

## VS goes daily in HK

**VIRGIN** Atlantic has announced plans to recommence daily flights between Hong Kong and London Heathrow from 01 Jul.

**MEANWHILE** the airline has partnered with Delta Air Lines on a new digital health tool to help speed up transatlantic journeys.

## No grant relief for multiris

### EXCLUSIVE

**TOURISM** Minister Dan Tehan has declined a request for special consideration for travel agency groups trading with multiple outlets under a single ABN in relation to the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support grants program, saying "there will be no changes in relation to this group and their eligibility to apply under the program at this time".

Earlier this month an update from Austrade confirmed

"a decision on multi-outlet businesses will be made shortly" (**TD** 07 Jun), with AFTA advising agents on Fri that the Minister "may reconsider this group when total demand on Round Two of the program is known and payments have been finalised... we are not expecting this to occur until mid-Aug".

The first round of the program has now seen 3,098 payments made, totalling \$102.2 million.

A further 128 Round One claims are under review, while 585 have been rejected.

For Round Two, which closed on 12 Jun, at this stage \$24.3 million has been paid out to 1,160 applicants - an average of \$21,000 per agency.

A further 996 additional financial verifications have been referred to Deloitte for applicants with over \$500,000 in turnover, with these agencies currently being issued their log-in details for the online Halo platform to provide additional information.

AFTA is advising agents not to email Austrade unless instructed to do so, as "this will delay the review process".

The Federation said it was "continuing to work with Austrade and the Government on securing the best outcomes for members".

## Vale Judy Ashton

**THE** Australian travel and tourism sector is mourning the death of Judy Ashton earlier this month, aged 77, after a long battle with cancer.

Ashton was a doyenne of the inbound tourism sector, founding Landmark (South Pacific) in 1982 after an earlier career as an Ansett Airlines hostess and then roles with Tourmakers of Australia and World Travel Headquarters.

Landmark had a significant local staff contingent along with offices in Belgium, San Francisco, Minneapolis and Dusseldorf.

Ashton was a former board member of the Australian Tourist Commission, and in 1996 was awarded an OAM for Services to the Australian Tourism Industry.

Retiring in 2012, she became Chair of the Tours Committee for National Trust Australia, and was still actively involved in arranging tours right up to this year.

## Final nail in Pasifika

**PROPOSED** Cook Islands airline service, Pasifika Air, has made the tough decision to cancel the company's launch permanently.

The plan for thrice-weekly flights from NZ to Rarotonga was paused due to COVID challenges in Apr (**TD** 21 Apr).

## RED CENTRE 'MATES RATES' SALE

\* AGENT COMMISSIONABLE \*

Mates Rates

\$1000

up to per person

BONUS DISCOUNT

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Today's issue of **TD**

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

## Jetstar Group Bookings – AU Domestic Promotion

For all NEW domestic Group bookings from 03 May – 30 June 2021:

- ✓ 50% off the deposit amount
- ✓ Unlimited name changes up to 24 hours before departure
- ✓ Final payment extended to 30 days (from 45 days)\*

\*Terms and conditions apply. See Jetstar's Group Booking page for details.

Get Group quote

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

TUES: COOK ISLANDS & SAMOA  
 WED: SPAIN, THE HOTEL CONNECTION  
 THUR: NORWEGIAN PRIMA

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## Mosman Travel acquires Mary Rossi



**THE** iconic Mary Rossi Travel brand will live on under new ownership, with Penny Spencer and Sharyn Kitchener and their spouses Edwin Spencer and Mike Goodall - the owners of the nearby Mosman Travel on Sydney's lower north shore - set to take over the business.

Mary Rossi Travel has been family-owned for more than half a century, but now Claudia Rossi Hudson and co-owner Roger Hudson will hand over the reins effective 01 Jul.

Rossi Hudson said "the values and expertise of the staff and owners of both these companies are strongly aligned, and the Mary Rossi Travel team should feel proud of the positive message that this investment by the new owners sends".

Mary Rossi Travel will continue to trade from its Neutral Bay location, as well as remaining a member of Virtuoso and Magellan Travel Group.

Kitchener said "we have long

admired the Mary Rossi brand, founded by Claudia's mother and pioneer of luxury leisure travel, the late Mary Rossi.

"It is a unique and wonderful opportunity to include the Mary Rossi team into our Mosman Travel group," she added.

**Pictured** sealing the deal with some very appropriate bubbly are, from left: Michael Schischka, Mary Rossi Travel Manager; Penny Spencer; Sharyn Kitchener; Mike Goodall; and Claudia Rossi Hudson.

## Endeavor 2023/24

**CRYSTAL** Expedition Cruises has released its full 2023 program for luxury expedition yacht *Crystal Endeavor*, as well as two itineraries departing in early 2024.

Voyages range from 10 to 28 nights, taking in the Polar regions, South America, Europe, the North Sea, Japan and Australia - including New Year's Eve in Sydney - call 02 9212 6288.

## \$200m Luxury Escapes vax promo

**LUXURY** Escapes has launched a \$200 million giveaway to highlight the importance of COVID-19 vaccination, in the form of a \$200 international travel voucher for the first one million Australians to get a jab before 30 Sep.

A recent Luxury Escapes survey found 80% of Australians said overseas travel was the number one reason to get a vaccination - and once inoculated, 87% of respondents said they would like to head off overseas.

The top destination choice was the UK, followed by Bali and then Singapore, with Luxury Escapes CEO Adam Schwab saying the company recognised the key role vaccines will play in ensuring borders open.

"We hope that giving away \$200 million in incentives to Australians who are getting vaccinated will give our vaccine rollout a massive boost and inspire other businesses to follow suit".

## Travel theft in court

**VICTORIAN** police have charged a 58-year-old Benalla woman with more than 700 obtain benefit by deception offences, after a three-year investigation into alleged fraudulent activity by an "employee of a North East travel and tourism business," according to a *Border Mail* report.

It's understood the alleged thefts, amounting to more than \$750,000, occurred while the accused was an employee of a Wangaratta travel agency, with court documents indicating the matter has been committed to the Melbourne County Court for a plea hearing on 31 Aug this year.

## QF club on sale

**CLIENTS** who renew their one- or two-year individual Qantas Club memberships before 31 Jul can save 33% and also receive 100 bonus Status Credits.

Memberships which were active as of 23 Mar have also had a three-month extension applied.

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 With Urzila Carlson

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 SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

**VIKING**  
 North Pacific Passage

23 days | Tokyo to Vancouver or v.v.  
 from \$11,195pp

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**BEST SELLER**  
 2022 ALMOST SOLD





## Window Seat

PET services platform PetCloud has collaborated with Wyndham Destinations Asia Pacific to make it even easier for travelling pet parents to Holiday Here This Year.

For those booking trips at Wyndham properties, PetCloud is offering its wide network of pet sitters, dog walkers and pet taxis to assist pet owners while they take a much needed holiday break, or if pets are coming along for the ride, GPS services to locate the most furbaby-friendly beaches, cafes and parks in the area.



## Agents are better

INTERNATIONAL travel company Internova Travel Group has launched a campaign overseas to remind travellers that the future of booking holidays is with a human being.

The company's Go Human, Book Human marketing push highlights how relying on artificial intelligence to plan a trip can lead to disappointing and unfulfilled cookie-cutter outcomes.

"Since travel advisors are human beings and not algorithms, clients can benefit from the personalised attention," the campaign claims.

MEANWHILE more than half of independent travel agents in the UK fear they won't last another three months, according to new analysis from the Association of British Travel Agents.

The same report also claimed about 195,000 people working in the UK travel industry will either lose their job or are at risk of job loss due to the COVID-19 crisis.

## FCTG wholesale upgrade

THE Travel Junction, Flight Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) recently launched B2B travel brand, is making a new push into the wider wholesale sector, unveiling additional features and benefits as it prepares for the industry's post-COVID rebound.

The product supply business was opened up to retail agents and agencies from other groups across Australia last year (TD 24 Sep 2020), following the retirement of FCTG's longstanding Infinity Holidays B2B operations.

Enhancements announced this week include a new technology platform plus greater flexibility, with the aim of "providing the best experience possible for our travel agent partners," The Travel Junction GM James Whiting said.

"We refund deposits and don't charge amendment or cancellation fees - if suppliers don't charge us - and any COVID credits will be held until the agents and their customers are ready to use them," he said.

Whiting also highlighted the

new Helio online booking system, and an expanded sales force to provide dedicated support to Australian travel agents.

Helio offers dynamic packaging capabilities, allowing agents to book all land travel in a single platform "which will in turn allow them to invest more time in serving clients and increasing sales," he added.

"We are also excited to introduce a new sales team with a dedicated account manager and a head of sales, for travel agents to ensure support is available when needed," Whiting said.

"This expansion further cements The Travel Junction's position as a trade-aligned travel and distribution partner for agents."

For more info on signing up see [thetraveljunction.com.au](http://thetraveljunction.com.au).

## Rocky back on track

ROCKY Mountaineer will resume operations on a reduced schedule from 05 Jul, the first services to operate since Oct 2019 due to ongoing challenges associated with COVID-19.

## Be quiet and travel

A NEW publishing partnership forged by Tourism Australia is aiming to pique interest in domestic travel to some of the country's best kept secrets.

*Australian Geographic* has produced a 148-page special travel edition detailing Australia's hidden gems and less traversed road trips called Australia's Quiet Places, informed by Tourism Australia's desire to disperse future tourism to areas outside of hot spots and urban hubs.

Copies are on sale now at newsagents and supermarkets, or online [HERE](#).



## Student green light

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has given interim authorisation to NSW and ACT universities to collaborate on travel arrangements for the return of international students.

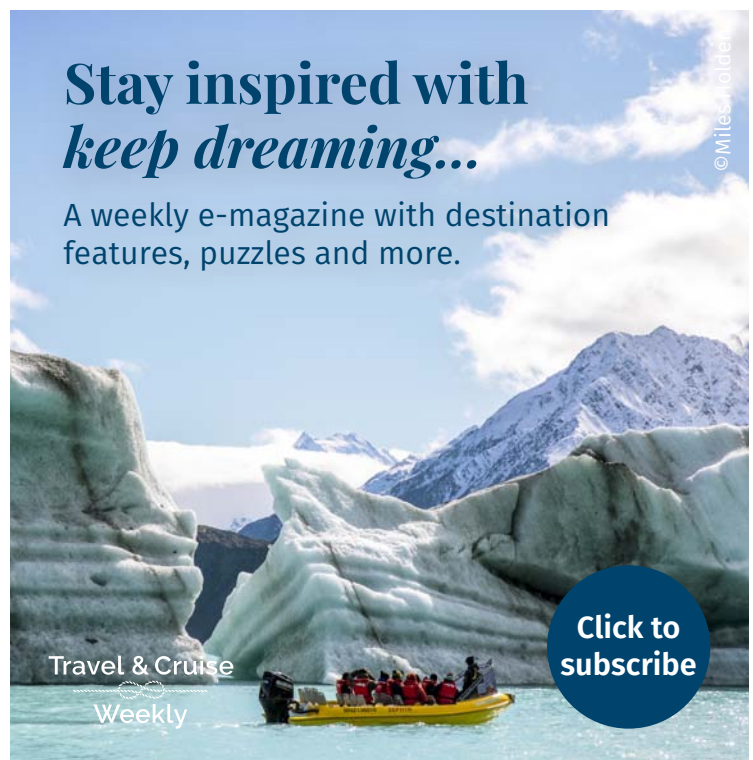
"This will allow universities in NSW and the ACT to start working together immediately to implement a fair and efficient system to get these int'l students back to Australia," the ACCC said.

The industry watchdog added that a specialist travel provider appointed by the universities will likely be able to source blocks of air tickets at a cheaper rate than if each student sought to purchase an airfare individually.

The NSW Government recently announced a pilot plan to enable a maximum 250 international students to come to Sydney per fortnight (TD 11 Jun).

## Stay inspired with keep dreaming...

A weekly e-magazine with destination features, puzzles and more.



## Where in the world?

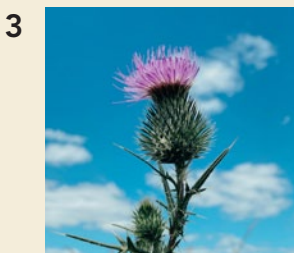
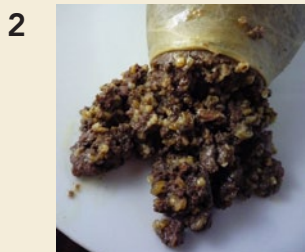


**THIS** tower's elaborate honeycomb structure rises 16 storeys into the air and consists of 154 flights of stairs, 2,500 steps and eight landings which visitors can climb across. The structure was modelled after Indian stepwells, and can hold 1,000 people at a time,

though it is currently closed to the public. From the top visitors have views of the nearby river, which gives the precinct this structure is located in its name. Do you know the name of this and where in the world you could find it?

## 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

- Magnetic Island is located off the coast of what city?
- The 2023 Rugby World Cup will be held where?
- What is the largest river on the Cape Yorke Peninsula?
- Flying Fish Cove is the main settlement in which Australian overseas territory?
- Victoria Falls is a waterfall located on what river?
- True or false: the Appalachian Mountains stretch into Canada?
- Mulgupin is the traditional name of what Queensland island?
- In which Adelaide neighbourhood was a coronavirus cluster thought to have formed last Nov, before it was revealed a worker at a local pizzeria lied about the nature of his job there?
- The term "six flags over Texas" refers to the six sovereign states that have ruled over the region – what are they?
- Bjorvika, Enerhaugen and Tjuuvholmen are all neighbourhoods in which European city?

## Sudoku

MEDIUM

**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.

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

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

**ANSWERS 21 JUN**

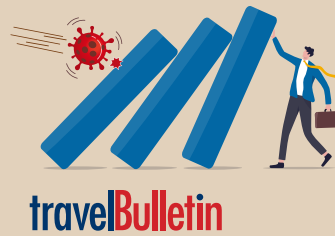
Where in the world: The Vessel, New York, United States

Pub quiz: 1 Townsville, 2 France, 3 Jardine River, 4 Christmas Island, 5 Zambezi River, 6 True, 7 Moreton Island, 8 Woodville, 9 Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the United States of America and the Confederate States of America, 10 Oslo

Pick the nation: Scotland

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





Dig deep into the results of Travel Daily Survival Survey and see how other travel businesses are coping in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK to read**

## CX wants to fly solo

**CATHAY** Pacific is working with Airbus to pioneer a single-pilot system for long-haul flights. The "reduced crew" program is targeting a 2025 launch on Cathay's Airbus A350s, and would see a pair of pilots alternating rest breaks instead of the three or four currently needed to maintain at least two in the cockpit. Although the proposed change would see CX make important cost savings, the proposal is likely to see push-back from pilots already hit by reduced hours, as well as possible safety concerns.

## NSW outback surge

**WHOLESALE** Out of the Ordinary Outback is witnessing record group bookings. As of Jun, reservations of between 10 and 50 people for Out of the Ordinary's seven properties in outback New South Wales this year are already 13% above the total number of group bookings in 2019, with seven months of the year still to go. Dozens of group tour bookings have also been lodged for 2022 as record numbers of Australians explore more of the outback in lieu of international travel.

## A token of our appreciation



**LAST** night South African Tourism hosted industry partners to watch South African expat comedian Urzila Carlson's new comedy show, *Token African*. The Australasian Ambassador of South African Tourism quips in her sell-out shows how Africa

puts things in perspective and helps you find your focus. **Pictured** outside Sydney's Enmore Theatre are: Nestor Martinez, av360; Yana Shvarts, South African Tourism; Rob Gurr, Ynot Concepts and Neil Rodgers, Adventure World.

## BROCHURES

**WELCOME** to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday 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](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).

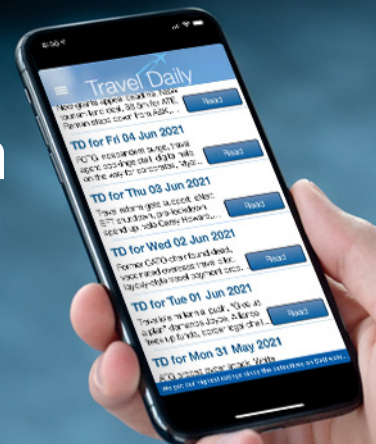


**BEIA - 29th New Zealand Event Planners' Guide** Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA) has released its latest comprehensive guide to New Zealand for event planners. The new-look 29th edition was launched at MEETINGS 2021 earlier this month, and over 2,500 copies of the A5-sized Guide have been distributed to planners within the country. This edition of the Event Planners' Guide emphasises the different regions of New Zealand, and how they fit into the country's event landscape both individually and as part of a dual destination program. The new guide is also available as a flipbook which can be viewed [HERE](#).



**Rocky Mountaineer - A Journey Like No Other '22** Rocky Mountaineer has released its 2022 brochure, full of luxury rail packages and itineraries which showcase both the Canadian Rockies and the newly launched destination of the Southwestern United States. Those who book a 2022 qualifying Canadian package of eight days or more will get four free perks, valued up to \$1,000 per couple, with no date restrictions. Available perks include two hotel nights, an airport transfer and a dinner, with the offer expiring 27 Aug. All new bookings for the 2022 season are fully refundable until 03 Dec.

## Keep up to date with Travel Daily on the go



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