

Travel Daily 

the travel industry  
is still standing so let's

CELEBRATE

Save the date

Tuesday 30th November 2021



A cocktail event  
hosted by  
Travel Daily  
from 6pm at  
Doltone House  
Darling Island, Sydney.

Tickets on sale from early  
November.



## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has five pages of news including **Business Events News** plus a front cover page for *Travel Daily's* upcoming Still Standing Celebration.

## Get excited, peeps!

**AFTER** enduring more than 18 months of the pandemic, much of the Australian travel industry is still standing - and *Travel Daily* thinks that's something definitely worth celebrating.

And so we are today announcing a cocktail event on 30 Nov - the eve of the easing of more restrictions - to help everyone gather to let off some steam, commiserate and celebrate this momentous milestone.

Save the date for the Sydney event, with further details and ticket sales to open next week - for more information see the **cover page** of today's issue.

## Kyushu webinar

**TRAVEL** advisors are being invited to explore Kyushu and win a pre-Christmas treat.

A new webinar and incentive has been announced by the Kyushu Tourism Promotion Organisation (KTPO), which will help advisors familiarise themselves with some of the key destinations across the region.

KTPO will also give away a gift card to four lucky advisors.

Access the webinar **HERE**.

## "Do not travel" removed

**THE** Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has this morning removed the Do Not Travel advisory for destinations across the globe, with the move coming in the lead up to Mon's highly anticipated reopening of Australia's outbound borders.

The issue was highlighted by a number of *Travel Daily* readers, who noted that while travel insurers have released new products for international travel in the post-pandemic world, the policies continue to deny COVID-19 cover in areas where there is a "Do not travel" warning in place.

Early this morning the site at [smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au) was updated confirming that the global Do not Travel advisory had been taken down, with officials now updating travel advice levels for a total of 177 destinations based on the latest assessment of risk.

"At this stage no destination will be set lower than Level 2 'Exercise a high degree of caution' due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19," the update noted.

"And we'll continue to advise 'Do not travel' for some destinations if there are extreme security and safety risks."

Federal Foreign Minister Marise Payne issued a statement, saying "the updated country-specific travel advice will allow Australians planning to travel overseas to assess risks, understand requirements, and

prepare to travel safely".

"It will also help Australians to access travel insurance more readily," she noted.

The global 'Do not travel' advisory was imposed 19 months ago by PM Scott Morrison (**TD** 18 Mar 2020) as the COVID-19 pandemic spread its insidious tentacles across the world.

As well as the updated Smartraveller advice, DFAT has issued a Global COVID-19 Health Advisory (**CLICK HERE**) with general advice for vaccinated and unvaccinated travellers, confirming that passengers "still need to get tested for COVID-19 in order to return to Australia".

Unvaccinated Australian travellers are advised to reconsider their need to travel, and to "take all possible precautions to avoid contracting the virus".

## IHG gets flexible

**IHG** Hotels & Resorts has announced a new suite of staff benefits including a new myFlex offering allowing employees to self-schedule their hours at any IHG-managed hotel.

Expecting record growth and post-pandemic demand, the company is seeking 600 staff immediately and another 3,000 by the end of 2022, with the new flexible work options complemented by the myBenefits suite including paid parental and birthday leave and discounts.

## Quark savings

**QUARK** Expeditions is celebrating the return of international travel with the pre-release of 2022 and '23 Arctic & Antarctica savings of up to 35%, specific to Australia.

The capacity-controlled offer, negotiated by the company's newly appointed local Director of Sales, Robert Halfpenny (**TD** 16 Sep) is available for Aussies in advance of a global release, which is scheduled for Tue.

The Australian marketplace will have the first opportunity to take advantage of the savings, which are combinable with Quark's book with confidence policy.

Quark's season launches on 25 Nov, with Argentina opening its ports to int'l travellers from next month - call 02 8015 5028.

## McMahon to Ireland

**TOURISM** Ireland has appointed David McMahon as its new Trade Marketing and Operations Executive.

McMahon moves to the role after seven years with Tourism Fiji - more appointments on **page 5**.

## DC reappointment

**DESTINATION** DC has reappointed Canuckiwi Ltd as its representative agency for the Australian and NZ markets, with the move effective immediately.

A three module Special Agent Academy online training series will kick off on 04 Nov - **CLICK HERE**.

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## Tourism in job crisis: TTF

**THE** Federal Government needs to fast-track working holiday makers, students and skilled visa holders to fill a major skills gap in the country's tourism sector, a new report from the Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) argues.

The national survey of over 500 businesses found that one in four tourism operators have insufficient staff to cater for pent-up travel demand, with many worried they will not be able to operate at full capacity if they don't get access to overseas staff. "After losing over 600,000 staff

during the pandemic, the lack of skilled staff is increasingly becoming the number one issue for tourism operators large and small," said TTF CEO Margy Osmond, adding that more than 50% of respondents feel a lack of skilled labour has had a medium to high impact on their business - while only a quarter from other industries felt the same way.

The study also found that one in three tourism-reliant businesses that let staff go during the pandemic were now struggling to fill positions to cater for their customers, while 70% of tourism operators rated uncertainty around domestic and international borders as the number one issue in not having enough staff.

"The tourism industry has faced the fight of its life over the last 18 months but as we come out of lockdown and restrictions start to ease this is an issue that needs to be resolved as a matter of urgency," Osmond said.

## Money in the bank

**NEW** research commissioned by Celebrity Cruises has revealed that Australians are expected to spend around \$8,000 per person on their first post-pandemic international holiday.

The study also showed that half of Aussies already have savings in the bank to book their next trip, while 21% stated they are prepared to dip into long-term savings to fund international travel plans.

Close to half intend to book some form of luxury component in their next overseas trip, with all-inclusive, cultural immersion, multi-destination packages also all polling well for future trips.

Europe is predicted to be in high demand, with Italy leading the way (74%), followed by Greece (69%), France (61%), Spain (61%) and Portugal (49%).

## Jetstar int'l sale

**JETSTAR** Airways has launched its first international sale in nearly two years, with 200,000 discounted fares across 25 routes for travel next year.

The sale fares will be available from across Australia to 12 international destinations including Phuket, Honolulu, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, and Vietnam.

## Tourists back in 21?

**PRIME** Minister Scott Morrison has indicated that tourists may be granted permission to return to Australia by the end of the year.

Speaking in federal parliament yesterday, Morrison said the signs were positive for a return.

"By the end of the year I fully anticipate that we'll be able to achieve seeing international visitors, including backpackers, who are double-vaccinated being able to come back," he said.

## NSW winery tour

**GLOBUS** has announced a new domestic tour to rural New South Wales for next year.

NSW Wineries & Countryside is available to book now, aiming to go beyond the icons of Sydney and slow down on an eight-day journey to discover the beauty, history and hidden gems of rural New South Wales.

The tour is rich with authentic countryside experiences, exquisite wine, and more - **HERE**.

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## Velocity opens up int'l redemptions

**NICK** Rohrlach, the newly appointed CEO of Virgin Australia's Velocity frequent flyer program, has announced that from 11.59pm on 01 Nov members will be able to once again redeem their points on international flights.

An update to Velocity members yesterday confirmed that partnerships with a number of international airlines had been reopened, starting with Virgin Atlantic, Delta Air Lines, Etihad Airways, Air Canada, Hawaiian Airlines, Singapore Airlines and South African Airways.

Reward seat bookings will initially open up with VS, AC, DL, EY, HA and SA, with Singapore Airlines to be added to the network in the coming weeks.

Rohrlach also announced up to double status credits for VA travel between now and 31 Mar 2022, as well as a points transfer bonus campaign offering up to 30% additional reward points when transferred from participating credit card partners, with further details to be revealed next week.

## DNSW celebrates Feel New



**DESTINATION** NSW hosted some of its key travel and tourism partners at a lavish event at the Sydney Opera House on Mon, with the gathering formally launching the state's new Feel New campaign (**TD** 25 Oct).

The campaign is set to "turbo charge recovery and differentiate NSW from the rest of Australia," according to Destination NSW CEO Steve Cox, with guests enjoying a performance from Bangarra Dance Theatre, which

features in the campaign creative.

**Pictured** at the launch are, from left: Dan Rosen, Warner Music Group President Australasia; NSW Tourism Minister Stuart Ayres; Sydney WorldPride CEO Kate Wickett; Albert Kruger from Sydney Mardi Gras; 24-hour Night Time Economy Commissioner, Michael Rodrigues; and pub czar Justin Hemmes.

## QF Darwin lounge

**QANTAS** has revealed plans to lease Darwin International Airport's Catalina lounge to create a temporary lounge for passengers between Sydney and London via Darwin from next month (**TD** 11 Oct).

Ongoing border closures imposed by WA has created a tourism opportunity for Darwin, which will form an important leg of Sydney and Melbourne to London flights for the foreseeable future, a route that had previously incorporated Perth.

The new Qantas lounge space can accommodate up to 100 people, with guest services to include a welcome Top End Lemonade, lounge and dining areas, bathroom facilities, and refreshing cold towels.

QF Chief Customer Officer, Stephanie Tully, said the lounge would allow premium pax to refresh during the 90-min transit.

## Window Seat

**FIERCELY** protected for being a wholesome family brand, Disney has recently become the focus of some rather crude publicity, with photos emerging online of a couple wearing a pair of matching risqué shirts at Disney World (**pictured**).

The images sent social media users into a very unfamily-friendly meltdown, with most calling on Disney to make sure these types of lewd tops are banned from entry.

"D is for Don't," one angry Tweeter posted, while another labelled the stunt "tacky".



## Show us your best New Years Eve Photo!

*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](mailto:competitions@traveldaily.com.au)



## MCEC OPENING ROADMAP

**THE** Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) will reopen on 05 Nov, with greater capacities than initially expected.

Up to 5,000 attendees will be permitted in some spaces, under the updated Phase C of the Victorian Government Roadmap.

No dance floors are allowed, all attendees 16 years and over must be fully vaccinated, and all F&B must be consumed seated.

Events coming to the MCEC next month under the new arrangements will include the annual Starlight Children's Foundation fundraising dinner, the return of in-person end of year school leaver celebrations and THE LUME Melbourne, a new immersive digital art gallery.

MCEC CEO Peter King (**pictured**) said it was exciting to see the venue once again able to welcome customers and visitors.

"MCEC is recognised as an important contributor to the



State of Victoria, and we are proud to have robust COVIDSafe practices in place ensuring we're ready and able to host events of all sizes safely," he said.

When Victoria transitions to Phase D, at a 90% double dose vaccination rate, the Roadmap indicates that events will be able to proceed without attendee caps or density limits.

Current projections estimate this level of immunisation will be reached in about a month's time.

## AIME opener

**THE** welcome event for next year's Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Event (AIME) will take place on 21 Mar 2022 at the newly opened CENTREPIECE at Melbourne Park.

The venue will welcome delegates from across Australia and NZ with an "experiential event like no other - designed to fuel meaningful connections and re-energise the business events and tourism industry," according to AIME Event Director, Silke Calder.

Attendees will be treated to a showcase of Melbourne's melting pot of arts, cuisine, culture and entertainment, with a menu curated in the venue's state-of-the-art kitchen highlighting its "paddock to plate philosophy" - more details and regos at [aime.com.au](http://aime.com.au).

## Yarra Valley guide



**YARRA** Valley Business Events recently showcased key suppliers across the region, at an online event which coincided with the launch of the latest version of its Event Planners Guide (**TD** 18 Oct).

The guide features information from a range of partners across the Yarra Ranges Shire, including experience, travel, conference and accommodation providers.

The region is an hour's drive from the Melbourne CBD or airport, with an array of conference facilities allowing the hosting of large events and trade shows through to intimate corporate retreats, complemented by activities ideal for team building or incentives.

To view the guide **CLICK HERE**.

## ITB Asia virtual

**ITB** Asia Virtual is taking place this week, with organisers saying there are more than 400 sponsors and exhibitors showcasing their wares to about 900 international buyers.

Held on the ITB Community platform in conjunction with Travel Tech Asia and MICE Show Asia, the five day gathering includes a conference with a line-up of 150 industry speakers.

The Saudi Tourism Authority and Berlin Brandenburg Airport are Elite Partners for the event.

Conference presenters today include Trafalgar and TUI Musement, following addresses yesterday from World Travel & Tourism Council CEO Julia Simpson and Tripadvisor President Stephen Kaufer - more info at [itb-asia.com](http://itb-asia.com).

## Brisbane's events industry confidence



**THE** success of the 2021 edition of the annual 'Brisbane Pop-Up' (**pictured**) indicates that confidence is returning to the event's sector, according to the Brisbane Economic Development Agency.

Over 170 event planners and buyers gathered with 55 exhibitors from the Queensland capital's hotels, venues and service providers, converging

on Fortitude Music Hall.

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said the keen interest in attending showed the city's multi-million dollar events market was "poised to thrive after a year of uncertainty".

"There's a rising feeling of optimism in Brisbane, and we're on our way to being well and truly open for business in the events space," he said.

## Club Med readies

**CLUB** Med will host a special webinar series next month, spotlighting the return of international events and how to plan in a post-lockdown world.

Led by the Club Med Meetings & Events team, the two 30-min sessions will also give attendees the chance to win a seven-night Club Med holiday for two at their choice of Asia-Pacific resorts, along with a \$200 Red Balloon gift voucher - **CLICK HERE** to register.



## Travel with kindness

**VICTORIANS** are being urged to unwind and travel kind this summer, as part of a new tourism initiative launched by the state's destination management organisation this week.

Visit Victoria's Travel Kind initiative – part of the 'Stay close, go further campaign' – aims to remind the state's residents to book ahead and be patient when they are visiting local wineries, laneway restaurants, coastal villages and charming towns.

New data from Visit Victoria showed that 71% of Melburnian travellers were planning a trip to the state's rural areas in the next four months.

The figures also revealed only 14% of travellers book ahead.

## Ibis Japan openings

**ACCOR** is further cementing its presence in Japan with the signing of two ibis Styles hotels in Tokyo and Kyoto.

The 224-room Ibis Styles Tokyo Ginza is located close by to the Shimbashi JR Station, while the 281-room ibis Styles Kyoto Shijo will be based in the heart of the city's CBD near "Kyoto's kitchen", offering "a creative yet budget-friendly base to explore the ancient capital".

"The signing of these rebranding projects in Japan's prime addresses is a testament to our capability to optimise return on investment, the popularity of our renowned brands in both Japan and its key inbound markets," a spokesperson for Accor said.

## Famous faces



**THERE** are three different faces that make up this picture.

They are a mixture of famous celebrities and travel names.

Can you figure out who the

eyes, nose and mouth in this picture belong to?

And don't worry if you can't guess them all, two out of three ain't bad!

Answer: Eyes - Meghan Markle, Nose - Joe Karbo, Mouth - Michael Cera

## 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.

**Helloworld Travel** has named **Jamie Swan** as Head of Account Management - Government of APX Travel Management. Swan has previously enjoyed travel industry appointments with Singapore Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority.

**Kaua'i Visitors Bureau** has appointed **Patricia Ornellas** as its new Destination Manager. She joins KVB to lead mindful travel initiatives in coordination with Kauai's Destination Management Action Plan.

**Marie-Caroline Laurent** has taken on a new Director General Europe role with **Cruise Lines International Association**. She has worked in leadership roles at the International Air Transport Association for nearly a decade, including serving as Assistant Director for EU Affairs.

**Island Hotels Group** has announced the appointment of **Heather Gordon** as Cluster Director of Sales & Marketing of its Cook Island properties, The Edgewater Resort & Spa and Club Raro Resort. Gordon will oversee the two resorts' sales and marketing activities, including conferences & incentives, special interest groups, and more.

## Wild Awaits AAT

**AAT Kings** has unveiled its Wild Awaits campaign, with the marketing push centred on awakening the senses of travellers and sparking an enriched enjoyment of travel.

The marketing push highlights the operator's 100-plus year history filled with pioneering characters, passionate, and cultural connections.

AAT Kings is also offering savings of up to \$1,000 per couple on selected tours - more info **HERE**.

## Kent is on board

**ABERCROMBIE & Kent** founder Geoffrey Kent will host a Northwest Passage expedition taking place next year.

The 24-day itinerary includes 21 nights aboard the privately chartered *L'Austral*, with the journey commencing in Montreal in Aug and travelling from Greenland through the Arctic Archipelago to Nome, following the legendary sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

For more details, see **HERE**.

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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