

Globus vax policy

THE Globus Family of Brands today announced it will require proof of full COVID-19 vaccination 14 days prior to departure with any WHO-approved jab to join any holiday across the Globus, Cosmos, Avalon and Monograms portfolio throughout 2022.

MD Gai Tyrrell said the move was “just another layer to our commitment of providing and assuring our guests a safe means of exploring the destinations they’ve been yearning to visit”.

Travel agent fights insurers

MELBOURNE-BASED

Meridian Travel has hit the headlines this week as one of nine small business plaintiffs seeking payouts under business interruption insurance policies.

Claims have been denied by insurance companies, which are fighting a Federal Court test case centring on the wording of their policies around the definition and timing of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meridian Travel lodged its claim

following the international border ban imposed by the Federal Government in Mar 2020, but a barrister appearing for insurance firm IAG yesterday claimed govt policies were not directly to blame for the losses incurred.

The “true cause” of Meridian’s drop in business was COVID-19 outbreaks in other countries, and the consequential drop in popularity of cruising as ships were linked to coronavirus.

These events “predate Australia’s border closure,” the lawyer said, meaning they were not covered by the IAG policy.

Other insurers involved in the case include QBE, Allianz, Swiss Re, Guild and Chubb Insurance.

The legal action is part of an ongoing push by the insurance companies to avoid business interruption payouts due to COVID-19, including an earlier NSW case over which quarantine and biosecurity law was referred to in policies (**TD** 23 Nov 2020).

Another travel industry plaintiff in the case, Educational World Travel, has ceased trading (**TD** 18 Dec 2020), but Meridian Travel’s Jodie Quick told **TD** the agency is still in business “and we don’t plan on going anywhere!”

Testimony has wrapped up, with the judge promising a quick ruling but also expecting an appeal.

Today’s issue of **TD**

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

Halfpenny to Quark

QUARK Expeditions today announced the appointment of Robert Halfpenny as its new Director of Sales for Australia.

Halfpenny will lead an expanded team including Thomas Hosemans, Alana Lewthwaite, Monize Diniz and Tenille Hunt, as part of a major global strategy to “build closer, more effective partnerships with tour operators, as well as wholesale and retail travel partners globally”.

He was most recently MD of Aurora Expeditions, and has also held a range of senior travel industry roles with Virgin Australia, Globus and Rocky Mountaineer.

More cruise industry news in today’s issue of **Cruise Weekly**, while other industry appointments are on **page six**.

AACB expansion

THE Association of Australian Convention Bureaux (AACB) has expanded, with Tourism Whitsundays joining the association to boost membership to 18 leading business events destinations across the country.

Tourism Whitsundays CEO Tash Wheeler said being part of AACB would help support the recovery and longer-term growth of the region’s visitor economy, while AACB CEO Andrew Hiebl noted that “the need to collaborate and learn from each other has never been more important”.

More Business Events News on **page five** of today’s **Travel Daily**.



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Domestic traffic halved

TRAVEL restrictions due to Australia's COVID-19 outbreaks have resulted in severe disruptions to domestic travel since Apr 2020, according to the annual domestic aviation report released this week by the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE).

There were just under 25 million passengers carried on domestic commercial aviation in Australia over the 12 months to Jun 2021, a year-on-year decline of 48%.

The industry-wide load factor decreased from 79.3% in the year ending Jun 2020 to 64.1%, with the strongest loads recorded on the Brisbane-Proserpine route at 77.3%, while the lowest average load factor was 46.2%, on flights between Newman and Perth.

Load factors on individual routes declined on 34 out of the 35 published routes for which data is available in both 2021 and 2020.

Interestingly Melbourne-Sydney

remained Australia's busiest route with 1.73 million passengers - but that was still a massive decline of 73.8% year-on-year.

The second busiest route was Brisbane-Sydney with 1.24 million passengers, down 65%, followed by Brisbane-Cairns with 942,200 passengers, a decline of just 1.5%.

For the year to 30 Jun Brisbane was Australia's busiest domestic airport, with 7.31 million passenger movements, followed closely by Sydney with 7.26m.

Melbourne recorded 5.89 million domestic passengers, a drop of 69% versus 2019/20.

Regional airports also saw significant declines over the year, with a total of 13 million passengers, down 30.4%.

The report also collates charter operations, with Perth Airport accounting for a hefty 37.7% of all charter passengers in Australia due to FIFO operations in the state's resources sector.

QF on track for Dec

QANTAS continues to make plans for a pre-Christmas return to international flying, with mainstream media in a frenzy over hopes the Biosecurity Emergency Declaration will not be re-imposed when it expires on 17 Dec, allowing Australians to leave the country without having to request permission.

A QF spokesperson told **TD** there was no further official confirmation beyond what had been revealed by CEO Alan Joyce last month (**TD** 26 Aug), with the carrier scheduling 18 Dec departures to London, Vancouver, Los Angeles and Singapore from both Sydney and Melbourne, adding Tokyo and Fiji on 19 Dec.

QF said it will operate if the ban is lifted and if pax are double vaccinated; however the carrier has also previously revealed it will not fly if capacity is restricted, which may be the case if quarantine requirements are not also relaxed.

Travel deep freeze

THE ongoing border ban and strict caps on inbound flight capacity saw inbound and outbound passenger numbers continue at historically low levels during Jul, according to the latest release from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Based on international border crossings, total arrivals numbered 74,860, a monthly decrease of 27,620 trips, while departures amounted to 87,020, down 11,320 on the prior month.

The inbound traffic included 41,800 short-term Australian resident returns and 18,750 international visitors, while Jul saw 44,470 Australian residents depart the country on a short-term basis, and a further 5,700 leave for a planned period of longer than 12 months.

The leading source countries for overseas visitors to Australia in Jul were New Zealand (13,190 trips), the US (770 trips) and the United Kingdom (740 trips).

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ADL reveals more

THE next stage of Adelaide Airport's terminal expansion is taking shape with the opening of more retail spaces planned across the next two months.

The Coopers Alehouse reopened this morning after an extensive refurbishment, bringing the expansion project a step closer to completion.

Convenience, books & news retailer WHSmith will open two new stores in the terminal next month – one in the central concourse and another at the northern end of the terminal - while The Pantry Adelaide Kitchen is also expected to open to the public next month.

Adelaide Airport Managing Director Mark Young said it was an exciting time for the state's largest aviation hub, as new retailers open their doors in expectation of a spike in visitor numbers which should increase as national coronavirus vaccination rates climb.

GC play money

DESTINATION Gold Coast has launched the \$3 million Play Money Rewards program in a bid to stimulate the region's visitor economy.

There will be 60,000 vouchers given out to eat, play and enjoy the best the region has to offer.

Destination Gold Coast Chief Executive Patricia O'Callaghan said the vouchers would be given to locals each time they spend \$100 or more, with more than 1,200 businesses participating.

SQ Aug numbers

SINGAPORE Airlines has noted a gradual recovery in passenger numbers for Aug, recording 133,300 travellers on its planes for the month, up from 32,700 in the same period last year.

Singapore Airlines' low-cost carrier Scoot also showed signs of recovery, with 22,100 pax boarding during Aug, an increase on the 7,100 noted in 2020.

SA expands home iso

THE South Australian Government has revealed its intention to expand the home quarantine trial it is currently conducting for travellers arriving back into the state, with Australian Defence Force members returning from overseas to be the next cohort to take part.

Roughly 90 Australian defence personnel will be involved in the next phase of the pilot, which aims to take the pressure off hotel quarantine, with all of those selected returning from countries the Federal Government has deemed "low risk".

Each returned traveller has been fully vaccinated and will need to provide negative test results on days three, five, seven, nine and 13 in home isolation, with personnel also chosen to take part based on having suitable housing free of shared areas.

The trial deploys the use of the Home Quarantine SA app, which

allows government officials to check in on people undergoing a 14-day mandatory isolation.

The move follows a decision by the NSW Govt to conduct its own home isolation trial, which will include some Paralympians returning from overseas.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian has been vocal in her desire for NSW to move away from the hotel quarantine model.

Quest agency pick

THE Core Agency has won the marketing account for Quest Apartment Hotels after a competitive pitch, with the agency to handle brand strategy and creative development, covering identity design, advertising and digital.

Over the last 20 years, Quest Apartments has opened between four and 10 new properties every year in Australia.

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This week's recipe:

CARROT CAKE



Window Seat

DUST off the best in-house horror movies during your next hotel stay, you just might be able to earn a little extra cash while on holiday.

An American company called FinanceBuzz is currently on the lookout for a "Horror Movie Heart Rate Analyst", or to put it another way, someone who can watch 13 horror movies in less than 10 days and let their heart rates be measured, with participants rewarded with US\$1,300 for the privilege.

So what's in it for FinanceBuzz we hear you fearfully ask?

Well, the aim of the study is a commercial one, ascertaining whether the scares delivered by high-budget horror movies are more or less than those provided by low-budget ones.

In a cheeky statement put out this week, the company said it was simply "dying" to know what the result of the study is, especially with the traditional spooky season of cinema approaching.

The team at **Travel Daily** have done the maths here for you, that's US\$130 per movie, surely that's a gig that would be an absolute scream.



Aviation starts to feel lift

PROJECTIONS put forward by aircraft manufacturer Boeing paint an optimistic picture for the heavily COVID-impacted airline sector, predicting a stronger demand over the next 10 years than was forecast pre-pandemic.

Boeing's latest Commercial Market Outlook suggests the aerospace products sector will be worth US\$9 trillion over the next decade, up from the US\$8.7 trillion it predicted before COVID struck, and the \$8.5 trillion flagged only a year ago.

The faster-than-anticipated recovery is being fuelled predominantly by an uptick in demand for domestic air travel, the report noted, with intra-regional markets expected to follow as health and travel restrictions ease.

These rebound factors are tipped to precede a long-haul travel return to pre-pandemic levels by 2023 or 2024.

AA buys 5% stake

AMERICAN Airlines is buying a stake in Brazilian low-cost airline Gol Linhas Aereas Inteligentes.

The two carriers will strengthen their collaboration, after American took a 5.2% stake in Gol for US\$200 million.

The airlines already have an existing codeshare agreement in place which will now become exclusive, meaning AA and Gol loyalty members can earn points on their frequent flyer programs.

The US airline's President Robert Isom said AA's long-haul network marries seamlessly with Gol's strong and growing domestic network in Brazil.

"As our industry recovers and continues to adapt to meet new global needs, we remain confident in long-term growth for aerospace," Boeing Chief Strategy Officer Marc Allen said.

"We are encouraged by the fact that scientists have delivered vaccines more rapidly than imaginable and that passengers are demonstrating strong confidence in airplane travel."

Boeing's revised forecast also notes that the availability and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines will be "critical factors" in the near-term recovery of passenger air travel, while global aircraft orders are expected to pass 49,000 by 2040, with China, Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific countries each accounting for about 20% of new plane deliveries.

Collette small group

COLLETTE has launched its 2022/23 Small Group Explorations digital brochure, featuring new tours & a refreshed refund policy.

The digital guide launched on Tue and includes 36 itineraries across destinations such as New Zealand, Costa Rica and Japan, with dates through to May 2023.

Guests can book with confidence knowing Collette's Cancellation Policy assures a full money-back refund in the event any tour cannot go ahead.

This policy has resulted in Collette issuing over \$165 million in refunds throughout the COVID-19 pandemic so far.

In addition, travellers may purchase a Cancellation Waiver from only \$95 per person.

Kiwi hydrogen pact

AIR New Zealand and Airbus will research the future of hydrogen-powered aircraft in New Zealand, with the companies today announcing a joint initiative.

The research, a first for the Asia-Pacific region, will investigate how hydrogen-powered aircraft could play a bigger role in Air New Zealand's fleet by 2030.

The two companies will also analyse how hydrogen aircraft may impact Air New Zealand's overall fleet and operations.

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ICC IN-PERSON RESTART

INTERNATIONAL Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney is now getting in touch with clients about confirming upcoming bookings on a fully vaccinated basis, after the business events sector was included in the NSW Government's vaccination-based roadmap to reopening.

The latest version of the state's Health Order allows exhibitions and conferences at ICC Sydney to return at levels of one person per four square metres, while entertainment events are allowed to operate at 75% of fixed seating capacity.

ICC Sydney CEO Geoff Donaghy said "we have over 90 events in the diary from Oct through to Christmas, and we're contacting our customers to ensure they are able to proceed with a fully vaccinated workforce, event attendees, suppliers and contractors - everyone that will need to enter the venue".

"Our people are keen to get back to doing what they do best, running extraordinary in-person events, and have been sending in their vaccination certificates for

some months before last week's announcement," he said.

ICC Sydney has updated its EventSafe Operating Guide to reflect the latest requirements, integrating them with the rigorous Venue Shield program developed by parent company ASM Global.

Donaghy said systems to formally check vaccination status are currently being tested by NSW authorities, with the venue advised that they would be "ready for our reopening to in-person events," with vaccination attendance to be outlined in a forthcoming Health Order.

"In the meantime, we have enough information to start planning the return of events," he added, noting that ICC Sydney had already previously operated under similar restrictions.

"We will continue our advocacy with decision makers and industry representatives to further relax these conditions over time, such as moving to a one person per two square metre protocol due to the highly controlled nature of business events," Donaghy said.

BEV outbreak!

BUSINESS Events Victoria (BEV) has launched a new Regional Big Breakout campaign, with a suite of new digital assets to help businesses plan events.

A dedicated website at thebigbreakout.com.au showcases a host of unique regional spaces, encouraging event organisers to think outside the box when it comes to planning their next conference, event or retreat.

Alongside state of the art conference facilities, Vic regions boast quirky spaces such as a former gaol, wine cellar, gold mine or steam train, with the campaign drawing on the experiences and stories of regional locals.

Awards go online

THE organisers of the Australian Event Awards have confirmed the ceremony will move online this year.

It will be delivered as a "series of bite-sized broadcasts" delivered each evening over 12 days from 20-31 Oct - more details at eventawards.com.au.

Seven Sydney wins

BUSINESS Events Sydney is celebrating its best month since the start of the pandemic, with seven meeting bids won for the NSW capital during Aug.

The wins include six global and one national event, and will overall attract more than 5,000 delegates and \$14 million in direct spending through to 2024.

Auckland still shut

NZ AUTHORITIES have extended lockdown restrictions in Auckland, which remains at the "Level 4" rules until at least next Tue, meaning no events can take place.

Get Local now 2022

THE organisers of the upcoming Get Local showcase (**TD** 20 Jul) have bowed to the inevitable and rescheduled the event to 2022.

With face to face interactions seen as a key part of the show, it will now take place 15-16 Feb 2022 at ICC Sydney - [CLICK HERE](#).

Arinex digital team celebrates



THE Digital Conference Organising (DCO) team at Arinex is today commemorating a milestone, after a successful busy first year in operation.

Over the last 12 months the DCO team has produced 29 virtual events, attracting thousands of attendees across the globe.

Arinex said the online gatherings had also led to almost 60,000 sponsor interactions and the collection of 2,271,257 data points "allowing clients to make instant, informed decisions around their events".

The DCO team was officially established a year ago today, coinciding with the "Turn of Events: Bringing Business Events Back" national hub and spoke event (**BEN** 08 Sep 2020) which was held simultaneously across six locations and live streamed globally.

Other major virtual events

managed by the Arinex DCO operation include the International Neurotrauma Symposium, the 23rd International Congress on the Education of the Deaf, and this month's Concrete Institute of Australia National Conference.

Arinex CEO Nicole Walker said the data gathered helped demonstrate ROI for sponsors and exhibitors, with insights provided to clients and sponsors to help them boost engagement opportunities.

"The birth of the DCO was introduced as a new initiative due to the pandemic, but will see continued growth and an ongoing necessity in the events sector," she said.

"It is fast becoming an industry-recognised service, given the greater need for virtual events and technology, as well as the specialised skills required to ensure event results are exceeded".

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Crime fighting zoo

AUSTRALIA Zoo has teamed up with Crime Stoppers Queensland and Wildlife Warriors to help protect native wildlife from unlawful criminal activity.

The partnership will involve the popular zoo, founded by the Irwin family, collaborating on a campaign and offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to an arrest in relation to a crocodile that had been illegally shot in the Wenlock River.

The agreement follows a rise in attacks on Australia's native animals in recent months, including koalas, brush turkeys and kangaroos.

There's no place like Horne



WELL we can clearly see the dangers posed by those forced to work from home, at least that's according to Reho Travel CEO Karsten Horne who recently decked out his house in all things Western Bulldogs.

The team takes on the Melbourne Demons in next week's AFL GF, and for Horne's sake we hope they triumph.

"The critics are telling me it is Photoshopped, I like to ignore them," he joked.

Six Senses Belize

SIX Senses Belize has revealed plans to open in mid-2025, featuring 45 resort villas with overwater bungalows which are accessible by jetties.

Further planned amenities include an all-day dining village, outdoor pool, childrens' club, fitness centre and multiple indoor and outdoor health and wellness facilities.

Show some respect

HAWAIIAN Airlines (HA) is about to introduce a new in-flight video designed to educate in-bound travellers about how to respect the islands' local culture.

The video, called Travel Pono, will debut on all trans-Pacific Airbus A330 and Airbus A321 flights from next week, and features five crew members asking passengers to respect Hawaii's important local culture and natural environment.

See the video in full [HERE](#).

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.

Kristian Anderson has joined **The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection** in the new role of Vice President Global Sales, reporting directly to CEO Doug Prothero. He will be based in South Florida and was previously with Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection from 2016 to 2020.

Dnata has announced the appointment of **Charles Galloway** to be its Regional CEO for Asia Pacific, where he will oversee 13 airports in four countries, including Australia, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia. He will be based in Singapore and is charged with managing more than 4,800 aviation professionals, bringing more than 20 years' experience in global aviation and travel to the role.

The Brisbane Airport Corporation has appointed **Simon Dodd** to the role of Head of Aviation Development, reporting to Executive General Manager Aviation Jim Parashos. Dodd will join the team from next month, following the completion of his current position at Accor, where he is the Vice President Loyalty Partnerships.

Robert Thompson has been recruited to be **Tourism Fiji's** Executive Head of Regions, a new role overseeing activities across its global offices. He was previously the acting CEO of the tourism body before it landed a full-time replacement in Brent Hill, and prior to that had senior roles with Tahiti Tourisme and RTE Travel Marketing.

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