

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features 10 pages of news, including a photo page from **Qatar Airways** and our **Business Events News** page, plus a product profile from **Inspiring Vacations** and full pages from:

- Ponant
- Tourism NT

Ponant adds value

CLIENTS will receive an \$800 credit when they pair one of Ponant's 2026 European small ship itineraries with a land package - for more details, check out **page 11**.

Win a trip up top

AGENTS are encouraged to join Tourism NT's upcoming live webinar for a chance to win a trip to the Red Centre.

Head to **page 12** to find out how to register for the session, which takes place 25 and 26 Nov.

WJL remains optimistic

WEBJET Travel Group has posted a 7% decrease in its underlying EBITDA from \$15.8 million to \$14.4 million, while bookings slid 8% from 784,000 to 724,000 (**TD** breaking news).

The operator's preliminary 1H26 trading results also revealed that TTV decreased by 4% from \$752 million to \$726 million.

This was due to challenging macro conditions, the company said, from the heightened tension in the Middle East and tariff-related trade disruptions in Apr to cost-of-living pressures and elevated domestic airfares "following the reduction in competition on major city's routes with Rex's exit".

Webjet's core flights product was also impacted due to the ACCC infringement notices it received related to an investigation that began in 2023.

Due to a combination of factors, including a "soft macro



environment", it is now expected that the group's underlying EBITDA for FY26 will be in the range of \$30 million-\$32 million, 9%-14% down on the prior comparable period.

However, Webjet CEO and Managing Director Katrina Barry remains optimistic about the future of the business, reassuring shareholders that "our strategy and long-term growth trajectory remain unchanged".

"Near-term market conditions impact timing, but not the underlying strength of our business or the value creation opportunity ahead," she said. *JHM*

Inspiring Asia

TRAVELLERS are invited to uncover the rich history, culture and landscapes of Central Asia on Inspiring Vacations' 22-day fully guided 'Five Stans Unveiled' tour, which travels between Apr 2026 until Oct 2027.

Learn more on the **back page**.

JQ adds more Bali

JETSTAR has already added a fourth weekly service to its new Newcastle-Bali service, which launched last month (**TD** 21 Oct).

From 29 Mar 2026, the carrier will operate the direct flights on Tues, Wed, Fri and Sun, with all four weekly services to continue on to Singapore via a 90-minute stop in Denpasar.

Newcastle Airport CEO Linc Horton said the rapid expansion of the Bali route, which will take the hub to 96,512 seats annually on the new route, demonstrated growing confidence in the region's international market.



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Qantas SME recruit

QANTAS has appointed Sarah Burkitt as its new Head of SME Sales, who will report into Executive Manager Global Sales & Distribution Kathryn Robertson.

Commencing in the role early next year, Burkitt will take over from Renee Brook and focus on strengthening Qantas' presence in the SME market through deals and Qantas Business Rewards.

Burkitt brings 14 years of aviation industry experience to the role, including 11 with QF.



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Lindeman Is signs La Vie

LA VIE Hotels & Resorts has secured the management rights to the Lindeman Island Hotel project in the Whitsundays.

The once-thriving tourism hub will be restored as a major jewel in Queensland's tourism crown from late 2026 or early 2027, with La Vie to manage a 200-room five-star hotel, which will offer several restaurants and bars, a swimming pool, and a luxury spa and gym, as well as conference and wedding event spaces.

Owners of the island, Wells Smart Group, have been vocal about its plan to resurrect Lindeman Island to the buzzing heights of the 1980s and 1990s, when it was home to Club Med Lindeman Island until 2012.

"Our vision is to create a sustainable, luxury destination that redefines island hospitality in Queensland," said Well Smart



Director Jack Jia.

"With La Vie's expertise in resort management, we are confident Lindeman Island will become a beacon for eco-luxury travel."

Resort ambitions were helped along by a cash grant from the Qld Govt (**TD** 12 Feb 2024), part of the state's broader plan to make several abandoned islands major tourism attractions.

A solar farm and a new 50-metre jetty are also part of the construction plan. **AB**

QF rethinks route

WHILE there will be no changes to its current scheduling, Qantas has revoked its recently awarded once-a-week capacity on the Tokyo Haneda route.

It is understood the reason for the change of heart was due to poor slot timings, with added capacity to Haneda still very much on the carrier's road map.

Qantas seized on the extra seats to the booming Japanese market (**TD** 19 Sep 2024) when Virgin Australia decided to pull the pin on the Cairns-Tokyo route from Feb this year (**TD** 22 Jul 2024).

In its previous application for route capacity, Qantas said it was likely to deploy A330 aircraft on a third daily service between Australia and Tokyo Haneda, adding to its almost 30 weekly flights from Australia to Japan across its network.

More luxury in Bali

MELIA Hotels International has confirmed it will open Paradisus by Melia Bali in Dec, marking the brand's first all-inclusive luxury resort in Australia's most popular outbound market.

The company said the upcoming resort will add its 'destination inclusive' concept to the region for the first time, with amenities to include an adults-only enclave, a kids' club, a special club for teenagers, and water park and modern sport facilities.



RSSC to add a third

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has confirmed it will construct a third vessel in its Prestige class, scheduled for delivery in 2033.

The third ship will join the soon-to-launch *Seven Seas Prestige* and a yet-to-be-named vessel in 2030, forming part of parent company Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings' strategic expansion within the luxury cruise space.

Fincantieri was awarded the contract of the new-build.

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AMAWATERWAYS



Window Seat

A MAN who stole a bus full of passengers in Canada for a joy ride has been praised by police for his safe driving.

While the actions of the unnamed 36-year-old were clearly illegal, travellers who got on at the MacNab Bus Terminal in Hamilton said the unqualified driver still made all the required stops.

Police spokesperson Trevor McKenna added the man did a "great job" by not leaving "any dings" in the bus.

"It's comical but at the same time, it's serious, so we are thankful nobody was hurt."

Passengers were not aware of the dubious driver until he started making wrong turns, but testament to his diligence, he denied entry to a pax for having an expired bus pass.

Webjet drives RV deal

WEBJET Group's Motorhome Republic division has partnered with global RV and campervan company Roadsurfer, adding more than 10,000 vehicles across 100 rental stations in Europe and North America to its marketplace.

The Aussie online travel business said the new partnership will significantly expand its motorhome coverage across key international travel hubs, providing Australian and Kiwi travellers with more choice, flexibility and convenience.

Roadsurfer also stands to benefit from the partnership, gaining access to Motorhome Republic's established long-haul customer base, unlocking new opportunities to reach more travellers from Australia and NZ.

"Our focus is on delivering exceptional deals and a seamless booking experience that help travellers enjoy unforgettable road journeys across the world's



most popular destinations," Webjet Group's recently appointed General Manager of New Zealand Taras Lee said.

"Building on a year of strong growth, our partnership with Roadsurfer strengthens this vision, offering more vehicles, more locations, and more choice than ever before," he added.

The partnership supports Webjet Group's FY30 Strategic Plan (**TD 19 Mar**), which is looking to grow offerings across cars, motorhomes, flights, hotels, tours, and holiday packages.

Roadsurfer's vehicle brands include VW, Mercedes-Benz, Ford, Westfalia, Knaus, and Burstner, offering a mix of two to five-person vehicles. **AB**

MSC adds two more

MSC Cruises' *MSC World Europa* and *MSC World America* will soon have more company in the class, with two more ships confirmed by the luxury line this week.

Extending its partnership with shipbuilder Chantiers de l'Atlantique, a seventh and eighth World Class ship will be delivered in 2030 and 2031, with construction to begin in 2029.

The latest contract is valued at €3.5 billion (A\$6.18 billion), and brings its order book in France this year to four vessels.

"The World Class platform is a symbol of our vision to set new standards for the future of cruising," said MSC's Executive Chairman Pierfrancesco Vago.

MSC World Asia (**pictured**) also floated out this week - due to sail next year - while a coin ceremony was also held for *MSC World Atlantic*, sailing in 2027.



BUNNIK'S BIG BIRTHDAY GIVEAWAY



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AGENT INCENTIVE



US struggles for traction

THE United States has continued to struggle in its quest to gain more traction with Australian travellers, the latest monthly travel figures from the ABS have laid bare.

For the latest reporting period in Sep, travel to the US was shown to be down against almost every historical metric, including coming up short by a whopping 37,000 visits on the same month before the pandemic.

The 58,610 trips taken in Sep this year was also around 9,000 trips lower than Sep 2024.

ABS stats for the previous month of Aug also showed that while almost all of the top 10 outbound markets improved their positions over previous years, the United States was the only destination to lose ground on both 2024 and 2023 (TD 15 Oct).

In Sep, the majority of markets managed to outperform the same period in 2024, with the US losing the most ground, alongside marginal drops for the UK,



Thailand, and Fiji.

The concerning trend is not likely to be reversed any time soon either, with travel in and out of the US hampered over the last six weeks by an ongoing government shutdown that is only this week beginning to thaw.

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy was last week forced to order a 10% cut in flights at 40 major airports due to a lack of air traffic controllers (TD 07 Nov), with US President Donald Trump this week demanding key airport employees return to work immediately (TD 12 Nov).

However, yesterday the FAA conceded that even if the government reopened by the end of the week, it could take much longer for the air traffic schedule to return to normal. AB

Build blocks to NZ

BY TARGETING *Minecraft* enthusiasts and adventure-seekers, Tourism New Zealand was able to unlock more unique audiences on Pinterest at a performance rate 43% more effective than traditional travel campaigns on the platform.

TNZ partnered with Flight Centre on the digital push leveraging the release of *A Minecraft Movie*, with highlights including a twice-as-high booking conversion rate, a 25% higher engagement rate compared to Australian travel vertical benchmarks, and a 26% more efficient cost per 1,000 views for Trend Badge creative ads versus Standard creative ads.

"Pinterest's Player One trend unlocked new audiences we had not considered or reached before," said Flight Centre Marketing Leader Rachael Green.

"The *Minecraft*-themed creative drove strong engagement, moving gamers...from simply dreaming about New Zealand to planning and booking."

Airports fight abuse

PERTH, Sydney and Melbourne Airports have partnered with A21 to raise awareness for the Can You See Me? campaign, which seeks to combat the scourge of human trafficking.

Digital screens and billboards across the three major air hubs will display the campaign throughout the next month, featuring messages that remind travellers to report any suspected human abuses.

The awareness push also features QR codes that link to information and videos showing how to identify potential trafficking situations.

Reports of human trafficking to the Australian Federal Police have nearly doubled over the past five years, with 420 reports recorded in 2024–25 alone.



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GC nature tourism boost



GOLD Coast City has recently approved 10 large scale projects to boost its local tourism sector.

The City's Opportunity Responsible Program offers grants of \$100,000 or more for nature-based tourism initiatives.

"We are confident that the 10 businesses awarded funding towards their projects will increase visitation and encourage sustainable tourism resulting in strong economic outcomes for our city," said Economy, Tourism and Events Chairperson Councillor

Bob La Castra.

Among the operators receiving support is Numinbah Escape, a 300-acre property that will feature Australia's longest zipline and adventure hub with mountain biking and abseiling, as well as a holiday park.

Also receiving funding is Bower Estate Woodlands Precinct, which will feature eco-cabins and villas, as well as a wellness-focused day spa, and a tourism program with nature experiences and Indigenous culture.

The City will also assist the Sea World Foundation Wildlife hospital as it develops interactive displays and education programs.

It will also support Pandana, Moreton Bay Marine Park, which will develop essential access infrastructure at the marina.

Pictured: La Castra with Bower Estate's Amanda Appel. *JHM*

Marriott growth

MARRIOTT will unveil six branded residence openings in the EMEA region before the end of 2025, including The Lucan, Autograph Collection Residences in London and The Residences at The Westin Salgados Beach Resort and the Marriott Residences Salgados Resort, both in Algarve.

Others will include JW Marriott Residences Al Jazi First New Cairo in Egypt, and Marriott Residences and Affini, a Tribute Portfolio Residences property, in Dubai.

Marriott had also 11 signed agreements and sales launches in its EMEA portfolio this year, such as the Marriott Residences in Budapest, the Residences at the St Regis Baku, the Ritz-Carlton Residences at Al Maryah Island in Abu Dhabi, and more.

Airlie fest rocks out

THE Airlie Beach Music Festival of Music on the Whitsunday Islands has wrapped up for another year, injecting \$5 million into the local economy, with a record 3,000 attendees on Sat night across 15 venues.

The two-day event featured acts such headliner Jessica Mauboy and legendary local performers including the Screaming Jets, Diesel and Bachelor Girl.

More events news on **page 9**.

1000MTG'S UNFORGETTABLE NZ TOP ACHIEVERS TRIP



1000 Mile Travel Group (1000MTG) recently hosted its Australian Top Achievers Trip, celebrating its leading independent travel advisors. Over five days, attendees experienced a blend of luxury and adventure across New Zealand.

The journey began with a visit to the Auckland SkyTower, dinner at Cassia and a stay at Horizon Hotel, followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of Air New Zealand's hangar 22 and future cabin aircraft experience. The group travelled to the stunning Rosewood Kauri Cliffs, exploring private beaches, expansive grounds, and panoramic villas, while enjoying exquisite food and a round on the world-class golf course.

"What a fantastic trip to Auckland and the Bay of Islands with my colleagues, everything

was perfect, thank you to Air NZ, Sky City Horizon, Rosewood Estate Kauri Cliffs and Lauren Gray for organising, I'm very grateful!" said Ben Jenke, 1000MTG Rising Star.

Saturday offered a Bay of Islands heli-tour and luxury yacht cruise aboard Silver Wave, organised by Rosewood. The final day featured a kiwi encounter, stargazing with Kora Tours NZ, and a visit to Marsden Estate Winery.

Top honours went to Sam Rowe (Corporate), Kurt Hufer (Leisure, represented by Nick Anderson), the Travel Team led by Emily Davidson and Stephanie McDonald (Team), Ben Jenke (Rising Star), and Amy Crossland (Most Engaged).

Special thanks to Air New Zealand, Rosewood Kauri Cliffs, Northland Inc, SkyCity Hotels & Horizon Hotel, Salt Air, Kora Tours NZ and Black Robin Transfers.

Discover a network that rewards excellence **HERE**.



TOP: Lauren Gray, Fraser Wong, Emily Davidson, Amy Crossland, Ben Jenke, Nick Anderson and Sam Rowe at Bay of Islands Airport

MIDDLE: Ben Jenke, Amy Crossland, Emily Davidson, Sam Rowe, Nick Anderson, Lauren Gray and Natasha Little-Weastell in front of Rosewood Kauri Cliffs.

BOTTOM: The team and Natasha Little-Weastell from Rosewood enjoy sailing aboard the Silver Wave luxury yacht

Famil IN FOCUS is our feature showcasing some of the photos from recent industry famils or events. If you want your famil to be featured, email: advertising@traveldaily.com.au

Korea on the rails

INSIDE Travel has launched the 13-day self-guided tour, 'Korea by Rail', using South Korea's new high-speed Donghae rail line.

The trip connects visitors from the modern bustling city of Seoul to the historic city of Gyeongju and seaside town of Busan.

Agents pucker up in DC



THREE lucky agents recently enjoyed a week-long fam trip to Washington DC, hosted by Destination DC in collaboration with Qantas.

The three Sell Your Way to the USA incentive winners were Bianca Douglas Watt from Flight Centre Rouse Hill, Sydney; Clinton Griffiths from Globus family of brands in Sydney; and Maree Sterling from Travel on Capri on the Gold Coast.

"These winning agents experienced a fresh perspective firsthand of Washington, DC - from cheering on the home team at a roaring hockey game to exploring Georgetown's historic streets and discovering the city's incredible food scene," said Destination DC Account Director ANZ, Corey Marshall.

During the trip, the advisors

explored some of DC's iconic monuments and museums, such as the National Museum of Women in the Arts, as well as the city's vibrant culture and neighbourhoods.

Other notable moments included doing a ghost tour in Georgetown and exploring Loudoun County, where the group enjoyed small-batch candle making, historic hotel tours and wine tasting at Stone Tower Winery.

"The scooter tour around the city was an absolute highlight - it was a fabulous way to get an overview of DC and learn more about the monuments and memorials," said Watt. *JHM*

Pictured at a hockey game: Clinton Griffiths; Bianca Corallo, Destination DC; Maree Sterling; and Bianca Douglas Watt.

Travelmarvel 2026

TRAVELMARVEL has released its 2026/27 Vietnam and Cambodia tours, with the collection spanning river cruising, land touring and coastal cruising.

There is also a new cruise through Ha Long Bay aboard the Au Co - click [HERE](#) for more.

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Qld tourism in the spotlight



MORE than 800 tourism industry and government leaders gathered in Brisbane today for DestinationQ, Queensland's premier tourism conference.

Hosted during Tourism Week, the full-day forum focused on strengthening Queensland's global competitiveness ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This year's event brought together small businesses, destination leaders and policy-makers under the theme 'Driving Queensland's Global Advantage'.

Program highlights include an update from the Tourism Cabinet Committee - the government body established a year ago to drive Queensland's 20-year tourism plan - along with a panel discussion on regional cultural festivals and events, and open debate on the challenges and solutions to escalating insurance costs (**TD** 06 Nov).

For the first time, DestinationQ will feature a candid live Q&A with senior decision-makers.

"Queensland has a once-in-

a-generation opportunity to showcase our tourism offering to the world and the State's tourism sector must be prepared," QTIC CEO Natassia Wheeler said.

"The conversations at DestinationQ are about ensuring our operators, regions and experiences are globally competitive, digitally equipped and workforce ready." *JM*

Pictured: Wheeler, Qld Premier David Crisafulli, Qld Minister for Tourism Andrew Powell, and QTIC Board Chair Elsa D'Alessio.

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LHR budget friendly?

A **THIRD** runway at London Heathrow Airport will make the hub more accessible for low-cost carriers, according to CEO Thomas Woldbye.

The proposal is currently being passed through the UK Government, with ambitions to have the new runway up and running by 2035 (**TD** 25 Jul).

"There is no reason we should not have low-cost carriers with our third runway," he said at the Airlines 2025 conference in London on Mon.

"Our job is not to tell people how to fly, but to have the widest range of products on the shelf."

Kenton Jarvis, the new CEO of British budget carrier EasyJet, recently said a third runway would allow it to operate "at scale" at the UK's largest airports.

Heathrow Airport is currently not considered a viable option for low-cost carriers, as it is often at or near capacity and has a higher cost structure.

CX connects ADL

CATHAY Pacific's non-stop flights between Adelaide and Hong Kong launched on Tue (**TD** 23 May).

Marking the carrier's return to the SA capital, the seasonal service will be operated by A350-900 aircraft thrice-weekly.

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Two teams, one winning formula

QATAR Airways and Virgin Australia recently hosted an informative evening for trade partners to celebrate the upcoming launch of Virgin Australia's Melbourne to Doha service, commencing 01 Dec.

Guests gained valuable insights into the new service, including sales tips and a deeper understanding of the benefits available for Qatar Airways Privilege Club and Velocity Frequent Flyer members.

The new service will enhance connectivity and convenience for travellers, complementing Qatar Airways' existing twice-daily Melbourne to Doha flights.

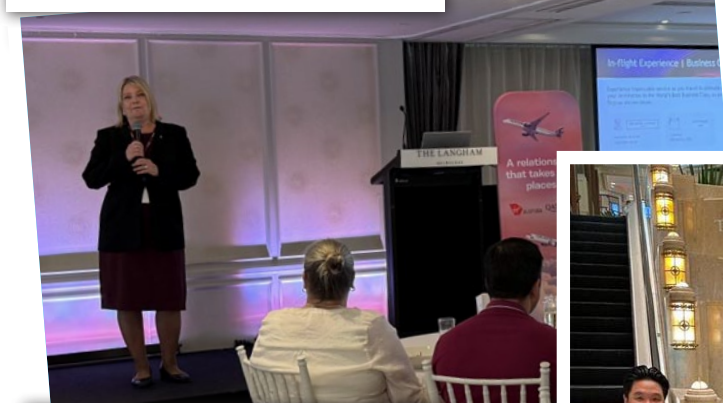
The additional service will offer Melburnians greater flexibility and seamless access to Qatar Airways' extensive global network, with representatives from both airlines sharing updates on the growing partnership and expanded travel opportunities it brings.



QATAR Airways' Ken Lau, Lee-Anne Hanley, Georgia Guerinet, Sanna Ruuskanen, Kan Wang and David Kneale.



JONATHAN Fromont, Fleur Archer, Debbie Wilkie, Russell Wilkie and Lizzie Gradon.



SANNA Ruuskanen from Qatar Airways sharing the wonderful in-flight experience of flying business class.



KEN Lau, Andrew Scott, Cyrus Sarkari, Laura Woods, Sanna Ruuskanen from Qatar Airways and Virgin Australia.



QUIZ winners Salisa Sangobphai (left) and Paul Knight (second right).



EMMA Stirrup and Sharon Zerafa.



ANDREW Scott from Virgin Australia welcoming guests.



VALUED guests of Qatar Airways and Virgin Australia.



BRIJESH Kumar, Salisa Sangobphai, Paul Knight and Rachel Walker.



Regional boost

THE recently announced Melbourne Avalon Airport expansion (**TD** 10 Nov) is set to help boost Geelong and the Bellarine's business events sector.

Tamie Ryan, Convention Bureau Manager at Meet Geelong and The Bellarine, said the growing number of flight options enhances the region's appeal for event organisers at a pivotal time.

"Ease of access is an important consideration for planners, and the return of international flights - together with new and expanded domestic routes - makes it even easier for delegates to reach our region," Ryan said.

"With Nyaal Banyul and the new Crowne Plaza opening in 2026, the timing couldn't be better for business events to look to Geelong and The Bellarine," he added.

NSW ENTERTAINMENT UNLOCKED

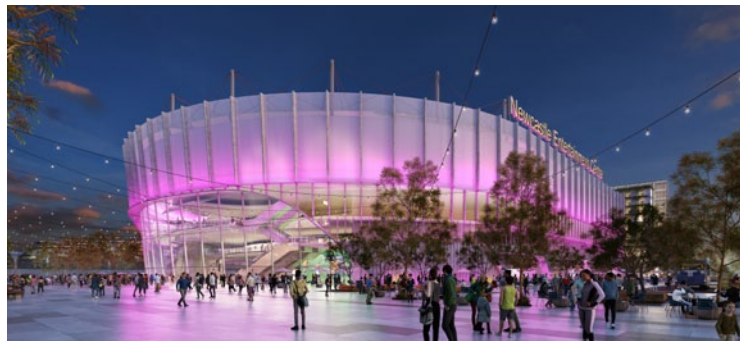
THE NSW Government has moved legislation to unlock its sporting and entertainment precincts in Western Sydney, Newcastle and the Illawarra.

The amendment to the Sporting Venues Authorities Act will allow for the development of visitor and residential accommodation on Venues NSW land, which was previously prohibited.

This means NSW's premier stadiums and entertainment centres will be able to create vibrant and accessible precincts all-year round.

The amendment will also unlock land for the proposed 63-hectare Hunter Park in Newcastle - a mixed-use precinct comprising the existing stadium (which is set to be regenerated), an event centre (**pictured**), and showground assets, along with a hotel and retail spaces.

The Venues NSW network of sporting and entertainment



precincts comprises more than \$4 billion of public community assets, which host around 500 major events and attract over five million attendees each year.

"Our stadiums and entertainment centres are fantastic facilities, but they also represent a massive opportunity," said Minister for Sport and Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Steve Kamper.

"This one small change will have a lasting impact which will unlock the potential of our

state's premier stadiums and entertainment centres as vibrant and cohesive precincts, building on the Government's decision to increase the concert cap at our stadia," he added.

NSW needs 40,000 hotel rooms in the next decade in order to reach its visitor economy targets, Kamper pointed out.

"What better way of realising our targets than by providing new hotel and residential offerings on the surplus lands of our favourite sport and entertainment venues."

Showground win

SYDNEY Showground has this week celebrated its most successful financial year to date, delivering a record number of major events and its highest client satisfaction rating.

From Oct 2024-Sep 2025, the venue welcomed over two million visitors across 160 major events, including RnB festival Fridayz Live last month, which turned out to be the biggest concert ever held at ENGIE Stadium.

Additionally, Sydney Showground achieved a 97% customer service satisfaction rating this year, with its sales, operations, and floor managers receiving 4.8 out of 5 stars for service.

AIME announces 2026 keynote speakers

THE Asia Pacific Incentives and Meetings Event (AIME) has revealed three keynote speakers for its 2026 Knowledge Monday program.

Taking place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) on 09 Feb, the program is headlined by performance and leadership coach Dan Haesler (**pictured**).

Haesler, who has coached elite sporting teams, Olympians and global organisations, will equip delegates with "a more nuanced approach to designing for authentic engagement".

Joining Haesler as a keynote



speaker is behavioural scientist and futurist Milo Wilkinson, who will discuss how to elevate events from functional gatherings to strategically engineered experiences that create measurable impact.


Rounding out the speaker lineup is kikki.K founder Kristina Karlsson, who will share her experience leading a \$650 million global design brand.

TEG's big moves

TICKETEK Entertainment Group (TEG) has launched a full-service marketing agency, Ovation amp, which serves as both an in-house centre and a creative partner to promoters, venues, and touring divisions.

TEG has also acquired Twenty3 Live, the specialist entertainment marketing division of Twenty3 Sport + Entertainment, to further elevate its in-house marketing and digital capability.


Twenty3 Live's existing leadership and relationships will be maintained.



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Visit Sunshine Coast (VSC) has announced the appointment of **Caitlin Zerafa** as its new Communications Manager. Zerafa brings a strong journalistic background, with her move to VSC following more than five years with *My Weekly Preview*, *Sunshine Coast News* and *Salt Magazine*. Zerafa's appointment will strengthen the organisation's communications and media strategy as it continues to promote the region as one of Australia's most desirable destinations.

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia CEO Matt Cameron-Smith has accepted a role as non-executive director at **The Gumala Trust**. One of Australia's largest Aboriginal corporations, the body works to ensure the best interests of the Banjima, Yinhawangka and Nyiyaparli Traditional Owners are met.

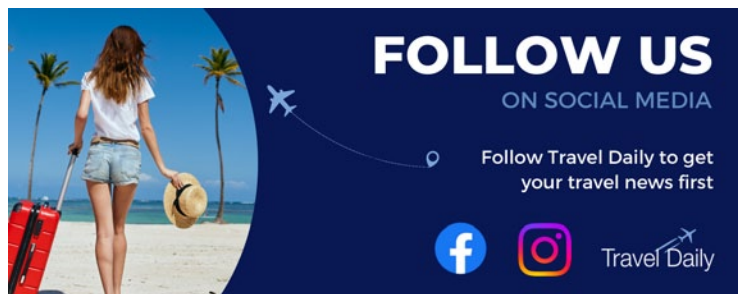
TAG (The Appointment Group, Ltd.) has announced several leadership changes to help propel its global growth strategy. **Fred Stratford** has assumed the position of Chair, bringing more than 25 years' travel industry experience, while **Jens Penny**, TAG's Chief Executive Officer, will be stepping down after seven years with the company, with an external search now underway for his replacement. Complementing this leadership evolution, **John McLaughlin** joined TAG as Chief Financial Officer earlier this year, and will also serve as a member of the board of directors and executive team.

Accor's People & Culture Manager Jai McNaughton has been appointed Deputy Chair of the **Hospitality Disability Network WA** board. McNaughton, who is based in Perth, has served as a member on the board for the past years. She is also a board member of Women in Tourism and Hospitality WA.

Intrepid Travel has named **Anna Marie Chai** as the new General Manager for Malaysia. Based in Kota Kinabalu, Chai brings more than three decades of industry experience, specialising in destination development, cruise operations, and special interest programs in Borneo and Brunei. She joins from Destination Asia, where she held the role of Area Director - Borneo and led inbound strategies and partnerships across Sabah and Sarawak.

Auckland-based travel and wellness entrepreneur **Steve Pirie-Nally** has announced his new position as co-founder at the **iFLYflat Flights Club** - a membership program for Australian business owners that helps them convert everyday business expenses into reward points for business-class travel.

25hours Hotel The Olympia has appointed **Raj Vanniasinkam** as Food and Beverage Director, bringing two decades of leadership across landmark venues including Ace Hotel Sydney and The Apollo Group. Additionally, **Lillia McCabe** has been named as Venue Manager.



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NRMA camps out for cancer



NRMA Parks and Resorts has announced record results from its fourth annual Camp Out campaign, created in partnership with Australia's children's cancer charity Camp Quality.

The campaign raised more than \$223,300 for kids facing cancer and their families - an impressive increase of more than \$43,000 on last year's result.

The 2025 Camp Out event took place on 26 Oct, when travellers were invited to stay overnight at any of NRMA's 50 holiday parks across the eastern states.

Those participating enjoyed live music and barbecues, auctions, meeting Camp Quality puppets, family competitions, face painting and scavenger hunts.

This year's fundraising total was made up of NRMA's donation of 50% of fees from caravan and campsite stays that night to Camp Quality's Family Getaway program, which gives families impacted by cancer a much-needed break.

"At NRMA we're so pleased to see the Camp Out campaign

gaining momentum with our members and guests, with participation and funds raised increasing steadily year on year," said NRMA Parks and Resorts CEO Paul Davies.

"These funds will be a real boon for families of kids with cancer, giving them the chance to get away and have a well-deserved holiday at our parks and resorts."

Pictured: NRMA Treasure Island Holiday Resort General Manager Ryan Mason and Camp Quality General Manager Damian Ragusa.

Essence of Ningaloo

Exmouth Adventure Co has announced the launch of 'Essence of Ningaloo', a new three-day guided tour showcasing the best of Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Reef.

Travellers will sleep under the stars in a comfortable base camp and enjoy gorge walks, snorkelling adventures, cultural insights, and more.

The tours kick off in Apr 2026, with bookings now open.

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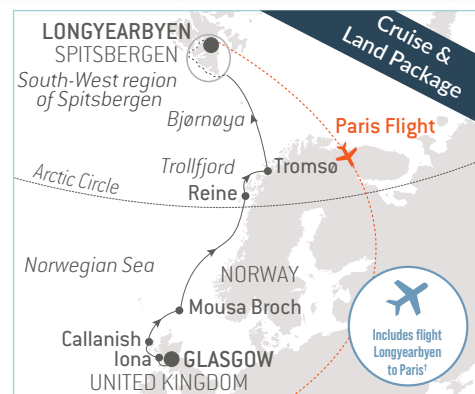
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22 Day Five Stans Unveiled tour, from \$8,395 per person. Travel April 2026 to October 2027.

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