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Time 4 Travel

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## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has five pages of news including **Business Events News** plus a product profile from **Oasia Resort**.

## AFTA backs plan

**THE** Australia Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has echoed comments made by PM Scott Morrison yesterday, who urged state premiers to transition from hotel quarantine to home isolation once the vaccination rate reaches 80%.

"Home quarantine would mean an immediate boost to the number of Australians able to start international leisure and business travel because the restriction of available hotel quarantine places no longer applies," AFTA Chair Tom Manwaring said.

"At the core of this though needs to be a commitment from all state leaders that they will stick to National Cabinet's agreed reopening plan beginning from the 80% vaccination threshold via Safe Travel Zones."

## Ireland is coming!

**IMMERSE** yourself in everything Irish on 07 and 08 Sep, when Tourism Ireland holds its virtual expo featuring Riverdance performances, cooking demonstrations and music from the Shamrock Tenors.

Register to attend **HERE**.

## Ireland VIRTUAL EXPO

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## Savenio joins Magellan

**MAGELLAN** Travel Group has added another new member, with Savenio switching to Magellan effective from 01 Oct.

The high-profile Virtuoso agency currently boasts more than 30 luxury travel specialists across the country, with owner David Brandon saying Magellan was the "perfect fit for Savenio, giving our affiliates great benefits for them and their clients, adding another layer to their business success".

Savenio was previously part of Travellers Choice.

Magellan Travel GM Lisa Harrison said the group was

delighted to welcome Brandon and his team into the family.

"We believe Magellan is the perfect home for Savenio, with our like-minded, high-quality independent members, diverse preferred partner offering, high-end product range and rewarding financial model," she said.

Harrison said Savenio joins other recent additions to the Magellan ranks, including WA's Martini Travel which joined late last year, as well as Entourage Travel Group, the new home-based network established by former Travel Counsellors MD David Hughes and the Buerckner family who own existing member Platinum Travel (**TD** 02 Nov 2020).

Helloworld Travel Limited's annual results announcement released earlier this week (**TD** yesterday) noted that as of 30 Jun, Magellan comprised 84 agencies, down 30% on its 121-strong pre-pandemic membership.

## Jul traffic boost

**THE** International Air Transport Association has cited "significant momentum" in both domestic and international travel demand across the globe during Jul, although demand still remains far below pre-pandemic levels.

Total traffic was down 73.6% on Jul 2019 figures, with the Asia-Pacific region recording the biggest downturn of 94.2% because of strict border control measures.

IATA Director-General Willie Walsh said the figures confirmed that "as the Northern Hemisphere summer travel season draws to a close it is clear that too many governments missed the opportunity to apply a risk-based approach to managing their borders".

## Excite payouts expected this week

**THE** Administrators of the collapsed Excite Holidays have confirmed that payouts to unsecured creditors are likely to be finalised in the coming days, with an estimated 2 to 2.4 cents in the dollar payable.

The "first and final dividend" will be paid to those whose claims have been admitted via lodgement of paperwork before the deadline earlier last month.

## QF gets Italy tick

**THE** International Air Services Commission has issued a fresh determination allocating to Qantas 300 third country codeshare seats on the Italy route, covering shared services with both Emirates and BA.

Valid for five years from 31 Aug 2022, the decision also allows the capacity to be used by Jetstar.

## Oasia Resort profile

**TODAY'S** *Travel Daily* features a special profile on the stunning Oasia Resort on Singapore's Sentosa Island, which officially opened yesterday.

The property is Far East Hospitality's first foray into the resort and spa category, with 191 rooms and suites and an extensive wellness offering.

Find out more on **page six**.

## CT Partners adds 2

**CT PARTNERS** has announced the addition of two Melbourne-based agencies, with boutique leisure agency Jigsaw Travel/Mogul Ski World and premium leisure brand The Travel Agency both joining yesterday.

"We are delighted to be joining an exclusive group of like-minded agents...[the deal] will ensure greater opportunities for our business with strengthened buying and negotiating powers, along with the full transparency of supplier payments," Jigsaw Travel/Mogul Ski World said.

The Travel Agency's Kay Franklin also enthused that CT would provide her business with "a transparent and decisive model for the future of the Industry."

The news follows the addition of two NSW-based travel agencies to CT Partners' network only last month (**TD** 04 Aug).

## NSW to go first?

**NSW** Premier Gladys Berejiklian continues to talk up her state's chances of travelling overseas before the year is out, earmarking mid-Nov as a possible resumption date for residents to take off.

"When we hit the 80% double-dose number, which we anticipate will be in Nov, NSW looks forward to having our citizens enjoy international travel," she said yesterday.

"The only two places on the planet are Malta and Singapore that have 80% double-dose vaccination and that's a target for international travel to return".

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## FCM to launch in Japan

**FLIGHT** Centre this morning revealed plans to debut its FCM travel management business in Japan under a joint venture with Tokyo-based NSF Engagement Corporation.

With Japan being the world's fourth largest corporate travel market, Flight Centre MD Graham Turner said the deal was a "significant addition to the global FCM network", which now extends to 97 countries.

"By securing an equity position in this crucial market, we will enhance our ability to grow new local, regional and multi-national accounts, whilst also gaining greater control over and enhancing the service that we provide to our existing customers in Japan," Turner said.

"We believe this will become a very significant business and a valuable addition to our Asian network, which also includes

businesses in China, including SAR Hong Kong, India, Singapore and Malaysia," he added.

FCM Asia Managing Director Bertrand Sallet said Flight Centre's willingness to invest in Japan during a time of such global upheaval in the travel sector showed how much the company values the Asian market.

"Choosing to expand FCM's network at this critical time speaks volumes about the tremendous potential Japan has and the role the country will play in our global corporate strategy in the future," he said.

FCM's highly publicised investment in new innovative technologies aimed at improving the business travel experience and optimising travel programs have been credited with helping to drive growth and deliver "a strong pipeline of account wins globally" for the business.

## FJ flags Nov return

**FII** Airways is set to welcome back international travellers later this year, as Fiji plans to open its borders before Christmas.

Flight and travel schedules will be announced in the coming weeks, as Fiji Airways marks its 70th anniversary this month.

The country has been rapidly rolling out vaccinations, and is on track to have the entire working population fully vaxed by Nov.

Similarly, Fiji Airways' staff are now 97% fully vaccinated, with the entire workforce expected to reach the milestone by the end of next month.

## DriveAway pays

**DRIVEAWAY** is providing new payment solutions.

TravelPayB2B and Mint EFT will replace eNett as a payment method, after it shut down.

Other payment options include direct debit and credit card.

## Princess Japan '23

**PRINCESS** Cruises has announced its 2023 Japan cruises and cruisetours, marking 10 years sailing from the country.

Japan-built *Diamond Princess* will sail from Tokyo and Kobe, calling on 38 destinations, with cruises on sale from today.

For those travellers with more time to explore, Princess offers 13- or 14-day Highlights of Japan cruisetours, featuring a multi-night land tour combined with a cruise, for more time on land to experience the wonders of both Tokyo and Kyoto.

"More guests choose Princess for Japan than any other cruise line to experience its rich culture, cuisine, and the treasured island nation's natural wonders where ancient traditions and fast-paced modernity flourish in harmony," said the cruise line's Sales & Marketing Director, Nick Ferguson, who is encouraging travellers to book early.

## A NEW WAY TO LEARN & WIN

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## Oneworld carbon push

THE oneworld Alliance, which includes Qantas as a member, has unveiled a new carbon roadmap which outlines how it will achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The airline alliance of 14 carriers first announced the target back in Sep 2020 (**TD** 17 Sep), with the new roadmap illustrating various initiatives needed to achieve the milestone, including fleet modernisation, improvements in operation efficiencies, advancing the use of sustainable aviation fuels certified by ICAO-approved schemes, and carbon offsets.

Oneworld added that its new strategy document (view it **HERE**) will be updated progressively as its approach to reach a net zero emissions target by 2050 is improved over time.

“Even as we continue to navigate through the complexities of the pandemic, outlining our ‘path to net zero emissions by 2050’, demonstrates that

we remain steadfast with our responsibility to care for the environment and promote a sustainable air transport,” oneworld Alliance Chairman Akbar Al Baker said.

In addition to releasing the roadmap, the alliance is also calling on government and industry stakeholders to further support and partner in the decarbonising of aviation.

“We need a strong commitment to improve airspace inefficiency, incentivise the commercial use of recognised sustainable aviation fuels and accelerate the development of new propulsion and airframe technologies - now is the time for industry and governments to work together towards our shared climate goals,” Al Baker added.

Qantas Group previously committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050 back in 2019 (**TD** 11 Nov 2019).

## Travelmarvel 22/23

TRAVELMARVEL has unveiled its 2022/23 collection of Australian holidays, offering travellers savings up to \$1,400 per couple when booking by the end of Feb 2022 on one of its 20 itineraries on offer, ranging from six to 18 days.

The journeys cover the breadth of Australia, with highlights including the 18-day West Coast Adventure from Perth to Darwin.

Priced from \$8,995 per person twin share, travellers will stop off at iconic destinations including Nambung National Park, Broome and El Questro Station.

In Tasmania, guests can experience the icons of the Apple Isle on the ever-popular and comprehensive 10-day Grand Tasman, which circumnavigates the Island from Launceston via Bicheno, Hobart, Port Arthur, Strahan, Cradle Mountain and Smithton.

To find out more call Travelmarvel on 1300 300 036.



## Window Seat

**IT APPEARS** Western Australia's tough border stance has claimed the professional scalp of sports broadcaster Eddie McGuire, who has had his application to travel across the border to cover the AFL Grand Final knocked back.

Friend and fellow media personality Steve Price outed Eddie's displeasure with the decision, publicising texts McGuire sent to him shortly after the call was made.

“I think that I qualify to be perfectly honest. It doesn't make any sense that I don't qualify given the amount of media going in,” McGuire said.

“I would've thought, modesty aside, that I would've brought something to the atmosphere of what we were trying to do.”

## NEW ZEALAND VIRTUAL ROAD TRIP

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## SEE THE GOLD COAST DIFFERENTLY

**THE** Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) has released a new app capable of allowing event planners to visit the venue virtually on a 1:1 scale from any location in the world.

The new GCCECXR technology was created by the venue in the face of ongoing travel restrictions, which have prevented many prospective clients from taking a tour of the impressive facility.

Supported by Tourism Australia's Business Events Boost Program, the app superimposes a virtual model of the venue onto a real-world surface through a mobile screen, allowing users to explore the entire building and walk virtually through the arena, halls, and central rooms - all at a full size ratio.

"Site tours are one of our key selling tools and with many clients unable to travel due to current regulations, we've developed new ways to allow them to view the venue from their own home or office," GCCEC



Director of Sales and Marketing Michelle Mann said.

"But this mixture of the virtual and real-world is by far the most exciting.

"Of course, nothing replaces coming to the destination, face to face, tasting our food and meeting the team, but this tool provides an excellent first experience," Mann added.

The creators of the app, Handbuilt Creative, said the

project really tested the limits of the in-house team's expertise in pursuit of realism.

"This is certainly one of the most advanced XR projects we've created so far, with the Handbuilt team pushing the boundaries of what's possible in next-generation augmented reality worldwide," the company's founder David Shering said.

For more details on the app or to take a tour, visit [HERE](#).

### Events target

**PREMIER** of New South Wales Gladys Berejiklian has said once the state reaches 70% of double-dose vaccinations, public events will be back on the cards.

While Berejiklian did not open up further on what a return to events may look like, it is unlikely indoor events will be the first to return, with the Premier labelling such a move as potentially dangerous.

"We know that indoor gatherings...are high-risk," she admitted.

### Cummings joins

**CWT** has appointed Ian Cummings as Global Head of Meetings & Events.

Effective from the beginning of this month, Cummings will be based in London, and will serve as a member of the Customer and Travel Experience Leadership Team, reporting to Chief Operating Officer Niklas Andreen.

Cummings was previously CWT Global Vice President Commercial.

### MCEC OzHarvest

**MELBOURNE** Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has partnered with OzHarvest.

The alignment will see MCEC increase sustainability in its food waste sector and help it advocate, inspire and influence others to halve food waste by 2030.

MCEC will be donating resources and service provision, ongoing food donations, workplace giving, fundraising and advocacy programs as well as contributing commercial kitchen space to OzHarvest, to trial their Cooking for a Cause program for three days a week.

The Centre's Chief Executive Peter King said it is the ideal partnership for MCEC.

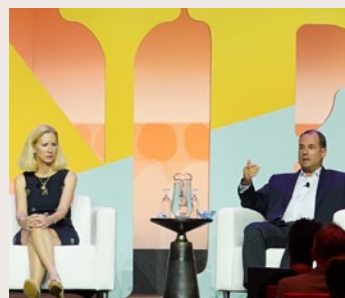
### Marriott reignites meetings & events

**MARRIOTT** International hosted its largest in-person customer event since the start of the pandemic last week, The Exchange – All for One.

Held from 24-27 Aug at Walt Disney World in Orlando, The Exchange brought together nearly 800 attendees, including corporate and association meeting professionals, as well as Marriott executives and sales professionals.

The Exchange aimed to reignite the meetings and events sector, and gave Marriott a chance to showcase its Connect with Confidence protocols.

All attendees were required to provide either COVID-19 vaccine validation or proof of a negative COVID-19 test in advance of the event,



submitted using the CLEAR application's Health Pass feature.

The Exchange also illustrated to attendees how they can host in-person events, while prioritising attendees' well-being, as the COVID-19 landscape continues to evolve.

**Pictured** are Marriott President Stephanie Linnartz and Chief Executive Officer Anthony Capuano.

### BEIA moved to Nov

**NEW** Zealand's BEIA conference has been moved to Nov, three weeks later than planned, now taking place from 01 to 03 Nov in Hawke's Bay.

BEIA Chief Executive Officer Lisa Hopkins said now more than ever, meeting face-to-face is important for the industry after a period of lockdown.

"Our members are telling us they are keen to go ahead, and we have been fortunate to work with our partners in Hawke's Bay to secure the new dates," she said.

"It is vital we continue to support the local region...they have invested so much time and effort".





## Marine tourism help

**MARINE** tourism operators in Qld can now apply for a portion of the state government's \$3 million support fund to help with berthing fees in privately-operated marinas such as Cooktown and Hervey Bay.

The second round of the COVID-19 Marine Tourism Assistance Scheme will provide up to \$20,000 to individual operators until 30 Jun 2022.

To be eligible, operators must have an annual turnover of more than \$75,000 during the 2018/19, 2019/20 or 2020/21 financial years, and have experienced an income loss after 01 Apr.

## Check out Brando

**TRAVEL** agents now have the chance to attend a virtual tour of Tahiti's eco-friendly resort The Brando, with the experience taking visitors through the flight and airport legs of the journey, as well as the property's many luxurious facilities.

To be able to access the tour, agents will need to register for the Tahiti Specialist Program **HERE**, with those who complete the modules able to access a range of virtual experiences.

Tahiti offers holiday options across 118 islands, with some properties on lagoons and others located in lush forest areas.

## Reawakening South Africa



**THE** Africa Travel & Tourism Summit held in South Africa this week discussed broad plans with the continent's major stakeholders about how tourism and travel can be best "reawakened" from the damage inflicted by the pandemic.

The event had a limited in-person contingent to view the discussions, however it was beamed globally online so that tourism markets around the world could take note of what strategies Africa is considering to prepare for the travel rebound.

The gathering heard the African Union had drawn up the Continental Tourism Recovery Strategy, calling on major bodies such as the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, UNWTO, and the WTTC to jump on board and provide technical expertise, resources and support.

One major pillar of the restart plan will be to "reimagine" Africa's image to the rest of the world by leveraging the digital skills of the continent's youth to access new business opportunities within tourism.

Another aspect will be to lobby countries like the UK to remove African nations from its red list, a categorisation South Africa's Deputy Minister of Tourism, Amos Fish Mahlalela believes is unfair as the continent's nations combined have fewer cases than the United States, India & Brazil.

"This perception is partly because of the slow rollout of vaccines and negative reports in the media," he said.

**Pictured:** Panelists Zoe Molapisi, Kwakye Donkor and moderator Thami Nkadameng.

## 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.

**Andrew Parker** has been appointed by **Qantas** to be its Chief Sustainability Officer effective from the start of Sep. He was previously the airline's Group Member of Executive Committee.

Ahead of its opening later this year, **Dorsett Gold Coast** has appointed **Michael Foster** to be its General Manager. The property is the Hong Kong-based company's first addition in the Australian market, with Foster bringing 15 years of hotel management experience to the role.

**Crown Resorts** has announced **Bruce Carter** has become a Director following the receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals. Carter joins several new board recruitments in recent months.

**Lori Sheller** has joined **Swan Hellenic** as its new Vice President Sales and Marketing, North America, moving across from a senior role with MSC Cruises. In her new position she will report directly into SVP Global Sales and Marketing Alfredo Spadon.

Travel risk management company **World Travel Protection** has appointed **Andrea Reid** to be its new Global Education Manager. Reid will be charged with developing organisational learning strategies for staff across its global offices, including in Brisbane and Toronto, and providing strategic oversight for training and development activities.

## Bangkok data leak

**BANGKOK** Airways has apologised for a data breach that saw a cyber attack gain unauthorised access to its systems on 23 Aug.

The online hack resulted in passport data and other personal information being compromised, with the airline reassuring clients that it is investigating the incident as a matter of urgency.

Possible stolen data also includes credit card details, names, emails, phone numbers and historical travel details.

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





## Journey Well with Oasia Resort Sentosa Singapore

Far East's Hospitality's first foray into the resort and spa category, Oasia Resort Sentosa, Singapore opens on 1st September 2021. A new idyllic destination to refresh, recharge and refuel you mind, body, and soul, the hotel's 191 suites and rooms are themed in earthy and calming tones, and equipped with yoga mat and wellness videos on-demand. Additionally, curated wellness journal with self-care checklists, and access to a collection of guided meditation audio are amongst the many items available during your stay. Be it mindfulness or fitness, the complimentary workshops will motivate you to achieve your goals.

Taking the wellness beyond your room, you may unwind at the Oasia

Spa. Being the first in Southeast Asia and Oceania to carry KOTOSHINA products, you will be spoilt for choices with the extensive list of spa treatments, Cryotherapy facial and grooming services available. To complete the experience, the Meditation Lounge uses Medklinn Cerafusion™ Technology to recreate forest bathing therapy, inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin-yoku. Enjoy the health snacks and herbal tea while you soak in the forest essence.

Targeting the wellness conscious who seeks well-balanced lifestyle within the busy working schedule, the hotel's wellness hosts are at service for an unforgettable stay experience that will refresh,

recharge and refuel you to go further. Whether you're exploring a new travel destination or revisiting one that's familiar, you'll find just what you need to invigorate your body and mind at the new Oasia Resort Sentosa.

### "THE GREATEST WEALTH IS HEALTH" - VIRGIL

Slow your pace down and calm your senses. From cleansing herbal tea to personalized scented balm and pampering treatments, wellness at Oasia Resort Sentosa is not about indulgence but self-love.