidence about when we can move to other countries," he added.

The Prime Minister again mentioned Singapore as the most likely international market to follow New Zealand, labelling it the "obvious next choice" to form a travel bubble with.

## Bubble could do more harm: AFTA

**AFTA** Chair Tom Manwaring has warned a failure of the trans-Tasman bubble could risk further damaging consumer confidence, signalling a preference for overseas travel to resume at a later phase in the vaccine rollout.

Speaking with *The Australian*, Manwaring said the threat of an outbreak in Auckland via returned Indian flights could "do more harm than good" if it ultimately disrupts the travel bubble.

## Tres bien agents!

**NICOLE** Jakupiec from Helloworld Travel Warrnambool in Victoria and Erin Sykora from Travel Associates, Gungahlin in the ACT have been announced as the winners for participating in Hauts-de-France's training platform Module 3 and 4.

Both agents have scored a de Beaupaire wine prize pack and a Sir John Monash Centre book.



## Window Seat

**WITH** the passing of Prince Philip on Fri, much of the world has gone into mourning for the 99 year-old British royal, but there is at least one remote tribe that feels the Duke is likely to make a return one day.

On Vanuatu's tropical island of Tanna in the South Pacific, the Yaohnanen tribe strangely consider the Duke of Edinburgh to be a deity, therefore not susceptible to death like most of us mere mortals.

The "Prince Philip Movement" firmly believes the Duke was born in their homeland and was simply keeping the flame of their culture alive in the United Kingdom before ultimately returning to the island at later date - we hope Philip remembered to take his passport to the afterlife.

## Inspire your clients to *keep dreaming*

Don't miss this special edition...  
*Introducing Alula*

Travel & Cruise  
Weekly







## VA's case in point

**VIRGIN** Australia's Velocity Frequent Flyer members can now earn triple the points on select domestic flights booked by 25 Apr for travel between 01 Jun and 08 Mar 2022.

The carrier has imposed no limit on the number of flights travellers can book, with members earning 15 points for every \$1 spent on eligible Virgin Australia domestic flights during the promotion period.

"Now couldn't be a better or cheaper time to explore our incredible country and we're now giving you three-times as many reasons," the airline said.

## Second Movenpick

**ACCOR** has announced plans to open a second Movenpick hotel in Australia, the Movenpick Hotel Melbourne on Spencer.

Launching next month, Accor will open the property with Singapore's Fragrance Group, with the hotel located on the corner of Spencer and Bourke St.

The 172-room premium hotel promises to indulge guests with its contemporary design and boutique interiors, and will include a dedicated cafe serving the brand's signature ice cream.

## Air NZ opens Hobart

**TWICE-WEEKLY** direct flights from Auckland to Hobart with Air New Zealand are on sale now.

The first flight is set to take off 22 Apr at 9am local time and arrives in Hobart at 11am, with the return leg departing 12.30pm and arriving at 6pm.

Services will operate using Air New Zealand's A320 fleet on Thu and Sun to make the most of domestic connectivity, and provide the best long weekend options for travellers.

Air New Zealand Chief Executive Officer Greg Foran enthused it was terrific to be heading back to Hobart, with the destination the 10th Aussie location on the airline's network.

## Chimu lights up on return



**IN ANOTHER** encouraging sign of normality returning, Chimu Adventures recently completed its first trip since the start of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Qantas Dreamliner chartered flight took in all of the majesty of the Southern Lights over Antarctica (onboard photo **inset**), with 15 more Aurora, Antarctica and South Pole flights planned over the next 18 months as part of its newly launched Great Southern Flights program (**TD** 29 Mar).

Prices for the trips lead in at \$1,195 per person, and take off from a number of Australian cities including Brisbane, Sydney,



Melbourne and Perth.

**Pictured:** Chimu Adventures co-founder Chad Carey (far left) enjoying the inaugural flight with members of the Chimu team during the chartered adventure.

## MAX grounded

**THE** Boeing 737 MAX has been grounded once again after a new safety issue was discovered.

Boeing cited a "potential electrical issue" and recommended 16 airlines immediately ground their affected airplanes.

No Australian airlines operate the model, with Southwest Airlines by far the most-affected carrier with 60 MAXs.

American Airlines operates the next highest number, with 39.

"We are working closely with the US Federal Aviation Administration on this production issue," Boeing said.

## Exiting Myanmar

**PANDAW** has announced it is cancelling all future cruises in Myanmar amid growing political violence in the troubled Southeast Asian nation.

"We believe the current deplorable situation will only deteriorate further and it may be some time before any kind of normality returns and it is safe," said founder Paul Strachan.

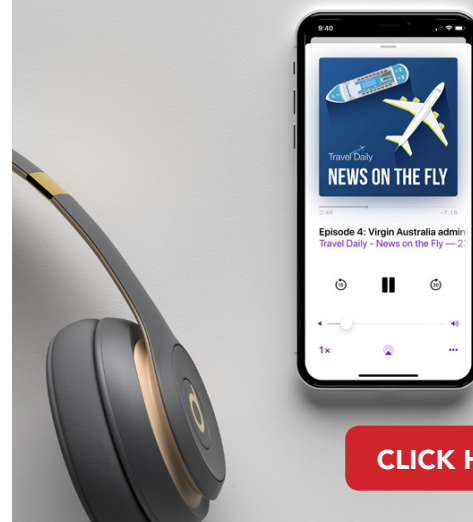
Pandaw's chief added it would be "unfair" to keep taking bookings under the current circumstances, flagging refunds and alternative sailings as the most prudent option until Myanmar cruises can be relaunched when normality eventually returns.

## Celestyal in Greece

**CELESTYAL** Cruises' new Legendary Archipelago itinerary will depart from the cruise line's dedicated Lavrion Port & Marina in Greece, in an expansion of its northern summer deployment.

The seven-night cruise on board *Celestyal Olympia* visits Thessaloniki, Mykonos, Santorini, Agios Nikolaos, Rhodes and more.

## Catch up on the news of the week



Travel Daily

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## Where in the world?



**MADE** from wrought-iron, this bridge was built in Manchester, England in 1864 and was then shipped halfway across the world to be assembled in its current place.

When it was built it was the only way for vehicles to cross that river in the town.

In 1904 another parallel span

was added to widen the bridge, almost identical to the first but manufactured locally this time, rather than being shipped in.

Today the bridge is only used by local traffic but is a bookend to one of the most popular attractions in town.

Do you know the name of the bridge and where it is located?

## Pick the nation

**COUNTRIES** have unique geography, ethnicities and cultures which come together to often form very distinctive symbols.

Based off the four different symbols and famous faces, see if you can figure out which country they represent.

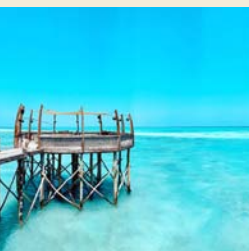
1



2



3



4



## Sudoku

TRICKY

**THE** aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes.

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

www.sudokuoftheday.com – visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

## Whose mascot is this?



**OTTO** the Orange has been described as a “juiced-up, bumbling citrus fruit from which two legs protrude” – and there is little more to be said about him beyond that!

To preserve the “magic of a mascot” for younger fans, Otto is never in two places at once, unlike some of his contemporaries.

Do you know whose mascot this is?

### ANSWERS 09 APR

Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 Cape Town, South Africa, 2 Aberdeen, Scotland, 3 Orange, Australia, 4 Albuquerque, United States

Airline liveries - 1 Aegean Airlines, 2 KLM, 3 Vistara Airlines

Pub quiz: 1 Pall Mall, 2 Berlin, 3 The Museum of New & Old Art, 4 a) Lion Air, 5 Malta, 6 Athens, 7 Acacia Ridge, 8 Tahiti, 9 c) airBaltic, 10 Australia

Icon under a microscope: Colosseum, Rome, Italy





## IHG appoints

**IHG Hotels & Resorts** has appointed Haitham Mattar to be its Managing Director of India, Middle East & Africa (IMEA).

Mattar is a well-known industry veteran in the IMEA region, with more than 25 years of experience across the hospitality and tourism industry.

In his new role with IHG, Mattar will take on a broad leadership agenda to drive IHG's business in the region.

## Disneyland adds

**AVENGERS Campus** at Disneyland Resort is set to open to the public from 04 Jun.

This fully immersive land, located inside Disney California Adventure Park, will invite guests to join the team of superheroes and its allies.

Avengers Campus is comprised of several heroic locations, each hosted by a different Avenger who will share their powers, technology and knowledge.

## Tahiti gears up

**THE** French Polynesian island of Tahiti is reopening its borders to tourism from next month, having obtained the Safe Travels by WTTTC international certification.

The country's President, Edouard Fritch, made the announcement last Wed, stating "we are going to put in place a protocol at the entry of our borders using virological testing, serological testing, vaccine and ETIS (Electronic Travel Information System).

"We will explain this protocol in full detail in the coming days," Fritch added.

## 15% off Hertz hire

**FOLLOWING** the announcement of the New Zealand travel bubble, car rental company Hertz is now offering 15% off the base rate of NZ bookings from now until the end of Aug (or sold out).

The offer is available at participating New Zealand corporate locations only.

## 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](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).



### Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours - 2021 35th Anniversary Outback Collection

Scenic Luxury Cruise & Tours has gone to press with its 35th Anniversary Outback Collection. The program introduces new tours for 2021, with a range of Australian land tours featuring handpicked accommodation, local experiences and a selection of incredible landmarks, which will offer guests a true sense of the outback. Highlights of the new 2021 collection include Oceans to Outback, a 16-day exploration across three states and a number of iconic Australian locations, and the 14-day Outback Queensland Adventure.



### Quark Expeditions - The Ultramarine

Quark Expeditions last week took possession of *Ultramarine*, a new technologically-advanced ship the cruise line hopes will "change the way we consciously explore the polar regions". Featuring two twin-engine helicopters and advanced sustainability systems, *Ultramarine* also carries 20 quick-launching Zodiacs, an on-board sauna with floor-to-ceiling windows, and the biggest portfolio of off-ship adventure options in the industry.

The 128-metre *Ultramarine* will accommodate 199 guests, and is fully detailed in Quark's latest brochure.

## Fraser's kindness

**FRASERS** Hospitality has announced plans to give back to more than 200 Kindness Heroes worldwide.

The hospitality operator is granting nearly 700 room nights across 16 countries to inspiring individuals who have displayed selfless acts of kindness, as part of its global Remembering Kindness campaign.

"Reading all the inspiring entries that have come through as part of our Remembering Kindness campaign was extremely heartening and inspiring," said Chief Executive Koh Teck Chuan.

"In today's tough climate, these stories serve as strong reminders that an act of kindness, whether big or small, can go a long way and have a positive impact on the people around us.

"We look forward to giving back to our 'Kindness Heroes' and providing them with a special experience with us."

## WIN a daily Outback Queensland Prize Pack!

**WIN** a unique locally hand-crafted gift from Longreach and special 'Travel Agents Gift Pack'! A daily prize for the first person with both answers correct.

Whether you are looking for a family adventure, outdoors activities, quintessential Australian culture and history, or a quirky Outback event - Outback Queensland has it!

**TO WIN:** send your 2 x answers daily to Janis on email: [traveltrade@outbackqueensland.com.au](mailto:traveltrade@outbackqueensland.com.au)

### Day 1 questions:

1. Walkabout Creek Hotel is famous for who or what?
2. What Outback Queensland town is the furthest from the sea in Australia and famous for dinosaurs?



**Got a confidential tip? Contact Travel Daily via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)** Travel Daily



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