

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages and a full page from Singapore Travel Specialist.

Camplify ASX debut

NEWCASTLE-BASED peer-to-peer caravan, campervan and motorhome hire platform Camplify listed on the Australian Securities Exchange yesterday, with an \$11.5 million Initial Public Offer being "significantly oversubscribed".

The company's prospectus forecast TTV of \$27.8 million and revenue of \$6.7 million, but this has now been upgraded by about 10% due to a faster than expected return to travel and tourism in the UK market and continued strength of the Australian caravan and camping sector.

Former Tourism Australia MD Andrew McEvoy is on the board of Camplify, which launched in 2015 and is now on a quest for "global market domination".

ATAS withdrawals surge

EXCLUSIVE

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents has updated the list of cancelled participants in the AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS), with more than 60 agencies pulling out of the program so far this year.

The schedule of cancelled ATAS participants for 2021 goes back to Jan but has only recently been updated, with a range of reasons provided including failure to renew, voluntary withdrawal due to business closure or sale, and in the case of Tucan Travel, which was placed into administration in Feb, a breach of the solvency provisions of the ATAS Charter.

Withdrawals over the last month or so include Helloworld Travel Belconnen (ABN 66 163 839 647), Shepparton Travel & Cruise (ABN 73 616 116 495), italktravel & Cruise Peregrin (ABN 42 626 934 754), The World @

Braeside Travel (ABN 86 004 180 058), About You Travel (ABN 32 162 432 882), Jambo Africa (ABN 68 636 547 567), BeyondDream Travels (ABN 37 625 478 346), Directional Tourism (ABN 33 607 879 032) and Fly Wings Travel (ABN 39 629 141 537).

While some of the agencies are no longer operating, others have live websites which continue to claim they are part of ATAS, AFTA and other industry networks.

Still others appear to be continuing to promote travel, but are operating without ATAS accreditation.

G that is flexible

G ADVENTURES has updated booking conditions to give clients the ability to rebook itineraries up to just 14 days before departure.

The policy is valid for bookings from 01 Jul-31 Dec, for trips departing up to 31 Dec 2022.

Win a Singapore trip

TRAVEL advisors who complete the [SingaporeTravelSpecialist.com](#) online training modules before 29 Oct will go into a draw to win a trip to Singapore - the perfect escape once the highly anticipated travel bubble opens.

Other prizes are also up for grabs - see **page six** for details.

The return of TG

THAI Airways International has confirmed it will resume flights to Australia next month, with twice weekly frequencies from Bangkok to Sydney operating as TG475/6.

Restrictions continue to apply for international travel for Australian passport holders, while quarantine requirements are also in place for all travellers arriving in Bangkok, the carrier noted.

Boeing 777-300 flights will depart Sydney each Mon and Thu, along with domestic connections from Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne.

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Sip & Chat Webinar

LIVE from Edinburgh!
Let's talk about whisky, history & Scotland with Doug and Lynne from Cheval Apartments.
Join this Wednesday 30th June.

RCI delays final payment date

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has suspended the final payment due date for its Australian cruises.

RCI notified guests in a letter which mentioned further details would be shared "very soon".

The cruise line took similar action with Alaska cruises earlier this year, continuing to push back the final payment date until cruises got the go-ahead.

However, with Federal Minister for Health Greg Hunt earlier this month extending the human biosecurity emergency period until 17 Sep (**TD** 11 Jun), it is unclear how RCI's move will affect its scheduled summer season.

More information in today's **Cruise Weekly**.



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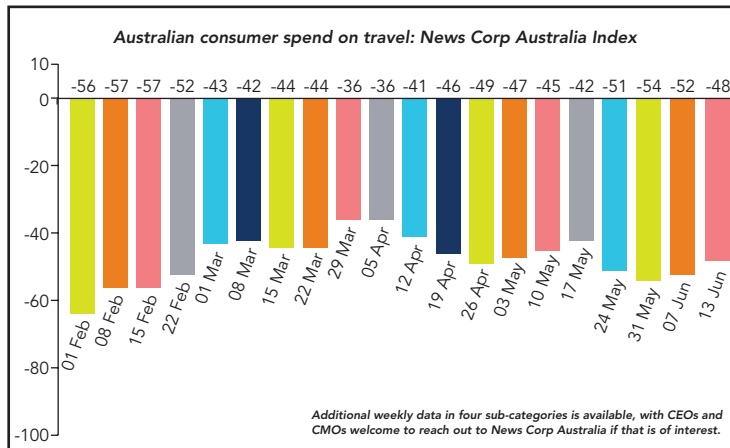
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Pre-lockdown spend lifts



EXCLUSIVE

THIS week's News Corp Australia consumer travel spending figures reflect the "calm before the storm," with the reported week of 13 Jun coinciding with freedom in Melbourne and before the current Sydney lockdown which has now spread across the nation.

School holidays were also just a week away leading to an ever-hopeful surge in bookings, resulting in an overall four-point improvement on the prior week, meaning total spend is at -48% of the reference level in 2019.

Accommodation, airline and OTA bookings drove the uplift, with accommodation up a hefty 10 points week-on-week to now sit at +24% - the largest week-on-week lift since Nov last year.

"This illustrates once again the recovery post lockdowns that occurs within Australia...it's a glimmer of optimism and hope, backed by data that we can hold onto in these frustrating times," said News Corp Head of Travel, Dwayne Birtles.

Barclay by Design

ALLISON Barclay has had her Sydney-based role representing Design Hotels expanded to become Director of Sales APAC.

The move sees her support travel professionals in Australia, NZ, South Korea & Japan, in both business and leisure segments.

The next biggest improver was airline spend under \$500, mainly driven by a 50% off promotion by Virgin and Jetstar - but by contrast the touring category dropped 10 points week on week after the end of an Outback Spirit/Viator promo.

Next week's figures are likely to reveal a significant dent in spending due to the Sydney lockdown which "will hit many businesses hard once again," Birtles concluded.

MEANWHILE the data currently being used to collate this report is set to undergo an update after the announcement of a joint venture by analytics provider Quantum and CommBank.

The change means a switch in banking source information, with a considerable amount of work required to adapt the reporting.

Accordingly next week's **Travel Daily**/News Corp report will be the last in the current format, before a six-week hiatus and a relaunch in mid-Aug after the new data is incorporated.

AFTA AGM online

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents has announced that its upcoming Annual General Meeting (**TD** 23 Jun) will be conducted online.

Originally scheduled for 13 Jul at the offices of KPMG in Sydney's Barangaroo precinct, the event will now go virtual due to the spread of COVID-19 lockdowns.

Insurance assurance

INSURANCE Council of Australia (ICA) CEO Andrew Hall has called for a clear roadmap to reopening Australia's international borders so that the sector can properly plan to provide effective services to future travellers.

"As Australia recovers from COVID-19, insurers are keen to see a roadmap to reopen the country's international borders and those areas of the economy impacted by the pandemic, particularly travel and travel insurance," he said.

Hall added that the global insurance market is seeing premiums increase and capacity for most types of insurance decreasing, with risk appetites for travel insurance remaining low.

In the two years to Mar this year, insurer profit was down 64% on the preceding 24 months.

VA scales it back

VIRGIN Australia has confirmed the cancellation of a large number of flights over the next three weeks in response to the Greater Sydney lockdown.

"In all cases and as state borders tighten, we will assist any customers who need to travel in reaching their final destination," the carrier said.

Dunk Island bought

AFTER years of financial uncertainty, Dunk Island on Qld's Cassowary Coast has been bought by global investment firm Upsense Media Capital.

The company's General Managing Partner Mark Spillane, who made his name working with the likes of Aerosmith and Van Halen, said a new direction for the purchase would likely be made public within two months.

Previous owner Mayfair 101 was unable to meet its payment commitments after a struggle to redevelop Dunk's resort, which was devastated by Cyclone Yasi in 2011 (**TD** 13 Nov 2020).

Sector is a "basket case"

EXCLUSIVE

ONGOING travel restrictions have rendered the country's accommodation sector a "basket case", Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) CEO Michael Johnson believes.

The industry body's chief said that while the latest lockdowns across the country will hopefully only be for a short period, the effects have already been felt at many levels of the sector.

"With Greater Sydney in lockdown and because the city is a huge contributor to places like Queensland, Sydney loves the Gold Coast, it loves North Qld as well, that means they are certainly experiencing substantial cancellations," he said.

Johnson said the latest COVID clusters had also dealt a heavy blow to NSW's ski fields, a particularly cruel setback given the surge of interest in ski holidays this season.

"Our snowfields had kicked off the season so well, seeing record numbers and record revenues for that first long weekend for the opening of the ski season in Kosciuszko, but from watching some of the snow cameras on

the weekend it showed very few people on those mountains, which suggests they have been heavily impacted as well by cancellations," he lamented.

Johnson also believes the timing of the restrictions on the eve of the school holidays have had a disproportionately adverse effect on regional accommodation providers and events.

"These are the times of year where a lot of our hotels, especially in regional areas, make their money to get through their quieter periods, the timing is absolutely devastating...and there has also been mass cancellations in respect to events and we'll see even more events cancelled in the coming weeks," he said.

MEANWHILE in light of the significant booking impacts, the NSW Government has announced grants of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for the hospitality and tourism sector to help alleviate some of the economic burden of the latest lockdown.

The cash injection is available to tourism or hospitality businesses that have a turnover of more than \$75,000 and an annual Australian wages bill of below \$10 million, as at 01 Jul.

NSW has also extended its Dine & Discover program to 31 Aug.

Canada is waiting

DESTINATION Canada is reminding Australians that the country is very well prepared for their future arrival, with the travel sector spending billions on health and hygiene protocols to make holidaymakers safe.

Tourism attractions include Blachford Lake (pictured), Prince Edward Island and Manitoba, among thousands more.

Keep up to date [HERE](#).



Indonesia to launch millennial airline

THE Indonesian Government has reportedly awarded an operational license to a new start-up carrier which will target millennial travellers.

The new Super Air Jet airline has now fulfilled all of its technical and safety requirements to enter the commercial market, a spokesperson for the Indonesian Transportation Ministry said.

According to local press, the carrier has three A320-200s in its fleet configured to seat 180 Economy pax, with no details regarding routes revealed as yet.

Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



Bubble minus NSW

NEW Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has told NZ radio that the trans-Tasman bubble may be reinstated shortly, excluding NSW.

The NZ leader said that the green lane would continue to operate under a direct measure of risk, and with NSW COVID numbers still high it would be likely to resume to other parts of Australia first.

Ardern also hinted her government might introduce new preventative measures, including pre-departure testing.

Nightcap Social

ADELAIDE'S Henley Beach now has a new accommodation option, with the opening of 17 rooms in the Ramsgate Hotel under the newly launched Nightcap Social brand.

Nightcap Hotels is part of pub and retail liquor giant ALH Group, offering "affordable and unique accommodation" across 65 suburban and regional locations.

Features of Nightcap Social include free wi-fi, flat screen TV, multiple USB connection points, as well as shared kitchen and bathroom spaces - for further information, see [HERE](#).

New Uniworld ship

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection's newest ship *Sao Gabriel* has debuted in Portugal, with bookings for her 2022 and 2023 voyages now open to Australian agents.

Designed to embody the Douro Valley region in which she will sail, *Sao Gabriel* features a close to 1:3 staff to guest ratio, butler services, and 50 suites across classic, deluxe, French balcony, suite and grand suite categories.

"Australian guests will need to act quickly to secure their place, though - before all the international guests snap them up," said Uniworld Australia General Manager Alice Ager.

For details, call 1300 780 231.



Window Seat

A NEW world record has been broken in Sydney for the world's smallest mobile nightclub.

Sydney twins Evangelos and Harry Labrakis have constructed the Doof Shed (pictured), which measures only 1.097m² in area, with the record recently confirmed by Guinness World Records.

The pair created the Doof Shed to provide hope for Aussies doing it tough during lockdown and to "do something officially amazing", despite the obvious social distancing challenges.

Those wanting to experience the intimate nature of the tiny rave space can register their interest [HERE](#).



The Terrace unveiled

EVENT Hospitality & Entertainment Limited (Event) has unveiled the new branding for The Sage Hotel following the absorption of the property into its Independent Collection.

The 136-room Terrace Hotel, Adelaide will reopen under the management of Event from 01 Jul, and continue to offer guests a mix of standard queen and twin rooms, executive rooms and suites and family rooms, as well as an on-site restaurant and three flexible function and event spaces for gatherings of all sizes.

A Cuban travel revolution



ARCADIA Expeditions has detailed its new small group adventures to Cuba, limited to just 12 travellers.

The 16-day trip explores the highlights of the reclusive Latin American country, and will be led by experienced historian Michael Bustamante to help illuminate the culture of the region.

Diving deep into the history of the Cuban Revolution, specially curated meetings with locals from all walks of life will provide the opportunity to go behind the scenes and gain a rare insight into life in modern Cuba.

Travelling across the country from east to west, groups stay in Cuba's most atmospheric luxury boutique accommodations, and enjoy extended stays in Trinidad and the capital Havana.

Travellers will have the opportunity to ride in classic cars, snorkel around war relics, take a percussion class, and sample the very best cigars and rum.

The expedition has two departures scheduled: 09-24 May 2022 and 08-23 May 2023.

Trips are also available for private departures - call 1300 907 819 for further details.

SIA Syd help closes

SINGAPORE Airlines has temporarily closed the phone support of its Sydney-based Sales Operations and Groups teams due to the city's lockdown.

The airline will continue to service its trade partners via email, and will reopen phone support as soon as the stay-at-home order is lifted.

MEANWHILE, Singapore Airlines Group has launched a voluntary carbon offset program for all its customers.

The company's SQ and Scoot brands will offer its guests the option to offset their carbon emissions via a new microsite at any stage during their flight.



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AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

WITH the threat of COVID lockdowns and restrictions widening again into reality across our nation, we have another reminder of the hard, cold fact that we need to learn to live with COVID.

This is exactly what is already happening in so many other parts of the world.

More common sense needs to kick in to balance protecting lives and protecting jobs. Elimination of this virus, at least in the immediate future, is simply not going to happen. Until that happens, we need ongoing government support. AFTA continues to make this case at all levels of government.

Singapore has just released a road map to a new normal, based on treating COVID like any other endemic disease. Vaccination is key, with two-thirds of the community vaccinated at least once within weeks and fully by early August. This means those who contract COVID can recover



at home due to the milder symptoms. It means an end to quarantine, an end to close contacts of cases having to isolate and transition to self-administered tests.

We need more Australians vaccinated more quickly so that Australia's path out also opens up. Australia currently sits at 4.7% of the population vaccinated. That needs to lift and lift rapidly. To encourage better vaccination levels, people need incentives. Being travel-ready is that incentive both in terms of intrastate and overseas travel, whether it's for visiting friends and family or travelling for work or academic purposes.

Given the ongoing spread of the current lockdowns right around the country, AFTA has also taken the decision to move the Annual General Meeting on 13 Jul to an online-only environment.

Details will be provided to members shortly.

A bullet to Tibet

LAST week China set the wheels in motion on the first electrified bullet train into Tibet.

Connecting the Tibetan cities of Lhasa and Nyingchi in the southeast, the 435.5km section of China's Sichuan-Tibet railway is the second railway in the region, joining the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

Marriott 70 in Japan

MARRIOTT International has opened its 70th property in Japan, Aloft Osaka Dojima.

With a pipeline of more than 30 additional hotels, including three expected to open later this year, the portfolio, which includes 18 brands in 21 prefectures, is poised for continued growth.

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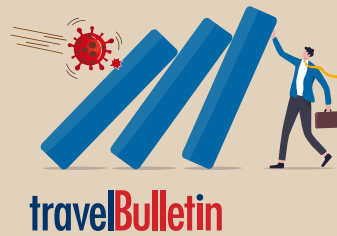
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Dig deep into the results of Travel Daily Survival Survey and see how other travel businesses are coping in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read

Thredbo on front ski

THREDBO Resort is asking all guests who are currently in-resort or planning to visit the resort to review and adhere to the latest NSW Health regulations to help keep guests and staff safe against the latest spike of COVID-19 cases in the state.

Thredbo's reservations team has been in contact with all impacted guests to offer alternative booking solutions.

Aussie ski resorts are currently feeling the pinch from mass cancellations in NSW on the cusp of the school holidays season.

We've got your BAC



AN IMPRESSIVE list of charities and school programs are the latest recipients of Brisbane Airport Corporation's (BAC) philanthropic efforts, with \$18,000 donated to 19 groups over the last couple of months.

Twice a year, BAC calls for applications regarding grant projects that help the Brisbane community improve key aspects of life, from health and wellbeing, education initiatives, to environmental programs.

Recent recipients of the funding include the Gap State School, where grant money will be used to design an indigenous mural for a large brick wall and plant trees that are native to the area to improve the green spaces in the school's yard.

Another grant recipient this time round was Reef Check Australia, an environmental charity which provides ways for the communities to better understand methods to protect beach and marine environments.

Funding will be used to update the charity's first aid kit and to purchase an oxygen kit.

Pictured: The clean up team from Reef Check Australia hard at work protecting Qld's beaches.

Tas tourism training

THE skills shortage in tourism workers in Tasmania has received a welcome boost, with the new TasTAFE Drysdale training facility at Claremont College officially opening to students.

Part of the State Government's Secure Tasmania's Future strategy, the new training facility will offer attendees the chance to be trained up for a variety of key jobs needed in tourism and hospitality, including front office jobs, bar service, and down the track, outdoor guiding roles.

"Through this training facility, and its training more generally, TasTAFE Drysdale is proactively addressing the skills shortages and encouraging more people to begin a career in tourism and hospitality," the Tasmanian Government said.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.754

THE AUD was hit hard overnight after a Boston Federal Reserve President raised concern over house prices.

Higher interest rates were brought up in order to manage the rapid gains seen in the US housing market, with discussion surrounding tightening policy to control inflation - which saw the AUDUSD fall 0.3%.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.754
UK	£0.543
NZ	\$1.067
Euro	€0.632
Japan	¥83.58
Thailand	฿23.96
China	¥4.830
South Africa	10.71
Canada	\$0.927
Crude oil	US\$74.68

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