

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news plus a full page from **A Force for Good**.

Fiji PR out to pitch

TOURISM Fiji's Australian team is seeking public relations agency applications to assist on a monthly retainer basis to support and lead Aussie activations.

Among the responsibilities of the successful agency will include media famil planning, assistance with campaigns, events and activations, as well as acting as the press office to respond to general enquiries.

Tourism Fiji Australia is also seeking creative suggestions around campaign activations and forming new brand partnerships from an agency with more than three years of experience in the Australian market.

PR representation in Australia is currently held by PEPR Agency.

Sing-ing in harmony

SINGAPORE Airlines has harmonised its group travel policies and processes globally, which will see policies, processes, T&Cs, and fare conditions all become standardised.

The harmonisation will enable Singapore to provide competitive product solutions to its agency partners, as well as simplify handling practices for more efficient and responsive turnaround times, and align its global service standards.

Can airport curfews: BCA

SYDNEY Airport should have its curfew restrictions removed to unlock millions of dollars of lost economic value, the Business Council of Australia (BCA) has argued in its submission to the *Aviation Green Paper*.

Claiming that current caps put in place on Australia's largest airport in the 1990s "artificially limit" the hub's capacity, the BCA believes SYD and three other airports are being restricted from achieving their maximum value.

"The current movement and curfew restrictions placed on Sydney Airport are outdated, cost Australian jobs and economic growth, and impact on flexibility and operational efficiency to the detriment of passengers," BCA stated in its stinging submission.

"Given the economic cost, there must also be no new curfews or movement cap restrictions imposed in Australia".

The BCA also stated the Federal Government must resist calls by some parties for restrictions on the new Western Sydney Airport to be enacted, as well as any overtures to do the same at Brisbane or Melbourne airports, where there are either new runways coming online or are in the works to go live soon.

"While the business case for Western Sydney Airport is predicated on capturing demand [created by SYD's curfew] and the economic benefit that it delivers, it acknowledges and makes plain that the existing airport will



remain the preferred destination for full-service carriers," BCA said.

The submission pointed out a typical year-round int'l service generates around \$122m in economic value and creates roughly 1,300 jobs. *AB*

The French Collection

ICONIC House has appointed La Collection (LC) as its representative in Australia.

The signing represents the Down Under-based representation company's entry into private homes and villas, with Iconic House offering four luxury French homes for rent.

Les Bords du Lac, L'Etoile des Baux, Les Hauts de Gordes, and Le 1550 will now all be offered to Australian travel advisors.

"This is more than new properties joining our portfolio, it is a new vision of hospitality," La Collection co-founder Lea Segulier enthused to *Travel Daily*.

"LC is now able to offer our partners: private villas, boutique buyouts for special celebrations, and ultra exclusive travel"

Iconic House was launched in 2021, and aims to combine the best of the hotel industry and holiday rentals for the ultra-luxury market.

NZ: thanks a million

AIR New Zealand is set to fly one million passengers across the country this Christmas.

Another 700,000 customers will fly to an international destination, such as Australia, by the end of next month.

Air New Zealand's busiest day of the year will be this Fri, with nearly 50,000 people planning to take off to destinations across the country and overseas.

The busiest domestic route is Auckland-Christchurch, with Wellington-Queenstown following close behind.

Kimberley boosted

THE Western Australian Government has announced a new \$2.8 million Kimberley Tourism Program package to support operators in the region as they recover from this year's adverse weather events.

The package includes a \$1.7 million aviation component, which offers discounted airfares to visitors flying to and across the Kimberley region, as well as self-drive promotions, including \$100 discount vouchers, which aim to encourage visitors to extend their stays at Australia's North West holiday parks.

The incentive will be backed by a special Kimberley Season Pass, which provides a 50% discount on tours and experiences across the region to help boost bookings for local tourism operators.

Both offers will be available for booking starting early Feb 2024.

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Int'l air traffic still climbing

INTERNATIONAL passenger traffic continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of Infrastructure & Transport Research Economics (BITRE) has revealed, with overseas scheduled passenger traffic in Sep totalling 3.174 million, an increase of 51.7%.

International passenger volumes were 2.095 million in the prior corresponding period, and a pitiful 42,149 in the heavily COVID-affected Sep of 2021.

Passenger traffic for the year ended Sep was also recorded at 33.121 million, up from 12.379 million for the year ended Sep 2022, and the meagre 1.168 million total for the COVID-

impacted year ended Sep 2021.

Total seats made available on international scheduled operations to/from Australia for the month were 3.858 million, an increase of 60.8% compared to Sep 2022.

Overall seat utilisation was down however, at 83.9% for Sep 2023 compared to 88.9% in the prior corresponding period.

Qantas Airways had the largest share of the almost 60 airlines in-market in Sep, at 16.1% of the total, followed by its low-cost subsidiary Jetstar Airways. *MS*

NCL ends NCF prog

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's (NCL) generous move to pay agents commissions on Non-Commissionable Fares (NCFs) (*TD* 03 Nov 2022) will come to an end from 01 Apr next year.

In a statement released by the cruise line's global head office over the weekend, NCL said it was proud to have supported agents through the challenge of the pandemic, and is wrapping the program up seeing as the cruise sector is "once again on an upward trajectory".

"We look forward to continuing to support the travel partner community by investing heavily in marketing efforts with an enhanced marketing headquarters, & a travel partner resource guide...we are focused on being the easiest cruise line to do business with," NCL said.

Cairns underwater

CAIRNS Airport looks more like a river (**pictured**) than a collection of runways during one of its busiest periods of the year, sending holiday flight schedules into chaos.

Flood levels due to deluge brought by Cyclone Jasper saw planes partially submerged on the tarmac and flights ceasing from 12.45pm on Sun, with all air traffic remaining cancelled today.

"The flooding on the aerodrome has subsided, however given our proximity to the Barron River there is significant debris that needs to be removed and cleaned," the airport said.



Air Tahiti tix rises

AIR Tahiti Nui has advised travel agency partners that some of its wholesale net airfares have increased from today.

These include: Australia-Tahiti, Australia-USA, Australia-Mexico, Australia-France, Australia-Japan, Australia-New Zealand, and Australia-Canada.

The carrier also announced the introduction of Australian domestic add-ons for itineraries that include travel within Australia, as well as new surcharges when booking an Air NZ operated flight between Australia and New Zealand.

Aussies stranded

A NUMBER of Australians are stranded in Tuvalu today after all international flights from the Polynesian country were cancelled due to bad weather.

Fiji Airways was forced to cancel all flights to and from Tuvalu when the country's main runway was left damaged by heavy rain.

FJ yesterday told *Yahoo News Australia* it is hoping to resume int'l flights some time today after initial repairs are made.

Indonesia update

VIRGIN Australia has detailed the Bali flights it is proposing if its current application for additional capacity on the Indonesia route is approved by the International Air Services Commission (IASC).

The 737 flights include ADL-PER-DPS which would commence on 15 May 2024, and OOL-PER-DPS to kick off on 26 Jun 2024.

Garuda Indonesia has also made a submission in support of its proposed expanded cooperation with Qantas on the Bali route.

The IASC has now given QF and VA until 08 Jan to address the "additional public benefit criteria" in their competing applications for capacity on the hotly contested route (*TD* 06 Nov).



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Most return Tel Aviv

FLIGHTS to Tel Aviv from around the world are gradually resuming, with El Al Israel Airlines, as well as Lufthansa Group, announcing more services in and out the Israeli city.

Lufthansa Airlines, Austrian Airlines, and Swiss International Air Lines, all part of the Lufthansa Group, will increase their services to Tel Aviv from 08 Jan.

El Al will also increase flights from JFK and EWR to TLV, flying 22 weekly services to 32 per week, over the holiday season.

However, Delta will not be joining them, cancelling flights to Tel Aviv through to 29 Mar as it "continuously monitors the security situation in the region".

Noosa roams free

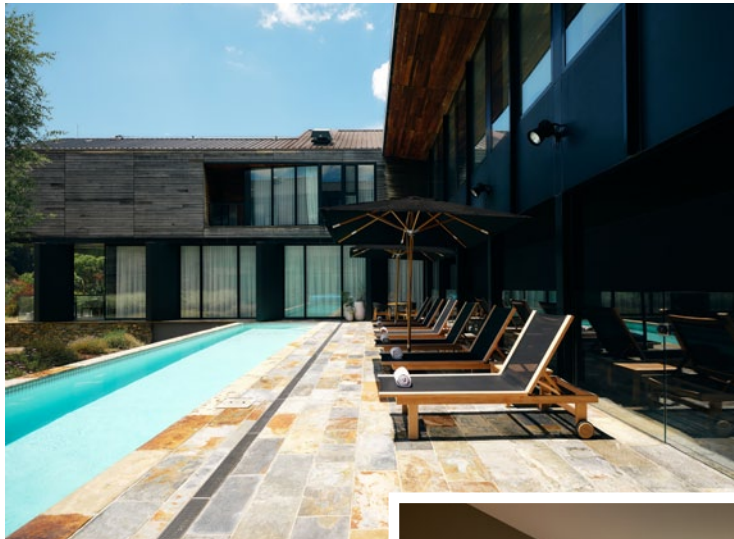
TOURISM Noosa is promoting a sustainable adventure with its latest campaign, 'Where-We-Roam', which encourages more "mindful exploration".

The campaign is aimed at showcasing the lesser-known facets of Noosa, inspiring responsible travel and fostering a deeper connection with nature.

It comes as a response to the increasing desire from travellers to explore destinations responsibly, ensuring the preservation of Noosa's natural beauty for future generations.

"Our campaign is...about fostering mindful exploration for visitors who are currently in the region," Tourism Noosa Head of Marketing Brent Chong said.

Peppers adds spice to Marysville



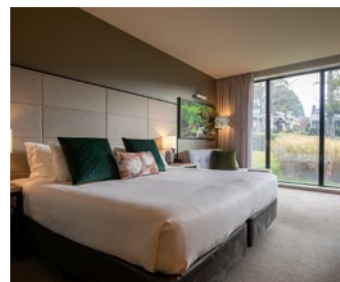
PEPPERS Marysville has unveiled its fresh look in the heart of the Yarra Valley.

The extensive refurbishment includes a complete transformation of the resort's entrance and reception area, stylishly updated guestrooms (pictured inset), a completely reimagined day spa, and a brand-new restaurant.

The renovation also included a refresh of its conference facilities, as well as a new dedicated bike zone to cater to the many cyclists visiting the region.

Each of the 100 guestrooms and suites has been stylishly updated to deliver comfort and sophistication, thanks to new state-of-the-art room fixtures, brand-new contemporary furnishings and fresh carpet in a soothing colour palette.

Peppers Marysville's new



signature restaurant, the Italian-inspired Andiamo, serves a local and seasonally-inspired menu paired with Yarra Valley wines.

The newly opened Wellness Spa offers a range of holistic treatments and therapies in three treatment rooms using custom oils and products.

Spa guests can also enjoy access to the resort's sauna, outdoor heated lap pool (pictured), spacious sun terrace, and gym.

The resort now boasts the largest conference facilities in the region, with six function spaces spanning more than 360m². MS

QF A220 on the way

QANTAS' first A220 has rolled off the production line in France, offering travellers a 137-seat configuration on board.

The Airbus plane boasts Aboriginal artwork livery, first revealed by the carrier last month (TD 15 Nov), and is the first of 29 aircraft ordered to phase out old aircraft in the existing 717 fleet for the carrier's regional network.

Qantas' first A220 will make its way to Australia via America and the Pacific next week, before formally entering service in Jan.

Adelaide impacted

A COMBINATION of poor weather and staffing issues have been blamed for a swathe of flight cancellations in and out of Adelaide Airport over the latest busy holiday weekend.

A spokesperson for Virgin Australia told TD that bad weather in South East Qld resulted in crew displacement and nine services being impacted in and out of Adelaide on Sat, and one more yesterday.

VA confirmed that impacted customers can claim the cost of hotel accommodation up to \$200 per room per night, expenses incurred for airport transfers, meal costs up to \$30 per person, per night, as well as any bills incurred for personal items.

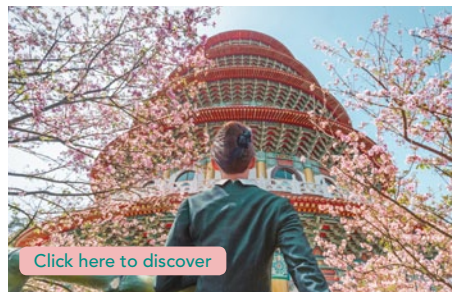
VA was not the only impacted airline, with Qantas and Jetstar services also needing to scrap some services, with JQ adding all pax were rebooked the same day.

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Rex names new NJE COO

REX has announced a new boss for its National Jet Express (NJE) division, with Craig Martin (pictured) appointed as Chief Operating Officer of the charter airline following the retirement of long-time executive Chris Hine.

After being with the airline since its launch in 2002, Hine stepped down last Fri from his post as Managing Director of NJE.

His previous titles included Chief Operating Officer, General Manager Flight Operations, Chief Pilot, and Group Flight Operations Advisor, and he was also the Executive Chairman of the Australian Pilot Academy (AAPA).

Rex Executive Chairman Lim Kim Hai paid tribute to the outgoing industry stalwart.

“Chris is a man of many talents who has excelled in every one of the multiple roles he has been



asked to undertake,” he shared.

Hine passes the baton onto Martin, who is currently Rex’s Antarctic Project Manager, spearheading the Rex Group’s mission to become the next aerial operator of the Australian Antarctic Program.

His impressive resume includes experience as an Airline Check and Training Captain, Operational Aviation Manager, as well as a Regulatory Oversight Executive with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

Additionally, Rex’s General Manager Flight Operations and Chief Pilot, Paul Fisher, will take on extra responsibility as non-executive Chairman of AAPA, effective immediately. JM

Alipay China tours

ALIPAY has partnered with a number of online travel agencies to launch China tour packages and a travel guide for international tourists.

The first batch includes 20 packages from OTAs including Trip.com and Tunui, aimed at helping tourists navigate their trips in China.

Packages include tours with an English-speaking guide at famous tourist attractions such as the Palace Museum, Badaling, Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, Jiuzhaigou, Shaolin Monastery, and more.

Alipay and Trip.com have also launched a China Travel Guide, with comprehensive travel advice for the country.

GGTS Euro Asia '24

GLOBAL Group Travel Services (GGTS) has launched its 2024 Europe and Asia cruise program, which offers 15% commission across the entire product range.

There are a wide selection of itineraries offering hundreds of departures aboard a fleet of 50 vessels, from French canal barges through to luxury river ships.

Offerings include a five-day Valleys of the Rhone and Saone: Gastronomy and Vineyards itinerary priced from \$1,781 per person twin share, which takes in the Rhone Valley, historical Beaujolais and Cote Rotie and the Condrieu Terroir wine region.

There’s also an extensive range of southeast Asia departures, including an 11-day From the Mekong Delta to the Angkor Temples sailing, which visits Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, the six major temples in Angkor, and includes a Cho Gao canal crossing.



Window Seat

THE ambitious YouTuber who purchased Elvis Presley’s old private jet for more money than he spent on his own house, has begun converting the out-of-commission plane into an RV (TD 15 Nov).

In a new video, James Webb of Jimmy’s World shows how he mounted the body of the 1962 Lockheed 1329 Jetstar onto the strengthened frame of a donated motorhome.

Once the conversion is complete, Webb revealed he will take the plane-turned-motorhome, which is currently in the influencer’s Florida workstation, on a roadtrip across the US to raise money for charities, while he will sell leftover scraps of the aircraft into Elvis mementos for profit.

Bupa travel hotspots

INDONESIA is the top holiday spot for Aussies aged under 20, while those between 40 and 50 prefer Fiji and Thailand, the latest data from Bupa Travel Insurance has revealed.

Coming in second on Bupa’s top 10 holiday spots list is the United States - the most popular destination choice for those in the 21-25 age bracket - followed by New Zealand and the UK.

The figures show that travellers in the 56-65 age bracket tend to favour Japan and the Philippines, which ranked nine and 10 on the list, respectively.

Australia was the fifth most visited country, proving that Aussies still love to explore their own backyard.

Singapore also made it onto the top 10 list, earning a spot in eighth position behind the popular markets of Thailand and Fiji, which ranked sixth and seventh, respectively.

In terms of holiday length, a range of between six and 10 days was the most common, followed by two-week vacations.



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Executive Manager - Park Operations

About Reflections Holiday Parks

Reflections Holiday Parks is the leading provider of exceptional holiday destinations across New South Wales. With a commitment to innovation, sustainability, and exceptional guest experiences, they offer a diverse portfolio of parks set in breathtaking locations, both coastal and inland.

About the opportunity

Based from the Newcastle (NSW) Base Camp of Reflections and reporting to the CEO, as an integral member of the Executive Leadership team, the Executive Manager – Park Operations will work collaboratively in setting the organizational vision and, importantly, leading the execution of the operational growth strategy. The position oversees company operations and productivity of a 400 strong workforce, and is the driver of creating a highly inclusive culture that ensures team members can thrive and organizational goals are achieved.

We are seeking will be known as an exceptional communicator and be naturally motivated to connect with operational teams through visible leadership. To achieve this, regular travel across the NSW footprint of Reflections’ parks will be something you embrace.

How to apply

To learn more about key responsibilities, company culture and associated benefits of this opportunity, please contact Ali Kimmorley on 02 4927 2006 for a confidential discussion. [Click here for more information.](#)

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Viva Holidays - Italy 2024

Viva Holidays' 2024 Italy brochure features an extensive range of accommodation and sightseeing options, as well as rail packages, semi-escorted coach touring, and self-drive holidays. The tour operator has refined its accommodation selection, retaining popular properties while introducing enticing new options, including the newly renovated Hotel Regno and Hotel Diana Roof Garden in Rome, Venice's Rialto Hotel, and Villa Lenzi in Tuscany. The brochure also highlights popular tours such as the 12-day Absolute Italy itinerary and the five-day Splendid Tour.



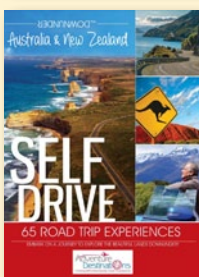
Infinity Holidays - South Pacific 2024

The new interactive e-brochure by Infinity Holidays showcases the magical appeal of the South Pacific, highlighting popular destinations like Fiji, Samoa, New Caledonia, and much more. The guide also includes property ratings, with accommodation starting from \$107 per room per night. Catering to a range of traveller preferences and touring paces, Infinity Holidays offers an abundance of ways to get around the tropical destinations, including airport transfers, self-drive and ferry options.



Eva European Tours - European Indulgence Tour

Departing Sydney on 27 May 2024, the 25-day European Indulgence Tour by Eva European Tours will explore Poland's rich history, Slovakia's Tatra Mountains, and more. Daily itineraries are displayed in the new five-page brochure, which is dedicated to showcasing the all-inclusive luxury tour. Travellers will have their entrance fees as well as European transfers aboard deluxe coaches and guide assistance covered throughout the holiday.



Adventure Destinations - Self Drive Down Under

Up to 65 road trip experiences across the trans-Tasman region are highlighted in Adventure Destinations' brand-new guide. The 116-page brochure unveils self-drive itineraries encompassing Sydney, Melbourne, the North and South Islands of New Zealand, and much more. Thanks to a new partnership with Goway Travel, explorers can take advantage of 24/7 toll-free phone assistance during their travels.

Hungary on the horizons



EIGHT Australian tour operators recently had the opportunity to experience the unique beauty of Hungary, on an immersive trip hosted by AVIAREPS, representing Hungary Tourism.

The group spent time at Lake Balaton, where they explored the historic Tihany Abbey and enjoyed lunch at Noon in Lua Resort, before heading to Budapest for a guided walking tour of the Castle District, a Danube River Cruise, and a visit to the Christmas Market. *JM*

Pictured: (Back) KJ Slater, Traveldream; Tammy van Exan, The Travel Corporation; Duje Dropuljic, Intrepid; (Middle) Edwin Jungwirth, Flight Centre

Travel Group; Emilie Groleau, Visit Hungary c/o AVIAREPS Australia; Allison Neech, Globus Family of Brands; Shannon Kling, FCM; Monika Szak, Europe Holidays; (Front) Gustavo Manginelli, Beyond Travel Group.

Victoria declared one of the cool kids

VICTORIA has appeared on *National Geographic UK's* "Cool List" for 2024, which highlights 30 of the most exciting travel destinations around the world.

The Garden State made the cut for having "the country's steamiest new road trip" - the Great Victorian Bathing Trail, which connects existing and new hot springs and bathing spots across the state.

"Australia's beaches feature high up on many travellers' itineraries, but Victoria's lesser-known hot springs might be about to tempt travellers away from the surf and sand," the magazine said.

It was the only Australian location to make the list, which also features 13 destinations in Europe, four in Asia, nine in the Americas, and three in Africa.

A Spanish heist

FOURTEEN workers at the Tenerife South Airport in Spain's Canary Islands have been arrested after allegedly stealing items worth almost \$3.3 million from checked-in luggage.

Another 20 airport employees are under investigation in the same case, which involved the theft of 29 luxury watches, 120 jewellery items, electronics, and cash.

Sydney

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