

Atherton recruits

EXECUTIVE search agency Tourism Talent has announced the appointment of industry veteran Dave Atherton as its new Senior Associate - SA & NT.

Atherton's career spans over 30 years in firms such as Thomas Cook and Journey Beyond - more appointments on **page eight**.



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Be prepared for cuts: QF

QANTAS Executive Manager of Global Sales and Distribution, Igor Kwiatkowski, yesterday warned travel agents to ensure they are "operationally prepared" for the 01 Jul change to base commission, which is being slashed from 5% to just 1%.

An industry update from QF reminded the airline's "industry partners" that all bookings must be ticketed on or before 30 Jun 2022 to be eligible for the current commission of 5%, with the 1% rate applying to anything ticketed on or after 01 Jul, including for any additional collection on reissued tickets.

"This is the first time Qantas has adjusted commission on international fares in more than 15 years, and to assist you with this transition, we have provided the industry with more than 12 months to prepare for the commission change," Kwiatkowski noted, with the move first flagged in May last year (**TD** 20 May 21).

An FAQ document on the qantasagencyconnect.com website notes that the change applies to all QF International published fares (excluding trans-Tasman) and Qantas Business Rewards International fares ticketed in Australia.

There's no change to QF fares that are non-commissionable, including Australian domestic flights, trans-Tasman services, international fares with travel originating outside Australia and most private fares.

Qantas will honour the 5% commission earned on existing international bookings held in credit and reissued after 01 Jul, regardless of the number of re-issues.

The carrier will continue to audit for over-collection of BSP commission, and will raise ADMs to recall commission that is no longer eligible to be earned.

Kwiatkowski concluded his email saying "we continue to recognise the unique contribution our trade partners make, and the bespoke and important service you offer our mutual customers".

MEANWHILE a number of **Travel Daily** readers have written to us in response to the Qantas email, including Ian Mollison from Helloworld Travel Balwyn North, who has penned an open letter to Kwiatkowski published on **page 5**.

NZ drops testing

NEW Zealand authorities have announced they will no longer require a negative COVID-19 test for arrivals into the country.

The change is effective from next Tue 21 Jun, and other easings will allow unvaccinated travellers to enter NZ without quarantining.

The moves come in the lead-up to the opening weekend of the Kiwi ski season, with New Zealand Tourism Minister Stuart Nash saying travel will now be much easier and cheaper for international visitors.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of news including **Business Events News** plus a full page from **Tourism Australia**.

Tas cruise return

TASMANIA has joined the rest of the country in confirming that passenger cruise ships will once again be able to visit during the upcoming summer cruise season.

State Premier Jeremy Rockliff yesterday announced the move which will see vessels able to return from Oct this year.

Cruise Lines International Association MD Joel Katz hailed the reopening, noting that prior to the pandemic cruise tourism had been worth up to \$100 million annually to the island state's economy, supporting hundreds of jobs and businesses.

More of the latest cruise news in today's **Cruise Weekly**.

Qantas unmasked

MASK mandates may be lifted on some Qantas international flights in alignment with the rules at each destination, according to an update from the carrier welcoming the lifting of mask rules at Australian airports effective from Sat (**TD** yesterday).

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee said mask use in airport terminals was "no longer proportionate," but still requires masks on all domestic and international inbound flights.

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NORTHERN TERRITORY

Thursday 16th June 2022

Sounds on Amadeus

NEW Zealand carrier Sounds Air is making its content available globally through the Amadeus Travel Platform, under a new partnership between the tech giant and Takeflite providing “enhanced global distribution options to regional airlines”.

Blenheim-based Sounds Air is hosted on the Takeflite Solutions passenger service system, with the Amadeus pact seeing end-to-end integration of Sounds’ content to bring back-office benefits for sellers.

Sounds Air has been operating for 34 years and now provides scheduled services between Blenheim, Christchurch, Nelson, Paraparaumu, Picton, Taupo, Wanaka, Wellington & Westport.

The Takeflite/Amadeus move will facilitate Sounds Air bookings through Amadeus’ global network of retail travel agents, TMCs, corporations, tour operators, online travel agents and metasearch players.

Eclipse II takes shape

SCENIC Group has released a new timelapse video showcasing the construction of its *Scenic Eclipse II*, which will float out of the Rijeka shipyard in Croatia later this month.

The vessel is being built by Scenic subsidiary MKM Yachts, and after fitting out is scheduled to make her maiden sailing from Lisbon, Portugal in Apr 2023.

Based on the original *Scenic Eclipse* design, enhancements based on feedback from guests and crew include a “next generation” *Scenic Neptune II* submarine, new experiences in the Senses Spa, and a larger pool, outdoor area and Panorama Bar on Deck 10.

Scenic Group GM Sales & Marketing Australasia, Anthony Laver, said the addition of *Scenic Eclipse II* continued the firm’s commitment to continuous innovation and bringing once-in-a-lifetime exploration to guests.

CLICK HERE to view the video.



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NZ topped Apr arrivals

THE reopening of the trans-Tasman border saw a strong jump in Kiwi travel to Australia, with visitors from New Zealand comprising 18% of all arrivals during the month of Apr.

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures showed a continuing improvement in both inbound and outbound travel, but the number of arriving trips to Australia during Apr was still 66.4% lower than pre-COVID figures in Apr 2019.

A total of 235,460 short-term trips to Australia were recorded - a year-on-year increase of about 900%, with just 22,000 visitors entering the country in Apr 2021.

42,500 Kiwis crossed the ditch, while 31,890 people from the UK arrived in Australia putting Britain in second spot, followed by 26,570 visitors from India.

In terms of outbound travel there were 282,632 resident departures during the month,

- 69.2% lower than before the pandemic but again a huge uplift on the figure a year ago when just 17,000 Aussies left the country.

New Zealand was the most popular destination country with 34,380 trips, followed closely by the USA with 32,320 and then India with 32,010 Aussie visitors.

Fiji was in fourth spot with 26,760 Australian tourists, then the UK (21,750), Singapore (16,490), Thailand (13,920), Indonesia (11,240), the Philippines (7,530) and Vietnam (5,700).

MEANWHILE the ABS has reissued its Overseas Arrivals and Departures Data from Jul 2021 to Feb 2022 due to a “data quality issue which affected the state and territory of stay/residence data”.

Overall, during 2021 there were just 300,840 Australian departures, the lowest calendar year on record, with ‘visiting friends/relatives’ cited as the main reason for travel.

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A ton of industry experience!



YESTERDAY Flight Centre MD Graham Turner swapped notes with Goldman Travel's Tom Goldman, at a special gathering at Sydney's Shangri-La Hotel high above the harbour to celebrate the formation of the new Link Travel Group (**TD** 05 May).

The invitation-only organisation is a joint venture between Flight Centre, the Spencer Group of Companies and Goldman Travel Corporation, with other attendees including Penny Spencer, David Goldman, Flight Centre Head of Premium Leisure Dani Galloway and Link Travel Group GM Scott Darlow.

Tom Goldman started his industry career in 1962, while Skroo has been in travel since 1973, meaning the pair's collective experience in the sector spans more than a century.

While still in its infancy, Link Travel Group represents the

coming together of industry leaders forging a new future for the independent agency sector, Goldman told **Travel Daily**.

Spencer confirmed that Link was currently in discussions with a number of prospective members, while Darlow said the alliance with Flight Centre's rich suite of product and technology was proving to be compelling for the agencies being invited to join the premium and business travel-focused group.

Pictured below are, from left: Scott Darlow, Link Travel Group; Danielle Galloway, Flight Centre Travel Group; Penny Spencer, Spencer Group; Philippe Kronberg, Shangri-La Hotel GM; David Goldman, Goldman Travel; Tom Goldman, Goldman Travel; Graham Turner, Flight Centre MD; Sue Gaddes, Shangri-La Global Sales; and Robert Miletic, Shangri-La Sydney DOSM.



Qld hits a new beat

THE Queensland Government is investing \$20 million over the next three years to fulfil its vision of turning the state into the music capital of Australian tourism.

With the new funding the state will look to deliver events in 16 communities across four regions starting in May 2023, with desires on attracting major international music acts to put the spotlight on various Qld destinations.

Locations set to host a Queensland Music Trails event scheduled next year include Toowoomba in the outback, Yarrabah in Far North Qld, Mackay in the Great Barrier Reef region, and the Sunshine Coast in South East Queensland.

The Qld Government said the arts remain a key tourism driver.

Hurti doubles up

HURTIGRUTEN Norway has launched two premium journeys for next year under its Norwegian Coastal Express - the Svalbard Express and North Cape Express.

The itineraries will offer an elevated addition to the existing Coastal Express product, and will mark the division's biggest product evolution in its 130-year history.

Guests will enjoy a new iconic experience along the Norwegian coast on board the fully refurbished *Trollfjord* while in Svalbard, where travellers will delight in one of the world's northernmost permanently populated areas.

The two new itineraries are upgraded extensions to the traditional Coastal Express.



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How to Apply

To apply and view the full job description for each position please go to the [iworkforNSW](https://www.workforNSW.gov.au) 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]



Flight Centre offers skin in the game

FLIGHT Centre's new multi-million dollar staff retention initiative (**TD** breaking news) will reward employees who stay with the company until the end of 2023, repeating a similar offer for 2022 launched by the company 12 months ago (**TD** 25 Jun 2021).

About 10,000 sales and support staff across the globe will benefit from the new Global Retention Rights (GRR) plan, which offers them a one-off grant of share rights worth about \$3,750.

The rights will be issued in Aug this year and vest when the company releases its Dec 2023 half-yearly results in early 2024.

"GRR participants who meet the continuous employment condition through to 31 Dec 2023 will then be able to convert their rights to ordinary FLT shares," the company confirmed.

MD Graham Turner said the move was a targeted response to the impact of COVID-19 on the overall Flight Centre business.

"The GRR program is a material investment in the people who are integral to both our recovery and our future success, and we believe it is contributing to the healthy overall retention rates we are seeing," he said.

The extension of the program for another year encourages people to continue their careers with FLT as the recovery takes off, and also provides a "secondary mechanism to alleviate wage pressures globally," Turner added.

Travel, tourism training update

SKILLSIQ has released a range of new training package products updating existing modules to help meet the current and future needs of industry.

The updated Tourism, Travel and Hospitality Training Package (Release 2.0) has now been published on the national register, including qualifications, skill sets and units of competency for the events, travel, tourism and hospitality sectors.

"While employers continue to navigate their operations through the changing economic environment, it has never been more critical than at present to ensure employers are supported with a skilled workforce that can support their evolving operations and recovery," SkillsIQ said.

The revised travel training aims to address comments from industry that the "skills and

knowledge-base of applicants and entrants to the sector are lacking in key areas, including general product and service content," with the restructure addressing a need for stronger pathways for travel sector skills, including for "2IC" workers who are an integral part of business succession planning.

Modules on offer include skill sets in airfare construction, Australian and international travel destinations and travel products, business management, event coordination, product development and sales for international visitor markets, and travel sales & customer service.

For more information see the packages at training.gov.au.

Timor-Leste winners

FAIRTRADE Timor-Leste coffee is now winging its way to several Aussie travel advisors who took part in the destination's recent competition which featured in **Travel Daily**.

The first to get the questions correct each day were David Beneke from RAA Travel SA; Andrew Blakey from Orbit World Travel Qld; and Lisa Dunn from Andys World Travel NSW.

Brand USA webinar

BRAND USA will host an agent webinar on Wed 29 Jun at 10am AEST focusing on America's rail offerings such as Amtrak and Rocky Mountaineer - [CLICK HERE](#).



Window Seat

SUPPLY chain issues seem to be impacting all parts of the economy - and in areas that you probably wouldn't expect.

While airlines are under pressure as they rebuild their workforces, one particular pain point is apparently uniforms for flight attendants, which are in short supply globally, according to Air Canada's VP International Sales, Virgilio Russi.

There are special requirements for the clothes worn by crew, which must comply with a range of specifications such as safety and fire retardance, meaning it's not possible to simply grab them off the rack.

It's also been suggested that while many carriers are bringing previous staff back into the workforce after standing them down during the pandemic, there's a possibility their uniforms don't fit so well any more after putting on all those additional COVID-19 kilos.



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Thursday 16th June 2022

Dear Igor, thanks for nothing

OPINION

Ian Mollison is MD of Helloworld Travel Balwyn North in Vic, an industry veteran of 45-plus years.

He's penned this open letter to Qantas

Executive Manager of Global Sales & Distribution, Igor Kwiatkowski, in response to the carrier's reminder yesterday about the pending 01 Jul commission cuts (see p1).

Got an opinion to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to feedback@traveldaily.com.au.



THANK you Igor.

What used to be our mutual customers are now all yours – good luck.

For over two years we have provided a service to “our”

customers which you have not been able to match in any way whatsoever.

All of the hours over the past two years that we have dedicated to problem solving on your behalf have been done with no remuneration at all.

Now that you are up and flying again you reward us with an 80% pay cut, what an insult!

I am relieved that I will not have to put up with the flight cancellations and the schedule changes that will now become your problem.

If you think that your systems and staffing are stretched now you don't know what will hit you as our clients are directed to deal with you.

Take the latest example: clients confirmed from Honolulu to Melbourne via Sydney on 30 Dec. Qantas has changed the

departure time from Honolulu by two hours so that it is too late for a connecting flight to Melbourne.

The end result is that [the clients] are stuck in Sydney for the night, which happens to be New Year's Eve!

Our issue is what happens now – find and pay for a night in Sydney on New Year's Eve.

I look forward to the day that every person affected by situations like this have to be dealt with by Qantas, not your long-standing agents.

If we were booking these flights after 01 Jul, our remuneration would be \$17.24 – and we would still be the ones sorting out your problems.

To employ a consultant with a cost of seat at \$90k per year, (not that we would be able to find one) based on an average of 30% of ticket value being taxes the consultant would have to write \$12m worth of tickets to cover their cost of seat.

I have been in the travel industry, actively selling Qantas, since 1976, and up until

now have loved every day of my involvement in this wonderful industry but my very wise late father always said to me “son, if you go to work and don't make any money – stay home”.

My clients have always known that they can call me any time of the day or night and I will assist them.

What a shame Qantas cannot offer the same service.

You have assisted my decision to leave the industry, which is the only thing that I can thank you for.

“Now that you are up and flying again you reward us with an 80% pay cut, what an insult!”

CATO AGM elects new Vice-Chair



LISA Pagotto from Crooked Compass was last night elected as the Vice-Chair of the Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO), during the organisation's annual general meeting in Sydney.

Six out of ten board positions were open for election this year including the Vice-Chair role, with Pagotto now taking the position for a two-year term replacing former Vice-Chair Liz Anderson from Sundowners Overland, who remains on the CATO Board.

Other open board positions were filled by Brad McDonnell from Entire Travel Group; Sno'n'Ski Holidays' David Walker; and Sean Martin of G Adventures.

They join incumbents who are halfway through their two-year term including Chairman Dennis Bunnik (pictured inset with Pagotto); Julie King from Julie King & Associates; Brett Mitchell of Intrepid Group; and James O'Donnell from The Travel Corporation.

During the meeting CATO MD Brett Jardine provided an overview of activity over the last 12 months, including a priority on advocacy for the land-supply sector as well as education to support the rebuild and recovery of the industry.

“The ongoing collaborative efforts with AFTA and ATEC have



played a major role in securing the third round of government funding from the Consumer Travel Support Program,”

Jardine claimed, adding that CATO membership numbers had recently exceeded 200.

Bunnik told members the organisation was committed to emerge from the pandemic in a strong position.

“I look forward to working in the year ahead with the newly appointed Board, as we emerge from the global pandemic with continued challenges, to ensure we provide much needed support to our members and collaborate to build a more sustainable industry,” he added.

Members also heard from David Walker, Chair of CATO offshoot Student Educational Travel Organisation (SETO), on how the educational travel sector is rebounding from COVID-19.

AirAsia X returns

MALAYSIAN low-cost long-haul carrier AirAsia X is returning to the skies, connecting a range of destinations to its Kuala Lumpur hub including Sydney, Delhi, Seoul, Osaka, Sapporo, Tokyo, Istanbul, Dubai and London – as well as Honolulu via Osaka.

CEO Benyamin Ismail has also flagged the upcoming addition of flights to Melbourne and Perth, as well as Auckland via Australia.

“We are back, better and stronger than ever,” he said.

“We have spent the downtime in flying reviewing every aspect of the operation to deliver even greater value and choice for medium and long-haul travel.”

Bloomin' good film

TOURISM Ireland is paying tribute to Irish author James Joyce as part of the annual Bloomsday celebrations today.

It's the centenary year of his seminal novel *Ulysses*, with Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs collaborating with Ireland's global network of embassies and consulates to create a new short film called *Hold to the Now*.

Filmed across five continents, the movie is complemented by a full range of Bloomsday activities – see traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Domestic spend on the rise

DOMESTIC travel spending on accommodation, food and shopping were all up on pre-pandemic levels for Mar 2022, the latest figures from Tourism Research Australia have showed.

Total spend for the month came in at \$6.8 billion, an improvement of 6% on 2019, with the biggest jump coming from travellers to the Sunshine State, which increased by 25% on pre-COVID.

Further spending gains were also made by NSW, which saw a \$195 million increase for Mar 2022, up 11% on 2019.

Australia's regional areas were the major beneficiaries of the spending increase, faring a lot better than capital cities when it came to travellers forking out money from their wallets, accounting for a 22% rise for Mar.

Conversely, capital cities suffered a 10% fall in traveller spend for Mar 2022 when contrasted with Mar 2019.

Meanwhile Western Australia, the NT, Tasmania and the ACT were also disappointing when it

came to spend, all failing to reach pre-pandemic levels.

While there were some green shoots for domestic spend, the same could not be said for the total number of overnight trips taken in Mar, which were still 17% shy of 2019 volumes, recording 8.3 million total trips.

However the Mar trip numbers did manage to gain 1.2 million trips on the previous month of Feb, which suffered a significant dip in trips compared to Jan.

The total number of nights spent on domestic trips for Mar was 27.7 million, still down almost 10% on the same period in 2019.

However interstate trips continued to improve, with 2.5 million interstate overnight trips taken, up 16% on the 2.2 million trips recorded in Mar 2021.

New Murray reality

THE Metaverse has arrived in the Murray region, with Murray Regional Tourism announcing a new augmented reality filter for visitors which allows them to experience the NSW/Victoria border via Instagram & Facebook.

The newly developed filter guides users on a journey through the Murray via four questions, with each successful answer revealing a new landscape background which can be shared along with a photo of themselves.

CEO of Murray Regional Tourism Mark Francis said the filter would be a "great avenue" for marketing experiences on offer in the region to younger demographics.

"We're the first to test this new marketing tool in our region, and with plenty of great hero experiences we can recommend to users, I believe that a visit to The Murray is going to be in the forefront of many minds when they book their next holiday," Francis said.

Consumers can use the filter on the @visitthemurray Instagram profile on the Insta AR hub.

Coastal resort inks Indigenous deal



NRMA Ocean Beach Holiday Resort at Umina Beach has partnered with the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council, which will see the first nations community work together with the property to offer indigenous tourism and cultural experiences.

The Memorandum of Understanding, which is effective until the end of 2025, will see Aboriginal cultural education & tourism, and employment &

cultural capability increase at Ocean Beach Holiday Park.

Essential to the MOU is a commitment on behalf of both NRMA and Darkinjung to work in genuine partnership to create a cultural landscape and a series of events that will benefit both.

The MOU is the first to ever be signed between the NRMA and a local Aboriginal council, with Ocean Beach the perfect location for the ground-breaking first, with the Central Coast having one of Australia's highest concentrations of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

Pictured celebrating the partnership are NRMA Parks & Resorts General Manager Janelle Boyd and Chief Executive Officer Paul Davies, Darkinjung Chair Barry Duncan, NRMA Indigenous Engagement Manager Di Ellis and Darkinjung CEO Brendan Moyle.

Samoa scores Luai

WITH travel to Samoa fending its way closer to resumption on 01 Aug, the Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) has kicked the momentum across to Penrith Panthers star and proud Samoan Jarome Luai to get Aussies excited about booking a trip to the tropical destination.

STA has released a new video starring the NRL star, showcasing all of the tasty food, luxury accommodation and nature adventures travellers can enjoy while visiting the country.

Watch the new campaign **HERE**.

Yellowstone floods

POPULAR American tourist attraction, the Yellowstone National Park, is currently experiencing massive flooding in many parts of the reserve.

Visitors have been forced to evacuate from several parts of the park as floodwaters wash out multiple roads and bridges, fuelled by sustained heavy rain and melting snow.

At this stage there are no reports of injuries, although many stranded campers had to be rescued in recent days as they were cut off from exit routes.

CX traffic numbers slowly recovering

CATHAY Pacific's traffic figures for May have started to reflect the positive impact of changes to Hong Kong's travel restrictions and quarantine requirements.

CX carried a total of 57,982 passengers last month, an increase of 141.5% compared to the same time last year, but still a 98% decrease compared to the pre-pandemic level in May 2019.

The month's revenue passenger kilometres also increased 164.4% year-on-year, still down 97.1% when compared to the pre-pandemic period.

Passenger load factor increased by 33.7 percentage points to 60.5%, while capacity increased by 16.8% year-on-year - down 96% compared with May 2019 levels.



BESydney gala

BUSINESS Events Sydney (BESydney) held its 11th Ambassador Gala Dinner at the ICC Sydney yesterday, under the theme 'Dare to Rise: Building Sydney and Australia back best'.

The event recognised the achievements and contributions of BESydney's Global Ambassadors, and introduced nine new Ambassadors.

Incoming Patron of the Global Ambassador Program, Premier of NSW Dominic Perrottet, said the Ambassadors will "play a vital role to ensure that Sydney and NSW build back best, creating legacies that will benefit our communities and the world, for both current and future generations".

Win for Wellington

WELLINGTON has been selected to host the iPRES 21st International Conference on Digital Presentation, to be held in 2025 at Takina, the city's new convention and exhibition centre, which is set to open mid-2023.

It's the latest of many recently awarded events for Takina, including The Early Childhood Council Conference in 2023.

Cairns educates

CAIRNS and the Great Barrier Reef were showcased to business event planners at the 'BE Immersed' educational program in May.

The four-day itinerary included a sneak peak of the Cairns Convention Centre expansion, a Carnivale Longest Lunch event, Little Mulgrave River tubing tour, and tours of tropical venues, including sugar cane farms, Hemingways Brewery, Tanks Art Centre, and Salt House.

SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON TE PAE

THE vital role of the business events sector in New Zealand's future success has been recognised at the Business Events Industry Aotearoa's (BEIA) flagship exhibition, MEETINGS 2022, which kicked off yesterday.

Taking place at the Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre, the two-day event was opened with a speech by Hon. Stuart Nash, New Zealand's Minister for Tourism and Economic Development (**pictured**), as well as a traditional performance from the Ngai Tuahuriri tribe.

There are a record number of exhibitors from 18 regions across 211 stands, and over 400 buyers, including 110 from Australia, in attendance at the event.

BEIA Chief Executive, Lisa Hopkins, said, "The energy,



resilience and optimism of our industry are truly on show...the powerful cultural performances at our opening, and speeches of encouragement have inspired all of our guests."

In yet another success for the venue, Te Pae Christchurch has been selected by the Royal

Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) to host its Annual Scientific Congress in May 2024.

The venue has also been named as a finalist in the International Association of Convention Centres (AIPC) Innovation Award for its Taste of Te Pae Activation Hub initiative.

PcW's five weeks of festivities

PCW Australia's Academy Signature Experience Program 'The Outside' has just wrapped up after a jam-packed five weeks at the Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort and Elysia Wellness Retreat in the Hunter Valley, NSW.

Around 3,000 PwC movers and shakers attended the all-inclusive professional development program, with 600 delegates attending each week, to explore themes of Country, Self, Future and Community.

The event featured the largest Sperry Tent ever produced, and 35 speakers in the longest speaker line-up ever organised for a corporate event, with delegates able to enjoy sunrise yoga, tai chi and boxing sessions, as well as night-time entertainment with live performances, food trucks and fire pits.

Event planners Meet Darwin at DCC

THE Darwin Convention Centre (DCC) recently hosted a group of conference planners at the annual 'Meet Darwin' gathering, in partnership with NT Business Events.

The four-day program commenced with a guided tour of the DCC, followed by business sessions and a 'Meet the Market' event with 15 local supplier companies.

Attendees were also able to enjoy cultural presentations, a 'Seven Seasons Dinner', a Larrakia Saltwater Ceremony at the Waterfront Lagoon, and a



bushfood-inspired breakfast.

MEANWHILE, Darwin Convention Centre has been selected to host the 2023 World Aquaculture Conference, to be held over four days from 29 May, and is expected to draw over 1,000 national and international delegates.

Tas five-year plan

THE Tasmanian Government, in conjunction with Events Tasmania, has commenced the State's first-ever whole-of-government Events Strategy.

The five-year plan covers business, leisure, arts, sports, and community events, and will begin by supporting around 30 events over the next six months.

Targa cancelled

TARGA had to cancel its Great Barrier Reef event this year, now set to take place in Sep 2023, while Motorsport Australia conducts a national safety review of the race, following several fatalities on the Tasmania Circuit of Targa's rallies.

Yarra Valley boost

BIG4 Yarra Valley Park Lane Holiday Park is set to receive a \$100,000 funding boost from the Victorian Government to upgrade a host of tourism facilities.

Money from the state's Enabling Tourism Fund will likely be spent on building a new aquatic centre, outdoor play areas, and mountain bike and walking trails, in order to incentivise more family travel.

The viability of constructing new luxury accommodation will also be examined, including premium three-bedroom cabins overlooking the property's lake.

"The Yarra Valley is a favourite destination for camping holidays and that's why we are investing in long-term growth of the tourism sector," the Vic Government said.

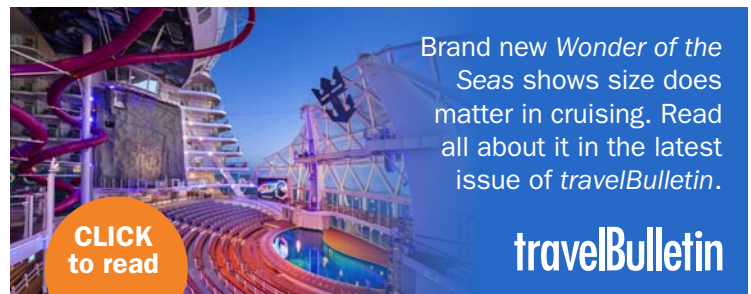
Seletar takes off

SINGAPORE'S Seletar Airport has reopened to commercial flights this week for the first time since the pandemic began, with Malaysian-based LCC Firefly taking line honours as the first airline to fly out from the hub.

The airport serves the north-east region of Singapore and is located approximately 16 kilometres from Changi Airport and 25 kilometres north of the main commercial city-centre.

Historically, Seletar has served as a secondary destination to Singapore for turbo-prop aircraft in a bid to decrease the heavy load carried by Changi Airport.

Bus and taxi services all connect the hub to the CBD, with rail on offer via bus interchange.



Brand new *Wonder of the Seas* shows size does matter in cruising. Read all about it in the latest issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin

New lux Lizard Island property



THE House at Lizard Island, a new property in the Great Barrier Reef, was launched to the trade last night at an intimate event at Cafe Sydney.

With Vivid lighting up the backdrop, Lizard Island GM Leon Pink and The House owner Steve Wilson (**pictured**) launched the Reef's new "laid-back luxury" property, which is set to open its doors on 04 Jul.

Newly built in a private corner of the exclusive island, The House and its adjoining residence, The

Cottage, make up The Estate, which is able to cater for eight guests in total.

The main property consists of a multi-level three-bedroom residence, while The Cottage is a single-level sanctuary.

The Estate is located on a peninsula, and enveloped by three of the Island's white-sand beaches, which guests can access for snorkelling, diving, fishing and other explorations.

CLICK HERE to book ahead.

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.

Fiji Airways has appointed **Edwin Nand** as the new Manager of Corporate Communications. Nand, who will commence the role on 27 Jun, has more than two decades of media experience, including various broadcast media positions between 2001 and 2022, such as his position as Deputy News Manager at Fijian Broadcasting Corporation, where he was also the main anchor for the 7pm prime time news. Nand also had experience working as a Stakeholder Awareness Coordinator during the 2018 General Election, before being promoted to Acting Director of Communications.

Emirates has announced a number of management rotations, including **Saeed Abdulla Miran**, currently Country Manager Hong Kong, as Country Manager Philippines; **Reema Al Marzouqi** as Country Manager Bahrain; **Abdulla Adnan**, currently Commercial Support Manager, as Country Manager Tanzania; **Majid Al Falasi**, currently Country Manager Tanzania, as Country Manager Sudan; **Mohamed Taher**, currently Commercial Support Manager, as Commercial Support Manager in Kenya; **Rashed Salah Al Ansari** as Key Account Controller in Emirates' Global Sales unit; **Hamad Al Ali** as a Business Development Manager in Emirates' UAE Sales team; and **Mohammed Alqassim** has been assigned as Country Manager Cyprus.

Scooting to Japan

SCOOT has started selling seats on new non-stop flights from Singapore to Tokyo and Osaka in Japan, marking the budget airline's first direct services to the country since Mar 2020.

Prices for Singapore to Tokyo (Narita) and Singapore to Osaka fares start from around \$270.

MEANWHILE from 01 Jul, Jetstar Asia will operate daily services from Singapore to Bangkok, and expand its Singapore-Denpasar schedule by two weekly flights from 31 Jun.

Free camping for kids

THE billabong-fringing Warrawong on the Darling outback retreat near Wilcannia and the Broken Hill Outback Resort are both offering free camping or caravanning for kids this winter school holidays.

The special holiday deal means that a family of four can camp from \$40 per night per for an unpowered site and \$50 per night for a powered site at either site.

MEANWHILE the Ordinary Outback's White Cliffs Underground Motel is offering half-price stays during Jun and Jul.

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