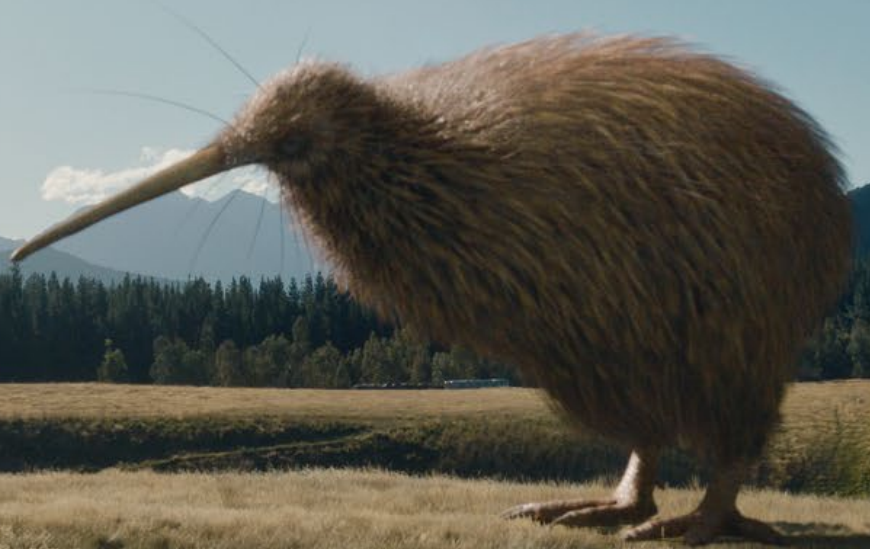


# STOP DREAMING ABOUT NEW ZEALAND AND GO



## Make the New Zealand dream come true for your clients

You've heard the news, you've seen the new campaign. It wasn't a dream, it's real my Australian friends. The Trans-Tasman Quarantine Free Travel Zone is now open! New content and assets are now live.

Check out all the new content and start selling  
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## Dreamtime is over

**WAKEY** wakey - Tourism New Zealand is reminding agents it is time to stop dreaming about booking their clients on a trip to New Zealand and start making them today, with new content and assets now live.

See the **cover page** of today's issue for further information.

## Grant payments trickle out

**JUST** \$25 million has been paid to travel agents under the \$130 million second round of the Government's COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support program - an increase of only \$5m on the previous update almost two months ago (**TD** 24 May).

The figures were released by AFTA yesterday, along with an urgent call for more support for the industry "given the immediate and flow-on impacts of the Sydney lockdown".

AFTA said it continued to work closely with the Government to accelerate the distribution of grant funds, citing the latest update from Austrade indicating that under the program's \$128 million Round One, 3,859 claims were received resulting in \$103 million in payments to 3,154 recipients, with a further 106 claims still under review.

Round Two, which launched on 02 May, has seen 1,206 payments totalling \$25.2 million made as at 08 Jul, along with referral of a total of 1,015 "financial verifications" for applicants with Business Activity Statement G1 figures of \$500,000 or more.

Austrade said 160 verifications were now complete and referred back to Services Australia, while Deloitte has issued log-in details to 1,009 applicants for access to the online Halo platform.

The update confirms that less than half of the total \$258 million available through the program so far has been paid out.

AFTA Chair Tom Manwaring said "the reality is that with borders slamming shut domestically and the trans-Tasman Safe Travel Zone closed more often than it's open, Australia's travel agents and businesses are in a worse situation than we were this time last year".

"Each and every border closure and travel restriction kneecaps consumer confidence, not just in travelling but also in booking.

"For travel agents, it also means a mountain of work at a time when income is almost non-existent and has been for 18 months...consumers need us more than ever to support them through the cancellation maze.

"We need more support and we need it now for all those businesses impacted by these restrictions," he said, adding that AFTA continued to press Austrade for more haste in deploying the much-needed funds from the grants program to the eligible small and medium travel agencies in crisis across the country.

## Cooking up prizes

**ATOUT** France is celebrating tomorrow's Bastille Day with a delicious cooking class a la Nicoise, with attendees in the running to win a three-night tour of Nice and a stay at the luxury hotel La Perouse.

To be held tomorrow at 7pm AEST & run by chef Rosa Jackson - registrations can be made **HERE**.

## Jetstar finally links MEL to Busselton

**JETSTAR'S** inaugural Melbourne to Busselton service will finally take off on Sat.

The first direct service to the airport from outside of Western Australia launches with fares starting from \$179 one-way, and will operate Sat, Mon, and Wed, departing Melbourne Airport at 8:05am AEST and arriving at Busselton-Margaret River Airport at 9:10am WST; then returning to Melbourne at 9:45am WST.

The previous border closures between WA and Victoria prompted Jetstar to delay the launch of flights (**TD** 12 Jan), originally announced almost two years ago (**TD** 08 Oct 2019).

## Joyce still in top 20

**QANTAS** chief Alan Joyce remains in the top 20 most highly paid ASX-200 CEOs in the country, despite a temporary salary cut which has seen his total remuneration package decrease by over 25% in the last year.

New figures released by the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors show that Joyce received no fixed pay for the last three months of FY2020, currently taking home \$10,744,156 in realised pay per year, the report noted.

## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has five pages of news plus a front cover page from **Tourism NZ**.

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## Window Seat

**WHO** says environmentalism has to be a serious business?

Just ask Ballistic Beer Co, a beermaker which recently introduced a new range of “Reef beers” to help fund restoration and research efforts for the Great Barrier Reef.

Created especially to suit the “sultry” Queensland coastal climate, the company’s new Reef Lager and Reef Pale Ale lines will donate 10 cents from every can sold in The Whitsundays to the Airlie Beach charity, Eco Barge Clean Seas.

“I love the fact that people can enjoy a tasty beer while knowing their money is going to a good cause...it’s a very Queensland thing to do,” the charity’s Founding Chair Libby Edge observed between sips.

## TTC exec joins AFTA board

**KATRINA** Barry, MD of The Travel Corporation’s Contiki and Trafalgar brands, was this morning named as a new Director of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (**TD** breaking news).

It’s the first time in living memory that a representative of an industry supplier has been on the AFTA Board, although Barry has been associated with the Federation for some time through previous roles as a Director of the now hibernating ACS credit card chargeback scheme.

Barry is the only fresh face on the Board, with the other five vacancies filled by incumbents Laura Ruffles from Corporate Travel Management, American Express GBT’s Jo Sully, Helloworld Travel’s David Padman, Christian Hunter from Travellers Choice and Webjet’s Shelley Beasley.

The AGM was a quiet affair, with none of the 40 or so online attendees asking questions,

meaning the formalities were over in just a few minutes.

The Board election had seen 10 nominees for the six available spots, with those missing out including Paul Gorman from Luxury Escapes, Thuy Carroll of Tweet World Travel, BCD Travel MD Tass Messinis and David Greenland from Reed & Mackay, whose departure as a Director leaves CT Partners without a representative on the AFTA Board.

## Tickets left for Skäl

**THE** Skäl Club of Melbourne is meeting for the first time since the city’s lockdown, hosting its Jul Members Lunch this Thu at the Hotel Grand Chancellor.

The lunch will be held at Encore Restaurant, with Executive Chef David Cassar putting together a special menu for the occasion.

The luncheon begins at noon - **CLICK HERE** for remaining tickets.

## They bought a zoo!

**FUND** manager Atlas Advisors Australia has purchased a stake in Hunter Valley Zoo in Nulkaba, NSW, adding the tourism attraction to its co-invested ASX-listed Elanor Investors Group’s Elanor Wildlife Park Fund.

The \$60 million nature attraction fund already owns the Featherdale Wildlife Park in Western Sydney and Mogo Zoo in Batemans Bay on the NSW South Coast, with the investment strategy focusing on the rapidly growing eco-tourism space.

“Wildlife parks and zoos have remained resilient and profitable despite COVID-19 posing the greatest challenges the Australian tourism sector has ever faced,” Atlas Advisors Australia Executive Chairman Guy Hedley said.

“Individuals and families are keen for outdoor adventures that connect them with nature and our unique environment while also providing life-long educational experiences.”

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## Tourism Fiji appoints CEO

A NEW CEO has been chosen by Tourism Fiji to replace the departed Matt Stoeckel (TD breaking news yesterday), with former Executive Director of Marketing of the South Australian Tourism Commission Brent Hill (pictured) taking over the role.

He brings with him 16 years of experience in the tourism and digital marketing space, and will be responsible for reviving the country's stricken tourism sector in the wake of the pandemic.

"We're delighted to welcome someone of Brent's calibre to this critically important role not just for Fijian tourism, but for the Fijian economy," Tourism Fiji Chairman Andre Viljoen said.

"His proven expertise, experience and ideas for the industry's revival are a perfect fit for Fiji's current requirements.

"We are in the same situation as every other leisure tourism destination in the world - all of us



are going for the same markets, which are now smaller with lower discretionary spending ability," Viljoen added.

In his previous role at the South Australian Tourism Commission, Hill was credited with helping to grow the state's total tourism expenditure from \$5.3 billion to \$8.1 billion over the last four years, representing a 53% increase on the prior four years.

## QR sells Seychelles

QATAR Airways has joined forces with Tourism Seychelles in a joint effort to bring back greater numbers of tourists to the archipelago, with the carrier increasing flights from Doha from three times weekly to daily.

"Our islands are a refuge, and with our tourism operators versed in operating safely, we look forward to welcoming more visitors through Doha," the Seychelles Tourism Minister Sylvestre Radegonde said.

## Swan cuts Australia

EXPEDITION line Swan Hellenic has cancelled its Australia and New Zealand cruises planned for the first half of 2022 in response to an extension of govt restrictions on local sailings.

The cruise line confirmed its commitment to the market, stating plans to sail in Australia from late 2022, diverting ships for now to Antarctica and the US.

## Agent lands Fiji trip

ANGELA Rountos from Croydon Travel in Victoria has scored herself two return Economy tickets to Fiji courtesy of Fiji Airways after completing a webinar series conducted by The Treasures of the South Pacific.

The six-week program saw more than 1,000 Aussie agents learn about how a host of Pacific destinations are planning to lure travellers back following the shutdown, with Vanuatu, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands and Fiji just a few of the nations revealing their hidden gems.

Access the webinars [HERE](#).

## Radisson Blu China

THE Radisson Blu Hotel, Changyuan will open its doors in late 2024, becoming the first overseas branded upper-upscale hotel in Changyuan, China.

The hotel will feature 280 rooms and a 1,000m<sup>2</sup> ballroom.



## Catch up on the news of the week

Weekly episodes of Travel Daily's News on the Fly are available on all podcast listening apps

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

## A win that's out of this world



**THE** successful Virgin Galactic test flight with Richard Branson on board yesterday has placed Aussie Velocity Frequent Flyer Scott Copeland (**pictured**) a step closer to entering space.

The lucky traveller from Melbourne secured the ticket in 2014 when he took out Virgin Australia's Ultimate Upgrade to Space competition, with Copeland this week becoming an official member of the spaceline's Future Astronaut Community. Reflecting on his win seven

years ago, Copeland remembers tracking down a naysayer from his childhood to share the news.

"When I won the VA competition in 2014, I committed to finding my primary school teacher from 1979 who at the time said I should reconsider my dream of flying to space," he said.

"Remarkably, I was able to locate her 35 years later to share this incredible story."

VA is currently offering 100,000 bonus Velocity Points for any future Virgin Galactic bookings.

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Travel Daily



## AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

**FROM** the history-making Wimbledon wins by Ash Barty and Dylan Alcott to Ben O'Connor's strong performance in the Tour de France, it has been a ripper of a week.

Throw in the nail-biting Euro football final, and the stress levels have been even higher than normal.

But there is a commonality at work here, each of these events saw fans standing shoulder-to-shoulder.

Each of these events have been able to do this because vaccination of the community is widespread. People in these communities are travelling.

Leaving their home towns and cities and even leaving their countries! With the images of people living life more normally thanks to vaccination being played over and over across screens here in Australia, it's clear that more of us will be thinking "when is it our turn?".

We have the strategy to re-opening from National Cabinet.

We need the supplies of existing and incoming vaccines to more



**afta**  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS

rapidly get into the arms of more Australians. We need Australians excited about the prospect of living the way those in other countries are already.

Until international travel resumes,

until the need for lockdowns as a COVID-control measure is mitigated, we also need support.

We need the distribution of the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Grants to be quicker and we need wider support for every one of those agencies and travel businesses impacted by these restrictions.

Today we hold our 44th Annual General Meeting. Due to the lockdown in Sydney, we are doing so online. We are proud to be updating our members on the many achievements which we have fought so hard to secure despite these most challenging of times.

There's no doubt that we have all been pushed to the limits but we are determined to continue to cement AFTA's evolution for the benefit of our members and our sector.

### Bonus holi dollies

**THE** Queensland Govt is rolling out 38,000 bonus Holiday Dollar vouchers to support the recovery of the state's tourism industry.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said the extra tourism vouchers for Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Cairns had been requested by operators, and would be delivered as part of the Government's COVID-19 Economic Recovery plan.

Palaszczuk claimed more than \$7 million worth of bookings had already been made in areas where the scheme has been rolled out previously.

Visitors in the arrivals hall at Cairns Airport are already receiving \$200 vouchers, while there are draws for \$100 vouchers in Brisbane and the GC.

Qld Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said Holiday Dollars on average returned \$2.75 for every dollar invested by the state.

### Indigenous gallery

**THE** newly renovated Gallery of Central Australia has opened at Ayers Rock Resort, to celebrate and showcase Indigenous artists.

More than 80 artworks supporting existing and emerging artists exclusively from the Central Australia region are displayed in the Gallery, along with specially curated items such as punu (traditional Anangu wood carving) and pieces designed and hand-made by local communities.

Additionally, there will be an ongoing Artist in Residence program, which will run during peak season, with the artists working within the gallery throughout the day, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for visitors to experience the artworks in the making.

The Gallery's operator, Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, sponsors the artists' living expenses while they are on site.





## No luck for ladies

**MORE** cruises aboard Virgin Voyages' *Scarlet Lady* and *Valiant Lady* have been cancelled.

The cruise line has called off the three 22 Sep through 01 Oct sailings aboard *Scarlet*, which were slated to be the first scheduled to leave from Miami.

Ahead of Virgin's debut in the United Kingdom next month, it has also pushed back the launch of *Valiant*, its second ship, cancelling her cruises from 14 Nov through 01 May 2022.

## Air out of the tyres forever



**THE** long-running Blue Mountain Explorer Bus fleet has been parked indefinitely following a decision by owner Fantastic Aussie Tours (FAT) to call it a day on the once-thriving hop-on/hop-off sightseeing service.

FAT Managing Director Jason Cronshaw said continuing to operate the service had become "untenable" without any international tourists.

"While of course we're thankful for the recent NSW Government rescue package, it won't save us - without international tourists it's just not viable," he conceded.

"We're running a 77-seater bus with one or two people, it costs us \$3.50 per km on a 26km circuit and tickets are \$49 for an all-day pass so the maths just doesn't add up," Cronshaw added.

The Blue Mountains Explorer Bus fleet has operated tourism tours around Katoomba and Leura since 1986, as well as sightseeing charters around Australia for two generations since 1974.

The business experienced

its first major blow during the summer of 2019/2020, when it ceased services for 27 days due to the threat of bushfires, seeing a 60% drop in passenger numbers during the period.

One of the red double-decker buses has already been sold, with another five on the market.

**Pictured:** Crews peel off the iconic branding for the last time.

## Joondalup closing?

**THE** future of Joondalup Resort looks uncertain as Director Tuck Kwong Low moves to close down the four-star property, despite ASIC records showing he has since been removed as a director.

Supreme Court documents lodged by Low indicate the resort is now insolvent and he wants the property closed, an application that will be heard on 20 Jul.

*WA Today* reports Low is currently in the midst of a legal dispute with co-owners Peter Kwee and James Chan over the future of the resort.

## Crown fears default

**CROWN** Resorts has warned it may default on its debt if a Royal Commission inquiry into its Melbourne location sees its casino licence revoked.

Flagging "severe consequences" for shareholders and thousands of employees, Crown Executive Chair Helen Coonan said it was "not in the public interest" for the business to fail.

## MONEY

**WELCOME** to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

**AU\$1 = US\$0.748**

**THE** Australian dollar attempted to rally during Mon's trading session, but ultimately struggled to surpass AUDUSD \$0.75 mark.

Alarms over the currency's future are imminent, with investor fears the Sydney lockdown might be extended, a scenario which will likely weigh heavily on the Aussie dollar and see the sell-off of the currency continue if it occurs.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.748
UK	£0.539
NZ	\$1.071
Euro	€0.630
Japan	¥82.52
Thailand	฿24.43
China	¥4.842
South Africa	10.76
Canada	\$0.931
Crude oil	US\$75.55

## Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients - giving you a reason to reach out to your database.

[Click here to view Keep Dreaming magazine](#)

[Click here for a toolkit to help you share it with clients](#)



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*Travel Daily* is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

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