

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news.

SETO new board

CATO'S Student Educational Travel Organisation (SETO) has confirmed its new board after concluding its first Annual General Meeting last week.

Educational Adventures David Walker has been confirmed as Chairman and Jamie Wansey of Student Horizons as Vice Chair, while the newly-affirmed board consists of Brett Jardine, Aaron Zoanetti, Pete Fletcher, Anne-Marie Mitchell, Rebecca Fleming, Dan Kellard and Nick Minchin.

SETO was established under the umbrella of CATO (TD 07 Feb) to lead the educational travel sector in areas of governance, advocacy, and education.

"We are committed to building confidence in education outside of the classroom and developing a greener future for educational travel, through our pillars of Governance, Advocacy and Education," newly elected SETO Chair David Walker said.

Solomons flags Jul

THE Solomon Islands' Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare has confirmed the Pacific island nation will fully reopen its borders to travellers from 01 Jul.

However, mandatory quarantine is likely to remain in place for now, rules that Solomon Airlines believes will be progressively relaxed over the coming months, stating that despite this, it would still see enough early int'l travellers to sustain its twice-weekly BNE to Honiara services.

Rex pulls pin on five routes

ALLEGED predatory practices from Qantas have led Rex Airlines to withdraw from five more regional routes, the carrier stated in an update to the Australian Securities Exchange this morning.

The carrier said that it would no longer be servicing Bathurst, Grafton, Lismore, and Kangaroo Island from 30 Jun, as well as Ballina from 02 Jul, as the capital to keep the routes viable dries up with the end of the Federal Government's Regional Airline Network Support program.

Rex's Deputy Chairman John Sharp said the decision to withdraw from these long-held services was an emotional but financially necessary one for the airline to undertake.

"It is with a really heavy heart that we have to announce the cessation of services in an effort to improve Rex's financial performance," he conceded.

Sharp also laid the blame squarely at the feet of Qantas,

which he said had used its market-leading position to force Rex from the routes.

"It is unfortunate that regional communities are the collateral damage of Qantas' bullying and heartless behaviour," Sharp said.

"This behaviour is all the more unconscionable after receiving over \$2 billion in Federal bailouts over the last two years."

Another two unnamed services are also under review, with Rex confirming it was likely to announce further network updates in the coming months.

The news follows the shock decision last week by Rex to axe its Sydney to Canberra route by the end of this month (TD 24 May), as well as the withdrawal from the Melbourne to Albury route (TD 19 May) after close to 40 years of operation.

Aspire opens in ONT

NEW premium Aspire Lounges at Ontario International Airport in Southern California will add to the customer experience as travel volumes spike at the airport.

Officials for Ontario International and Swissport recently opened the two lounges - one in each terminal - which are available to all travellers.

For US\$37 per adult, the Terminal 2 lounge will be open from 5am-1pm and from 8pm-11pm, while the Terminal 4 lounge will be open from 5am to 6pm daily.

Swissport, which operates 64 lounges at 38 airports, expanded into the United States in Feb with the opening of a newly refurbished lounge in San Diego.

Sicily deal + guide

ORMINA Tours is offering a limited time deal for all new Sicily Bella Tour bookings.

Travellers can receive a free hotel room upgrade in one of its featured five-star properties on the tour.

Ormina is also running the promotion alongside its Book with Confidence offer of only \$150 deposit per person.

The deal celebrates the launch of Ormina's Agent Sell Guide, which contrasts the business' product with other similar tours across a host of key selling points - download the guide [HERE](#).

It's TIME to apply

REGISTER now for the opportunity to upskill through a Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) scholarship.

Made available via the generous support of a "senior industry figure", applications for the scholarships during the next intake (commencing 29 Jun) close on 10 Jun.

Applications are open to all Australian employees of the travel industry - [CLICK HERE](#).



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SIA's northern exposure

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has confirmed plans to inject extra capacity into its Aussie network from next month and add new aircraft to the mix, as it reaffirms its commitment to the market.

The carrier revealed it will increase operations between Singapore and Melbourne to four times daily, while the northern hubs of Cairns and Darwin will also see frequencies increase to five times weekly.

It will be a double delight for passengers travelling to and from Darwin, with SIA also announcing it will introduce its new narrow-body Boeing 737-8 on the route from 02 Jun, delivering 154 seats across two classes (10 in Business Class and 144 in Economy).

The increase in services to the two Northern Australian destinations aligns with the region's peak visitation period, which SIA said would "further support the recovery efforts

of local tourism and travel operators" in the region.

"Increasing services to holiday destinations such as Cairns and Darwin in the lead up to peak season, shows that leisure travel is continuing to recover strongly," the airline's Regional VP South West Pacific Louis Arul said.

"We will continue to remain nimble to ensure Australia remains connected with the right aircraft and schedules that will further support and facilitate the continued growth in travel demand, both to and from Australia," he added.

Since Australia's borders reopened on 01 Nov 2021, SIA has increased services from Australia to more than 100 flights a week from seven cities.

From this month, 28 weekly services operate out of Sydney, while Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne each have 21 weekly services, and Adelaide has five.

\$10m for tourism

THE Tasmanian Government has allocated \$10 million to Tourism Tasmania as part of its bid to stand out from the crowd as an appealing travel destination.

The funding was allocated in the state's 2022/23 budget, charging the tourism body with continuing initiatives to secure its recovery from the pandemic and maximise future visitor economy opportunities.

Tasmania has also set aside \$5.6 billion for general infrastructure investment, with \$205 million of the pot going towards improving tourism and recreation facilities.

The Budget has also committed more funding to complete its upgrading of tourism amenities in the Freycinet National Park.

These enhancements will include the construction of a new visitor gateway transit hub and car park, a second Wineglass Bay lookout and return loop track, and a new Foreshore Walk linking Coles Bay to the national park.

NT destination plan

THE NT Government has identified several key areas in its Destination Management Plan (DMP) to help its tourism sector bounce back from the pandemic.

These include increasing visitor numbers and extending the length of stay, a consumer brand focus on being a safe destination for travellers, strengthening relationships with neighbouring regions to enhance road trips, and encouraging visitors to leave the highway and travel through some of the more remote areas of the Top End.

CLICK HERE to see the full DMP.

First Nations push

WESTERN Sydney Airport and the National Rugby League have formed a new strategic partnership to present First Nations students with future employment opportunities at the aviation hub when it opens to the public in 2026.




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 AirPod Pros, Sonos Roam, Apple Watch 7 and shopping vouchers is make a booking between 23 May and 26 June.

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\$200m Yarra Valley top-up

A NEW premium tourist precinct, which will include a 300-bed hotel and world-class outdoor concert amphitheatre, is set to be developed for the Yarra Valley region in Victoria.

The plan arrives after Cedar Mill Group added a 100-acre site on the Maroondah Highway (pictured) to its rapidly growing property portfolio, a parcel of land the company said would be cultivated into a major tourism attraction by 2024 at a cost of over \$200 million.

Blueprints for the Cedar Mill Yarra Valley project also incorporate conference & function facilities, three restaurants, 20 boutique villa units, tennis courts, a lake and gardens precinct, as well as an arts and craft village.

Cedar Mill's parent group, Winarch Capital, said the purchase was just one of many parts in a wider plan to introduce an array of tourism developments across the country's two most populous states.

"This strategic purchase is the beginning of our rollout of multiple sites in Victoria, as we



are currently doing in NSW," Winarch Managing Director, Paul Lambess said.

"This marks the first interstate purchase that will begin our realisation of a national and international network.

"All venues will include world-class and purpose-built amphitheatres that the Cedar Mill brand will be known for."

The development will also seek to leverage the existing six million annual visitors who already frequent the Yarra Valley, primarily for its appeal as a premium wine tour destination.

Part of the plan will also place an emphasis on attracting high-yield tourists, which will include offering visitors upmarket goods and services through local growers and operators providing boutique goods and dining experiences.

Stuba's super sales

STUBA has reported a significant increase in business since Easter when compared to the same period pre-pandemic.

The accommodation specialist revealed it saw a 39% increase in sales against COVID-prior numbers, helped along by the easing of travel restrictions.

Despite international borders reopening, domestic sales are still strong, with triple-digit growth figures reported for destinations such as Darwin, Port Douglas, Melbourne, Sydney, Gold Coast, Alice Springs, and Broome.

Short-haul international destinations also seeing triple-digit growth include Bali, Fiji, Singapore, Vietnam, and Thailand.

DL clips flights

DELTA Air Lines has trimmed its summer flying schedule, as it seeks to "minimise disruptions".

DL's cautious approach to capacity has seen it cut approximately 100 daily departures from its Jul and Aug schedule, primarily in American markets.

Despite insisting there is a strong demand environment, the "disciplined" decision is due to what DL called "macro-uncertainty" in what that environment looks like in the medium-term future.

Save big, travel more

TRAVELLERS can "save big and travel more" via a mid-year sale on selected stays with Wyndham and Ramada resorts.

Participating properties in Australia and New Zealand are offering a free third night for three-night stay bookings, while resorts in Indonesia are offering up to 20% room discounts and additional complimentary offers.

The mid-year-sale will run until the end of next month for travel until 15 Dec.

Terms and conditions apply, and to book, [CLICK HERE](#).

Travel Daily
on location in
Canada

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.

VIKING'S first expedition ship is undertaking her inaugural southbound voyage from Thunder Bay, Ontario to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with a full complement of passengers excited to explore each destination along the way.

Viking Octantis departed Thunder Bay yesterday and cruised Lake Superior overnight to arrive at the remote Silver Islet, where guests were able to hike, kayak and even head below the surface in the onboard submarines.

Thunder Bay has an intriguing history, including being the first city in the world to introduce daylight savings time, with the fertile surroundings creating strong industries in agriculture and forestry - but has seen better days, with the arrival of Viking's cruising operations seen as a welcome economic boost.

Silver Islet is also fascinating, having been founded around a rich vein of silver which was extracted in the late 1800s via an underwater mine shaft extending 365m below the lake's surface.

Condor expansion

EUROPEAN leisure carrier Condor has expanded its US network, this month adding flights to San Francisco, Boston and Los Angeles.

The additional ports mean Condor now offers 12 US routes, operating using three-class Boeing 767s and Airbus A330s.

Other Condor US destinations include Las Vegas, Seattle, New York JFK, Portland, Minneapolis, Baltimore, Phoenix, Fairbanks and Anchorage, with some operating seasonally and others year-round.

Travel Daily On Board: *Viking Octantis*



Viking's newest ship explores the Great Lakes

Carrying 378 passengers in elegant, impeccable style, *Viking Octantis* offers a unique blend of comfort and adventure. The largest ship to cruise the stunning Great Lakes region, *Octantis* offers generously sized suites, a delightful spa complete with a snow room, sauna, steam room and thermal suite, plus a variety of premium onboard dining options.

Activities abound, with the ship featuring a full expedition team who lead guests on daily adventures, while back on board there are plenty of cosy nooks to curl up and watch the world go by.

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Travel Daily

Qatar makes waves

QATAR Tourism has signed on to be the headline sponsor of Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) Cruise360 Australasia event taking place in Sydney later this year.

"Qatar Tourism has taken a huge interest in the development of the global cruise industry and we are thrilled to have them as Headline Sponsor of Cruise360 Australasia in such an important year," CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz said.

Qatar has made no secret of its ambition to become a major cruise hub, with its Grand Cruise Terminal to open soon in Doha, which can host two megaships simultaneously.

Over the course of the 2022-2023 cruise season, Qatar expects to welcome more than 200,000 passengers to the country.

Buy tickets to CLIA's Cruise360 event in Aug by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Nautica rebrands

HILLARYS Harbour Apartments located in Perth has been rebranded to Nautica Residences Hillarys, following the purchase of the short-term accommodation by Nautica Residences by Seashells last month.

The Nautica Residences brand is still in its infancy, having only been launched in Jul last year, with the Perth property adding to an existing 24-apartment hotel in Fremantle.

"We recognised a gap in Western Australia's short-stay accommodation market," Seashells Hospitality Group CEO Gareth Thomas said.

"Nautica Residences is a managed apartment service that suits owners who prefer to have more access to their own property and be less restricted when they require it for their own use," he added.

Guests at the renamed Nautica Residences Hillarys can enjoy two and three-bedroom apartments, a swimming pool, and spa suites.

We've found "Greatopia"



THE Great Ocean Road's latest tourism push features a rousing anthem welcoming all to 'Greatopia' as they wind down the National Heritage-listed drive.

The new television, digital and social campaign is an invite set among the coastlines from Torquay through to Allansford on the South Australian border, with pristine forests, volcanic plains, seafood and friendly locals.

It acts as both a call to action, and a "call to meander", raising awareness of all the great places to stop at and things to do along the famous scenic drive.

"While utopia is usually an

imagined place, 'Greatopia', is a very real and perfect place," Great Ocean Road Tourism Liz Price insists.

"The campaign showcases the unique iconic landscapes of the region, a celebration of why we live in utopia, down along the Great Ocean Road.

"Its magic lies within each journey and the people, food, drinks & adventure along the way.

Price said Great Ocean Road Tourism wanted to challenge visitors to seek beyond the usual haunts and discover more, including the blowholes, volcanic lakes and craters.



Window Seat

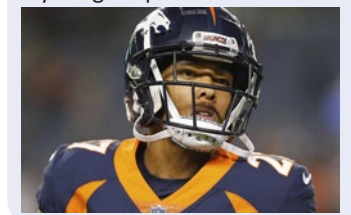
OKAY, it appears flying around in the States is becoming some kind of blood sport, first it was iron Mike Tyson making mince meat out of a fellow passenger's face, now a former NFL player has been filmed wrestling with a United Airlines employee.

Ex-Denver Broncos cornerback Brendan Langley has been captured on camera brawling with the staff member after he allegedly commandeered a wheelchair to carry his luggage instead of a regulation trolley.

Langley has since been charged with common assault, however that hasn't stopped the sports star from doubling down on Twitter.

"Y'all aint off the hook...worst customer experience in the entirety of my life on Heaven," he bizarrely tweeted.

Adding to the online madness, a singer named Larren Wong initially claimed to be Langley in the viral video, which saw several media outlets incorrectly identify him as the passenger, prompting Langley to tweet: "struggling artist do anything for pennies".



Indigenous specialist

INTREPID Travel is currently seeking to hire an Indigenous Purpose Specialist, a new position the operator believes will deliver positive outcomes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

The role calls for someone who has had experience driving Reconciliation Action Plan actions in a business environment.

Apply for the role [HERE](#).

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Travel Daily



Sail Croatia upgrade

SAIL Croatia has completed a \$850,000 series of upgrades on its small luxury ship, *Olimp*, carried out over seven months.

The refreshed ship boasts an updated colour scheme and design in the cabins, dining salon and lounge area; a new swimming platform with access into the sea; and a transformation of the top deck into a shaded lounge area surrounding the jacuzzi.

Olimp will host 16 Elegance sailings from now until the end of the year on three itineraries, via Split or Dubrovnik.

No monkey business

THE US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a new warning about the spread of the monkeypox virus, calling on travellers to "practice enhanced precautions".

Travellers should avoid close contact with sick people, and wild animals such as small mammals while on trips, the CDC advised.

While the WHO has voiced its growing concern with how the world is corralling the outbreak, it has conceded it should be a lot easier to manage than COVID-19 which is far more transmissible.

We're huge fans of Asia



IN CONJUNCTION with TravelManagers, Vietnam Travel & Cruise and Travel Sapphire hosted 13 personal travel managers and two Business Partnership Managers at Melbourne's Tran Tran restaurant for a Vietnamese banquet dinner last week.

The lucky attendees were able to enjoy the delicious Vietnamese cuisine while refreshing their knowledge of the various south and south-east Asian destinations represented, as demand for travel in these regions - particularly Cambodia, Vietnam, India and the Maldives - continues to grow post-COVID.

TravelManagers' Executive General Manager, Michael Gazal, said, "this training session was one in a broader series of training activities we have planned around the country, all of which are designed to ensure that PTMs are up-to-date on the latest product information and tourism offerings in a range of destinations."

Pictured: Kellie Browning, Carolyn Pitt, Huyen Thanh (Director Vietnam Travel & Cruise), Melanie Carter, Tanya

Patterson, Kate Bevan, Debbie Tripp, Nicole Edgar, Justin Smythe (NSW Business Development Manager Vietnam Travel & Cruise), KJ Slater (Business Development Manager Travel Sapphire), Despina Madden, Sharon Wright, Sandii Pink, Theresa Kwong, Jessica Kramer, Karen Doyle, Lyn Watkins and Allen Suss.

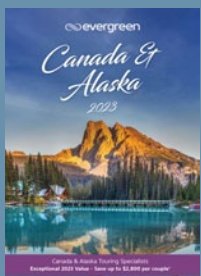
BROCHURES

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.



InsideAsia - South Korea

Inside Travel Group's InsideAsia has unveiled its first dedicated brochure for South Korea, which is full of travel inspiration and themed ideas for foodies, walkers, and those seeking traditional and contemporary cultural experiences. The brochure also includes five sample trips, including the 'Best of South Korea' trip, a 12-night itinerary that takes travellers through Seoul and the mountains; on high-speed KTX trains across the country; to the huge Jagalchi market in the seaside city of Busan; and to a traditional guest house in the UNESCO World Heritage village of Hahoe.



Evergreen Tours - 2023 Canada & Alaska

Evergreen Tours has revealed its 2023 Canada & Alaska full program and brochure, featuring increased airline options and iconic rail and cruise experiences. Among the highlighted tours is the 14-day Rockies Highlights & Alaska Inside Passage Cruise, which starts in Banff and explores Lake Louise, the Icefields Parkway, the Athabasca Glacier, Jasper, Sun Peaks and Vancouver, before embarking on a seven-night Inside Passage cruise

with Holland America Line - prices start from \$4,995 per person and includes 29 meals.

The art of the Tiwis

CORAL Expeditions is offering travellers a one-off expedition to explore the artistic heritage of the Kimberley and the Tiwi Islands.

Coral Adventurer will set sail from Darwin on 02 Sep for the nine-night voyage, with the itinerary featuring a cultural walking tour of the Tiwi Islands; a walk among ancient Indigenous rock art galleries at Swift Bay, Bigge Island, and more; and a visit to Munupi Arts and Tiwi Design to see both traditional and contemporary Tiwi art.

For more info on the 'Art of the Kimberley and Tiwis: Special Edition', [CLICK HERE](#).