

## Tahiti made easier

**FRENCH** Polynesian authorities have lifted COVID-19 requirements for entry to the Islands of Tahiti, with no testing or registrations needed from today.

Air Tahiti Nui is relaunching its Auckland-Papeete flights on 05 May (**TD** 25 Mar).



News TRAVEL NETWORK Jul - Dec 2022

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## Round 3 opens tomorrow

**THE** remainder of the \$258 million allocated under the Government's COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program (CTSP) will become available to the industry tomorrow, with the opening of Round 3 applications worth \$75.5 million in targeted support.

Criteria for the additional tranche became public late on Fri (**TD** breaking news), with Federal Tourism Minister Dan Tehan urging all eligible agents to apply.

So far businesses have received \$184 million under the scheme, with a total of 5,455 grants issued to 3,233 travel agents and tour arrangement service providers.

The application process is expected to be much simpler than previous versions, with

payments based on the already verified figures submitted for successful CTSP Round Two or Multi-Outlet payments.

There's also a new stream of \$7,500 payments for businesses which commenced operations in the calendar year 2019, who were not previously able to access the program.

A maximum grant of \$90,000 is available, down to a minimum of \$7,500 based on eligible turnover (not TTV) in nine specified tiers between \$50,000 and \$20m.

Applications will close on 20 Apr and late submissions will not be accepted, Austrade noted.

Businesses must continue to trade, be solvent and meet their legal obligations, and be members of AFTA, ATEC or CATO.

Applications will be assessed for eligibility and awarded in the order they are received, with payments to be finalised within 21 business days of receipt.

More at [austrade.gov.au](http://austrade.gov.au).

## Bekier steps aside

**THE** CEO of The Star has announced his resignation following issues raised in public hearings in connection with the alleged avoidance of money laundering laws at the casino.

Matt Bekier informed the Board that as Managing Director and CEO he is "accountable for the effectiveness and adequacy of the company's processes, policies, people and culture", adding that the right thing to do was to step aside and take responsibility.

Bekier said he would work with the board to transition his executive responsibilities, with a departure date to be determined.

## Bunnik's big savings

**BUNNIK** Tours is offering up to \$1,800 per couple off tours to Egypt and the Middle East in 2022, for bookings confirmed by 29 Jul - more details on the last page of today's *Travel Daily*.

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features five pages of news plus a full page from **Bunnik Tours**.

## Get back to savings

**VIRGIN** Australia is discounting 1.5m fares on all domestic and short-haul int'l destinations, with prices leading in from \$45.

The Back to Holidays sale is on sale until midnight on 04 Apr, and includes an extra 25% saving for children aged two to 11.

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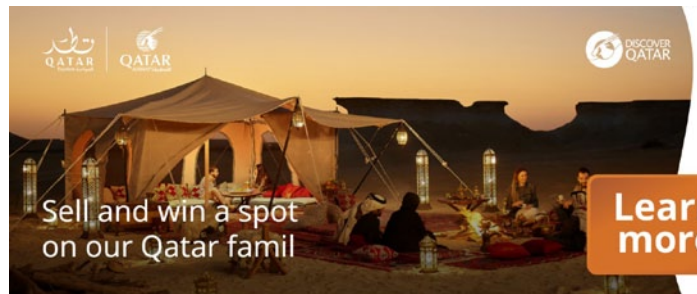
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## Window Seat

**THE** atmosphere at Adelaide Airport just got a lot cuter, with news that Facility Dog Elmo will now make travellers feel more at ease in his new position.

The Guide Dogs South Australia/Northern Territory canine employee has earned himself the title of being the first internationally accredited Facility Dog at any Australian airport, and will be on hand to assist people in the airport whose hidden disability or health conditions may not be immediately obvious to staff.



## FCTG shuffles leisure deck

**FLIGHT** Centre has announced a restructure that will see the company have a dedicated CEO head up each of its three key divisions (**TD** breaking news).

In an update provided to the ASX this morning, Melanie Waters-Ryan was revealed to be the company's new Supply CEO, dropping her leisure portfolio which will be managed instead by the newly installed Leisure CEO James Kavanagh.

In her revised remit, Waters-Ryan will be responsible for managing supplier and commercial relationships across air, land and sea, as well as product procurement and Flight Centre's wholesale division.

Importantly, she will also be charged with the ongoing integration of TP Connects, a Dubai-based SaaS business that Flight Centre decided to take a majority 70% stake in earlier this month (**TD** 14 Mar).

Flight Centre has designs on the software technology helping its business to better shape its distribution strategy by aggregating content from multiple sources such as GDS, direct airline feeds and other third party NDC aggregators.

Meanwhile Kavanagh will leave his MD for the ANZ position to take on the Global Leisure CEO role, while Chris Galanty will remain the Global Corporate CEO.

"Having three senior executives focussed solely on these three areas will help ensure we successfully execute our growth strategies and capitalise on opportunities across all areas of the business during the post-pandemic recovery," CEO Graham Turner said.

"Mel has been at the forefront... in the product and distribution space...& James has been heavily involved in the transformation of our leisure business," he added.

## Travel Daily on location at Ayers Rock Resort

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of Qantas Airways and Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia.

**QANTAS** Airways has spent the past 24 hours celebrating the return of its services to Ayers Rock Airport, co-hosting a famil with Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia at Desert Gardens Hotel.

Yesterday saw famil attendees enjoy lunch at Ilkari Restaurant, tour the Gallery of Central Australia, and dine at Arnguli Grill & Restaurant, overlooking Uluru.

This morning, guests enjoyed a Field of Light sunrise tour back at Uluru with AAT Kings, before a goodbye breakfast at Mangata Bistro & Bar.

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## Rydges 25% saving

**RYDGES** Hotels and Resorts is offering guests 15% off stays at its network in Australia and NZ, with Priority Guest Rewards members to save a further 10% when bookings before 30 May for stays until 31 Jul.

## Wendy incentive

**WENDY** Wu Tours has launched its new travel agent rewards program, which will allow advisors to earn one point towards a free land tour for every customer booked on a Classic, Go Beyond or Private tour.

The Wu Travel Rewards initiative gives agents the chance to accumulate points over a two-year rolling period, which can be redeemed on tours to Southeast Asia, Japan, China, India, Sri Lanka, the Middle East, Central Asia and South America.

The rewards program kicks off 01 Apr, with promo offering a special one bonus point for bookings made on eligible tours until 30 Jun to mark its launch.

For more details, see [wendywutours.com.au/agents](http://wendywutours.com.au/agents).

## Indo loosens rules

**INDONESIA** has dropped quarantine requirements for inbound travellers to all areas of the country, but the decision arrives with strings attached.

Travellers who test positive for COVID-19 on arrival and have moderate or severe symptoms may be taken to a hospital for treatment or an isolation hotel, paid for at their own expense, DFAT has confirmed.

Arrivals must also have received at least two COVID vaccine doses, and will also need to take a PCR test on arrival and self-isolate at a hotel until a negative result is confirmed by health authorities.



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## Qantas ramps up the US

**QANTAS** has announced a new Melbourne to Dallas Fort Worth route will launch for the first time later this year, as part of a greater commitment of frequencies to the rebounding United States market (**TD** breaking news).

Being introduced on 02 Dec, the new MEL/DFW service will operate return flights four times weekly using Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft, marking the first time any carrier has linked the two major cities directly.

Fares for the new route went on sale yesterday, with Economy seats leading in from \$2,128pp.

The launch was accompanied by the announcement of Qantas doubling frequencies between Melbourne and Los Angeles, adding an extra four weekly return flight services to the route, which is already being serviced by four 787 weekly flights.

A portion of the LA flights will be operated by the carrier's refurbished A380s from Dec, heralding the key milestone of Qantas' superjumbo returning & the reintroduction of First class to

Australia's second largest city.


The increased total flights to the US every week will see Qantas bring around 105,000 American visitors a year to Melbourne, the Victorian Government enthused, creating more than 800 tourism and aviation jobs in the state.

In a further boost for Melbourne, Qantas' Melbourne International Business Lounge has also welcomed its first visitors since the start of pandemic, with customers flying to Delhi over the weekend the first to utilise the relaunched facility.

**MEANWHILE** on the domestic front, Qantas has introduced four new routes to the market, with Adelaide-Newcastle, Brisbane-Wagga Wagga, Darwin-Townsville and Darwin-Cairns all launching this week.

The decision brings the number of new domestic routes added by the carrier since the beginning of the pandemic to more than 50, with the foursome of new services adding around 2,300 seats each week to the network.

More on Qantas on **page four**.



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"Our family owned and operated cruise specialist agency has been around for over 20 years, proudly making our customers' holiday dreams come true. The last two years have certainly been the most challenging we've been through, however it has brought about one of our proudest achievements, keeping our core team intact. With the green light finally given for cruise and ships returning to Australian waters, there's never been a better time to be in the industry. With so many travelers eager to get back onboard, our team is busier than ever and we're looking for new team members who share our passion for travel and impeccable service. If you're looking for a fresh start, whether it be as a consultant or admin, contact us today for more details."

Dan Russell,  
General Manager

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## I Love NY even more now

**THE** New York State Division of Tourism (I Love New York) has partnered with travel wholesaler The Travel Junction on a new trade campaign that will see agents incentivised to book accommodation in the state through juicer commissions.

From today until 22 Apr, all New York State accommodation bookings will earn agents up to 15% in commissions when they book through The Travel Junction's HELiO platform, offering no restrictions on future travel and stay dates.

I Love New York's Director of International Marketing Markly Wilson said Australian travel advisor partners will be key to the state's tourism recovery.

"New York State is ready and open to welcome back visitors from across the world – particularly from Australia," he said, with the incentive arriving just in time for the popular US

summer travel season.

Advisors also have access to packages such as self-drive tours through the platform, including attractions such as Niagara Fall, The Hamptons, Albany and The Finger Lakes, with individual codes issued instantly to retrieve the itineraries.

Air fares can also be combined with The Travel Junction's New York curated or self-build package options, thanks to the recent addition of air bookings to The Travel Junction's HELiO platform (**TD** 09 Mar).

### EK's India reboot

**EMIRATES** will restore its Indian network to pre-pandemic flight frequencies from 01 Apr.

Destinations on offer from the start of next month include Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Kolkata.

## Qantas and Voyages think Uluru rocks!



**QANTAS** Airways has launched direct flights to the heart of Australia, with its new Sydney-Uluru service taking off yesterday.

QF will operate four flights per week on a Boeing 737 aircraft between Sydney and Uluru on Mon, Wed, Fri, and Sun, to support the tourism destination's post-pandemic recovery.

The new QF services, which were first flagged almost 12 months ago (**TD** 26 May), will fly in addition to existing Jetstar Airways flights to Uluru from Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane, taking Qantas Group's total weekly flights to 18, just in time for the peak tourism season.

To celebrate Qantas flying the route for the first time in nine years (**TD** 05 Jun 2013), the airline is hosting a 24-hour fam, alongside Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia - a major stakeholder in the destination through its Ayers Rock Resort.

Voyages CEO Matt Cameron-Smith told **Travel Daily** the restart of flights demonstrated Qantas, commitment to rural and indigenous tourism.

"It shows they have faith this destination will grow, particularly as international borders open as well," he said.

"To have that iconic Qantas tail flying in...we get their Frequent Flyers back, we get that dual-class back, Business and Economy."

Qantas Domestic Chief Executive Officer Andrew David added the flights herald a new era in domestic tourism, and will satisfy unprecedented demand for bucket list experiences.

"We are excited to provide a direct Qantas service to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park," he said, adding, "the destination is uniquely Australian and offers a special experience."

"There's never been a better time for Australians to get out and visit iconic destinations in their own backyard and Uluru has got to be at the top of the list."

"It will provide both int'l and interstate visitors a convenient option to fly direct from Sydney to the heart of Australia and take in the highlights of the Red Centre up close," he added.

With the inclusion of Uluru, the Qantas Group has now launched 52 new domestic routes since the start of the pandemic, and as part of the 'Thanks a Million' sale, with QF also offering sale fares from \$259 one-way to Uluru.

The launch comes as Qantas yesterday also announced a boosting of flights to the United States, announcing a new Melbourne-Dallas route - see **page three** for more details.

**Pictured** is the Voyages team: Project Manager Karen Prideaux, CEO Cameron-Smith, and Arts Ambassador Rhoda Roberts.

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## Get in early: SYD

WITH the busy Easter holiday period just around the corner, Sydney Airport is encouraging domestic travellers to arrive at least two hours before their flights in order to beat the rush in what is expected to be the airport's busiest period in more than two years.

The historical guidance is to show up around an hour in advance of a departing flight, but with domestic pax doubling over the last six months, the airport said two hours will be needed to get travellers through checkpoints safely and efficiently.

"We know arriving two hours ahead is going to mean some early starts but we want to see everyone clear security quickly and safely and get to where they're going," Sydney Airport GM of Operations Greg Hay said.

## Wilsons upgrades

THE Victorian Government has announced a range of significant upgrades to the visitor experience at Wilsons Promontory National Park, including a revamp of the Telegraph Saddle trail to connect Tidal River and Mount Oberon.

Works will also soon start on the development of a \$23 million upgrade to the Visitor and Education Centre at Tidal River.

A tender was also opened for a 10km predator-proof fence that will create a biodiversity sanctuary to preserve the recovery and re-establishment of native animals and plants.

"Wilsons Prom is a significant drawcard for Victoria and investments in the National Park will attract more visitors, delivering big benefits to local businesses," Vic Minister for Tourism Martin Pakula said.

**Virtual Launch Event**


If you missed out on our in-person Quark 23/24 season launch event, it's not too late!

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## The greatest show about Africa



**SYDNEY'S** Sofitel Wentworth recently hosted 500 Aussie agents, wholesalers and South African operators as part of the destination's big meet and greet with the local travel sector.

Emceed by comedian and *I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here* host Julia Morris, The South Africa Show gathering was also beamed online for those who couldn't make it in person, with South African Tourism walking attendees through 15 popular tourism experiences.

Some of these included paddling with the African Penguins at Boulders Beach, sleeping in a luxury treehouse, rhino ear-notching with veterinarians, as well as jumping off the world's highest swing at Oribi Gorge.

"It's been a challenging few years for everyone, and our trade partners have been waiting patiently to welcome people back into South Africa with open

arms," South African Tourism Hub Head of Australasia Mosilo Sofonia said.

"We would like to thank all of our partners for their ongoing support in encouraging people to travel to South Africa, we're thrilled the joy of travel has returned once again."

Attendees were also treated to a special tourism pop-up experience in Martin Place prior to attending the Sofitel, with the immersive 10 metre-high dome installation transporting guests through a guided virtual safari with the sights and sounds of safari echoing through the dome.

Ten lucky winners also scored themselves spots on a fam to South Africa, with the five in-person winners presented the prize on stage.

**Pictured:** Julia Morris (far right) presents five of the lucky agents on the night with their amazing fam prize.

## BROCHURES

**WELCOME** to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to [brochures@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).



### APT Kimberley & Outback Wilderness 2023

APT's Kimberley and Outback Wilderness Adventures 2023 brochure is now available for travellers to access. The latest issue showcases the operator's exciting itineraries on offer next year, and includes unique itineraries exploring the remote beauty of the Kimberley, as well as outback Queensland, Northern Territory and South Australia. APT offers a range of travel styles and tours in the region, including the

popular 10-day Grand Kimberley Coast Small Ship Expedition cruise on the *MS Caledonian Sky* and a 15-Day Kimberley Complete Remote Journey. Travellers can also read about the brand's exclusive signature experiences and network of wilderness lodges, which are dotted throughout the Kimberley, designed for guests to experience the Australian outback in style.





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