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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features a cover wrap from **Outback Spirit**, seven pages of the latest travel news, including a photo page from **AAT Kings**, plus a full page from **Tourism NT**.

Black Fri Air Tickets

HELLOWORLD'S Air Tickets is celebrating Black Friday with a new black website coinciding with the release of the biggest ever range of Black Friday Mega Sale special offers on sale now until 04 Dec.

Discounted fares will cover North America, South and North Asia, the Maldives, the subcontinent, Africa, France, domestic Australia, and the Pacific Islands.

An exclusive agent incentive is also part of the promotion.

The offers will be supported by a range of special products from Viva Holidays and Cruise.co.

CLICK HERE for more info.

Air NZ earnings splutter

AIR New Zealand has conceded that engine issues resulting in grounded jets will adversely impact its H1 2025 earnings guidance (**TD** breaking news).

The Kiwi carrier now expects earnings for the H1 period will be in the range of NZ\$120-160 million, and follows a reduced earnings result from NZ\$574 million to NZ\$222 million for the 12 months to 30 June 2024.

The figure includes NZ\$10 million of unused travel credit breakages, NZ\$30 million in compensation from engine manufacturers, and NZ\$20 million on the sales and leaseback of four of its A320s.

NT Tourism on show

JOIN NT Tourism to explore the 'set-jetting' trends inspired by popular TV shows like the Netflix series *Territory* - see the **back page** to learn more details.



While the impacted guidance for H1 2025 was not wholly unexpected given the airline flagged inflation, increased competition and maintenance as likely to hamper the latest reporting segment, the ongoing grounding of six A320 Neos and four B787s until 2026 will present a significant financial challenge for at least the next 12 months.

To combat the shortfall caused by engine maintenance issues, Air NZ said it is exploring a range of strategies to increase capacity, including brokering a greater number of aircraft leases.

Air NZ declined to provide financial guidance when releasing its yearly results in Aug. **AB**

Show more Spirit

THE time is now to find out more about your true Outback Spirit in 2026, with the Journey Beyond brand ready with pre-release tours - see **front page** for more details.

JB injects \$30m

JOURNEY Beyond will pump \$30 million into its Cruise Whitsundays division over the next four years to enhance the guest experience and maintain a strong growth trajectory.

Extra funding will be channelled towards upgrading its fleet and facilities, with sustainable growth a high priority for the future plan.

The announcement was made by Chief Operating Officer Sture Myrmell, who also confirmed Cruise Whitsundays has extended its contract with Hamilton Island to provide resort connections and island transfers through to 2034.

More detail on the development in **Cruise Weekly**.

Get MORE for You & Your Clients this Black Friday

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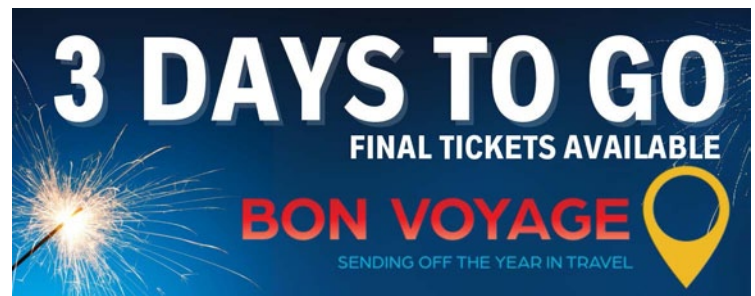
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Bonel on the board

QUEENSLAND Country Tourism has appointed Giuliana Bonel to its board, bringing with her years of expertise in the arts sector.

Bonel currently serves as General Manager of The Empire, the custodians of a large performing arts precinct in Qld.

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MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE **20** The original small group touring experts

Industry mourns Ronson

ONE of Australia's most prominent marketing executives, former Tourism Australia CMO Lisa Ronson, has passed away over the weekend after a tragic ATV accident on her family farm near Daylesford in Victoria.

Ronson, who was Tourism Australia CMO between 2015 and 2019 (TD 09 Jan 2019), went on to becoming the Coles marketing boss before landing at Medibank to head up its marketing.

Tourism Australia Managing Director Pip Harrison said she was "saddened" to hear of the loss of her former team member.

"[Ronson] was more than a colleague to many, including me, and we will always be grateful for her time with us," Harrison said.

Susan Coghill, who took over from Ronson as CMO at Tourism Australia, added, "As so many in the industry would say, Lisa was



much more than a colleague, she was a friend over the years.

"The outpouring of love for her today is testament to that - she always had big ambitions and she made the journey fun and created opportunities for those around her.

"My thoughts are with her family and loved ones."

Ronson is survived by her husband, Chris Taylor, himself a prominent marketing executive, and son Ben. DF

Web Travel sets date

FOLLOWING delays to its financial results announcement due to an accounting issue, Web Travel Group has confirmed that it will release the results on Wed.

The company said the accounting issue would not create a material impact on its results.

CTM is recruiting a **National Operations Manager!**

Take the next step in your travel career as CTM's National Operations Manager for AU/NZ. Reporting to the COO, this senior leadership role oversees key operational teams and drives transformational projects across CTM's award-winning, tech-driven travel operations.

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ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP

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What a great Luxperience

THE curtains were drawn on Luxperience 2024 with a classic cocktail event last Fri evening to thank the more than 120 luxury travel partners and over 200 advisors in attendance.

Highlights this year included Luxperience providing a platform for 40 products scheduled to launch in 2025, 75 suppliers participating for the first time, 300 buyers making expressions of interest to participate, and 190 travel advisors in attendance, with 65% of those making their debut at the event.

In a boon for the highly curated environment the event delivers, 50% of the meetings that took place were mutually requested by both parties, suggesting a well-defined attendance.

Lynn Ormiston, Event Director of Luxperience, said, "Luxperience's ability to draw high-quality buyers and suppliers underscores its role as a vital and meaningful



connection point within the luxury travel industry.

"Our goal is to deliver an exceptional event for our clients and when looking ahead to 2025, we will review all the commentary from our partners and deliver on strategic initiatives that will continue to build the reputation of Luxperience as the key event in Australia and Oceania for launching new products and showcasing the unique and boutique offerings."

Earlier in the year, Luxperience flagged a notable influx of European brands eager to engage with the Oceania market as it focuses on growing the event. *DF*

ATCC recruits experience



FORMER Chair of TravelManagers Australia Barry Mayo and Helloworld Business Travel General Manager Kellie Stanbury have been appointed directors of the Australian Travel Careers Council (ATCC).

CEO of ATCC, Rick Myatt, said the pair will inject a wealth of experience into its leadership group, particularly when it comes to understanding the unique skillsets needed in various segments of the travel sector.

"These are the professionals with extensive knowledge and passion we need to help us steer the strategic direction going forward in the industry workforce development," Myatt said.

ATCC has been deeply involved



in promoting and guiding graduates into the sector from schools and VET colleges during the ongoing skill shortage, particularly from regional and rural settings via its Travel Ambassador program.

The program provides consultation and support so that students remain engaged with their chosen career.

Among the ATCC'S future objectives is to continue providing feedback on federal and state government policies related to the national training system (SIT Training Package for Tourism, Travel & Hospitality) to ensure they are reflective of the industry's needs when it comes to job skills and volumes. *AB*

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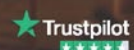
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Exoticca brings unmatched benefits to Travel Advisors across Australia.

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Tourism WA leader

ANNEKE Brown has been appointed as Tourism Western Australia's new Managing Director, marking the permanent replacement since the departure of Carolyn Turnbull.

Appointed on a five-year term, Brown has 25 years of international and local experience in hospitality leadership roles, and has worked closely with a range of premium hotels in WA to elevate their offerings.

She is also the Chair of WA's Women in Tourism and Hospitality association.

"Brown brings with her a tremendous wealth of international experience in tourism and hospitality, which is vital to developing Western Australia's tourism industry and continuing to make our state the destination of choice," WA Tourism Minister Rita Saffioti said.

Steph Underwood has been acting in the role since May 2024.

PTMs have a hoot in Bali

SEVEN travel advisors recently enjoyed Bali as part of the annual Hoot Legends famill.

The trip was led by Hoot Holidays Product Manager Stephanie Joes and TravelManagers CEO Joe Araullo.

During the adventure, the group indulged in lavish spa treatments, relaxed in luxury beach clubs, such as El Kabron Beach Club; enjoyed off-road adventures; and immersed themselves in Bali's vibrant dining and bar scene.

"Finally getting to Bali after so many years in travel was incredible, and I'm really excited to sell this destination with the confidence that comes from experiencing it firsthand," TravelManagers' Danielle Goncalves enthused.

"It was really useful to experience Bali through a client's eyes, getting to know the different areas of Bali and what sort of clients are suited to them.



It's such a diverse destination, with amazing shopping and dining, and the Balinese people are lovely."

Hoot Holidays is sister company to TravelManagers Australia.

PTMs that attended the famill included Goncalves; Belinda Hackett; Joanne Haines; Vicki Wood; Tanya Campbell; Karen Christie; Stephanie Jones; and Deahann Avery.



Window Seat

AQUAVENTURE World in Dubai, the Guinness World Record holder for the most waterslides in a waterpark, is inviting guests to make history by taking part in an action-packed weekend.

Next month, participants will have the chance to take a crack at setting official record-breaking challenges.

These include the fastest time to hook 10 rubber ducks, the quickest time to pass through 10 rubber rings, and the best time to topple 10 targets using a water pistol.

Meanwhile jet ski world champion Manea Al Marzooqi will show guests how it's really done, as he attempts to record the most backflips with a water jet pack in one minute.

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- **Product Coordinators - Asia and Australia**
Two positions available to assisting the relevant Product Team in developing competitive products that meet sales and profitability growth targets while providing best practice product administration and planning services.
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Supporting the Operations Team in ensuring the successful execution of tours by delivering exceptional administrative and planning services, while meeting both customer and business expectations.
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Be the first point of contact for Travel Agents and Customers. Take charge of all pre-tour bookings, ensuring a seamless and memorable journey from the very first interaction. Start in February 2025!
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Heavy hitters join

SOUTHERN Travel Holdings, the parent company of The Walshe Group and Southern Travelnet, has appointed Ed Sims and Frances-Anne Keeler to its board.

The duo join Non-Executive Director David Simmons and Executive Chair Jacqui Walshe on the board, while Mark Taylor departs after nine years.

Earlier this year, Michael Hall also stepped down from his role as Executive Director.

Sims has held prominent leadership positions, including Group President and CEO of WestJet Airline Group in Canada, and Group General Manager of Air New Zealand.

He is currently a Non-Executive Director at Christchurch International Airport, and serves as a Board Safety Advisor for Virgin Australia.

Meanwhile, Keeler has previously served as Deputy CEO of Tourism Australia, as well as Executive Director for VisitBritain in Europe.

She currently holds several board roles, including chair of Australian Tourism Data Warehouse and Chocolateria San Churro, and non-executive director of Snap Print Solutions.

“The wealth of industry experience and strong governance expertise [from Sims and Keeler] will be invaluable as we work towards our strategic growth objectives and explore new initiatives,” Walshe said.



Longer Stays,
Smaller Groups

A cafe that really cares



ON A recent famil to Budapest with Visit Hungary and Aviareps, several Australian travel industry professionals visited the Nem Adom Fel Cafe & Bar, the country’s first cafe led by people with disabilities.

The cafe is run by the Nem Adom Fel Foundation, which empowers Hungarians with disabilities by offering them employment opportunities and a supportive environment where they can showcase their skills and build their confidence.

Translating to ‘I never give up’, the Nem Adom Fel Cafe is supported by tour operator G Adventures and its non-profit partner, Planeterra, which work

together to create life-changing travel experiences that also have potential positive social impacts on local communities.

G Adventures partnered with the foundation in 2018 and offered a grant which went to upgrading the cafe’s operations, as well as English lessons to help the staff better serve international tourists.

Nem Adom Fel Cafe and Bar is also a meal stop for G Adventure guests, where they can enjoy a meal or a quick beverage and connect directly with locals and hear their stories.

“By integrating projects like Nem Adom Fel into their itineraries, G Adventures and Planeterra ensure that every trip contributes to lasting, positive change for people and communities worldwide,” said Adelle Clements, Regional Marketing Manager - Oceania at G Adventures, who visited the cafe, alongside Priscilla Aster from Bunnik Tours and Michael Zhang from Webjet.

G Adventures recently announced its objective of creating 300 community tourism projects that are integrated into itineraries by 2030. *JHM*

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Thanks to your support, we have now guaranteed ALL 2025 Spring, Summer and Autumn tours.

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Skyward bonuses

EMIRATES frequent flyer program Skywards has launched new exclusive offers for its members, partnering with hotels, restaurants and leisure venues across the globe to offer a range of new loyalty perks.

Participating retailers include Farfetch, AliExpress, Mothercare, Apple, Pottery Barn, Harvey Nichols, Cara Jewellers, Cole Haan, and Bath & Body Works.

Benefits include a 30% bonus on miles earned on all Skywards Miles Mall purchases until 05 Dec, with no min spend required.

The carrier will also give 2,000 bonus miles on the first online purchase made with a Visa card until 31 Mar 2025, and an extra 25% bonus on miles accrued per night for hotel stays booked via Emirates Skywards Hotels.

Coffee made to make the moment.

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Agents hit the road with AAT Kings

EARLIER this month, AAT Kings hosted agents and media on an adventure to discover Tasmania's remarkable destinations, vast landscapes and experience its gastronomic delights, cultural insights, and the diverse offerings on the five-day Tassie East Coast Highlights tour.

Later, up in Queensland, AAT Kings provided travel agents and guests with an exclusive behind-the-scenes coach experience through a series of special trade events, offering first hand insights into the brand's signature style of touring.



JENNY Dazeley, Product and Contracting Manager, Di Morgan, GM Group Marketing and Ben Hall, CEO, from AAT Kings Group.

HELLOWORLD Mackay & Mt Pleasant arranged a wonderful 'mystery tour' to the Sugar Shed, with future AAT Kings guests.



LISA Thomas, TravelManagers and Lyndell Edwards, Travel & Cruise Belrose enjoying lunch at Larder & Vin in Richmond.



TRAVEL agent Zane Kirby, Helloworld Mackay gives AAT the thumbs up with Chai Webber, RAA Travel, and Benjamin White, Flight Centre Broadway.



THE team from Gallivanter Travel Rockhampton, ready to co-host a tour to the Capricorn Caves.



GROUP at Freycinet National Park, Wineglass Bay lookout.



GROUP cruising around Hobart.



TOWNSVILLE'S finest agents on tour before lunch at the Metropole Hotel.



CLAIRE Simon, Queensland Sales Manager, and Michael Woods, Partnerships & Industry Marketing Manager from AAT Kings with local Cairns agents enjoying high tea at Reef House, Palm Cove.





BROCHURES

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THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by
DriveAway



DriveAway - The USA Road Trip Planner

Car rental company DriveAway has released its latest brochure, the USA Road Trip Planner, showcasing the wide variety of adventures that away guests across the country. Travellers will love the world-famous sights, dynamic cities and awe-inspiring national parks they will view along the way, as they cruise down Route 66, or make their way towards the West Coast. A plethora of great roadtrips are jam-packed into the guide, from LA to Vegas, Albuquerque to Amarillo, Springfield to St Louis, San Francisco to Half Moon Bay and more. The planner aims to help agents craft the perfect American getaway, complete with expert guidance and tailored recommendations.



Viva Holidays Bali - 2025/26

Viva Holidays has released its 2025/26 Bali brochure to get your clients' next holiday booked early, with a wide range of hotels and activities suitable for all guests. Packed with accommodation of every style and budget, Viva aims to help agents plan the perfect Bali getaway from one end of the island to the other. With an expanded range of luxury hotels in Sanur, Ubud and Lombok and new Lembongan Island reef and beach club cruises to entice guests to explore more of Bali, Viva has lots on offer for the year ahead.



Wendy Wu Tours Latin America - 2025/26

Wendy Wu has released its latest 68-page Latin America brochure, a curated collection that offers travellers immersive experiences across the continent's most captivating destinations. From the lush rainforests of Costa Rica to the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu, the detailed brochure showcases the diverse flavours, breathtaking landscapes, and rich cultural tapestries that define Latin America. Curated itineraries include three new tour options focusing on city scapes and wine country.

Finding their Italian Roots



THE Italian National Tourist Board recently hosted a group of Australian tour operators in southern Italy for ROOTS-in-Tourism trade event.

Taking place in Basilicata, the two-day gathering attracted over 500 delegates from around the world with the aim of promoting packages with Italian suppliers.

The Aussie cohort included representatives from Entire Travel, Sun Island Tours, the Italian Travel Bureau, and Italy Touring, with the group enjoying a pre-workshop famil tour to Matera, Policoro, Pisticci, Grottole, and Miglionico.

Highlights included taking in some classic Italian culture, such as honey tasting, a pasta making class, as well as a tour of an olive oil mill.

"Italian descendants represent a tourism segment with enormous potential," Italian National Tourist Board Australia Country Manager, Emanuele Attanasio, said.

"They often visit smaller regions

and travel year-round, which helps contribute to our mission of encouraging visitor dispersal across the country and seasons."

Pictured: Tina Johnson, Sun Island Tours; Emanuele Attanasio, INTB; and Michael Perrone, Italian Travel Bureau with guests.

AW rides the west

ADVENTURE World has launched its Great American West campaign, calling out its range of experiences on offer in the northern USA.

Highlighting tropes like natural beauty, history, cultural experiences, and wildlife encounters, the push promotes curated itineraries available in states such as Idaho, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

These include the 'Authentic American Rockies', featuring the peaks of the Tetons to the lakes of Glacier National Park.

The 16-day trip leads in from \$8,099pp - **CLICK HERE** for more.

Become a Northern Territory expert

Win a trip to the NT*



Join our live webinar to discover the NT and explore the 'set-jetting' travel trend inspired by popular TV shows, such as the new Netflix series, *Territory*!

Tuesday 26 November 11.00am (AEST) | 9.30am (ACST) | 1.00pm (NZST)

Wednesday 27 November 1.00pm (AEST) | 11.30pm (ACST) | 3.00pm (NZST)

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* For registration and eligibility, visit trade.northernterritory.com