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MANCHESTER

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- Half day Manchester Walking Food Tour^
- Tour of Etihad Stadium, Manchester
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NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE -
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- Half day Six Lakes Spectacular Tour
- Walking tour of Glasgow
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WALES - LIVERPOOL - LAKE DISTRICT -
MANCHESTER

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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features nine pages of news, plus a cover wrap from **Viva Holidays**, our **Business Events News** page and full pages from:

- Inspiring Vacations
- Batik Air
- Celebrity Cruises



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QF making tougher calls

QANTAS has become more pragmatic in the way it deploys its planes in overseas markets, as it seeks to follow demand with fleet capacity through a more flexible model, CEO of Qantas International & Freight Cam Wallace revealed at FACTS in Sydney this week.

An example of that shift in strategy was the axing of its direct Sydney to Shanghai route in 2024 (TD 14 May 2024), which Wallace said was a tough call to make but was needed to deploy aircraft in more "productive markets".

"We did have a joint venture with China Eastern which wasn't approved and that changed the operating dynamics of that



market, and we also just saw so much supply coming in to [China] that wasn't being matched by demand," he said.

"Some of that was because the Chinese were travelling domestically more than they had previously, so we just determined it was better to redeploy the capacity, and you will see Qantas do more of that," he added.

Wallace also pointed to the recent exit of Sydney to Seoul flights - swapped for Jetstar - as another example of Qantas taking a more hard-nosed approach to its global network.

Meanwhile, he also confirmed Qantas has some "significant medium- to long-term aspirations" for India, citing a tension between limited air capacity and surveys of Indians who have Australia as number three on their bucket lists. AB

An inspiring sale

THERE'S only a few days left of Inspiring Vacations' Black Friday sale, offering 25% off small group tours to destinations like Sri Lanka and the Maldives - see [page 10](#).



Reach Your Earning Potential with the Envoyage Advantage

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- **ASHLEA BLAKE, BLAKE TRAVEL**

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Viva's great trips

VIVA Holidays is offering several exciting Great Britain itineraries, including a seven-day Manchester and Liverpool by rail adventure and a 12-day roadtrip through the historic Scottish borderlands, including Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle and the Lakes District - see the [front page](#).



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- Each route reveals a unique perspective of Canada's iconic landscapes
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when experience matters

Alliance rethinks Qantas

ALLIANCE Aviation will attempt to renegotiate its wet lease contract with Qantas after rising costs this year adversely impacted its outlook for FY2026.

While Qantas was not referred to by name, Alliance Chair James Jackson said in an address to shareholders today the contract inked with the Flying Kangaroo in 2021 - initially for 14 E190s before being expanded to 30 - is in need of an immediate review.

"The repricing mechanisms in this contract are not sufficient to reflect industry-wide cost inflation and have resulted in Alliance absorbing the impacts of significant increases in wages, operating expenses and maintenance capital expenditure that would typically be passed on to the customer," he said.

"This has resulted in significant margin erosion since the contract was originally executed.

"The contract, which was based



on aircraft and engine purchases that were below market value during COVID-19, resulted in low, short-term operating costs, as replacement engines and other heavy maintenance expenses were incurred, the ACMI contract cost base increased significantly."

Alliance's impacted FY26 guidance of between \$46-50 million was dented by its repair and maintenance costs by more than \$1 million a month.

The outlook has also been adversely affected by a \$15 million increase in needed capital expenditure for maintenance and associated depreciation charges.

Despite the challenges, Jackson said the business remains in a "sound financial position". AB

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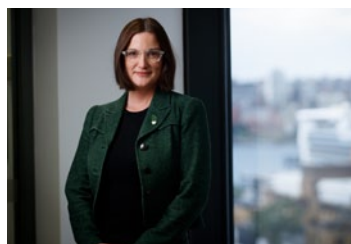
Adele says Hello

ADELE Labine-Romain has exited Roy Morgan to take up a newly-created role with Helloworld as Group General Manager Strategic Analysis.

In her new position, Labine-Romain will be charged with strengthening Helloworld's strategic capabilities and ensuring it is well-positioned for sustained growth and innovation.

"Bringing this level of talent into our business underscores our commitment to innovation and growth" Helloworld's CEO and MD Andrew Burnes said.

Most recently she was Head of Travel & Tourism at Roy Morgan, and before that was Travel & Tourism Sector Lead at Deloitte.



US visits still down

THE number of travellers heading to the US was down for the sixth month in a row, new figures from the National Travel and Tourism Office have showed.

There was a 3.1% drop in Oct on the same month in 2024, with just over 3 million arrivals.

The biggest percentage drop was from Oceania, which was down 12.5%, while a 6.5% decrease from western Europe saw the steepest decline in terms of volume.

Batik thanks Perth

BATIK Air Malaysia is thanking its valued trade partners as it celebrates a decade of operations into Perth - see **page 11**.

Celebrity's Black Fri

CELEBRITY Cruises pax can take up to 75% off their second guest's sailing plus up to \$1,500 per room as part of the line's Black Friday sale - see **p12**.

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Travelmarvel '27

TRAVELMARVEL has unveiled its 2027 Europe program, which is now open for bookings.

The new line-up includes river and coastal cruises, small group tours, and brand-new city stays in Paris and Prague, as well as an Eastern Europe journey that can be combined with Rhine and Balkan river cruises.

Travellers can savour the flavours and history of Italy on the 10-day 'Tastes of Italy' tour, join the 14-day 'Flavours of Spain and Portugal' tour, or explore the Emerald Isle on the 10-day 'Idyllic Ireland' tour.

Returning in 2027 is Travelmarvel's popular 15-day 'European Gems', which begins in Amsterdam and travels along the Rhine and Main rivers.

Travelmarvel is offering earlybird savings of up to \$5,600 per couple on selected departures for bookings made by 15 Mar 2026 - for more details, visit travelmarvel.com.au.

Aurora welcomes Mawson

AURORA Expeditions' Greg Mortimer (pictured) this morning "closed the circle" on the company he founded with wife Margaret in 1991, with the historic naming of the brand-new *Douglas Mawson* on the shores of Sydney Harbour.

The gala event saw the newbuild relocate from White Bay to the Overseas Passenger Terminal at 6am, just footsteps from where the company's first ever office was established at 37 George Street.

"Aurora has been roaming the seas for 35 years, and she's finally come home as a fully fledged adult," he told industry guests and VIPs on board.

The ship was built in China and is the final in the initial series of Ultstein X-Bow vessels, a revolutionary design which makes traversing choppy waters much more comfortable for guests.

A sister ship to Aurora's *Greg*



Mortimer and Sylvia Earle, the vessel features a range of enhancements which make it even more suited to Aurora's style of experiential cruising.

Ten cabins for solo cruisers, a maximum capacity of 153 (or 130 in polar regions), extensive expedition facilities including Zodiacs, kayaking, camping and snorkelling, and much more, make the *Douglas Mawson* the ideal platform for adventurous cruisers to explore the world - more in today's *Cruise Weekly*. BP

Tourism pipeline

INVESTOR confidence in Australia's tourism sector has grown to reach \$74.5 billion in FY25, Tourism Research Australia's annual *Tourism Investment Monitor* has revealed.

Investment in projects worth \$20 million or more grew by \$11.1 billion in the 12 months to Jun 2025, up 18% on the year before.

The number of projects in the development pipeline also grew by 5% to 363, with the lineup including new airport terminals, arts entertainment precincts and accommodation offerings.

In the aviation sector, there were 24 projects worth \$29 billion in the pipeline, up \$5.9 billion (26%) from Jun 2024.

"It is fantastic to see the level of investment in Australia's tourism sector continuing to grow," said Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell, adding that strong investment is needed to enhance and expand visitor capacity.



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*For T&Cs, visit RSSC.COM/BLACK-FRIDAY-BONUS



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Albatross webinar

ALBATROSS Tours will prepare agents to "sell the magic of Christmas" in its upcoming webinar, hosted by the brand's National Sales Manager, Harry Sargent, and Regional Sales Manager Michelle Daniels.

Taking place at 12pm AEDT on Tue 02 Dec, the session will include a 30-minute update on the company's festive offerings followed by a Q&A.

Agents who register and attend the live session **HERE** will go in the running to win a \$100 gift card.

TTC/NCL wrap trivia

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) and The Travel Corporation (TTC) Tour Brands have wrapped up their Worldwide Rendezvous 2026 - Travel Trivia Series.

The roadshow took place across 40 cities in Australia and New Zealand from 10 Sep to 12 Nov, bringing together more than 1,500 trade and consumer guests for an evening of live trivia and expert insights.

NCL and TTC introduced combined sea, river and tour packages for 2026, featuring an extensive range of land journeys to over 560 cruise itineraries sailing from 40 departure ports.

Each evening kicked off with a trade-only session to equip consultants with the tools to offer worldwide experiences for the 2026 season, before engaging with customers over drinks and canapes during the trivia rounds.

Air Canada briefs in HK



NINE members of Air Canada's Australian team joined colleagues from across Asia Pacific in Hong Kong, where they listened to annual briefings on the airline's regional and global developments.

Held at the Sheraton Hong Kong Tung Chung Hotel, the team heard insights on new product and service enhancements for 2026 and beyond.

These included the rollout of free wi-fi on trans-Pacific services, the revamp of Air Canada's in-flight product, and its fleet development program.

During the trip, the team also enjoyed some of the city's offerings, including a visit to Tai O, a fishing village with stilt houses above Lantau Island's tidal flats.

"The annual regional meeting is always an energising opportunity to connect with colleagues, share achievements and exchange insights," said Air Canada's Sales Manager - Leisure for Australia and New Zealand, Rick Pomery.

Pictured: Fei Revel, Sarah Constable, Janis McDonald, Rick Pomery, Denise Uribe and Eunica Pineda. *JHM*

QR's winter boost

QATAR Airways is increasing capacity to more than 15 destinations starting from Dec.

From 17 Dec, QR flights to Kuala Lumpur will increase from 14 to 17 weekly flights, offering easy connections between Southeast Asia and Jeddah, London and Paris through Doha.

QR's services to Lagos will also shift from 10 to 14 weekly from 15 Dec to 28 Mar.

Meanwhile flights to Shanghai will rise from seven to 10 each week, effective from 01 Jan to 28 Mar 2026.

According to the airline, this is to meet the increased demand from China and will boost connectivity between Asia and Algiers, Sao Paulo, and Warsaw.

Meanwhile, the carrier's Airbus A380 will be deployed on select flights to Singapore from 12 Jan.

The news comes off the back of QR's broader winter schedule enhancements, which features additional frequencies to more than 15 cities, including Cape Town, Dubai, London and more.

Riverside gives credit

RIVERSIDE Luxury Cruises is offering guests €250 (A\$440) in onboard credit per person on select suites on five-night sailings from 2025-27.

The Black Fri promotion is available for Harmony (*Riverside Mozart*) and Melody (*Riverside Debussy* and *Riverside Ravel*) Suites and above.

Available on bookings between now and until 05 Dec.

Slowing down in Vic

VICTORIAN travellers are shifting from jam-packed itineraries to looking for experiences and creating memories with family and loved ones, according to new research from Wendy Wu Tours.

The statistics revealed that 62% of respondents believe quality time is the biggest motivator for multi-gen holidays, while 60% are taking their time to explore a handful of places in depth.

Saddle up for more

WORLD Expeditions has launched a new Horse Trek Series, including six itineraries across Argentina, Chile, Dolpo and Mustang in Nepal, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia.

Travellers will have the chance to explore the rugged wilderness, remote regions and unique cultures of the destinations on horseback, such as the Mongolian steppe and the Himalayan valleys of Mustang.

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QANTAS

*Sale ends 11:59pm (AEDT) 2 December 2025 unless sold out prior. Select routes, travel dates, terms and conditions apply.



See the Reef differently

QUEENSLAND-BASED ABC Reef Safaris has announced the launch of the multimillion dollar luxury vessel *Voyager*, which will begin operations on 01 Dec and is the first new reef tourism vessel in Port Douglas in seven years.

Purpose-built for scuba diving tours and travellers looking for an intimate and personalised experience of the Great Barrier Reef, the 24-passenger catamaran has a 6:1 guest-to-crew ratio, with a team of marine biologists, naturalists and master reef guides on board.

"*Voyager* embodies everything we love about the Great Barrier Reef, its beauty, its fragility, and its ability to inspire," said Jay Wink, owner of ABC Reef Safaris.

"We wanted to create a vessel that not only delivers the highest standard of comfort and service but also deepens our guests' connection to this extraordinary natural wonder."



ABC Reef Safari's *Voyager* was supported by the Queensland Government's Growing Future Tourism Fund, which aims to boost tourism projects that enhance the state's visitor offerings and create new economic opportunities.

Recognised as Australia's top tourism experience and among the world's top 20 water-based activities, ABC Reef Safaris is run by the Wink Family, who founded the business 15 years ago.

The business also operates the smaller *Independence*, accommodating 12 guests. *JHM*

Outback '27 tours

JOURNEY Beyond has announced the early release of Outback Spirit's most popular 2027 flagship tours.

Bookings are now open for 11 small-group itineraries and two new tours, with agents able to secure savings of up to \$2,000 per person when their clients book before 31 Mar 2026.

New tours for 2027 include the seven-day 'Queensland Hinterland Spectacular', featuring a journey aboard the Great Southern, explorations of Tamborine Mountain and Lamington National Park, and stays at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat and Spicers Hidden Vale.

The itinerary is also available as a stand-alone short land tour.

Outback Spirit's second new offering is the eight-day 'Spectacular Kangaroo Island' tour, traversing Australia's east coast by rail and featuring three nights on Kangaroo Island, with up-close wildlife encounters.

Carnival chief takes on fast food role

CARNIVAL Corporation CEO Josh Weinstein has joined the board of US-based Mexican fast food chain Chipotle.

"Josh's extensive experience in the service industry will provide valuable expertise at an important time for us as we pursue strategic priorities to deliver on our mission of cultivating a better world," Chipotle Chair Scott Maw said.

PPG opens in ADL

PLAZA Premium Group (PPG) has announced the opening of the Plaza Premium Lounge Domestic Adelaide.

Marking Australia's first independent domestic airport lounge, the facility is open to all guests, regardless of airline or travel class.

The lounge offers flexible seating, workstations, high-speed wi-fi, and an all-day menu.



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Save up to 30% applies to bookings made from 03 November 2025 to 03 December 2025 (inclusive) for selected HX departures from 14 January 2026 to 26 March 2027 (inclusive). Bookings outside of these periods do not qualify. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Single supplements may apply and applies to all offer occupancies. Combinable with the HX Explorers loyalty program.

VA to unleash pet flights after pilot

VIRGIN Australia's move to launch selected flights that allow pets on board has proved to be overwhelmingly popular, the carrier's Head of Marketing Libby Minogue has revealed.

Speaking at FACTS in Sydney, Minogue confirmed the routes and flights available are already sold out over Christmas, and expansion beyond the two routes from Melbourne is very much on the cards for 2026.

"We are looking to roll out [the pet service] nationally next year through different ports," she said.

"Guests absolutely love it, and what is really interesting is that we have had no complaints from non-pet travelling guests."

"We were very aware to make sure the experience was not going to impact our other guests on board, so that feedback has been very pleasing to date."

Minogue also provided more insight into the rationale for going



ahead with the service while its rival Qantas is yet to pull the trigger on such a move.

"If you look at our history we are a challenger brand, so for us we really have to continue to innovate, test, learn and understand what's important to our guests," Minogue explained.

"We looked at what are some new initiatives customers would like us to do, and when you look at Europe or the US, pax can travel with their pets on board."

"So we did a huge amount of research in the Australian market beforehand...and we got a lot of positive reaction around it."

VA has piloted the new pet-friendly flights on two routes from Melbourne since Sep, with the city getting the nod because of its high rate of pet ownership.

Nationwide, Australia also enjoys a strong love affair with animals, with 70% of households owning a furry friend.

One major hurdle VA had to jump in order to get the idea off the ground was passing strict regulatory and health criteria.

"It took us a while because when you think about regulators and the food and beverage on board, we spent a lot of time working with our stakeholders to ensure that we had an experience that worked for our staff in the airports and for our guests".

Minogue also stressed that despite what Aussies may have seen on platforms like TikTok around "menageries on flights", she assured the market that was not the plan for VA. **AB**



Window Seat

TWO travellers have been arrested in Germany this week after they chased their missed flight down the tarmac.

One can only assume the two men - aged 28 and 47 - had a very important meeting scheduled in Romania, after they barrelled along the tarmac to make the Bucharest-bound Wizz Air flight.

To gain access to the runway, the frantic travellers thought it was permissible to smash their way through the emergency exit, with criminal charges against the men now laid.



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*T&Cs apply for travel dates.

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WBFRTAU	810	1445.10	1580.70
LBFRATU	910	1645.10	1680.70

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Beverages



FAA investigates

THE US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is cracking down on airlines that failed to reduce capacity as per a directive given earlier this month.

According to FAA administrator Bryan Bedford, it will be "an ongoing investigation".

The flight reduction order required airlines to reduce operations at 39 commercial airports due to air traffic controller fatigue during the high-profile US shutdown.

Reductions began on 07 Nov at 4%, then 6% on 11 Nov, and as a result of the shutdown ending on 12 Nov, 3% on 15 Nov.

Capacity cuts ended on 17 Nov, however low cancellation rates noted on 15 and 16 Nov suggest it is likely some airlines disregarded the directive.

Bunnik witnesses history



BUNNIK Tours' guests were some of the first to step inside Egypt's new Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) when it opened to the public on 06 Nov.

A group of the travel operator's clients were at the very front of the queue, thanks to senior Egyptologist Eman Bahaa, who was leading Bunnik Tours' 16-day 'Egyptian Discovery' tour.

"It was an incredible experience for my Bunnik Tours guests, and for me personally," Bahaa said.

"Seeing the GEM open and Tutankhamun's treasures displayed in full is a dream come true," he added.

Located near the Pyramids of Giza, the museum is home to Tutankhamun's legendary gold death mask and more than 5,000 artefacts, including the boy king's treasures, such as his sarcophagus, throne and chariots.

Other highlights include the statues of Ramses II and newly restored artefacts.

"Reading about ancient Egypt is one thing, but nothing compares to standing face to face with it," said Dennis Bunnik, Joint-CEO of Bunnik Tours.

"Our guests weren't just visiting a museum - they were witnessing history being made."

The GEM is now featured across Bunnik Tours' Egypt itineraries.

"Moments like this remind us why we travel," Bunnik enthused.

"To stand where history unfolds and feel the connection between

past and present.

"That's something our travellers will carry with them forever," Bunnik added.

According to the operator, Bunnik's pax numbers to Egypt rose by 112% in the second half of 2025 compared to the same period last year, which led the business to increase departures for its 'Egypt and Jordan Discovery' tour by 24%. *JHM*

Luxury fashion trip

PONANT has launched 'Livorno-Venice', an exclusive cruise itinerary celebrating luxury craftsmanship in collaboration with Italian houses Gucci, Bottega Veneta, Brioni, Pomellato and Ginori 1735.

For Ponant guests, Gucci will open the doors of its private archives, located in a 15th century Renaissance palazzo and the Palazzo Gucci in Florence.

Additionally, House of Ginori 1735 will offer a tour of its historic Florentine Manifattura.

Onboard experiences will include an exhibition dedicated to the art of travel, while guests get a behind-the-scenes look into Bottega Veneta's design process and an itinerary including cocktails at the Bottega Veneta Residence in Palazzo Soranzo Van Axel in Venice.

The 11-day sailing will take place on board *Le Boreal* sailing from 08 to 18 Sep, 2027.

Beach club delays

PREVIEWS for the upcoming Royal Beach Club Paradise Island at Nassau have been delayed due to ongoing construction.

Royal Caribbean's new resort had originally invited guests to three sneak-peek visits ahead of the official opening, but at least one has been cancelled.

The line apologised for the inconvenience to guests on *Symphony of the Seas*, which was meant to visit Nausau on 15 Dec.

"Our original plan was to have you help us experience everything Royal Beach Club Paradise Island will offer, but we want to make sure it meets the exceptional standards we've envisioned before opening it to you," the cruise line said.

The beach club is still on track to open on 23 Dec.



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Complimentary Suite Upgrade on Select Europe River Cruises

Valid 8 Nov - 7 Dec 2025
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Qudos continues

QUDOS Bank Arena and Accor have extended their partnership for a further three years.

As part of the renewed agreement, Accor will gain expanded marketing and engagement rights, including enhanced in-venue advertising, EDM campaigns, and broader fan engagement opportunities, with the aim of reaching more concertgoers than before.

To mark the renewed partnership, Accor has launched a competition via its ALL Accor loyalty program, giving fans attending events at the arena the chance to be upgraded to the exclusive Accor Corporate Suite.

"Our partnership with Qudos Bank Arena is about extending that impact and creating experiences that go beyond the stage, strengthening the connection between great entertainment, hospitality, and travel," said Accor Pacific COO, Adrian Williams.

Nyaal's first menus

THE new Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event centre has unveiled its inaugural food and beverage menus.

Designed to suit every event style, the menus feature native fruits, coastal honey, local seafood, and seasonal vegetables, with gluten-free options on offer.

A POSITIVE YEAR FOR MCEC

THE Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) welcomed 3.2 million visitors in FY25 - an 8% increase compared to the previous year, operators Victorian Convention and Event Trust (VCET) revealed in its newly released annual report.

The venue hosted a total of 714 events throughout the year, 27 of those being international meetings, conferences and exhibitions, while 170 were national and 432 were local, in addition to 85 concerts or ticketed events.

Additionally, 63% of customers agreed that their expectations at MCEC were exceeded during 2024-25, representing a 5% improvement over the venue's 2023 calendar year results.

According to the report, MCEC expanded its waste diversion and donation programs, including 50,500kg of organic material



diverted from landfill and 3,852kg of food donated to OzHarvest.

MCEC also supported the Good Friday Appeal Kids Day Out, raising \$23 million for the Royal Children's Hospital by selling 3,000 hot cross buns and 1,200 house-made ice creams.

"This year has shown the incredible impact VCET can have across Victoria, supporting local

businesses and communities while welcoming new standards for sustainability and inclusion," said Chief Executive Officer Natalie O'Brien.

"As we look ahead to the opening of Nyaal Banyul, we're excited to continue delivering exceptional experiences for our customers while leading positive change across our industry." *JM*

Doltone House debuts in Hunter Valley

SYDNEY hospitality and events venue company Doltone House has announced its expansion to the NSW Hunter Valley wine region with the acquisition of Wandin Valley Estate.

The 120-acre Lovedale property features a function centre, self-contained villas, a cricketers' oval and leisure facilities, including a pool, tennis courts and mini golf.

With the aim of elevating Wandin Valley Estate's status



as an agritourism and events destination, Doltone House has several enhancements planned for the property.

A refurbished function centre, an expanded restaurant and cellar door, and a chef's kitchen garden are all on the agenda.

BEA's new tie-up

BUSINESS Events Australia (BEA) has inked a new partnership with the International Association of Professional Congress Organisers (IAPCO) to advance sustainability in the global meetings industry.

The collaboration introduces two initiatives - a new sustainability award and the development of a new IAPCO Sustainability Toolkit for congress organisers.



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Steve Richards, Managing Director of AmaWaterways River Cruises in Australia and New Zealand, has become a patron of the **International River Foundation (IRF)** - an initiative of Brisbane City Council, the Queensland Government, Thiess and the BHP Mitsubishi Alliance. Richards will collaborate with fellow patrons on ideas to promote sustainable tourism along the world's great rivers and waterways.

TravelManagers Australia has welcomed **Josh Thorpe** as Business Partnership Manager. The appointment marks Thorpe's return to the travel industry following his departure from Flight Centre Travel Group in 2021, where he worked for 16 years. Based in Brisbane, he will support PTMs in and around Brisbane, Gold Coast and NSW.

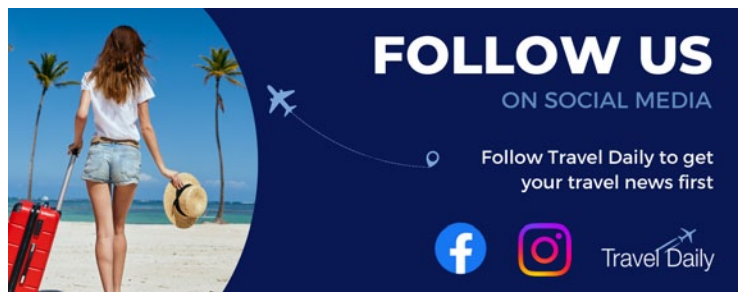
Kylie Wapp has joined the **Go Insurance** team as its Partnerships Manager for Victoria and New Zealand. Wapp brings 20 years of travel industry experience to the role, including senior positions across account management, business development, and advisor support. Most recently, she spent nearly four years at the Australia and New Zealand Central Reservations Officer (ANZCRO) as National Account Manager.

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) has announced the newly appointed Board of Directors, with Chris Mills, CEO of Sunshine Coast Airport, and Peter Woodward, Chair of CaPTA Group elected. Both bring extensive expertise in Queensland tourism and a strong understanding of the challenges and needs of operators.

Radisson Hotel Group has announced the appointment of General Manager **Reinout Engel** to lead the launch of Australasia's first Radisson RED, set to debut in Auckland soon. Reinout brings over 20 years of hospitality experience, including 13 years with Radisson Hotel Group, and has successfully led two pre-opening teams prior to Radisson RED Auckland. Joining him in the hotel's full senior management team are **Vidhya Raithatha** as Director of Marketing, **Aish Rangarajan** as Director of Sales, **Nileshni Chand** as Financial Controller, **Parijata Moeava** as People & Culture Manager, and **Asanka Fernando** as Rooms Division Manager.

The World Travel Agents Associations Alliance (WTAAA) has announced its Board of Directors for 2026, appointing **Eva Blasco** as Chairperson. Blasco succeeds Wendy Paradis, and brings more than two decades' experience in travel agents associations. She is currently the CEO of Europa Travel and Vice President of CEAV, a former Vice President of ECTAA, and chaired the Spanish APJC of IATA for four years.

GALTA, Australia's LGBTQIA+ travel association, has reappointed **Louise Terry**, **Rod Stringer**, **Dennis Basham** and **Andrew Bartholomew** to its Board for a new term. They continue alongside Ben Woodward and Mario Paez, who remain in their current terms.



Adina makes UK debut



TFE Hotels has made its UK debut this week, with the unveiling of The Hobson Cambridge by Adina on 24 Nov, which will be followed shortly by The Wellington Glasgow by Adina.

The opening of the hotels marks the first step in the property group's expansion into the UK market as it grows its presence around the world.

"These two properties align beautifully with our vision of operating flexible, design-led studio-hotel experiences in vibrant, globally connected cities," noted CEO Antony Ritch.

"Glasgow and Cambridge not only strengthen TFE Hotels' European footprint but also lay the foundation for future growth in the UK market."

A historic property that was once the stables of 17th century entrepreneur Thomas Hobson before it became a police and fire station, The Hobson Cambridge (**pictured**) is a 56-key studio-style hotel located within Hobson House in the heart of the city.

Many of its historic features have been preserved, such as its vaulted ceilings, timber beams and period detailing.

The property features a private meeting room and the Oz & Isle restaurant, as well as an upcoming dining experience.

Meanwhile, The Wellington will open on 08 Dec, transforming Glasgow's historic Wellington House into a stylish 98-key apartment hotel, with studio, premier, and studio premier rooms available.

Each room will feature open-plan living areas, kitchenettes, and amenities such as in-room steamers and coffee machines.

The property will also include a gym, flexible meeting space, lobby shop and a cafe bar that will offer breakfast options and relaxed evening drinks. *JHM*

Joyce in new book

FORMER Qantas CEO Alan Joyce has shared the airline's role in the history of seaplanes in the introduction of a new book.

In *Sydney Seaplanes: Honouring Heritage, Embracing the Future*, Joyce details how Qantas was once based in Rose Bay, when it became Australia's first int'l hub in 1938 and connected the world through "majestic flying boats".

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