

 SILVERSEA®

The background of the top half of the page is a photograph of an ancient Egyptian temple carved into a sandstone cliff. The temple features a series of columns and a small entrance. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

# NEW ITINERARIES

WINTER 2023, SUMMER 2023-24

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## Silversea 2023/24

**SILVERSEA** Cruises has opened general sales on more than 280 voyages departing in 2023/24.

The program features new Grand Voyages including a *Silver Spirit* cruise to Africa & the Arabian Peninsula as well as a 65-day *Silver Moon* Mediterranean trip.

There are 60 maiden calls in the brochure, with highlights in a new video from Silversea's Expeditions VP, Conrad Combrink - [CLICK HERE](#) - more on the **cover page**.

## Jennifer in the wilderness

**EXCLUSIVE**

**FORMER** Carnival Australia Vice President Jennifer Vandekreeke has formally taken on a new role as the Head of Commercial and Guest Experience at NRMA Expeditions, the conglomerate's recently launched tourism investment division (**TD 24 Mar**).

Speaking with *Travel Daily* this afternoon, Vandekreeke said she was attracted to the role because of the prospect of building a brand from the bottom up.

"I had the opportunity of building Carnival from scratch in this market and now I'm going to turn those exact same skills to building the Expeditions division into a branded experience," Vandekreeke enthused.

Announcing her departure from Carnival in Jun after 13 years with the brand for an unnamed venture, the experienced travel executive will now be charged with growing NRMA's new tourism arm into a premier

wilderness brand, which already includes a host of recently added Tasmanian properties (**TD 23 Mar**), including Freycinet Lodge and Cradle Mountain Hotel.

"We've got some pretty big ambitions," Vandekreeke confirmed, "we're looking at a lot of different opportunities... we're going to build a brand and a business that is going to showcase the very best of Australia's wilderness and hopefully even branching out into some neighbouring countries."

While which specific overseas expansion markets are currently under wraps, Vandekreeke did note NRMA's minority stake in Coral Expeditions and its sailings to countries like PNG.

Vandekreeke will report into NRMA Expeditions CEO Rachel Wiseman and be based in Sydney.

## Vail to the chief

**VAIL** Resorts has announced the appointment of Kirsten Lynch to become the company's new CEO.

Lynch, currently Vail's Chief Marketing Officer, will succeed Rob Katz on 01 Nov, while Katz will become Executive Chairperson of the Board.

Ryan Bennett, currently VP of Marketing, Lift Revenue, will become Vail Resorts Chief Marketing Officer.

More appointments on **page 5**.



## NEW 2022 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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\*Conditions apply

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## AC adds Santa Ana

**AIR** Canada has announced a new route between Vancouver and California's Santa Ana.

The service will initially operate four times a week using Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft, scheduled to facilitate convenient connections via YVR to and from destinations across Canada.

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has five pages of news including **Business Events News** plus a front cover page from **Silversea Cruises**.

## Jab the bubble?

**THE** trans-Tasman bubble as we knew it may be over, according to NZ's COVID-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins, who stated yesterday that rising case numbers in Australia would likely alter requirements for travel.

This morning a Reconnecting New Zealanders to the World Forum saw New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announce a trial of strictly limited home-based isolation, as well as confirming consideration of a phased opening of borders in the first quarter of 2022.

If the local Delta outbreak is not contained in Australia, NZ may be forced to treat Australia similar to "low risk" countries like Singapore, officials said.



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## Flying through turbulence

**ALLIANCE** Airlines has managed to buck the trend of carriers leaking profits during the last 12 months, delivering a 25% improvement in net profit after tax of \$33.7 million.

The company's bottom line was bolstered by significant growth in its chartered flights division which saw revenue climb by 66% during the full year to 30 Jun, fuelled by a solid uptake in FIFO services in the country's resources sector.

In other revenue streams Alliance also saw minor gains made in long-term flying contracts, up 6% on the prior year, while wet lease revenue dropped markedly to \$7.8 million from \$24.4 million last year as a result of ongoing COVID barriers.

Despite this, the company said it anticipates a major rebound in its wet lease division in the next 12 months following new deals struck for the forward period, including a major contract with

Qantas in Feb (**TD** 04 Feb) that will see the carrier access up to 18 Embraer E190 aircraft when domestic travel conditions allow.

Cash in the bank also dropped during the period for Alliance on the back of five E190 aircraft acquisitions and associated costs totalling more than \$200 million, purchases that will form the core pillar of its future growth strategy.

Cash reserves shrank from \$98.8 million to \$36.2 million in the last year, while underlying profit increased by 25% and underlying EBITDA also rose by 12%.

"Alliance has produced a record result at a time when we are investing heavily in supporting the growth of our business," the airline's MD Scott McMillan said.

"Utilising the Fokker fleet continues to reap benefits of past planning...and is the operational foundation on which the E190 expansion has been built."

## WA is "devastated"

**TOURISM** business activity in Western Australia has decreased rapidly since the latest round of lockdowns across Australia, down by 62% according to the Tourism Council WA.

Tourism Council WA CEO Evan Hall is now calling for federal and state government financial support so that the sector is in a position to receive travellers down the track, labelling the current crisis "devastating".

"Tourism businesses across WA are facing a cash flow crisis as the collapse of the interstate market has resulted in mass cancellations and a downturn in forward bookings," he said.

"Businesses face reducing staff and 31% report they will run out of cash in six months."

In contrast, WA Premier Mark McGowan said the state's sector was holding up well despite border closures, suggesting it was "very hard to get a booking anywhere at the moment".

## CX results boost

**CATHAY** Pacific has posted a HKD\$7.57 billion first-half loss, a 23% improvement on the prior corresponding period.

CX warned its outlook remained uncertain as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to hammer international travel, with the airline carrying just 157,000 passengers in the first half of the year, 96% fewer than the prior corresponding period.

Chairperson Patrick Healy said Cathay hoped to be operating at around 30% of its pre-pandemic passenger capacity by Q4.

## QF sales extended

**QANTAS** Airways' Half Off Flights sale has been extended.

QF is instructing travel advisors to refer to the GDS to find out where travellers can fly as part of the sale, which has been extended until 30 Nov.

The half-price tickets were first offered in Mar (**TD** 11 Mar).

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The pandemic and the environment. Has this been a time for travel businesses to pause for effect? Read more in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK to read**

## Kids jump for free

**KIDS** can currently ferry for free to Kangaroo Island with SeaLink's Kids Go Free deal, offering savings of up to \$150 per family.

The deal allows up to three kids aged three to 14 years to travel free on SeaLink's KI ferry when accompanied by at least one paying adult and a vehicle or a car hire booking - [CLICK HERE](#) for further information.

## Olympians face double trouble

**A DECISION** by the South Australian Government to make returning Olympians to the state isolate for a second time has been labelled "cruel and uncaring" by the Australian Olympic Committee.

The fully vaccinated athletes, who have already quarantined in Sydney hotels on arrival from Japan, will now have to stay at home for 14 days so the SA Govt can be doubly certain the Delta strain does not enter the state.

"While other countries are celebrating the return of their athletes, we are subjecting ours to the most cruel and uncaring treatment," AOC Chief Executive, Matt Carroll said.

## Date set for Hobart luxury



**MARRIOTT** International has announced the Australian debut of its Luxury Collection brand, revealing The Tasman, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Hobart will open its doors at the end of 2021.

The 152-room luxury property (render **pictured**) will offer guests waterfront views from the new glassed Pavilion building, a high-end Italian restaurant, an old-world bar experience, and heritage-inspired common areas.

"The Luxury Collection offers a gateway to the world's most exciting and desirable destinations, so it is wonderful to introduce the brand to Australia

and put the rest of the world on notice to the charms of Hobart and our most southern state," Marriott's Area Vice President, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Sean Hunt said.

"The opening of The Tasman signifies the importance of Tasmania as a global destination for luxury travellers and we are confident visitors will see this as a wishlist experience for interstate and international travellers, once international travel resumes."

The hotel has been in the works for quite a while, with the hotelier flagging plans to open the property four years ago (*TD* 01 Nov 2017), with the Luxury Collection brand currently boasting 110 hotels across more than 30 countries globally, a high-end accommodation concept that originated in 1906 under the CIGA brand in Europe.

## Tourism jobs impact

**RESTRICTIONS** and lockdowns across the country have significantly dented the number of new tourism jobs for Jul, with new Seek figures showing a 30.7% decline nationally.

NSW saw the biggest drop off however, down 63.3% on the previous month.

Recent COVID restrictions also impacted job opportunities across all sectors, decreasing 4.1% month-on-month.



## Window Seat

**MOVE** over Tokyo Olympics winners, Australia is already celebrating its next big nod of recognition, being home to some of the best skinny dipping spots in the world.

That's the conclusion reached by outdoor adventure company Outforia, which recently posted research about where travellers can enjoy the best swims in their birthday suits.

Australia was ranked fifth in the world, with the study taking into account the number of nudist beaches, naturist campsites, average air and water temperatures, as well as the legality of swimming nude in public spots.

France was crowned the winner however, baring all for a skinny dipping score of 7.04, close to two points ahead of Australia, dwarfing the number of nudist beaches available Down Under with 397 compared to just 66 locally.

The US claimed second spot, while Spain came in third.

## Staybridge Dubai

**IHG** Hotels & Resorts has announced the opening of Staybridge Suites Dubai Internet City, which opened its doors to the public earlier this month.

The "upper-upscale" brand targets multi-night business and leisure guests seeking a luxurious residential-style hotel experience, with the latest property featuring 225 spacious suites boasting modern home amenities such as dishwashers & washing machines.

Further features of the hotel include a 25 metre infinity pool, spa area, steam room, outdoor lounge and indoor restaurant.

Guests can also take advantage of a complimentary daily breakfast buffet with takeaway options, as well as a 24/7 on-site convenience store.

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## ICC VIRTUAL DELIVERY

**INTERNATIONAL** Convention Centre Sydney has been maintaining operations despite the current NSW COVID-19 lockdown, last week delivering another three virtual events.

The venue's studio spaces and the ICC Sydney Connect platform were used to operate the Law Society of NSW Specialist Accreditation Conference, the National Landcare Conference and Connect Media's Healthcare Leaders Forum, bringing the total number of in-house virtual or hybrid events hosted at ICC to more than 150 over the last year.

Brian Nash, ICC Sydney Director of Audio Visual Services, said the

venue was proud to be able to offer an expansive AV product suite to help support a wide range of client requirements.

"Under the extremely challenging circumstances created by the pandemic, supporting event organisers to deliver essential, flexible and high quality hybrid and virtual event solutions has been central to our service over the last year.

"At these critical times, we have been able to expand our offering to meet the needs of our clients.

"Staying open, flexible and agile has ensured clients who need to progress with their events online are able to do so," Nash said.

## BCEC still at top

**BRISBANE** Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) has been voted runner-up in this year's World's Best Convention Centre Award from the International Association of Congress Centres (AIPC).

BCEC took out the top spot from 2016-2018, with GM Bob O'Keeffe saying he was pleased the centre continues to remain a leader in the world rankings.

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said BCEC would play a key role in Brisbane's economic recovery.

"We support events because we know they're vital when it comes to supporting local jobs and businesses," she said.

BCEC was the first convention centre in Australia to reopen after the pandemic's onset, and has since hosted 480,000 guests at 480 events.

One of the centre's exhibition halls is operating as Qld's largest community vaccination location, with capacity to deliver 3,000 immunisations daily.

## Showground GM



**SYDNEY** Showground this morning announced the appointment of Darryl Jeffrey as its new General Manager.

Jeffrey has been with the facility since 2012 as the venue's Chief Operating Officer, and steps up following the retirement of Peter Thorpe last month.

## Melbourne tick

**MELBOURNE** Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has again achieved gold status via the EarthCheck sustainability accreditation program.

MCEC has been EarthCheck certified since 2009, reaching gold status every year since 2016.

The centre welcomed the accolade as a milestone in its new five-year sustainability strategy.

## BEIA gathers

**NEW** Zealand's Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA) is inviting registrations for its upcoming 2021 conference, which will be held at the Napier War Memorial Centre in Hawke's Bay from 11-13 Oct.

The event will be themed "BEing Brave, Bold and Ready" with key presenters including NZ Tourism Minister Stuart Nash and leading Kiwi economist Tony Alexander.

Tourism NZ is sponsoring the appearance of international event strategist Oscar Cerezales from MCI Group, who will lead discussion on "scenario planning for the new normal".

BEIA CEO Lisa Hopkins said the program would cover the current environment including the threats and opportunities from COVID as well as the domestic market and looking ahead to international opportunities.

For more info **CLICK HERE**.

## Olympic speakers

ICMI Speakers and Entertainers says it has access to "almost every Olympic speaker on the planet," with the recent return of Australia's athletes from Tokyo 2020 providing an ideal opportunity to inspire audiences with their "journeys of dedication, inspiration, perspiration and preparation".

The ICMI roster includes swimming champions Ariarne Titmus, Emma McKeon, Cate Campbell and Kaylee McKeown, as well as runner Peter Bol, cyclist Anna Meares, basketballer Andrew Gaze and speed skater Steven Bradbury - to enquire go to [www.icmi.com.au](http://www.icmi.com.au).

## Bahrain centre

**ASM** Global has been appointed as the managing operator for the new Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre.

When completed next year the facility will be the Middle East's biggest centre, with 10 halls and 95,000m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space.

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## Karma Song Hoai

**KARMA** Group has introduced a new property in Vietnam, the 51 suite Karma Song Hoai.

Located in the seaside town of Hoi An, the sprawling resort comprises stylish suites and family rooms, each boasting private balconies, accompanied by several restaurants and bars, a gym, and a spa area.

Karma Song Hoai is perched on the banks of the Thu Bon River, just a short stroll or golf cart ride from the old town.

Also close by are the pristine Cua Dai and An Bang beaches, just a 20 minute bicycle ride away from Karma Song Hoai.

## By air and by rail

**DELTA** Air Lines has launched an Air+Rail program offering train service between Amsterdam and the Belgian cities of Brussels and Antwerp.

Through a partnership with Thalys, the new agreement enables customers to transfer between flights and train services at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol with just the one ticket booking.

From the train station, located in Schiphol Plaza, customers are offered convenient access and frequent services to the heart of Brussels and Antwerp, with short journey times of just over an hour.

## The power of WA travel



**THIS** week saw a posse of passionate workers in the travel industry meet with the WA Minister for Tourism David Templeman to discuss the plight of the state's struggling sector.

One of the attendees, Global Travel Solutions' Jo-Anne Francis, said such meetings with key politicians are important to convey the full state of distress the industry is currently under.

"Whilst the Minister had a very solid understanding of the extraordinary circumstances we continue to deal with 19 months down the track, it seemed imperative to arrange this time together to ensure our industry received some much-needed consideration," she said.

"It was extremely beneficial to elaborate on our challenges as well as offer some potential solutions in a frank and honest discussion of what our industry needs to survive for the next six to twelve months."

"We are hoping other agents in

other states will do the same with the idea of asking for assistance locally, we discussed cruising restart and to support us on that federally, we spoke about getting together with suppliers to ensure their support of agents by offering commission, online booking engines to name just a few items," Francis added.

Some of the movers and shakers **pictured** attending were: Terrel Ramsay, Travel & Sports Australia; Nicole Campbell; Best4Travel Alison Banks, TravelManagers; Carole Smethurst, Bicton Travel; Jo-Anne Francis; Scott Campbell, Best 4 Travel and Nicola Strudwick, Travellers Choice.

## HA follows suit

**HAWAIIAN** Airlines is the latest carrier to mandate vaccination for American workers.

Staff will need to be vaccinated by Nov, while those with religious or medical exemptions will need to be tested regularly.

## 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.

**Gregg Zalkin** has joined Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings in a newly created role of Destinations Programs Senior Manager. He will be based within the commercial development & onshore design department.

**St. Lucia** has appointed **Ernest Hilaire** as its new Minister for Tourism. He has been sworn into the Cabinet of St. Lucia, and as part of his immediate order of business, will convene meetings with the tourism sector, with the Ministry of Tourism, the St. Lucia Tourism Authority, and private sector organisations to get up to speed on current plans.

**Cheng Meng** has taken on a new Head of Global Market Management & Development role with **CWT**. Based in Singapore, Meng will be responsible for ensuring customer expectations are met within APAC.

Outrigger Hospitality Group has announced the appointment of **Steve Solberg** as General Manager of **Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa**, moving from his current role as GM of the Outrigger Guam Beach Resort. Solberg will be responsible for all aspects of resort operations for the property, with an eye to improve culture, maximise operations, guest satisfaction, and the bottom line. Joining him there is **Christine San Nicolas**, who will be Director of Human Resources. She has been with Outrigger for more than two decades, and is also coming across from Outrigger Guam, where she has been since 2016.

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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