

Today's issue of TD

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

Hostels in trouble

THE Nomads and Base hostel networks have collapsed, with owner Tourism Adventure Group (TAG) citing ongoing pressures from the struggling tourism sector as the primary cause.

Liam Healey and Quentin Olde from professional consultancy Ankura have been appointed administrators of the company's local operations, which will continue to operate as a potential restructure is worked out, according to *The Australian*.

"We are working with key stakeholders including landlords, employees and trading partners to accept the current circumstances and face the reality of having to reset the business in the midst of this pandemic, to ensure it is well positioned and on a strong footing for the future," TAG Managing Director Dan Bunning said.

Before the pandemic brought international travel to a virtual standstill in Mar 2020, Bunning said the business was "highly profitable", operating 25 venues, employing more than 600 full-time staff and turning over \$150 million in 2019.

The first meeting of creditors will be held virtually on 07 Jul and does not apply to NZ operations.

COVID refunds site

REX Airlines has created a dedicated portal to process COVID refund requests that it said will ensure eligible tickets are refunded to the passenger's bank within seven days of a request.

"Without our ground-breaking automated portal, it would take us weeks if not months to manually process this volume of requests," Rex Deputy Chairman John Sharp said.

Access the new COVID-19 refund portal [HERE](#).

Road map to new normal

PRIME Minister Scott Morrison has outlined a four-stage COVID exit plan which for the first time includes a road map to the resumption of international travel tethered directly to vaccination rates (**TD** breaking news Fri).

Morrison noted the third-stage "consolidation phase" would see all restrictions on outbound travel for vaccinated persons lifted, as well as a push to extend travel bubbles for unrestricted travel to new candidates such as Singapore and Pacific Island nations.

The Prime Minister was unable to release the dates for when the third phase would take place however, citing a need to complete more modelling of the more infectious Delta strain to release an accurate timeline.

In line with Morrison's comments following the National Cabinet Meeting on Fri that it would be at least the end of the year before all Australians who want to be vaccinated will be, it appears likely that the earliest date would be in 2022.

Key points in the short-term for the travel and tourism sector included the announcement of a pilot scheme for home isolation for returning vaccinated travellers as opposed to two weeks in hotel quarantine, as well as the expansion of commercial trials for a limited entry of student and economic visa holders.

Morrison also flagged the establishment of digital vaccination authentication at international borders as a priority.

While welcoming the plan to a travel normality, AFTA Chair Tom Manwaring said it was clear that travel agents would

require further government support to make it through to the resumption of overseas travel.

"What is clear is that 'normal' travel for most Australians is still some time off, even if there is a significant upturn in vaccination rates, until that happens, we need ongoing support for Australia's travel agents and businesses...whose skills and expertise will be so heavily relied on as Australians start travelling again given the complexities of COVID travel," he said.

While the news delivers a glimmer of hope for the travel sector more broadly, the same can't be said for the Australian cruise industry, which was omitted from any part of the four-part resumption strategy.

CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz said that while Morrison's announcement was a "step forward" for the travel sector, it still leaves cruising without a framework for the resumption of domestic sailings.

"Australia is now the only major cruise market in the world where no progress has been made towards a responsible cruise resumption," Katz said.

TD's 27th birthday

TRAVEL Daily turned 27 yesterday, and while it's not a "big birthday" we would still like to thank the industry for your ongoing support.

The seemingly never-ending COVID-19 pandemic means this is a celebration like no other, but we're determined to keep smiling and bring you the highs and lows of the travel and tourism trade.

The first issue of *Travel Daily* was sent by fax on 04 July 1994 by founder Mike Heard, and since then the team has published more than 6,700 daily editions.

Bunnik Vic launch

BUNNIK Tours has launched Highlights of Western Victoria, its first ever tour in the state.

The excursion encompasses 13 days spent discovering the many gems the region has to offer, from its rich gold mining history to its breathtaking landscapes and world-famous coastline.

Priced at \$5,995 per person twin share, Highlights of Western Victoria has departures running from Sep through until Apr 2022, with a maximum of 20 passengers ferried in a full-sized coach - [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

TASMANIA

COME DOWN FOR AIR



Trade and Events Coordinator Full-time | Hobart

Tourism Tasmania is looking for a Trade and Events Coordinator who will connect up with our travel trade distribution partners, ensuring their understanding of Tasmania is second to none.

As a member of the Industry and Partnerships team, you will identify the gaps and opportunities within the Australian and global distribution network for Tasmanian destination training and support.

Your creative thinking will bring this to life in overseeing and managing our training platform, in activating our highly regarded (and out of the box) events, maximising Tourism Australia's relationships as well as bespoke training and support.

If you have exceptional attention to detail, an undeniable passion for Tasmania, understand the importance of strong relationship management, the requirements of distribution partners, and can bring a level of creativity to all that you do, we'd love to hear from you.

Full job description available here. To apply for this position, click here. Applications close on Sunday 18 July 2021 at 11.55pm AEST.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

TUES: PNG & HIDDEN TREASURES

WED: DISCOVER HONG KONG

VIKING MINI-SERIES: WATCH & WIN

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Window Seat

RETURNING to the office after a period of remote working was a colourful experience at Ignite Travel Group's headquarters last week, with the team undertaking its first social team bonding since the shutdown.

The company's Sip'N'Paint event saw staff get their creative juices flowing with a range of blank canvasses, with bright and optimistic strokes appearing to be the theme going by some of the excellent artworks created.

Talk about painting a picture for the future, well played folks.



SYD receives takeover bid

SYDNEY Airport's directors have acknowledged the receipt of an unsolicited offer from a consortium of infrastructure investors (**TD** breaking news), but noted that the price is "below where Sydney Airport's security price traded before the pandemic".

The group's non-binding, indicative offer would see 100% of Sydney Airport acquired by way of a scheme of arrangement and trust scheme, at a price of \$8.25 in cash per stapled security - a significant premium compared to Fri's SYD share price which closed at \$5.81.

The airport's board noted that the offer "has been made during a global pandemic which has deeply affected the aviation industry and the Sydney Airport security price," with directors to now undertake a detailed analysis of, amongst other things, "whether the proposal is reflective of the underlying value of the airport given its long-term remaining concession and the expected short-term impact of the pandemic".

The offer has come from a group of funds including IFM,

QSuper and Global Infrastructure Management, and is conditional on existing shareholder UniSuper agreeing to reinvest its equity interest in Sydney Airport for an equivalent 15% stake in the consortium's holding vehicle.

The airport's Board noted that current security-holders do not need to take any action in relation to the proposal at this stage, adding "there is no certainty that the proposal will result in a transaction".

Come meet Vincent

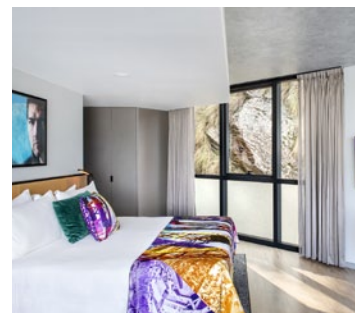
CRYSTALBROOK Collection has unveiled Crystalbrook Vincent for the first time (room **pictured**), located in the heart of Brisbane's Howard Smith Wharves.

The hotel is billed as "brave, bold and vibrant", and a property that will be passionate about the environment and in touch with its artistic side.

Set beneath the Story Bridge, Vincent, formerly known as The Fantauzzo, is the company's seventh property to open to the public in just three years and will retain an artistic connection to its namesake, Vincent Fantauzzo.

The property boasts 166 rooms, a rooftop pool and a 24-hour fitness centre, as well as a rooftop bar, a restaurant, as well as more than 180 different artworks and over 500 prints by the acclaimed Vincent Fantauzzo.

Environmental features include farming its own beef, paperless processes, and recycled materials for a range of hotel needs like key cards and coat hangers, as well as being single-use plastic free.



Agent versus agents

A **MINNESOTA** travel advisor has pleaded guilty to scamming at least three dozen fellow travel agents out of close to US\$500m.

Matthew Schumacher, owner of travel agencies Travel Troops, LLC and Vacation Agent Nation, allegedly convinced other advisors to use his businesses to receive higher commissions on airline, hotel and cruise sales, however, court documents show the accused simply deposited the funds into his bank account.

Schumacher is due to be sentenced at a later date.

EY/LY codeshare

ETIHAD Airways and El Al Israel Airlines have launched a new codeshare agreement that will see routes shared to a host of global destinations from Aug, including Australia.

The agreement will also see El Al add the LY code to Etihad's existing twice-weekly service between Abu Dhabi and Tel Aviv, as well as well to 14 destinations across the Middle East, Europe, Asia and US by adding its EY code to El Al flights, pending approval.

Old body appoints

TOURISM Whitsundays has appointed Nicole Riksman to the role of Industry Development Manager, where she will be charged with supporting local tourism operators.

"We're thrilled to have Nicole on board to assist us in encouraging and facilitating experience-based opportunities for the region, developing tourism products and identifying investment prospects to benefit the industry," Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer Tash Wheeler said.

Riksman has previously held a range of senior executive roles in the travel sector, including Regional Leader for Escape Travel Victoria and Tasmania and General Manager for Flight Centre in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

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Travel Daily



Scenic cancels Aussies

DESPITE progress made with vaccination programs over recent months, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours has suspended European river cruising departures for Australians through to the end of the year.

The decision is based on “the current forecasted international travel restrictions”, Scenic said, and comes alongside the announcement of its resumption of European river cruising in Portugal, France, and Germany.

Itineraries on the Douro River will restart from 30 Jul, followed by France’s Bordeaux River on 29 Aug, the Rhine River on 30 Aug and the Danube River on 27 Sep.

There will also be six Bordeaux cruise departures through Oct; the 11-day Beautiful Bordeaux and the eight-day Bordeaux Affair, while the eight-day Gems of the Danube will have four departures in Sep and Oct.

“We are so excited to be able to

greet our passengers again after such a challenging year,” Scenic Group Chief Operating Officer Rob Voss said.

“Our teams in operations, sales and marketing have worked hard with our travel partners to bring about our European launch and we are seeing very positive responses from our guests, who have been looking forward to this news.

“We plan to continue adding more itineraries as Europe and many other countries like the United States, United Kingdom and Europe continue to re-open their borders to travel,” he added.

The announcement arrives after Scenic last month released next year’s European river cruise program (**CW** 03 Jun).

Travel advisors can currently receive a bonus 2% commission on all new Scenic bookings made online through ExpressBook until the end of the month.

AA sues Sabre

AMERICAN Airlines is taking travel tech company Sabre to court in Texas, alleging its new search format biases results in favour of rival Delta Air Lines.

In a statement, AA claimed it had “discovered numerous instances of the storefront favouring DL products over those of AA, including displays that omit, hide, or misrepresent certain American products.”

This is not the first time AA has taken Sabre to court in Texas, having settled a previous legal stoush over similar search issues back in 2012 (**TD** 01 Nov 2012).

Ladies who launch

VIRGIN Voyages’ *Valiant Lady* has been delivered by Fincantieri’s Sestri Ponente shipyard in Genoa Italy, the second of the fledgling cruise line’s ships to do so.

The line’s third ship *Resilient Lady* has also been floated out.

QR expands trial

QATAR Airways has announced its current trial of the IATA Travel Pass will be rolled out further across its network from 01 Jul.

To be conducted in phases, the COVID-19 vaccination authentication system will initially be available to use for cabin crew travelling from London, LA, New York, Paris and Sydney.

“We know as more people begin making plans to return to their favourite holiday destinations, they will inevitably face the challenge of ensuring they have the right paperwork,” QR Group CEO Akbar Al Baker said.

“Through trialling...new technologies, we aim to provide travellers with a tool that will support them to seamlessly travel across borders with greater confidence,” he added.

MEANWHILE the carrier has extended its travel with confidence policy, now applicable for all tickets issued before 31 Aug for travel up to 31 May 2022.

Clients dreaming of a holiday?

Send them this week’s *Keep Dreaming*, which includes a long weekend in NSW’s Central West and much more.

Travel & Cruise
Weekly

Click to
read



Where in the world?



BUILT between 1939 and 1943, this monument celebrates the founding members of this country, and is particularly named after one who was the main author of the document that declares the nation independent from its colonial founder.

A competition for the design was held in 1925 but the winning

plan was never built.

In 1935 enough funding was finally gained to build the structure and the winner of the previous design competition was selected as the architect.

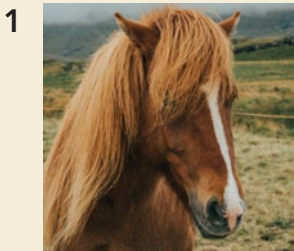
Today the building forms the background to many iconic photos taken of the city's cherry blossom trees in bloom.

Do you know where this is?

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.



Pub quiz

1. Getreidegasse is a busy shopping street in which European city's old town?
2. What currency is traded in Zimbabwe?
3. True or false: there is no river on the Arabian Peninsula?
4. Chicago is located on the shores of which of the Great Lakes?
5. Which two American states have climates described as "tropical"?
6. What is Canada's most populous island?
7. What complex was chosen to host the 2019-20 NBA season after the COVID-19 pandemic hit?
8. Derby, WA, is known as having Australia's highest what?
9. The Exhibition Building is found in which Melbourne neighbourhood?
10. Which Cunard ship is larger: *Queen Elizabeth* or *Queen Victoria*?

Sudoku

EASY

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.

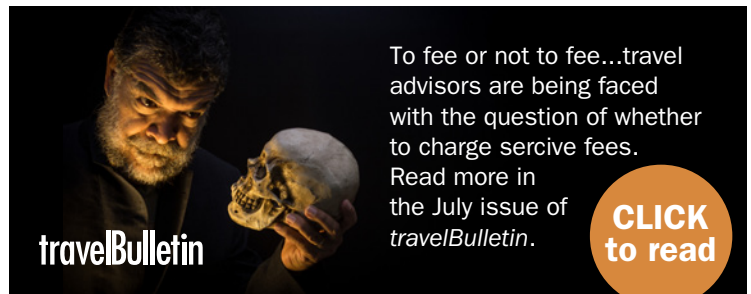
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www.sudokuoftheday.com – visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

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

Where in the world: Jefferson Memorial, Washington DC,
United States
Pub quiz: 1 Salzburg, 2 Dollar, 3 True, 4 Lake Michigan, 5 Florida and Hawaii, 6 Island of Montreal, 7 Walt Disney World, 8 Tides, 9 Carlton, 10 Queen Elizabeth
Pick the nation: Iceland

ANSWERS 05 JUL



To fee or not to fee...travel advisors are being faced with the question of whether to charge service fees. Read more in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read

Kudos to the Kiwis

KUDOS Travel Technology has introduced the te reo Maori language across its travel platform in a bid to better focus on the unique requirements of the New Zealand market.

The company has also overhauled its Visa capabilities through a new integration with IATA's document check Timatic product, enabling real-time Visa checks for Kiwis travelling abroad.

In further news, Kudos has launched advice from Safe Travel NZ (MFAT), providing instant govt safety recommendations abroad.

Crystal rejects claim

CRYSTAL Cruises has reacted sternly to media reports suggesting the line was preparing to sell off its river cruise ships, "emphatically" denying the claims over the weekend.

The story was circulated after an email was sent by a Florida ship broker to European river lines, alleging the cruise line's ships could be developed for sale, but Crystal has since rejected having any contractual relationship with the broker, with its legal team issuing a cease and desist letter to the company.

From one hotel to another



FOR some businesses, when the going gets tough, the tough get giving, just ask the team at the Pullman Novotel and Hotel ibis Sydney Olympic Park hotels who recently donated some "heartist hampers" (pictured) to furloughed staff of the Novotel Wollongong.

"The latest lockdown has seen many of our team without shifts and an income for the next few weeks, so a massive thank you

to the team Pullman, Novotel & Hotel ibis Sydney Olympic Park for these 'Heartist Hampers,'" a spokesperson for the hotel said.

The bags contained basic essentials like food & toilet paper.

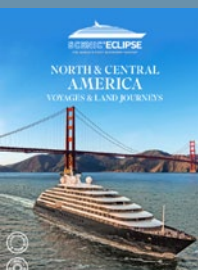
BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Mon 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.



Broome, Kimberley & Beyond: WA-SA-NT 21/22

Broome, Kimberley & Beyond has released its Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory brochure for 2021/22, featuring a range of new products and experiences. Accommodation, touring, rail journeys and cruising are available for these regions, as are maps, event dates and travel tips. In keeping with the company's heritage, the brochure has a strong focus on The Kimberley region, including 10 cruise operators with departures leading in at \$3,990 per person. The brochure is perfect for those looking for either a short break or an in-depth holiday.



Scenic - 2022/2023 North & Central America

Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours has shared *Scenic Eclipse's* North and Central Americas Collection for 2022/2023, featuring four new discovery voyages and five new land journeys. New itineraries for 2022/2023 include a Baja and Costa Rica Discovery - a new 14-day voyage from San Diego to San Jose, departing 28 Sep 2022. The program will also offer experiences such as helicopter tours above the region's sierras, as well as front-row seats aboard *Scenic Neptune*, *Eclipse's* submarine, to view the wildlife of the Sea of Cortez.

Scenic Rim recruits

FORMER Director of the Outback Queensland Tourism Association, Jessica Greenaway, has been appointed the inaugural CEO of Destination Scenic Rim, an industry body charged with promoting the various tourist products in the Qld region.

Greenaway has previously spent the last 10 years growing regional tourism awareness in various remote destinations, including Kalgoorlie, Arnhem Land, the Simpson Desert, and most recently, Winton - commonly referred to as the 'Dinosaur Capital of Australia'.

How's the Serenity

PONANT has extended its Serenity Policy for new cruise bookings, which now covers purchases made up until 30 Sep.

The flexible policy allows clients to cancel or postpone voyages departing until Dec 2022, and requires only 25% of deposits up until 30 days prior to departure.