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**NTA** MOBILE TRAVEL AGENTS

## Today's issue of *TD*

*Travel Daily* today features seven pages of news plus a cover page from **Emirates**.

## CATO appoints

**THE** Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has appointed Brett Harvey as its Business Development & Events Manager, a position that will be charged with expanding membership and growing its events program.

The newly created role will sit across both CATO and its subsidiary, the Student Educational Travel Organisation, with Harvey bringing a wealth of sales experience from time spent at travel operators Intrepid and The Travel Corporation.

"Bringing in additional revenue streams will allow us to realise and activate our plans across multiple areas to further assist members as they rebuild," CATO MD Brett Jardine said.

## Link Travel Group grows

**THE** addition of Melbourne's Platinum Travel Management, Entourage Travel Group and Perth-based Mobilise Travel to the new Link Travel Group (*TD* breaking news) is a "welcome fit for the powerhouse joint venture formed between Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG), The Goldman Group and Spencer Group of Companies," according to Link GM Scott Darlow.

The expansion follows the addition of Reho Travel (*TD* yesterday), with Reho's Karsten Horne and Andy Buerckner from Platinum to join the Link Advisory Board alongside co-founders Penny Spencer, Anthony Goldman and Dani Galloway of FCTG.

"The board will play an instrumental role in shaping the future of Link Travel Group, as it develops innovative programs and projects to advance its members and the wider travel industry," Darlow said.

Further Advisory Board members will be announced "in the near future," Darlow confirmed, foreshadowing possible new member announcements in coming weeks.

"We are entering a new frontier in travel and Link Travel Group is paving the way for our industry to grow sustainably, with new ideas and unique solutions to build a better future," he added.

## Dawn of a new Day

**LOUISA** Day has been appointed as the Global Sales Director at 50 Degrees North, moving on from her role with Exodus, where she was the Regional Sales Manager.

Day will take charge of the 50 Degrees North's global sales team, including sales teams located in Melbourne, Minneapolis, Vancouver and Lillehammer.

## EK Premium Econ

**EMIRATES** has debuted its new Premium Economy product on selected routes, with the new cabin to feature on Sydney and Christchurch flights (EK412/413) effective 01 Aug.

Premium Economy will also be offered on EK services from Dubai to Paris (EK75/76) and London Heathrow (EK1/2 and 3/4) - see the **cover page** for more details.

## Nominate now!

**AFTA** has today formally released the full list of National Travel Industry Award 2022 categories (*TD* yesterday), with nominations opening at 9am AEST this morning.

Both self and peer nominations will be accepted, with full guidelines on the nomination, submission and judging process now available for both Most Outstanding and Most Popular categories.

See the list at [afta.com.au](http://afta.com.au).

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## Star Alliance is on track

**GLOBAL** airline association, Star Alliance, has accepted a new non-aviation partner as a member this week, as the group looks to bolster its sustainability credentials moving forward.

German rail operator Deutsche Bahn has become the first intermodal Partner of Star Alliance, meaning passengers of Star Alliance member airlines can now start or end their long-distance journey by train in Germany by booking combined air and rail tickets in one transaction from 01 Aug.

Airline customers can order a combined ticket for the flight and train trips, including seat reservation, and upon check-in shortly before the train departs, travellers will receive boarding passes for all transport options.

"Today brings great forces together and opens the Star Alliance doors beyond the airline ecosystem," Star Alliance CEO

Jeffrey Goh said.

"Our new model for intermodal partnerships promises seamless coexistence between different modes of transport throughout the alliance," he added.

Star Alliance board member, Michael Peterson, also revealed the group would seek out more intermodal partnerships in the future as it attempts to boost seamless travel and sustainability.

"With attractive inner-German connections and simultaneous links to international travel chains, Deutsche Bahn and Star Alliance make a significant contribution to reducing CO2 emissions in the transport sector," Peterson said.

"The new partnership complements our successful cooperation with Lufthansa Express Rail... and this is how we get more people off the plane and onto environmentally friendly rail," he added.

## Biggest incentive yet

**WHOLESALE**R, The Travel Junction, is offering travel agents the chance to score a range of prizes as part of a newly unveiled incentive launched this month.

Running until Jun 2023, every booking made by advisors through the company's HELiO booking platform will accumulate points to go in the running to win major prizes, including a "top secret" adventure in Aug 2023 for the top selling 15 advisors.

To sweeten the pot even more, The Travel Junction will reward the top-selling advisor in Jul with \$1,000 credit towards a booking.

"We're excited not only to enable our agents to enjoy one of the highest commission earns in the industry; deliver exclusive deals and packages for their clients but now the ability to win huge prizes - all through HELiO, our agents only all-in-one booking platform," Global Director of Sales Kevin Looney said.

More incentive details [HERE](#).

## USA Down Under!

**VISIT USA** has announced the highly anticipated dates for its Visit USA Expo Week 2022 in Australia, with reservations now open to attend.

There will be 30 American exhibitors travelling Down Under for the big meet and greet with the trade, with events to be held in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane at the start of Aug.

"It's the perfect opportunity for agents to discover what has changed and what's new in the USA, and our members couldn't be more excited to meet with agents face-to-face to share the good news," enthused the President of Visit USA (Australia) Caroline Davidson.

Brisbane will take place 01 Aug at Sofitel Brisbane Central, while Melbourne will host on 02 Aug at Pullman Melbourne on the Park, and Sydney will finish up the trip on 03 Aug at the Fullerton Hotel, Sydney - for more details and to register, [CLICK HERE](#).



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## MSC seeks agent experts

MSC Cruises is gearing up to introduce new interactive training programs targeting the Australian trade, in a bid to refresh agents' skills and knowledge of the MSC Cruises brand.

MSC Masters modules will include topics on MSC Cruises' new ship, *MSC World Europa*, pricing models, MSC Yacht Club, virtual ship tours, pre-paid deals, and the MSC Voyager Club.

"Our biggest aim is to support our trade partners with the information they need to sell an MSC Cruise - there are so many partners who have changed businesses or not sold a cruise

in over 18 months," MSC Cruises Australia Commercial Director, Lisa Teiotu said.

The first 200 agents to complete the program by 12 Aug will receive a \$100 gift card, while five \$50 gift cards will be on offer to win until 31 Dec.

MSC Masters will kick off on 12 Jul, with each module taking about 10-15 minutes to complete.

Register to get involved [HERE](#).

## Family eats for free

THE Paradise Resort Gold Coast has released its 'Family Eats Free' package, covering stays for the rest of 2022.

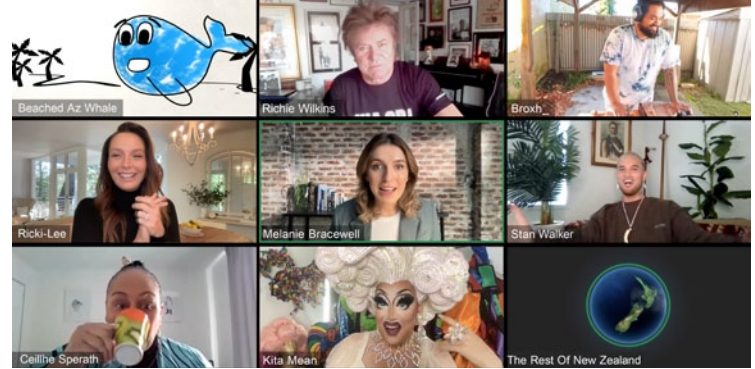
Free daily breakfast and nightly dinners are included in the promotion, as well as free access to the kids' club, waterpark and daily family activities.

Bookings must be completed by 31 Jul to take advantage of the offer - more details [HERE](#).

## Arden talks tourism

NEW Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden has put tourism high on the agenda of her current visit in Australia, with 30 Kiwi tourism businesses joining her tour Down Under.

## Secret Kiwi travel agents



LURKING among us and posing as everyday celebrities has been a posse of secret Kiwi travel agents, Tourism New Zealand has revealed, with the spies charged with increasing the travel appetites of Aussies for NZ.

Screenshots of their meetings have been leaked (pictured), with Richard Wilkins, Melanie Bracewell and Stan Walker just a few of the clandestine recruits surreptitiously slipping in selling points of NZ into their day jobs as

TV presenters and singers.

"For Australians seeking out the unexpected, it's time to start planning a trip to see what being a Secret (Travel) Agent is all about," Bracewell said, adding that now that travel is back, it is time "to aggressively accelerate our operations".

Watch the leaked top secret meeting of celebrities-turned-spies [HERE](#), and sign up to perform your own secret Kiwi mission by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## VISIT USA EXPOS ARE BACK!

Registrations are now open for our August Shows

Monday 1 Aug – **Brisbane**, The Sofitel

Tuesday 2 Aug – **Melbourne**, Pullman on the Park

Wednesday 3 Aug – **Sydney**, The Fullerton

Over 30 exhibitors

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## Window Seat

**BOOKING.COM** is giving fans of the long-running soap *Neighbours* the chance to stay at 28 Ramsay Street, the fictional residence of well known philanderer Karl Kennedy and his wife Susan. Guests will be able to hobnob with the stars of the show before watching the finale, and will also include a full VIP experience with backyard bbq and beers with Dr Karl, AKA Alan Fletcher.

The stay will be available on a first-come-first-served basis on Tue 12 Jul from 11am AEST, for the bargain price of \$28.



## Snowy Mtns reimagined

THE Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct Master Plan (TD 09 Aug 2021) has been finalised, which aims to establish Australia's alps as a "resilient year-round tourism destination".

The Master Plan provides a strategic direction for the precinct's next 40 years, with a focus on improving the attractiveness of key destinations and upgrading ageing infrastructure.

The plan highlights diverse opportunities for tourism growth in new areas, such as the revitalisation of the Jindabyne town centre and foreshore, a new lakeside eco-precinct at Western Lake Jindabyne, and a world-class mountain bike and adventure park for tourists.

There will also be evolution at existing developments, such as Thredbo, Perisher and Charlotte Pass in Kosciuszko National Park.

Other offerings will include

food & beverage experiences, recreational fishing in Lake Jindabyne and other alpine waterways, as well as nature-based & adventure experiences in Kosciuszko National Park.

There will also be support for arts and culture, which will see the expansion of local experiences, events and festival offerings, with a diversified events calendar that supports a night-time economy.

The plan envisages annual visitation growth from both domestic and international visitor markets, particularly leveraging connections through Canberra Airport.

To manage the effects of the growing visitor population, future development and planning within the Precinct will also seek to protect the local environment.

The Master Plan will be reviewed every five years and can be read [HERE](#).

## Bowling them over!

AFTER hitting The Ashes for six, Flight Centre's sports travel specialist Stage & Screen will handle travel arrangements for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup taking place later this year.

General Manager Adam Moon said it is "incredibly exciting" for Stage & Screen to be involved in such a major project so soon after the success of The Ashes.

"It's a testament to what our in-house experts are able to deliver," he said.

Also adding his support for Stage & Screen was Cricket Australia Head of Procurement Shiraz Ruwaim.

"Stage & Screen supported Cricket Australia and its state partners to navigate these as an integral part of our operation team," he said.

"I would like to thank everyone at Stage and Screen for supporting us in a highly professional and nimble way to deliver an amazing summer".



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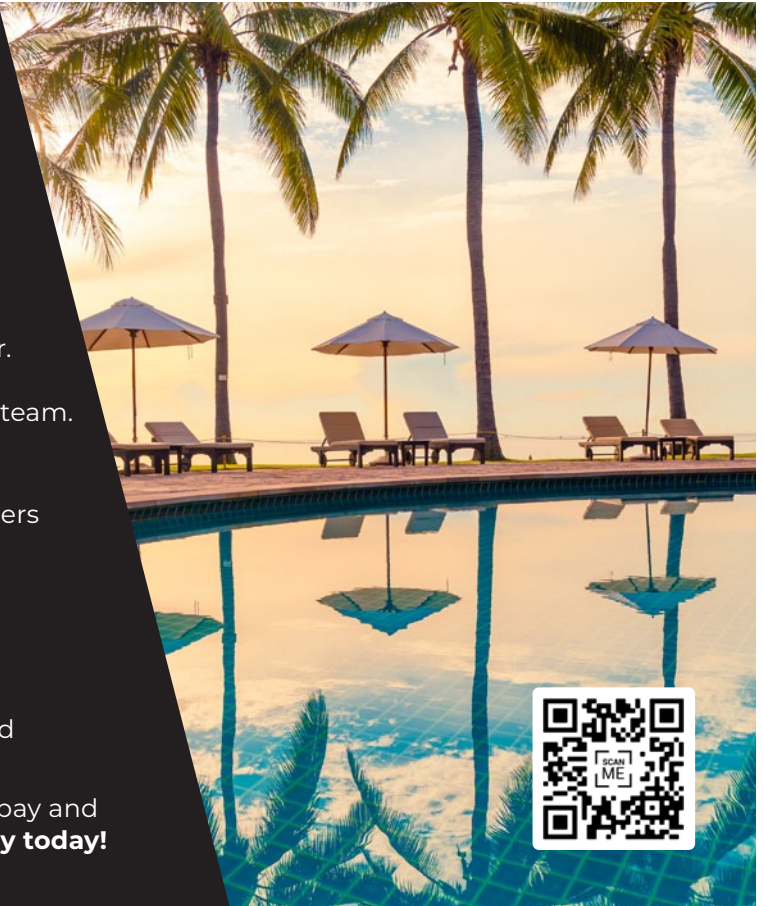
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# Travel Daily

Tuesday 5th July 2022

## 15% for Londoner

**AGENTS** can earn an improved 15% commission on suite bookings made at The Londoner before 08 Sep, valid for stays in the northern summer of 2023.

To make bookings, contact Sarah Whitty via email [HERE](#).



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## Inside investment

**INSIDE** Travel Group, the UK-based parent of InsideJapan and InsideAsia, has taken on private equity investment.

The new Blandford Capital funding will see it continue with its strong focus on sustainability and responsible travel, as well as pursuing B-Corp status.

New director Ian Simkins said there was "enormous potential in the continued growth of Japan, and the InsideAsia brand with its expanded portfolio of destinations including Malaysia, Borneo, Thailand & South Korea.

## Eurail promotion

**RAIL** Online is offering 15% off its Eurail Global Mobile Passes until 31 Jul, with bookings made this month valid for up to 11 months.

Agents can also continue to earn 7% commission with no booking fees in place - more info [HERE](#).

## Air India Amadeus

**AIR** India has decided to implement the full Amadeus Altea PSS suite across its business, which will help communications with agents and travellers across areas like revenue management, revenue accounting, retailing, and merchandising, website, mobile and frequent flyer program management.

Air India has a fleet of 117 aircraft and recently hinted about Aussie expansion (**TD** 20 Jun).

## Time to Pakala (Get Up!) in NT



**VOYAGES** Indigenous Tourism Australia will be holding a number of events at the company's Ayers Rock Resort at Uluru to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2022.

Activities include Art Talks at the Gallery of Central Australia (GOCA), which showcases more than 300 artworks from existing and emerging artists exclusively from the Central Australia and Western Desert region, along with curated items like traditional Anangu wood carving and pieces hand-made by local communities.

Also on offer for guests is the opportunity to watch Indigenous films every afternoon in the resort's theatre, in addition to attending special Bush Yarns (**pictured**) or take in a Guided Garden Walk.

The week will culminate in a special celebration on Fri 08 Jul,

with a Welcome To Country to be held followed by an Inma (a traditional dance ceremony), performed by the Traditional Owners of Uluru and Kata Tjuta.

"We are really delighted by the number of Australians wanting to travel to Uluru and learn more about the beauty, diversity, and wisdom of Indigenous culture," Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia CEO Matthew Cameron-Smith said.

"While many Indigenous and cultural activities run year-round at the resort, we wanted to place a special emphasis on these during NAIDOC week and supplement them with a range of really special activities which can be enjoyed by our guests."

Indigenous activities can also be viewed on most social media platforms @ExploreUluru.

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## Bali has our hearts again



### Travel Daily Events COMING EVENTS

**TD Events is the new way to showcase your product or service to the travel industry.**

**Thu 14 Jul 1pm** - Amadeus - the latest travel technology trends with Kaylene Shuttlewood and Lance Batty - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

**Thu 21 Jul 1pm** - Livn Group - details coming soon

### RECENT EVENTS

**Missed an event? Don't worry, you can catch up at any time.**

Switzerland Tourism "Winter Magic Tour" with Livio Goetz and Lisa Maroun - [CLICK HERE](#).

"The Tide Turns for Cruise" with CLIA MD Joel Katz and Jill Abel from the Australian Cruise Association - [CLICK HERE](#).

Norwegian Cruise Line "The Great Cruise Comeback" - [CLICK HERE](#).

Quark Expeditions showcase of *Ultramarine* - [CLICK HERE](#).

AFTA CEO Dean Long Executive Interview - [CLICK HERE](#).

Entire Travel Group with Brad McDonnell and Greg McCallum - [CLICK HERE](#).

To organise an event for your company, enquire at [traveldaily.com.au/events](http://traveldaily.com.au/events)

**THE** magic of Bali was finally all system go for resort operator Club Med, which recently welcomed more than 100 international guests to Club Med Bali for a special four-day event to celebrate the return of the popular Indonesian destination.

Among the group enjoying the festivities were a bunch of Aussie travel specialists, including the owner of Global Travel Solutions, Josephine Anne Francis, MD of Barrow & Bear Travel, Callum Whitehead, and GM of Magellan, Lisa Harrison.

CEO East, South Asia & Pacific (ESAP) Markets for Club Med, Rachael Harding, was on hand to welcome the group, and lead them on a range of fun activities, such as Balinese cooking classes, flying trapeze and archery.

Guests were also able to take some time off-site to explore Seminyak and see how the commercial precinct is starting to recover after the prolonged shutdown period.

"For almost all the attendees, it was their first time overseas since the pandemic," Club Med General Manager for the Pacific, Michelle Davies said.

"The positivity and excitement from everyone to return to Bali could be felt across the four days, and everyone was so impressed with the resort," she added.

Club Med Bali was Club Med's final resort to reopen globally.

**Pictured:** The group saying g'day to Bali once again.

## AFTA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



**TODAY**, we open the nominations for NTIA across our new categories.

The majority of the awards will be judged,

in accordance with the new streamlined assessment process.

In creating these new categories, we have focused on maintaining the value of the awards by ensuring our assessment criteria is fair and rigorous.

Importantly, this new process will reduce the time required by travel businesses to apply, and ensures we have a submission process that everyone can engage with.

We are also really excited to introduce video submissions to the application process for the 2022 NTIAs.

Over the last 24 months, we have had to change the way we do and think about our businesses.

In introducing this, we are making sure we allow for creative approaches to showcase what they have achieved.

We want to encourage creative

thinking when responding to the questions for each category and where possible, include team members and suppliers.

We will also be maintaining public voting as part of the assessment for a number of business and supplier categories.

Every judged category will be assessed by a university level marker and an industry judging panel.

While we have refreshed the criteria and ways to nominate, only those that demonstrate the commitment to the highest of standards will be recognised.

Finally, this week we have seen another sensible decision from the Federal Government to remove the dreaded Digital Passenger Declaration.

It is difficult to find many people to speak positively about this program, but it was an important step in getting borders open.

It was also another stride in removing paper forms from the travellers' transit experience, which must remain a priority.

It is essential that industry and state and Federal governments continue to innovate our traveller pathway to make international travel by Australians and visitors easier.

## Outrigger appoints

**OUTRIGGER** Hospitality Group has announced the appointment of Australia-based Jason Zvatora to the role of Vice President Commercial Strategy – APAC.

Zvatora previously worked for Outrigger as Corporate Director of Revenue and Distribution - Asia Pacific, from 2013 to 2018, after which he was employed as Chief Operating Officer at Next Story Group.

His return to Outrigger will see him drive Asia Pacific performance by leading the company's top-line revenue strategies, staying ahead of market trends and directing the property commercial teams.

The hospitality group has also made several other senior-level appointments, including Mike Shaff as Senior Vice President Operations, The Americas; Jenna Villalobos as Senior Vice President Commercial Strategy; and Tony Pedroni as Vice President Operations – APAC.

## Say hello to NZ

**AAT** Kings and Inspiring Journeys, in partnership with Helloworld, have released a series of enticing deals to attract travellers back to New Zealand as it reopens its borders and scraps pre-departure COVID-19 testing requirements.

Guests can save up to \$700 per couple on the 17-day Kia Ora New Zealand guided tour, which starts from the special price of \$7,130ppts, and includes a Bay of Islands cruise, scenic train rides, a visit to glow-worm caves and Huka Falls, and much more.

Also on offer is the Long White Cloud Tour, which traverses the North and South Islands over 19 days, including the Franz Josef hot pools and Waimangu Volcanic Valley - prices start from \$13,930 adult twin, offering up to \$1,400 savings per couple.

Travel bookings must be completed by 26 Jul for select travel dates between 04 Jul to 30 Jun 2023.

The Metaverse is quickly approaching, but what does that mean for the travel industry? Read all the details in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read

travelBulletin

## Making road trips "extra ordinary"

AVIS Budget Group has announced the launch of a new campaign for its Apex Car Rentals brand via its creative agency partner Host/Havas.

The 'Making Extra Ordinary' creative highlights the brand's upfront pricing and "extras as standard" approach, such as no booking fees or extra driver fees.

The new material will be aired across broadcaster video-on-demand, online, programmatic outdoor, social media (TikTok in NZ) and digital displays.

## MONEY

WELCOME to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

**AU\$1 = US\$0.688**

THE Australian dollar is holding steady now after bouncing back from last week's losses, and may get another boost today when the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) announces its decision.

The RBA is expected to raise rates by either 25 or 50 basis points (bps), in an effort to fight surging inflation, which is already at a 20-year peak of 5.1% in the first quarter.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.688
UK	£0.568
NZ	\$1.106
Euro	€0.659
Japan	¥93.51
Thailand	฿24.57
China	¥4.609
South Africa	11.232
Canada	\$0.884
Crude oil	US\$108.43

## Qatar marks 10 years to Perth



QATAR Airways celebrated the 10-year anniversary of its Perth-Doha route earlier this week at Perth Airport, with passengers departing Perth on QR901 given special cookie treats to mark the major milestone.

The route, currently serviced once-daily by a Boeing 777-

300ER, first launched on 03 Jul 2012, and since then QR has carried over 1.6 million passengers in and out of Perth.

The airline has also exported nearly 68,000 tonnes of cargo to Perth and imported more than 55,300 tonnes of cargo from Perth over the last decade.

Perth Airport CEO Kevin Brown acknowledged the "strong partnership", which he said became "even more apparent" as the carrier continued to operate its Perth services throughout the pandemic to "bring Australians home" and "carry important export and import freight crucial to Western Australia and its economy".

**Pictured:** The Qatar Airways crew all smiles at Perth Airport.

## Celebrity appoints

CELEBRITY Cruises has announced the appointment of PHD Australia as its lead media agency, effective immediately.

The media and advertising agency will be responsible for all of the luxury cruise and travel brand's offline and media activity in Australia and New Zealand.

Celebrity Cruises Head of Marketing ANZ, Emma Mumford, said the cruise line was excited to begin the partnership, after looking for a "bold, insights-driven, agency partner who truly understood our brand to help us navigate this critical juncture.

"PHD not only delivered this, but emotionally connected with our team through passion and shared values," she said.

## Record sales month

TRAVELMANAGERS has announced its busiest-ever Jun sales figures, with both total sales and average booking commission per PTM up 51% on Jun 2019, continuing the travel agency's upward trajectory from the pandemic following its record-breaking sales in May.

## Coral extends CIAF partnership

CORAL Expeditions has announced the extension of its partnership with Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF), an event it has sponsored for more than five years.

The partnership supports the CIAF's annual 'Collectors and Curators' program, and will see leading artists become special hosts on the cruise line's Cape York, Torres Strait and Arnhem Land expedition voyages from Sep this year, allowing guests to discover the artistic heritage of remote communities.

## New home for TCA

TOURISM Central Australia (TCA) is set to establish its headquarters at Lot 274 Town of Alice Springs, adjacent to the Stuart Highway and Schwarz Crescent intersection on the old Shell Depot site.

TCA's new home, which was recently acquired by the Northern Territory Government, will include a Visitor Information Centre that is conveniently located near the National Aboriginal Art Gallery.

## Radisson initiates early wage increase

RADISSON Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney has announced a decision to bring forward the Fair Work Commission's mandated 4.6% wage increase for award workers by three months.

The decision was made in order to ensure the retention of staff, with 73% of the hotel's employee workforce to benefit from the wage rise starting 01 Jul.