



BUSINESS
REWARDS 



DOUBLE QANTAS POINTS



HURRY,
ENDS 30 JULY
2023

Double Qantas Points

Your Qantas Business Rewards customers who activate and book an eligible flight by 30 July for travel by 30 September 2023 will earn double Qantas Points for their business. The more they book, the more they earn.^{^^}

Click the link below to find out more.

[Learn more](#)

T&Cs: ^{^^} To be eligible for this offer, Qantas Business Rewards Members must (a) register their ABN via the link provided and b) make an eligible flight booking between 12.01am (AEST) 17 July 2023 and 11.59pm (AEST) 30 July 2023, with a departure date before 11.59pm (AEST) 30 September 2023. The Qantas Business Rewards member's ABN and the traveller's Qantas Frequent Flyer membership number must be quoted at the time of booking. For more details click [here](#).

LET TODAY
BE THE START OF
SOMETHING NEW

LET'S TALK

itravel | MOBILE | FRANCHISE | LINK | LUXE



itravel

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news including our **Sustainability** page, plus a front cover wrap from **Qantas Business Rewards** and full page from **The Travel Junction**.

Offers sought for Livn

EXCLUSIVE

THE Administrators of Livn Group have confirmed that the business is continuing to trade in a scaled-back form, during a process which aims to finalise a sale of the company by the end of this month.

The technology company, which was formed in 2011 to connect activity and experience operators with global distribution, ceased trading last month (**TD 23 Jun**) because its primary backer, Bicheno Investments, owned by Tasmanian Kathmandu founder Jan Cameron, withdrew support after investing around \$14 million in the company in prior years.

"The trading and funding prospects of FY24 were deemed too capital intensive, resulting in the appointment of voluntary administrators," according to Antony Resnick from DVT Group.

Resnick told creditors that enquiries had been received from around 20 interested parties from across the globe, with several already returning non-disclosure agreements prior to being granted access to a data room.

"The expectation is that various offers will be made for the sale of part or the entirety of the business in the coming weeks and that negotiations will follow."

Flight Centre is Livn Group's largest client (**TD 15 Jul 2020**) and there is "open communication" with an understanding that the core operations will be sustained until a commercial outcome can be achieved, Resnick said.

About half of the company's 15 staff have been stood down.

As well as Bicheno Investment's \$14 million debt, other creditors include the Australian Taxation Office with a debt of \$44,000.

G2 Etelligence, founded by industry veteran Gary Gelenter, is owed \$3,700, and Lisa Maroun's Enspered Plus Marketing Solutions is owed almost \$11,000.

QF double rewards

QANTAS Business Rewards customers can earn double Qantas Points when they activate and book an eligible flight by 30 Jul for travel by 30 Sep.

For more information, see the **cover page**.

UNCOVER OUR REGIONS

COME AND SAY *Go day*



BE IN TO WIN A \$1000 QANTAS VOUCHER!

Watch 4 of 9 episodes in the Aussie Specialist Uncover our Regions webinar series before 31 July and tell us about your favourite Aussie holiday spot to enter to win.

Learn more

Discover New Cal

TRAVEL Junction is giving agents the chance to explore the tropical haven of New Caledonia.

The top-selling advisor before 31 Jul will score two return flights to Noumea on Aircalin from Sydney/Brisbane - see **back page**.

Comm Games axed

VIC Premier Daniel Andrews this morning revealed the state's shock pullout from the 2026 Commonwealth Games, which had been touted as a major driver of regional tourism for the state.

Planned for Mar 2026, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, Shepparton and Gippsland were going to host events, with Andrews blaming cost blowouts for the cut.

Victoria Tourism Industry Council CEO, Felicia Mariani, said the "reputational fallout" for hosting future major int'l events will need to be managed by the Vic Govt.

Wendy Wu Tours

EARLYBIRD 2024 SALE

SAVE UP TO \$1000^{PP}
ON SELECTED 2024 DEPARTURES

CHOOSE FROM OVER
70 TOURS AND
150 DEPARTURES!

EXPLORE NOW

WHY RAILBOOKERS?

We are a one-stop shop for all your international rail requirements



Book up to 24 months in advance and lock in the rate



Bundled product inclusive of rail, hotels, sightseeing, transfers, and more



Rail Experts - we take the complexity out of rail

railbookers

Learn More

EXPLORE ANTARCTICA'S

EXHILIRATING ADVENTURES
2023-2024

LEARN MORE

aurora
expeditions

SAVE
up to
25%*

*T&Cs apply



Travel Daily
 Learn more about Italy with Travel Daily Training Academy
[Click here to discover](#)

AF back to AUH

AIR France will resume flights between Paris and Abu Dhabi over the upcoming Northern Winter scheduling period effective from late Oct this year. It's more than a decade since AF withdrew from the route in 2012, with daily A350 flights planned.



If you want more inventory

TURN TAAP ON

ENJOY TODAY

www.expedia.com.au/taap

telephone
1800 726 618

email
expedia-au@discovertheworld.com.au

Padman, Almeida join ACAC

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents has reconstituted the key ATAS Appeals Complaint Committee (ACAC) with new members including former senior Helloworld Travel Limited executive, David Padman, and Consolidated Travel veteran Melvyn Almeida.

The pair join consumer representatives Philip Field and Jillian Brewer alongside Chairman Hank Speir, with the committee now back up and running at full capacity after a COVID-induced pause and last year's independent review of ATAS.

"We are thrilled to welcome these highly respected individuals to the ATAS Appeals Complaint Committee and thank them in advance for their time and contribution," said AFTA CEO, Dean Long.

"The ACAC's formation is an essential step in upholding the integrity of the ATAS accreditation scheme and further enhancing industry standards...by including industry stalwarts and consumer representatives, AFTA ensures that the committee has a comprehensive understanding of both industry-specific nuances and consumer perspectives."

ACAC is in a partnership with the Consumer Federation Australia, which jointly selects the Chair of the Committee with AFTA and appoints the consumer representatives to the body.

One of the features of the Australian Travel Accreditation

Scheme (ATAS) is complaint resolution support, including where necessary from ACAC.

Long said the appointments "highlight our commitment to maintaining a fair and robust complaint resolution process".

"Travel industry professionals can have confidence in the ATAS Appeals Complaint Committee's ability to impartially review decisions and provide resolutions," he added.

VA expands ANA

VIRGIN Australia and All Nippon Airways have expanded their partnership to include more codeshare opportunities and member loyalty benefits.

From today, eligible Velocity Frequent Flyer members can earn points and status credits when travelling on ANA operated flights across more than 130 destinations, including Japan, Asia, North America and Europe, as well as 20% bonus points on select Sydney-Tokyo flights.



Unlock European Trains with Grant Robertson

Paris ↔ Strasbourg with OUIGO

France Est High Speed Rail: Trains from Paris to Strasbourg operate 16 times a day. These trains are operated by a combination of OUIGO, DB SNCF in cooperation, TER, TGV inOUI. The fastest journey takes just 1hr 46 mins. The first train operates at 0655 and the last train departs at 2025.

Interesting fact: Economically, Strasbourg is an important centre of manufacturing and engineering, as well as a hub of road, rail and river transportation.

Expert tip: Enjoy low-cost travel from Paris to Strasbourg with OUIGO Grande Vitesse. OUIGO Grande Vitesse trains are low-cost TGVs that travel at speeds of over 300 km/h. To get the best OUIGO prices, book your ticket from Paris to Strasbourg in advance!

agent.raileurope.com/contact-us | jhooper@raileurope.com (VIC, TAS, SA) groberson@raileurope.com (NSW, ACT, QLD, WA & NT)

Unlock Easy Rail Access

Commission + Support + Flexi-pay + Incentives = Rail Europe

2024 EARLY BIRD SALE

Save \$500 per couple
 On all 2024 departures
 Book by 31 August 2023

TRAVEL AGENT INCENTIVE

Receive \$100 digital Mastercard for every website booking!



GUARANTEED DEPARTURES



SMALL GROUP SIZES



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL



ENGLISH ONLY EXPERT GUIDES



MORE ADVENTURES



SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDED



SLOWER-PACED ITINERARY



ACA speakers named

THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has unveiled its speaker program for the upcoming 25th ACA Conference and AGM, scheduled for 30 Aug-01 Sep at the Novotel Wollongong Northbeach.

Keynote presentations and panel discussions will see Tourism Australia's Phillipa Harrison, Princess Cruises' Stefano Borzone, Earthcheck's Natasha Montesalvo, Mick Fogg from Ponant Expeditions, and Sandra Lau from Viva Energy, all offer insights on the cruise sector.

Register **HERE** before 31 Jul to get the earlybird rates.

Palau agent rates

TRAVEL advisors are invited to experience Palau with special agent fares from \$311 return with Air Niugini.

It is the lowest-ever industry fare offered, and is available until Nov - call 1300 361 380.

ABEA appoints first chief

MELISSA Brown has been named as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer for The Australian Business Events Association (ABEA), following the industry body's official launch earlier this month (**TD** 03 Jul).

Brown (**pictured**) will commence her new role on 04 Sep, working closely with members and stakeholders on research, policy, skills, training and advocacy with the govt.

"Melissa brings a combination of energy, confidence, innovation, and broad global commercial experience that we are excited to embrace in this early phase of ABEA's development," the body's Chair Peter King enthused.

The new ABEA chief will draw on her experience, which has seen her work around the globe with companies such as Telstra and Talent International, as well as the Australian Chamber of Commerce in London, where she played a



key role in building its associate membership & advocacy program.

"We know that in appointing Melissa we will be on a good path towards achieving our goal for the business events industry to be recognised as the valued and powerful driver of the Australian economy that it is," King said.

Reflecting on her new role, Brown added that she is "delighted to be given the opportunity to represent an industry as sizeable and important as business events".



Window Seat

PASSENGERS on board a PLAY Airlines flight from New York to Keflavik, Iceland last week got front-row seats to a once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon.

Towards the end of what had so far been an ordinary flight, the captain announced that he would be taking a quick detour past Keflavik to a volcano eruption just 16km away from the airport.

He turned the aircraft so pax on both sides of the plane could get a birds-eye view of the lava spewing out of the volcano, with a cloud of ash in the sky above it.

One of the pax on board, said the scene was "unreal" and "an amazing experience" - and despite the scenic diversion, the plane still managed to land on time.

LET US COVER IT

Sell a Cover-More policy to enter the draw.

If your customer is selected and wins the value of their trip up to \$10k*

you win the same amount too.

Win up to \$10k* when your customer takes out a policy with Cover-More. *T&Cs apply. Visit covermore-experiences/letuscoverit for further detail.

Cover-More

Quadruple the luxury

INDONESIAN-BASED luxury villa company Elite Havens has announced four new properties based in Bali and Lombok.

Villa Bangkuang in Seseh-Tanah Lot offers six bedrooms with a private pool and garden areas, while Villa Emmy is comprised of four bedrooms and is located in close proximity with Seminyak's commercial district.

Meanwhile Villa Avalon is located in the vibrant part of Canggu, and the four-bedroom Malimbu Cliff Villa is situated on Lombok, overlooking the shores of the island, where guests can enjoy an infinity pool, expansive outdoor spaces and more.

The four openings arrive as Indonesia was named the most popular outbound destination in May (*TD* 13 Jul).

Kiwis follow the sun with VSC



VISIT Sunshine Coast (VSC) recently hosted eight New Zealand trade partners on a famil to celebrate the return of Air New Zealand's seasonal service from Auckland direct to the Sunshine Coast (*TD* 27 Jun).

The famil kicked off in Noosa with lunch at the newly opened Lanai, followed by a bespoke tour with Creative Tours taking in the Noosa Chocolate Factory, gin tasting at the Seabourne Distillery, and exploring the studio of Pottery for the Planet, ending with a night spent in luxury at Sofitel Noosa Pacific Resort.

Day two highlights included an adventure experience on Noosa Oceanrider, a visit to Maleny Botanic Gardens and Bird World, and a decadent three-course dinner at The Long Apron, with the night concluding in a stay at Spicers Clovelly State.

The final day of the trip included shopping in the quaint town of Montville, an Indigenous cultural learning tour with Saltwater Eco Tours, a paint and sip experience with 25 Sunshine Coast tourism businesses, and a stay at the charming Coco Mooloolaba.

Pictured enjoying the sights at Noosa National Park: Kim Beere, Lifestyle Holidays; Kristy Wei, Flight Centre; Sarah Hannah, House of Travel; Vynka Hutton, Tourism Noosa; Mandy Veale, Tourism & Events Queensland;

Hayley Price, Air NZ; Gareth Waddington, Helloworld; Dave Nicholson, World Travellers Studio; Emma Bradley, First Light Travel and Emily Zinowki (VSC).

Boycott would fail

EXCLUSIVE

WHEN asked if boycotting cruise itineraries to the Faroe Islands would help curb the slaughter of whales and dolphins, Ambassador Cruise Line lamented the move would not be effective.

Speaking with *TD* about a recent incident which saw its *Ambition* cruise ship's pax bear witness to a bloody butchering of marine life in port, a spokesperson for the cruise line said it is "utterly opposed to the commercial hunting of whales and dolphins in the Faroes", however abandoning the destination altogether would not be the right decision.

"We don't support the hunt by coming here, we'll always use it as an opportunity to remind the authorities that tourists want to marvel at the wildlife and not to watch it being killed.

"At some point, the long-term importance of tourist income will be recognised as being more sustainable, uncontroversial and appealing than an activity which has earned nothing for the Faroes other than condemnation globally," the line added.

Marriott MGM deal

MARRIOTT International and MGM Resorts International have announced a new long-term license agreement, which will see the creation of MGM Collection with Marriott Bonvoy.

Launching in Oct, the new Collection will encompass 17 of MGM's resorts, with a small number to be available immediately on Marriott's digital platforms.

All 17 properties will be able to be booked by the end of the year, and members of MGM Rewards will also be eligible to link accounts with Marriott Bonvoy and receive select member benefits, while members of Marriott Bonvoy will also be able to earn and redeem points for stays at all MGM Collection with Marriott Bonvoy properties.

SCENIC^o
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

Celebrating
10 years
of River
Cruising in
France

VIEW BROCHURE

SCENIC^o
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

Exclusive
France Month
Offers

Bonus
Pre or Post
Hotel Night
& City
Excursion



*Book by 31 August 2023, terms and conditions apply.

Viking tips the hat on Melbourne



OVER 200 travel agents from across Victoria attended Viking's Vor night in Melbourne, which saw a blend of informative training and engaging activities take place and many prizes won.

The resounding enthusiasm and feedback from the agents was unmistakably positive.

Sue Burchell and Anita Fanfulla from Helloworld East Doncaster expressed their delight, stating "we have been in the industry for over 30 years and the Viking function was one of the best we have ever been to".

"We loved the enthusiasm, information, and the Viking style."

The spirited evening was further enlivened with a dance-off and interactive games, giving agents the chance to win multiple prizes throughout the night.

Agents are encouraged to secure their spots for the upcoming Canberra, Adelaide, and Newcastle events.

Perth agents are asked to please join the waitlist as this event is already sold out.

Click on your preferred location below to register: **CANBERRA; ADELAIDE; PERTH; and NEWCASTLE.**



AGENTS gather for the night of celebration.

IT WAS a full-house at the Melbourne Vor Night.



ALL sparkles and bubbles on the special night.



THE team from RACV.



NEVER a dull moment at a Viking Vor Night.



JOANNE Cullen, Viking's Commercial Manager Victoria and South Australia.



CAT Whelan from Hawthorn Travel & Cruise winning an ocean voyage.



STYLISH travel agents rejoice as they share a moment to take a photo with their fashionable attire!



AGENTS showing off their moves in the dance-off.



MSC's Hope Spot

THE Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve in the Bahamas has been officially named as a 'Hope Spot', in recognition of the private island's ongoing conservation efforts.

Owned by MSC Cruises, the destination joins Mission Blue's global network of 154 Hope Spots, which are places deemed as "critical to ocean health with the ultimate goal of achieving the status of Marine Protected Areas".

Since taking responsibility for Ocean Cay in 2015, MSC Cruises has worked to restore the island, including planting nearly 5,000 trees and 75,000 indigenous plants, flowers and shrubs.

Other initiatives include restoring the island's coral reefs via MSC's Super Coral Program, launched in 2019.

\$30M SAF FUND OPENS

THE Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) will invest \$30 million to support the development of domestic SAF production from agricultural feedstocks, helping the aviation sector accelerate its decarbonisation plans.

While the global air transport industry is committed to net-zero by 2050, low SAF production and high prices have been stifling its adoption by airlines, but according to Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, the latest injection could help turn the tide.

"Australia's strong agricultural sector means we could be a global leader by scaling up domestic production of renewable fuel for exports, which could help reduce global aviation

emissions significantly," he said.

"The world's climate emergency is Australia's jobs opportunity, and this is true for the aviation industry which is looking to reduce emissions - a homegrown SAF industry could create more than 7,400 jobs by 2030."

ARENA is now seeking proposals for commercial or pre-commercial SAF production, and follows big pushes from Qantas to encourage more local investment in SAFs, in turn lowering the cost of green fuel for local carriers.

ARENA's 2021 Bioenergy Roadmap found a local bioenergy industry could contribute around \$10 billion in extra GDP by 2030.

Applicants seeking funds from the new SAF scheme can be granted between \$1 and 30 million via a two-stage process.

No waste at Royal

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCL) has announced the cruise industry's first waste-to-energy system, which turns solid waste directly into energy on board.

The Microwave-Assisted Pyrolysis and Micro Auto Gasification systems will debut respectively on RCL's newest ships this year - Royal Caribbean International's *Icon of the Seas* and Silversea Cruises' *Silver Nova*.

The new tech will take waste on board and convert it into synthesis gas (syngas) that the ship can directly use as energy, allowing RCL to repurpose waste efficiently and sustainably.

An additional bioproduct of the system, biochar, can also be used as a soil nutrient.

AA tracks its sustainability progress

AMERICAN Airlines has published its 2022 *Sustainability Report*, outlining its progress towards reaching net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.

The paper highlights the American carrier's 2022 environmental achievements, including the addition of new-generation aircraft to its fleet and the finalisation of its most significant sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) offtake agreement.

Last year, American Airlines also announced investments in

two companies focused on the development of low-carbon, hydrogen-powered aviation.

The carrier also became the first airline globally to receive validation from the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) that its intermediate 2035 GHG reduction targets meet the criteria in the SBTi's first aviation pathway.

MEANWHILE, the airline has this week also received a top score of 100 on the Disability Equality Index (DEI) for the eighth year in a row.

Anantara initiatives

ANANTARA Desaru Coast Resort & Villas has strengthened its sustainability commitment with a raft of new initiatives aimed at protecting the ecosystems of Desaru Coast, including the conversion of food waste into fertiliser and the phasing out of plastic bottles.

Additionally, 'Dollar for Deeds' rolled out at the resort last month, matching guests' donations towards ReWild Desaru, a not-for-profit organisation set up to protect resident wildlife species.

Lufthansa SAF deal

DER Touristik has become the first major tour operator to purchase sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from Lufthansa Group.

The European tourism group will use the alternate fuel to offer its guests a more eco-friendly air travel option, at no extra charge.

Specifically, the partnership will see a 20% SAF mixture used to fuel Lufthansa flights on some of DER Touristik's 2024 tours, including two trips to Ireland as well as five guided small-group trips to Albena, Bulgaria.

Connect with your clients and ramp up your social media content

Looking for ready-made social media content? *Travel & Cruise Weekly* have ready made agent toolkits featuring email signatures, images, and social media tiles to inspire your clients.

Travel & Cruise Weekly

[CLICK HERE](#)



MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.682

THE Australian dollar has fallen from five-month highs against the US dollar, currently sitting two cents higher than the previous week.

The Aussie also dipped slightly from year highs against the Chinese yuan, which soared to just shy of ¥5 last week.

Meanwhile, Treasurer Jim Chalmers announced Michele Bullock as the new Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.682
UK	£0.521
NZ	\$1.078
Euro	€0.606
Japan	¥94.51
Thailand	฿23.59
China	¥4.889
South Africa	12.30
Canada	\$0.900
Crude oil	US\$79.87

Equatorial Guinea launches new e-visa

EQUATORIAL Guinea will offer a new e-visa service for all nationalities through VFS Global, as part of the country's endeavour to encourage more tourism and business travel.

The application, processing, and issuance of visas will become faster and more convenient under the new scheme.

The new e-visa service is available at equatorialguinea-evisa.com.

Our jets have timeless charm



VIETJET has debuted a new livery on its A330 aircraft to better promote the nation's culture and tourism to domestic and international audiences.

Created in partnership with the Vietnam National Authority of Tourism, the new livery, **pictured** with VJ's crew, spruiks the theme of "Vietnam - Timeless Charm", evoking colours of the Vietnamese flag.

The aircraft boasting the new

livery will operate on services between Vietnam and Australia, with the carrier stating it looks forward to introducing Australian tourists to a friendly and hospitable Vietnam that welcomes everyone.

APAC hotel investment dips

HOTEL investment in Asia Pacific hotels declined by 51% in the first half of 2023 when compared to the same period in 2022, according to analysis by JLL.

While the region saw a decline as a whole, Australia and New Zealand were at least near the top of the pile, accounting for US\$820 million in purchases, only behind Japan (US\$1.54 billion).

The primary reason for the dip has been attributed to the rising cost of debt and macroeconomic challenges, seeing the total investment drop from US\$6.41 billion to just US\$3.13b.

The biggest drop-off in hotel investment was in Singapore, the report noted, plummeting 95% in the first half of 2023 when compared to last year.

Dingo bites tourism

A LARGE bite has been taken out of the tourism reputation of K'gari (Fraser Island) this week after a woman was mauled by a pack of dingoes while exercising.

The 23-year-old woman was jogging on the beach when she was set upon by three native canines, resulting in more than 30 bite marks and deep lacerations.

Local authorities said they were "concerned" the attack took place on Orchid Beach, where plenty of tourists visit each year, and not in fenced-off areas of the island, which are typically the sites of dingo attacks in the past.

The Chat

WITH JENNY

Conversations with Women in Travel

Listen to the trailer **HERE**



**new
caledonia**
Pacific heart



Aircalin
New Caledonia

21.5972° S, 165.3635° E

GET CLOSER TO ADVENTURE

DISCOVER NEW CALEDONIA

Dive into pristine beaches and explore stunning reefs in Bourail – a tropical haven in our closest South Pacific neighbour, New Caledonia.

5 DAYS BOURAIL – A REGION BETWEEN LAND AND SEA

 LOCATION: BOURAIL, NEW CALEDONIA

 DURATION: 6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS

5 NIGHTS AT SHERATON
NEW CALEDONIA DEVA
SPA & GOLF RESORT

CAR HIRE 6 DAYS PICK UP / DROP OFF NOUMÉA
RETURN FLIGHTS TO NOUMÉA ON AIRCALIN*

from
\$1,589
per person*

HELIO Package Code: AU39243

CALL OUR SALES EXPERTS
1800 003 903

BOOK NOW

LEARN MORE ABOUT NEW CALEDONIA

WIN 2 RETURN FLIGHTS TO
NOUMÉA ON AIRCALIN

Become the top-selling advisor during the New Caledonia/Aircalin through to 31 July 2023 to win 2 return tickets from Sydney or Brisbane to Nouméa on Aircalin. See website for Terms and Conditions.

*Packages based on twin share and are subject to availability. Flight packages are based on Aircalin flights Sydney – Nouméa – Sydney. Other Australian departure cities are available. Please refer to HELIO for prices and availability. Terms and Conditions apply.