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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news, plus a cover page from Norwegian Cruise Line.

QF back to Noumea

QANTAS Airways has revealed it will relaunch direct flights to Noumea from this weekend.

Australians will be able to fly to New Caledonia from Brisbane in only two hours once a week from this Sat, and from Sydney in two-and-a-half hours three times per week from this Sun.

A fourth weekly Sydney-Noumea flight will commence on 13 Aug, with all services to be operated by a Boeing 737-800.

New Caledonia opened its borders for Australian travellers in Mar.

Recovery plan needs guts

EXCLUSIVE

INTREPID Travel's newly installed Managing Director ANZ, Sarah Clark, wants to see the new Federal Government provide more details about its pre-election commitment to spend \$48 million to help the country's travel and tourism sectors recover from the pandemic.

Speaking with TD this week, Clark said that while the financial pledge is crucial to the industry, the package now needs to be "padded out more" to see exactly how it will benefit travel.

"It's going to be interesting to see what [the Government] says and how they execute on that \$48 million commitment because it is spread across a lot of different areas, and there's so

much that needs to be done," Clark observed.

Intrepid's chief added that tackling staff shortages is perhaps the most pressing need presently facing travel and tourism.

"Without those staff, you're not going to have those experiences or accommodations to actually offer, whether that's domestic or filtering into international travellers as well," she argued.

"Getting more people back into the tourism industry is really important because a lot of people did leave and so seeing if we can get some of those people back is key, but then there's also that wider issue of just needing more people for the jobs that we have in Australia as well.

"That's where you cross into the field of skilled migration and absolutely categorising some of those roles so that we can attract, as well as looking at Working Holiday visas to supplement the workforce," Clark added.

While many people have left travel and tourism during the shutdown to pursue employment opportunities in other industries, Clark said there was still many things government can do to attract talent, including education incentives around TAFE courses.

QR brings the jumbo

QATAR Airways will return its Airbus A380 to its Sydney to Doha services from tomorrow, as the carrier looks to meet rising travel demand in Australia.

The larger planes will offer eight First class seats, 48 fully-flat beds in Business class, and 461 Economy class seats.

I want to break free

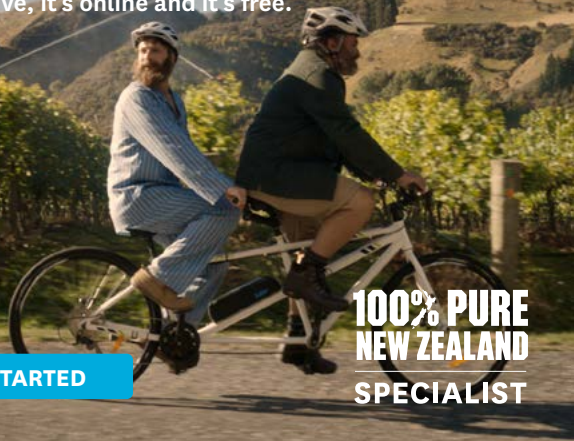
IT'S time to break free, as Norwegian Cruise Line resumes sailing in New Zealand, and to celebrate, the cruise line is giving a bounty of points to Partners First Rewards members.

Up to 35 points are available for every booking made this month, with Studio & Inside staterooms worth 25 points, Oceanview 30 points, and Balcony and above worth 35 points.

See the cover page for more.

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Dell forever flying

THE father of Amex GBT strategic sales specialist Rob Dell recently passed away, aged 98.

Frank Dell was a retired British Airways Captain, and in 2019 as part of the airline's centenary celebrations, BA recognised him as one of its longest standing retired employees by taking him out to Sydney Airport to once again sit inside a flight deck for the first time since 1976 (**TD** 26 Aug 2019).

"My dad flew for BEA, Cyprus Airways and BA for over 30 years, flying millions of people around Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and was a pioneer of our industry," Rob Dell said.

BA created a special tribute video to Frank Dell, which can be viewed **HERE**, and he was also interviewed by the ABC **HERE**.

Private eyes travel

THERE has been a close to a 50% jump in the number of Aussie travellers opting to board private jets in Mar this year, figures from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics reveal.

The report showed that 310,600 passengers travelled on private jets and charter flights for the month, a sizable jump on the same period pre-pandemic, which was just 210,800 people.

Private air travel now accounts for close to 8% of all domestic air traffic in Australia, with some industry experts suggesting the trend is here to stay, as travellers who are able to afford private options pivoted away from commercial airlines during the shutdown, and have now built up a solid travel routine.



Industry welcomes Don

THE travel industry has welcomed the confirmation today that Don Farrell has been officially appointed as Australia's new Tourism and Trade Minister.

Flagged as the likely successor by **Travel Daily** last week (**TD** 23 May), the South Australian-based Senator arrives in the role after previously holding the Minister Assisting on Tourism position for a brief period under the second Kevin Rudd administration in 2013, a responsibility he held for only two months along with the sport portfolio.

Before politics, Farrell was the Secretary and National President of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association (SDA) union in South Australia.

In welcoming Farrell to the job, AFTA CEO Dean Long said he was already in dialogue with the Senator to tackle the issue of rebuilding the travel and tourism workforce in the face of ongoing worker shortages.

"More than a third of our workforce was wiped out as a result of COVID-restrictions and now, at a time when travelling Australians need professional travel advice more than ever, we urgently need to address that skills and workforce shortage," Long said.

"Senator Farrell has been a long-standing champion of Australia's travel agents and businesses and AFTA is proud to have a long-standing relationship with him and his office," he added.

CATO's MD Brett Jardine also hailed Farrell's appointment,



citing his keenness to work with the Senator on forging ahead with ongoing support measures.

"We look forward to further engagement with Don Farrell and the new Labor government as we seek ongoing support for travel businesses that remain heavily impacted by COVID related restrictions," Jardine said.



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Applications close 24 June 2022

Jetstar pilot appears

A FORMER Jetstar pilot has appeared in court for the first time after being charged with two counts of murder.

Greg Lynn appeared via video link from prison over the alleged killings of campers Russell Hilland and Carol Clay, who disappeared over two years ago while travelling around Victoria.



Travel Daily on location in Wisconsin, USA

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Viking Cruises, aboard the new *Viking Octantis* as it cruises North America's Great Lakes.

WITH expedition cruising you have to expect the unexpected, and that's exactly what those on board *Viking Octantis* have encountered today, as strong winds developed overnight.

Rather than a planned call at the tiny city of Bayfield to visit the nearby Apostle Islands, the unsafe conditions for tendering saw the captain decide that instead a day of scenic cruising is in order.

The expedition team has sprung into action with a host of onboard tours and lectures, while many guests are also making the most of the spa facilities.

FCM declares Shell yeah!

MULTINATIONAL oil & gas company Shell has awarded its travel business to Flight Centre's FCM in a multi-year contract commencing in 2022.

FCM Global Managing Director Marcus Eklund believes the brand triumphed due to its client-first approach that prioritises the needs of travellers, and its preferred systems which do not compromise on quality.

"As we begin our journey with Shell, we are truly excited to work in partnership with their global travel team to devise and implement a comprehensive program that delivers on their goals, while making business travel simpler, safer and productive for their employees," Eklund said.

"At FCM we're unafraid to challenge conventions nor are we limited by the constraints that many of our competitors face thanks to our global range,

proprietary technology, and inherent flexibility.

"This means we can provide a truly bespoke solution to clients like Shell that accommodates a variety of complex needs within an integrated globally consistent experience."

Commenting on the appointment, Shell's Global Travel Operations Manager Julia Sullivan said: "we look forward to working with FCM and to leveraging their digital capability and innovative approach.

"Our joint goal is to make a positive difference to our employees' travel experiences, supporting their wellbeing and empowering them to make more sustainable travel choices."

"Business travel is changing and in FCM we have found a partner that understands the challenges and supports our ambition to establish a travel program," Sullivan added.



Window Seat

A PILOT in the cockpit of an ITA Airways jet reportedly fell asleep at the controls mid-flight, sparking air traffic control in France to issue a terrorist alert.

Two French fighter jets were scrambled to intercept the flight and monitor the situation after no contact could be made with the plane for more than 10 minutes, but thankfully the snoozing pilot woke up in time to finally respond to ground control questions.

The incident took place en route from New York's JFK Airport to Rome's Fiumicino International Airport on 30 Apr, with the plane assuming auto pilot for the duration of the skipper's catnap, an indiscretion that has seen the narcoleptic boob fired from his ITA role.



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Travel & Cruise Weekly

Be Brave, Make Change



FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) hosted a panel discussion last Fri at its Global HQ, on exploring the National Reconciliation Week's theme of 'Be Brave. Make Change'.

The event was part of FCTG's Reconciliation Action Plan, which it launched in Feb.

Panellists at the event included Institute for Urban Indigenous

Health Chief Executive Officer Adrian Carson, Indigenous Partnerships Manager at QIC Andrew Niven, and of Queensland Community Foundation Chief Executive Officer Tara Castle.

There was also a \$20,000 donation presented to Deadly Choices, for the funding of Aboriginal health programs.

Wood you believe it

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has announced its initial TIME Partners First scholarship recipient is Helloworld Travel Mackay's Johanna Wood.

The agent is the first recipient of two Partners First scholarships (**TD** 17 Feb), scoring a six-month mentoring experience to help her achieve her career goals and objectives in travel.

FC referral update

FLIGHT Centre has revealed plans to broaden the scope of its Alumni Referral Program, flagging intentions to widen the net to former staff members' family and friendship circles.

"While our current opportunities may not be right for you, your sister, father, BFF or neighbour might just be a next-generation Flightie ready to take their first exciting step in their career," Flight Centre said.

More details are coming soon.

Ski resort price hike

PRICES to stay at Australian ski resorts are up on average 17% when compared to pre-pandemic levels, new data from online travel agency KAYAK suggests.

The study showed that Mount Buller was the most affordable accommodation option, averaging \$492 for a nightly stay (up 9% on 2019), followed by Thredbo at \$584 a night (up 10%) and Perisher Valley, which offered an average of \$666 per night (up by almost 25% on 2019).

Fall Creek was pricier, with ski guests asked to shell out about \$706 a night on average, while the most expensive option on the market was found to be Mount Hotham, which charged an average \$823 nightly, up a significant 32% on 2019.

The week commencing 31 Jul was also identified as the most expensive week to ski domestically, with an average nightly cost of \$709 across all domestic ski destinations.

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VSC pines for biz

VISIT Sunshine Coast (VSC) has launched a juicy promotion in partnership with Sunshine Coast-based Pure Gold Pineapples.

Woolworths and Coles shoppers will receive \$100 towards their next Sunshine Coast holiday booked through My Queensland, and go in the running to win a \$10,000 My Queensland Sunshine Coast Holiday, when they buy a Pure Gold Pineapple before 24 Jun - **CLICK HERE** for details.

A falling Star?

THE Star Entertainment Group is “not suitable to hold a casino licence”, according to lawyers, who believe it is susceptible to criminal influence & exploitation.

The argument was heard at a public inquiry launched by the NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority, following revelations last year of alleged money laundering and links to organised crime and fraud at the Pymont casino (**TD** 28 Mar).

itravel in the driver's seat



THE ittravel 2022 ‘Building the Future’ conference brought ittravel agents from across Australia together over the weekend to learn about upcoming plans for the travel agency.

Agents heard from keynote speaker and RecruitHub co-founder Meg Salter, who talked about navigating the challenges brought on by the pandemic, before enjoying a fun afternoon at Hyper Karting Sydney.

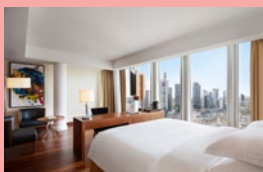
One of the attendees said, “Sat’s conference was full of inspiration and excitement, and it seemed

like normalcy had returned to our industry.”

Pictured ready to go full throttle at Hyper Karting Sydney, top row: Meg Salter; Geoff Currie, Mobile Travel Agent; David Ninham, Royal Caribbean; Maria Lamotta, ittravel Sutherland; Steve Labroski, ittravel MD; Megan Catterall, Mobile Travel Agent; Joanne Balasas, Mobile Travel Agent; bottom row - Stephanie Jefferys, Mobile Travel Agent; Emily Kadinski, ittravel Carlingford; Alexa Papoulias, Globus Family of Brands.

ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



JW Marriott has opened **JW Marriot Hotel Frankfurt**, its debut property in Frankfurt, Germany. The property comprises of 219 guestrooms and suites featuring floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the city skyline & River Main. Guests can enjoy

French cuisine at the first-floor restaurant, Max on One; sip on cocktails at the Ember Bar & Lounge; and use the fitness centre and spa. Additionally, the hotel produces its own honey from a bee colony housed on the rooftop.



Guests staying at **Fraser Suites Hanoi** can now dine and socialise at the property's new three-level venue, which overlooks the city and West Lake. The addition includes Teppanyaki Room and Omakase Bar, a contemporary restaurant on the 13th floor;

the Sky Lounge and an al fresco event space next to the swimming pool on the 14th floor; and KUMO, a rooftop cocktail party and private dinner venue on the 15th floor.



One&Only Cape Town has unveiled the results of its extensive renovation, which saw the South African-based property receive a refreshed design across its 133 rooms and suites, entrance lobby, and Vista Bar & Lounge, with new flooring, fittings and fixtures, as well as landscaping. The new design is inspired by the shapes, textures and colours of the Cape Town region, with rooms featuring works by local artists. The hotel is situated in the heart of Cape Town, on the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront mall.

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