

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page, plus a full page from Tourism Tasmania.

Go the extra mile!

APPLICATIONS for a new TIME scholarship made possible by the efforts of committee member Timo Lorenzen are now open.

The successful applicant will be part of the next intake commencing 08 Sep.

Lorenzen took part in the Go the Extra Mile Campaign and ran 5km a day for 30 days, raising the scholarship funds needed.

Apply before 06 Aug [HERE](#).

Royal requires vax

ALL Royal Caribbean International cruises departing US ports (except Florida) now require passengers to be fully vaccinated in order to sail, the line said.

Guests 12 years of age and older must be fully vaccinated from 01 Aug, while younger passengers not yet eligible for the vaccine will be able to sail with a negative test result but must follow all COVID protocols.

Partial bubble back

QUARANTINE-FREE travel from the ACT, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria to New Zealand will resume from 11:59pm NZST on 04 Jul after the green lane was paused for all Australian states and territories.

The NZ Government is requesting all travellers on trans-Tasman bubble flights receive a negative COVID-19 test result 72 hours before departure.

Express Tickets NZ rollout

THE new Aeronology-powered Express Tickets platform (TD 05 May) is set to be deployed across the Tasman, with New Zealand's First Travel Group adopting the system as an upgrade for its existing First Fares platform.

First Travel Group, majority owned by Australia's Express Travel Group, will make the Express Tickets system available across NZ "for new agencies looking for stronger consolidation support," First Travel CEO Malcolm MacLeod said.

"We have taken the COVID period to adapt to a changing market by providing our members with easy-to-use, industry-first systems which are further enhanced by the rollout of our seamless and advanced product

and service offering," he said.

"Aeronology complements our existing service offering and is in a class of its own," said First Travel Group Head of Operations, Paul Smith.

"Its functionality to seamlessly search, book, ticket fares and ancillaries at the same time is incredible, alongside its ability to reissue or revalidate."

The company confirmed that Aeronology would feature full NDC capability with participating airlines, and was also currently developing an online refund solution.

MEANWHILE First Travel Group has also partnered with NZ-based Rako Science to enable its travel agent members to provide clients with accessible and simplified rapid pre-departure saliva-based PCR COVID-19 testing.

Rako's testing is the first fully validated saliva test in NZ, and its PCR test certificates are accepted worldwide, the company said.

"Confidence in travel can only increase now that our members are able to provide travellers with a timely negative test and certificate, taking the hassle and stress out of pre-departure and arrival requirements," Smith said.

Lion to leave TA

A RESTRUCTURE at Tourism Australia (TA) will see the departure of long-time Business Events Australia chief Penny Lion.

TA's existing business events distribution and partnership arrangements will transition to reporting to Robin Mack - more in the special **Business Events News** page in TD tomorrow.

Rex adds 737-800s

REX Airlines (Rex) has signed a Letter of Intent to lease two Boeing 737-800NGs (TD breaking news yesterday), a decision that will bring its 737 aircraft fleet total to eight.

The duo of new aircraft will enter the airline's domestic service from Sep, with plans to use the jets to launch new routes to capital cities, large regional hubs and popular leisure spots.

Rex Deputy Chairman John Sharp also took the opportunity to chastise the carrier's competitors during the announcement, stating the two new planes would help cities who "want to finally put an end to the price gouging they have been subjected to for far too long."

"Australians now don't have to choose between full service at inflated prices and poor and unreliable services at lower prices," Sharp added.

Rex has been vocal in its criticism of Qantas' pricing practices in particular, earlier this month running attack ads in newspapers across the country (TD 02 Jun).

QR/AS codeshare

QATAR Airways has signed a codeshare agreement with Alaska Airlines in a bid to further widen its offering in the US and Canada.

The new deal is active from tomorrow and will see flights shared across 150 of Alaska's routes, including major hubs Portland, Las Vegas, San Diego, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Denver, San Jose, and Vancouver.

Alaska Airlines pax will also be able to book QR flights between the US and Middle East routes.

\$5,000 fine issued

A TRAVEL company that ferried 128 guests and staff to Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo in breach of lockdown orders yesterday has been whacked with a \$5,000 fine.

The unnamed tour company had at least 76 passengers on board from the Greater Sydney area, according to NSW Police, with the tour of regional NSW departing Sydney hours before the lockdown of four LGAs on Fri.

"In discussions prior to their arrival, Taronga had received assurances from the group that they were compliant with NSW Public Health Orders, however at the point of check-in it was revealed that the group had in fact visited the Greater Sydney area," Taronga Western Plains Zoo said in a statement yesterday.

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UA mammoth order

UNITED Airlines has made the largest combined aircraft buy in its history by ordering 270 planes, including 200 Boeing 737 MAXs and 70 Airbus A321neos.

In addition to the whopping order, the carrier has also revealed plans to upgrade all of its narrow-body fleet, which will see a 75% increase in premium seats on North American departures, larger overhead bins, seatback entertainment in every seat and high-speed wi-fi.

TripAdvisor refresh

TRIPADVISOR has unveiled its revamped mobile app for iOS and Android users, providing users with improved booking and planning options.

New features include the ability to book travel from a choice of 400,000 experiences, as well as more intuitive recommendations and new options to save traveller-suggested destinations.

QF Channel adds QBR offers

QANTAS has released another enhancement to the Qantas Distribution Platform, allowing travel agents to access "Bonus Savings" for Qantas Business Rewards (QBR) members.

Valid for eligible flights, the additional discounts come on top of the existing member flight savings offered to QBR members, which give up to 8% off higher fare types depending on the membership tier.

Qantas said the new Bonus Savings would be "available from time to time and on specific flights, routes and destinations,"

HKG UK flight ban

HONG Kong authorities have banned all passenger flights from the UK effective from tomorrow, having designated the UK as "extremely high risk" due to the country's spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19.

and will be accessible by all travel agents who are participating in the Qantas Channel and make bookings using content from the NDC-based platform.

The enhancement is subject to the capability and readiness of individual technology providers, with travel consultants advised to contact their GDS to find out when the bonus savings offers will be available for bookings by their agency.

Virtuoso appoints

VIRTUOSO has named Karen Joyce as its new GM for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Now London-based, Joyce takes up the new role on 01 Jul, reporting to Michael Londregan who was recently promoted to become the group's Senior VP of Global Operations (**TD** 04 Feb).

Joyce was previously GM of Helloworld's AOT Group in NZ.



Window Seat

SOME flights are so full it seems every man and his dog are on board, and thanks to a new ruling handed down by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), this may literally be the case soon as well.

The safety body has this week decided the rules banning pets in the cabins of commercial planes will be relaxed from 02 Dec, leaving the call to the discretion of individual airlines.

But before you take your buffoonery of pet orangutans on board, you should know CASA is also asking passengers to consider the "type of animal and how it is carried, contained and restrained", including their reaction to noise, distraction to flight crew, and how excrement or fluids will be contained.



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MARGARET RIVER REGION

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THE KIMBERLEY

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Novotel Hawthorn

ACCOR is gearing up to commence construction on the 87-suite, seven-storey Novotel Hawthorn Melbourne, with the property expected to open to the public in Q1, 2023.

Features of the hotel are set to include an all-day dining venue, a bar, a swanky business lounge, multi-purpose function spaces, as well as a modern gymnasium and fitness club.

"This hotel investment shows our continued confidence in Melbourne's property, hospitality and tourism markets, which we believe are already showing strong signs of bouncing back post-COVID," Accor's General Manager of Food and Beverage Christos Pavlidis said.

The \$50 million hotel will replace an office currently owned and used by private asset management and investment company APH Holdings as its head office at 858 Glenferrie Rd.

Maldives refurb

THE recently renovated Naladhu Private Island Maldives will relaunch in Nov.

A six-month refurbishment has seen the private island totally redesigned, with all public areas and accommodation modernised, including the resort's flagship suite, the Two Bedroom Pool Residence, which will reopen with its own 20-metre private beach.

The island is located on the edge of a lagoon in the South Male Atoll.

NZ's first zero carbon itinerary



NEW Zealand's first zero carbon itinerary has been launched by nelsontasman.nz, a new tour targeting eco-conscious travellers who want to explore more of nature in a sustainable way.

The four-day itinerary in New Zealand's Nelson region brings together extraordinary experiences and delectable cuisine, with highlights including cycling on e-bikes through wineries, exploring Nelson city in a hybrid car, visiting one of

the world's first climate positive pubs and sailing aboard an Abel Tasman Sailing Adventures yacht for a bit of seal spotting with a glass of wine (pictured).

The company will also offset the travel of visitors within the region if they book the itinerary through the Nelson i-SITE Visitor Information Centre, located in town.

Younger travellers want inclusion

CLOSE to two-thirds of young travellers are more willing to book accommodations that have policies focused on diversity and inclusion, according to a new study compiled by Expedia.

The profile of accommodation focused on inclusion extend to property's owned by women and/or people of colour, as well as hotels and lodging that are welcoming to the LGBTQIA community and people with disabilities.

Tauk Aug restart

TAUCK has confirmed plans to resume full operations of all its remaining 2021 itineraries in Aug and Sep, including Danube and Rhine river cruises, land tours in Italy and across Europe, and explorations in places like Morocco and Peru.

Previously, Tauk had opted to resume operation globally on an incremental basis, including a full restart in the US (TD 14 Apr).

TWU demands jobs

THE Transport Workers Union (TWU) is demanding the urgent priority vaccination of domestic cabin crews in Australia.

The call follows a positive crew member case who serviced five Virgin Australia flights across three states last week.

In a letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, TWU National Secretary Michael Kaine asked for a national ramp-up of access to the vaccine for cabin crew who he said should be included in the "highest priority category for vaccination".

ITB Asia full virtual

ITB Asia 2021 will be held from 25-29 Oct and be completely virtual to keep attendees safe from COVID-19.

The event will include five full days of business appointments and three exclusive days of conference program.

Euribia build starts

THE first steel has been cut in the construction of MSC Cruises' upcoming *MSC Euribia* vessel in France, which is scheduled to join the line's fleet in Jun 2023.

Features on board the 4,810-passenger ship will include 2,421 staterooms, 14 restaurants and food bars, 21 lounges and bars, four swimming pools (one with a covered slide), one MSC Yacht Club and nine jacuzzis.

Euribia will be the second of the line's fleet powered by LNG to achieve emissions reductions.



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Hong Kong word search

R	R	N	D	N	A	L	S	I	A	M	M	A	L	U
U	E	V	W	U	F	U	Q	P	K	F	M	K	O	N
O	S	S	S	B	I	O	Y	H	C	R	A	K	B	H
B	E	H	R	J	R	P	K	H	A	C	H	O	U	K
R	N	O	A	L	S	I	A	G	B	H	D	W	S	R
A	I	P	T	V	T	U	E	N	S	N	D	L	I	A
H	H	P	S	U	A	H	P	O	N	H	U	O	N	P
A	C	I	F	U	R	S	E	F	O	M	B	O	E	N
I	L	N	O	U	F	M	H	I	G	U	G	N	S	A
R	Q	G	E	V	E	A	T	A	A	S	I	D	S	E
O	T	A	U	L	R	H	Z	W	R	M	B	U	Q	C
T	N	Z	N	I	R	S	E	K	D	I	A	Y	X	O
C	J	B	E	L	Y	S	R	N	C	D	T	I	V	T
I	A	Q	V	K	E	T	R	A	F	F	I	C	L	T
V	O	P	A	P	Y	R	K	L	K	T	V	A	T	O

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| AVENUEOFSTARS | LANKWAIFONG |
| BIGBUDDHA | OCEANPARK |
| BUSINESS | SHAMSHUIPO |
| CHINESE | SHOPPING |
| DIMSUM | STARFERRY |
| DRAGONSBACK | THEPEAK |
| KOWLOON | TRAFFIC |
| LAMMAISLAND | VICTORIAHARBOUR |

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

D	T	I
T	V	M
E	A	O

- Good – 13 words
 Very good – 19 words
 Excellent – 25 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Know your brands

LOGOS are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don't even need to see the company's name to know who it is.

See if you can identify these four logos.

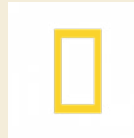
1



2



3



4



Whose mascot is this?



A DRAGON was chosen as this team's mascot, because a dragon is a magical creature indeed.

Thus, Stuff the Magic Dragon was born, whose name is both a play on a popular 1960s song and the basketball slang term, "stuff",

meaning to slam dunk the ball.

Stuff "hatched" on Church Street in the middle of his team's city back in 1989, to help promote the upcoming addition of the city's team to the league.

Whose mascot is this?

ANSWERS 30 JUN
 Know your brands: 1 Hurlley, 2 Tennis Australia, 3 National Geographic, 4 Tourism New Zealand
 Whose mascot is this: Stuff the Magic Dragon - Orlando Magic (NBA)
 Unscramble: avid, avoid, datve, davt, diva, dive, divot, dove, motivate, MOTIVATED, motive, move, moved, move, ovate, vated, veto, vide, video, vied, void, vomit, vomited, vote, voted

Sydney along for the ride



CONSTRUCTION has commenced on creating the country's largest combined BMX and mountain biking facility, with the planned hub in Western Sydney Parklands expected to attract tens of thousands of visitors a year when it is completed in Dec.

The 86-hectare site (pictured), has seen \$13.5 million invested from both the NSW Government and Liverpool City Council to develop a world class-standard biking attraction, with NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Rob Stokes stating the facility will add to an already-

thriving growth area in Sydney's suite of tourism attractions.

"Mountain bikers and BMX riders will soon be enjoying the biggest pump track in the Southern Hemisphere, which has a looped sequence of rollers and swoopy turns designed to maximise momentum," he said.

"Western Sydney Parklands is fast-becoming Sydney's most-loved cycling and biking hub with its incredible 60km network of tracks and trails and with this stunning facility as an addition, I have no doubt it will attract people from all over Sydney and the whole of Australia."

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ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



IHG Hotels & Resorts will introduce a second location for its premium voco brand to the UAE's most populous city, with **voco Dubai Palm Jumeirah**. The company has signed a management agreement with ASRE to introduce the 141-room property, which will open its doors in Dec. To be located on Dubai's famed machine-made island built on reclaimed land in the shape of a palm tree, voco Dubai Palm Jumeirah joins voco Dubai, located on Sheikh Zayed Road.



Radisson Collection is expanding in China with the opening of **Radisson Collection Resort, Nanjing**, a stylish, nature-inspired resort in the capital city of Jiangsu province. Nestled on the banks of a lake and surrounded by floral gardens, hot springs and mountains, Radisson Collection Resort, Nanjing is inspired by the scenery of its destination, with a design concept that appears to "ripple and flow like water", Radisson Collection enthused.



Best Western Plus Camperdown Suites in the inner west of Sydney is now open after a major refurbishment that has seen the property's guestrooms, facade, lobby and atrium courtyard all given a stylish refresh. The hotel's 36 spacious guest rooms offer a range of deluxe accommodations and one-bedroom apartments to choose from, now equipped with ensuite bathrooms and a kitchenette with two wheelchair accessible rooms. The hotel's interior features leafy terrace balconies, in-room work desks and an atrium courtyard.

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