

Contiki tears it up

CONTIKI has launched an Australian Ski Adventure as part of its domestic range.

Tearing up the Snowy Mountains over five days this coming winter, the Australian Ski Adventure is on sale now for departures between Jul and Sep, with prices starting from \$999, and savings of up to 15%.

Travellers will be staying at The Station in Jindabyne, which offers a restaurant & bar on site with live music every night, a pool table, video games and more - for more info, call 1300 CONTIKI.

QF Norfolk flights

QANTAS has announced it will be introducing six total weekly flights between Norfolk Island and the major hubs of Sydney and Brisbane from 19 Mar.

The carrier will operate three services from each capital city via Boeing 737 aircraft amounting to 2,000 seats each week.

Flights will operate for "at least" the next three months, with view to possibly extending the government contract on a long-term basis moving forward.

"With international borders closed, we know Australians are looking for new holiday experiences and Norfolk Island is a destination that has so much to offer," said Qantas Domestic & International CEO, Andrew David.

Tickets from Sydney start from \$412 one way, while Brisbane fares will lead in at \$390 one way.

NZ bubble by mid-Apr?

A TWO-WAY quarantine-free travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand is reportedly on track to be launched by mid-Apr.

According to Kiwi news site *Stuff.co.nz*, a policy paper is currently being circulated by a New Zealand Government Cabinet Committee regarding what shape the bubble will take, with a meeting scheduled for early next week for a potential announcement about the long-awaited green lane concept.

The wider plan would likely see select Kiwi airports divided into "green zones" and "red

zones", with the former signifying open travel, while red areas would denote a need for in-bound international travellers to continue to quarantine depending on departure points.

Even if approved next week, major air hubs and airlines would need at least three weeks to prepare for the travel resumption, government sources say, with smaller logistical issues reportedly still being ironed out before being presented.

These include the details around alternative arrangements in the face of sudden COVID clusters and border closures.

A three-day shutdown while the situations are assessed has been touted as the most likely scenario, with local health experts describing a trans-Tasman bubble as "very low risk".

Fund eyes APAC

REAL estate investment firm Pro-invest Group has launched the Asia-Pacific Distressed Hospitality Fund, a trust which will seek "distressed" acquisition opportunities in the luxury, upper-upscale and upscale full-service hotel space.

The fund is looking primarily at opportunities in the Australia and New Zealand markets, as well as other secure destinations in Asia, with the company stating the impact of COVID-19 represented an opportunity to make savvy value-add investments.

Only last month, Pro-invest made three key purchase in Sydney and Brisbane (**TD** 19 Feb).

Pro-invest Group is currently managing more than US\$2 billion in real estate assets.

Oita's winning spirit

THE two winners from the first week of the Oita training modules are Travel Associates' Matthew Chisholm and Flight Centre's Justine Pielli.

Chisholm has won a \$200 voucher to a Japanese restaurant, while Pielli claimed a rare Lego Bonzai tree.

Today's issue of TD

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

Evening with NCL

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has launched An Evening with NCL, its first series of virtual consumer events.

Detailing key itineraries, the events will be held from 23-25 Mar - register via the link **HERE**.

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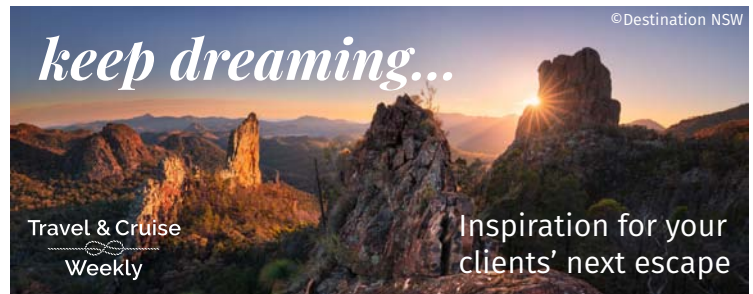
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NORTHERN
TERRITORY



AFTA pushing beyond Jun



AFTA is urging the Federal Government to extend the grant period for the COVID-19 Consumer Support Program beyond its current 30 Jun end date, with a meeting in Canberra yesterday also focusing on the “design principles” for the \$130m second round of the scheme.

AFTA CEO Darren Rudd and Flight Centre’s David Smith met with Tourism Minister Dan Tehan and Member for Cowper, Pat Conaghan (pictured), who has been a “staunch and welcome champion of travel agents and businesses in the National Party room and on the floor of

Parliament,” AFTA said.

Rudd said there were a number of additional briefings with key Ministers, Shadow Ministers and “key political and departmental influencers as well this week”.

Early indications are that Round Two of the grant scheme will see a repeat of previous payments (TD 15 Mar), although travel agents who claimed on the basis of their full TTV rather than commission revenue will not be able to participate.

Rudd said the AFTA Board and team were “united in our focus on securing and maximising support for our members”.

Sunny Coast push

THE Sunshine Coast’s tourism industry has united for a new marketing campaign, with the co-operative seeing Visit Sunshine Coast joining with the region’s tourism operators to help publicise its many hidden gems.

Marketing activities will serve to inspire Aussies to explore the white sandy beaches of Coolumb, Mooloolaba and Maroochydore, journey south through Caloundra and Kawana, and trek through the ancient volcanic peaks of the Glass House Mountains.

The Blackall Range and surrounding villages of Eumundi and Nambour will also feature prominently in the campaign.

Scurrah lands gig

FORMER Virgin Australia chief Paul Scurrah has been appointed the CEO of large-scale freight company Pacific National, more than four months after departing the airline (TD 15 Oct 2020).

Marriott expansion

MARRIOTT International has revealed its Marriott Bonvoy portfolio of independent hotel brands is poised to add close to 70 new property locations this year, including 24 market debuts.

Among the new openings is a planned Australian location in Tasmania, a 152-room property situated in Parliament Square.

Tasman, a Luxury Collection Hotel in Hobart will open in Oct.

The company said the rapid expansion is an attempt to keep pace with travel demand for more “individualised accommodation”.

BYO coffee cluster

DESTINATION Webinars is rebooting its BYO Coffee Clusters webinar series next Thu, with the upcoming session educating attendees on the attractions of Western Canada.

The webinar takes place 25 Mar at 12pm (AEDT) - [CLICK HERE](#) for more info and to register.

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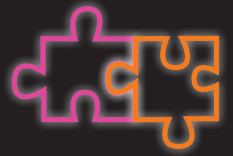
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AMID THE DOOM
AND GLOOM?**

Check out our daily puzzle page.



Travel Daily

Crooked cravings

CROOKED Compass has launched two new food tours to the market, offering a wide taste of Middle Eastern flavours available in western Sydney.

One culinary adventure seeks out the best flavours of Afghanistan, Syria and Persia in the area, while the second tour provides guests with the tasty dishes served up in a wider range of destinations, such as India and the Balkans.

Tours depart in Jun and lead in at \$85pp - call 1300 855 790.

Tassie flags support

THE Tasmanian Government is allocating \$12 million to the state's tourism sector, with \$8m going toward developing new key projects, while \$4m will fund financial support to tourism businesses considered critical to Tassie's visitor economy.

Grants of up to \$100,000 will be available for each business.

Webjet invests in blockchain

WEBJET Limited this morning announced a US\$4.1 million deal seeing it take a 25% stake in LockTrip, a Europe-based online accommodation marketplace claiming to "unlock secret travel deals with up to 60% discount".

The LockTrip platform is underpinned by a "blockchain economy" which Webjet said enables genuine commercial applications at scale, with the company planning to integrate LockTrip as the B2C hotel offering in its Australian OTA operation.

Webjet also flagged the potential migration of its in-house Rezchain blockchain-based reconciliation system across to the Lockchain Hydra chain which "solves many of the issues that prevent the wholesale adoption of blockchain as an underlying platform".

Development of WebBeds is also proceeding quickly, with plans to open a new "Global

Travel Marketplace" retail booking website for travel agents by the end of 2021, as well as offering API connections and a comprehensive online hotel content catalogue.

The company noted that bedbanks remain a critical distribution channel supporting the recovery of the travel sector, with Webjet's strategic objective to become the number one global B2B provider of accommodation, with a \$10b annual TTV target.

Globus MICE nice

THE Globus Family of Brands has confirmed the appointment of Joyce Weir to the newly created role of National Business Development Manager - MICE.

Weir is well known to the business events industry through former roles with Qantas and Hawaiian Airlines - more of the latest industry appointments on **page six** of today's **TD**.



Window Seat

GREEN tourist icons have been all the craic in the last 24 hours as the world celebrates the festive spirit of the Irish for St Patrick's Day.

The Opera House was but one famous location to join in all of the fun and games, with The Oculus transit hub near the World Trade Center in New York, The Palm Fountain in Dubai, Cairo Tower in Egypt and the towering Torre Costanera in Chile all going green to mark the occasion, let's just hope The Opera House is lit up with Berocca branding today!



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**100% PURE
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I hate to say it, but I was right...

OPINION

Elizabeth Ellis
from Cherrybrook
Travel in NSW
sent this response
to yesterday's
travelBulletin
editorial from



TD publisher Bruce Piper about the demise of JobKeeper and the future of the industry - for those who missed it see travelbulletin.com.au.

Got an opinion to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to feedback@traveldaily.com.au.

UNFORTUNATELY as a person who has a glass is half empty outlook, I did believe that our messages, pleas, interviews, meetings would be met with deaf ears and again unfortunately I was right.

I so wanted someone to come back to me and say, "always the pessimist you are wrong this time", but sadly this is not so.

Does the end of JobKeeper mean the death of travel agents? It could, but I think ones that can will choose to reduce where possible, go home-based and not renew leases and wait for the tide of change.

Others will hang in there for as long as they can holding onto a treasured business.

I am sure that as I write this there are hard meetings being had, and some very sad people that will be saying goodbye to long time colleagues and friends.

But it is until we meet again, not goodbye, it is not forever and that is the positive that we will take away from this.

So for the government that didn't back this industry I doubt that Mr Morrison would be a gambler and opt for an early election.

After the bloodbath in Western Australia I am sure that he is

feeling the glass half empty at the moment and when he does make a move and asks us to vote for him it will be our chance to show what we feel about the support we have received.

Keeping the planes flying doesn't mean filling them.

Half price fares for people not on JobSeeker is not an issue and it is the ones that would have been travelling regardless that will snap up the fares.

The people that will simply change from JobKeeper to JobSeeker are the real concern, financially and mentally.

These travellers worried about the end of JobKeeper will not

be financially secure enough to chance a holiday.

I do certainly agree that as JobKeeper ends, "AviationKeeper" starts and it is easy to see who was listened to.

Darren Rudd, you did your job but you were

always up against it and I will say thank you to AFTA for keeping us all positive.

But as reality sets in and the challenges become very real, all ostriches need to be back on deck! There I go again mixing metaphors!

We can't avoid the situation any longer and we can't change it, it would appear.

We will back ourselves where we can, but will we back the government for what it has done? - ignoring an industry that really showcases Australia to the world and the world to Australians.

So for the ones out there that may not have travel employment I say safe travels, Bon Voyage!

And when you return home the industry will be here waiting for you. As for Scott Morrison, maybe I'm not so sure.

“
Bon Voyage!
When you
return home the
industry will be
here waiting for
you.”

A taste of Ireland in Sydney



CLOSED borders were no barrier to celebrating St Patrick's Day with a taste of Ireland, as the Tourism Ireland team hosted an oyster shucking demonstration and walking tour of The Rocks in Sydney yesterday with Irish-Australian historian, Dr Jeff Kildea.

Marking the Emerald Isle's national day, Consul General of Ireland in Sydney, Owen Feeney, highlighted Ireland's strong ties with Australia and the opportunities to promote it as a destination for first-generation Irish-Australians, dubbed Generation Green, who are keen to learn more about their own heritage.

Welcoming guests from across the travel industry at The Morrison Bar and Oyster Room, Tourism Ireland Australia and New Zealand Manager Sofia Hansson screened Discover Ireland's Orchestra of Light display celebrating the nation's culture featuring 500 drones flying above Dublin's River Liffey.

The event concluded with an Irish-themed high-tea at The Tea Cosy in The Rocks.

Pictured: Tourism Ireland's Australia and New Zealand team, Sarah Harrison, with Breeanna Donohoe and Australia and NZ Manager Sofia Hansson.

CLICK HERE to see the Orchestra of Light video.

IATA AGM delayed

THE International Air Transport Association has postponed its 77th Annual General Meeting and World Air Transport Summit.

The event, which had been previously scheduled for 27-29 Jun, will now take place 03-05 Oct 2021 in Boston, USA hosted by JetBlue Airways.

Iceland vax pax

THE Government of Iceland has opened the country's borders to travellers who have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Anyone who has had both doses of a vaccine approved by the European Medicines Agency - including UK and US visitors - will be able to enter Iceland without a coronavirus test or quarantine.

Other nations also set to allow entry to vaccinated travellers include Georgia, the Seychelles, Poland, Cyprus, Greece & Spain.

Sabre NDC push

SABRE Corporation has announced several "milestones in its progress towards delivering NDC-enabled solutions," including the ability to book NDC content through its GetThere corporate online booking tool.

The enhancement is currently being piloted with several clients who can now select policy-compliant NDC offers in addition to traditional content.

Other recent additions include the launch of NDC offers from Singapore Airlines, which are now available in 25 points of sale including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, South Africa and the UAE.

Eligible agencies using the Sabre Red 360 platform can not only shop and book SQ NDC offers but also void, refund and exchange orders from the carrier.

Sabre is now certified as NDC Level 4 Capable by IATA.

Where in the world?



THIS is “Banjo” – Australia’s greatest carnivorous dinosaur! Banjo is the welcoming committee at this attraction, which is home to the world’s largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils.

It is a working dinosaur museum with the most productive fossil preparation laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere.

Located on 1,800 hectares of spectacular mesa plateau with vast scenery, wildlife and walking

trails, this attraction allows visitors to learn about their exciting finds of unique dinosaurs that lived 100 million years ago.

In the ‘Dinosaur Canyon’ five outdoor galleries feature life-sized bronze dinosaurs.

Tours are conducted daily - and enjoy the Cretaceous Cafe before or after your tour.

Make sure you book your tours in advance.

Do you know this attraction’s name and where it is located?

Know your brands

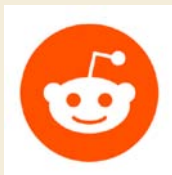
LOGOS are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don’t even need to see the company’s name to know who it is.

See if you can identify these four logos.

1



2



3



4



Pub quiz

1. Where would you find Kronosaurus Korner?
2. What month is the Winton Way Out West Festival?
3. Where could you snap a selfie of yourself on Australia’s first glass bridge?
4. What reality show is being filmed in Outback Queensland?
5. Which train heads Outback with a Chef onboard serving delicious Queensland inspired cuisine?
6. Where would you find the Cosmos Centre?
7. How many destinations do REX fly to in Queensland?
8. Where would you find the Tree of Knowledge?
9. Alliance Airlines fly into CNJ. Which city does this airport code stand for?
10. Where would you find the Qantas Founders Museum?

Whose animal is this?



THE markhor is one of the largest members of the goat family, and has the most impressive horns of the group.

Markhors are fantastic climbers, going up cliffs to reach oak trees to feed on leaves.

They are native to Central Asia, mainly inhabiting one country and are under the threat of extinction with many poached.

Living in mountainous areas, do you know whose national animal the markhor is?

ANSWERS 17 MAR

Pub quiz: 1 Caesars Palace, 2 The Unisphere, 3 West End, 4 Alice Springs, 5 Launceston, 6 Indonesia, 7 Boston, 8 b) Oman, 9 Riyadh, 10 a) New Year Group

Seen it at the movies: Die Hard

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

Today’s puzzle page is brought to you by Outback Queensland



Happy to welcome Aussies...



TOURISM Fiji yesterday hosted a Sydney event to celebrate this weekend's International Day of Happiness, in line with the national tag-line which notes that "Fiji is where happiness finds you". Acting Country Manager Jason Sacriz noted that Fiji was ready and willing to welcome visitors as soon as governments allow travel to recommence, with a complete destination-wide approach to health and safety.

The Care Fiji Commitment includes best-practice COVID-19 mitigation measures including staff training, enhanced sanitation practices and a Wellness Ambassador at each business dedicated to protecting the health of guests.

Pictured with some of the local rum in the background are, from left: Tourism Fiji's David McMahan, Sarah-Louise Robinson and Jason Sacriz.

Discover Oita and win!
New training program just released
[Learn more](#)

Travel Daily

Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

AirAsia raises bar

AIRASIA Group has announced the successful completion of a private share placement yesterday, raising roughly A\$106 million to help with debt reduction and working capital.

The airline said the raising reflected its "strong fundamentals", with an extra 100,367,362 new ordinary shares issued as a result.

Win a trip to Korea

THE Korea Tourism Organization will be hosting a series of conversations discussing the allure of the country as an Aussie bucket list destination, and will include chats with TV host Edwina Bartholomew and Olympic freestyle skier Lydia Lassila.

Register **HERE** to attend on 30 Mar, with one lucky viewer to win a return trip to South Korea.

PNG flights canned

THE Australian Government has suspended all outbound flights to Papua New Guinea as the country battles a rapid rise in COVID-19 transmissions.

The only exception to the rule will be services operating for humanitarian reasons.

Relief on the Reef

GREAT Barrier Reef operators at the Cairns Marlin Marina will continue to dock for free until mid 2022, under an extension of fee relief by the Qld Government.

Reef fleet operators at the marina have received the relief since Feb 2020.

APPOINTMENTS

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Travel Beyond Group has appointed **Nicole Hay** to the role of Senior Consultant. She brings with her more than 20 years of experience in festival, touring and production travel.

Cross Hotels & Resorts has appointed **Harry Thaliwal** as its new Chief Executive Officer. Promoted internally to the role, CH&R says it tapped Thaliwal for the role for his "disruptive thinking", which has generated creativity and innovation across multiple business lines.

Bruce Ryde has taken on a new General Manager & Brand Strategist role with **Kamalaya**. He joins the property with a long hotel history both operating hotels and leading global brands in Asia Pacific, most recently with Marriott International.

Outrigger Hospitality Group has announced the appointment of **Monica Salter** as Vice President, Global Communications & Social Responsibility. Also appointed within Outrigger are **James Wilson**, Director, Business Intelligence and Analytics Services, **Kyle Vidal** the new Global Media Director, and **Matt Mariconda**, Director, Financial Planning and Analysis.

For confidential tip offs, connect with *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click **HERE**

