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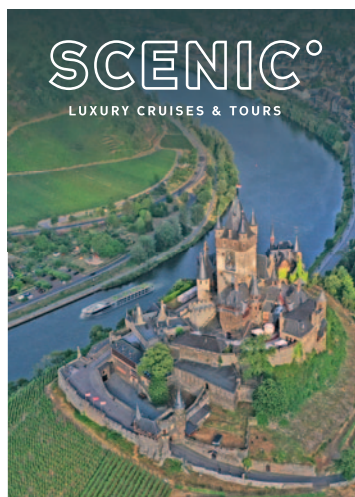
Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has four pages of news and a cover page from Tourism NZ.

Get on your bike!

TOURISM New Zealand is showcasing its marketing hub, full of customisable content for travel advisors to assist their clients experience the Trans-Tasman Quarantine Free Travel Zone.

For more details see the **cover** page of today's *Travel Daily*.



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Deloitte to verify grants

TRAVEL agents desperately awaiting payments under the now-closed Round Two of the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program are facing a new hurdle, with Austrade confirming details of the "additional financial verification" to be undertaken by Deloitte (*TD* 08 Jun).

The requirement for a further check was foreshadowed in the initial announcement about Round Two over two months ago (*TD* 12 Apr), with the aim of addressing "inequities" due to inconsistencies in how agents reported their turnover in the G1 box of their Business Activity Statements for Round One.

Agencies with reported turnover of more than \$500,000 have not yet received any second round payments, and have now been advised to watch for an email from Deloitte in the next 14 days.

The process will utilise the firm's online 'Halo' portal, with agents required to set up a profile to enable them to upload any required documentation and then track the progress of applications.

An update from the Government last Fri warned

agents "please do not disregard the email from Deloitte, as Deloitte's recommendation will assist Austrade in making a determination about your Round Two grant application".

The industry is frustrated at the length of time it has taken for this new process to be finalised, with Goldman Group Joint MD Anthony Goldman telling *TD* "we applied for this grant on 02 May, a month after the JobKeeper lifeline expired.

"The ATO has all our information so this money should already be paid to support our limited cashflow," Goldman fumed.

"It's ridiculous and just speaks to the government not fully understanding the situation with travel agencies around Australia."

AFTA, which has been liaising with Austrade alongside CATO and ATEC over the criteria, said it was "extremely pleased that the volume of documents required for the verification process was significantly reduced and simplified" as a result of its ongoing dialogue with the agency.

Accor recruitment

ACCOR has launched what it's describing as a "massive recruitment drive to rebuild the tourism industry," with more than 1,000 new career opportunities across its hotel network in Australia and New Zealand.

The push includes the new Accor Internship Program which sees the company work with 22 institutions to provide fully paid on-the-job training for 100 students - for more details see jobsataccor.com.au.

GTI appointments

GTI Tourism has been appointed to deliver social media and website content creation for the Japan National Tourism Organisation in Australia.

The company has also named media executive Jenny Pham as its new General Manager Marketing and Strategy.

Pham, who was VP of media agency Essence until Oct 2019, will lead GTI's Sydney office effective immediately.



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Hail to the chief

THE Visit USA Expo will be held on 21 Jul at The Tea Room in Sydney's Queen Victoria Building, as a hybrid event.

Travel advisors will be able to register to attend in person to visit the more than 20 exhibitors lined up, or participate in the event live online.

Event sponsors Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board and LAX Airport, Utah Office of Tourism, Travel Texas, Rocky Mountaineer and NYC & Co will all be in attendance.

The gathering will be emceed by Richard Reid - register [HERE](#).

Rex buys simulator

REGIONAL Express Airlines has acquired a Boeing 737 simulator in order to strengthen its training capabilities.

The Full Flight Simulator, delivered by Boeing US Training & Flight Services, satisfies the Qualification Level D requirements of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, and will be used for type ratings, recurrent training and proficiency checks.

MEANWHILE Rex has announced a further delay to the launch of its new non-stop route between Melbourne and Canberra due to the extended Vic lockdown and ongoing uncertainty around border closures and travel restrictions.

The 737 inaugural flight has been deferred by a week and will now operate on 24 Jun, with full refunds payable to impacted pax.

TRA tracks domestic lift

OVERNIGHT spending on tourism within Australia was \$6 billion in Mar this year, reaching 94% of the level seen two years ago in Mar 2019, according to the latest monthly snapshot from Tourism Research Australia.

Intrastate travel continued to lead the recovery of domestic visitation from the lows of Apr and May 2020, with Australians taking 6.2 million overnight trips within their own state in Mar, up 15% on Feb and spending \$3.3 billion, up 20%.

The month also saw continued improvement in the interstate market, with Australians taking 2.2 million interstate trips up 55% on Feb, and spending \$2.8 billion - double the \$1.4 billion seen the prior month.

In total, Australians took 8.4 million overnight trips in Mar, staying 28.9 million nights.

Compared to the corresponding period last year as the pandemic

took hold, this was a 35% increase in nights stayed, a 37% increase in overnight trips, and a 58% increase in spend.

Australians also took 15.6 million day trips and spent \$1.8 billion in Mar.

Rural areas continued to fare better than capital cities, with Australians taking more rural overnight trips (5.6 million) and spending \$3.6 billion in Mar, versus 3.1 million overnight trips to capital cities for a spend of \$2.4 billion.

Rural South Australia's increase was strongest, with spend up 70% compared to Mar 2019.

Also performing well were New South Wales and Victoria, up 24% and 21% respectively.

Jayride on pause

LISTED transfer aggregator Jayride Limited this morning requested a trading halt with the Australian Securities Exchange, "pending the completion of a material capital raise being conducted by the company".

Uniworld LE offer

LUXURY Escapes is promoting an exclusive Uniworld Boutique River Cruises charter featuring a 16-day *River Duchess* voyage from Amsterdam to Budapest.

The 17 Jun 2023 departure is priced from \$7,999 per person including daily meals, beverages, wi-fi, room service and more.



Window Seat

A GLASGOW-based aviation geek is missing flying so much that he spends his spare time re-creating airline meals in his own kitchen.

Nik Sennhauser told the *BBC* that before the pandemic he loved looking for flight deals, thinking nothing of flying across the Atlantic to the US for a weekend if the price was right.

Having grown up in an expat family between Austria and Thailand, he's well used to airline dining and decided to recreate the experience at home - complete with a plane trolley that he bought online.

He has based his creations on photographs he took of inflight meals, including Singapore Airline's Hainanese Chicken & Rice - both versions **pictured**.



The original (**above**) and Nik's re-creation (**below**).



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Your Travel & Cruise gathering



YOUR Travel & Cruise agents from NSW got together over the long weekend to say goodbye to the end of another financial year. "It is our time to reminisce, share a laugh (and cry) over the year we have had," said Kathy Labbozzetta, who took the pic.

Pictured from left: Daniel Ribarovski, Angela Best, Cynthia Williams, Jason Williams, Kerry Dickson, Tina Lockwood, Kathy Labbozzetta, Julie Redmond, Nicolle Poole and Lance Mumby.

Westjet goes dutch

CANADIAN carrier Westjet has announced a new non-stop service between Calgary and Amsterdam.

The route will debut twice weekly on 05 Aug this year, with an additional frequency added in Sep using the carrier's Boeing 787 wide-bodied aircraft.

WS has also announced the resumption of flights from both Calgary and Toronto to London Gatwick next month.

Get wet in Jordan

THE Kingdom of Jordan will see the debut of Saray Aqaba Waterpark next month, with the attraction featuring more than 25 unique slides and rides.

Experiences include the Dead Sea Drop, Wadi Rum Race and the family-friendly Aqua Jerash kids play area - slake your thirst at sarayaqabawaterpark.com.

Shark ambassador

GREG "The Great White Shark" Norman has been announced as the new Global Golf Ambassador for Sandals Resorts International.

The renowned Aussie champion will represent Sandals' premier golf destinations including Sandals Emerald Bay in Exuma, Bahamas; Sandals Golf Club at Sandals Regency La Toc; Sandals St Lucia Golf and Country Club at Cap Estate in St Lucia; and Sandals Golf and Country Club in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

He will appear in strategic marketing campaigns across print, digital and social media as well as through personal appearances and special events.

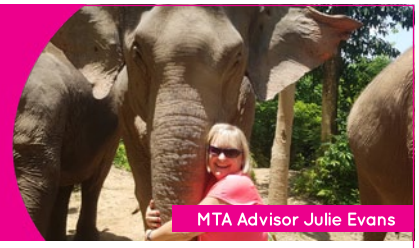
Flydubai expands

DUBAI-BASED low-cost carrier Flydubai has announced the launch of new non-stop routes to Budapest in Hungary as well as Ljubljana in Slovenia, boosting its European network to 29 ports.

Emirates will codeshare on both routes, with Flydubai CEO Ghaith Al Ghaith saying "we look forward to providing passengers with more options for travel this year following the launch of our wide range of summer destinations".

The new Slovenia flights will be the only direct services from Dubai to Ljubljana, while the new flydubai Budapest flights will complement EK's existing thrice weekly 777 operations.

A 'ton' of support...
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MTA Advisor Julie Evans

Let's chat - 1300 682 000 | mtatravel.com.au/joinus



AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

WE HOPE those of you lucky enough to have a public holiday yesterday had the opportunity to relax and enjoy it!

AFTA's work with the Federal Government around both the ongoing extension of the COVID-19 Consumer Travel

Support Program and wider support continues to be a priority.

Applications for Round 2 have now closed however those who are awaiting a Round 1 Exceptional Circumstances outcome have been advised they can apply once a decision made.

For those applicants with a turnover over \$500,000, details regarding what is required for the verification process should be provided shortly from Austrade and the 'Halo' portal to submit the verification documents will open. As soon as documents are provided, Austrade have indicated they can process between 100 to 150 applicants per day, meaning funds should start flowing quickly.

We are extremely pleased that the volume of documents required for the verification process was significantly reduced and simplified as part of our



afta
AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION
OF TRAVEL AGENTS

ongoing dialogue with Austrade.

The Updated Program Guidelines and FAQs are available on the Austrade website at austrade.gov.au.

The Federal Government's extension of the

international travel ban for three more months to 17 September adds weight to our calls for wider, ongoing support measures.

In addition to financial support, we are calling for adoption of commonsense measures to get Australians travelling again including the introduction of more Safe Travel Zones and incentives to get more Australians vaccinated sooner.

Discussions with Government about this urgent need continue and we remain persistent in achieving an outcome.

We are also hopeful that Scott Morrison's trip to Cornwall for the G7 summit via Singapore will provide our Prime Minister with tangible, compelling face-to-face evidence of how other countries are successfully managing international travel with appropriate risk minimisation in place.

Harrah's upgrade

HARRAH'S Las Vegas has unveiled the outcome of a US\$200 million renovation, with the resort on the famed strip featuring 2,542 redesigned guest rooms and direct access to the Caesars Forum conference centre.

A redesigned casino floor and lobby complements new dining options including PizzaCake, developed by "Cake Boss" star Buddy Valastro, and Donny Osmond's first ever solo residency at the Harrah's Showroom.

The relaunch saw a ceremonial switch-on of the property's iconic purple lighting last Thu.

BECA chair departs

VANESSA Findlay, Independent Chair of the Business Events Council of Australia (BECA), has stepped down from her role.

Speaking on behalf of the BECA Board, Deputy Chair Geoff Donaghy from ICC Sydney hailed Findlay's contribution in leading the business events sector's advocacy and lobbying effort through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donaghy said BECA's immediate priorities include policy advocacy leading up to the Federal Election, and providing input into the Reimagining the Visitor Economy 2030 strategy.



IATA Pass live soon

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has confirmed its Travel Pass app will go live in the coming weeks following a series of trials with airlines.

IATA Director General Willie Walsh said that the feedback so far had been positive after testing with an estimated 60,000 people.

Carriers to have trialled the pass so far include Qantas and Air NZ, with the initiative aiming to speed up the resumption of international travel through the real-time provision of digital health updates and clearances.

Daniella flies high



FLIGHT Centre's Daniella Pitts (pictured) has been nominated as Australia's Most Outstanding Woman in IT Security.

Pitts is FCTG's Group Chief Information Security Officer, with the nomination part of the 2021 Australian Women in Security Awards which aim to showcase the "everyday heroes who are demonstrating real leadership and ambition".

The winners will be named at a gala ceremony at Crown Sydney scheduled for 13 Oct.

Sunerra debuts

SINGAPORE-BASED hospitality group RedDoorz has unveiled a new mid-scale brand called Sunerra Hotels, with the first property opening in Jakarta.

The launch of the Sunerra brand comes as RedDoorz looks to cater to a growing middle-class segment in South East Asia, as well as providing a stronger focus on health incorporating automated check-in, capacity limits at restaurants and contactless transactions.

New NSW walks

THE NSW Government has announced \$80 million in funding for new "iconic multi-day walks" in the state's national parks.

The first will be The Great Southern Walk, a five-day journey stretching 59km across the spectacular Illawarra Escarpment, Royal National Park and Kamay Botany Bay National Park.

The walk is expected to be completed in 2024, with the development also featuring a new mountain biking network which will become "a major drawcard for visitors to the area" with 44km of uninterrupted, sustainably maintained track between Mount Keira and Mount Kembla.

British appetites

CLOSE to two thirds of Australians possess a desire to take an international trip in the next 12 months, according to a recent study conducted by VisitBritain.

Britain rated as the most desired European destination, while the same survey found that 63% of Australians who are keen to travel had not yet booked or decided where to go, and close to half said the main purpose for a trip would be to see friends & family.

VisitBritain Chief Executive Officer Sally Balcombe said Australia remained a key visitor market for the United Kingdom and the data presented a "strong marketing opportunity".

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.769

THE Australian dollar climbed from one-week lows overnight, after coming under pressure due to falling bond yields in the US market in recent days.

All eyes are on the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) minutes released today, as well as a speech by RBA Governor Philip Lowe on Thu which may give hints as to the dollar's direction.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.769
UK	£0.545
NZ	\$1.072
Euro	€0.634
Japan	¥84.78
Thailand	฿23.82
China	¥4.88
South Africa	10.54
Canada	\$0.930
Crude oil	US\$70.88

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Associate Editors– Adam Bishop,

Myles Stedman

Contributors – Nicholas O'Donoghue,

Jenny Piper

info@traveldaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Hoda Alzubaidi

advertising@traveldaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8213 6350)

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