



VAH takes off on ASX

ON ITS first day back on the ASX, Virgin Australia (VAH) has seen its share price jump by 7.5%, trading as high as \$3.18.

Former VA boss and co-founder Brett Godfrey told the *Australian Financial Review* the new-look Virgin business is "exceptionally well positioned to remain the indispensable competitor in the Australian market".

To celebrate, VA launched a 'Bell to Boarding' sale today with up to 30% discounts - see **p5**.

VA, QF duck for cover

AUSTRALIAN airlines have been caught up in snap airspace closures around Qatar, as Iran responded to US bombing by attacking an American military base in the country.

The timing of all flights being grounded in Doha was poor for Virgin Australia, which only this month took off on its partner flights with Qatar Airways.

As a result of the closure, two services operated by QR for VA were diverted on the way to Doha, with VA1 from Sydney safely landing in Bengaluru, and VA15 from Brisbane touching down without incident in Muscat.

Meanwhile, Qantas was not immune from the impacts either despite not operating Middle East transit flights, with QF9 from Perth bound for London diverted to Singapore, and QF33 from



Perth to Paris forced to return to Australia to ensure safety.

The airspace closure was revealed in the early hours of this morning (**TD** breaking news), and although Doha Airport has been given the green light to resume flights, QR said passengers should expect significant delays.

The Iranian attack and subsequent closure of airspace in Qatar followed a blanket warning issued by DFAT yesterday, which stated the conflict with Iran had the potential to disrupt passenger flights globally.

"Your travel plans may be affected, even if your destination is not in the Middle East," DFAT said, adding security situations could worsen with little warning.

While the unfolding situation is alarming for travellers, ATIA CEO Dean Long said it is important for Aussies to remain calm, as policies exist to handle these kinds of emergency situations - more from Long on **page six**. **AB**

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features ten pages of news, including our **Sustainability** page, plus full pages from:

- Silversea
- Viva Holidays

Silversea savings

TRAVELLERS can save up to 40% on select Silversea voyages, as well as enjoy a two-category suite upgrade.

The offer ends 30 Jun - find out more on **page 11**.

Viva Rocky discount

VIVA Holidays is currently offering cheaper prices on its 2026 Rocky Mountaineer packages - check out the **back page** for all the details.



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VA lauds trifecta in May

VIRGIN Australia led the way on all major performance metrics in May, besting rival Qantas across on-time schedules and cancellations, according to the latest figures from BITRE.

The report showed that VA managed to arrive on schedule 85% of the time and depart as planned on 86.9% of flights.

While Qantas also put in a strong showing for the month, it trailed VA with 82.9% of flights arriving on time and 85.6% leaving the tarmac as planned.

VA also recorded an impressively low cancellation rate for May, scrapping only 0.8% of flights, while Qantas canned just



shy of 2% of services.

On a sector-wide level, the rate of cancellations was also marginally lower than the long-term average of 2.2%.

The latest result represents VA's best monthly on-time departure performance in two years, improving 7.7 percentage points in comparison to May last year, and exceeding the previously set record in Apr.

"To take out the trifecta of best departure and arrival on-time performance, and the lowest number of flight cancellations in May is an incredible achievement, and I'm proud of the entire team who have contributed to our strong position," VA CEO Dave Emerson enthused. AB

CATO correction

YESTERDAY, TD published an article on CATO's Christmas Lunch with the incorrect prices.

The correct price for a table of 10 is \$1,850 - see [HERE](#) to book.

25 years of Connections



EXCLUSIVE

CONNECTIONS Travel Group is celebrating its 25th anniversary this week, as well as three years' of local operations in SA.

The privately owned travel company welcomed more than 50 supplier partners to an event in Adelaide yesterday, kicking off a series of celebrations around the country.

Framed by the African principle of Ubuntu, meaning 'I am because we are', the event honoured the strong partnerships that Connections Travel Group has built across the industry.

"For 25 years, we've grown not in isolation, but in partnership," said Regional GM and Head of Supplier Relations David Padman.

"Our suppliers have shaped our journey, supported our teams, and

enabled us to deliver exceptional travel experiences across corporate, leisure, and events."

On the night, the Adelaide team was recognised for its dedication to supplier collaboration and client care.

"What makes us different isn't just our service model or our technology - it's that we see our suppliers as part of the business, not outside of it," Padman said.

The company plans to drive strong growth in corporate travel, with targeted expansion across its leisure and MICE brands, and is gearing up to host its annual conference on the Gold Coast next month. JM

The CTG Adelaide team are **pictured:** Andrea Stidwill; Denis Campbell; Kate Lisman; David Padman; Peta Gil; and Brad Ellis.

SCENIC ECLIPSE

Ultra-Luxury Cruising

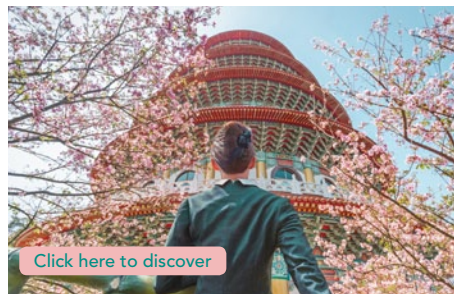
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Travel Daily

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Air NZ up capacity

AIR New Zealand is ramping up capacity on its short-haul routes, with 1.7 million seats available across the Tasman and to the Pacific Islands.

Between Oct 2025 and Mar 2026, the Kiwi carrier will offer 130,000 seats as a result of increased flight frequencies and the deployment of more widebody aircraft on key routes.

Capacity on the Auckland-Perth route will increase by 29%, while Auckland-Sydney will see an extra 25,000 seats added, including 7,500 premium seats.

Air New Zealand will boost its Auckland-Melbourne service with an additional 16,000 seats; Auckland-Brisbane by 18,400 seats; and offer 12% more capacity on its Auckland-Gold Coast flights.

Additionally, the airline will add over 25,000 seats to the Pacific Islands this summer, supporting continued growth and connectivity across the region.

Luxury Escapes bites the Big Apple

LUXURY Escapes officially expanded into New York this week off the back of the premium travel operator testing and learning in the market for a number of years.

"Now it's just about expanding on that base and expanding to Mexico, the Caribbean and US domestic, in addition to our existing strong supply through Europe and Asia as well," co-founder and Chief Executive Officer Adam Schwab (pictured) told *Travel Daily*.

Schwab added that the company has seen "great success" in its US to Maldives product, with one-out-of-two Australian travellers to the island buying through Luxury Escapes.

Despite the challenging geopolitical landscape in the US at the moment, there has been no impact on Luxury Escapes, as it is not currently a major inbound region for the company, apart



from certain markets like New York, Hawaii and Los Angeles.

"If anything, it's been helpful to us," Schwab said.

"While Australians may have gone to the US and Europe and there are still people doing that route, there have been some going to Bali, Fiji, Vietnam - all regions we're strong in."

However, Schwab added that the company is also focused on growing its US inbound market.

"We're confident our US supply

can improve, we've got boots on the ground, and we've seen a pick-up coming from a smaller base," he revealed.

Although there had been rumours of a potential new store at Westfield Bondi, Schwab was hesitant to confirm any details, hinting that it is "highly likely we'll open a store in Sydney soon, we're finalising details".

While Sydney is the obvious place for expansion in the future, the plan is for physical stores in every capital city as well as overseas, he said.

MEANWHILE, Luxury Escapes will release a next-generation trip planning tool with a multi-cart function, allowing travellers to purchase a whole trip in one click, from flights to experiences.

In addition, the travel operator will launch flights in its Agent Hub in the next 16-24 months, and advisors will be able to use the feature as a one-stop-shop. *JHM*

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IATA slams EU Parliament as 'meddlers'

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has not held back in its assessment of European Parliament after it proposed to make cabin luggage allowance mandatory.

The suggested rule change would apply to EU-based airlines carrying passengers from a non-EU country to an EU country and vice-versa.

However, IATA has labelled the move as "parliamentary meddling in operational and commercial issues that it doesn't understand", in a terse response to the proposition.

"Our consumer research tells us that the majority of travellers want to pay the lowest price possible for their ticket and buy the additional services they need," IATA's Director General Willie Walsh declared.

"That's the complete opposite of an amendment that will force airlines to re-bundle their offering.



"Consumers will be disappointed with higher costs for all, and they will be frustrated with the operational chaos of determining which bags meet the requirements and which do not."

Walsh added that if EU parliamentarians insist upon introducing regulation where it is not needed, they should be wholly prepared to "take

responsibility for its negative consequences".

Under the proposal, passengers would be guaranteed one free personal item measuring up to 40x30x15cm, and able to reasonably fit under a plane seat.

According to IATA, an Apr poll found that 72% of travellers prefer to pay the lowest price possible for their air ticket and are happy to pay extra for additional services required. *DF*

JetBlue drops Miami

JETBLUE Airways will cease flying to Miami International Airport from 03 Sep, as the American budget carrier cuts costs and restructures its network toward more profitable routes.

Travellers heading to South Florida can still fly with JetBlue on services to nearby Palm Beach Int'l Airport and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Qantas to welcome A321XLR in Jul

QANTAS will welcome its first A321XLR aircraft to Australia on 02 Jul, with the aircraft to touch down in Sydney following its delivery flight from an Airbus facility in Hamburg.

The jets have a range of around 8,700km, which will unlock the possibility for more long-thin domestic and short-haul international routes.

On board, the planes will also offer passengers added narrowbody comfort, including wider seats, larger overhead storage, and fast wi-fi.

The aircraft will be welcomed by Qantas employees, Airbus representatives, and key stakeholders at an event in Qantas' Hangar 96.



EXPLORERS

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VA rings the bell

VIRGIN Australia has launched a network-wide sale, with fares starting from \$49 one-way. International tickets lead in from \$455, with the four-day 'Bell to Boarding Sale' celebrating Virgin's return to the Australian Stock Exchange (see **page one**). The sale fares are available for select travel between 22 Jul and 26 Mar, and are able to be purchased through to 11.59pm this Fri - **CLICK HERE** for details.

Travel Beyond NDC

TRAVEL Beyond Group has unveiled new NDC capability with its technology partners Serko, Amadeus, and Concur. The new solution, which is now live, delivers more enhanced airline content and a more personalised, efficient booking experience for corporate fliers. The new platform also provides richer content, such as exclusive fare options and more flexibility.

Jamming threat evolves

AN ALARMING increase in the jamming of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) aboard commercial aircraft is also becoming a more complex threat, according to a new report published by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The number of GPS signal loss events increased by 220% between 2021 and 2024 according to IATA's data - particularly in airspace in the Middle East and eastern Europe. While the rise in jamming incidents has been well documented, IATA warned that GNSS disruptions are evolving in terms of frequency and sophistication, stating the aviation industry is no longer in a containment phase around interference threats. "We must build resilience because the evolving nature of the threat demands a dynamic and ambitious action plan," the



report warned. On a grim note for the future, the report also cited ongoing geopolitical tensions as a factor that is unlikely to see the current trend reverse any time soon. To combat the growing safety menace in the sector, the report identified four areas for the aviation industry to work on. These included better information gathering; stronger prevention and mitigation measures; more effective use of infrastructure and airspace management; and enhanced preparedness among agencies. Interestingly, the call for preparedness also included the need to combat the rising threat of drones to commercial jets. **AB**

More KrisFlyer value

MEMBERS of Singapore Airlines Groups' KrisFlyer rewards program are set to get more value for their miles, with enhancements to reduce redemption rates across the entire ecosystem. The improvements will take place from next month, in particular delivering more value to those who use miles and cash to offset fares on Singapore and Scoot flights.

Outback '26 release

OUTBACK Spirit has launched its full season for next year, with earlybird savings now available. The tour operator will offer 22 all-inclusive outback itineraries, discovering the wetlands of Arnhem Land, the rugged Kimberley, and more. Earlybird bookers can benefit from savings of up to \$2,600 per person when making a reservation by the end of Sep.

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Carnival adopted lesson

EXCLUSIVE

NETFLIX is about to drop a new series tonight called *Trainwreck*, with episode three retelling the tale of a Carnival cruise ship fire which knocked out key services on board, including the toilets.

And while much of the mainstream media has been hyping the 'Poop Cruise' episode, a spokesperson for Carnival Cruise Line told **Travel Daily** the 2011 incident aboard its *Triumph* vessel had led to a raft of meaningful improvements.

"The *Carnival Triumph* incident over 12 years ago was a teachable moment for the entire cruise industry," the cruise line said.

"A thorough investigation following the incident revealed a design vulnerability which was corrected and led Carnival Cruise Line to invest more than US\$500 million across our entire fleet in comprehensive fire prevention and suppression, improved



redundancy, and enhanced management systems - all in support of our commitment to robust safety standards.

"This is in addition to our vigorous Health, Environmental, Safety and Security (HESS) protocols that guide the entire Carnival Corporation fleet as we maintain our commitment to industry leadership in this area.

"We are proud of the fact that since 2013, over 53 million guests have enjoyed safe and memorable vacations with us, and we will continue to operate to these high standards." AB

"Keep calm": ATIA

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) is urging travellers to remain calm in the face of the turbulent Middle East conflict, and to only seek support from travel advisors and airlines if their departure is within the next three days.

There is no need for travellers to make any unnecessary cancellations, CEO Dean Long advised, as airlines and accredited agents are prioritising passengers departing imminently, and have established systems in place to manage any changes.

"Australians flying to Europe via the Middle East should be prepared for some delays, but it's important to know that global airlines have systems in place to manage these disruptions," Long reassured travellers.

"We've seen this before, and the travel ecosystem is built to respond," he said, reminding travellers the closure of airspace is not a new phenomenon.

Very cool experts

SCENIC is giving travellers the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Antarctic region's great explorers, with a series of expert-led Expedition Voyages to East Antarctica and the Ross Sea.

Sailing between Dec 2025 and Feb 2026 from either New Zealand or Hobart, the voyages will mark the last planned Scenic *Eclipse II* departures to this region in Antarctica.

Guests will hear from renowned explorers and researchers, including Ian Godfrey (**pictured**), the Head Conservator at the Mawson's Huts Foundation, and Robert Swan, who was the first person in history to walk to both the North and South Poles.

Tune into Scenic's webinar **HERE** on 03 Jul to learn more.



Discover your

'tucking into a cheese-filled crêpe' moment in France



AQZ sells engines

ALLIANCE Aviation Services (AQZ) has announced the sale of 12 General Electric CF34-10 engines to Beatech Power Systems of Dallas, Texas.

An update on the ASX showed the engines come from six airframes which were previously sold to Eirtrade.

AQZ's deal is worth around \$62.3 million, and 10 of the engines will be delivered to Beatech this financial year.

Alliance Managing Director, Scott McMillan said, "We are delighted with this outcome where we have again been able to monetise inventory at values commensurate with current market prices and take advantage of the low AUD/USD exchange rate.

"Our aviation services business has, and will, continue to make a significant contribution to the financial performance of the company," he added.

The news will not impact the profit guidance for AQZ. *DF*

MTA welcomes Olympian



OLYMPIAN-TURNED-CEO Grant Hackett has been announced as the keynote speaker at MTA's 25th anniversary conference, taking place 25-26 Jul in Adelaide.

Hackett will be joined by headline speaker Emma Harris, a brand and culture expert and founder of Glow London.

Now an expert in financial services and CEO of investment service Generation Development,



Hackett will share corporate leadership lessons, as well as insights from his journey as a triple Olympic gold medallist.

Known for her "no-fluff" approach and drawing on her experience working in executive roles at Eurostar and Virgin Atlantic, Harris will discuss brand-building and creating an authentic workplace culture.

"Grant and Emma bring fresh, forward-thinking perspectives with insights that we know will resonate with the ambitions and challenges our advisors are navigating right now", said Karen Merricks, co-founder at MTA.

Other speakers include founder of Grow My Money Pascale Helyar-Moray; sleep expert Olivia Arezzolo; and coach and sales strategist Nicole O'Sullivan.

MTA's conference theme this year is 'milestones and momentum' and will feature five days of sessions, breakout experiences and training. *JHM*

Explora gives credit

EXPLORA Journeys is offering up to US\$1,000 in credit per suite for all new bookings made before 15 Jul 2025.

The special applies to all upcoming voyages across the Mediterranean, Northern Europe and the Caribbean.



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Window Seat

FORMER Swansea coach

Luke Williams has swapped the soccer pitch for working at Bristol Airport while on gardening leave, where he is now helping disabled and limited mobility passengers.

Williams was spotted in a hi-vis vest at the airport and while some expressed their surprise and scepticism when images emerged on social media, the 44-year-old himself confirmed his new gig.

In the past, Williams has shared his hardworking approach, coming from a working-class background with no educational qualifications and living "hand to mouth" while coaching children in Hackney in the UK.

"That desire to feed myself and look after myself kicked in," he said of his working class years as a teenager.

"I realised that I was capable of tolerating almost anything, providing that I would be able to have a roof over my head and something to eat."



Astra docks in Mel

ASTRA Apartments Melbourne CBD has taken over management of Astra Apartments Docklands.

Located within walking distance of corporate headquarters in Docklands, the premium properties offer access to nearby public transport, as well as amenities such as a pool, gym, business lounge and sky garden.

Guests can now access medium-to-long term accommodation in both properties with the same service, flexible terms and agency commission structure.

The Allura of food

OCEANIA Cruises has announced it will team up with US publication *Food & Wine* by having some of its 'Best New Chefs' list alumni serve as godparents of its newest ship, *Oceania Allura*.

Since 1988, *Food & Wine's* Best New Chefs program has honoured more than 400 rising culinary stars who the masthead said are redefining the dining scene.

The alumni include some of the most influential figures in the modern food scene.

"The soul of Oceania Cruises has always been deeply rooted in extraordinary cuisine," said Jason Montague, Chief Luxury Officer of Oceania Cruises.

"We're paying homage to the future of food and the creative forces driving it forward."

Oceania Allura will have the capacity to carry 1,200 pax, with a strong focus on cuisine.

ATIA UPDATE

from Nina Hedges, Compliance Manager



THIS Thu marks a milestone for our industry - the launch of a powerful new customer-facing

directory, and you'll want to be part of it.

Built to showcase only the very best in our sector, this innovative platform features ATIA-accredited agents and tour operators - businesses and professionals who have voluntarily elected to be assessed annually against strict criteria and high standards.

It connects Australian travellers directly with trusted, accredited travel experts and, just as importantly, clearly explains why consumers should always look for the ATIA-accredited tick when booking travel.

If there's no tick, they should be asking why not.

With over 120,000 visits to our [atas.com.au](https://www.atas.com.au) website last

year from consumers actively seeking an accredited business, this new directory provides a verified source of truth - a powerful tool that elevates the profile of accredited travel professionals and puts credibility, professionalism, and industry recognition front and centre.

For current members, this is your digital shopfront and now is your time to shine.

Make sure your profile is up to date, highlighting your expertise, your unique services and your commitment to excellence.

If you need any help at all we are just a phone call away.

For the rest of the industry, stay tuned for further details on launch day - this is just the beginning.

A new era of consumer engagement and confidence is here - one that puts ATIA-accredited businesses firmly in the spotlight, where they belong.

For our current members, get ready to be seen.

And if you're not yet accredited, now's the time - reach out and let's start the conversation.

JPN off-peak boom

RECENT suggestions from the Japan National Tourism Organization to visit the country in off-peak periods appear to have been heeded by Australians, with an almost 20% year-on-year increase in visitor arrivals in May.

Close to 80,000 Australians visited Japan during the month, an 18.7% increase from the same month last year, as travellers continued to discover the destination's variety of attractions on offer in off peak periods.

The news follows record visitor numbers posted in Apr

China/NZ join forces

AIR New Zealand, Air China, and Tourism New Zealand have joined forces to strengthen travel between the two nations.

The partnership will see nearly half an NZ\$500,000 investment by the three organisations, which will be channelled towards stimulating inbound tourism from China, while Air New Zealand will invest more than NZ\$700,000 in marketing through strategic partnerships over the next year.

In the 12 months to Mar 2025, just shy of 250,000 Chinese tourists visited New Zealand.



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SUSTAINABILITY WILL COME WITH ACTION, NOT WORDS

EXCLUSIVE

PEARL Expeditions has no plans to push its sustainability credentials through marketing greenwashing, but said it will differentiate itself in how it interacts with local communities and the experiences it delivers.

Five weeks before the emerging expedition line embarks its first paying passengers in Wyndham, WA, Pearl Expeditions' Head of Sustainability, Mick Fogg, told **TD** the reputation the line builds will come through how it acts.

"We're not looking for accolades, it's just what we'll do and how we'll do it," Fogg said.

"We know what we'll be doing is going to be the right thing and making sure we are being fully sustainable in regards to the areas we touch.

"Yes, it's a marketing tool but that marketing tool will come



with our own performance rather than trying to claim whatever," Fogg concluded.

Education and citizen science will be one way the line presents its sustainability message, banking on the idea that travellers will develop a natural bond with the places they go and a new instinct to want to protect it.

Another way will be through the food it serves, with Head Chef

Alex Macmillan eager to source produce from local, sustainable growers and producers - a theme which will be communicated on the nightly menu.

Fogg said in places like Timor, it was already working to establish connections with local growers and finding ways to support local industries rather than simply flying all its produce in.

Pearl Expeditions also plans to

offer its guests opportunities to engage in citizen science through activities which will ultimately have a positive effect.

"When we look at projects, we want to get involved in that and we're going to go to some of the sensitive areas like where whale sharks are, and that's easy to contribute to," Fogg said.

Activities may include things like photographing whale sharks and identifying them via their unique pattern of spots, or fingerprint.

Fogg said that when Pearl looks at new destinations, it has "a massive responsibility" to make sure it doesn't change them.

"Sustainability for me is about minimising your impact and ensuring that when you're going into remote communities, you're not changing that community, and that doesn't come with an award or an accolade," Fogg said. *ML*

Amadeus helps

TRAVEL technology giant Amadeus will work to nurture emerging young talent via a revised partnership with the World Sustainable Hospitality Alliance's employment arm.

The partnership aims to improve youth employment and provide young people with the skills and experience to embark on long and prosperous careers in hospitality and tourism.

Atlantis rids itself of single-use plastics

ATLANTIS Dubai has confirmed its goal of eliminating all single-use plastics across the property.

The major achievement is in line with the fourth year of its Atlantis Atlas Project, a long-term commitment to operating responsibly and creating a lasting positive impact "for both people and the planet".

The property said the final stage was successfully attained via the annual elimination of

more than 3.7 million plastic bottles through the installation of chilled water dispensers across the pool and beach areas.

An on-site bottling plant is also now producing around 5,000 litres of filtered water daily.

Atlantis Dubai has also joined forces with Seafood Souq, a platform which provides end-to-end transparency in the seafood supply chain, which in turn provides chefs with data to back up responsible sourcing.

Passions in HOF

ECOTOURISM Australia has inducted Cairns-based Great Barrier Reef tour brand Passions of Paradise into its Hall of Fame.

The accolade comes in honour of the family-owned reef tour operator exhibiting and maintaining high standards in sustainability and best practice for the past 20 years, and for educating and inspiring visitors to form personal bonds with the sea.

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WESTERN
AUSTRALIA
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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.648

AUSSIE travellers can be relatively happy since this column last week as the AUD rallied after a mid-week dip that saw it drop as low as US\$0.63 on 23 Jun.

Since then it has returned to US\$0.65, but stability is not assured after the US launched a significant attack on Iran over the weekend.

US Federal Governor Michelle Bowman recently noted that inflation was showing steady progress towards the Fed's 2% goal, and that there could potentially be rate cuts as soon as next month.

If this were to come true, it would put additional pressure on the USD and potentially provide a further boost for the Aussie dollar.

Having just returned from IPW in Chicago, *TD* can confidently state that any boost would be welcome after paying more than \$13 for a very average coffee on multiple occasions last week.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.648
UK	£0.478
NZ	\$1.086
Euro	€0.558
Japan	¥94.37
Thailand	฿21.21
China	¥4.653
South Africa	11.545
Canada	\$0.890
Bitcoin	0.00000616

Cunard sails brand globally



CUNARD Line is asking "why cruise when you can Cunard", as part of its new global brand campaign created by Supernova.

The push has launched with a 60-second hero film, which invites like-minded travellers to experience Cunard's blend of style, elegance, and luxury.

The film features a voice-over from actor Richard E. Grant, delivering words by writer Bianca Sparacino, taken from her work *The Strength in Our Scars*.

The Australian campaign launches this week across BVOD, press, digital, and online video.

"As we celebrate our 185th anniversary this year, our luxury heritage and the spirit of what makes a Cunard voyage so special is brought to life with bold storytelling and cinematic beauty in this campaign," the cruise line's President Katie McAlister said.

"We're incredibly proud of the result and are looking forward to seeing how audiences across the world connect with it." *MS*

Sports kicking goals

YOUNGOV has revealed sport is powering Australia's tourism resurgence, with new research detailing how fans are being motivated by sports events.

Almost three-quarters of Australians said they would travel domestically to spectate or participate in a sports event.

Millennials are leading the pack, with 78% having travelled for sport in the past.

More than half also stated they either have, or are planning to, travel for a sports event this year, spending an average of \$108 per person per day on accommodation.

Soccer fans are perhaps surprisingly the most committed travellers, the study revealed.

Devotees of soccer were followed by AFL and tennis fans.

Australia's three biggest cities: Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane, are the top domestic destinations for sports travel.

Boutique cruise line recruits sales head

PATRICK Mitchell (pictured) will be the new Senior Vice President, Global Sales for The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection.

Mitchell will be based at the cruise line's headquarters in Fort Lauderdale, and will be responsible for global sales strategy and execution.

He has previously served in a number of roles in the travel industry, including as Vice President Global Brand & Ecommerce for Sonder; and Vice President Marketing & Sales Americas with Cathay Pacific.



VN dials back PER

VIETNAM Airlines will reduce frequencies on its Ho Chi Minh City-Perth route in Aug.

The carrier will fly the service twice weekly from 04 Aug to 05 Sep, down from thrice weekly.

The flight will continue to be flown on a Boeing 797-9 Dreamliner, with the outbound service departing at 3.25pm and landing in Perth at 10.30pm.

The return leg will take off at 12.25am and land back in Ho Chi Minh City at 5.50am.



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