



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, a photo page from **Atout France** plus full pages from:

- Tourism Australia
- Fiji Airways

New routes coming

QANTAS has applied for a licence to operate scheduled services from Brisbane & Sydney to Samoa and vice versa.

"We're really excited about the possibility of re-establishing regular passenger services between Australia and Samoa and we'll have more details to share once we've received all the necessary approvals from the Samoan Government," Qantas said in a statement this morning.

MEANWHILE Rex Airlines will commence flights between Melbourne and Devonport in Tasmania from Aug.

Sales Mgr wanted

FIJI Airways is on the hunt for someone to join its local team and manage sales and partnerships - see **page nine** for further details.

Tourism honours galore

YESTERDAY'S Queen's Birthday honours list included six prominent Australian tourism and travel identities, who were cited for their contributions to the industry over the years.

The Governor-General's list included an OAM (Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia) for Coral Expeditions founder Tony Briggs, cited for "service to the cruising tourism industry" - more details in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Qantas Chairman Leigh Clifford was named an AC (Companion in the General Division) for "eminent service to business in the aviation, arts and education sectors, to the community through charitable support and scholarships, and for philanthropic contributions".

Also honoured in the aviation space was Queensland Airports' Paul Donovan, who is also Chairman of Destination Gold Coast and a Director of Tourism & Events Qld, named an AM (Member in the General Division) for "significant service to the tourism sector in Queensland".

An AM also went to former long-time SeaLink Travel Group CEO Jeff Ellison, for "significant service to the tourism industry and to the community", while celebrity chef Matt Moran was also given an AM for his "significant service to the tourism and hospitality industries and to charitable organisations".

Kerry Watson, former Chair of Gold Coast-based Events Management Queensland and the Australian Tourism Export Council, received an AM for significant service to the tourism industry and to the major events sector, and Tasmania's Desmond Brown was named OAM for his service to tourism after a career devoted to promoting visitation to the state.

Bettridge aboard

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises President & CEO Ellen Bettridge has been revealed as a guest speaker for Cruise360 Australasia in Sydney this Aug. "Ellen has a brilliant ability to interpret industry trends and convey what matters most for her audience, so this will be a great opportunity for travel agents to learn and be inspired," CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz said.

Bettridge will tackle the topic of making the most of cruising's revival, where she will talk about growing opportunities available for travel agents through areas including the strength in cruise demand, new demographics, and the critical role of travel agents in a complex travel environment.

Buy tickets to the event **HERE**.

Aussie Specialists

REGISTER now to join Tourism Australia's Aussie Specialist Tour of the country.

A unique cultural experience will follow a short presentation at each gathering, with two events slated to take place soon in Melbourne and Canberra.

The Victorian event will be held on Fri 17 June at The Yarra Building from 9.30am to 12pm, while the ACT gathering will take place on 01 Jul at 9.30am to 12pm - see **page eight** for details.



Last day to WIN a Timor-Leste Coffee Pack! A daily prize for the first person with both answers correct. Give it a go!

Day 3 Questions:

1. How long is the flight time from Darwin to Dili?
2. What is the name of the island near Dili popular for snorkelling and diving?

TO WIN send your 2 answers by email using 'Timor-Leste Day 3' in the subject line to melanie@planetmarketing.com.au

Please join our Timor-Leste Travel Trade Facebook Group:
facebook.com/groups/timorlesteaustriataveltrade

For Trade enquiries, images and to receive our Timor-Leste Travel Trade newsletter, contact melanie@planetmarketing.com.au or call 0409 440 501.



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NCL Canary Islands

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) will offer year-round Europe sailings, with the reintroduction of Canary Island voyages for the first time in five years.

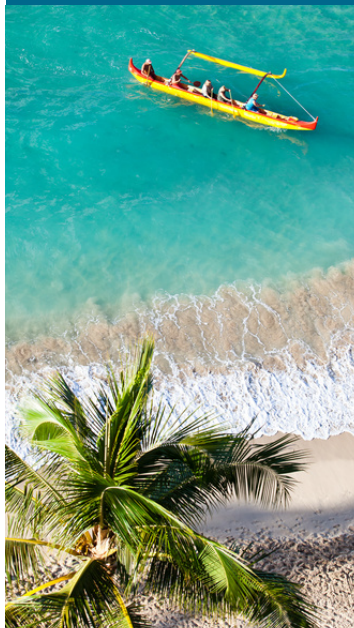
The six-month season begins 21 Nov, following a grand 22-day voyage from Miami to Lisbon aboard *Norwegian Sun*.

HAWAII TOURISM
OCEANIA

ALOHA DOWN UNDER IS BACK!

Register your interest in attending our 10th anniversary roadshow.

REGISTER NOW



VA announces Bali first

VIRGIN Australia has announced it will become the first Aussie carrier to offer direct flights between the Gold Coast and Bali, with services taking off for the first time on 29 Mar 2023.

Available to book from today, the flights linking the Gold Coast to one of Australia's most popular overseas destinations will operate daily, offering around 2,200 seats each week.

Virgin Australia Group CEO Jayne Hrdlicka said the launch of the new Bali route from Qld reflected the airline's growing presence on the Gold Coast.

"In May alone our Gold Coast bookings were up 55% compared to 2019, with bookings on our existing Bali flights up 48% for the same period and growing every week," she said.

"With the addition of the Gold Coast Airport terminal expansion and demand for Bali rising, the time is right to connect these two famous holiday destinations as well as the surf breaks, wellness activities and nightlife that comes with them," Hrdlicka added.

The news arrives as VA prepares to resume services to both Vanuatu and Samoa.

Free Necker night

RICHARD Branson's luxury Necker Island is offering a bonus free night for bookings made at least four nights for select periods this year.

Rates start from US\$5,150ppts - for more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Direct services from Brisbane to Port Vila will take off again on 10 Mar 2023, flying up to five flights a week, while services to Apia will commence from Sydney on 21 Mar 2023 up to three flights per week, as well as twice a week from Brisbane from 23 Mar 2023.

To celebrate the upcoming services, VA has launched its Set Your Sights Overseas sale, offering up to 30% discounts on 70,000 seats across the airline's short-haul International routes.

AFTA busy in May

THE latest industry snapshot from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) showed the body conducted 903 direct contact meetings with members in May, with most initiated to discuss ATAS renewals, new applications, invoicing and consumer enquiries.

The same document also showed that five members had voluntarily withdrawn from ATAS, while at the same time AFTA also secured seven newly accredited members during the period.

The group was also busy on the media front, conducting 18 mainstream interviews focusing on rebuilding the sector, political commitments and the skills/workforce shortage.

Just over 100 complaints were received for the month, with the primary reason for consternation being refunds, products & services, ticketing and misleading conduct.

Swiss Winter Magic

JOIN an industry update from Switzerland Tourism Director ANZ Livio Goetz on Wed at 1pm AEST to learn more about the country's Winter Magic Tour.

There will also be time to pose plenty of questions.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

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Wednesday 22 June 3.00pm (NZST)

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*For registration and eligibility, visit trade.northernterritory.com

Celestyal never Greeces to amaze



CELESTYAL Cruises recently treated members of the Australian travel trade to a family trip on a seven-night Idyllic Aegean sailing.

Cruising roundtrip from Athens, the voyage visited Thessaloniki, Kusadasi, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini, Milos, and more.

Attendees got to enjoy the full Celestyal experience, which included two shore excursions, unlimited classic drinks, as well as onboard dining services.

Celestyal Business Development Manager Mary Williams told

Travel Daily the aim of the family trip was to make sure it provided "Greek cultural essence and hospitality to every passenger".

Pictured ready for embarkation are TravelManagers' Vicki Hope, Helloworld's Katherine Cosgrave, Williams, Creative Cruising's Astrid Maier, Flight Centre's Ellen Guinness, The Travel Industry Hub's Richard Taylor, MTA's Clare Hardie, Clean Cruising's Russell Cameron, Our Vacations Centre's Rebecca Brown, MTA's Renee McLennan, and Sun island Tours' Olivia Trinchi.



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Travel Daily



US drops testing rules

IN A huge boost for the outbound travel market to the United States, COVID testing requirements for passengers entering the country have been scrapped (**TD** breaking news).

In welcoming the developments over the weekend, AFTA said the decision by the US Government removed "a massive brake" on the popular US leisure and business travel market.

"North America is our third largest and most important market in terms of outbound travel for both corporate and leisure," CEO Dean Long said.

"The fact...you can get on a flight to the United States without having to go through the rigmarole of a negative

coronavirus test will unleash significant pent-up demand from Australians visiting the US for fun and for business," he added.

Long also said the dropping of tests to the US would be a major boon for travel agents, pointing out that more than 70% of international travel is booked by Australians through advisors.

The decision is also expected to increase volumes of American tourists to Australia, as many US residents previously feared being left stranded overseas because of the stringent testing policy.

The measure has been in place since early 2021, with the removal subject to a 90-day review which could see testing return if new variants arise.



Destination NSW

PRODUCT MANAGER - CRUISE, RAIL, ROAD & AIR

- Join Destination NSW and be part of delivering the NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030
- Equivalent Grade 9/10 with a base commencing salary of \$113,343
- Ongoing roles based in Sydney

About The Role

Product Manager - Cruise, Rail, Road & Air is responsible for developing and delivering growth initiatives for the Cruise, Rail, Road & Air category that are informed by data and consumer insight, and driving continuous improvement by supporting, coaching and inspiring stakeholders throughout NSW. The Product Manager will be the Destination NSW subject matter expert on the category - which includes cruise shore excursions, rail and air journeys, and road trip experiences - and develop and deliver evidence-based programs designed to boost the volume, quality and distribution of visitor experiences in the category and to enhance stakeholder capability throughout NSW in alignment with the Visitor Economy Strategy 2030. The Product Manager role involves complex internal and external stakeholder management to maximise opportunities for representation and inclusion of cruise, rail, road and air and related visitor experiences, across a range of Destination NSW and stakeholder programs and activities.

How to Apply

To apply and view the full job description for each position please go to the [iworkforNSW](#) website

- [Product Manager - Cruise, Rail, Road & Air](#)

Should you require any additional information please contact: people@dnsnsw.com.au

Closing date: Monday 20th June 2022 [9.59am]



Window Seat

AN AMERICAN tourist in Rome has been banned from the city's Spanish Steps for life after she and a friend caused €25,000 worth of damage to the iconic landmark with a scooter.

The desecration happened when the 28-year-old (yes, we agree she needs to grow up), threw the scooter down the steps after becoming too tired to carry it down the whole way.

Luckily the whole incident was captured on security camera and the woman was held to account for her foolish actions, which chipped and scratched several steps as a result.

The Italian attraction is one of the most guarded historical sites in the city, and in 2018, police even prohibited people from sitting on the stairs to protect them from damage.

Choice acquires Radisson

CHOICE Hotels International has entered into a definitive agreement to purchase the franchise business, operations and intellectual property of Radisson Hotel Group Americas for approximately US\$675 million.

The acquisition represents the addition of 624 hotels with over 68,000 rooms for Choice in the upscale and upper-midscale segments, with the footprint of new properties focused in the West Coast and Midwest of the United States.

Choice Hotels CEO Patrick Pacious said the purchase would bring together "two highly complementary businesses", that would enhance its guest offerings and extend its reach into higher revenue geographic markets.

"Our existing and new hotel owners will benefit from the improved business delivery capabilities of the combined companies, including our

award-winning loyalty program, proprietary tools and emerging technologies that will enable them to capture more business, lower their hotel operating costs, reach new customers and respond to evolving industry trends," Pacious said.

Brands that sit within the Radisson Hotel Group Americas portfolio include: Radisson Collection, Radisson Blu, Radisson, Radisson RED, Radisson Individuals, Radisson Inn & Suites, Park Plaza, Park Inn by Radisson, and Country Inn & Suites by Radisson.

Homes & Villas debut

HOMES & Villas by Marriott International has launched in the Australia and New Zealand markets, offering travellers 350 luxury homes on its platform in destinations including Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Auckland.

Just in the nicko time

AN EXOTIC voyage with nicko cruises will take adventurous spirits on a journey to remote and beautiful places between the Philippines and Australia in 2024.

The 23-night stay-and-cruise package from Cruise Traveller adds a complimentary pre-sailing stay in Manila for earlybird bookings made before the end of Oct.

Also included for early bookers are onboard drinks - call Cruise Traveller on 1800 507 777.

Learn and fly in Jun

WIN return tickets to either Fiji or Samoa with Fiji Airways by attending the Solomon Islands, Tahiti, & Norfolk Island's upcoming live webinars.

Two sessions will be held on 21 Jun at 9am and 12pm AEST, with three, 10-minute updates and a live Q&A to take place.

For more information and to register, [CLICK HERE](#).



Travel is back and so is Stuba! To celebrate, we're giving you the chance to win one of 25 prizes! All you need to do to be in with a chance of winning great prizes including AirPods Pros, Sonos Roam, Apple Watch 7 and shopping vouchers is make a booking between 23 May and 26 June.

So, start booking Stuba today - not only could you win some great prizes, but we also think you'll like what you see! Full terms and conditions available at winbig.stuba.com.

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OR EMAIL START@STUBA.COM

HERE'S 5 GREAT REASONS TO BOOK STUBA:



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EVERY BOOKING RECEIVES A HOTEL CONFIRMATION NUMBER DIRECTLY FROM THE HOTEL SO THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THE BOOKING EXISTS

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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

WA Indigenous win

ABORIGINAL tourism operators in North West Australia are set for a win, with two new initiatives delivered on the Dampier Peninsula through the Jina Western Australian Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2021-2025.

The sixth Camping With Custodians campground officially opened at Djarindjin on Fri, where visitors will be able to learn about local Aboriginal culture and customs by staying on Bardi Country with the indigenous community's traditional owners.

Almost half-a-million dollars in project funding has also been awarded to eight Aboriginal tourism operators on the Dampier through the Peninsula's Tourism Infrastructure and Capacity Building Fund.

Operators will receive grants of between \$2,500 and \$156,000 each, to improve business capacity and visitor experiences.

Morocco rocks Australia



HICHAM Mhammedi Alaoui from Experience Morocco visited Australia recently in a bid to let the local industry know the north African country is now open.

Represented in Australia by The Unique Tourism Collection, Morocco is on a marketing push as tourists finally return to its

country after a lengthy delay, with the nation's tourism office recently teaming up with national carrier Royal Air Maroc for a travel campaign.

Alaoui is **pictured centre** with Travel Associates Hawthorne's Harry Alabaster and Jessica Taylor in Queensland.

Choices not too clear

MOVES by travel brands to bolster their carbon credentials could see them reap a major sales benefit, according to a new study by CHOICE.

The group's latest study of 1,000 people between Mar and Apr found that 65% of Aussie consumers are now considering their carbon footprint before making purchases.

However travel businesses may face a battle to convince Aussies that their sustainability claims are bona fide, with almost four in 10 people indicating they're uncertain about whether to trust carbon neutral claims, while 26% said they were not very likely or unlikely to trust the information.

Respondents also recalled seeing carbon neutral claims or climate change policy information from airlines above any other travel vertical, just behind the supermarket industry.

Read the full report **HERE**.

GET READY TO MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE

Access free, customisable marketing materials and resources to help you make your clients' New Zealand holiday dreams come true.

Designed with travel sellers in mind, the 100% Pure New Zealand Marketing Hub makes it easier than ever to sell New Zealand holidays. Find themed videos, digital banners, newsletters, social posts and more – all customisable with your branding. Registration is free and only takes a few minutes.

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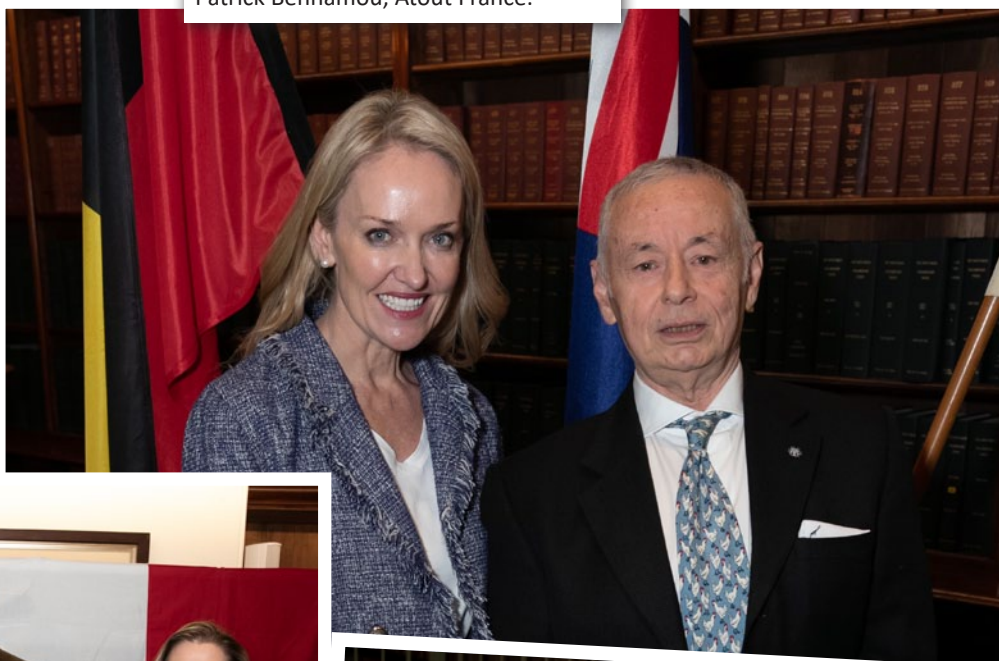
Tour de Force by Atout France and Sofitel at NSW Parliament

WITH 4 million viewers on SBS, the Tour de France will depart soon, marking a perfect occasion for Atout France and Sofitel to organise a reception, hosted at the NSW Parliament.

Over 70 guests including Australian leaders and Minister for Metropolitan Roads Natalie Ward, cycling personalities such as Stuart O'Grady, gathered at an intimate reception with several MPs... all friends of France.

It was a perfect occasion for the French Government to recognise the contribution of Michael Tomalaris, Tour de France TV commentator for over 26 years. For his efforts, he was awarded The National Order of Merit.

THE Hon. Natalie Ward MLC with Patrick Benhamou, Atout France.



FRENCH Consul-General, Anne Boillon with Graham Wilson, Accor, & Sarah Derry, Accor.



FRENCH Ambassador Jean-Pierre Thebault, and Michael Tomalaris, TV Commentator.



TOUR de France Champion, Stuart O'Grady with Anthony Laver, Scenic.

SOPHIE Almin Atout France, The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC, Sarah Durham, Parliament of New South Wales, and Clélie Collas, Atout France.



ORDRE National du Mérite, the National Order of Merit.



JACQUI Walshe of The Walshe Group, and Michael Issenberg, Tourism Australia.

MSC adds *Bellissima*

MSC Cruises has added *MSC Bellissima* to its Mediterranean northern summer program.

Starting 09 Jul, *Bellissima* will offer seven-night sailings from Valencia, Barcelona, Genoa, Livorno, and Naples.

The itinerary is designed with longer stays in port to enable guests to visit the destinations.

MSC will now offer a record-breaking 15 ships in the Mediterranean this year, with Chief Executive Officer Gianni Onorato reporting the cruise line is earning high ratings from both recurring and new guests.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.691

THE Australian dollar was smashed overnight, as American inflation fears hit financial markets.

The Aussie was sold sharply, falling 1.8% against the USD, and was lower in most other markets, down 1.6% against the yen, and 0.8% against the Euro.

Thu morning's American Federal Reserve decision remains this week's major financial markets event.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.691
UK	£0.570
NZ	\$1.098
Euro	€0.664
Japan	¥93.09
Thailand	฿24.03
China	¥4.639
South Africa	11.10
Canada	\$0.888
Crude oil	US\$122.3

PER flies to Routes Asia 2022



PERTH Airport's Aviation Business Development team attended the Routes Asia Conference in Da Nang in Vietnam last week.

Running from 06-08 Jun, the team spent its time at the conference meeting its airline partners, discussing future growth strategies & current challenges, as well as exploring the host destination.

"This is an important event for airports and airlines enabling us to reconnect in-person

and rebuild air services and connectivity for the long-term benefit," a spokesperson for the airport said.

Pictured are Senior Market Research Analyst Andre Mammanna, Senior Vice President Aviation Business Development Stephanie Juszkiwicz, and Vice President Aviation Business Development Pan Pan.

Singing a new Song

PANDAW will launch a new build, *Song Hong*, next year.

Boasting 10 enlarged staterooms, the ship will join *Angkor* on her routing through North Vietnam's Red and Black River network from Ha Long Bay to the mountains.

Pandaw said *Angkor's* popularity, which often sees it book out months in advance, necessitates the need for a second ship on this route.

Tassie hotels rebound

STRONG hotel occupancy rates in Tasmania demonstrate the resilience and determination of the state's world-class accommodation providers, according to Tas Minister for Hospitality & Events Nic Street.

The *Hotel Occupancy Report* for Apr shows that 81.57% of available rooms across Tasmania were filled - smashing the month's strongest-ever figure.

The occupancy figures for the quarter are also up compared to last year, which is a strong signal of confidence in the industry, Street said.

KE back to Vegas

KOREAN Air is resuming non-stop flights from Seoul to Las Vegas, Nevada, with a thrice-weekly Airbus A330-200 service commencing from 10 Jul.

KE is also resuming services to Milan and Vienna on 01 Jul.

COMING EVENTS

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

Wed 15 Jun - Switzerland Tourism "Winter Magic Tour" at 1pm AEST featuring Livio Goetz and Lisa Maroun - to register [CLICK HERE](#).

Wed 22 Jun - Amadeus - details coming soon

Thu 28 Jun - Livn Group - details coming soon

RECENT EVENTS

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

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

NCL "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

EXPLORE INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES

You're Invited!

Our Aussie Specialist Trainer is going on tour! Please join us for an immersive event near you.

VICTORIA

When : Friday, 17 June, 9.30AM - 12.00PM

Where : Koorie Heritage Trust, The Yarra Building, Federation Square,
Flinders Street & Swanston Street, Melbourne, VIC

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

When : Friday, 1 July. 9.30AM - 12.00PM

Where : National Gallery of Australia, Parkes Place East, Parkes, ACT

A unique cultural experience will follow a short presentation at each event. Further dates and locations around Australia will follow.

REGISTER VIA THE LEARNING CATALOGUE ON AUSSIESPECIALIST.COM

MANAGER SALES & PARTNERSHIPS

Fiji Airways is looking to recruit an experienced and passionate individual who will support the RGM Australia & Pacific Islands in the day to day management of activities in Australia and achieving Point of Sale Revenue objectives by driving Australia Sales.

The successful incumbent will also make recommendations to strategic plans and reviews; prepare and lead market and tactical sales plans that will ensure quality and customer service standards, resolve problems, complete audits, identify trends and determine sale improvements and implement changes where necessary.

Key Responsibilities

- Manages the Australia sales team, develops business plans, oversees sales, revenue, and expense controls, meets agreed-upon targets, and promotes the company's presence at all times.
- Supervise and mentor the NSW, QLD, and VIC Business Development Managers and help identify new customer possibilities and maintain relationships with key customers.
- Manage the sales administration function, operational performance reporting, and advising RGMAU & PI on how to maximize business partnerships and create an environment where customer service may thrive.
- Make pricing recommendations and support them to increase sales activity on underperforming routes.
- Set sales goals for individual sales reps and sales teams as a whole and support RGMAU & PI in forecasting annual cost budgets.
- Develop regional trade objectives, priorities, strategies and resource requirements for yearly and 3-year Strategic Plan.
- Assist with the design and implementation of a cost effective marketing mix that align with trade activities.
- Manage trade partnerships within Australia and coordinate relevant industry engagement activities including:
 - Trade partner marketing agreements and engagement strategies including campaign benchmarks and measurement matrix;
 - Monitoring of marketing activities to ensure ROI (return on investment);
- Report to RGMAU & PI on a regular basis and evaluate the effectiveness of approved commercial partnership activities by providing market information, trends, competitor activities and more.
- Regularly interact with major market players, major national and local travel associations, airlines, wholesalers, and other online travel agencies.

Qualifications, Skills & Experience

- Degree in Sales/Marketing/Business Studies or a relevant field.
- Competency in MS Office Suite applications.
- Knowledge of the market trends in Australia including niche markets.
- Demonstrated capacity to liaise with industry, to implement identified marketing and development initiatives.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and implement project plans, set goals and analyze outcomes.
- Demonstrated negotiation and communication skills and manage conflicting priorities.
- Self-starter with initiative, passion and enthusiasm inquisitive mind and a 'go getter' personality.
- Sound management and leadership skills with the ability to multi-task and strong attention to detail.
- High level of research and analytical skills and ability to understand and analyze market trends.
- Financial analysis and budgeting skills.
- Excellent organizational, interpersonal, presentation skills with the ability to write accurate activity reports.
- At least 5 years' experience in Sales/Marketing field is required and 2 years' experience in Supervising/Managing teams.
- Establish strong rapport, networks and relationships with customers and stakeholders.
- Maintains a calm disposition and positive outlook particularly when working under pressure.
- Able to work independently and in a team environment to deliver exceptional and timely service.
- Strong background knowledge of the Tourism and Airline industry.
- Ability to communicate information and ideas through a range of media to various audiences, internally and externally.
- The ability to influence others, to liaise with a wide range of people at all levels and across different cultures and to act with credibility, tact and diplomacy.

If you are interested in this opportunity, visit www.fijiairways.com/our-careers. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the role, please email vacancy@fijiairways.com.

Applications close on **Sunday, 19th June 2022.**