

Travelport appoints

KRISTY Williams has been named as Head of Pacific AM and APAC OTAs at Travelport.

Williams returns to the technology firm after roles with American Express GBT and Gopass Global - more appointments on [page seven](#).

Jetstar fares now on GDS

THE Qantas Group today announced that travel agents from across Australia will be able to sell Jetstar Airways, Jetstar Asia and Jetstar Japan fares via GDS platforms, with ticketing via Qantas (081) plates.

The Jetstar fares will be available both with and without a Qantas fare, with the carrier saying offering GDS reservations will make it "easier to sell and service Jetstar bookings".

At the same time the Jetstar fare structure is being changed effective immediately, including the introduction of a new seat-only starter fare class (RBC C) (available for travel from 01 Sep) and making the carrier's Starter

Plus & Starter Max fares available in lower booking classes.

"This new capability to ticket Jetstar fares through the GDS is a joint effort between Jetstar and Qantas to deliver efficiencies to mutual trade partners," according to an official statement.

Under the new arrangements Qantas Agency Connect will continue to support QF ticketed bookings containing Jetstar and Qantas segments, while Jetstar Industry Support will provide the servicing for ticketed bookings containing only Jetstar flights.

The new Jetstar fare structure is rolling out across technology platforms today, and may not appear in some GDSs until later this afternoon.

Until now, if Australian agents wanted to issue a Jetstar itinerary via GDS they had to use Jetstar's ticketless booking process, while agents outside Australia would issue tickets on Hahn Air stock.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news including **Business Events News**, and a photo page from **Visit USA**.

The most important webinar of the year

TRAVEL Community Hub founder Richard Taylor is urging the industry to join a special online gathering next week featuring Chris Watson from Chris Watson Travel and health and exercise coach Peter Annis-Brown.

It's a revisit of a highly popular session during the Collette 'Bounceback' conference in Cairns earlier this year (**TD 19** May), tracing Watson's journey through the pandemic as things fell apart after Mar 2020.

The free full and frank session will examine how COVID-19 has and continues to affect travel agents in particular, and is highly recommended.

CLICK HERE to register.

Jetstar

CoPilots

Join today by simply completing our survey to have your chance to shape the way Jetstar works with Travel Agents

Start survey

Aussie lux training

TOURISM Australia (TA) is inviting the travel trade to join its Aussie Specialist Luxury Lodges of Australia webinar next Thu.

Taking place at 11am, the webinar will take a trip around the country, pinpointing each of the outstanding Luxury Lodges of Australia.

During the live session, TA will take requests for any lodge participants would like to hear more about.

Each lodge offers unforgettable experiences in unique and inspiring locations.

Those who tune in live will have the chance to win their own bit of luxury, a \$250 Endota Spa voucher - register **HERE**.

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Entire adds Cooks

ENTIRE Travel Group has added new Cook Islands packages to its line-up, with the move coinciding with the reopening of the idyllic South Pacific destination.

Offers are on sale until the end of the month, for travel through to 31 Mar 2023, offering a range of options including a short break in Rarotonga or Aitutaki, or a longer holiday that combines the two destinations.

Deals combine accommodation with transfers and internal flights, along with "Entire Bonus" inclusions and experiences.

Entire Sales & Marketing Director, Greg McCallum, said the Cooks caters to a broad range of travellers, offering romantic getaways alongside options for families and active travellers.

All packages are available to quote and book 24/7 via the Entire Travel Group website and are supported by the Peace of Mind Booking Plan - [CLICK HERE](#).

Ponant roadshow

PONANT will host its 'Explore to Inspire' roadshow series later this year, after two years of only virtual meetings.

Taking place across Australia from Aug to Oct, the roadshow invites travellers and advisors to learn about Ponant's upcoming experiences at sea and immerse themselves in the cruise line's product offerings. For more information on the events & to register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Avoid 'our' airspace!

THE Chinese Government has issued a stern warning to international airlines to avoid airspace near Taiwan where it is conducting military exercises.

China has expressed its outrage over a visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi this week, labelling the move as "playing with fire" and prompting live fire military exercises near Taiwan.

Six areas have been designated "danger zones" by China, with commercial flights now restricted from 12pm on 04 Aug to 12pm 07 Aug local time.

China's Xiamen Airlines Co has already adjusted several flights, while Cathay Pacific Airways pilots were reportedly advised to carry 30 mins worth of extra fuel for a possible rerouting in Taiwan.

Franklin takes over

NSW'S Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Arts and Regional Youth, Ben Franklin, will assume the portfolio of tourism after the sudden departure of Stuart Ayres yesterday (*TD* 03 Aug).

New Cal air sale

AIRCALIN'S Escape to New Caledonia Sale starts today from \$559 return, celebrating the dropping of entry requirements.

The offer includes availabilities during next month's school holidays, flying direct from Sydney or Brisbane to Noumea, and will run until 18 Aug.



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INDEPENDENT HOLIDAY PACKAGE EXPERTS

Travel jobs in AFTA sights

AFTA has hosted its first ever National Taskforce for Workforce and Careers, as part of the industry's ongoing push to address workforce shortages.

The gathering included several key travel training leaders, aiming to review the industry's approach to workforce development, including what is being done well, what needs to improve and the ongoing role of Government.

AFTA CEO Dean Long highlighted the project in this month's *travelBulletin* AFTA update ([CLICK HERE](#)), noting that "while we have shortages, we also have great successes".

"Our sector has one of the highest female participation rates in the professional services sector.

"Our cultures have adapted, and our processes that are flexible and supportive have allowed us to achieve this impressive rate of participation," he added - at the same time noting longstanding

talent shortages well before the pandemic crushed the sector.

He confirmed that last week in Canberra AFTA continued its engagement with Treasury's Jobs Summit and Employment White Paper Taskforce to showcase, among other priorities, the importance of a robust outbound sector to support a thriving domestic tourism industry.

"Workforce & career development are no different... as leaders in this space we have an important role in improving economy-wide job outcomes for women," Long added.

The AFTA CEO told *TD* he will later this month be meeting with the Immigration Minister about workforce shortages, in line with statements made yesterday by Tourism Minister Don Farrell who told Parliament the government was "prioritising the backlog of migrant working visas to increase labour supply".



Beautiful SAMOA

CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITY

Samoa Tourism Authority invites proposals from experienced sales and business development specialists and agencies to provide strategic sales planning and management services.

The mobile Sales Executives will be based in Brisbane (and will cover Queensland) and Melbourne (and will cover Victoria).

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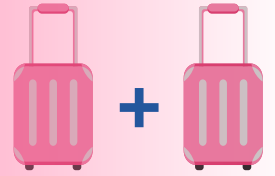
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Window Seat

LIKE so many misplaced bags, Buggsy the cat was just another missing persons report at Melbourne Airport until she was finally reunited with her distressed owner this week.

After bolting from her family's car inside the airport's carpark, the cat was nowhere to be found after extensive searches.

However, the mischievous feline was eventually found hiding down a muddy drain near Terminal 2 after a 10-day stint on the run in freezing conditions, with her Bendigo-based owner ecstatic to have her furry friend back.

Eight lives still left to go.



TAA appoints two

TWO new members of Tourism Accommodation Australia's (TAA) Victorian Council have been added, with Holiday Inn Melbourne on Flinders GM Sandra Smith and Cluster GM Melbourne for Pan Pacific Hotel Group David Tonkin joining.

Between them, the new executives boast more than 30 years of hospitality and tourism experience in Australia.

South Africa on The Rocks



SOUTH African Tourism is dishing up a new series on Network 10 called *Food Trail: South Africa*, which premieres this weekend.

The destination management organisation took over The Argyle in Sydney last Sat to mark the series' launch, seeing 2,000 guests treated to a delicious afternoon of culinary delights and South African entertainment.

Guests armed with their 'Passport to Flavour' collected stamps as they trailed a path from Boerewors to Koeksisters, enjoying cooking demonstrations by South African-born chef Warren Mendes, and the musical stylings of various drummers and dancers (**pictured**).

Filmed in Mar, *Food Trail South Africa* traversed the breadth of the African country, across deserts, coasts, savannahs, mountains and bustling cities, with Mendes savouring the opportunity to travel in his home country once again as he

embarked on the exploration.

Mendes' first stop on his food trail at Tswalu Game Reserve, in the heart of the Kalahari Desert.

"South Africa truly is the 'Rainbow Nation' with so many cultural influences combining to create its eclectic cuisine and distinctive flavours," Mendes said.

Air NZ's 2030 goal

AIR New Zealand has set an aggressive science-backed target to reduce its carbon emissions by 2030, a move the airline said formed an important step in the journey to reaching its net zero 2050 goal (**TD** 07 Dec 2021).

The carrier is aiming for a 16.3% reduction in absolute emissions by 2030 - a figure endorsed by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), which helps companies determine how much and how quickly they need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in line with climate science.

Chief Operational Integrity and Safety Officer, David Morgan, said the carrier will focus on sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), including partnering with the NZ Government to assess the feasibility of a SAF production plant in New Zealand, and the adoption of zero emissions aircraft technologies, such as hydrogen, electric & hybrid aircraft.

Air New Zealand has already taken significant steps toward mitigating its environmental impact, creating a new Chief Sustainability Officer position within its executive (**TD** 07 Jun).

Radisson to Rydges

THE Radisson Hotel and Suites Sydney has been rebranded to Rydges Darling Square Apartment Hotel under a new management deal signed by Event Hospitality & Entertainment (EVENT).

The hotel will open with the new branding on 08 Aug and is the third new Rydges property announced over the last two months by EVENT, following the openings of Rydges Perth King Square and Rydges Rotorua.

The 98-room Rydges Darling Square Apartment Hotel offers guests an on-site restaurant, room service, complimentary wi-fi, as well as a gym and swimming pool, with the property recently undergoing a refurbishment to its apartments and studio rooms, restaurant, bar area and conference rooms.

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Buyer for SpiceJet?

TROUBLED Indian budget carrier SpiceJet is reportedly in talks with an unnamed Middle Eastern carrier to sell a stake in the airline, which is yet to release its latest quarterly financials.

An insider at SpiceJet has told local media that a 24% slice of the company is up for consideration to be off-loaded, with another India-based suitor also in the mix.

SpiceJet has been the subject of a number of safety incidents in recent months (**TD** 28 Jul), and has failed to pay salaries to 45% of its employees in recent weeks.

Double the aloha!

HAWAIIAN Airlines is offering members of its HawaiianMiles program the chance to earn double the miles on every flight between the islands until the end of the year.

Last year the airline removed any expiry for loyalty members to use points (**TD** 14 Apr 2021).

Inside Jetstar's first A321neos



THE first look inside Jetstar's new A321neo aircraft has been released (**pictured**), with the carrier unveiling a sleeker look and more entertainment options than previous configurations.

The carrier's NEOs are equipped with digital streaming technology, allowing passengers to access in-flight entertainment via their own devices, while wider seats, roomier overhead storage compartments and in-seat



USB charging outlets all aim to enhance the traveller experience.

"Our fleet of new NEOs will lift the bar on passenger comfort, and we've fine-tuned the cabin configuration to set a new standard of in-flight experience for low fares travel in Australia," CEO Gareth Evans said.

La Collection signs on Blue Palace

LA COLLECTION has formally snared the signature of a luxury resort in Crete to represent the Greek brand in the Australian and New Zealand market.

Blue Palace, A Luxury Collection Resort, Elounda Crete offers guests dining at the Blue Door restaurant, as well as the choice of staying in a range of bungalows, suites and villas.

La Collection was founded by Seguiet and Craig Farrell, and officially launched operations in Australia in May.

End of the GC line

BRISBANE Airport will no longer be linked directly to the Gold Coast Airport in 2025 when the Cross River Rail system becomes operational.

The 45-minute rail journey between the air hubs is currently operated by Airtrain.



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Visit USA targets Aussie agents

LAST night the Visit USA committee wrapped up a huge week of industry expos with a final event in Sydney at the Fullerton Hotel.

The largest gathering of the series confirmed that there is a huge appetite among Aussies for travel to America, with Visit USA Australia President, Caroline Davidson, saying the organisation's members were "doing all we can to support travel agents as they rebuild after a difficult few years".

"The agents have a real passion for the USA and there was such great energy at the expos...the response has been fantastic," Davidson enthused.

She confirmed that the Visit USA Expos would return to its usual Feb dates in 2023.

Some of the Committee members are **pictured** celebrating the events' success, back row from left: Andrea Robinson from Disney Destinations; Penny Brand of Travel South; Clinton White, Visit USA Secretariat; Caroline



Davidson, Visit USA President; David Clark, from Tauck; Shannon Davis, Visit USA PR Manager; Kate Cuthbertson, Visit Seattle.

Middle row: Joanne Motta, Visit Utah; Carolyn Nightingale, Travel Oklahoma; Belinda Harvy, Caesars Palace.

In front: Amber Wilson from Rocky Mountaineer and Chris Watson of Chris Watson Travel.



TEAM Visit Anaheim ready to wow agents.



EXPEDIA TAAP's Stuart Udy and colleagues.



WHAT a peach! Karen Mayo from Fredericksburg, Texas.



KATE Cuthbertson from Visit Seattle.



EVENT emcee Richard Reid and Visit USA President Caroline Davidson with lucky prizewinner Ben Houseman from Flight Centre on the Central Coast.



GEOFFREY Hutton from Kent Marketing with Estela Martinez-Stuart from Visit Fort Worth.



Kiwi "war chest"?

ECONOMIC development agency ChristchurchNZ has announced it will establish a "war chest" to pay incentives to business conferences and major events in a bid to lure more to the Garden City.

The agency, which currently has no money to make incentive payments, said it needs to build a new fund as soon as possible in order to stay competitive at securing "opportunities for the city".

ChristchurchNZ did not reveal exactly how much its new fund would need.

ICC GETS SERIOUS ABOUT TECH

THE International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC) Sydney has bolstered its technology inventory with a \$1.53 million investment in new industry-leading audio visual (AV) equipment.

The centre's expanded AV catalogue now features new state-of-the-art equipment including 32K lumens laser projectors, vision processing and control, projection screens, laptops, foldback monitors, cameras, audio and lighting consoles, radio microphones, moving light fixtures and draping.

ICC Sydney CEO Geoff Donaghy believes the investment will

strengthen ICC Sydney's global reputation as a provider of "endless" future opportunities for business & entertainment events.

"Our team members take great pride in presenting customised, seamless technical solutions and the latest venue enhancements will support this ongoing quest for excellence," Donaghy said.

Director of Audio Visual Services, Brian Nash, echoed the sentiment, saying the new equipment will ensure the venue continues to set new benchmarks for delivering events.

Nash also revealed ICC has recently collaborated with



vocational education providers to onboard seven AV trainees as part of its inaugural Professional Growth Traineeship Program.

"We continue to bring together the best technical directors, project managers and operators to work with an unmatched range of vision, lighting, audio, studio & draping infrastructure," he said.

NT First Nations

A NUMBER of events celebrating First Nations culture are being held this week in the Northern Territory, with a focus on art, fashion, textiles, culture, music, and performance.

The Garmalang Festival ran over the weekend at the Darwin Entertainment Centre, followed by the Country to Couture & National Indigenous Fashion Awards earlier this week.

Upcoming events include the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair at the city's convention centre, and the National Indigenous Music Awards.

Daintree spruiked

TOURISM Port Douglas Daintree has unveiled a raft of new business event materials, which it will showcase to around 100 industry representatives this week in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

The material includes a brand refresh, new imagery and videos highlighting the region's attractions, activities, and conference facilities.

There's also a new business planner guide, which includes destination 'must dos', travel and dining options & incentive program itineraries - [CLICK HERE](#).

Meet at the Reef

THE Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) and Tourism and Events Queensland have announced details of the upcoming Meeting Place 2022 conference, set to take place from 21-24 Nov in Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef - [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

Stay n' Sip

HUNTER Valley-based luxury wine experience company Stay n' Sip has released its corporate offerings starting from \$50pp, including four rounds of Wine Trivia covering wine-related questions and blind tastings - for more info, contact hello@staynsip.com.

MCEC praises effort to bolster leadership

MELBOURNE Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) Head of Sales, Stephanie Martin, has praised the AIPC Future Shapers program, which is designed to accelerate the leadership skills of convention centre senior leaders.

"Through the program we have been able to connect with some incredible people," Martin said.

"I know together we will keep advocating for our industry and ...continue to create strong career pathways for our people."

The intensive three-phase program is designed for senior leaders with over seven years of experience in convention centre management, and includes a lecture series, development workshops, mentoring, and idea pitching session to help solve industry challenges.

The next application for the Future Shaper program is slated for release in Sep 2022, with each centre able to nominate up to two senior leaders to apply.



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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.

Hilton Worldwide has appointed **Carey Osborne** as its new Cluster General Manager of Hilton Fiji Beach Resort & Spa and DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Fiji, Sonaisali Island. Osborne has been part of the Hilton team across the Asia Pacific region since 2016.

Mel Gray has recently joined **Hurtigruten Group** as the Regional Sales Manager for VIC, Tas, SA and WA. Gray brings over 16 years of experience to the position, with former roles including Product Manager, Brand Leader and Learning & Development Specialist.

Cath O'Brien has been named as the new Executive Director of the **Board of Airline Representatives of New Zealand**. O'Brien was most recently Head of Regulatory Affairs at Air New Zealand for five years, and prior to that was Director at Airlines for Australia and New Zealand.

TravelManagers has announced the appointment of an additional Business Partnership Manager for NSW, **Kylie Wilson**, who will join Julia McLean to form a team of two NSW-based BPMs. Wilson has more than two decades experience in the industry, including two years as a PTM.

Monkeypox advice

SMARTTRAVELLER has issued a reminder to Australian travellers in relation to the monkeypox virus outbreak, reminding Aussies to follow advice from local health authorities, be aware of the signs of infection, seek medical advice if required, and subscribe to travel advice for their destination.

Q'town close to 2019

QUEENSTOWN'S accommodation occupancy is hovering around pre-pandemic levels for this month, the NZ resort town's nine-month forward outlook report has revealed.

Booking numbers for Aug and early Sep appear to be within historical ranges, but a more long-term perspective shows occupancy will peak around the Queenstown Marathon and the Christmas/New Year period.

Electric jets by '24?

AUSTRALIAN carriers could be flying electric planes within the next two years, aviation expert Keith Tonkin has told the *ABC*.

But aside from the battery tech challenges to get there, Tonkin believes the aviation sector will also need to manage anxieties from Aussie travellers, who may perceive safety issues associated with the new energy methods.

"There's definitely a stakeholder engagement perspective to it," Tonkin said, adding "I think it's just a matter of educating people about the benefits of the new system and then once we get started, it'll all be okay".

Rex revealed last month it had entered into a pilot trial to convert turbine-powered aircraft into zero emissions electric planes (*TD* 22 Jul), with Tonkin stating that ideally, manufacturing new aircraft was a preferable option.

Young Brit snags Aussie trip



GLOBAL Work & Travel has selected Georgia Lea (**pictured**) from Warrington in the United Kingdom as the winner of its 'First Class to Paradise' competition, run in conjunction with Tourism Tropical North Qld (*TD* 06 Jun).

The one-month social media campaign and competition was aimed at encouraging prospective working holidaymakers from Europe to travel to Australia and be matched with a partner employer in the Cairns region.

A restaurant/bar attendant in her hometown of Warrington, Lea was told of her win by Zoom, in a touching video which can be viewed online **HERE**.

She plans to arrive in Far North Queensland in Nov, where she will explore the major tourism attractions of the region including the Great Barrier Reef, the Daintree Rainforest and the city of Cairns, after a First class flight with Singapore Airlines.

Having never been to Australia, Lea said the win was the "best news of her life".

"This still hasn't really sunk in yet," she beamed.

"It probably won't really hit me until I'm actually on the flight out to Australia.

"I was so excited and afterwards I was literally crying for 10 minutes."

A severe shortage of hospitality and tourism workers in Far North Queensland spawned the major international campaign.

There are thousands of jobs that need to be filled in the region, one of Australia's most popular holiday destinations.

Padding once again

HERITAGE Expeditions has announced the return of its sea kayaking program, available on select Subantarctic, Indonesian and South Pacific voyages.

The decision coincides with the arrival of luxury vessel *Heritage Adventurer*, with Commercial Director Aaron Russ stating its kayaking offers "exceptional, on-water wilderness experiences".