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EXCLUSIVE

EXISTING bookings with Journey Beyond's 13 experiential tourism brands across Australia are not at risk, despite recent corporate upheaval with parent company Hornblower Group.

In a statement issued exclusively to **Travel Daily** last night, Journey Beyond outlined its plan to exit its former ownership structure under Hornblower Group (**TD** breaking news overnight).

Journey Beyond CEO, Chris Tallent, said the company operates as a standalone business unit with separate sources of funding to Hornblower and enjoys record demand.

"This announcement will have no impact on our operations and as Australia's leading experiential tourism group, we remain focused on delivering our incredible experiences to all of our guests and to the further strong growth ahead for Journey Beyond," Tallent told **TD**.

Amid the cessation of American Queen Voyages yesterday, Hornblower Group has overnight received a new cash injection of

US\$121 million (A\$184.7m) from investment firm, Strategic Value Partners (SVP).

As a result, SVP has become the majority owner of Hornblower Group and will facilitate affected American Queen refund requests.

The demise of American Queen is sure to reignite speculation about a sale of Journey Beyond, with four potential suitors last year reported to be considering making an offer to buy the company for up to \$600 million (**TD** 28 Aug 2023).

For now, Journey Beyond said it will contact Australian travellers with American Queen bookings, in order of departure, to refund deposits and assist with alternative travel plans.

More information on the future of American Queen Voyages and forward client bookings in today's edition of **Cruise Weekly**. *ML*

Today's issue of **TD**

Travel Daily today features nine pages of the latest news including **Business Events News** and a photo page from **Visit USA**.

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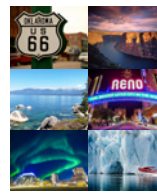
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APT inks Seabourn

APT and Seabourn have forged a new multi-year partnership that will see the former charter two luxury expedition vessels to destinations including the UK, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, and the Kimberley in 2025.

To take place aboard *Seabourn Venture* and *Seabourn Pursuit*, the new product will look to combine Seabourn's luxury small ship experience with APT's touring expertise.

"This collaboration represents a significant milestone for both companies as we elevate the luxury experience for guests," APT CEO, David Cox, said.

Cruises are now on sale for Northern Europe, the Arctic & the Kimberley in 2025, with Antarctica sailings set to launch in Mar for 2026 departures.



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Sun sets on Sunrise '25

DELAYS in deliveries of A350 aircraft will see Qantas' much-hyped Project Sunrise delayed by at least six months to mid-2026 (**TD** breaking news).

The slated date had been laid down for the second half of 2025, however in its latest financial report, the carrier confirmed that manufacturing issues would impact the delivery schedule.

Supply chain problems will also see the delivery dates for the first of its A321XLR jets to serve Qantas' domestic operations knocked back by at least three months to early 2025.

In further fleet updates, the airline noted eight additional A321XLRs have been added to the carrier's existing Airbus order for its domestic network, taking the total number of the model to 28 as part of its gradual phase out of the 737 fleet.

Qantas also noted that A321LRs already delivered to Jetstar are so far achieving a 20% fuel burn per seat reduction and a 12% unit cost saving compared with the A320s they replace.

"This is helping towards the Group's interim emission



reduction target of 25% by 2030," Qantas said.

Meanwhile, Qantas also revealed its loyalty division expanded significantly during the first half of the financial year, reaching 15.8 million members.

The value of bookings for Qantas Hotels and Holidays also increased by 30% during the first half when compared with the same period in 2023, while bookings through partner TripADeal grew by 60%.

Qantas' growing insurance arm showed solid signs of take-up, with the number of Qantas-branded home and motor insurance policies increasing by a two-and-a-half times the receipts taken in H123.

A 4% rise in the value of purchases on cards earning Qantas Points was also noted.

For more on Qantas, see **p4**.



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TAIPEI

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you in collaboration with Taiwan Tourism, who are showing us Taiwan this week.

AFTER arriving at the Grand Hilai hotel in Taipei, today's activities will visit the Yehliu Geopark before taking in the colourful houses of Zhengbin Port and the historical village of Jiufen, whose scenery is often said to have inspired the village in popular movie *Spirited Away*.

Dinner at Din Tai Fung will follow before a quick trip to Taipei 101 Observatory.

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Air NZ profits nosedive

AIR New Zealand has seen a fall in profits during the first half of the 2024 financial year, today posting a net profit after tax result of NZ\$129 million - a significant downturn from the NZ\$213 million it raked in the previous corresponding period (**TD** breaking news).

Rail Europe recruits

RAIL Europe and Eurail have begun the search for a Travel Advisor Reporter, who will be sent on a week-long trip to Europe where they will document and share their experience with their social media followers.

To apply, the advisor will need to demonstrate their creativity, social media prowess, as well as their vlogging and photography skills via a short video posted to Facebook or Instagram, tagging @RailEurope and @Eurail, before 03 Mar - find out more **HERE**.

On a more positive note, pax revenue of \$3.1 billion was up 21%, driven by capacity boosts across the carrier's int'l network, with overall capacity up 29% on the previous six-month period.

"We knew this year would be tougher than the last, when pent-up levels of demand and industry-wide capacity constraints drove one of the strongest financial results in our history," Air NZ Chair, Therese Walsh, said.

"While we have reported a solid first half result, it is against the backdrop of significant ongoing supply chain issues."

Walsh highlighted the additional engine maintenance requirements on the carrier's A321neo fleet, which will see up to five of the planes out of service at any one time across the next 18 months.

Taking these factors into account, Air NZ said its performance for the second half of 2024 will be "markedly lower" than H124. JM

Watch the Soiree

FOR those who were unlucky not to attend Entire Travel Group's recent Travel Showcase & Soiree event series, the opportunity to catch up on all of the action can be found **HERE**.

Thankfully, due to the strong response, Entire has made the decision to bring the event series back next year (**TD** 20 Feb).

EK flies to Bogota

EMIRATES will launch a new daily service from Dubai via Miami to the Colombian capital of Bogota from 03 Jun.

The service will operate daily using B777-300ER aircraft, and will compliment its existing South American services to Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires.

"We've long wanted to serve Colombia...and this underscores our commitment to South America, which is poised for increased business/leisure travel," Emirates CEO Tim Clark said.

EXP revenue grows

ATTRACTION operator Experience Co has reported its strongest trading volumes and revenue since the pandemic in its first-half financial results released today, with overall revenues for the period sitting at \$62.3 million.

The company reported an underlying EBITDA of \$7.1m but an overall post-tax loss of \$1.3m.

CEO, John O'Sullivan, said Jan trading was broadly in line with the prior year, despite an impact from extreme weather events.

Despite the half-year loss being \$300k less than the same period last year, the company said due to "continued uncertainty", it wouldn't be providing an earnings guidance for the full year.

"Tropical Cyclone Jasper disrupted our operations in North Queensland during the peak Dec holiday period, however, the business was able to restore operations in Cairns and Port Douglas and minimise the financial impacts," O'Sullivan said.

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Int'l Rail discounts

INTERNATIONAL Rail has announced its latest Eurail promotion, offering a 15% discount on Global and One Country passes.

There are no travel date restrictions, however bookings must be completed by 12 Mar. The discount is available on four, five, seven, 10 and 15 days of travel over a two-month period. **CLICK HERE** to view the full terms and conditions.

US pilot program

THE US Consul General for New South Wales and Queensland, Christine Elder, has announced the details of a pilot program that will streamline travellers flying into the United States.

The 'One-Stop' pilot will debut on Sydney to San Francisco flights and enable passengers to transit to an onward destination within the US and bypass security screening in the transit airport.

Qantas unpacks investment

QANTAS has outlined a number of investment initiatives designed to help win back goodwill from its customer base following a turbulent period of public relations over the last 12 months.

Among the slated initiatives detailed in the carrier's latest financial report is the retrofitting of existing international aircraft with faster complimentary wi-fi, which is due to be progressively switched on from the end of calendar year 2024.

The decision to upgrade wi-fi was deferred until global satellite technology was able to deliver a similar quality on its Australian flights, with the airline stating its domestic wi-fi has enjoyed an average take-up rate of 75%.

Qantas also committed to raising the game of its app, with a new multi-million dollar technology strategy over three years to see new features rolled out each month, such as

enhanced tracking tools and improved status updates.

A complete overhaul of qantas.com from mid-2024 will also take place, making it significantly faster and easier to use.

The investment update was released alongside the posting of an underlying profit before tax result of \$1.25 billion, down 13% on the same period last year.

Net debt was revealed to be around \$4 billion, while total flying increased by 25% on an available seat kilometre basis, with Qantas carrying 3.3 million more passengers when compared with the first half of 2023. **AB**

Click Frenzy register

TRAVEL partners looking to get involved in an upcoming Click Frenzy event can register their interest **HERE**.

Participating retailers enjoyed a 55% increase in website traffic.

Tahiti increase

AUSTRALIANS love Tahiti, according to new figures from Tahiti Tourisme.

Arrivals in 2023 were up by 73% compared to last year and Australia was the fifth largest tourist market for Tahiti, with a 2.9% market share of arrivals.

Agents are invited to take part in the Tahiti Specialist Programme (**HERE**), which offers training and booking support, as well as chances to win famil spots.

Goldcar \$750 prize

AGENTS can treat themselves to an Easter shopping spree thanks to Driveaway, which is giving away a \$750 gift card in a new booking incentive.

To enter, book a Goldcar hire car product through Driveaway before 31 Mar, with each booking earning an entry into the draw.

Entries must be paid in full prior to the closing date, with the major prize drawn on 31 Mar.



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*Only valid on bookings made via our call centre. Prices shown in the portal are exclusive of the 10% discount which will be applied by our call centre. Online bookings are exempt from the discount. Subject to availability. Prices are per person based on two people sharing, subject to availability, in Australian Dollars and correct at time of going to print. May fluctuate due to surcharges, fees, taxes, or currency exchange. Single supplements apply. Flights not included. ARBN 668 148 392. 016219 (02.24)

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View itineraries

A decade of Thirsty Frog



NEARLY 10 years have passed since Carnival Cruise Line joined with Sydney's historic Lord Nelson pub to develop Thirsty Frog Summer Ale - a refreshing beer brewed exclusively for the cruise line's guests.

With many thousands of schooners since poured, the duo is celebrating the milestone with a second drop now coming to the high seas - Lord Nelson's Smooth Sailing Cruising Ale.

While the ships may have changed, Carnival Cruise Line VP, Kara Glamore, said the mission to capture the spirit of a holiday at sea most certainly has not.

"I'd like to say cheers to a decade of our wonderful Lord Nelson Brewery partnership and raise a glass of this very special cruising-inspired beer," she said.

Lord Nelson Managing Director, Blair Hayden, said he was proud of the pub's rich relationship with

Carnival and that it was fitting the next ale to head on board was its very own "cruising brew". *ML*

Hayden is **pictured** toasting to the partnership with Glamore.

EY luxury amenities

LUXURY Italian design house Giorgio Armani and wellness brand ESPA will feature in a new collection of Etihad amenity kits to be introduced this month.

Business class guests will receive a range of ESPA skincare products alongside Giorgio Armani slippers and loungewear on flights of nine hours or longer.

Travellers in economy class will receive a tote bag packed with "inflight essentials" including eye shades, hand cream and earplugs.

The new kits come three weeks after Gulf rival Emirates launched its own inflight loungewear kit to wear on board (*TD* 02 Feb).

Hawaii visitor tax

A PROPOSED US\$25 (AU\$38) tax on visitors to Hawaii is now before lawmakers in the US state, with the impost designed to raise funds for protecting beaches and other natural attractions.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the 'Climate Impact Fee' is expected to raise up to US\$68 million each year and would be collected via hotel resort fees.

Funds would also go toward the prevention and management of natural disasters including fires.

Hawaii's new tax was proposed last year (*TD* 06 Apr 2023).

Lux LMG Collection

BOUTIQUE hotel group Lancemore will introduce a new sister brand focused on promoting unique and spectacular properties with eclectic identities.

Titled 'LMG Collection', Lancemore said each property is independently operated and connected to its local scene.

The new brand has debuted with the reopening of Cleveland Estate, a relaunch of the Macedon Ranges' Cleveland Winery acquired by Lancemore Group in 2021.



80/20 reform push

ATIA Chief Executive Dean Long says the association will continue to call for the abolition of Sydney Airport's controversial 80/20 slot rules, despite the government committing to boost transparency on how slots are managed (*TD* breaking news yesterday).

"Yesterday's reforms are the first step towards fairer flying, and we thank the Federal Government for these common-sense improvements," Long said.

Both Qantas and Virgin Australia welcomed the reforms, with QF saying the improved transparency will prove claims the carrier has been hoarding slots are false.

Virgin Australia said it was looking forward to receiving more details and working with the government about how its reforms will be put into practice.

Bonza CEO, Tim Jordan, also said the reforms are "all positive steps in the right direction", with the proposed changes to regional slot allocation expected to be of particular interest.

"As an airline, we're keen to gain access to Sydney Airport as we believe we'd be able to serve about 20 destinations from Sydney Airport and around 80% of those routes currently have no low-cost option for Australian travellers," Jordan said.

"Those 20 destinations would allow low-cost fares for more than two million Aussies living in regional Australia," Jordan added.

The ACCC said it supported the key changes which would help new airline entrants compete.



RAINFOREST TO ROCKIES

SUPR. NATURAL BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA

Kootenay Rockies © Kootenay Rockies Tourism / Mitch Winton

CANADA RAINFOREST TO ROCKIES

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Scenic goes solo

SCENIC has released a raft of new solo travel offers for sailings in New Zealand, the Kimberley region, Antarctica, the Arctic and the Mediterranean.

Guests can enjoy the trip of a lifetime aboard the *Scenic Eclipse*, which has a 228-guest capacity and offers complimentary access to the spa, gym, and yoga and pilates studio.

Solo travellers can also save up to 100% off the single supplement price on a range of selected itineraries.

To view the range of itineraries applicable to the new solo travel promotions, [CLICK HERE](#).

Little Queen eats

HILTON Melbourne Little Queen Street has partnered with the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival (MFWF) as its official hotel partner for 2024.

In celebration of the deal, festival attendees who purchase any MFWF ticket can take advantage of 20% savings on room rates between 14-25 Mar.

As the official hotel partner, Hilton Melbourne Little Queen will also host the festival's opening night party in its Luci restaurant, and act as the official Melbourne base for a number of renowned national and international chefs.



The best time of the month



IGNITE Travel Group has welcomed its best-ever month of sales, eclipsing the previous mantle by a whopping 25%.

The Gold Coast-based online travel company revealed that Jan proved to be the most successful month in its 16-year history, propelling the business towards a likely turnover in excess of \$1 billion for the next financial year.

Fiji, Queensland and Bali bookings led the way as top-selling holiday packages, while My Cruises' new and exclusive Northern Lights discovery sailing topped the charts for cruise holiday packages.

Touring packages to Japan were another strong performer, as were Western Caribbean and domestic sailings.

"I am so proud of what the team achieved for the month of Jan, an unbelievable result smashing all previous records across all divisions, including My Holiday, My Cruises and Touring," Ignite

Travel Group Chief Executive Officer, Ryan Thomas, enthused.

"Every single role in the business, from sales, customer service and air ticketing to IT, finance, marketing and product, and our dedicated people and culture teams, have played a vital role in achieving this milestone.

"We are renowned for being the original 'holiday in a box', and we know it is this and the incredible value and bonus extras our customers receive that have contributed to our January results," Thomas added.

While the Ignite team was keen to celebrate the record Jan period recently (**pictured**), the business has not scored the runs in isolation, having already enjoyed a record year of sales in 2023.

With the springboard of Jan, Ignite is now predicting 2024 to go one better and be the best year on record, with a 30% increase in staff also flagged to keep pace with growth. *AB*



Window Seat

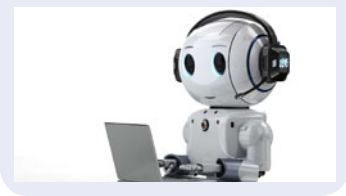
AIR Canada has been ordered to reimburse a passenger who was mistakenly promised a cheaper bereavement fare by the airline's AI chatbot.

Jack Moffat from Vancouver asked the airline's AI assistant whether the carrier offered bereavement rates following the death of his grandmother in Nov 2022, and in response the man was told he could claim a discount up to 90 days after flying to the funeral by filing a post-flight claim.

However, unbeknownst to Moffat, the advice was erroneous and Air Canada doesn't offer post-flight refunds, leaving the grief-stricken man out of pocket by hundreds of dollars.

Despite sending the carrier numerous screenshots of his misleading discussions with the AI helper, Air Canada refused to provide a refund.

Last week there was vindication for Moffat (and humanity), with a Canadian tribunal ruling bots can indeed be held legally accountable, ordering Air Canada to issue a refund of roughly CA\$600.



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Visit USA Expo Series 2024 ends on a high note

THE Sydney leg of the Visit USA Expo Series 2024 concluded in spectacular fashion at The Fullerton Hotel Sydney, marking the triumphant end to a three-day event spanning Melbourne, Brisbane, and Sydney.

With over 260 enthusiastic travel agents engaging with 80+ exhibitors, the Expo provided valuable insights into the latest trends and opportunities across the United States.

A dynamic Expo Hall, entertaining presentations, and a new Responsible Tourism Panel contributed to a comprehensive understanding of the evolving US travel landscape.

US Consul General Christine Elder announced the groundbreaking 'One-Stop' pilot program, allowing Australian passengers transiting to the US to bypass security screening in the transit airport. The Sydney to San Francisco route will be the first worldwide to implement this initiative.

The Expo concluded with a spectacular sneak preview of the musical *&JULIET*, thanks to New York City Tourism + Conventions, featuring a mesmerising live performance by star Lorinda May Merrypor. Caroline Davidson, President of Visit USA Australia, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support, declaring the Sydney Expo an incredible conclusion to the series. As travel agents left with newfound knowledge and connections, excitement for USA travel soared.



AMAZING Anaheim! The lucky winner of a 14-night Anaheim holiday with the team from Visit Anaheim, Citadel Outlets, Karmel Shuttle, Disney and Delta Air Lines.



AGENTS were treated to a special preview of the musical *&JULIET*.



DESTINATION DC's Natalie Brown is all-American.



THE lucky prize winner of the West Coast adventure with Kim Ryan and Caroline Davidson.



THE Royal Caribbean International team pumped up for the Expo.



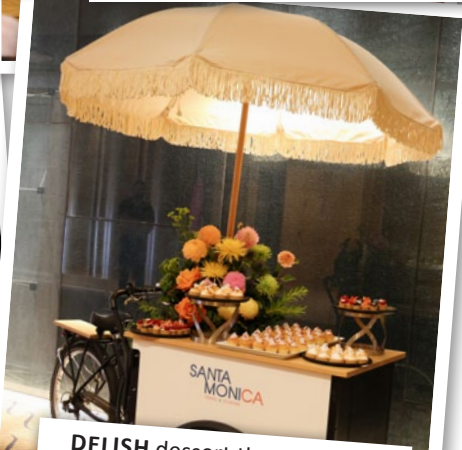
THE infamous Jon Handlery of Handlery Hotels.



THE NYC contingent with the lucky NYC, Hudson Valley and Delta Air Lines prize winner.



CAROLINE Davidson and MC Mike Goldman.



DELISH dessert thanks to Santa Monica Travel & Tourism.



ALL THE BIGGEST NEWS OUT OF AIME '24

THE Asia Pacific Incentives and Meetings Event (AIME) wrapped up its biggest event in a decade yesterday, welcoming more than 3,500 visitors, 570 exhibitors and 600 buyers from around the world over three days.

Hosted at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), the leading industry trade event saw a raft of big announcements made, including a landmark agreement between the Australian Business Events Association (ABEA) and the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA).

The two organisations inked a Memorandum of Understanding, which will see the two collaborate to drive diversity, sustainability and talent development across the business events sector.

ABEA Chair, Peter King, said “by joining forces with ICCA, the global community and knowledge hub



for the international association meetings industry, we can pool our resources and focus to achieve the outcomes we all need”.

Destination NSW also took the opportunity to debut its new business events messaging at AIME, centred on the tagline ‘Corporate events that feel anything but’.

The DMO’s chief, Steve Cox, said the new position, which aligns to its ‘Feel New’ visitor brand,

highlights why regional NSW has the country’s best offering for the business events market.

Meanwhile, the Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) unveiled its new *First Peoples Engagement Guide* during the AIME opening press conference.

The digital resource offers practical information on organising a Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country, a curated Indigenous Business

Events Supplier Guide, and tips on putting the guide into practice.

There were plenty of exciting updates from our Kiwi neighbours as well, with ChristchurchNZ Business Events launching a “ground-breaking” three-year project to explore impacts of business events on Christchurch and New Zealand as whole.

The Conference Legacy Project reaffirms the city’s commitment to understanding and maximising the long-term benefits generated by the sector, according to ChristchurchNZ Head of Business Events, Megan Crum.

Key focus areas of the study, which will be led by Professor Carmel Foley from University of Technology Sydney, include the impact of hosting business events on scientific advancement, industry innovation, attraction of global talent, community wellbeing, and much more. *JM*

Shaping Events

TWO in three Aussies place high importance on an event’s ability to create an accessible and inclusive space, according to a new report from ICC Sydney.

The *RESPECT: Shaping Events for Success* paper also found that sustainability is a key factor for 80% of event professionals, with more than half saying it is a determining factor when picking a venue.

Te Pae Christchurch declared carbon zero

NEW Zealand’s Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre has been recognised as Toitu net carbonzero certified, just one year after committing to the milestone and only two years after its opening.

The achievement means the venue has met Toitu Envirocare’s internationally-recognised standards of measuring, managing and reducing lifecycle emissions



from its operation.

Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre General Manager Ross Steele said the certification “reflects the commitment and hard work of our entire team”.

BESydney Chair

AUSTRALIAN engineer Professor Mary O’Kane has been named as the new Chair of the Business Events Sydney (BESydney) Board.

She commenced a three-year term on 01 Feb, bringing a breadth of business and academic experience.

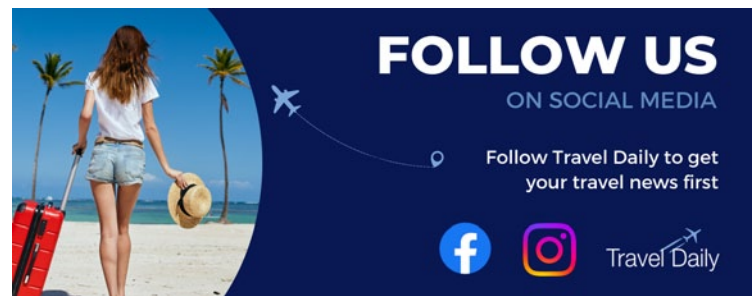
O’Kane previously served on BESydney’s Board as an Independent Director between 2008-2018.

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APPOINTMENTS

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QT Hotels & Resorts has welcomed industry stalwart **Colin McClean** to the position of General Manager of QT Wellington, while **Jodi Brown** has been appointed General Manager at QT Auckland. McClean brings more than 18 years of experience in the hospitality sector, with his appointment set to strengthen the company's commercial and operations expertise. Brown joins from QT Wellington and the Museum Apartment Hotel, and has also enjoyed successful stints at QT Sydney, Eos by SkyCity Adelaide, and SkyCity Hospitality.

Titus Rosier has become the new General Manager of **W Sydney**. The well-regarded industry professional brings an abundance of experience to the role, joining the Sydney property from key leadership positions at Marriott properties over the past decade. He has also received numerous accolades, including the General Manager Award and Spirit to Serve our Communities in 2021, and the 2023's Stephen Garff Marriott Award of Excellence for Culture, to name just a few.

BKB Holidays has announced two new appointments, which sees **Nicole Chapman** become the new Product & Partnerships Manager for all domestic and cruise products, while **Darren Szwarcburg** takes on the same role in Melbourne where he will lead the company's Thailand and Vietnam product range. Chapman boasts two decades of experience in the industry, having previously served in similar roles at Viva and Qantas Holiday. Szwarcburg spearheaded Travel Indochina for more than 20 years in the Southeast Asian region, bringing significant knowledge on those destinations to his new position.

Rachael Harman has been appointed General Manager at **The Ritz Carlton, Melbourne**. Harman is a seasoned and passionate hotelier, bringing over 20 years of industry experience to the role from a number of high-profile properties. She will also lead and develop the hotel's management and service in her new position and was most recently the General Manager at Sofitel Melbourne On Collins.

Currently holding the roles of Sustainability Advisor at Tourism Australia and Executive Chair at Luxury Lodges of Australia, **Penny Rafferty** has now also been appointed to **Tourism Tasmania's** Board of Directors. She led the development of the state's peak tourism marketing body's sustainability strategy from 2020 to 2023, and has also been instrumental in leading Luxury Lodges of Australia since its establishment in Jan 2010.

Stephen Chung has been named as Regional Vice President APAC at **Hahnair**, a German charter airline. In his role, Chung will implement the carrier's distribution solutions across the region, as well as sourcing interline opportunities across the carrier's extensive network of more than 350 partners.

Quest takes bite of the Sharks



QUEST Apartment Hotels has signed a two-year sponsor deal with the Cronulla Sharks NRL Club, which will see the company's branding on the front of the women's team players and the back of men's strip.

The accommodation brand has also become the Sharks' official community and membership partner under the terms of the agreement for the 2024 and 2025 NRL seasons.

"Quest business owners have been supporting their local communities for 36 years across Australia, so partnering with a community-focused national brand in the Cronulla Sharks was a natural fit," said GM Brand and Environmental, Social and Governance for Quest's parent company The Ascott Limited, Anthea Dimitrakopoulos.

"Whether it's on the sports field or as a business owner at one of our properties, Quest believes everyone deserves a place to be themselves and that's why Quest is proud to be the Major Partner of both the Cronulla Sharks Club Men's and Women's teams.

"As an Official Community

Partner of the 'Sharks Have Heart' program, we are proud to be enabling rugby league clinics for people with disability, anti-racism and social inclusion school programs, and healthy living programs for kids," she added.

Sharks CEO, Dino Mezzatesta, added he was grateful for Quest's support and keen to continue promoting positive social change in the community.

"It's exciting that we can take our brand on a journey with Quest...and it's a privilege to join forces with an accommodation powerhouse that has been a leader in serviced apartments for 36 years and counting," Mezzatesta said.

Quest operates 160 hotels across 60 metropolitan, regional and suburban locations throughout Australia, New Zealand, the UK and Fiji. **AB**

Sharks players **pictured** with execs at PointsBet Stadium: Toby Rudolf, Emma Tonegato, David Mansfield, Managing Director at The Ascott Limited Australia, Tiana Penitani, Dino Mezzatesta, Jada Taylor, Blayke Brailey and Ronaldo Mulitalo.