CURIOUS ABOUT SOUTH AUSTRALIA?

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO PARTY









Travel Daily First with the news

www.traveldaily.com.au Tuesday 1st June 2021

Big fat party animal

IF YOU'RE curious about South Australia, here's a teaser - it's the state for those who love to party! Adelaide Fringe Festival is just one of the many exciting event to be held in The Festival State - so head to the front page to find out

Skiing even sooner

more exciting details.

PERISHER Ski Resort is opening on Fri, a week earlier than previously announced.

Lift tickets, lessons, rentals and Skitube are on sale for the entire season from today.

Skiers booking at least seven days ahead can also bundle & save, and get 30% off when building a package - CLICK HERE for further details.

Puzzles are gone?

SHARP-EYED readers may notice that today's Travel Daily doesn't have its customary puzzle page.

In the *Travel Daily* Survival Survey we asked what you like and don't like about TD and puzzles received some mixed feedback - some people were big fans, others not so much.

Well you spoke and we listened - from Jun our puzzle page will feature only three times a week, on Mon, Wed and Fri.

For puzzle lovers, please do keep an eye out for the page if you're missing your daily quiz fix, and if you're not such a fan, skip over that page on those days.

Travello's millennial push

AUSSIE travel technology company Travello has raised \$6.5 million in Series A funding, which included undisclosed investment amounts from a range of wellknown travel identities including Flight Centre co-founder Jim Goldburg and former Tourism Australia chief Andrew McEvoy.

The new tranche of funding, which also included capital from ex-Velocity chief Phil Gunter, will be channelled towards bolstering the company's appeal with millennial travellers, a

Ready to travel...

JUST 7% of Australian travel consumers are currently "avoidant and defeated" and not contemplating any future trips, according to new research unveiled yesterday by News Corp.

The media giant conducted a Future of Travel Forum (see page two, page five and today's issue of Cruise Weekly) launching an "Emotional Connection Series -Travel" report based on strategic research by agencies The Lab and Nature, focusing on marketing based on consumer emotions.

15% of people were classified as "uncertain and adapting" starting to think about longer term travel, while the rest were either "hopeful pragmatists" (43%) holding off but relatively hopeful, or "positively open" (36%) and eager to "rekindle the same excitement and anticipation of travel pre-COVID".

UP TO US\$2,900 IN TOTAL VALUE *

demographic the company believes represents significant sales growth potential.

"We are really excited to capture millennials' desire to see and experience the world and we are already seeing huge demand from the youth market," said Travello CEO Ryan Hanly.

"We are beyond thrilled to have secured the backing of such a prominent, knowledgeable and experienced group of investors in this round," he added.

Hanly added that Travello was now reaching approximately 80 million people across its channels each month, with the injection of new capital to propel further expansion opportunities in the online travel agent side of the business, and help leverage the predicted travel rebound in the next 18 months.

Travellers can book a range of experiences and tours through the Travello app, offering users no booking fees and 100% refunds.

Travello acquired youthfocussed OTA Backpacker Deals back in Nov last year (TD 05 Nov 2020), a move designed to facilitate an aggressive expansion into the millennial segment.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including a front cover page from **South Australian Tourism** Commission and a full page from NoVacancy.

Give me the world

SALES are now open for MSC Cruises' MSC World Europa.

The first MSC World class ship will offer unique experiences on board, with a mix of neverbefore-seen concepts, and aims to offer an engaging experience for all ages - call 1300 028 502.







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"Give us a plan" - Joyce

QANTAS CEO Alan Joyce has urged Tourism Minister Dan Tehan to push for a roadmap to international border reopenings, saying the carrier continues to plan for a relaunch of its global operations in Dec this year.

Joyce and Tehan were both presenters at a Future of Travel forum convened by News Corp Australia yesterday, with the QF chief thanking the Government for its "fantastic support" in the half-price airfare campaign which has reignited domestic travel.

"We see that market now standing on its own two feet," Joyce said, while funding was also helping Qantas get its international aircraft ready "for the end of this year when vaccinations are fully rolled out".

"There should be no reason why we can't start opening up then," Joyce said, reiterating earlier comments from News Corp Executive Chairman Michael Miller saying "we do need a plan of how we're going to get out of this and how the borders are going to reopen".

The Qantas CEO likened Australia's trajectory through the pandemic to a flight, with the Government response during the "takeoff" and "cruise" phases having been superb despite a "bit of turbulence along the way".

"But now we're coming up to the most difficult part of the flight, the pilot would tell you, and that's the landing," he said.

"To land the aircraft successfully we have to roll out the vaccine program successfully, we have to have a clear plan of reopening the borders, and we have to give confidence to people to travel again," Joyce concluded.

"We all want this landing to be the smoothest landing we've ever had, and we all need your help in order for that to occur," he told the Minister.



Southbank by Beulah unmasked

MORE details have been revealed about the upcoming Southbank by Beulah in Melbourne (render pictured), with Beulah Executive Director Adelene Teh stating the property would be comparable to some of the best hotels in the world.

The project will comprise 200plus rooms over nine levels, and feature a sky lobby on level 57, an auditorium, a wellness hub and numerous function rooms.

Teh added that this week an operator for the hotel had been short-listed, with details to be disclosed at a later date.



VSC appoints

VISIT Sunshine Coast (VSC) has announced Kelly Ryan as its new Head of Marketing.

During the past 12 years, Ryan has supported the Canberra tourism industry in senior marketing roles, including as Director of Strategy and Insights as well as Director of Marketing at VisitCanberra.

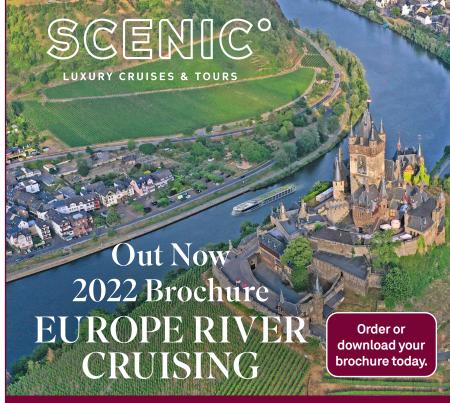
Most recently, Ryan has been the National Portrait Gallery's Manager External Relations.

MSC gets clearance

MSC Cruises has obtained the final clearance required to build and operate a new terminal at the Port of Barcelona.

Set to enter service in 2024, the terminal will allow MSC to increase homeporting operations in Barcelona, with the cruise line partnering with Catalan architect Ricardo Bofill on the project.

MSC will operate and manage the terminal for a 31-year period.



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WorldHotels refresh

WORLDHOTELS Collection has unveiled a brand refresh, with new logos and an updated vision and mission statement, as the brand celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

The refreshed branding "will play a critical role in helping our hoteliers maintain a competitive edge," according to Global President & CEO David Kong.

Pacific bubble hint

WHILE it is far from official, the cogs are certainly turning with regard to incorporating select Pacific Island nations into the trans-Tasman bubble.

On a recent tour of New Zealand, Scott Morrison noted that expanding the bubble was on the agenda of important topics discussed with Kiwi counterpart Jacinda Ardern.

"We are supporting our Pacific family and the idea of a bubble that goes beyond New Zealand and Australia is a real possibility," Morrison said yesterday.

Islands likely to be included in an expanded bubble are the Cook Islands, New Caledonia and Tahiti.

Alliance frees up funds

ALLIANCE Airlines has refinanced its debt facilities, initially due to expire in Jan 2022, allowing the airline access to an extended amount of \$176 million.

The increased funding will be used to settle the balance of previously announced E190 aircraft purchases (*TD* 18 Dec 2020), as well as on maintenance checks required for the jets to enter revenue service.

The facilities consists of a \$71 million three-year revolving bank loan facility, a \$50 million 10-year fixed rate institutional loan, a \$25 million seven-year fixed rate institutional loan, a \$25 million four-and-a-half-year fixed rate institutional loan, and a \$5 million working capital loan facility.

The weighted average interest rate applicable to the loans is between 2.7% and 2.9%, with the facilities providing significant headroom for further expansionary opportunities.

MEANWHILE, Alliance has ordered its staff to get vaccinated in order to fly with the company, becoming the first Australian business to order all of its workers to get the jab as a condition of employment.

The airline handed down the 'Alliance Group Immunisation Program', in which is states that "all employees will take part".

Managing Director Scott
McMillan told *The Courier Mail*management took the view they
had a legal obligation to provide
a safe workplace for staff and
customers, adding "north of 95%
of staff" were very supportive of
the bold policy.

Border case fails

AUSTRALIA'S tough stance on international borders has survived a court challenge by a libertarian thinktank to have the prohibition overturned.

Libertyworks, which launched the legal case late last year (*TD* 18 Dec 2020), failed to convince the Federal Court that blocking outbound travel was unconstitutional, with three justices dismissing the application and ordering Libertyworks to pay the Commonwealth's costs.

In their findings, the court stated the government's powers were "intended to be used in circumstances where there is an emergency of such scale and significance as to require management at a national level", and that the Biosecurity Act allowed for measures to be taken in emergencies, such as to limit the spread of COVID-19.



Window Seat

THE US is about to get double the tourist attraction buzz next month, well, in a way.

France is preparing to send the United States a new Statue of Liberty which will arrive on 04 Jul to commemorate the historic bond that exists between the two countries.

Before you start asking where it will fit on Liberty Island next to the original, the logistics will be easier to manage this time around, with the second statue to stand about 2.83m tall.

Besides, the monument is not actually going to New York, but rather will be placed in the garden of the French Ambassador's Washington DC residence, a far cry from the grand gesture designed by Gustave Eiffel in the late 1800s.

\$100 to go North

50 DEGREES North's 2022/2023 Northern Lights Small Group Tour series can currently be booked with only a \$100 booking deposit.

The new tours include a Norwegian Coastal Highlights Escorted itinerary across 10 days, running between Oslo and Tromso, allowing travellers to stop for an extended stay in Norway's Northern Lights region.

There are six departures between Sep 2022 and Mar 2023.







Norfolk Island television



NORFOLK Island is set to be featured in a series showcasing the wonderful experiences to be enjoyed in the destination.

The project will be produced by WA-based Guru Productions for its Explore TV division, which forms part of a major boost for tourism to Norfolk Island, in hand with The Unique Tourism Collective (TUTC).

Comprising four 30-minute episodes, 24 things you absolutely must experience on Norfolk Island will feature six stories per episode, including snorkelling, deep sea fishing, diving, golf, yoga, and a tour of the museums and convict ruins of the World Heritage site at Kingston, among many numerous other activities.

A variety of the bookable activities to be featured include High Tea at Forrester Court Clifftop Cottages, The Hilli Goat Cheese Tour, Two Chimneys Wines, Norfolk Island Brewing, Puppy's Point, and more.

The series will begin on Sat on the Nine Network from 4:30pm-5:00pm AEST, and will air across four weeks.

It will then be available on demand on 9Now for three months after the premiere, with all the episodes and stories also available on the Explore's website to view after the broadcast.

Pictured toasting their success in getting the program to air are TUTC's Jonica Paramor, Explore's Trevor Cochrane, Forrester Court's Ariane Forrester, the show's camerman Con Biancuzzo. producer Michaela Channing, and sound technician Benjamin Nockolds.





AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

OF TRAVEL AGENTS

TO EVERYONE caught up in the Victorian lockdown, please know that we are all thinking of you and hoping keenly that the situation will be on the improve **AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION**

It is distressing to see new

cases of community transmission head back into double figures and the list of exposure sites continue

As shared on our Member Update last week, the need to ensure as many Australians as possible are vaccinated is an important focus.

AFTA is currently working on a campaign aligned with the work others are doing to encourage Australians to "GetTravelReady".

This is in addition to our other immediate priorities of maximising Government support for all travel agents and businesses both through the extension of the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program; chargebacks; International Air Transport Association (IATA); the AFTA CEO Search (applications close tomorrow); and ongoing work with the ACCC.

As well as joining with other peak industry bodies

including ACCI and BCA in the shared push for greater transparency and clarity around the

Government's decision making framework to the resumption of international travel and the management of domestic borders, AFTA continues to build new and important relationships including into the bio-metric and health sectors to help us best understand where and how to exert pressure in the most strategic way.

We want and in fact need Australians to be both vaccinated and have a vaccination authentication mechanism that is recognised widely if our return to "normal" travel is going to happen as quickly as possible.

The work IATA and a number of airlines in particular are all doing in this space is important and we will continue to support these efforts to get Australia booking and travelling as soon as possible.

GC Airport spotlight

GOLD Coast Airport has launched a new security program to target the growing threat posed by organised crime.

The rebooted Airport Watch initiative will allow travellers to report suspicious or unusual activities or behaviours, with Australia's Minister for Home Affairs Karen Andrews saving the program was "vital" amid the increase in domestic travel and the potential for growth in organised crime and drug trafficking throughout the aviation environment.

QR expands US

QATAR Airways has expanded its American network to 12 destinations on over 85 weekly flights - more than it operated pre-pandemic.

The airline will resume Atlanta flights today, and will then increase frequencies to Boston, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle.

These increased services will provide enhanced connectivity to several of the airline's global leisure destinations including Cape Town and the Maldives.



Croisi's comeback

CROISIEUROPE'S European sea, river, and canal departures will restart from this month.

The first sea sailing will leave next Thu, while the first river cruise departs 14 Jun, and the first canal cruise embarks 02 Jul.

Until the end of next month, all cruises qualify for Croisi's relaxed booking conditions, which include a full refund should the cruise be cancelled for any reason, as well as allowing travellers to move their booking free of charge.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.771

THE Australian dollar held steady overnight, ahead of the Reserve Bank of Australia's announcement at 2.30pm (AEST) today.

No change is expected on the policy front, with rates set to stay where they are until 2024, according to current guidance.

In other news, the Aussie dollar regained a little ground, gaining 0.2% versus the United States dollar, and 0.4% against the Euro.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.771
UK	£0.543
NZ	\$1.056
Euro	€0.631
Japan	¥84.67
Thailand	ß23.96
China	¥4.871
South Africa	10.55
Canada	\$0.926
Crude oil	US\$69.63

Russia blocks flights

RUSSIA has blocked two European airlines because they planned to avoid flying over Belarus to get to Moscow.

Air France and Austrian Airlines have both had to cancel services. after their flight plans were rejected by Russia.

European Union leaders asked the continent's carriers to avoid Belarusian airspace this week after a Ryanair flight from Athens to Vilnius was diverted by the Government of Belarus to Minsk, where two of its passengers were arrested by authorities.

EK delays India

EMIRATES has extended the suspension of flights between the United Arab Emirates and India for a further two weeks until the end of the month.

The airline also advised that passengers who have transited through India in the last 14 days will not be accepted into the United Arab Emirates.

Pandaw 2023/24

PANDAW has announced the release of new sailing dates for its Indochina itineraries for the 2023/24 season.

Many of Pandaw's itineraries are already close to full capacity for 2022/23 comprised of both new bookings and rescheduled guests, leading the line to ensure ample availability for travellers.

New bookings can also take advantage of its \$100 deposit scheme to secure a cabin, with the remaining amount payable at a later date.

News Corp's power panel



YESTERDAY'S News Corp Australia "Future of Travel" forum (see page two) included a panel discussion giving the industry an opportunity to discuss the current reality of the sector unfortunately taking place after Australia's Tourism Minister Dan Tehan had departed for another engagement.

Participants included Norm Black from TripaDeal, TTF MD Margy Osmond and Insight Vacations MD Karen Deveson, pictured with News Corp MD Food & Travel, Fiona Nilsson (second from the left).

A key focus of the discussion

was the contrast between Australia's closed borders and the opening up of the rest of the world, with universal pent-up travel demand likely to leave Australia lagging far behind.

Osmond particularly highlighted staffing issues for local operators, warning that many are likely to disappear unless a plan for reopening is released shortly.

Black said he believed "the days of packing 30 people on a bus and sending them around Europe have passed," while Deveson highlighted the rising trend for authentic experiences and clients wanting to "make travel matter".

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