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Cruise Express

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Vaccine rebrand to help Aussies travel

THE AstraZeneca vaccine is set to be rebranded to Vaxzevria in a bid to make it easier for Australians who have received the AZ jab to travel overseas.

The trademark Vaxzevria name is currently used in European Union nations, with the pharmaceutical company stating a global name change will remove any ambiguity around travel and enable Australians' vaccination status to be recognised overseas.

"This will facilitate travel for people who have received AstraZeneca's vaccine from anywhere in the world," the company said.

The move follows concerns expressed by the World Travel and Tourism Council last month that a global agreement was needed about vaccine recognition if international travel is to reboot effectively (**TD** 19 Jul).

Over 750m doses of the AZ jab have been distributed globally.

JetClass calls on agents

EXCLUSIVE

AIRLINE distribution network APG has been selected by private charter airline JetClass to be its General Sales Agent in Australia and New Zealand.

The partnership will see an interactive private jet booking platform set up across Australia and New Zealand tailored to travel agents, fuelling the aviation brand's ambitions to service a wider audience in Australia among key travel segments such as corporates, sporting organisations and govt bodies.

The terms of the agreement will see APG market and sell JetClass private and cargo charters, leveraging its charter sourcing and booking platform dedicated to B2B charter sales.

APG Network President Richard Burgess believes the types of bespoke air services offered by JetClass will only see an increase in demand locally as COVID-19

continues to disrupt aviation.

"In the current climate and going forward, there will be greater requirements for cost-effective tailored air transportation solutions and JetClass are well placed to service this growing demand," he said.

Commenting on the new agreement, JetClass CEO Wagas Ali added the appointment of APG was in line with its objective to make business aviation more accessible to the masses, stating he was "excited at the prospect of launching this first-of-its-kind B2B tool in Australia & New Zealand."

Travel agencies interested in registering for the new interactive JetClass booking platform email australia@apg-ga.com or call 1800 905 614.

Qantas rebooking

QANTAS has advised agents that passengers holding domestic tickets issued on/before 30 Sep for travel between 29 Jul 2020 and 30 Sep 2021 can rebook while incurring zero change fees.

Rebookings are permitted in the same available or higher booking class, and additional fare prices and taxes may apply.

For further information on the updated policy, **CLICK HERE**.

Australia says 'I do'

TRAVEL exemptions will be granted for people overseas with partners in Australia wishing to get married, Federal Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews has confirmed.

The announcement paves the way for an extra 1,600 inbound travellers, with Andrews stating the loosening of the policy would "bring relief to those whose plans have been disrupted for so long by COVID-19".

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including **Business Events News**.

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Travel Daily



CLIA adds presenters

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has announced an expanded line-up for its upcoming Virtual Cruise Forum, offering insight from key international leaders and regional executives steering the cruise industry's recovery.

New speakers added to the exciting line-up include Royal Caribbean Vice President Asia Pacific Angie Stephen, Norwegian Cruise Line Vice President & Managing Director APAC Ben Angell and CLIA Managing Director United Kingdom & Ireland Andy Harmer.

Further big names presenting at the forum include CLIA Global President and CEO Kelly Craighead, CEO of MSC Cruises Gianni Onorato, Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection President and CEO Ellen Bettridge and Regent Seven Seas Cruises CEO Jason Montague, to name just a few.

Registrations for the event have now reached 600 people, equal to CLIA's biggest Cruise360 Australasia conference in 2019, with the Virtual Cruise Forum on 27 Aug replacing this year's Cruise360 event, which was cancelled due to COVID concerns.

The event will run from 10am to 4pm AEST and is open to all CLIA Australasia members and stakeholders at no charge.

For more information about the event, [CLICK HERE](#).

New Tassie dates

NEW 2022 dates have been added by Evergreen Cruises & Tours due to popular demand.

Another three departures are now available to book, with earlybird savings of up to \$700 per couple on offer.

Call 1300 892 708 to request a quote, or [CLICK HERE](#) for more details on the cruises.

Outback power play

OUTBACK Queensland appears to be driving tourism success in the state, with more than 700,000 non-locals visiting the region from Sep 2020 to Jul, staying 3.6 million nights.

Blackall-Tambo Mayor and Outback Queensland Tourism Association Chair Andrew Martin said despite the significant knocks and recent uncertainty due to the pandemic, the region was shaping up as Queensland's tourism engine, delivering for the rest of the state at this critical time.

A new Renaissance

A COLLECTION of 70 domestic tours have been released by Renaissance Tours - the company's largest-ever group of spring excursions.

The tours range from one-day tours in and around Sydney to short, two- to five-day breaks in NSW including Norfolk Island, and longer trips of up to 10 days.

Turkey on the grow

MARRIOTT International is continuing its growth in Turkey, with 10 anticipated openings by the end of next year.

The company's portfolio in Turkey is expected to encompass 43 properties with over 7,000 rooms across eight markets by the end of next year.

Reinforcing its long-term focus on the market, Marriott also announced two recent signings under the Four Points by Sheraton brand - Four Points by Sheraton Elazgin and Four Points by Sheraton Istanbul Kagithane.

US masks the future

THE United States' mask mandate for travellers on planes and trains has been extended until at least Jan next year.

The Transportation Security Administration requires masks be worn through to 18 Jan 2022 amid a nationwide surge in cases of the Delta variant.

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Window Seat

WHILE many of us can't stay in a nice hotel right now, there is some furry fun to look forward to at Crowne Plaza Sydney Darling Harbour when the time finally arrives.

The property will allow travellers to bring along their favourite four-legged friend for that next long-awaited stay as part of the hotel's Pawfect Packages offer.

The promotion includes room accommodation, plush dog bedding, food and water bowl facilities, and the best part, all-you-can-drink complimentary puppino beverages at the Hotel's Café 58.

The pet-friendly Pawfect Package supplement is priced at \$80 per night.

Although not stipulated, we're confident elephants are excluded from the deal.



Show us your best pineapple!

The much-loved Big Pineapple on the Sunshine Coast is turning 50! To celebrate this icon's birthday, the team at Visit Sunshine Coast invite you to submit your best holiday photos at the attraction.

Photos will be judged by the team with prizes for gold, silver and bronze. The first prize will be awarded a Sunshine Coast prize pack featuring Sunshine and Sons Gin, Diablo Pineapple Liqueur and a few other surprises! Second and third place will also be sent a box of Sunshine Coast goodies featuring Diablo Pineapple Liqueur.

Please send your submissions to trade@visitsunshinecoast.com by close of business Monday 23 August.



Be open to most vaccines

EXCLUSIVE

VACCINES developed by countries like China and Russia should be accepted by nations as part of a safe resumption of international travel, an expert in population health from Curtin University believes.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* yesterday, Professor Jaya A R Dantas said despite the perceived scepticism from many countries to accept vaccinated travellers who have had China's Sinopharm or Russia's Sputnik jabs for example, available data shows that they are effective against viral transmission.

"At this stage we should allow these vaccines because all of them are between 65% and 95% effective," Dantas said.

While many countries are baulking at allowing entry for people vaccinated with pharmaceutical brands outside of those most recognised among western nations such as Pfizer and Moderna, Dantas said that the sheer volume of people who had already received vaccines like Sinopharm had demonstrated its safety and efficacy.

"I think it will be fine because [China] has vaccinated over a billion people, nearly 1.3 billion

people and they are closely monitoring their Delta outbreak in Wuhan carefully," she said.

Commenting on Qantas' recent decision to mandate its staff to get vaccinated (**TD** 18 Aug), Dantas labelled the move a "necessary step" for aviation to restart safely internationally.

"Qantas is not the first airline to do this, other airlines in the United States and Canada have already mandated vaccines for their staff, United Airlines has 90% of their pilots vaccinated and 80% of their crew, while Canada has set vaccine mandates as required for all federal employees, rail employees, airline employees and transportation workers by Oct," Dantas said.

MEANWHILE Singapore Airlines has this week mandated that its frontline workers be fully jabbed by 01 Sep.

Agent pay options

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings brands, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises, have announced they are now accepting payment from travel partners in Australia via the TravelPay platform.

The move arrives as the soon-to-close eNett International EFT remittance system wraps up at the end of Aug, with the cruise brands aiming to provide business continuity for travel agents so they can continue to make secure EFT payments.

EK Brazil c'share

EMIRATES has signed a codeshare agreement with Azul Brazilian Airlines which will allow customers to seamlessly connect to and from eight cities in Brazil to Emirates' global network via Sao Paulo.

Emirates Chief Commercial Officer Adnan Kazim said Brazil is an important market for the airline, and underscored its commitment to the region.

Vivid wants a soul

EXPRESSIONS of Interest are now open for creatives to shape Vivid Sydney 2022, which will take place under a new unified vision called The Soul of Sydney.

Event organisers are calling on creative industries to get involved and investigate what truly is the soul of the Harbour City – its people, places and essence.

"Now more than ever, it's important to create opportunities for connection and to celebrate our great city," Vivid's Festival Director Gill Minervini said.

"Inspired by 'The Soul of Sydney' creative direction, we challenge artists to share their stories about Sydney and how it aligns with other great cities around the world."

The decision to cancel Vivid Sydney this year was made earlier this month due to safety concerns around COVID-19 (**TD** 09 Aug).

Auckland Airport is looking good

A NEW fashion precinct is set to be created inside Auckland Airport, with the aviation hub confirming the idea had been in the works for several years.

To be located on the site's north eastern corner, the fashion retail centre will create 500 jobs and also include a number of new food outlets, with a focus on fashion, accessories and footwear retail brands.

A date for the opening is yet to be revealed.

Air NZ cuts flights

AIR New Zealand has updated its domestic network, revealing the airline will operate a very limited schedule to enable essential travel only.

Following the 48-hour grace period to get Kiwis home in order to comply with the nationwide lockdown (**TD** yesterday), Air NZ's schedule from tomorrow to next Tue will operate in line with Level 4 restrictions.



BECA APPEALS FOR MORE SUPPORT

REPRESENTATIVES from the Business Events Council of Australia (BECA) met online with Federal Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan this week to plead for more targeted support for businesses reliant upon income from business events.

BECA spoke with the Minister online about the need for an urgent bundle of targeted measures as a lifeline towards recovery focusing on the three key areas of survival, confidence and recovery.

The industry body campaigned for Tehan to champion the return of a national wage subsidy scheme to support business survival and retention of specialist industry skills, the introduction of a national government-led event insurance scheme, as well as the launch of an improved Business Events Grant Program to stimulate demand of in-person business events in 2022, via corporate and association event owners.

"If we are to be match-fit for domestic recovery and deliver



global best practice to our international clients for which we are recognised when the border reopens, retaining our people is essential," BECA Deputy Chair, Geoff Donaghy said.

"With minimal opportunity to earn revenue over the past 18 months, the current Delta lockdowns across Australia are directly impacting lives and livelihoods and the core capability of our dynamic industry."

BECA also informed the Minister

that his government's four-phase National Plan to transition Australia's COVID-19 response provides very little clarity for when meetings, incentives, conventions, and exhibitions can restart across the country.

"When restrictions lift, business events cannot simply switch on like other industries. Significant lead time is required to book, plan, and deliver business events," Donaghy argued.

Pictured: Dan Tehan.

ICC Syd promotes

ICC Sydney has promoted Luke Fleming to be Director of Human Resources.

Previously in the role of Senior Manager Human Resources Shared Services, Fleming has stepped up to steer the entire HR department, which is responsible for ICC's workforce.

Chief Executive Officer Geoff Donaghy said Fleming has been an integral member of ICC's team, having joined prior to its opening.

Fleming has helped establish, develop and manage ICC's workforce for the last five years, he said.

"Luke has demonstrated that he is highly skilled at leading top performing, multi-disciplinary teams," Donaghy added.

"His strengths in strategic business planning, talent acquisition, employment relations and industrial compliance have earned him a sound reputation".

Vic pumps up live

THE Victorian Government is supporting the state's live performance events which have been cancelled due to the recent COVID restrictions.

Vic Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson yesterday opened the second round of the Live Performance Support program to help Victorian presenters and suppliers in the live performance industry who have been affected by event cancellations between 27 May and 02 Sep.

The program will provide funding of up to \$12,000 for eligible event presenters and up to \$4,000 for contracted suppliers.

Evolve postponed for the second time

MEETINGS & Events Australia (MEA) has postponed Evolve until next year, having been shifted previously to 08 Sep (**BEN** 10 Jun).

The continuing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated decisive leadership and action on MEA's part, the Association said.

The primary factor for the decision is the uncertainty around border restrictions and the limitations it poses on travellers to attend events in-person.

"In the interests of all stakeholders, MEA believes the best option is to reschedule Evolve to a time when immunised population target

levels are expected," said MEA CEO Peter McDonald.

"By doing so, we are reinforcing the significance of meeting in-person.

"Evolve's live hub will provide for richer in-person connections and optimal conference experience for our members, delegates, sponsors and exhibitors, speakers and the greater Australian events sector," he added.

The Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) offered its support for the decision, with Chief Executive Julia Swanson saying MCB values MEA, and wants to ensure Evolve is held at a time that will enable the sector to shine bright.

Oz in pole position

NEW international business events research from Tourism Australia indicates while the country is still considered a highly desirable destination, the main barriers to holding a business event here remain distance, time, costs, and an effective rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Almost 80% of association decision-makers stated they are likely to visit Australia for an event in the next two years, and almost 70% of decision-makers said they are likely to visit the country in the next two years, rising to 82% when considering the next three years.

Research suggests organisations are ready to hold an event of significance once travel is unrestricted and events can freely take place.



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

Half-price Kalbarri

WESTERN Australians are being encouraged back to Kalbarri with a half-price sale on tours, attractions and hire businesses.

The government initiative is designed to support tourism operators affected by Cyclone Seroja, and is part of an extensive Government of Western Australia support package for communities affected.

The Experience Kalbarri at Half Price promotion is supported up to a total value of \$50,000, and follows the Government of WA's announcement of an additional \$220k for Australia's Coral Coast Regional Tourism Organisation.

Sandbox extended

THAILAND has approved the expansion of its Sandbox scheme, which sees fully vaccinated tourists able to spend their first seven days in Phuket before travelling to Krabi, Phang Nga or Surat Thani for the next seven.

According to the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Phuket Sandbox program has received the green light from officials to be upgraded to provide fully vaccinated international travellers with more options to visit multiple Thai destinations without the need to quarantine.

Phuket Sandbox 7+7 was launched at the start of the week.

Grants help tourism take off



NEARLY 2,000 small businesses across Queensland, including many tour operators, are set to receive \$5,000 each from the first round of the Qld Government's Business Basics grants.

The grants, aimed at sole traders and businesses with a turnover of up to \$300,000, are designed to increase their core capabilities and cope with the current economic downturn.

One of the beneficiaries is North Qld-based Heartland Helicopters

owner Bevan Duke (pictured), who said the \$5,000 grant will allow his business to develop its first website and reach a wider market and attract more clients to its air tour services.

"The grant will help promote the full range of services from customised scenic tours and heli-fishing for barramundi," Duke said, adding the development of a new website will help the young business insulate itself from the challenges of the pandemic.

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.

Amadeus has named **Siddharth Singh** as its new Communications/Public Relations Lead for Asia Pacific. Singh was most recently CWT's Global Event Marketing Lead.

TripADeal has appointed **Dwayne Birtles** as its new Chief Revenue Officer. He joins TripADeal from News Corp, where he was the Industry Head of Travel.

Braydon Holland has taken on a new Senior Director Sales Asia role with **Norwegian Cruise Line**. He joins the cruise line for his second stint, having previously been Sales & Marketing Director. Holland has also worked with Star Cruises as its Vice President Sales, when it was a sister brand to NCL.

Explore Worldwide has announced the appointment of **Hannah Methven** as Sustainability Specialist. The move comes as Explore's Head of Sustainability Prue Stone moves to the role of Head of Sustainability for Hotelplan. Methven has worked for Explore for more than 10 years, and has most recently been responsible for the company's biggest collection of trips as Worldwide Programme Manager.

Marriott International has announced a lineup of new General Manager appointments, including Stephen Ferrigno at The Westin Melbourne and Chris Johns at Four Points by Sheraton Melbourne Docklands.

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