

## Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news.

### HLO stand-downs

**HELLOWORLD** Travel Limited has advised the Australian Services Union of plans for additional staff stand-downs.

An update from the union to members cited a "brief telephone conversation" during which the move was blamed on the ongoing lack of international travel.

Further details will be "formally announced by the business shortly," with the union now seeking specific details including a timeframe, the number of full- and part-time staff affected, contingencies for sharing any available workload with impacted employees, and the implications for Qantas staff at QBT.

Staff are being urged not to agree to or sign anything from HLO management without consulting the union.

## ETG independent model

**EXPRESS** Travel Group has revealed details of its new Independent Travel Advisors (ITA) model, which is rolling out both in Australia following the company's acquisition of the local Travel Counsellors business (**TD** 11 Dec 2020) as well as through its First Travel Group operations in NZ.

The businesses are operating separately, but have significant synergies with both utilising the Aeronology NDC-capable technology platform (**TD** 05 May).

ITA is a "membership group of mobile or home-based agents that are agile and locally focused," operating with the

support of Express Travel Group's national network and access to the latest ticketing technology.

A dedicated website is now live at [itanetwork.com.au](http://itanetwork.com.au), with the company saying interest had been strong from advisors seeking the freedom and flexibility to work for themselves, "wanting to continue to sell travel but outside of the traditional retail environment".

New ITA members will also have a CLIA membership included, and access to the group's Creative Cruising platform.

### African QR route

**QATAR** Airways has announced the addition of Zambia and Zimbabwe to its global network, with a new route to Lusaka and onwards to Harare launching from 06 Aug using B-787 aircraft.

### Kittson for boomers

**COMEDIAN** Jean Kittson will front a new campaign for baby boomer-focused Starts at 60 and its Travel at 60 offshoot.

Ads will be themed "a million Aussie Boomers ready to spend the kids' inheritance" on online shopping and travel - **VIEW HERE**.

### Sabre signs VA

**VIRGIN** Australia and Sabre Corporation have renewed their long-standing global distribution agreement, meaning Sabre will continue to distribute VA flights & services via its GDS marketplace.

Virgin has also confirmed re-signed agreements with Amadeus and Travelport effective from Jul.

### Canada easing

**THE** Canadian Government has today announced the first phase of its approach to easing border measures, saying the "cautious measures are now possible because of the successes of the vaccine rollout in Canada".

From 05 Jul, fully vaccinated travellers who have received the Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca or the Janssen jab won't be subject to quarantine or testing, but must still wear a mask and track close contacts for 14 days after entry.

Non-vaccinated travellers must still undergo quarantine.

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## Sip & Chat Webinar

LIVE from Barcelona  
Meet the team at The Grand Hotel Central for an update on life in Spain. Join this Wednesday 23rd June.

## Kelly moves to ban vaccine passports

**INDEPENDENT** Member for Hughes Craig Kelly has introduced a private Member's bill in the House of Representatives aimed at scuttling any proposals for vaccine passports in Australia.

The *No Domestic COVID Vaccine Passports Bill 2021* argues against federal or state governments implementing any travel system that prohibits Australians to make their own health decisions.

Subsection 11 of the bill also clarifies that the proposed prohibition on issuing vaccine passports does not prevent the Commonwealth from introducing a COVID vaccine passport for the purpose of complying with a foreign law relating to international travel.

**MEANWHILE** Japan has confirmed it will start issuing vaccine passports to its citizens from next month, paving the way for the country to recommence overseas travel.

## Offer a lighter touch

**FINNAIR** has introduced a new Business Light ticket option in a bid to address what it labels an "increasing trend for personalisation" in travel.

Customers can now choose the Light ticket option for short-haul and intercontinental services, providing travellers with Business class comfort without all of the trimmings such as lounge access, in-flight wi-fi, refund availability, reservation changes or check-in baggage services.

The carrier said the new ticket category caters for leisure travellers who want to travel in business comfort on a budget.

## CTM maps growth plan

**CORPORATE** Travel Management (CTM) has undertaken a global restructure, introducing three new business divisions targeting multi-national corporates, agency networks and supplier partners in a bid to add more value and drive growth.

The newly created Global Customer Solutions unit will be headed up by Vice President Global Customer Solutions, Kristen Pratt, offering global travel programs access to CTM's global footprint through owned and partner agencies.

The new division will also provide clients with standardisation of reporting and implementation processes, as well as access to the company's proprietary tech and global supplier solutions.

Meanwhile CTM's new Global Agency Partnership Program unit will be led by Vice President Global Agency

Partnership Programs, Nicole Wilcock, and aims to add value to the company's global partner agencies by leveraging the company's scale, buying power, content aggregation and unique proprietary technology solutions.

A new team has also been assembled to create the Global Supplier Partnerships Program, charged with growing revenue across its air, hotel and car supplier partnerships, as well as tech and third-party suppliers.

## A Titan of industry

**FORMER** Helloworld Group GM Retail & Commercial, John Constable, has taken a new UK-based role as CEO of escorted tour operator Titan Travel.

Constable, who started at Titan yesterday, relocated back to the UK about 12 months ago (*TD* 13 Jul 2020), with HLO CEO Andrew Burnes at the time saying he would continue to lead the business remotely.

Less than three months later, amid persistent rumours of his departure, the Helloworld annual report confirmed Constable had "ceased his role with the company" (*TD* 15 Oct 2020).

Constable was also formerly Global CEO of STA Travel and a senior executive at TUI, with Titan Travel Chairman Richard Bowden-Doyle saying his recruitment came at "exactly the right time for the business as we emerge from the pandemic with bold and ambitious plans for recovery and growth".

The Titan product range features more than 200 itineraries to over 60 countries across the globe.

## Tourism icon passes

**AUSTRALIA'S** tourism sector is this week mourning the passing of respected Western Australian tourism figure Mark Exeter.

Paying homage to his life and career, Tourism WA Managing Director Derryn Belford said Exeter will be remembered fondly for his "big personality, with an even bigger passion for tourism".

Among his many achievements in the industry, Exeter was one of the prime movers in establishing the first Busselton Underwater Observatory in 2003, and also enjoyed a long and successful tenure at Tourism WA for more than 30 years.



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## Apex makes awaited debut



**THE** pandemic could no longer hold back the maiden voyage of Celebrity Cruises' new luxury *Celebrity Apex* vessel (pictured), which set sail from the Port of Athens over the weekend.

Originally scheduled to debut in Mar 2020, *Apex* features two-storey villas with plunge pools, as well as 29 restaurants and bars.

## Vic tourism boost

**THE** Victorian Government has allocated \$1 million in funding to help support tourist and heritage rail operators in the state recover from the travel shutdown.

Following an assessment by VicTrack and the Department of Transport, 15 groups that applied for the funding will be granted a cash injection to get the businesses restarted.

"Victoria has the largest tourist and heritage tram and railway sector in the country, and the groups run popular tourist attractions and carry out essential work to preserve and protect the state's transport history," said Victoria's Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll.

## Silversea protects

**DESPITE** announcing the cancellation of its highly anticipated Kimberley season in 2021 due to uncertainty around government regulations, Silversea Cruises is assuring agents their commissions are protected.

In total, the line's guaranteed commissions on the axed Kimberley season will amount to close to \$500,000.

Silversea is also offering impacted guests the option of a 110% future cruise credit, a voyage to voyage transfer which includes a 15% discount or refund, or a complete refund - more details in today's *CW*.

## Removing barriers

**THE** Queensland Government's Great Barrier Reef Education Experience Program has opened.

Schools can now apply to receive the reef experience school excursion subsidy, with more than 40 registered marine tour operators having already aligned themselves with the three-year tourism recovery program.

## Adventure north

**ADVENTURE** World Travel (AWT) is offering Follow the Lights exclusive itineraries in partnership with Hurtigruten.

AWT will also offer exclusive onboard \$200 credit for the two Scandinavian itineraries, while bookings made by the end of Aug are able to take advantage of the flight inclusive offer to Norway from select Australian cities.

The itinerary takes travellers through many of the picturesque fjords and ports in both Finland and Norway.

## Newcastle Airport seeking NZ flights

**NEWCASTLE** Airport is reportedly having active discussions with airlines to restart flights to Auckland this year, after its previous services were interrupted by border closures.

Executive Manager Corporate Affairs for Newcastle Airport, Stephen Crowe, said the hub's previous NZ season showed promising signs of growth in both directions, with the last 13-week run in 2018/2019 seeing most travellers heading from the greater Newcastle catchment area to Auckland.

Crowe admitted Virgin Australia is unlikely to be the suitor for any upcoming services given its current position on the trans-Tasman bubble, however he said Newcastle Airport would continue to hold discussions with airlines until a suitable candidate was found.



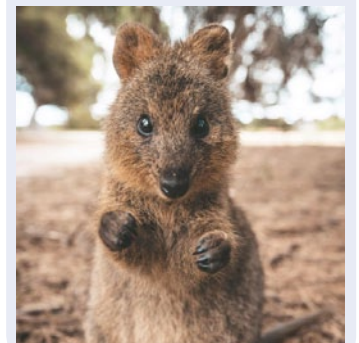
## Window Seat

**YOU'VE** heard of a bucket list - as in, a list of things that one wants to do before they proverbially "kick the bucket".

Now kids are being invited to get in on the act, with Wotif compiling a definitive list of 13 experiences to enjoy before you become a graduate to your teenager years.

Ranking high on the list from 13-year-olds was to visit all of the Gold Coast's theme parks, snorkel the Great Barrier Reef, learn about the indigenous culture found at Uluru, see a quokka on Rottnest Island, watch the penguin parade on Philip Island and spot some of the local wildlife in the Top End's Kakadu National Park.

Early teens were also keen to check out the Australian Dinosaur Trail in Qld, swim with whale sharks on the Ningaloo Coast, meet dolphins at Monkey Mia and do an overnight safari at Taronga Western Plains Zoo.



# DISCOVER ANTARCTICA

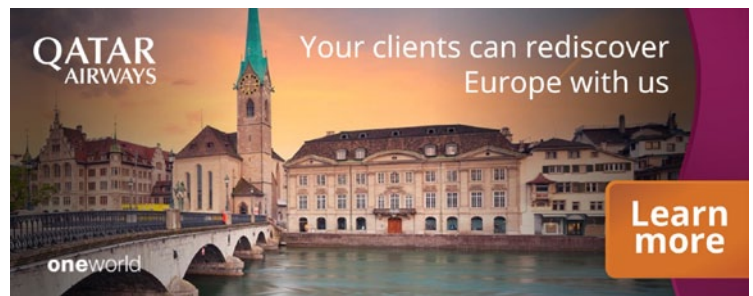
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## Capital to Top End

**QANTAS** Airways is now flying from Territory to Territory, with the takeoff of its Darwin-Canberra flights yesterday.

The first services connecting the two cities in nine years are being serviced by QantasLink, with five return trips a week to be offered aboard an Embraer E190.

The flights will deliver 1,000 seats on the route each week.

## EK resumes three

**EMIRATES** will resume flying from India, Nigeria and South Africa again from tomorrow, as the UAE lifts its coronavirus ban on the countries (**TD** 01 Jun).

Passengers from all three nations can fly into Dubai so long as they satisfy a multitude of restrictions, which for all three includes testing, for Indian travellers includes a valid visa, and quarantine, and for South African pax includes vaccination.

## Mr cruise goes to Canberra



**BRISBANE** specialist cruise travel agency Clean Cruising joined a supplier delegation to the Parliament of Australia last week calling for a plan to restart domestic cruising.

The Clean Cruising contingent (**pictured**) are crying out for a pathway for the resumption of cruises in Australia to save jobs, having already lost 15 of its

younger consultants due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Clean is now battling to save its senior consultants, mostly women aged between 40 and 70, who have built strong careers in travel over decades.

The wider delegation included representatives of fresh produce suppliers, travel advisors, shore tour operators, and many more.

## VN \$231m boost

**THREE** Vietnamese banks have pledged interest-free loans to prop up their country's flag carrier Vietnam Airlines.

The banks will lend  $\text{đ}4$  trillion (A\$231 million) to help the troubled airline avoid bankruptcy.

Vietnam Maritime Commercial Joint Stock Bank, Saigon - Hanoi Commercial Joint Stock Bank and SeABank will supply the loans over the course of this month and early Jul, local media outlet *Lao Dong* cited.

The report said a plan for VN to issue new shares to its existing shareholders to raise funds would be ready by the end of the year.

The carrier, which is 86% owned by the Vietnamese Government, reported a net loss of A\$286 million in Q1 2021.

The airline earlier this month said it would sell 11 Airbus A321 aircraft through auction, with it on the brink of recording a likely A\$578.4 million half-year loss.

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## Think you know Queenstown?



**DESTINATION** Queenstown's first international trade famill since the re-opening of the trans-Tasman bubble saw 10 trade partners experience the fun of Queenstown over the weekend.

From visits to Arrowtown for an off-road adventure, river drives with Nomad Safaris, an up-close nature encounter with Kiwis at the Kiwi Birdlife Park, to an adrenaline-fuelled ultimate off-roader and jet sprint boat experience at Oxbow Adventure Co, the group were shown what sets Queenstown apart from other adventure destinations.

The highlight of the visit was a

Heli Glenorchy flight to see Mt Earnslaw Glacier up close and an alpine snow landing, the perfect way to see "Middle Earth".

**Pictured** at the Alpine snow landing are: Morgan McCammon, Queenstown Expeditions; Danielle Gorman, Expedia; Nicole Boyer, CT Partners; Jacinda Passeri, Experience Oz; Clinton Hearne, Flight Centre; Kimberly Tallon, Travel Associates; Nick Guthrey, ANZCRO; Tania Myles, TravelManagers; Linda McIntosh, Destination Queenstown; Kiran Nambiar, Destination Queenstown, and Alex Scott, Air New Zealand.

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Travel Daily



## AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

**WITH** COVID restrictions and lockdowns in place (or likely to be in place) across more and more communities, it's all feeling a bit grim.

Political leaders from the Prime Minister through to state and territory health ministers

keep pointing to the critical importance of only allowing international travel to resume when medical advice says it is safe to do so.

Of course this makes sense, AFTA and so many of the peak industry bodies calling for a restart to international travel have never sought anything other than the resumption of travel in a safe and responsible way.

Now more than ever with winter in place and COVID-fatigue increasingly becoming COVID-exhaustion, we need positive goals and goalposts for international travel to again become possible.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) has already done considerable work on a common-sense framework to border openings.

AFTA is proud to be a part of ACCI's important policy work and will continue to promote the adoption of the ACCI Reopening



afta

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS

Australia approach. From Safe Travel Zones to globally accepted proof of vaccination, a staged re-opening that balances risk appropriately is possible and in fact desirable.

AFTA also

continues to lobby on members' behalf in relation to the IATA renewal process, especially in relation to the LFC and RHC re: a suitable assessment value for the 2021 period.

There's no doubt this is as tough a time as we have ever experienced. Many of our members have been helped by the Federal Government's COVID-19 Consumer Support Program Grant; many are still waiting. We all need to keep working together both within and across our sector and more widely across the academic and university sector, the conference and convention sector and the business community generally.

We must and we will keep spotlighting the importance of our sector as economic drivers locally and nationally, and our ever-growing critical role in supporting consumers through the complex, multiple challenges created by COVID now and in the future.

## QF seeks routes

**QANTAS** is seeking to renew international routes to a range of destinations including Vietnam, France, Indonesia, South Korea, Papua New Guinea and Thailand.

If approved by the International Air Services Commission, Australia's flagship carrier will retain 250 seats a day between Australia and France, 100 seats per week in each direction between Australia and Indonesia, and 500 seats per week in each direction on the Korean route.

## VSC bookings push

**VISIT** Sunshine Coast (VSC) has revamped its website to allow users to access a new "book now" option at the start of each operator listing.

The [visitsunshinecoast.com](http://visitsunshinecoast.com) site has also had its speed and search engine optimisation improved, aligning with the tourism body's current marketing blitz encouraging Australian and Kiwi travellers to take a winter holiday from the cold to the warmer climates of the Sunshine Coast.



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## Great Scott, I'm in!

**SOFITEL** Melbourne On Collins General Manager Clive Scott has been named in the prestigious Queen's Birthday Honours List as a Member of the Order of Australia.

The recognition was awarded to Scott for his significant service to the hotel industry and the arts.

He has dedicated almost 50 years to hospitality, and for the past 26 years, has held various key leadership roles within the Accor business across Australia.

## Rex gives props to rugby



**THE NSW Waratahs' Super W** team is off to a flier this year both on and off the field, after notching up a win over the Queensland Reds on Sat in the first game with Rex Airlines as its major sponsor.

The carrier's logo will appear on the front of the team's jersey this season, after Rex was welcomed aboard as the official airline of NSW Rugby last month.

Rex Director of Corporate Relations Steve Loader said the airline is "proud" to be the jersey sponsor of the team.

**Pictured:** Waratahs players Arabella McKenzie, Maya Stewart and Emily Robinson laud their new jersey sponsors.

## Boeing 737-10 test

**BOEING** has completed a successful first test flight for its upcoming 737-10 aircraft.

The largest airplane in the 737 MAX family has now begun its comprehensive test program, with Boeing to work closely with regulators to certify it prior to its planned entry into commercial service in 2023.

Boeing has stated the upcoming 737-10 aircraft can carry up to 230 passengers while reducing carbon emissions by 14% and noise by 50% compared to its current fleet of 737s, making it an important step in the company's sustainability strategy.

The jet test took off from Renton Field in Washington and landed in Seattle two hours later.

## MONEY

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

**AU\$1 = US\$0.752**

**GLOBAL** sharemarkets rebounded strongly overnight, bringing the Australian dollar with it after New York Federal Reserve President, John Williams, stepped back from talks of rate hikes.

The Reserve official said the American economy had not grown enough to pare stimulus, and he expects inflation to fall - comments which saw the AUDUSD gain 0.8%.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.752
UK	£0.540
NZ	\$1.071
Euro	€0.631
Japan	¥83.10
Thailand	฿23.69
China	¥4.818
South Africa	10.69
Canada	\$0.926
Crude oil	US\$74.90

## Tassie plays tunes

**TRAVELRITE** is inviting travellers to join Australian country music performer John Howie on a special tour of Tasmania next year.

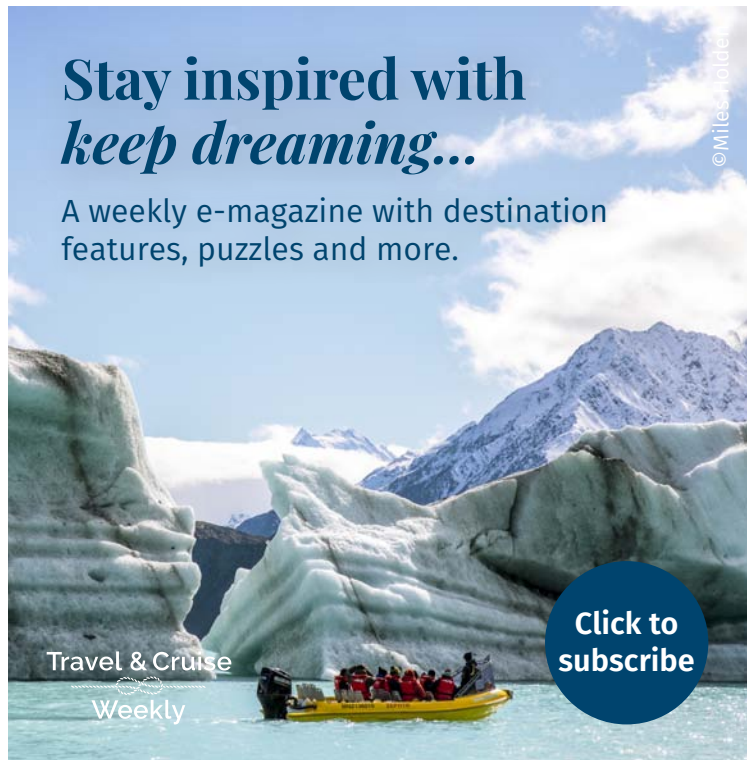
Howie will lead a musical adventure around the state ahead of the Port Fairy Folk Festival in Feb.

Travellers will see some of Tasmania's best wilderness and coastal scenery during the day, as well as some of the state's many cultural and culinary attractions.

Departing 28 Feb, the 10-night tour begins in Launceston and is priced from \$3,795 per person, twin share - call 1800 630 343 for more information.

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