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Tuesday 4th Oct 2022

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, a cover page from our STILL Still Standing Celebration and full pages from the Austrian National Tourist Office and Tokyo Tourism.

STILL Still Standing!

WE'RE doing it again.

After last year's highly successful Still Standing Celebration, the Travel Daily team is inviting the industry to a pre-Christmas event at the Sydney Four Seasons.

Scheduled from 6pm on Wed 07 Dec, tickets will go on sale in early Nov, with sponsorship opportunities available via stillstanding@traveldaily.com.au see the cover page for details.

Can I have Samoa?

ENTIRE Travel Group has added Samoa to its fast-growing portfolio, with the newly reopened Pacific destination now featuring in a range of new Entire packages.

Discounts of up to \$600 per couple are on offer, allowing customers the opportunity to unwind in some of Samoa's best resorts and explore the stunning landscapes and unique culture on Upolu, the country's most populated island.

All packages are available to quote and book 24/7 via the Entire Travel Group website, and all are supported by its Peace of Mind Booking Plan - for more details **CLICK HERE**.

Back to Fun in Australia!

A THREE-YEAR absence from the Australian market for Carnival Cruise Line was washed away in a sea of red, white and blue over the weekend, with the brand's triumphant return marked by Carnival Splendor's departure from Sydney on a four-day return sailing to Moreton Island.

Preceded by a festive 'Back to Fun' party hosted by Global President Christine Duffy at the Overseas Passenger Terminal, the 3,500 passengers booked on the first return voyage were treated to some classic Carnival merriment, including party tunes, cheer squads and conga lines.

Speaking prior to the milestone departure, Duffy said that Australia coming back online this month was the final piece of the puzzle for the cruise line, which has already restarted operations in most major ports.

"We know Aussies have been patiently waiting for Carnival to return to their sunny shores for some time, but now we're pleased to say that fun is officially back on the water," she enthused.

The restart is also a timely one for Carnival, which will mark 10 years of sailing in Australia at the end of Oct, a decade which saw the cruise line enjoy solid growth in the market up until the pandemic scuttled the industry.

But with the health crisis now in Carnival's wake, the company is doubling down on the Australian appetite for cruising, deploying its newest ship Carnival Luminosa

in Brisbane from Nov at the newly constructed Brisbane International Cruise Terminal.

"We feel adding a ship in Brisbane will really help drive demand...and even though we opened bookings quite late, [Luminosa] has done very well," Duffy observed.

"The itineraries from Brisbane and Queensland are really just beautiful and we have also opened up a lot more of our Australian cruises to North Americans...who have shown a strong interest," she added.

Splendor will be based in Sydney year-round and operate voyages in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, while Luminosa will service Brisbane before being redeployed to Seattle to undertake Alaskan sailings between May and Sep 2023.

Ackerman to AAT

FORMER Collette, Globus and Wendy Wu Tours executive Troy Ackerman has been appointed as AAT Kings' new Head of Sales & Revenue (TD breaking news).

Ackerman will be based in the Travel Corporation brand's Alexandria office, and starts his new role this week.

He said he was "absolutely rapt" to be joining the AAT Kings team.

"I can't wait to get stuck in, reconnect with our trade partners, and help AAT Kings continue on their impressive trajectory," he said.

New Tokyo training

THE reopening of Japan has prompted a huge spike in interest in the destination, and travel advisors can make the most of it by completing new modules in the Tokyo Tourism Expert training program - and WIN a trip at the same time - see the last page.









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Vale Maxwell Kingston

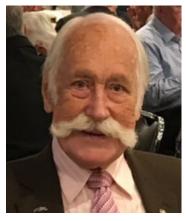
THE Australian travel industry is today mourning the sudden death of travel industry legend Max Kingston, former World President of Skal International.

The seemingly unstoppable Kingston (pictured) died over the weekend at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney after suffering a fall last week.

Despite being 88 years young, Kingston was still actively working in the industry he had been dedicated to his whole life, most recently as the Commissionaire at The Fullerton Hotel Sydney, with his famous moustache and friendly nature a fixture at many events across the globe.

Kingston's industry career started in 1956 when he joined the Bank of New South Wales Travel Service, which ultimately became Westpac Travel.

He took up postings in London, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane as well as a stint aboard Orient Line cruise ships, and worked for many years more recently as Sales & Marketing Manager for Budget Car Rental.



He also held many honorary roles within industry networking organisation Skal International, becoming the group's World President in 1992.

Kingston died peacefully, surrounded by his family, with funeral details to be made available in the coming days.

ETG names CFO

NICK Sironitis has been named as Chief Financial Officer at Express Travel Group.

Sironitis will also support First Travel Group in NZ and the Creative Cruising team in Sydney.



Window Seat

A BUSLOAD of tourists visiting Massachusetts in the USA had a somewhat unusual experience last week, after they were chased by an off-duty National Guardsman who thought the trip was part of efforts to settle Mexican migrants in the state.

The 51-year-old apparently believed the coach was part of efforts by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis who has expressed a desire to "share the love" by transporting immigrants to states further north in the USA.

Eager to "defend" Massachusetts from such an invasion, the officer apparently pursued the bus for about 10 miles after seeing a sign on the side promoting the town of Tallahassee Florida.

He also live-streamed the incident before boarding the bus as it arrived at a motel only to find 37 slightly bemused senior citizens on board who were touring Cape Cod.





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on location aboard Carnival Splendor

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Carnival Cruise Line, which is currently operating its first return cruise in three years.

CARNIVAL Splendor set sail from Sydney on Sat as Carnival Cruise Line marked its festive return to the local market, with TD lucky to snag a spot on board to lap up all of the excitement of the milestone moment.

The sailing headed north into Old waters before making a stop to visit the tropical Moreton Island yesterday, and will arrive back in Sydney tomorrow.

The ship's landmark arrival into Sydney last Fri carrying a full complement of overseas visitors also marked the return of international cruising to Australia.

Menon moving on

AFTA'S long-time Compliance Manager, Naomi Menon, is taking up a new role outside the travel industry, having recently been admitted as a lawyer.

The highly respected Menon has been AFTA's Head of Compliance and Operations since 2016, and played a key role in maintaining the Federation's activities through the COVID-19 pandemic.

She's being replaced by Nina Hedges (TD breaking news), who joins AFTA from Flight Centre where she has been Customer Liaison and Risk Manager.

AFTA CEO Dean Long thanked Menon for her service, saying while it was sad to be farewelling her, "I am so excited to see her progress in her career".

He said Hedges' appointment would help uphold the AFTA code and charter and "maintain the value of booking with ATAS accredited travel professionals and businesses".



QR appoints new Fiji GSA

EXCLUSIVE

AIRLINE Rep Services has been named as Qatar Airways' General Sales Agent for its passenger business in Fiji.

Part of CVFR Travel Group, the appointment "will assist Qatar Airways in strengthening its presence and outreach to potential customers in the South West Pacific market," said Airline Rep Services GM Gabrielle Vicari.

"We are honoured and proud to be representing a multiple awardwinning airline and respected brand in the global airline scene.

"We look forward to growing Qatar Airways...as its offline GSA partner in Fiji," she said.

The move will see passengers fed into Qatar Airways non-stop flights to and from Doha via Australia and New Zealand as well as its extensive network beyond.

The partnership includes providing sales, marketing and

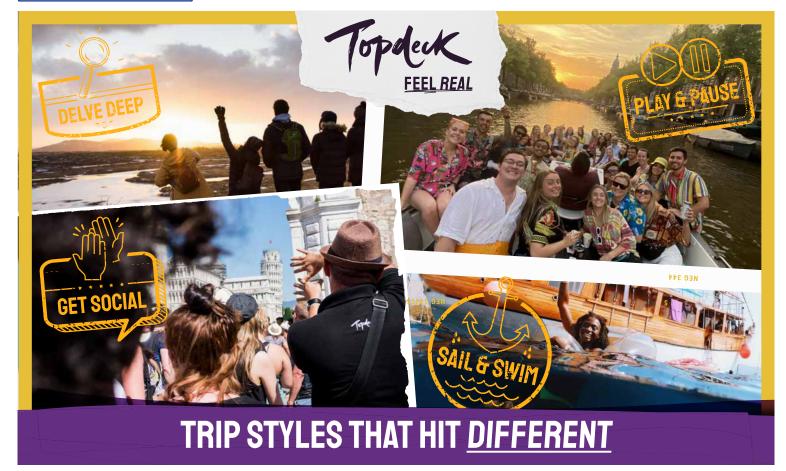
overall sales support services to the Fiji travel trade, with CVFR Group CEO Ram Chhabra saying "we are proud to see the Airline Rep Services business grow from strength to strength".

"Our Fiji operations have had a steady growth over the last few years and I am confident there is much more to come under the strong leadership of Gabrielle".

Shangri-La hacked

SHANGRI-LA Hotels has advised customers of a "data security incident" after an investigation revealed that between May and Jul 2022 a "sophisticated threat actor" illegally accessed guest databases at several properties.

At this stage there's no evidence that personal data has been misused, but Shangri-La is offering impacted guests one year of complimentary identity monitoring service.





Maria Slater joins itravel

EXCLUSIVE

LONGSTANDING Canberra agency Maria Slater Travel has become part of the itravel network, after many years as a top performing agency within Travellers Choice.

Itravel MD Steve Labroski said he was thrilled to welcome Slater into the itravel family, saying "her passion and dedication to the industry is second to none".

"We could not be more excited

CATO Xmas party

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators is opening up its annual members Christmas lunch to the wider industry, with tickets now on sale for the event scheduled for Thu 08 Dec.

Taking place at Sydney's Ivy Ballroom followed by an after party at the Ivy Pool Bar, seats cost \$165 each - see cato.travel. as to where this partnership will take us," he said.

Slater said she had dedicated 40 years of her life to inspiring people to travel, to learn and "feel something more outside of their comfort zone".

After a recent trip to Greece, Portugal and now Morocco, Slater added: "I feel as if my travel brain has been flossed, cleared from despair, sadness and grief these past two years".

"I now look forward to a new chapter of continuous growth, change, new challenges and opportunities within the itravel group and in particular working closely with my good mate Steve Labroski...same integrity, same passion, same love and care.

"I'm excited for the future, and I'm so happy for everyone who has remained in our industry, may you all blossom with renewed hope," Slater concluded.



Luxury Escapes staff upgrades

LUXURY Escapes has announced a series of senior appointments and promotions within its commercial division as it continues on its "transformation to a global travel technology company".

CEO Adam Schwab confirmed that Tony Gothard has been promoted to Chief Commercial Officer, alongside Daniel Monk as Chief Sales & Distribution Officer.

The pair will lead the Luxury Escapes commercial team, with responsibility for the "customerled supply strategy" in both domestic and international markets, Schwab said.

Tom McMenemie and Paul Gorman have both been named as GM - Accommodation to lead and drive partnerships globally, while Luxury Escapes is continuing to recruit for a new Head of Tours and a Head of Contracting & Partnerships.

Bonza sponsorship

FLEDGLING domestic leisure carrier Bonza today announced it was becoming the Principal Partner of Melbourne Victory Football Club.

The four-year deal will see Bonza become the team's A-League Men's front-of-shirt Partner on both home and away jerseys, as well as throughout club signage, digital assets and in-stadium activations.

The carrier's first aircraft Shazza arrived on 01 Aug, and will be followed shortly by its second plane, named Bazza.

Selina into GDS

EXPERIENTIAL hotel brand Selina has announced an affiliation with HotelREZ, making its portfolio accessible to travel agent GDS bookings.

Selina targets millennial and Gen Z business travellers, offering more than 160 properties across 25 countries.





Experience Co promotions

LISTED adventure tourism company Experience Co has announced details of a restructure, with CEO John O'Sullivan saying the changes "come at an important time for the company as we position ourselves for future growth".

Adam Jones is being promoted to Group GM Marine and Skydive, expanding his role to include the management of 17 drop zones in Australia and New Zealand.

Ryan Roche will assume groupwide responsibility for aviation and aircraft maintenance, adding NZ operations to his remit, while Kathryn O'Brien has been promoted from Chief Revenue Officer to the newly created trans-Tasman role of Chief Commercial Officer.

Amanda Byrne becomes GM of Wild Bush Luxury, replacing founder Charles Carlow who moves into a senior advisory role.

NCL eases rules

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has removed all COVID-19 testing, masking and vaccination requirements effective today.

The updated health and safety guidelines are "now more aligned with other global travel organisations," NCL said, noting it would continue to follow any local requirements mandated in the destinations it visits.

AC adds US routes

AIR Canada has announced new daily trans-border flights into the USA, including Airbus A220 services between Vancouver and Houston as well as Q-400 flights from Halifax to Newark.

The year-round routes will kick off in Dec and "conveniently link these major urban markets," the carrier said, as well as offering easy onward connections via the Air Canada global network and that of its Star Alliance partner United Airlines.





Aeronology offers LH NDC

EXCLUSIVE

AERONOLOGY has announced the launch of NDC offers in partnership with Lufthansa Group airlines, completing a "full travel retailing" offer for Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, SWISS, Lufthansa, Eurowings and Air Dolomiti via the Aeronology travel distribution platform.

A wide range of fares and ancillaries are now available via the booking portal, with the system providing automatic reissue and refund options for a seamless user experience.

Johannes Walter, Head of Channel Partners at LH, said the group was pleased to be working with Aeronology to "drive modern airline retailing for the benefit of our customers".

"Together we aim to create a unique customer experience and shape the industry with innovations in air retailing."

Aeronology CEO Russell Carstensen noted that LH carriers had been the original movers of NDC globally, adding "we are proud of our association with this amazing airline group".

"NDC distribution channels are growing, they are building to scale and usability and servicing and are becoming much easier to manage," Carstensen added.

"The days of going to different airline websites to access the best and most attractive offers are ending, with the type of technology Aeronology has created," he said.

Vistara to AUH

perfect fit in our network".

INDIAN carrier Vistara has kicked off new daily flights between Mumbai and Abu Dhabi. CEO Vinod Kannan said the UAE's "flourishing business, trade and tourism make Abu Dhabi a

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Hotel peak body closer

THE long-running proposed amalgamation between the Australian Hotels Association and the Accommodation Association of Australia has reached a key milestone, with the leaders of both bodies separately agreeing the Scheme of Amalgamation which will create a new peak body, Accommodation Australia.

Accommodation Australia will become a "single national voice for the sector" through the merger, which now proceeds to its next stage via a joint Fair Work Commission (FWC) application.

The Commission will convene a hearing in late Nov as part of its decision to allow the amalgamation to go to a member vote, and in Feb 2023 the Australian Electoral Commission will conduct a secret postal ballot of AAOA members prior to final orders being made in Apr 2023.

It's intended that IHG's Leanne Harwood will be the inaugural President of the merged entity, while Sean Hunt from Marriott International will be Vice President and TFE Hotels Director Bruce Copland as Treasurer.

Harwood noted that after substantial work from both organisations over the last 16 months "we are one step closure to unlocking the power of a unified national voice for the accommodation industry".

"Accommodation Australia will draw on the considerable scale of our combined member base to ensure accommodation takes the lead in tourism decision making with Government, given the flow-on economic effect to local communities and businesses when providers like hotels, motels and caravan parks enjoy elevated occupancy," she said.

Harwood also confirmed the search for the first CEO of Accommodation Australia was already under way.



Emma's great NZ rail journey



GREAT Journeys NZ Digital Marketing Associate, Emma Whaley (pictured), was one of the first travellers on board New Zealand's first Coastal Pacific train when it restarted last week.

Both the Northern Explorer and Coastal Pacific journeys have now recommenced, meaning all three of the Great Journeys New Zealand trains are back in operation - greatjourneysnz.com.

New SkyTeam chief

THE SkyTeam airline alliance has announced the appointment of Patrick Roux as its new CEO and Managing Director.

Roux joins SkyTeam after 15 years at Air France-KLM, where he was most recently Senior VP of Alliances.

He replaces Kristin Colvile, who returns to Delta Air Lines after a four-year term at SkyTeam.

LAX expansion

DELTA Air Lines and Los Angeles World Airports have announced that a brand new Terminal 3 facility featuring nine gates will open to customers tomorrow.

The expansion under the ongoing LAX Delta Sky Way program features spacious seating areas, while DL's premium concessions and retail partner Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield will open a variety of restaurant and retail options in LAX Terminal 3 over the coming months.

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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.649

AFTER plumbing recent lows the Aussie dollar has rebounded about 2% against the US greenback, feeding through to positive sentiment for the Aussie against the Euro and the Swiss Franc overnight.

Part of the strength is attributed to wide expectations that a further interest rate hike will be announced by the Reserve Bank of Australia today. Wholesale rates this morning.

\$0.649
£0.573
\$1.130
€0.661
¥94.06
ß24.44
¥4.571
11.542
\$0.881
US\$83.89

Centara preview

CENTARA Hotels & Resorts has released the first details of its newest Bangkok property, the Centra by Centara Bangkok Phra Nakhon which is set to open late next month.

The 180-key low-rise hotel is located near Khaosan Road and Chaophraya express boat piers, providing a comfortable base to explore some of Bangkok old town's most famous landmarks.

Opening rates start at THB1,999++ net per night, with a special F&B credit offer - see centarahotelsresorts.com.

QR doubles MEL

QATAR Airways officially kicked off its second daily Doha-Melbourne flight over the weekend, as part of a strategic agreement with the Vic government to increase connectivity to Melbourne.

Announced in Jul this year, the additional Melbourne flight includes an onward leg to Canberra which will formally resume a once-daily DOH-CBR connection from 01 Dec.

The Canberra leg had been originally scheduled to launch on 01 Oct but has been delayed due to an "operational issue outside of the airline's control".

All passengers who were booked on the first two months of the resumed QR Canberra flights will be rebooked and taken to their final destinations.

MEL CEO Lorie Argus welcomed the second daily QR service, saying "there is huge demand for international travel out of Melbourne and these extra services couldn't come at a better time, with the soccer World Cup kicking off in Nov".

Hilton saddles up

HILTON has announced a major deal with Peloton Interactive which will make it the first hospitality brand to feature Peloton bikes across its entire 18-brand US hotel portfolio.

By the end of 2023 almost all 5,400 Hilton-branded properites will feature at least one Peloton Bike in their fitness centres, including access to Peloton instructors and "expansive connected fitness content".

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20 years of Tourism Portfolio

SOME people may have thought Donna Kessler (pictured) was crazy when she founded Tourism Portfolio just over 12 months after 9/11 - but two decades on her founding client the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre is still on board.

Since those early days the representation business has survived the fallout from the Ansett collapse, the GFC, SARS, bird flu and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic, and Kessler says she's emerged from it all stronger than ever.

Kessler, who is also in partnership with Gary Bender from World Corporate Travel in running the popular Get Global and Get Local exhibitions, said "anyone who owns a business will tell you there are plenty of highs and there can also be plenty of lows which often arise out of things you never expected".

"The last few years have been quite humbling...like many of my event colleagues I had to pivot to keep my doors open.

"For me this included working in a call centre to assist with the tracing and tracking of COVID, and managing COVID vaccination bookings," Kessler said.

Netherlands update

DFAT this morning released an updated Smartraveller advisory for the Netherlands, confirming that there are no COVID-19 restrictions or requirements when entering the country, including arrivals from outside the EU/Schengen area.



However despite the industry looking somewhat different post-pandemic, "what remains constant is my passion for what I do." Kessler said.

She confirmed that Sharon Levingston, appointed as Tourism Portfolio GM just over 12 months ago, was now her business partner, with the pair currently developing new business ideas together "and looking forward to sharing these with the industry very soon".

WestJet purchase

CANADIAN carrier WestJet has announced the purchase of 42 Boeing 737-MAX 10 aircraft, with the major deal seeing deliveries commence in late 2024 and continue through until 2028.

The order is on top of an existing allocation of 23 aircraft for the Calgary-based airline and its ultra low-cost offshoot Swoop, with an option to add 22 more planes depending on demand.

Got a confidential tip? Contact Travel Daily via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click HERE



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- 2 Wolfgangsee Region in the Salzkammergut
- 3 Innsbruck
- 4 Arlberg Region

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