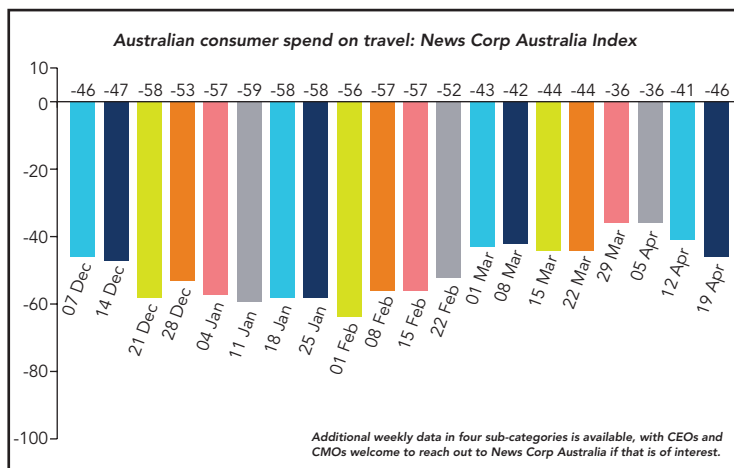


Epic Australia ads

TOURISM Australia's new Epic Holidays campaign (**TD** 29 Apr) launched today, the latest iteration of its Holiday Here This Year program encouraging Aussies to spend more and stay longer. The ads feature power couple Hamish and Zoe - **CLICK HERE**.

Agent spend down 83%



EXCLUSIVE

CONSUMER spending at bricks and mortar travel agencies continues to plumb historic lows, with a revamp of the exclusive News Corp Australia tracking report (**pictured**) now breaking out retail agents from tour businesses and OTAs - all of which were previously combined into a single "travel agents and touring" category in the figures.

As expected this week's results were down overall because they coincided with the first week of the return to school, while the tweak to the data has also seen additional businesses added to all of the categories to improve the overall accuracy of the numbers.

Spend buckets for airline travel have been split at the \$500 mark, to ensure international and domestic bookings can be differentiated as more corridors open, according to News Corp

Head of Travel, Dwayne Birtles.

He said this week's drop was not a major concern, with consumers appearing to be "waiting and watching" to see if the new trans-Tasman bubble pops.

Retail travel agencies continue to be the most heavily impacted category, with spend falling another 3 points to -83%, while cruise maintained its position this week, sitting at -71%.

Birtles said next week there may be some spend increases as NZ winter getaways become a reality, while some in the southern states may also be looking to head north to escape the cold.

"However we don't expect anything too extraordinary just yet," he warned.

Today's issue of TD

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

Our new Celebrity...

CELEBRITY Cruises has announced the appointment of Ben Piper as the company's new Digital Marketing Specialist for Australia and New Zealand. Piper joins the line from his previous role with Viking Cruises. More appointments on **page six**.



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FIND OUT MORE

Vale Brian King



THE South Australian travel community is mourning the death of industry pioneer Brian King (pictured), whose career in travel began as far back as 1948 at the Kangaroo Island Tourist Office, which developed into King's Travel Agency and Kings Holidays, with offices across Australia as well as in Los Angeles and Tokyo.

His career achievements also included establishing Venture Holidays SA/NT in 1979, running it for 35 years until its 2014 sale.

King's funeral will be held next Mon 10 May at Centennial Park Adelaide, with details to be published in *The Advertiser*.

Qantas, JAL pact denied

QANTAS and Japan Airlines (JAL) have hit a hurdle in their attempt to form a Joint Business Agreement to coordinate flights to Japan from Australia and New Zealand (**TD** 06 Jan).

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) draft rejection of the proposal (**TD** breaking news) cites significant public detriments, outweighing any possible benefits.

"An agreement for coordination between two key competitors breaches competition laws," said ACCC Chair Rod Sims.

"The ACCC can only authorise these agreements if the public benefits from the coordination outweigh the harm to competition...at this stage we do not consider that Qantas and Japan Airlines' proposal passes that test," he said.

"Granting this authorisation would seem to eliminate any prospect of Qantas and

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Japan Airlines competing for passengers...as they did before the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

Qantas said it was disappointed at the decision, saying "the international market will look very different post-COVID and close collaboration between partner airlines is going to be critical over the next few years as key routes are rebuilt".

"It's our job to convince the ACCC of the merits of this partnership ahead of their final determination," the carrier said.

The ACCC is now seeking submissions by 27 May in response to the draft decision, prior to making a final ruling which is expected in Jun.

Last week the Commission made public a letter from Virgin Australia raising significant concerns about the proposal (**TD** 27 Apr) and noting that QF and JL hold a 90% market share on the Japan route.

More border pain

FINANCE Minister Simon Birmingham this morning dashed the hopes of the travel and tourism sector for any near-term reopening of Australia's international borders.

In an interview with *The Australian* about next week's Federal Budget, Birmingham said while the economy's recovery would be faster than expected, the government would still take a "cautious approach to the reopening of Australia".

"He flagged that any significant international business and leisure travel might not resume until well into 2022," the report says, adding that borders would not be "flung open with ease" at the start of next year.

The Budget will apparently now be based on more conservative assumptions about when and how Australia would reopen to the world, bearing in mind overseas outbreaks and the pace of the local vaccination rollout.



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Yet another InterContinental!

IHG Hotels has rounded out a week of major announcements by this morning unveiling plans for a newbuild InterContinental Hotel in Parramatta, NSW.

The new hotel is currently under development by Holdmark Property Group, with plans to open in 2025 as part of a mixed-use development which also includes offices and a ground floor retail precinct.

The owners are running an architectural competition to find a winning design, with IHG Vice President of Development for Japan, Australasia and Pacific, Abhijay Sanilya saying "Parramatta is without a doubt a super city of the future... to introduce our luxury InterContinental Hotels & Resorts brand to the heart of Western Sydney is incredibly exciting".

The hotel will be located opposite Parramatta Square, one of the largest urban renewal projects in Australia, ideally positioned to cater to both business and leisure travellers.

Holdmark said its planned development would also aim to attract high-end restaurants and more entertainment options for guests and the community.

InterContinental Parramatta will be the group's 11th

InterContinental hotel in Australasia, joining other properties in Hayman Island, the Sydney CBD, Double Bay, Perth, Sanctuary Cove, Melbourne, Adelaide, Fiji and the recently announced InterContinental Sorrento in Vic (**TD** 01 Apr).

IHG also this week announced the \$32 million upgrade of InterContinental Adelaide (**TD** 04 May), and the debut of the Kimpton Hotels and Restaurants brand in Australia at Sydney's Primus Hotel (**TD** yesterday).

NZ taxi cartel

THE Commerce Commission of New Zealand has lodged legal action in the High Court in Wellington, alleging that Hutt and City Taxis Limited has been engaging in price fixing.

The Commission claims that in Sep last year Hutt & City reached an agreement with two rival operators to implement a minimum charge of \$25 for pick-up taxi trips from the on-demand taxi rank at Wellington Airport.

A warning has also been issued to Kiwi Cabs Limited, over its role in the conduct.

Last month new legislation in NZ made cartel conduct punishable with up to seven years in prison.



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*T&C applies

Millions flow to Kiwi tourism sector

NEW Zealand Tourism Minister Stuart Nash has this morning presented a "tourism survival plan" to the industry, at the TRENZ conference in Christchurch.

The three-year NZ\$200 million Tourism Communities: Support, Recovery and Reset Plan will offer funding for small business, tourism infrastructure, economic and regional development and mental wellbeing initiatives.

Businesses seeking expert advice for post-pandemic recovery can access grants of up to \$5,000 each, while there's \$49m for a "kick-start" fund to help businesses in hibernation relaunch their operations.

Inbound tour operators will be able to access a total of \$14 million in funding, and there's \$26 million in annual grants to regional tourism organisations.

A \$10 million Tourism Industry Transformation Plan will aim to lift standards across the sector and build a more sustainable model for the industry.

"Whole communities...are facing new challenges to their way of life," Nash admitted, with the economic impact of the loss of international visitation extending far beyond the tourism sector.

A new survey from Tourism Industry Aotearoa has estimated 90,000 industry job losses, with CEO Chris Roberts noting 95% of tourism businesses polled said reopening of borders was vital.



Window Seat

FORGET JobKeeper, half price airfares and travel agent grant programs as a way of overcoming pandemic pain - a coastal town in Japan has spent its coronavirus relief funds to build a statue of a giant squid.

Perhaps taking a cue from Australia's Big Banana, Big Pineapple and Big Prawn, the town of Noto in Ishikawa Prefecture received about \$10 million in grants from the Japanese Government, as part of a program aiming to help boost local economies.

Fortunately they didn't blow the whole lot on the big cephalopod, which apparently cost about \$750,000.

After criticism on social media local officials defended the move, saying that squid was a local delicacy, with the statue (**pictured**) part of a long term strategy to raise awareness about the town's fishing industry and increase tourism.



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Sustainable LATAM

LATAM Airlines today launched an ambitious sustainability strategy, including a goal of zero waste to landfill by 2027, to offset 50% of carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 - traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Arizona appoints

THE US state of Arizona will now have local representation, with Linkd Tourism collaborating with the destination on several initiatives across Australia and NZ in the lead-up to the resumption of international travel.

The work will be led by Carolyn Nightingale, who will host several webinars and produce locally relevant content for the Australian and NZ travel trade.

Arizona Office of Tourism Deputy Director, Becky Blaine, said prior to COVID there were increasing numbers of Aussies and Kiwis exploring the state and its many natural attractions including the Grand Canyon.

Dine like a Princess

PRINCESS Cruises has enhanced its MedallionClass platform to allow guests to make contactless reservations at onboard dining rooms and specialty restaurants, at times they prefer, and with whom they wish to dine.

Dubbed Dine My Way, the new system will also help patrons pre-plan and tailor their dining experiences to offer more flexibility and convenience, Princess said, as well as helping optimise capacities in venues, manage wait times and pre-share dietary preferences.

Princess' OceanNow on-demand menu has also been expanded to include entrees and beverage options - more from Princess in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Travel Daily
NEWS ON THE FLY
CLICK HERE to listen.

NEW EPISODE

travelBulletin May out



THE latest issue of *travelBulletin* is out now (pictured) and features an exclusive interview with AFTA Chairman Tom Manwaring about

how the Federation continues to navigate the COVID-19 storm.

Revelations confirm a concerted push for further rounds of industry grant funding, the 30 Jun wind-up of the AFTA Chargeback Scheme, a search for a new CEO, negotiations with IATA and more.

The issue also covers Celebrity Cruises, with the line pulling the curtain back on its latest ship, *Celebrity Beyond*.

All of *travelBulletin*'s popular monthly features return, including state of the industry, issues & trends, cruise, and last word, as well as contributions from our regular columnists.

The industry can access the full online version of *travelBulletin* for May by **CLICKING HERE**.

QF property update

QANTAS has completed a review of its property holdings (*TD* 15 Sep 2020), with no change to its existing global headquarters in Sydney, along with its current customer service training facilities.

Jetstar will remain in Melbourne, while QF heavy maintenance will continue in Brisbane, the review concluded.

QF CEO Alan Joyce confirmed that Sydney would be the launch city for the first Project Sunrise flights to New York and London once international travel recovers, while a new Flight Training Centre will also be built in NSW from 2023.

SYD gets Moxy

MARRIOTT International has announced the first Moxy Hotel for Sydney, with the new Moxy Sydney Airport slated to open in early 2023 with 301 guestrooms.

The property on Baxter Rd, Mascot, will also offer the lively Moxy Bar, which will also serve as the front desk, as well as a cafe, fitness centre & guest laundries.

"The scale of this project, and its prominent location at the entrance to Sydney Airport is set to position the hotel as an icon for the Moxy brand in Asia Pacific," said Marriott's local Senior Director, Hotel Development, Richard Crawford.

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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



Where in the world?



THIS incredible landscape is the third largest salt lake in Australia, and when dry has been the site of numerous land-speed record attempts.

It also plays host to the annual Dry Lake Racers event which attracts motoring enthusiasts

from around Australia.

Surrounded by brilliant red sand hills, the shimmering surface of the lake makes it a photography hotspot.

Do you know the name of this lake and where in Australia it can be found?

Whose animal is this?



CALLED elk or alg in this country, the moose stands for the nation's love of nature.

Moose are found in relatively large numbers in this Scandinavian nation, with the country having one of the largest moose populations in Europe.

These animals are found on many souvenirs from the country, and famously a moose helped out in the kitchen of one of the most iconic characters associated in pop culture with the nation.

Do you know which country the moose belongs to?

Pub quiz

- Which Australian capital city is one of the Great Wine Capitals of the World?
- What wine variety is the Clare Valley most known for?
- What botanical ingredient will you find in every bottle of gin?
- Coffin Bay is widely known for what type of shellfish?
- Australia has one of the largest undercover fresh produce markets in the southern hemisphere, what is its name?
- Where will you find the oldest commercial wine producing vines in the world?
- Adelaide is host to Australia's 10-day premier eating and drinking festival. What is the festival called?
- If you were purchasing the purest form of Ligurian honey in the world where would it come from?
- The Prairie hotel, an iconic outback pub, is well known for its feral food menu. What four animals will you find on the feral menu?
- What is the name of the food and wine road trip through the culinary heart of South Australia?

ANSWERS 05 MAY

Pub quiz: 1 Leinster, 2 Nairobi River, 3 Sydney Opera House, 4 Osaka, 5 China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, 6 b) Cinderella's castle, 7 North Vietnam, 8 1916, 1940 and 1944, 9 Mission Beach, 10 Devonport

Seen it at the movies: Star Wars: The Force Awakens

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

Today's puzzle page is brought to you by South Australian Tourism Commission



Dine & Discover Day Off



MERLIN Entertainments has offered staff a "Dine & Discover Day Off" in support of the NSW tourism and hospitality industry.

On 21 May Merlin's permanent employees will be given leave to use their Dine & Discover vouchers, provided by the state govt to help boost the sector.

The Merlin team (pictured) will be asked to share their Dine & Discover Day Off moments using the hashtag #MerlinD&D in hopes of inspiring other companies to get behind the movement and help their employees give back.

"The team here at Merlin Entertainments has worked incredibly hard over the last 12 months in the face of the challenges brought on by COVID-19," said Divisional Director Asia Pacific Rob Smith.

"By offering staff a Dine & Discover Day Off, we want to not only acknowledge our team's dedication, but also do something to support our friends in the NSW tourism and hospitality industry."

Smith said he hoped other companies would follow Merlin's lead to help rebuild the sector.

Peak accom body getting closer

SIGNIFICANT progress has been made on the proposed merger of the Australian Hotels Association/Tourism Accommodation Australia and the Accommodation Association (**TD** 11 Sep 2020), according to the leaders of both organisations who provided an update at the AHICE Conference in Adelaide yesterday.

The necessary governance foundations are now in place to move into the formal and complex process run by the Fair Work Commission, while the joint working group will now focus on the operational framework.

The merger, which has its main objective "to produce better services and better outcomes for members," is expected to take at least 9-12 months, given the necessary legal processes which include elections at both state and then federal levels.

Combining the rival organisations aims to create a unified, single voice for the Australian accommodation sector.

Flydubai expansion

FLYDUBAI has announced the launch of additional routes in Russia, bringing its network to more than 80 destinations.

FZ will grow its network in Russia to 11 destinations with the introduction of new services from Dubai to Zhukovsky International from 12 May, Novosibirsk Tolmachevo from 28 May and Perm International from 02 Jun.

Flydubai's rapid expansion plans will also see it resume operations to a number of Iranian destinations this month, including Bandar Abbas International from 12 May and Mashhad International from 13 May.

Lirriwi tour dates

ABORIGINAL cultural day tour operator Lirriwi Tourism has released a record number of East Arnhem Land departure dates for next year.

Specially-themed single- and multi-day tours will offer visitors a swag of options for experiencing one of Australia's most remote and undiscovered destinations, where guests will meet local Indigenous people.

Lirriwi's tours are developed and operated by the Yolngu traditional owners, and offer visitors a cultural adventure, and the chance to experience Yolngu way of life.

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.

Chris Lee has joined **QT Hotels & Resorts** as Communications Manager, with responsibility for QT Sydney and QT Bondi. Her new Sydney-based role follows five years with the company in New Zealand looking after communications for QT Museum Wellington and QT Queenstown.

The board of the **Hawaii Tourism Authority** has selected **George Kam** as its new Chair, **David Arakawa** and **Kimi Yuen** as Vice-Chairs and **Daniel Chun** as its Marketing Committee Chair.

Anna Karaseva has been named as the Sales & Marketing Manager at **Cora Cora Maldives**. The property is set to open on 01 Oct, with Karaseva moving from her previous role at Sun Siyam Iru Fushi Maldives.

Hotelbeds has announced that its Executive Chairman, **Joan Vila**, will move into a non-executive role effective immediately. Vila, who has led the business for more than 30 years, had originally planned to step back from the day-to-day running of the company in 2020 but the move was delayed by the pandemic. **Nicolas Huss** has been appointed as CEO, while **Richard Solomons** will become Hotelbeds' non-executive Chair.

Canberra Convention Bureau has appointed **Kimberley Wood** as Head of Sales, and **Kimberley Roberts-Salee** as Head of Marketing. The strategic restructure comes along with the departure of General Manager **Liz Bendeich** after 17 years with the organisation.

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



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