



# *Take off to Christchurch*

Whether it's punting along the Avon River or sampling the delicious treats at Riverside Market, your customers can experience it all – from one sister city to another. Air New Zealand non-stop flights from Adelaide to Christchurch commencing from 28 October 2025.

**Book your customers' next getaway to New Zealand**

Subject to Regulatory Approvals. Non-stop flights operate seasonally between October and March



## TransNusa commits

**PERTH** residents now have more options to travel to Bali, with new player TransNusa increasing flights from daily to 11 times a week.

Only two months after debuting its services in the country (**TD** 17 Jan), the Indonesian carrier will shift gears again on 18 Jul to move to a double daily schedule.

TransNusa is a premium airline offering extra cabin comfort, a min check-in baggage allowance of 20kg and carry on of 7kg.



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Every eligible booking earns you one entry into the draw to win a 2-night all-inclusive stay for two, valued at up to \$5,550.

Offer valid on new bookings made until 30 June 2025. T&Cs apply.

## Global travel bucks trend

**DESPITE** rising geopolitical tensions and economic instability, the number of tourist arrivals globally grew by 5% in Q1 2025, according to new figures released by the United Nations.

The increase to over 500 million tourists so far this year also represented a 3% jump on the same period in the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

UN Tourism Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said the encouraging numbers highlight the sector's resilience in the face of global adversity.

While the growth in international tourists was pleasing, a survey conducted by the UN also painted a turbulent



road ahead in 2025, with weaker economic growth, high travel costs, and tariff hikes listed as the three major challenges for international travel to overcome.

Uncertainty derived from geopolitical and trade tensions is also weighing on travel confidence, the survey noted, with a broader drop in consumer confidence revealed as headwind, as was geopolitical uncertainty.

The survey predicted that tourists will continue to seek value for money in 2025, and will likely pursue that thriftiness by travelling closer to home or booking shorter trips.

**MEANWHILE**, growth in earnings from international tourism in 2024 was fuelled by strong spending from large source markets, with Australia (+8%) singled out as a significant contributor to global results. **AB**

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features a cover wrap from **Air New Zealand**, 10 pages of news including a photo page from **Helloworld**, and our **Business Events News** page, plus full pages from:

- Viva Gold
- Viva Holidays
- Emerald River Cruises

### Business Development Manager – NSW Based

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## Christchurch awaits

**NON-STOP** flights from Adelaide to Christchurch take off from 28 Oct, linking South Australia with New Zealand's South Island for the first time - learn more on today's **cover page**.

## Viva defining luxury

**HELLOWORLD'S** burgeoning Viva Gold brand aims to elevate all aspects of the traveller's journey with seamless service and expertise - more on **page 11**.



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## Feel at home with Ponant

**PONANT** Explorations has moved to bolster its support of luxury remote travel advisors by formally appointing Sandra Cahill as National Sales Manager for Home-Based Travel Agents.

The newly-created role will see Cahill work closely with Ponant Explorations' team of state managers who will all remain actively engaged in home-based travel agency events and appointments nationwide.

Cahill had been gradually incorporating more home-based agent duties into her previous position as Inside Sales Executive, with Ponant revealing those efforts had seen a 60% increase in



sales volumes as a result.

"It became clear that Sandra's deep expertise in luxury sales and relationship management would be better utilised by dedicating her full time to this growing portfolio," Ponant Director of Sales APAC Julie Rogers said.

This appointment coincides with the signing of a new preferred partnership with TravelManagers Australia, a move Ponant said marked a "key step" in strengthening its relationship with independent advisors.

Anne Peitavi has also joined as Sales Coordinator. AB

**Pictured:** Rogers (left) with TravelManagers' Lia Malone and Sandra Leslie, and Cahill (right).

## Virginia all loved up

**IMMERSE** yourself in the classic history of Virginia - home to so much US history - with Viva Holidays and its comprehensive packages - details on **page 12**.

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\*Terms and Conditions Apply

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## Qantas rocks DJ

**QANTAS** Frequent Flyer has signed on to become retailer David Jones' new credit card rewards partner.

The deal arrives only months before the Australian retailer launches its new David Jones Rewards program, viewed as a competitor to rival Myer's planned relaunch of its loyalty program later this year under the guidance of former Qantas exec Olivia Wirth (**TD 15 Mar 2024**).

For the first time, David Jones shoppers will be able to earn and redeem Qantas points on reward seats, flight upgrades, hotel stays, and other travel perks.

Full details will be revealed when it launches later in the year.

## Don't miss Emerald

**TWO** episodes of Channel 9's iconic travel show *Getaway*, airing this weekend, will feature Emerald Cruises and its Mekong river cruise - more on **page 13**.

## G doubles down

**G ADVENTURES** will double its small-ship polar portfolio by Jul as part of a broader relaunch of its Arctic program.

Fresh from announcing a new expedition ship to set sail in Oct (**TD 13 May**), the operator's expeditions across the Arctic Circle and the Scottish Isles will launch in the coming weeks.

Part of its sales pitch to differentiate its sailings from competitors is crafting itineraries that are affordable, adventurous, and educational on small ships.

"Our agent partners have been asking when we will return to the Arctic, and I'm delighted to say the time is now," G Adventures founder Bruce Poon Tip said.

"My advice to agents would be to 'get on board' - there's a lot more pie to go around with this new product coming to market, and our teams are poised and ready to work hand-in-hand with agents to help them get a slice of that pie," he added.

**titan travel**

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**\$1,000pp off all tours**

Book by 30 June 2025\*

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12 days from **\$3,687** was \$4,687

3 Pace 16 meals 10 excursions

3 October 2025 departure. Other dates available.

**The Great Indian Rail Journey**

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Price is per person based on two people sharing, subject to availability and correct at time of print, single supplements applicable.

\*Valid on new bookings only, cannot be retrospectively applied. Discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Book and pay deposit by 30 June 2025. Discount is applied as AU\$1000 per person per booking on any tour departing in 2025 or 2026.

Subject to availability, offer may end without notice. Tour only, not inclusive of flights. 019012-TT

The **Grand sale**

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## Vietjet hits it for six

**VIETJET** will launch a flash sale tomorrow (06 Jun) offering 66,666 seats at a discount of 66% off.

The offer is valid for travel between 18 Aug and 30 Nov 2025 with bookings to be made on the Vietjet website using the promo code 'SUPERSALE66'.

## Solar sailings for Princess

**DETAILS** of its 2027 Europe season have been released by Princess Cruises, featuring 200 sailings throughout the Mediterranean and northern Europe, as well as Transatlantic crossings between the Americas and Europe.

The sailings will take in 108 destinations across 31 countries, including 105 UNESCO Heritage sites, with cruises departing between Feb and Nov 2027.

Of particular note is the rare opportunity to experience a solar eclipse at sea with guests

## Contiki's new Africa

**YOUTH** tour specialist Contiki has launched a range of new African adventures.

Travellers can get into the 'Kenya & Tanzania Adventure' itinerary, which Contiki describes as "bringing the best safari parks, off-road activities, culture and tradition, complete with premium camping and one giant social safari truck".

If the mega adventure feels like it is too much, travellers can choose to do just the Kenya Adventure or the Tanzania Adventure tours separately.

There is also the new 'Cape Town, Kruger & Bushfire Festival' which is the "hot ticket to South Africa's iconic capital, most legendary safari park and best festival too".

Contiki says the trips are designed to be "high impact".



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aboard *Enchanted Princess* and *Sky Princess* on 02 Aug 2027 able to witness the totality of a solar eclipse while enjoying a day at sea filled with special eclipse-themed programming.

*Enchanted Princess* will sail roundtrip from Civitavecchia, while *Sky Princess* will cruise roundtrip from Southampton, offering two 14-day eclipse voyages departing 24 Jul 2027.

"Our 2027 Europe season is an unparalleled opportunity for guests to immerse themselves in Europe's most extraordinary moments," said Terry Thornton, Princess CCO. *DF*

## Coghill by Mumbo

**MEDIA** and marketing trade publisher Mumbrella has announced more speakers for its Travel Marketing Summit, set to take place on 28 Aug at the Crown Sydney.

Tourism Australia CMO Susan Coghill has joined the lineup along with Beau Kassas, Chief Executive Officer for Mudgee Region Tourism and Annabelle Jones, Director at We Scout.

SATC's marketing boss Erik de Roos, Intrepid Travel's GM of Purpose, Sara King and BMF's David Fraser will also speak.

## EK/CA sign MOU

**EMIRATES** and Air China have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a strategic framework for expanding their existing reciprocal interline cooperation and explore further codeshares on routes across both networks.

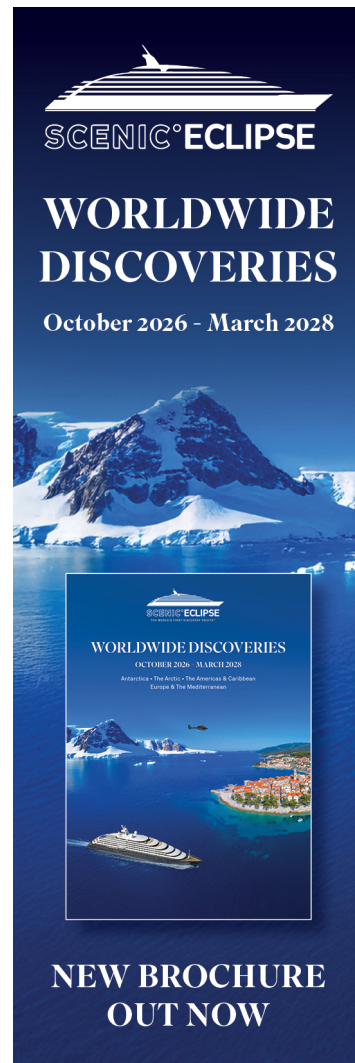


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## Pioneer of independent travel agents passes

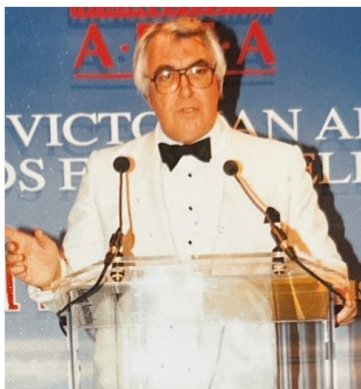
**RESPECTED** Australian travel pioneer Jim Clements (**pictured**) has passed away this week.

Starting out his career by opening Apple Travel - which later became Victoria Teachers Travel - Clements also served as Chair of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (now the Australian Travel Industry Association) across two separate terms.

Testament to the impact of his leadership and industry influence, Clements was also recognised with Life Membership of ATIA.

A passionate believer in the power of cooperatives and value of independent travel agents, Clements was a founding member of the Australian Travel Agents Co-operative (ATAC).

In paying tribute to his life and legacy, ATAC General Manager Michelle Emerton said his dedication helped lay the foundation for a stronger, more unified voice for agents across



Australia - a legacy they said continues to support hundreds of small businesses today.

"Jim will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the countless colleagues and travel professionals whose lives he touched," Emerton said.

"His legacy lives on through the many lives he helped shape and the cooperative spirit he championed - vale Jim Clements, a true pioneer, leader, mentor



and friend to the industry."

There will be no formal funeral ceremony held for Clements, in line with his wishes. **AB**

### Intrepid plants push

**INTREPID** Travel will match every dollar donation up to \$50,000 to its Intrepid Foundation partner, Rainforest Rescue, as part of a fundraising campaign for the Daintree.

### EY dials back MEL

**ETIHAD** Airways plans to reduce services on the Abu Dhabi-Melbourne route from eight to seven times weekly from 01 Oct.

The Abu Dhabi-based carrier has also expanded its codeshare partnership with Air Europa (**TD** 05 Mar), covering an additional three routes to and from Madrid.

These new extensions include Madrid-Ibiza, Madrid-Marrakech, and Madrid-Porto.

### A380s will disappear

**SUPERJUMBOS** will disappear altogether by 2040 unless aircraft manufacturers commit to creating a more fuel-efficient, double-decker plane, Emirates President Tim Clark has warned.

Clark wants to see Airbus and Boeing design a superjumbo that is at least 25% more fuel efficient, adding he has not "given up hope" of it happening.

"I'm still shown the door when I mention it, but I'm still asking."

## UNEARTH AUSTRALIA STAY 3 NIGHTS & PAY 2



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\*Offer subject to availability and valid for new FIT bookings placed between 7 April 2025 - 30 June 2025, for selected travel dates (varies by property). Blackout dates and T&C's apply.

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## Get stuck into the FACTS

A new event for the business events, corporate travel, aviation, and travel tech industries has been launched - the Festival of Aviation and Corporate Travel Summits (FACTS).

Set to take place at the ICC on 25 and 26 Nov 2025, FACTS will incorporate four business summits into one event: the Corporate Travel Summit, Business Events Summit, Aviation Futures Summit, and Travel Technology & Innovation Summit. The event was created in 2024



as the Australia Corporate Travel Summit (ACTS) and attracted 120 corporate travel buyers and almost 500 attendees.

FACTS will provide unique perspectives, insights and connections to help delegates shift towards a strategic approach to their travel, meetings and events to meet increasingly stringent financial, ESG and regulatory targets.

"Corporate travel procurement teams, and meetings and events buyers, are at the heart of the FACTS event," said co-founder Derek Sadubin (pictured with Peter Harbison on the left).

"Our...priority is to provide the latest trends, data and insights so they can make better travel and events purchasing and management decisions."

Co-founder and Chairman of Greener Airlines, Peter Harbison, said, "The need has never been greater for new solutions and deeper collaboration across the silos of our industry."

FACTS will be Australia's biggest annual gathering of corporate travel, meetings and events, travel technology and aviation professionals.

Tickets go on sale on 22 Jun - [CLICK HERE](#) for details. *DF*

## USA comes to Oz

**BRAND** USA has announced the 'The Great USA Road Trip' for agents will take place in Australia at the end of next month.

Run in partnership with United Airlines, the three-city roadshow will stop in Perth on the 29 Jul, Adelaide on 30 Jul, and the Gold Coast on 31 Jul, with the goal of educating agents on the value of self-drive road trips and experiences across the USA.

Coinciding with the 100th birthday of Route 66 in 2026, the launch of the program in Australia will seek to tap into a growing trend for overseas road trips.

Research from Brand USA showed almost half of Aussies considering a visit to America are likely to go on a road trip, while 69% also indicated they would visit two or more cities.

The roadshow is timely, as figures show traveller anxiety is up regarding trips to the US.

Free registration will be open to all agents in Jun - more info [HERE](#).

## World Exp walking

**TWO** Queensland walking trails are now under the stewardship of World Expeditions after the company was appointed as the preferred operating partner by the state government.

Following a competitive tender process, World Expeditions will now oversee the new Ngaro Track on Whitsunday Island and the Thorsborne Trail on Hinchinbrook Island, both in North Queensland.

The company, through its Australian Walking Holidays division, will provide fully guided walking experiences and support purpose-built infrastructure.

A three-day low-impact itinerary will see walkers make use of two camp sites for one night each as they explore the 32 kilometre Ngaro Track on a trail designed in partnership with the Ngaro people as the traditional owners.

The new walking experiences form part of Destination 2045 (**TD** 03 Jun), Queensland's new post-Olympic Games tourism strategy.

## WSI airside finished

**CONSTRUCTION** work on the runway and key supporting airside facilities has been completed at Western Sydney Int'l Airport as it continues on track for opening late next year.

Along with the 3.7km runway and 3,000 aeronautical ground lights, the airside component included 348 high intensity approach lights, taxiways, aircraft pavement markings, airside roads, drainage systems, security fencing, landscaping and more.

**MEANWHILE**, Brisbane Airport has offered the first look at its new Domestic Terminal Skywalk upgrade, with the final concrete poured at the Central Mezzanine screening area.

The milestone finalises the connection between the SkyWalk and the terminal.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch a time-lapse video of the transformation.

**GLOBUS** cosmos.

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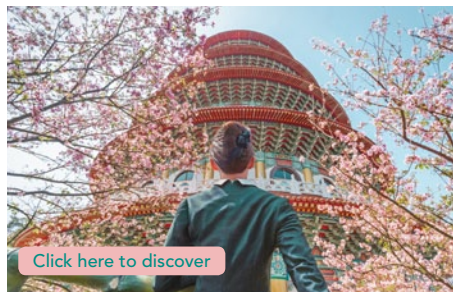
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\*Entries close 13 June 2025.





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## Charleston goes lux

**FOUR** Seasons has announced plans to launch a luxury hotel and residences in the heart of Charleston, South Carolina.

The project is in partnership with Strategic Property Partners and will feature 139 guest rooms and 36 branded residences.

Positioned in the city's historic district, it is within walking distance of attractions and cultural sites including King Street, the Historical Charleston City Market and the Gibbes Museum of Art.

Architecture and residence interiors will be by Morris Adjmi Architects, while hotel interiors will be led by Lark Design Studios, with completion due in 2028.



## Wangi falls in early

**TOP** End natural attraction Wangi Falls has officially reopened ahead of schedule for the dry season.

Located in Litchfield National Park, Wangi Falls welcomes around 200,000 visitors each year and is the most accessible swimming spot in the park.

This year's early reopening comes ahead of the usual mid-Jun timing, giving locals and visitors more opportunity to enjoy a swim.

Tabletop Track also reopens 01 Jun with bookings available, offering an alternative to the already fully booked Jatbula Trail.

## The power of Portland



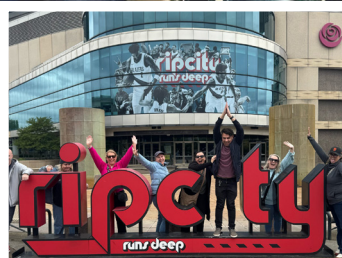
**EIGHT** advisors (pictured) have recently returned home from a six-day famil to Portland, Oregon, in America's Pacific Northwest, courtesy of Travel Portland.

Representing agencies and travel brands such as MTA, Travel Managers, Flight Centre, Adventure World, Travel Associates and Helloworld across Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, the advisors criss-crossed a number of the city's neighbourhoods, soaking up its maker community, eclectic arts, music and culinary scenes, and getting a first-hand look at its sustainability credentials.

The group made sure to visit some of Portland's most iconic sites, including Powell's Bookstore - the largest new and used bookstore in the world, spanning an entire city block and housing around one million books.

The group also took in a Portland Timbers MLS match.

It wasn't all about the city, however, with the famil visiting



Mt Hood, a popular winter destination featuring three ski fields; Columbia River Gorge; and Tualatin Valley to visit some of the state's cellar doors.

The group anchored their trip at two hotels - the newly opened Cascada, located in the Alberta district, which features a thermal spa complete with an extensive treatment menu; and the Sentinel in downtown Portland - named after its rooftop statues.

In attendance were Tracey Flower, MTA; Cola Maurirere, Travel Associates; Sam Stratten, Flight Centre; Luke Watts, Travel Managers; Vicki Hope, Travel Managers; Allyce Balderston, Adventure World; Maddi Wood, Flight Centre; and Deb McNamara, Helloworld. DF



## Window Seat

**PASSENGERS** on a delayed Delta Air Lines flight have experienced a rather novel way to both pass the time and diffuse some tension.

According to *Newsweek*, when a flight headed to Orlando was delayed for two hours on the ground and then circled Orlando for another two hours, a young girl literally grabbed the mic and belted out a rendition of 'How far I'll go' from the hit Disney kids movie *Moana*.

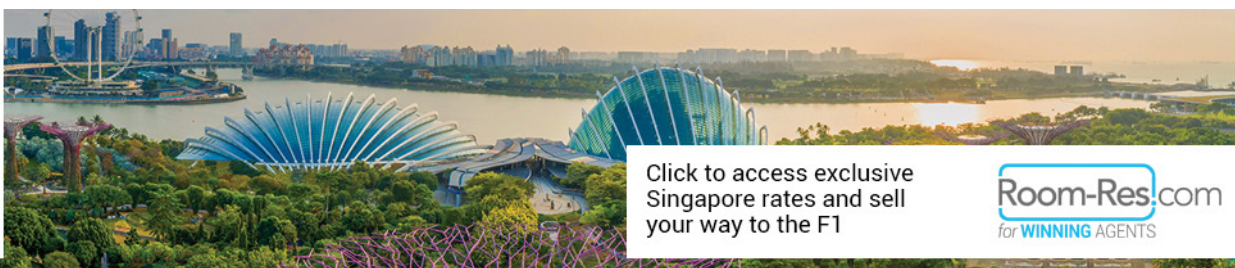
After the video was posted on TikTok by user @druziroaming, it went viral, amassing almost nine million views in 24 hours and over 1.1 million likes.

Delta Air Lines provided an official response, stating, "We appreciate the customer sharing her talents and apologise to our customers for the delay in their travels", while many passengers sung along or were seen on the video with a smile.

But Window Seat can confirm the Grinch and his family were also on board the delayed flight, with comments including: "The worst part is, if you're watching a movie on the plane, the movie pauses when someone makes an announcement, so everyone was FORCED to stop what they were doing and listen to her", while another wrote rather harshly, "We MUST start carrying tomatoes."

Tough crowd!

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## Air NZ goes large for 85th



**AIR** New Zealand has celebrated its 85th birthday in style by taking it all the way back to where its story serving Australia began.

In front of a large crowd of senior industry executives, the carrier served a celebratory lunch at the Sydney Seaplanes Lounge, previously The Empire Lounge, where Sydney began air connections to the world, and Tasman Empire Airways, later Air New Zealand, began operating between Sydney and Auckland.

Hosted by Jeremy O'Brien, Chief Commercial Officer of Air New Zealand, and Kathryn O'Brien, General Manager of Australia, the gathering was also used to reveal the latest uniforms, designed by Emilia Wickstead (**pictured**).

"We now serve nine ports directly from New Zealand into Australia," Jeremy O'Brien said. "We have up to 380 flights a

week with over 80,000 seats during peak period and we've grown a significant, meaningful, and sustainable business here out of Australia with your help."

He noted that some of the delegates had experienced the first retrofitted Dreamliner in Air NZ's fleet and that there would be six of those in service by the end of the year, with the full fleet done by the end of next year.

Jeremy O'Brien also alluded to more capacity to Australia, something which Air New Zealand confirmed yesterday (**TD** 04 Jun), starting with a seasonal Adelaide to Christchurch route. **DF**

## Greece resort debut

**DESTINATION** Hyatt has announced the opening of its first property in Greece, Zelia Halkidiki, located in the northern region of the country nestled among coastal olive groves.

The adults-only resort offers 104 guest rooms featuring custom-made furniture, a curated selection of Mediterranean dining experiences, as well as a heated indoor pool.

"Zelia Halkidiki has been carefully curated to reflect the essence of Greek culture, and I am delighted to be welcoming guests to our first Destination by Hyatt branded hotel in the region," said Giorgos Peroutseas, General Manager, Zelia Halkidiki.

## Bali warning rises

**SMARTTRAVELLER** has increased its advice level for Bali to "exercise a high degree of caution" after rough seas and strong rip currents were reported across popular beaches that are largely unpatrolled.

The government website has noted that "Australians have drowned in coastal areas", adding there is also still a risk of drink spiking and methanol poisoning in the region.

## WIDE EYED TOURS GOES LUXURY IN VIETNAM



**Renowned** for its exceptional famils, Wide Eyed Tours & Travel recently hosted a group of travel agents on an unforgettable journey showcasing its highly anticipated, high-end Vietnamese FIT product range.

Wide Eyed Tours & Travel founder & owner, Travis Fennell, commented: "With rising demand for truly high-end travel in Vietnam and Southeast Asia, we are excited to be developing new luxury-focused materials and training tools to support our agent partners - so stay tuned, there's more to come."

True to Wide Eyed Tours & Travel's mantra, agents were immersed in the same world-class experiences their clients can expect.

The famil featured outstanding accommodation in Ha Noi's iconic Sofitel Legend Metropole, and an exquisite Cappella Cruise for an indulgent voyage through Lan Ha Bay.

The guests also stayed at The Silk Path Grand in the charming city of Hue, and the brand-new luxurious Namia River Retreat in Vietnam's 'jewel in the crown' Hoi An.



Joining Victorian State Sales Executive Michelle McIntyre were:

Catherine Stone: Complete Travel, Vic  
Jacqui Smart: Travel Associates, Shell Harbour NSW  
Jackie Juhasz: Black Rock Travel, Vic  
Lesley Farmer: Travelaffare, SA  
Abbey Barnier: italk travel, Warners Bay, NSW  
Kylie Logan: itravel Foster, NSW  
Catherine Oosterveld: Global Travel Network, SA  
Kate Bowman: Helloworld, Mount Martha, Vic  
Macaylah Schulz: Helloworld Albury/Wodonga/Wangaratta



**FAMIL IN FOCUS** is our feature showcasing some of the photos from recent industry famils. If you want your famil to be featured, email [advertising@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@traveldaily.com.au).

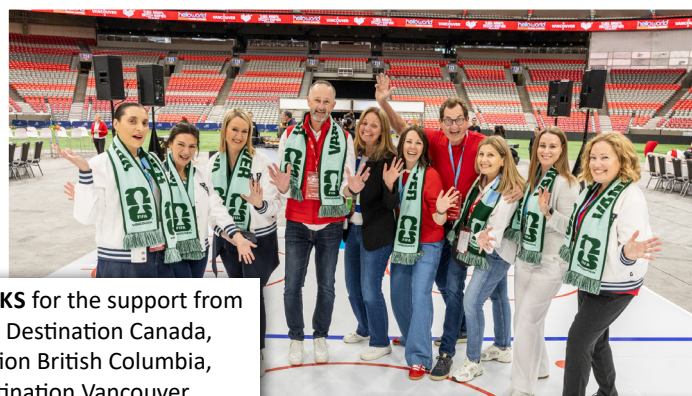


# That's a wrap on Helloworld Travel OMC Vancouver!

THE 2025 Helloworld Travel Owner Managers Conference in Vancouver saw over 450 delegates come together to enjoy a terrific program of events, insightful content and networking in celebration of the conference theme 'Travel Agents - The Essential Ingredient'.



**CINZIA** Burnes (centre) hosting a table at the gala event.



**THANKS** for the support from partners Destination Canada, Destination British Columbia, and Destination Vancouver.



**NICK** Sutherland, HLO; Cinzia Burnes, HLO; Marsha Walden, Destination Canada; and Andrew Burnes, HLO.



**JENNIFER** Marr, HLO Vermont South; Heather Bowler, HLO Casey Central; Chloe Smith, HLO Vermont South; and Paola Swampillai, HLO Sunbury.



**ANDREW** Burnes, HLO CEO & MD opened the conference.



**THE** Phil Hoffmann Travel team.



**NICK** Sutherland HLO (centre) and his table at the gala event.



**GREG** and Rosa Luff, HLO Travel Cobram.



**JONATHAN** Hume, International Rail; Fiona and Tim Caffery, Travel Sense; and Samantha Sly, Travel Avenue.



**LOUISE** Dann; Madeleine Dann; Nathan Saegi; and Nicholas George from Hunter Travel Group.



**CHAIRMAN** of Helloworld Travel Limited, Garry Hounsell.





## A RAP for Qudos

**SYDNEY'S** Qudos Bank Arena has announced the launch of its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), reaffirming its dedication to respecting and celebrating Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The plan will serve as a public declaration of the TEG venue's commitment to reconciliation and contributing to effective relationships with First Nations peoples.

"This plan will guide our efforts to drive meaningful change, both within our organisation and in the communities we serve," said Qudos Bank Arena RAP Working Group Chairperson Michael Cox.

## Batting for Cairns

**THE** Cairns Convention Centre is gearing up to host the global bat research community, with the 20th International Bat Research Conference scheduled to take place from 03-08 Aug 2025.

Held every three years, the major international conference is expected to bring more than 400 global experts in bat research, conservation, and management to Tropical North Qld.

Delegates will take part in a six-day program of symposia, workshops, and networking events, with field trips planned through the region.

## TA, AMWAY SHAKE ON INCENTIVE DEAL

**TOURISM** Australia (TA) has struck a new agreement with the world's largest direct selling company, Amway, for it to bring more of its Leadership Seminar and Diamond Invitational group incentives to the country.

Securing more Amway incentives will deliver a huge boost for Australia's business events industry, according to TA Executive General Manager for Commercial & Business Events, Robin Mack (**pictured** left with Amway COO, Asha Gupta).

"Australia has a proud history of hosting Amway incentive groups and this Memorandum of Understanding shows our commitment to continue to work together to secure a pipeline of incentives," said Mack.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) comes just a month after Australia welcomed the biggest outbound



incentive group ever arranged by Amway from China, which saw 16,000 delegates head to Melbourne across six waves for the company's 30th Anniversary Leadership Seminar (**TD** 29 May).

More than 80 businesses took part in the program including 66 restaurants and eight hotels, Mack pointed out.

Australia has also hosted several other Amway incentive groups in recent years including 730 delegates on the Gold Coast in 2019 and around 1,000 delegates in Perth in 2024; while 2,700

delegates will head to Cairns later this year for the Amway Korea Leadership Seminar.

"Hosting an incentive of such scale last month was a key opportunity for us to showcase Australia's world-class event capabilities and what truly sets us apart.

"We're excited to continue working closely with the Amway team, to highlight the variety of Australian destinations on offer for Amway incentive groups, and host more here in Australia in the future," Mack added. *JM*

## BCEC champions First Nations exhibition

**THE** Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) is hosting a photographic exhibition by First Nations documentary photographer and filmmaker Dean Saffron (**pictured**) this month.

The launch of 'All Shades' marks the first time BCEC has collaborated with an artist to support and host an exhibition within the Centre.

The collection features 32 large-scale portraits that



capture Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Queensland and the Torres Strait, with participants choosing the setting and story they wish to share.

Free to the public, All Shades will run until Sun 13 Jun.

## Novotel Geelong

**NOVOTEL** Geelong has launched a new conference offer to help attract business events to regional Victoria.

For a limited time, event planners who book by 30 Jun for events held before 30 Sep 2025 will enjoy a range of exclusive benefits.

Perks include a 25% discount on the conference package, \$25 off the nightly accommodation rate and more - **CLICK HERE**.

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## APPOINTMENTS

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**Evolution Travel Collective** has welcomed **Amanda Fenwick** as its new Business Development Manager. Based in Victoria and tasked with growing ETC's national profile, Fenwick joins ETC after 10 years with BKB Holidays, where she built a strong reputation with agents.

To help **Intrepid Travel** continue to expand in New Zealand and evolve into a full experiential travel brand, the company has hired **Simon McKearney** as its new Country General Manager. McKearney brings more than two decades of senior industry experience to his new role.

Brisbane local **Melanie Whittaker** has joined **Hyatt Regency Brisbane** as its new Director of Sales and Marketing. A graduate of the University of Queensland, Whittaker joins from her previous role as Commercial Manager at Hilton Brisbane, a company where she spent 18 years.

**Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park** has installed **David Lance** as its new General Manager, continuing a career journey with Marriott International dating back to 2003. Bringing 30 years of hotel experience, Lance was recently GM at Royal Orchid Sheraton Bangkok Riverside.

A new General Manager has taken the reins at **QT Auckland** with **Michael Stamboulidis** now in the hotel's hot seat. Stamboulidis has swapped one coastal city for another, moving to his new position from the GM role at QT Newcastle, having also held senior roles as General Manager at QT Sydney and Director of F&B at QT Melbourne.

**Crowne Plaza Fiji Nadi Bay** has welcomed seasoned hotelier **Sudhir Yadav** as its new General Manager, who brings 17 years in hospitality to his new position. Yadav will oversee all areas of the resort and recently served as the Cluster General Manager for Marriott in Melbourne.

Former CLIA Europe Secretary General **Tom Fecke** has joined **Aviareps** as its new Global Head of Cruise. In his new role, Fecke will drive the expansion of the company's representation and presence in cruising and brings more than 25 years in the sector to his new role.

As the company targets a network of 100 managed hotels by 2040, **Langham Hospitality Group** has recruited **Kevin Robinson** as its new Chief Operating Officer. Robinson is no stranger to the organisation, having led The Langham Chicago during its pre-opening phase in 2011.

**Oceanwide Expeditions** has appointed **Remi Bouysset** as its new Chief Executive Officer. Bouysset has 30 years of experience in international business development and strategic partnerships in luxury expedition cruising, aviation and yachting.

Wearing two hats at his new company, **Philipp Wegmann** has joined **Preferred Travel Group** as its Chief Development Officer, tasked with accelerating its global growth. Wegmann will also take on the duties of President for the company's sustainable travel brand, Beyond Green.

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## TM zips through Indochina



**ALMOST** 20 personal travel managers have returned from two adventures with Wide Eyed Tours in Southeast Asia as part of TravelManagers' exclusive famils program.

Ten advisors went on an exciting eight-day tour of Cambodia, while eight embarked on a trip around beautiful Vietnam.

PTM Nicole Sadat from Caroline Springs in Vic said she was "blown away" by the culture, food and people of Vietnam.

"It's given me a much better feel for the destination, and I'm excited to bring that knowledge back to help my clients plan truly memorable trips," she enthused.

Meanwhile, Kylie Ford from Port Macquarie in NSW loved the sensorial experience of the bustling markets, culinary landscape and hospitality of Cambodia, as well as learning about its mixed history.

"Wide Eyed Tours' dedication to exceptional service is evident in every detail, and I wouldn't



hesitate to recommend them," she said.

"The staff are fabulous - warm, welcoming, and truly passionate about what they do."

**Pictured top:** PTMs Kylie Ford and Nikki Daking enjoy a tuktuk ride in Cambodia.

**Inset:** The PTMS enjoyed an authentic Vietnam experience by travelling on various transportation modes, including army jeep, motorbike, bamboo boat, private car, kayak and train.





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