



JOIN US >

YOUR BUSINESS,
YOUR SCHEDULE
NEVER MISS A MOMENT
THAT *matters* ♥

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features 10 pages of news, including a photo page from **Keith Prowse Travel**, our **Sustainability** page, plus a Product Profile from **Tourism Solomons**.

Win a Vietnam trip

LUXURY Escapes is giving six top-selling agents the chance to win a spot on its exclusive nine-day Vietnam famil.

The incentive periods ends 30 Oct - find out more details about the famil on **page 11**.

Qantas boosts FCO

QANTAS will extend its 2026 season of flights between Perth and Rome by eight weeks, with services to operate from 03 May to 23 Oct, covering the city's late spring and early autumn.

The carrier will boost capacity on the route from three flights weekly to four, a move which will add 10,000 seats for the season.

ATIA tackles surcharges

EXCLUSIVE

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has confirmed further concrete action to lobby against a proposed RBA change to surcharges (**TD 16 Jul**).

ATIA has this week lodged a new submission to the Federal Government to reaffirm previous efforts advocating for travel businesses to retain the right to use surcharging on debit and credit card transactions.

The industry body's Director of Public Policy and Advocacy Ingrid Fraser said surcharges cover the "real costs of payment processing" when a customer



chooses to pay by card.

"The RBA estimates that only 10% of merchants apply surcharges, but in travel, 95% of accredited agents, tour operators, and wholesalers rely on them," Fraser added.

In its new submission, ATIA also highlighted the need for corresponding cuts in bank and interchange fees so businesses are not left shouldering the costs.

Next week, ATIA said it will continue its engagement on the topic with the RBA and the Minister for Financial Services, Daniel Mulino, to ensure policymakers understand the practical impacts on members, as well as the services they provide to travellers. **AB**

Read for from ATIA on **page six**.

Solomons appeal

TOURISM Solomons is highlighting the destination's authentic cultural experiences and village life.

Discover more information on the **back page**.

Force for Good '26

EARLYBIRD tickets are now on sale for A Force for Good 2026, which takes place on 06 Mar at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, timed to coincide with International Women's Day.

The one-day event is expected to bring together more than 500 travel industry leaders, with Australian surfer Mark Mathews as the headline speaker.

Tickets are priced from \$440 - secure your seat now **HERE**.

Ponte exits UK role

HOTELPLAN UK's Joe Ponte has departed his London-based role as Chief Executive Officer, only months after the company was purchased by German travel conglomerate Dertour Group earlier this year (**TD 13 Feb**).


Ponte was in the position for five years, and before that, was the MD for the Explore Worldwide brand in Australia, which continues to operate under the Hotelplan umbrella.

JOURNEY BEYOND

Become a BEYONDER


Journey Beyond's ultimate mega famil is back! There are multiple ways that you could win a place on a bespoke, all-inclusive 10-day itinerary valued over \$20,000 per person*.

HOW TO WIN




BOOKINGS BEYOND

Consultants with the most guests booked on eligible Journey Beyond Rail and Outback Spirit experiences.




SELL BEYOND

The agency with the highest overall revenue in Journey Beyond Rail and Outback Spirit sales.




SERVICE BEYOND

The consultant with the best agent success story.



CREATIVITY BEYOND

Most creative agency campaign.



LEARNING BEYOND

Attend all five Beyonder webinars.

LEARN MORE

*T&Cs APPLY



O'Dwyer joins Terra

TERRA Nova Expeditions has expanded its APAC team with the appointment of Karen O'Dwyer as Passenger Experience and Reservations Manager.

O'Dwyer joins from Quark Expeditions, where she held the role of Polar Travel Advisor for nearly four years.

The new player in polar cruising has also introduced AUD pricing, which it said would make it easier for Australian agents and travellers to make bookings.

Viking's triple prize

VIKING is giving one lucky travel advisor the chance to win the ultimate self-famil, sailing on all three Viking products - a river, ocean and expedition voyage valued at more than \$60,000.

Every Viking booking earns a spot in the draw, and there are also \$24,00 in runner-up prizes up for grabs.

Register bookings **HERE** to win.

AGSA recruits new GM

AVIATION GSA Services (AGSA) has appointed Tony Wilson (pictured) as General Manager for Australia, New Zealand, and South West Pacific.

Wilson brings more than 20 years of experience in the regional travel and aviation industry, including over a decade as General Manager of GSA operations representing airlines such as Alitalia, Air Serbia, Brussels Airlines, Air Malta, and Samoa Airways.

The company said his deep expertise will play a key role in driving growth and reinforcing its commitment to delivering strong outcomes for airline partners.

"I look forward to working with our airline partners to expand their footprint in the region, while continuing to enhance AGSA's reputation in the market," Wilson said.

Based in Sydney, the new recruit will collaborate extensively with



industry and trade partners across the ANZ region, supported by AGSA's offices in Australia and New Zealand. *AB*

Nok Air grounded

LOW-COST Thailand carrier Nok Air has been banned from operating any international flights until further notice, following multiple safety concerns.

The move comes as the Int'l Civil Aviation Organization conducts a review of Thailand's aviation safety system, taking place from 27 Aug until 08 Sep.

Anywhere rejigs

ANYWHERE Travel Group has restructured its leadership team, with Nik Young, who has been with the business for 15 years, promoted to CEO.

Young will also continue to head up the company's leisure business, working closely with long-term suppliers and the retail team.

Additionally, Vanessa Dunham, who has filled the Head of Corporate role for three years, has now become General Manager, Corporate.

Meanwhile, MD Barbara Whitten has transitioned to a senior advisory role in a non-operational capacity after leading the company for 43 years.



Until 1 December 2025, clients can enjoy free flight offers across selected 2026-2028 river, ocean and expedition voyages.

If clients choose not to take the flight offer, they may receive a discount of equal value in lieu of flights.

RIVER

Fly free on selected river voyages up to \$5,000 per couple*

OCEAN & EXPEDITION

Companion flies free on selected ocean and expedition voyages up to \$2,500 per booking*


VIKING

SPRING SALE

*Free Flight Offers**

CLICK HERE

*T&Cs Apply.

Hill gets into the Games

FORMER CEO of Tourism Fiji, Brent Hill (**pictured**), has announced he will join Brisbane 2032 as its Chief Marketing Officer, starting in Nov (**TD** breaking news).

On his new role, Hill said, "In 2032, the world's attention will be on Brisbane and Queensland and we have an incredible opportunity to elevate the city and state on the global stage like never before".



"I can't wait to promote the wealth of accolades, people and experiences that makes us unique and attract millions of people to our shores every year."

Brisbane 2032 CEO Cindy Hook (**pictured**) said, "Having Brent's global marketing and tourism experience positions us to maximise the opportunities the Games will afford."

Hill revealed in Jun he would be stepping down as the boss of Tourism Fiji after nearly four years in the role (**TD** 03 Jun).

The Aussie travel stalwart also previously served as the marketing boss of the South Australian Tourism Commission. **DF**

Laos digital entry

TRAVELLERS to Laos can now fill out their immigration arrival and departure information via a new digital platform, according to a new update from Smartraveller.

The Laos Digital Immigration Form is required to be completed within three days of arrival or departure from the country.

Paper forms remain an option for those without digital means.

VIEW DEAL

W MWTOURS

PRICES FROM
\$5,829
 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE
 LAND ONLY
"Surcharges may apply"

JOURNEY TO
South Africa

DURATION: **10 DAYS**

HX rep'd by Soda

AS IT prepares to enter its 130th year of operations, HX Expeditions has selected Soda Communications to manage its media across the Australian and New Zealand markets.

Working with HX's in-house PR and marketing teams, Soda will manage both B2B and B2C media relations for the company, as well as promote both group and individual famil opportunities.

Infinity's Euro push

INFINITY Holidays has launched a major campaign offering Aussie agents and their clients deals across Europe, in particular spotlighting Italy, Spain, Greece, France and Ireland.

Available to book until 30 Nov for travel between Oct 2025 to Jun 2026, one of the packages on offer is a three-night Rome bundle, featuring a stay at Hotel Morgana and an 'Ancient Rome' tour, priced from \$699pp.

Jardine goes long

CATO Managing Director Brett Jardine will be taking part in The Long Run during Sep - committing to walk 72km during the month, with each kilometre representing one of the 72 men that are diagnosed with prostate cancer in Australia each day.

In a LinkedIn update posted yesterday, Jardine wrote, "Each step is for them [the men diagnosed with prostate cancer].

"For the families who stand by them - for a future where fewer men walk this road, and more survive it."

Jardine encouraged men to get checked earlier, noting that early detection can be the key to saving lives, and that men should not be backward in coming forward for a crucial check up.

The CATO boss also announced that he is now dealing with a return of his own cancer battle.

To support Jardine's The Long Run effort, donations can be submitted by **CLICKING HERE**.



**20% off
Eurail Global
Passes**

**Unlock a 20% discount
off Eurail Global Passes.**

Start planning a multi-journey European adventure. Focus on the journey itself, rather than just the destination. With a Eurail pass, you can travel at your own pace, exploring smaller towns and enjoying the local culture.

**ON SALE DATES
02 TO 09 SEPTEMBER 2025**

BOOK NOW

No travel restriction within the 11-month booking period from the purchase date.

Aftersales: Refundable within 7 days from the moment of purchase.
After that, non-refundable and non-exchangeable

APT Canada winner

APT Travel Group has revealed that Shaun Mifsud (**pictured**) from Flight Centre Williamstown is the winner of its recent Canadian trade incentive.

Mifsud scored a Canadian trip for two valued at more than \$15,000 after making the highest number of deposited bookings across APT or Travelmarvel that included Canada during the campaign period, which ran from 17 Jul to 14 Aug (**TD** 16 Jul).

The skilled agent will enjoy two GoldLeaf seats aboard Rocky Mountaineer, with breakfast and lunch; two return Air Canada economy flights from SYD or BNE; two nights at Fairmont Waterfront in Vancouver; and three nights at Fairmont Banff Springs.



Saving sips for more trips

AUSSIIES are shifting their everyday spending habits to save more cash for travel, according to new data released by global travel app Skyscanner and digital bank Up.

Three in five (57%) are cutting back on non-essential shopping, with two in five (40%) even going as far as to ditch their daily coffee runs in order to put more money aside for their next holiday.

Additionally, more than one-third (32%) are timing big purchases, including home upgrades and new cars, around their travel goals.

The research also found that Aussies are planning ahead when it comes to booking travel, with 53% booking flights early and 52% pre-paying major expenses to manage costs.

The findings are not surprising, considering that seven in 10 (69%) respondents acknowledge that saving for holidays is not

Fly A350 from Australia to Taiwan
Connect to 10 Cities in Japan
 Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Kagoshima, Kumamoto
 Fukuoka, Sapporo, Okinawa, Miyazaki, Takamatsu

AUSTRALIA → JAPAN

A\$1,057*
 Roundtrip from

CHINA AIRLINES
 from TAIWAN since 1969



easy, with cost remaining the biggest consideration when choosing a destination.

Skyscanner data shows that nearly half (47%) base their travel plans on the affordability of the destination, and more than half (58%) are influenced by flight prices.

According to the research, one in four Aussies (25%) have a dedicated travel savings account, while another 25% regularly set aside physical cash. *JM*

Carnival opens '27

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has opened bookings for 2027 sailings on board *Carnival Firenze*, featuring voyages across South America and the Caribbean.

Mega-fam winners

TWELVE top performing agents have been selected by Envoyage to head to South Africa later this month for the brand's global reward event, Icons.

The winning agents are Anna Lowe, Anna Lowe Travel; Paul Kelly, Sportslink Travel; Brad Thomas, Spotlight Travel; Craig Barrow, Globetrotters Travel Group; Alex Jeon, Festigo Travel; Ben Farrell, Bespoke Travel; Bradley Jukes, Acland Travel; Bradley Rowland, HBA Travel; Kieran Roberts, KR Travel; Neil Playford, Playford Travel; Jenny Tucker, Tuckwell Trust; and Alison Mourani from A-List Travel.

Selected advisors will enjoy a visit to Johannesburg, two nights at Bakubung Lodge in Pilanesberg National Park, and one night at Palace of the Lost City in Sun City.

Each day will include morning and evening game drives, dinners under the stars and networking with global Envoyage leaders from across the global network.

Antarctica

ALL-INCLUSIVE EXPEDITIONS UP TO

\$8,000 OFF

incl. \$900 early booking bonus *

Book by 30 Sep

HX EXPEDITIONS

To learn more about our offer and to make a booking visit agentportal.travelhx.com or email apac@travelhx.com

*Discount applies to bookings made from 01 September 2025 to 30 September 2025 (inclusive) for selected HX departures from 18 September 2025 and 31 March 2027 (inclusive). Offers with a saving, discount or amount off stated in AUD represents a discount applied to the "From" price quoted in AUD per person based on full occupancy of cabin on the specified sailing or Tour Code. 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. \$900 off applies to bookings made from 01 September 2025 to 30 September 2025 (inclusive) for selected HX departures from 18 September 2025 and 31 March 2027 (inclusive). Valid for new bookings only and can only be applied once per booking. \$900 will be redeemed first and then any subsequent discounts will be calculated after. Combinable with selected offers including the HXWELCOME voucher and not combinable with the Single Waiver Promotion. The value is redeemable against single cabin bookings.



Learn more
about Italy with
Travel Daily
Training Academy

Click here to
discover more

Travel Daily

Groups by Beyond grows

SYDNEY-BASED group travel provider, Groups by Beyond, has expanded its offerings to encompass several new regions, while also launching a new range of affordable tours.

The latest destination additions include Spain, Italy, Portugal, the Stans (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), Georgia, Armenia, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Borneo, Albania, North Macedonia, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Groups by Beyond has also unveiled competitively priced group tours across a variety of themes, including cultural exploration, culinary experiences, adventure travel, and relaxation, featuring one free-of-charge spot for travel agents and organisers.

With the upcoming launch of a new website dedicated to these offerings in the next few weeks, agents will have access to comprehensive resources,



including detailed itineraries, pricing, and booking options.

"We are incredibly excited to introduce these new regions to our travel agent partners," said Tony Gattari, Director and GM of Groups by Beyond (**pictured**).

"Our aim is to offer shorter-haul locations that provide rich cultural experiences at lower prices.

"This expansion not only broadens the horizons for travellers but also allows agents to present their clients with unique travel opportunities that are both affordable and captivating." *JM*

Train up on Tokyo

AGENTS can now access a new Tokyo Tourism training module on the CATO Touring Academy, covering the city's major attractions, latest updates, and useful resources.

Those who are not currently signed up for the CATO Touring Academy or those who are due for their annual renewal can use the code 'TOKYO25' to access a 25% discount.

Find out more **HERE**.

Wheels up, Wendy

WENDY Wu Tours has launched its biggest-ever flight sale, giving Australians the chance to save up to \$2,000pp on bookings.

On until 03 Nov 2025, the promotion includes Fly Free offers, 50% off airfares on a wide range of itineraries, and the chance to upgrade to business class from just \$399 per person one way on selected China and Japan tours - **CLICK HERE** to find out more.



Window Seat

CONFERENCES can sometimes generate waste, but Albatross Tours' Michelle Daniels is doing her bit.

The company's Regional Sales Manager recently fashioned some old silk banners into a dress (**pictured**), which has been seen at a number of conferences of late.

This included last week's Geelong Travel Expo, where Albatross also drew attention with its unique Perspex igloo.

Points to the team for knowing how to turn heads.



SCENIC° EMERALD°
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS CRUISES & TOURS

BOOK NOW & WIN A TRIP TO CANADA

Book & deposit a minimum of four passengers on any Scenic or Emerald Tours 2026 Canada touring itinerary between 14 August 2025 & 12 December 2025 to qualify for entry

8 Night Grand Prize for Two

- 2 Guests (winner & companion)
- Air Canada Return Economy Flights for two
- 3 Nights stay Fairmont Empress Victoria
- Whale Watching Cruise & Butchart Garden visit
- 3 Nights stay Knight Inlet Lodge Experience
- 2 Nights stay Fairmont Vancouver

In association with our long-term partners



AIR CANADA



**KNIGHT INLET
LODGE**

CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS

Terms & Conditions apply*

North Island united



THE North Island of New Zealand has pooled its resources to remind the Australian trade of its full range of tourism appeal.

One leg of the trade mission took place in Sydney yesterday at The Private Kitchen in Chippendale, where 15 North Island regional tourism organisations mingled with trade partners to promote the destination's travel allure.

Vibrant cities, rich culture and spectacular scenery were some of the themes hit yesterday, with attractions like the newly reopened Huka Lodge on Lake Taupo, golfing at Te Arai Links, and the nightlife in Auckland all highlighted as key points of difference from other nations.

Speaking with **Travel Daily** yesterday, Tourism Bay of Plenty General Manager Oscar Nathan (pictured fifth from left) heaped

praise on North Island tourism, noting that it offers unique differentiation from the South Island.

Nathan added that unlike the South Island, travellers in the north of NZ can effectively see four seasons in one day.

Road trips can see the mudflats and moody lakes in the morning, while also visiting the island's golden beaches by the afternoon.

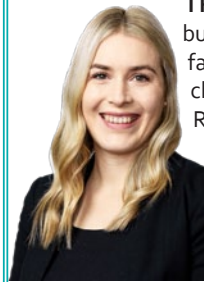
Meanwhile, Love Taupo rep Geraldine Morisse told **TD** that visiting the region is now even easier with new Jetstar direct flights to Hamilton from Sydney and the Gold Coast.

Taupo is also emerging as a major foodie hub, with five restaurants now listed in the Cuisine Good Food Guide, while the new Treats of Taupo festival will run later this month. **AB**

Pictured: The North Island team.

ATIA UPDATE

from Ingrid Fraser, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy



TRAVEL businesses are facing another challenge: the Reserve Bank's proposal to ban debit and credit card surcharges.

For our sector, these surcharges cover the real costs of payment processing when a customer chooses to pay by card.

The RBA estimates that only 10% of merchants apply surcharges, but in travel, 95% of accredited agents, tour operators, and wholesalers rely on them.

Much of the debate focuses on a 10-cent surcharge on a coffee, but travel transactions are far larger, and the financial impact on businesses is significant.

ATIA is taking action: this week we're lodging a new submission, building on the one we filed last year, firmly advocating for surcharging to remain in place.

We're also highlighting the need for corresponding cuts in

bank and interchange fees so businesses aren't left shouldering the costs alone.

Next week, we continue our engagement with the RBA and the Minister for Financial Services to ensure policymakers understand the practical impacts on our members and the services they provide to travellers.

While defending the business framework is critical, supporting the people behind these businesses is just as important.

Last week, I attended the launch of National Skills Week with the Minister for Skills and Training, celebrating the importance of VET pathways.

Travel and tourism is a perfect example: the sector provides diverse career opportunities and pathways for progression.

Today, I'm joining a panel at the Emerging Tourism Leaders Summit to discuss the future of jobs in travel.

The aim is to inspire the next generation to explore the sector, and see travel and tourism as the dynamic and rewarding career path that it truly is.

MH tech verifiable

DIGITAL verification capability has been integrated into Malaysia Airlines' online and mobile check-in processes through the adoption of Amadeus Travel Ready.

The solution allows travellers to verify the suitability and compliance of travel documents prior to heading to the airport, a move expected to reduce wait times at airport counters.

Collette still pickled

COLLETTE will extend its partnership as the official holiday partner of Pickleball Australia into a second year.

The tour operator will be visible in an exclusive position at the upcoming Australian Pickleball Championship in Queensland.

Local travel agents are also invited to register **HERE** to take part in a friendly pickleball event.

WIN A GLOBUS TOUR TO MEMPHIS & NASHVILLE WITH RETURN FLIGHTS

**BOOK NOW
ROCK LATER**

10 SPOTS UP FOR GRABS!

*T&Cs APPLY

Memphis **GLOBUS** **UNITED AIRLINES**

FIND OUT MORE

AATKings

A-LIST ACCESS

**BRAND NEW
SMALL GROUP TOURS IN WA & QLD**

with AAT Kings Head of Product, John Navarro

LISTEN NOW

HLO farewells legend

WESTERN Australian travel industry stalwart Gary Ewart has announced his retirement after 35 years leading Helloworld Travel Carousel in the southern suburbs of Perth.

Filling his shoes is Anusha Patel, who has been with the business for 17 years as a consultant.

The transition marks a new chapter for the store, which was first established as a Harvey World Travel agency before rebranding under the Helloworld name in 2013.

"We extend our heartfelt thanks to Gary for his incredible contribution over a 35-year career," said Nick Sutherland, Group General Manager Retail Networks at Helloworld Travel.

"His dedication, success, and service have left a lasting mark on our industry, and he retires with a legacy to be truly proud of.

"It's a fitting transition



for Anusha to step into the leadership of the Helloworld Travel Carousel store, a place she knows so well and has helped shape over the years," Sutherland added.

Reflecting on his long-standing and impressive career, Ewart stated: "This journey has been one of passion, dedication, and unforgettable experiences."

"I've had the privilege of meeting thousands of clients for whom my employees have created lifelong memories through travel, and I'm deeply grateful for the trust and support shown to me over the years." *JM*

Pictured: Sutherland and Ewart cheers to a new chapter.

Blue Lagoon Princess

SMALL Fijian cruise line, Blue Lagoon Cruises, has announced the upcoming launch of its new vessel, *MV. Yasawa Princess II*.

Joining the fleet in Apr 2026, the new ship will operate alongside *MV. Fiji Princess*, which is currently undergoing an extensive refit.

The newbuild vessel will offer four-night itineraries in 2026 and 2027, while its sister ship will continue to operate three- and seven-night cruises.

Viking spring promo

VIKING has unveiled free flight offers on 2026-28 river, ocean and expedition voyages as part of its 'Spring is in the Air' sale.

For bookings made by 01 Dec, Aussie travellers can enjoy free return economy class flights on all journeys, and free companion airfares on all ocean and expedition voyages.

Find out more **HERE**.

THEY CAN'T SELL IT IF THEY DON'T KNOW IT!

Destinations and Suppliers - update travel advisors with training modules on the **Travel Daily Training Academy hub**.

Packages start at \$3500

ONE module with up to 6 lessons.

Travel Daily

For more information email: training@traveldaily.com.au



Australia's new Adventure



DISNEY Cruise Line's choice to homeport its upcoming ship *Disney Adventure* in Singapore was a decision made with markets such as Australia in mind, Vice President International Sales & Marketing Jeff Van Langeveld (**pictured**) has said.

The senior cruise executive, speaking at last week's Cruise360 conference, said offering Asia Pacific markets a glimpse of Mickey close to home was key to Disney deciding to base *Adventure* in the island country.

"We selected Singapore for a number of reasons, but one is its central location, and being able to really provide a Disney experience fairly close to home or relatively close to home to a lot of new audiences.

"Southeast Asia, for example, China, India, Taiwan, these are all really big source markets for *Adventure*, but also Australia and New Zealand, as well as Japan and South Korea," he explained.

The cruise line will be heavily targeting millennials for *Adventure* and the rest of its fleet, Van Langeveld added.

"[They] are absolutely a core market, as some of the things that they're looking for in their vacations and their cruises is that 'we' time - they want to be part of that family, but they really want that 'me' time as well," he explained. *MS*

Sabre signs up LE

LUXURY Escapes has officially gone live with Sabre Corporation as its global distribution system.

The travel package company described the move as "an important milestone as we continue to expand our reach and create even more opportunities to connect our customers with the best experiences in travel".

Luxury Escapes this week began its first-ever trade events in three states (*TD* yesterday).

TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

JOIN THE PRESTIGIOUS RANK OF TIME MENTORS

Provide knowledge, guidance and advice to aspirational individuals within the Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and the Aviation industry.

Prospective Mentors are invited to complete an Expression of Interest form which is submitted to the TIME Board for approval.

Visit www.travelindustrymentor.com.au or **CLICK HERE** to download your Expression of Interest or for more information call us on

+61 (0)2 8411 1506

www.travelindustrymentor.com.au

Keith Prowse Travel announces Singapore Grand Prix famil winners



SINGAPORE Grand Prix, home of F1 night racing.

KEITH Prowse Travel is excited to reveal the five winning agents from the recent Singapore Grand Prix incentive, exclusively run for Luxury Travel Collection agents.

These top-performing agents have each secured their place on an unforgettable famil to Singapore by booking clients on Keith Prowse Travel packages to the Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix.

Their reward? A five-day adventure in Oct to experience the high-octane action of the Grand Prix, paired with some of Singapore's most iconic attractions.

The famil includes return flights, four nights' accommodation, Grand Prix tickets, and curated experiences at top destinations including Universal Studios Singapore, Mandai Wildlife Reserve, the Michelin-starred Candlenut restaurant, and more.

This successful incentive was delivered in proud partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board and Room-Res.

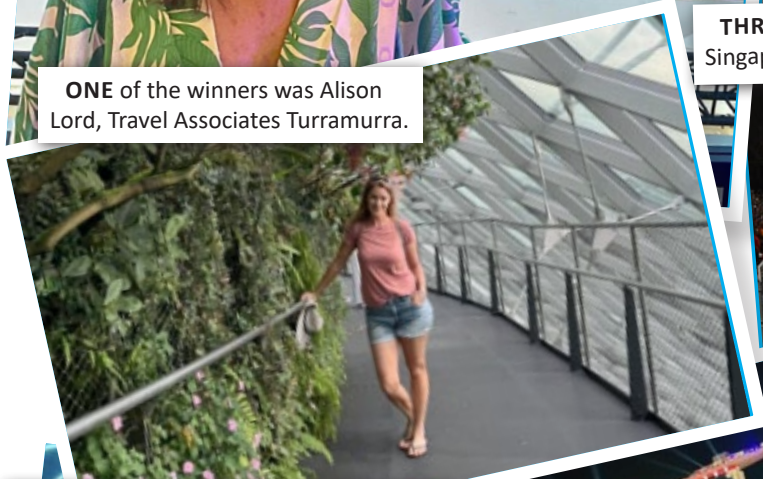
Final packages to the 2025 Singapore Grand Prix are strictly limited - contact Keith Prowse Travel today to secure the ultimate race getaway for your clients.



ONE of the winners was Alison Lord, Travel Associates Turramurra.



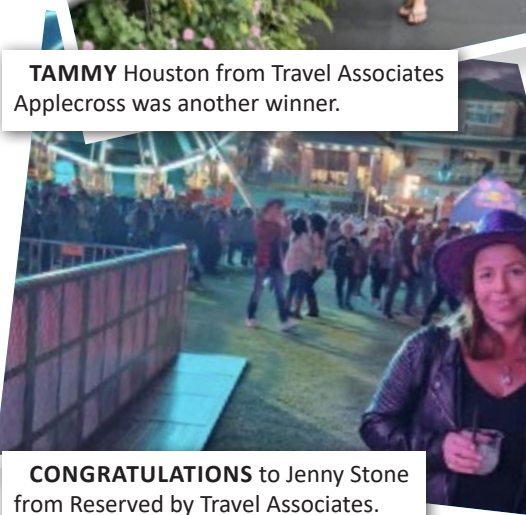
THRILLING race action at the Singapore street circuit.



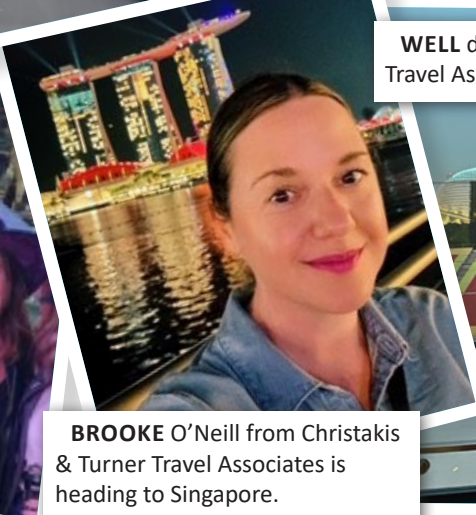
TAMMY Houston from Travel Associates Applecross was another winner.



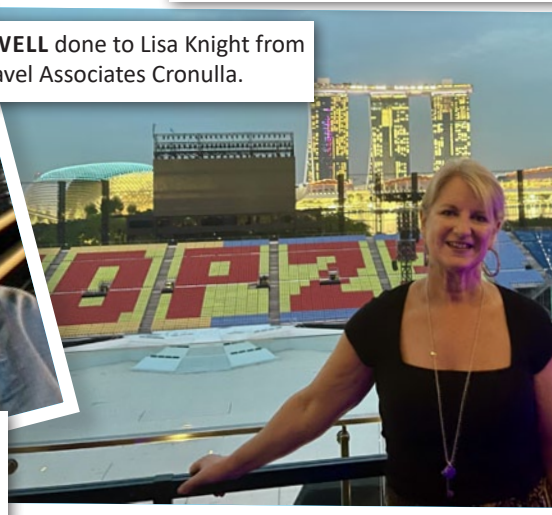
CARS jostle for position at Turn 1.



CONGRATULATIONS to Jenny Stone from Reserved by Travel Associates.



BROOKE O'Neill from Christakis & Turner Travel Associates is heading to Singapore.



WELL done to Lisa Knight from Travel Associates Cronulla.



AKTG staff speak

STAFF members of AKTG across 30 countries and its portfolio of brands - including Abercrombie & Kent, Cox & Kings, Crystal, and more - have participated in a survey to identify priority sustainability areas for the company's future initiatives.

The survey results have led to the commitment from the business to champion United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on Quality Education and SDG 2 on Zero Hunger as group-wide priorities.

"By aligning our sustainability efforts with a mature and proven framework, we are ensuring that our impact extends far beyond exceptional travel experiences to create meaningful change in the communities we serve, and in our daily lives," Camille Drevillon, Chief Strategy Officer for AKTG, said.

AKTG will also focus on additional SDGs locally.

Indigo steps up

HOTEL Indigo Bali Seminyak Beach has entered into a partnership with Indosole, a local business that turns discarded tyres into eco-conscious footwear.

Qantas, Virgin laud green creds

SUSTAINABILITY goals have played a significant role in the FY25 results presentations of Australia's two major airlines, Qantas Group and recently-floated Virgin Australia.

Qantas revealed some novel ways it has lessened its environmental impact, including the launch of the Jetstar uniform recycling program, which saw over 14 tonnes of textiles recycled last financial year.

It also removed over 21 million single-use plastics from operations, including cups on domestic flights, and created new economy and premium economy amenity kits.

In terms of hardware, Qantas reduced tankering (when a plane deliberately carries more fuel than needed) across the group to cut down on fuel burn for an estimated saving of over 850



tonnes of CO2 per year.

It also utilised ground power and pre-conditioned air units to reduce APU5 usage, creating an estimated saving of over 12 kilotons of CO2e in FY25.

In addition, the national carrier entered into an agreement to uplift more than 100 million litres of SAF over three years from Aug at LAX.

Meanwhile, Virgin Australia

flagged organic waste separation in its lounges by 2026 and promised to remove single-use plastics by 2027, with zero general waste to landfill by 2032.

It also reiterated its previous commitment to be net zero by 2050, targeting a 22% reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 2030, off its 2019 base levels. *DF*

Citizen scientists called on to help South Australia recover

SOUTH Australia is open for business and holidaymakers should visit differently - that is the message from University of South Australia Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Tourism Management Freya Higgins-Desbiolles, after the recent algal bloom that has devastated the state's coastline.

She suggested that travellers should think laterally about how best to spend their time in South

Australia in order to support the local communities, including becoming citizen scientists.

"We could call upon certain types of visitors - volunteer tourists - who are keen to give back and help," she said.

"For example, underwater divers could visit our coastal areas and help with some of the scientific or restoration work."

She also stated that "citizen scientists have recorded

32,000 entries on 480 species of perished marine life, often through the iNaturalist website".

A recent survey by the Tourism Industry Council SA found that 40% of businesses impacted by the algal bloom have experienced a downturn in trade, with the average year-on-year loss in Jul 2025 sitting at \$52,000, while 14% of respondents reported losses of more than \$100,000. *DF*

CHECK OUT

exoticca

extraordinary travel crafters

CLICK TO VIEW THEIR BOOTH AT

HOME EX

HOME AGENT
VIRTUAL
EXPERIENCE





[Click here to discover](#)

Travel Daily

SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON TAIWAN & EVA AIR

Travel Daily Training Academy

MONEY

IN TODAY'S Money, *TD's* Tue feature on the AUD, it's rather positive as the currency rallies.

AU\$1 = US\$0.6551

IT HAS been a solid week for the Australian dollar, which recorded gains of 0.27% over the last five days, putting it at its highest level since 11 Aug.

Some quarters are expecting more gains with the increasing likelihood that the US Federal Reserve will cut rates in Sep.

Locally, the dollar's gain was also helped by stronger than expected inflation data, which means a rate cut this month is unlikely to be seen.

While that won't be welcome news to home owners looking to travel, it will increase the confidence of those with expendable income looking to hedge their bets on international trips.

In the short-term, it is arguable as to whether some damage has already been done, with an Insure&Go survey finding that 66% of Australians have decided to either cut back on their travel plans for the future or look for deals that will allow them to travel more.

Wholesale rates this morning

US	\$0.6551
UK	£0.484
NZ	\$1.110
Euro	€0.560
Japan	¥96.53
Thailand	฿21.17
China	¥4.672
South Africa	11.535
Canada	\$0.901
Bitcoin	0.00006007

TIME embraces Velardo



THE Travel Industry Mentorship Program (TIME) has announced Holly Velardo, founder of HollyDay Travel, as its new SA State Representative.

Velardo brings more than 25 years' experience in the travel industry, and has completed the TIME program twice.

She also serves as Vice Chair of the Australian Travel Agents Cooperative, and recently launched a podcast (*TD* 01 Sep).

TIME founder Penny Spencer said Velardo's "passion and experience with TIME will be invaluable as we continue to inspire and support the next generation of travel industry leaders in South Australia".

Reflecting on her new role, Velardo said, "This program took me from working alone to leading a team and growing my business beyond what I ever imagined; now I get to help create those same opportunities for others in our SA travel community".

Velardo emceed a TIME event in Melbourne last week, which

celebrated the achievements of new graduates Chiara Errico, Tales of Puglia; Heather Poppelier, Contours Travel; and Kate Arnst, Travelcall, along with their mentors Karen Taylor, Ranjit Mahto, and David Hughes. *JM*
Pictured: Velardo with Nicole O'Sullivan, TIME's State Representative for Victoria.

Aldi ready for 2026

TEN new tour and cruise packages departing in 2026 have been released by Aldi Holidays featuring deals for Asia, Alaska, Europe and the Mediterranean.

Itineraries include a 13-day 'Essential Europe' tour inclusive of open-jaw flights to Amsterdam and return from Paris, valid for eight departures from Jul-Nov.

There are also six cruise options including a combination itinerary departing from Singapore, which features a five-night *Navigator of the Seas* cruise, a five-night stay at SAii Lagoon Maldives, and one night pre-cruise in Singapore.

The Sunshine Sickle

VISIT Sunshine Coast has relaunched its 'Sunshine Moments' campaign featuring relatable experiences designed to connect with modern travellers.

A series of 15-second videos has been produced for the campaign, along with a 'Sunshine Sickle' competition giving viewers 12 hours to arrive for an all-expenses-paid 48-hour break on the Coast.

QTIC's event trio

TICKETS are now open for the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's (QTIC) three flagship events, which take place during Tourism Week from 12-14 Nov at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

The program includes the Destination IQ and DestinationQ Forums on 12 and 13 Nov respectively, and the 40th Queensland Tourism Awards Gala Ceremony on 14 Nov.

Attendees will hear directly from ministers, government leaders and industry experts on Queensland's tourism future - find out more **HERE**.

Eurail Global deal

INTERNATIONAL Rail is offering 20% off its Eurail Global Pass as part of a new trade promotion for clients heading to Europe.

Prices can be locked in until 09 Sep, with activation for travel anytime until 20 May next year.

Passes can be booked with a range of validity periods including The Flexi with seven, 10 or 15 days in either first or second class.

The Continuous Pass is also available for up to three months of unlimited travel.

WIN YOUR SPOT ON OUR EXCLUSIVE VIETNAM FAMIL

An unforgettable 9-day journey through Hanoi, Ha Long Bay,
and Ho Chi Minh – exclusively for travel agents

HOW TO WIN:

Simply be one of the top 6 sellers of Luxury Escapes
between 1 Aug–30 Oct 2025

OR

Score a place via one of two random lucky draws

Remember: Hotel, Tour, and Cruise bookings all count (Tours = double
entries)

Start selling now to be in the running for a spot on our Vietnam famil.
Not registered? Join now at leagenthub.com

To qualify, an individual agent must have made at least three bookings during the incentive period, including at least one tour booking. Only bookings that are paid in full and not subsequently refunded will qualify. Vietnam famil departs 12 May 2026. All prizes include return international flights for one person, and agents will travel as a group on the set tour itinerary — no extensions permitted. Single rooms are provided for all agents on the tour. Any tax implications are the responsibility of the prize winner. Only bookings made within the incentive period (1 Aug – 30 Oct 2025) will count. There will be no compensation offered if a winner is unable to attend. Prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash or credit. Any prize is subject to Luxury Escapes' full terms and conditions: <https://luxuryescapes.com/au/terms-and-conditions> Luxury Escapes may withdraw the incentive at any time without notice. Winners must receive approval from their own network before prize confirmation. Winners must be employed as front-line retail travel staff at the time of travel. Only hotel and tour bookings count toward the incentive tally. (Tour bookings will receive double weighting.)



Solomon Islands culture: Shell money, spear fighting & panpipes in space

THE centuries-old cultural ways of the Solomon Islands remain some of the richest to be found anywhere in the South Pacific.

'Kulture' sits at the very centre of society with traditional singing, music, dance and craftsmanship all being inherent parts of village life, handed down from father to son and mother to daughter.

It does not matter where you go in the Solomon Islands or at what time of year, chances are you will be able to experience some truly amazing events.

Taking place in May, the extraordinary Wogasia spear fighting festival in Santa Cruz forms part of the annual yam harvest festivities while in Malaita, the annual Shell Money Festival celebrates the traditional form of currency still used to this day.

The island Malaita is also famous for its panpipe music, recordings of which are carried aboard *Voyager 2*, the space probe launched in 1977, as examples of human culture.

Along with spiderweb kite fishing, traditional currency also forms a key part of the annual Tinakula Festival in Temotu Province, where red feather money was in use long before coins and notes arrived.

In Choiseul Province, the Melanesian and Micronesian communities celebrate the region's famous 'gnali' nuts.

Echoes of the country's headhunting days come to life in December, when the people of the Western Province join to celebrate the annual Roviana Lagoon Festival, complete with war canoe racing and visits to the skull shrines on nearby Skull Island.

It is a testament to the days when these gentle people were once renowned as the South Pacific's fiercest warriors.

NEED HELP?

Speak to the expert - Tourism Solomons' Trade Manager Australia/New Zealand, Richard Skewes is the go to point for all travel industry related enquiries:

Phone: 0412 524 699

Email: richard@ptm.net.au

www.visitsolomons.com.sb

