

Today's issue of TD

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

ATAC flies co-op flag

THE Australian Travel Agents Co-operative (ATAC) will tomorrow celebrate International Day of Co-Operatives alongside organisations across the globe with a similar structure.

With the hashtag #CoopsDay, the event is themed "Rebuild better together," with ATAC GM Michelle Emerton saying it "provides the perfect opportunity to spread the word about the strength of how ATAC's human-centred business model, sustained by our values of solidarity, integrity and transparency contributes to working with our members; our only shareholders, for the prosperity of all".

A commemorative video is now live at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

SLK settles bus buy

SEALINK Travel Group yesterday finalised its \$85 million acquisition of Go West Tours (TD 07 May), saying the deal gives it a "platform for growth into the attractive resources sector transportation market".

Go West is a specialist bus transport business operating in regional and remote Western Australia, primarily serving the resources sector with charter, rental and tour vehicles.

No Travelport EK GDS fee

EMIRATES and Travelport have announced a commercial agreement which will allow Travelport-connected travel agencies to avoid the carrier's new surcharge on bookings via global distribution systems.

The impost, which became effective yesterday, means standard GDS bookings will involve a fee of up to US\$25 per sector, but the new long-term pact will see Travelport's global network of travel agency partners "automatically upgraded to a dedicated channel that provides access to un-surcharged content".

The new agreement also enables the distribution of Emirates NDC content via the next-generation Travelport+ platform, as well as an extension

to the carrier's longstanding IT agreement.

"We are pleased to have reached key agreements with Travelport that take our decades-long partnership to the next level," said EK Chief Commercial Officer Adnan Kazim.

"Supported by the recent launch of Travelport+, these new deals will further cement Emirates as the airline of choice for travellers that want highly personalised offers and access to the world's best destinations," he said.

As part of the deal, Travelport-connected agencies will gain simplified access to EK NDC content and services via Travelport Smartpoint once they sign new NDC-specific agreements with both Emirates and Travelport.

The announcement will put further pressure on rival GDS Sabre, which currently has no agreement with Emirates meaning travel agents are unable to sell EK tickets or service existing bookings via Sabre or Abacus (TD 11 Jun).

Princess Euro '23

PRINCESS Cruises today released its 2023 European program, with 177 departures visiting the Mediterranean, Scandinavia, British Isles, Russia, Iceland and Norway.

There are 67 unique itineraries ranging from seven to 33 days, with the program going on sale to Elite Guests on 16 Jul, followed by the general public the next day.

Five MedallionClass vessels will operate in the region, including the maiden season for *Enchanted Princess* in the Mediterranean which is expected to prove particularly popular with Aussie cruisers - call 1300 587 473.

Harford back home

GARY Harford has taken a new Sydney-based role as Travelport's Director of Commercial and Business Development.

He's been with Travelport since 2009, relocating back to Australia from Singapore where he was Regional Director APAC Operator Territories.

New Spencer brand



SPENCER Travel has announced the merger of its three existing leisure brands into the new Spencer Travel Leisure banner.

Previously operating separately as Spencer Travel Southside, Spencer Travel Eastside and Shire Travel, the operations have now been consolidated into the Spencer Travel headquarters in the Sydney suburb of Mascot.

"Having all consultants together under one roof, servicing clients, sharing knowledge and supporting each other has really strengthened our team and our business," said MD Penny Spencer.

"We are delighted to now have a new name which represents all our leisure consultants... clients will still be speaking and booking with their personal consultant and will also have access to our other experienced leisure consultants if they are not available," she added.

QF/Amadeus trial

AMADEUS has started to deliver Qantas' NDC-sourced content to pilot travel sellers to test bookings, with selected agents able to shop, book, and pay for NDC offers sourced from the Qantas Distribution Platform.

OFFER ENDS 22 JULY

NCL'S FREEDOM SALE

US \$ **200** FREE ONBOARD CREDIT* 2022 CRUISES

RECEIVE **5** FREE OFFERS*



LEARN MORE

*Conditions apply.



Window Seat

AND you thought YOUR flight was delayed!

Wally Funk (pictured) was one of the trailblazing women in the running to blast off to space in the early sixties but was ultimately excluded because of her gender.

But now her chance for 'stardom' has finally arrived, with Funk scheduled to accompany billionaire Jeff Bezos on the first New Shepard launch on 20 Jul, where for 10 minutes the spacecraft will soar above the Karman line that marks the boundary between Earth's atmosphere and space.

After waiting close to 60 years for the chance, we hope she remembers her passport!



ScoMo wants vax travel

TODAY'S National Cabinet Meeting is expected to include a proposal to establish clear vaccination thresholds to unlock some form of international travel.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said it was important to establish the "magic numbers" required for Australians to enjoy travel benefits, both domestically and overseas, according to a report in *The Australian* this morning.

"It's time to start laying it out for the Australian public, it is imperative that the premiers, chief ministers and I address that question," Morrison said.

"It comes down to the medical science...we have already done modelling on the alpha variant and are now doing it on the delta variant, which will set a threshold marker going forward.

"The package the public deserves needs a consolidated agreement from all of us," the Prime Minister added.

Modelling based on the more-contagious delta variant, which is currently contributing to the bulk of the disruption and COVID cases

across the country, is understood to be almost complete.

Morrison's comments follow remarks made by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrew yesterday, who stated he would cease with lockdowns once every person had been offered a vaccine.

Dodge GDS fees

SUBSCRIPTION-BASED marketplace [NDCMarketplace.com](https://www.ndcmarketplace.com) has launched, allowing travel advisors to minimise GDS surcharges being implemented by airlines around the world.

The new tool offers agents a way to search, compare, book airline tickets and ancillaries on NDC-certified airlines.

Travel advisors will use their own credentials and form of payment on [NDCMarketplace.com](https://www.ndcmarketplace.com), will not lose their Global Distribution Services incentives, and can avoid GDS surcharges imposed by airlines like Qantas Airways, Airfrance/KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, British Airways, Emirates, Lufthansa Group, and Singapore Airlines.

A business subscription costs US\$99 a month and includes unlimited users, 100 ticket orders and unlimited suppliers.

McGowan fumes

WESTERN Australian Premier Mark McGowan has called for new federal limits on the volume of Australians allowed to travel overseas for business.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, the WA leader claimed "large groups of people" were travelling overseas and posing an unnecessary health risk to Australia upon their return.

"People book a conference in Europe, and then have a holiday while they're over there, and then come back and join the queue...it's just not right - we need to crack down on this," McGowan said.

Blue Mtns boost

MORE than 1,000 local jobs will be created by Blue Mountains Tourism (BMT) as the result of a \$2.6 million grant which was announced yesterday under Round Two of the jointly funded Federal and State Bushfire Local Economic Recovery program.

The money will see BMT deliver the Blue Mountains Visitor Economy Revitalisation Project, a two year enterprise which aims to "reinststate the Blue Mountains as a key tourist destination in NSW and Australia".

The project, operated in partnership with Blue Mountains City Council, involves destination branding, marketing, website development, major events, industry communications and a business resilience program.

Azamara pulls out

AZAMARA Cruises is the latest international operator to suspend its upcoming Australasian summer season, this morning confirming the "difficult decision to replace many sailings between Sep 2021-May 2022 due to the ongoing complexities of cruise operations in Latin America and Australia".

The move has seen the cancellation of 13 *Azamara Journey* voyages, including operations in Australia and New Zealand, as well as Japan and Asia.

Azamara has also cancelled *Azamara Pursuit* voyages until Jan.

The line will resume sailing with *Azamara Quest* in Greece from 28 Aug this year, with a Mediterranean season followed by a stint in the Caribbean.

Azamara Journey will also restart in the Mediterranean on 13 Oct, and remain there throughout the northern winter rather than relocating down under as previously planned.

Pursuit will now resume sailing in South Africa on 03 Jan 2022, and after completing her African voyages will head back to the Mediterranean at the end of Mar.

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CORPORATE UPDATE

GBT injects confidence

IN A bid to accelerate companies getting business trips back on the road, American Express Global Business Travel (GBT) has introduced new features to its reporting and online booking solutions.

Using a combination of post-trip surveys, Travel Vitals, and GBT's own intelligence data, businesses will now have access to a range of new insights to keep them informed while planning and embarking on corporate travel.

"Business trips are less predictable than before the pandemic, to best adapt their programs travel managers are looking for new ways to get real insights into the traveller experience and deliver up-to-date COVID-related information to travellers at every point in the journey," GBT VP of Product Strategy Mark McSpadden said.

Using the new up-to-date intelligence, travel managers can now evaluate suppliers for appropriate safety and health standards and make changes in policies relating to preferred suppliers in instances where travellers' expectations are not currently being met.

Enhancements have also seen GBT's online expense solution Neo updated so that it automatically surfaces itinerary-specific COVID guidelines at the time of booking.

MEANWHILE CWT has rejoined the Global Business Travel Association (GBT), where the company states it will "play an active role at GBTA events and meetings, and in various joint industry research initiatives" to create recovery momentum.

Business trips dip

BUSINESS travel has struggled to recover more than any other mode of travel in Australia, according to new figures released by Tourism Research Australia.

The survey showed that corporate travel was down by 49% to 13.4 million trips for the year ending Mar 2021, while spend also decreased by 60% to \$8.5 billion during the same period.

The biggest losses were noted in the capital cities and interstate, with cross-border travel down 54% on the same period last year, while spend was down in the capital cities by 55%.

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The July issue of *travelBulletin* is out now. Take a deep dive into the question of whether agents should charge service fees and read about cruising Europe and more.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*

Time to get back to Bali



A MAJOR tourism campaign designed to get Australians to start booking future holidays to Bali is about to kick off, with Finns Bali and Bali Tourism partnering in the global marketing push.

The Back to Bali campaign is set to be the biggest in the Indonesian island's history, and will promote the purchase of future holiday vouchers for approximately \$500, offering value at close to \$1,500.

The credit, which will be made available to purchase via the Back to Bali portal from 05 Jul, will offer travellers around \$500 across the categories of food & beverage, accommodation and Finns VIP membership credit.

Vouchers can be secured for an initial payment of \$99 and will be valid for up to three years to pay the remaining balance and redeem the credit.

Flexibility has been built into

the new voucher scheme with credits 100% interchangeable, meaning travellers can customise expenditure to suit their needs, whether that's spending the voucher's total value on accommodation or experiences, it's up to the purchaser.

More than 100 resorts and villas are participating in the scheme, including Five Elements, Six Senses, Abaca Villas, Massilia Villas and Rumah Ludwig, plus a host of additional suppliers.

"It's no secret that tourism is the heart and soul of the island, with many people facing employment uncertainty and poverty," Finns Bali COO Beau Whittington said.

"With the hope of travel on the horizon, we firmly believe that now is the right time to launch a Back to Bali campaign, and do everything we can to revive the tourism industry," he added.

The campaign is backed by Garuda, Bali Hotels Association and Wonderful Indonesia.

Pictured: One of Bali's countless picturesque beaches.

Potts tops the pops

RYAN Potts has been promoted to become CEO of Corporate Travel Connections (CTC).

He has been with the company for seven years, most recently in the role of CT Connections Head of Partnerships and Strategy, a role he has held since Aug 2019.

Prior to that, Potts spent close to five years with TravelEdge Corporate across various roles, including Account Development Manager & Snr Account Manager.

Cloud Car in Japan

A CLOUD-BASED rental car company has linked with Toyota in Japan to allow corporate travellers access in the country.

Cloud Car offers car rentals via smart devices and the ability to share cars for private use during holidays and business trips.

Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



Icon under a microscope



THIS landmark is iconic and easily recognisable when you see the whole picture, but can you identify it from this small portion of the image?

This crossing was made famous

by a band, appearing on the cover of their album named after the road, as well as now being the name of the studio where the music was recorded.

Can you name the crossing?

Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the *TD* Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 02 Sep 2014:

HERE'S an ideal way to bring in tourists - if a little pricey.

A flood of inquisitive visitors has gathered on a beach near Folkestone in southern England, after 30 gold bars were buried as part of an arts festival.

German artist Michael Sailstorfer said the ingots are worth about \$25,000 in total - and members of the public who find any of them are allowed to keep the treasure.

However along with the gold he has also buried several thousand metal washers, which will make things interesting for the visitors, most of whom are equipped with metal detectors.

One of the bounty hunters said "it's the first art in the world where I've hopped in a car and drove to see it straight away, so that's something."

Famous faces



THERE are three different faces that make up this picture.

They are a mixture of famous celebrities and travel names.

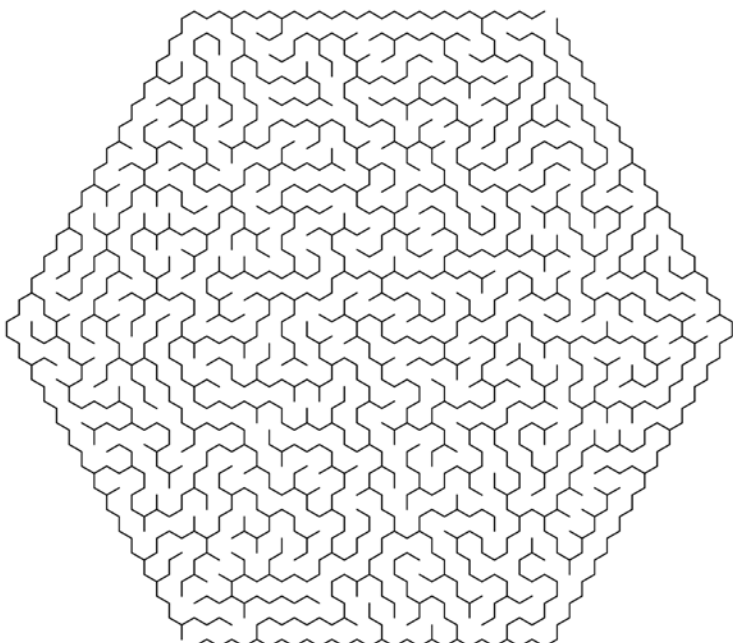
Can you figure out who the

eyes, nose and mouth in this picture belong to?

And don't worry if you can't guess them all, two out of three ain't bad!

A-maze-ing

CAN you find your way through this maze? Start at the top and finish at the bottom.



ANSWERS 02 JUL
Icon under a microscope: Abbey Road, London, UK
Celebrity faces: Eyes - Cinzia Burnes, HelloWorld, Nose - Queen Elizabeth II, Mouth - Ryan Gosling



To fee or not to fee?

THE latest edition of *travelBulletin* is out now featuring a wrap up of all the latest travel news and analyses.

The cover story asks the question, 'to fee or not to fee', with Publisher Bruce Piper taking a deep dive into the pros and cons of travel agents charging for service versus the traditional commission model.

The topic is in even sharper focus after Qantas made the call to cut commission last month, with many in the travel sector believing now is the perfect time to push the conversation in the direction of fee-for-advice, but not all power-brokers agree.

Also featured in the issue is a round up on the status of Australian Federation of Travel Agents after the industry body released its annual report, which laid bare its challenging financial state, however Chairman Tom Manwaring puts forward his case for why the body is bruised but not broken.

Myles Stedman also investigates the peril the cruise sector now



finds itself in after Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt opted to extend the human biosecurity emergency period for another three months, endangering Australia's popular summer season, plus we take a look at cruising Europe with Celebrity, a wrap up of the top stories in Jun and more.

Read the edition online [HERE](#).

Merger complete

GUIDING Organisations Australia and the Professional Tour Guides Association of Australia have finalised a merger (*TD* 11 Nov 2020) to become Tour Guides Australia, a partnership the bodies believe will deliver better outcomes for tour guides.

The entity views its role as engaging the travel industry to deliver professional standards for tour guides through better education, accreditation and support, with membership on offer across multiple categories.

Win week of cruising

AGENTS can win a seven-night cruise of the South Pacific and a double day pass to Malamala Beach Club when they enter a new raffle organised by Blue Lagoon Cruises.

Funds raised will go towards supporting local Fiji staff who are doing it tough during the pandemic, with the cruise line so far donating more than FJ\$125,000 to its more than 300 employees so they can purchase food and essential supplies.

The lucky winner of the raffle will score a week-long sailing for two people which will include all meals, activities and drinks, as well as a Malamala island beach club pass for two.

See more details [HERE](#).

Eco Travel refresh

ECOTOURISM Australia has launched a revamped version of its Green Travel Guide, boasting improved search functionality and a host of new listing features like "book now" buttons, social media links, images and reviews.

The company's Chief Executive Rod Hillman believes the timing of the relaunch aligns with a renewed traveller appetite to seek eco-friendly holidays.

"People are increasingly looking for experiences that bring them back to nature, that refresh them not just physically but also emotionally," he said.

The new Green Travel Guide features 1,700 accommodations and tours certified through Ecotourism Australia.

TRAVEL SPECIALS

WELCOME to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au

Regent Seven Seas Cruises is providing travellers the opportunity to extend their cruise with a free three-night land program. For a limited time, guests can extend their Alaska adventure at no extra cost on selected 2022 voyages. The Ultimate Alaska offer also provides 50% reduced deposits, and applies to new reservations made before the end of next month. For more information, please call 1300 455 200.

MSC Cruises is offering savings of up to \$1,012 per person with included drinks via its Jul cruise of the month special. Valid for all Sep and Oct 2022 departures leaving from Genoa (*MSC Seaside*) or Venice (*MSC Musica*), guests are welcome to use a future cruise credit to book this deal. For further details call 1300 028 302.

Couples can save \$5,080 and solos \$8,425, in addition to free Business class flights on a new luxury cruise package from Australia to Singapore in Mar 2023 with Crystal Cruises through **Cruise Traveller**. Book by the end of the month by calling on 1800 507 777.

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts has launched the Holiday Here campaign through its Wyndham Rewards, which offers members savings of 15% off their hotel stay in Australia and more - [CLICK HERE](#).

VA ponders pets

VIRGIN Australia has launched a social media poll to gauge public support for whether customers are keen to allow pets on planes ahead of a rule change by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority coming in to effect later this year (*TD* 30 Jul).

Qantas and Jetstar have already ruled out changing their current pet policies, but both VA and Rex Airlines are receptive to the idea.

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