





Travel Daily First with the news

www.traveldaily.com.au Thursday 14th October 2021

Discova appoints

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's Discova DMC has named Adam O'Keefe as its new Global Marketing Manager.

O'Keefe started this week after a decade of experience with three of the biggest DMCs in Southeast Asia.

He's based in Bangkok and will oversee marketing for Discova's operations in 14 countries across Asia and the Americas.

More appointments on page 6.

RCI cancels summer season

THE continued intransigence of Australian Governments in relation to the cruise sector has forced Royal Caribbean International to this morning cancel the upcoming local *Ovation of the Seas* deployment.

The cruise line told guests at 9am today, although several *TD* readers had noticed an inability to use the Cruise Planner facility for upcoming trips, indicating the sailings had been suspended.

"A clear pathway for the return of foreign flagged ships and cruising in general is yet to be established by Governments in Australia," the cruise line said.

"Due to this, Royal Caribbean has made the decision to cancel all sailings on *Ovation of the Seas* from Sydney 13 Dec 2021 through 31 Mar 2022," a statement added.

Passengers are being offered a 125% future cruise credit to book a new voyage by 30 Apr 2022, the "lift and shift" option of moving to a new sailing on the Australian 2022/23 season, or a full refund.

"As Australia opens up, we are committed to progressing the proactive conversations with federal and state Governments on recommencing cruising in Australia, and hope to provide an update soon," the company said.



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Q2 2022 for Bonza

BONZA, Australia's planned new ultra-low cost regional carrier (*TD* 12 Oct) is hoping to be flying by mid next year, with CEO Tim Jordan telling *CAPA Live* that airports right across the country have expressed interest in flights.

Jordan said 46 ports had been canvassed, opening up a "lot of city pairs...a lot of opportunities" for leisure services to displace "8 hours in the car with the kids".

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including Business Events News.

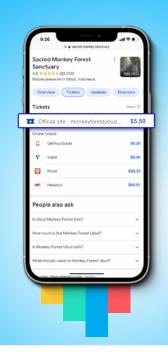
Dest Aus 2022

TOURISM Australia is inviting the industry to save the date for next year's Destination Australia conference, which is scheduled to take place on 03 Mar 2022 at the new CENTREPIECE at Melbourne Park in Vic - for more details see tourism.australia.com.

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Window Seat

YOU really otter see this! Action at a zoo in China has gone viral after an otter came to the rescue when a tourist dropped his phone into the pool inside the aquatic enclosure.

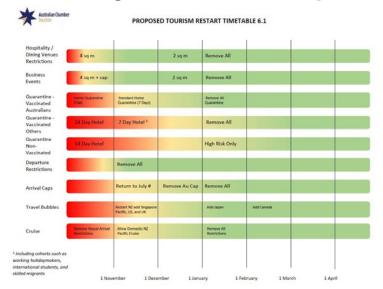
A video filmed at Shanghai Wild Animal Park shows the keeper, Shen Yanhong, introducing the small-clawed otter, named You Tiao.

However an onlooker who was recording the encounter suddenly dropped her phone into the water, with the "smartest otter in the zoo" immediately diving into the pool to successfully retrieve it.

Park employee Ni Li said the rodent "thought it was rubbish and immediately rushed to the item," with the owner so happy to have her phone saved that she this week presented a specially made commemorative pennant (pictured) to her noble knight in furry armour.



ACCI lays out restart plan



THE Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) -Tourism has released an updated version of its proposed tourism restart timetable, envisaging plans to get travel bubbles, outbound travel and domestic cruising back as soon as next month.

The timetable envisions that arrival caps will return to previous levels in Nov and then be phased out by Jan 2022, along with the introduction of seven-day "standard home quarantine" for vaccinated returning Australians.

Inbound foreign visitors would transition to seven-day hotel quarantine in Nov, with the removal of all isolation requirements except for nonvaccinated travellers in Jan.

The Chamber also anticipates the restart of the NZ travel

bubble as well as the addition of quarantine-free travel arrangements with Singapore, the Pacific, UK and US.

Domestic, NZ and Pacific cruises are also hoped for from Nov.

Australian Chamber - Tourism Executive Chairman John Hart posted the aspirational update (pictured) today, saying "we can make it happen!"

Viking announces new ship for 2023

VIKING has announced its newest ocean ship Viking Saturn will sail three new cruises when she makes her debut in 2023.

The 930-guest Saturn will spend her maiden season sailing two 15-day journeys - Iconic Iceland, Greenland & Canada; and Iceland & Norway's Arctic Explorer, as well as a 29-day Greenland, Iceland, Norway & Beyond voyage, and the return of the popular eight-day Iceland's Natural Beauty itinerary.

"The thousands of guests who sailed our Welcome Back voyage in Iceland this past summer enjoyed the experience so much they provided record-level ratings," said Viking Founder and Chair Torstein Hagen.

More of the latest cruise news in today's issue of Cruise Weekly.

New Fraser tours

FRASER Explorer Tours has launched a new range of guided multi-day experiences on K'gari, Fraser Island.

The expansion bolsters the current one- and two-day offerings, allowing travellers to embark on three-, four- or fiveday 4WD adventures including overnight stays at the newly renovated Kingfisher Bay Resort and Eurong Beach Resort.

It's the first combination touring product for K'gari's two resort properties, with departures from Hervey Bay with a maximum of 24 passengers on each tour.

As well as exploring both coasts of the world's largest sand island guests can also enjoy additional experiences and resort restaurants - see fraserexplorertours.com.au





The Inspire Collective are looking to understand the awareness and considerations of different stopover options for Australians. as we look forward to travel through to the UK/Europe again.

Inviting all sectors of the industry to participate in this short survey, with four respondents winning a \$50 gift card for their effort.

> To enter **CLICK HERE**



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Check these travel bubbles!



THE Sydney team at Merlin Entertainments has been busily preparing for a big day today, with SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium, Madame Tussaud's Sydney and WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo all reopening their doors at 10am.

Divers at the aquarium celebrated the landmark with some of their underwater

buddies by unfurling a giant "We Missed You!" sign (pictured).

Safety measures in place include welcoming only vaccinated guests, the requirement for visitors aged 12 and over to wear a mask, the use of additional Personal Protective Equipment for staff, hygiene screens and allocated time slots for guests.





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APT Tassie on sale

APT has launched its 2022/23 program ahead of schedule, responding to strong demand from travellers.

Itineraries include the popular 12-day Tasmania Complete with earlybird pricing from \$5,995ppts including a discount of up to \$1,000 per couple when booked by 31 Mar 2022.

There's also the 10-day Heart of Tasmania priced from \$5,495 per person, while new for 2023 is the eight-day Tasmania's Wilderness Coast cruise aboard APT's own 99-passenger expedition small ship, the MS Caledonian Sky.

All bookings include APT's Domestic Peace of Mind Deposit Cover, with guests able to pay an upfront \$95 per person fee to postpone trips up to 100 days prior to departure.

NT vax mandate

TOURISM workers in the Northern Territory will be required to be vaccinated, under a wide-ranging mandate ordered by NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner yesterday.

The new rules, which come into effect from 13 Nov, cover all staff who come into contact with members of the public, including tour guides and hotel staff.

Workers who refuse will not be allowed into their workplaces and will face a \$5,000 fine.

Employers will be allowed to request proof of vaccination, and to keep a register of staff and their vaccination status.

Silversea tea time

SILVERSEA Cruises has announced a new webinar series, with Tea Time With Silversea Part 2 kicking off on Wed 20 Oct at 1pm AEDT and running for five consecutive weeks.

A total of \$12,000 in marketing funds will be won by attendees -







Azamara 2023/24

AZAMARA Cruises this morning unveiled its itineraries for 2023/2024, with 39 voyages across its four-vessel fleet.

Azamara Pursuit will sail in South Africa; Azamara Quest will explore South America; Azamara Onward's deployment will be in the Mediterranean and Caribbean, while Azamara Journey will operate in Australia and Asia.

CEO Carol Cabezas said the program featured more than 20 maiden ports, while "for the first time we will have a ship in every corner of the world".

She also flagged a new offering to be announced in Nov which "involves travel across the globe".

AC expands India

AIR Canada has announced an expansion of its services to India, including a new year-round non-stop route from Montreal to Delhi.

AC is also adding additional Delhi flights from Toronto, boosting frequencies to 10 per week effective from tomorrow.

All of the services will utilise the airline's three-class 298-seat Boeing 787-9 aircraft.

"These additional flights and new route demonstrate Air Canada's anticipation about the promise and growth of the Indian subcontinent - and we also look forward to further strengthening the cultural and business ties between our two countries," said AC VP Mark Galardo.



Groups/Sports Travel Consultant (Travel Account Manager) - SYD/MEL

SANZAR Travel is a bespoke sports travel company set up to provide sophisticated travel management solutions predominantly for the Super Rugby and Rugby Championship global Rugby Union competitions.

Possessing intimate knowledge of professional sport in the current global climate, SANZAR Travel is focused on managing complex group travel programs in a cost-effective and efficient manner, whilst responding to external factors proactively.

With a vision to "lead through expertise", and a purpose to deliver dynamic and responsive business solutions that engage stakeholders and drive performance excellence, SANZAR Travel is looking for a highly motivated self-starter to join the Travel Management team.

The successful applicant will work closely with the travel management team to assist in:

- \bullet Quoting, planning, inputting and executing client accounts and group travel programs (both domestically and internationally).
- Liaising with contracted partners such as airlines, hotels and ground transport operators to effectively plan and execute client travel.
- Budget planning and account reconciliation.

We are looking for a confident professional who can hit the ground running, exhibit our values and enjoy being part of a close team. As essential skills, we are looking for the following:

- Minimum five years' experience in corporate and group travel and operating Galileo, fares and ticketing systems.
- \bullet Experience in the sports or entertainment industry would be an advantage.
- High attention to detail, ability to work flexible hours.
- Experience with Microsoft products, particularly excel would be an advantage.

If interested please send your CV to info@sanzarrugby.com by 5 November.



Emirates A380 Expo livery



EMIRATES is this week conducting low-level flypasts over Dubai's Sheikh Zayed Road and the Expo 2020 Dubai site, using an A380 specially decorated for the occasion (**pictured**).

The stunt is part of a "special project to be revealed soon by the airline," while the colourful Expo 2020 livery will be seen across the carrier's A380 network over the coming months.

WA "trails forum"

KEY decision makers have come together today in Albany, WA to discuss the future of the state's network of hiking, trail running and mountain biking trails.

Current opportunities and challenges will be discussed, with the aim of planning the future of the fast growing sector in WA.

The forum is part of work set out in the WA Strategic Trails Blueprint 2027-2021, a guide for consistent and co-ordinated planning, development and management of quality trails.

Hertz interim CEO

HERTZ Corporation has named Mark Fields as its interim Chief Executive Officer, while Paul Stone is the car rental giant's new President and Chief Operations Officer, with the appointments coming over a year after former CEO Kathryn Marinello left.

IHG celebrates return of travel

IHG Hotels & Resorts has launched a summer promotional campaign, with a competition giving 52 lucky winners the opportunity to enjoy a fabulous weekend away at an IHG property including InterContinental, Crowne Plaza, Hotel Indigo, voco Hotels, Holiday Inn and the brand new Kimpton Sydney Hotel.

Running through until the end of Jan 2022, guests who book under the campaign can nominate a special person in their life and in 25 words or less share why they would love to go on holiday with them - see ihgsummercompetition2021.com.

Cockatoo opera

OPERA Australia has announced its inaugural New Year's Eve Opera Gala on Cockatoo Island in Sydney Harbour.

The new outdoor event will present some of the country's finest performers for a two hour concert of opera classics under the stars, with a full orchestra.

Tickets include ferry transfers and a ticket to the performance, with the option of adding a three course pre-performance dinner and attendance at a post-show midnight party to view the city's famous fireworks - 02 9318 8200.

businesseventsnews.com.au

IVVY TARGETS 2022 PUBLIC FLOAT

AUSTRALIAN-DEVELOPED

event management platform iVvy has announced two key board appointments, as it beefs up its senior ranks in anticipation of a listing on the Australian Securities Exchange in the first six months of next year.

Susan Forrester has been named as iVvy's new Board Chair, bringing more than 25 years of executive management expertise in large professional firms across law, finance, HR and governance.

Also joining the iVvy Board is Craig Kinross, who becomes a non-executive Director with experience as a software executive and entrepreneur.

His previous roles include being CEO of MSL Solutions, which became ASX-listed in 2017, while Kinross is currently focused on growing Cherry Hub, a company he co-founded last year to provide a technology platform for hospitality and entertainment businesses to better engage their customers and staff.

iVvy CEO Lauren Hall said both



appointments bring "significant value, expertise and strength to our Board as we move towards becoming an ASX listed company and look to drive long-term value for shareholders and customers".

iVvy offers cloud-based sales and catering software which facilitates connections between hotels and meeting planners.

Hotels can use the platform to display rates and inventory for their meeting spaces online and facilitate real-time bookings, with iVvy saying its system gives properties greater visibility over their business so they can maximise the yield on their group rooms, meeting and event spaces.

The company is backed by rich listers including Alex Waislitz and the Gandel family, with the Australian Financial Review saying iVvy plans to raise about \$20 million through its float.

The business boasts more than 25,000 users across 14 countries, including key players such as Mantra and TFE Hotels.

Tourism Australia cites NZ event demand

CONSUMER confidence among Kiwi travellers has dropped to its lowest level in the last 12 months, according to Tourism Australia's latest Travel Sentiment Tracker.

The survey of NZers took place 15-17 Sep, and found that perceptions of Australia as a safe destination had started to recover, with a monthly increase from 23% to 33%.

Tourism Australia (TA) GM Domestic and NZ, Andrew Hutchinson, said it was also encouraging to hear clients are considering Australia for events.

"Australia's business events industry will probably start to see business from New Zealand returning in mid-2022, once the trans-Tasman bubble resumes and corporate travel restarts.

"While other international

borders remain closed, there is an opportunity to encourage Kiwis to choose Australia for their next business event and to explore Australia's unique offerings," he said.

Hutchinson said TA would continue to drive demand for Australia as an international business events destination via a content-led marketing strategy, including the Australia Next incentive magazine.

On the wider front, TA is also supporting the industry via the Aussie Specialist Program platform to educate travel agents and other stakeholders on how to sell Australia beyond the key gateways, with the recent appointment of Daniel Wright as Auckland-based Aussie Specialist Program Trainer for New Zealand.

MCEC set to reopen in Nov

THE Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre is once again taking bookings for events beyond 05 Nov, in line with the release of the Vic Government's roadmap to post-COVID-19 reopening.

Initially gatherings will be limited to a maximum of 150 vaccinated attendees, with a 4 square metre density rule.

MCEC said it was currently in the process of updating its VenueSafe Plan to reflect vaccination requirements, while physical distancing, contactless payment and other measures will remain.

Events held at MCEC under the VenueSafe plan comply with the Vic Government's Public Events Framework.

BEIA digital scholarships

BUSINESS Events
Industry Aoteoroa (BEIA)
has partnered with the
Professional Conference
Management Association
(PCMA) to award PCMA
Digital Event Strategist (DES)
certification scholarships to
several BEIA members.

Recipients include Kate Blewett from Avenues Event Management; Drew Matheson of Conferences and Events Ltd; Tara Daly of The Conference Company; Jake Eastwood from Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre; and Amy van Eerden of Auaha.

BEIA Member Relationship Manager, Nicky Tilsley, said graduates of the course become "global experts at connecting people to brands, ideas and opportunities through business events in a digital world".

The BEIA scholarship recipients began their six week course last week, with the online program including live expert-led sessions.

Each graduate receives a globally-recognised DES certificate, with each scholarship worth US\$895.

"Robust" IBTM

IBTM World Barcelona has reported "robust exhibitor sales" two months ahead of the inperson event scheduled for 30 Nov-02 Dec at Fira Barcelona.

Organisers cited demand from key destinations and suppliers including Dubai Tourism, Atout France, Meet in Ireland and convention bureaux from Germany, Croatia, Spain, the Czech Republic and more.

Hoteliers on show will include Hilton and Hyatt, with Event Director David Thompson saying there was a "real appetite to return to events" - ibtmworld.com.



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.

Business Events Sydney has appointed **Sarah Griffin** as its new Senior Manager, Global Marketing Strategy. She was previously Head of Marketing for Play Travel, with other former roles including positions with Travelport and Buffalo Tours Australia.

Amber Asher has been named as CEO of Standard International, the parent company of Standard Hotels, Bunkhouse and Peri Hotels. Asher succeeds Almar Lavlani, who becomes the firm's Executive Chairman.

is **Adam Leonardi**. **Gabriel Polias** has been appointed as GM of Ovolo **Matthew Bentley**

W Brisbane has announced the appointment of Stacey Plaine as Director of Marketing. Also new to the team are Hotel Manager Jeremy Colahan and Chef de Cuisine Pawel Klodowski.

ATPI has named Pippa Ganderton as product director of the new

BWH Hotels has announced the appointment of **Lawrence Cuculic** as President and Chief Executive Officer. He takes the place of outgoing chief David Kong.

Marketing for Kokomo Private Island Fiji. The move comes ahead of

The Lancemore Group has appointed Adam Taloni as its new Group Director of People & Performance. He joins Lancemore after a career with other major brands including as GM of Ovolo Woolloomooloo and most recently GM of Zagame's House in Melbourne.

Texas-based Scott shifts to the new division from her former role as VP of Global Operations at CWT Meetings & Events, and will report to CWT Global Customer Group head Nick Vournakis.

Brenton Scott has been named as the new Managing Director of Adelaide Airport Limited, a promotion from the role as the airport's Executive GM Finance and Corporate which he has held since 2013.

The WA Government has announced the appointment of Carolyn Turnbull as the new Managing Director of Tourism WA. Turnbull, who replaces interim MD Derryn Belford, has been with the organisation since last year as Executive Director - Industry, Aviation and Markets.

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Celestyal restart

CELESTYAL Cruises has announced it will return to the oceans on 14 Mar 2022 with three- and four-night sailings in Greece, followed by seven-night voyages effective 30 Apr.

All 2022 and 2023 sailings, with all-inclusive pricing starting from just \$699 per person, are currently bookable, with regional manager APAC Stewart Williams noting a number of established trade channels are available.

"We are extremely excited that Australian international borders will soon officially open, as we are already seeing that optimism translate into new cruise bookings for the 2022 summer season and beyond," he said - see celestyal.com/au.

Wolgan + Bentley

EMIRATES One&Only Wolgan Valley has announced a new partnership with Australian culinary specialists The Bentley Group, in the lead up to the property's expected reopening later this month.

Bentley's Brent Savage will be Creative Director, Food while co-owner Nick Hildebrandt is Wolgan's new Creative Director, beverage, with the pair working closely with the resort team to introduce a new food and wine experience.

One&Only has previously collaborated with The Bentley Group in The Maldives, where Hildebrandt and Savage launched Botanica restaurant at One&Only Reethi Rah.



Rediscover Australia and Unique Cruises are partnering with Travel Daily this month to offer readers the chance to win a ticket on the NYE Hits on the Harbour Cruise, as well as offering \$100 and \$50 gift vouchers for 2nd and 3rd prize by providing your best picture of your past New Years Eve celebrations.

This ticket gives you access to:

- 6 Hours Sydney Harbour Cruise on Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney's *Spirit of Migloo*
- Continuous premium food
- Unlimited beverages including premium sparkling wines and beers - For more information on what is offered CLICK HERE

To enter send a picture of your best New Years Eve along with, in 25 words or less, what made it so memorable.

Entries to competitions@traveldaily.com.au

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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