



Joanne Warne
Sister Act Travel

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CLIA writes to PM

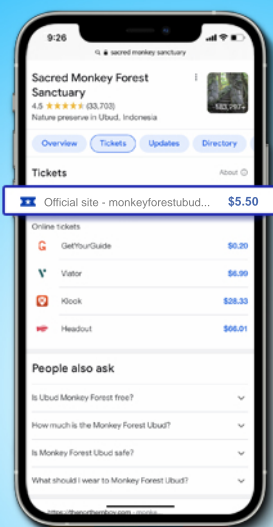
IN A bid to forge a compromise with the Federal Govt, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has written to PM Scott Morrison seeking assurances ahead of next month's review of Australia's cruise suspension.

For more details on the move, see today's **Cruise Weekly**.

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QF vax Mega Prize push

MORE details about Qantas' vaccination incentive program (**TD** 31 May) have been revealed this morning, with the delayed initiative set to launch tomorrow by offering a range of benefits to fully vaccinated loyalty members.

The carrier's Vaccine Reward Mega Prize campaign will give Australian-based Qantas Frequent Flyers aged 18 and over who have received both jabs the option of redeeming one of three prizes,

including 1,000 Qantas points, 15 status credits or \$20 off on Qantas/Jetstar flights.

The incentive will also see participating members automatically entered into a draw to win the major prize of a year's worth of flights, accommodation and fuel, with winners to be announced in Jan 2022.

There are 10 mega prizes up for grabs which will see winners able to enjoy free accommodation across 345 Accor hotels, top up with free fuel at BP petrol stations, and a year's worth of flights to more than 60 destinations around Australia.

Aussie loyalty members can claim their vaccination gifts by downloading the Qantas App via the App Store or through Google Play, and using their Medicare app to upload their COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate.

"As the national carrier, we want to recognise those who have made the effort to protect themselves and the community," Qantas CEO Alan Joyce said.

"The impact of the pandemic on the travel industry and our own Qantas Group team members means we have a clear vested interest in the success of the vaccine rollout," he added.

To support the campaign, Aussie musician Tones And I has been employed to sing an exclusive rendition of her hit single *Fly Away* for a marketing push running across TV, digital, outdoor, print and radio.

WA support deal

TOURISM businesses in WA will soon be able to apply for new support funding under a recently unveiled \$16.8 million program.

Eligible businesses, including travel agents offering domestic tours, will be able to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 to assist with the financial impact of travel restrictions, with 3,500 companies anticipated to take advantage of the scheme.

Applicants must prove a 30% reduction in turnover by comparing the period 15 May to 25 Jun with 10 Jul and 20 Aug to be eligible, with \$10k offered for businesses with an annual turnover between \$1-10m, \$5k for between \$100k and \$1m and \$2k for between \$50k and \$100k.

Businesses must also have an active and valid ABN, be registered with Tourism WA as a previous grant recipient or as part of the agency's marketing campaigns in 2020 or 2021.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page.

APT ditches 2021

ALL international tours and cruises operated by APT Group ex Australia have been suspended to 31 Dec due to the ongoing impact of COVID travel restrictions.

The operator is offering future holiday credits to all impacted clients, with the value equal to the full amount of the booking.

Credits are valid for travel on any APT tour or cruise up until the end of 2023, including with the APT, Travelmarvel, Botanica or TravelGlo brands, and are also applicable for multiple bookings for the same client if desired.

Vale Tim Acton

THE travel industry is mourning the passing of long-time airline manager Tim Acton who died after a short illness last week.

He migrated to Australia in the early 60s before starting a career at the then-called Trans Australia Airlines office in King's Cross before heading across to Cathay Pacific as its Victorian Manager when the airline began flying to Melbourne in the early 70s.

People close to Acton remember him fondly for his cheery personality and entertaining public speaking, often featuring self-deprecating tales of his extensive travel and travel-related mishaps, and will be sorely missed.



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Window Seat

THE challenges of a long-distance relationship can be hard to overcome unless you have a connection (or two), and for a couple of regular Delta Air Lines fliers, their connection to each other culminated in a moment they will forever cherish - an engagement!

Brennan and Skyler (**pictured**) first met two years ago and have been smitten ever since, but with one living in Atlanta and the other in Dallas, dating has meant many DL flights.

Only last week, Brennan enlisted the help of DL to pull off an audacious engagement proposal, with the airline donating dozens of staff to make the moment really take flight, including decorating a corridor at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport to make it look like a rain forest.

The airline also provided the couple with a tour of the Atlanta Airport in a Porsche, posters at the boarding gate and Brennan and Skyler-themed clappers for pax on their outbound flight.



Travel Daily

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travelBulletin



Reforms to the travel industry proposed by CHOICE have some up in arms, but discover why others think they may not be a bad idea.

Read more in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK
to read**

Castle Hill agency closes

EXCLUSIVE

ITALKTRAVEL Castle Hill in Sydney has confirmed it is currently in the process of shutting down after operating for as long as it could with little income and ongoing expenses.

Owner Michael O'Leary told *Travel Daily* that its primary focus since purchasing the business four years ago was to honour its customers and staff, which is why the travel agency is making the decision to wrap things up now so it can avoid leaving anyone out of pocket.

Quarantine trial commences in SA

THE first trial program of home-based quarantine will begin in South Australia this week as part of an initiative agreed to with the Federal and SA state governments back in Jul (**TD** 12 Jul).

The trial will first offer people returning from NSW and Victoria the option of isolating at home instead of hotels, with facial recognition and geo-location technology to be deployed to monitor & enforce the program.

Travellers participating in the trial will be contacted by the South Australian Government at random and required to provide proof of their location within 15 minutes, with the goal of taking a less resource-intensive approach to quarantine enforcement.

"When [the pandemic] hit we took a different approach to a lot of owners and tried to keep our people on as long as we could," O'Leary said.

"While JobKeeper was in we were surviving with no income, unfortunately as soon as that finished it was only a matter of time, even with the state and federal grants - but hey we lasted quite a while," he added.

O'Leary also said he was pleased to declare all of the business's customers have been looked after and its staff have had plenty of time to find alternative employment, with team member Joanne Miller moving on to TravelManagers where she will take care of customers with future credits.

When the closure is completed, the business will be liquidated so that its staff can access the Fair Entitlement Guarantee.

Improvement noted

EVENT Hospitality and Entertainment's hotel division reported a normalised EBITDA of \$33.49 million for the 12 months to 30 Jun, a \$27.5m drop on the previous corresponding period.

However, the result did show a solid improvement made in the second half of the financial year, close to doubling from \$11.35 million (1H) to \$22.1 million, while the company's Thredbo resort saw EBITDA dwindle by close to \$18 million in the second half of the year on the back of stricter travel restrictions brought on by the outbreaks of Delta.

Overall Thredbo saw revenue and EBITDA both increase when compared to the previous year, up 6.4% to \$78.66m and 19.7% to \$29.78m respectively.

Travel restrictions quashed capacity at Thredbo by 50% and produced close to half fewer skier days, but its parent company pointed to an optimistic growth plan which includes four more trails over the next two years.

Aussies go first

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours' 2023 Europe River Cruising Collection has been released early for Australian travellers.

Now available at 2022 prices, the advance release enables Aussies holding future travel credit to re-book their preferred suites and dates.

All new Europe River Cruising bookings made online via ExpressBook before the end of next month will also earn a bonus 2% commission, and all reservations will receive Scenic's complimentary down payment protection plan.

Tassie help on way

THE Tasmanian Government has announced a new \$50 million loan scheme to support the state's tourism operators rebuild as travel slowly returns to normal.

Full details of the package will be released this week, along with how local businesses can apply.

MEANWHILE Tasmania has also opened applications for its Regional Hospitality Revival Fund today, an initiative that will see one-off rebate payments allocated up to a capped amount of \$1,500 for businesses such as hotels and motels, so long as they have an in-house dining venue.

Accommodation providers located outside of the big cities of greater Hobart and Launceston are not eligible to apply.

Azamara Euro 23

AZAMARA has unveiled the voyages of its full fleet for Europe in 2023, featuring new destination immersion experiences and 100 itineraries.

More than 35 country intensive voyages and new pre- and post-land explorations will also feature during the season, in which Azamara will visit more than 40 European countries.

The cruise line will also visit more than 200 ports throughout Europe, with guests able to experience over 300 late nights.



July slammed by COVID

THE month of Jul saw the second-highest number of cancelled flights made during any month since reporting began in 2003, new figures from the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE) observed.

The vast majority of canned flights were made due to COVID-related travel restrictions, which saw a cancellation rate for the month of 31.8% (9,351 flights).

Jetstar recorded the highest percentage of cancellations at 51.2%, while Qantas was forced to pull the plug on 35.8%, followed by Virgin Australia (31.2%), QantasLink (25.6%) and Rex Airlines (17.8%).

The BITRE report also showed that Hamilton Island-Sydney and Sunshine Coast-Sydney performed the best with regard to being on time, both scoring 100% of on-schedule arrivals for Jul, while Brisbane to Perth was

the route to demonstrate the tardiest times, with only 33.7% of flights arriving on time.

Perth was also involved in the poorest departure times for the month, with less than half of its Perth to Melbourne flights taking off on schedule.

In terms of airline efficiency, Virgin Australia performed the strongest, demonstrating 88.7% on-time flights across departures and arrivals, followed by Rex Airlines (88.15%), Qantas (86.55%) and Jetstar (85.4%).

Port Macquarie Airport topped the list of airports keeping to schedule, recording 95.3% of flights departing on time, followed by Gold Coast (94.3%), Dubbo (93.8%), Coffs Harbour (93.5%) and Gladstone (93.3%).

Dubbo Airport also fared well regarding arrivals, taking out top spot with 98.4% on time, followed by Coffs Harbour (97.9%) and Newcastle (94.3%).

NIB travel takes hit

ONGOING travel disruptions have significantly impacted nib's travel insurance divisions, with the company's full year financial results showing a 74.1% drop in sales revenue for the period.

International inbound health insurance membership also decreased by 6.5% for the 12 months to 30 Jun, however the company's CEO Mark Fitzgibbon said that despite the tough result he was confident the division would bounce back strongly.

"Pre-pandemic in FY19, [our travel businesses] contributed \$41.5 million to group earnings compared with a loss of \$19.5 million in FY21, it speaks of the opportunity ahead and we're using the current hiatus to modernise our systems and improve...efficiency," he said.

"[But] the near-term outlook for our travel businesses remain challenged by restrictions on foreign entry and travel," Fitzgibbon added.

80% support for vaccine passports

FOUR in five people are in favour of domestic and international vaccine passports if it means a speedier return to business travel, according to new polling conducted by the corporate arms of the Flight Centre Travel Group.

Close to 1,800 people were involved in the LinkedIn study, with Flight Centre MD for Australia James Kavanagh stating the findings showed a rising desire for face-to-face meetings.

"We know there is a huge amount of pent-up demand for business travel and the desire to have face-to-face meetings is growing day-by-day," he said.

"Virtual meetings still serve a purpose, but nothing beats that human interaction at a corporate and everyday level...travel is critical for companies of all sizes as they look to win and retain new business," Kavanagh added.

AUSTRALIANS WILL BE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL WHEN WE REACH 80% OF THE POPULATION VACCINATED, SO LETS

#givettravelashot
#letsgetto80



GET INVOLVED!

1

Protect yourself and help Australia open up by getting vaccinated

2

Use the hashtags on social media to encourage people to get the jab

3

Access our toolkit of assets to help you promote the campaign

4

Tag *Travel Daily* in your posts for the chance to win a gift card

Where in the world?



THIS ship was once an ocean liner which sailed between Australia and New Zealand, and was also used as a ship by the NZ naval forces in WWI.

Today it is a far cry from that history, having washed ashore on the island where it currently rests in 1935 during a cyclone while it was being towed to Japan to be

broken up into pieces.

The ship was stripped of its fittings but attempts to refloat it failed and it remains in the same spot today.

The remains of the ship are still visible, but access to the site is banned for safety reasons.

Do you know where in the world you can spot this wreck?

Sudoku

FIENDISH

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.

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

Pub quiz

- What is the largest seated theatre in Australia?
- What country is located on the Kowloon Peninsula?
- Levi is the largest ski resort in what country?
 - Russia
 - Iceland
 - Finland
- The world's first ice hotel is located in what country?
- An earthquake in what decade slightly damaged the Washington Monument?
- Oamaru, New Zealand, is the birthplace of what famous local athlete?
- Virginia Key is an island off the coast of what American city?
- The Roswell UFO incident occurred in which American state?
- Fukuoka is the most populous city on which Japanese island?
 - Kyushu
 - Hokkaido
 - Honshu
- What type of fishing is prevalent in Broome?

Seen it at the movies



THIS beautiful fort in Jodhpur, India, is in real life a far cry from the setting that it played in this film, where it serves as an underground prison.

Described in the movie as The

Pit, the movie's protagonist is held captive here but escapes to battle his nemesis and save his beloved Gotham city from nuclear destruction.

Can you name the film?

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

ANSWERS 23 AUG
 Where in the world: SS Maheno, Fraser Island, Queensland, Australia
 Pub quiz: 1 Palais Theatre, 2 Hong Kong, 3 c) Finland, 4 Sweden, 5 2010s, 6 Richie McCaw, 7 Miami, 8 New Mexico, 9 a) Kyushu, 10 Pearl Harbor
 Seen it at the movies: The Dark Knight Rises

Venturing to the UK

SEABOURN has revealed the details of its first itineraries to take place aboard *Seabourn Venture* in 2022, including explorations of the United Kingdom and Scotland.

The 12-day Wild & Ancient British Isles voyage from London to Leith sails from 22 Apr 2022 along the coast of Scotland and Norway en route to Tromsø, while a 24-day British Isles & Norse Legend Expedition voyage is also on offer, with bookings for the new voyages now on sale.

Call 13 24 02 for more details.

Singapore loosens

SINGAPORE continues to ease travel restrictions in and out of the country, recently implementing the removal of quarantine measures for travellers from Hong Kong and Macau and unveiling its all-purpose Vaccinated Travel Lanes (VTL) scheme with Germany and Brunei starting 08 Sep.

Under the VTL system, fully vaccinated travellers can enter from Germany and Brunei without isolation, and instead undertake several PCR COVID-19 tests before and during their trip.

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.



Star Clippers - 2023 Mediterranean Preview

Star Clippers has gone to press with its 2023 Mediterranean preview brochure. All three Star sister ships return to the sea for a full season of destination-focused adventures. From the cultural melting pot of Istanbul to colourful destinations of Portugal and Morocco, all three ships will sail in the region from Apr through Oct 2023. Also included is the picturesque Adriatic coastal highlights of Croatia, Montenegro and Italy voyage, which Star

Clippers said is the most popular itinerary for the Australian market and is already selling fast.



Regent Seven Seas - 2023-2024 Voyage Collection

Regent Seven Seas Cruises' new 2023-2024 Voyage Collection provides exciting new ports of call and immersive cultural experiences in iconic destinations throughout the globe, with reservations opening on Thu. The collection offers sailings ranging from seven nights up to the recently announced 132-night 2024 World Cruise, and feature more than 129 overnight calls in unforgettable destinations such as St. Petersburg, Kyoto, Singapore, Lisbon, and Bordeaux. The 2023-2024 Voyage Collection also boasts 15 new ports of call, including Mystery Island.

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Isabel chimes in for Xmas



LAST month the Globus family of brands Australasia team held a special mid-winter Christmas in Jul photo competition to see who could deliver the most festive cheer during the heart of winter.

After receiving a great number of 'tree-mendous' entries, the employee awarded top honours

was Sydney-based Business Development Manager Isabel Limn, who dazzled her fellow online attendees with her incredible traditional Christmas festive feast (**pictured**).

Airlines lend hand

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has called American carriers such as Delta Air Lines and United Airlines to help evacuate people from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

A spokesperson for the Pentagon said 18 aircraft from various airlines will help with the "movement of people" but would not fly directly to Kabul.

NCL jabs on to Nov

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) will mandate its guests be fully vaccinated until at least the end of the year, a policy that was initially put in place until the end of Oct, but with the sharp increase in Delta cases in the US, has been extended by another two months.

Guests who are not old enough to be vaccinated in the United States won't be allowed to sail with NCL at this stage.

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