

Brand USA rebuilt

BRAND USA has launched its refreshed digital platform, making it easier for travel partners and industry stakeholders to access programs, research, economic impact data, and resources.

The updated website, which also includes information on the partner program, is found **HERE**.

\$420m impact on Qantas

QANTAS' annual profits were negatively impacted by Middle East disruptions to the tune of \$420 million (**TD** breaking news).

The Aussie carrier's financial reporting for FY26 showed that its statutory profit after tax was down \$316 million to \$1.29 billion, with both domestic and international performance affected by the headwinds of high jet fuel and softer demand in Q4.

International operations sustained the biggest hit, with



underlying EBIT dropping 38% to \$371 million, while domestic fell by 14% to \$907 million.

Meanwhile, revenue for Jetstar increased by 5% to \$6 billion, however the budget carrier's underlying EBIT contracted by 6% to \$723 million.

Qantas loyalty delivered a brighter spot for the carrier, delivering a 12% underlying EBIT growth to \$625 million, with active members increasing by 6% and members earning on two or more categories up by 8%.

"The final four months of the year saw business and consumer confidence fall...as economic headwinds created uncertainty and some large corporates and govt responded by managing their costs more tightly," CEO Vanessa Hudson said.

See more on Qantas on **p3**. **AB**

Radisson sees RED

RADISSON RED Sydney Haymarket is set to open in 2029, designed as an "upper-upscale lifestyle hotel" with 328 rooms, restaurant, pool bar, meeting rooms, outdoor pool and gym.

The new-build will be located near Central Station, the light rail and Darling Harbour. **JHM**



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See more with Celeb

SEE Europe, Bermuda, and the northeast in a whole new way with Celebrity Cruises on board its 2028-2029 cruises - see **p10**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features nine pages of industry news, including our **Business Events News**, plus a full page from **Celebrity Cruises**.

AIR NEW ZEALAND

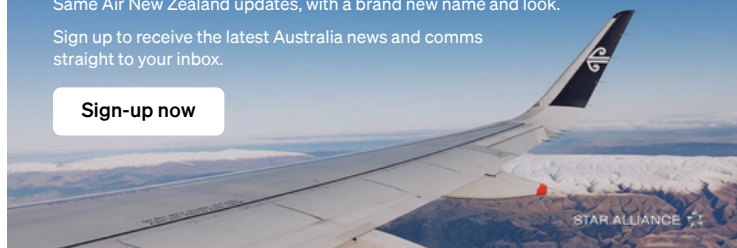


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Thursday 27th Aug 2026

Aussies missing in Nepal

DOZENS of Australian tourists are missing following a deadly flash flood that swept through the Nepal-Tibet border overnight.

"Roads, transport and infrastructure are significantly damaged and there have been a number of deaths and injuries reported," DFAT stated.

"If you need emergency consular assistance, contact the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu on +977 1 437 1678 or the Australian Government's Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 (overseas) or 1300 555 135 (in Australia)," it added.

World Expeditions CEO Sue Badyari said the images coming out of Nepal are "truly devastating", adding that the company's immediate priority has been the safety and wellbeing of its clients and staff.

Thankfully, Badyari confirmed that all World Expeditions clients and staff currently travelling

in the country are safe and accounted for.

Badyari said the advice for any Aussies on the ground caught up in the disaster was to follow the advice of local authorities and their tour or expedition operator, and not attempt to travel through affected areas until it is considered safe.

"Conditions can change very quickly following an event of this nature, and local information is critical," she said.

When asked if the flood was likely to affect travellers planning to see or climb Mount Everest, Badyari said the flood occurred in the Rasuwa district near the Tibet border, an area that is not on the standard Everest trekking route.

The World Expeditions Foundation will support the communities impacted by the floods and their recovery efforts through a fundraiser, with more details to come. *AB*

Experiencing trouble

EXPERIENCE Co said that international tourism recovery is taking longer than expected, as its profitability weakened during the 2026 fiscal year.

The company posted an underlying EBITDA of \$17.6 million in FY26, down 8%, and a statutory loss after tax of \$260,000, which was an improvement on its \$975,000 loss in FY25.

This is despite a 2% improvement in revenue of \$129.6 million, with Experience Co citing the slower return of international tourists, and Australia's macroeconomic conditions, for its weak result.

Also cited as headwinds were the Iran war, poor consumer sentiment, slower domestic tourism, and fuel costs.

The results come as Experience Co offloads its underperforming skydiving business in a \$65 million deal with NZ's Inflight Group (*TD* 15 Jul). *MS*

Maldives on the up

LUXURY Escapes (LE) has revealed that its Melbourne to Male season charter with Maldivian will fly year-round following "overwhelming support" from Aussie travellers.

Flights have achieved an average load factor of 90% since they launched in May, LE said.

Meanwhile, accommodation package bookings for the islands have grown by 65% year-on-year.

"We had a short lead time between announcing and launching flights and took a punt on the 'if we build it, they will come' strategy, and Australians are coming in force," said founder and CEO Adam Schwab of the unique strategy of working directly with an airline to launch a regular scheduled service.

Schwab added that there has been "standout growth" from families, multigenerational travellers and groups of friends, as Aussies choose the destination to celebrate milestone events.



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Aussies are ad hoc

THE 'anti-itinerary' is in, according to Choice Hotels and the South Australian Tourism Commission, which has found the majority of Aussies would rather wing their next trip.

More than eight in 10 Australians would rather embrace spontaneous, "unscripted" travel, as opposed to following a tightly planned itinerary, the report said.

Other findings from the research showed that 80% of Aussies favour coastal locations, vineyards and wide-open spaces over city experiences.

Meanwhile, 61% would travel further to experience something unique, and 24% would choose a destination based on discovering under-the-radar food and wine.



QF to retire A380 early

QANTAS is bringing forward the retirement of its Airbus A380 fleet, with the carrier revealing in its latest financial results that it will begin phasing out the 10-strong fleet in 2028 instead of an originally flagged date in 2032.

The carrier uses the wide-body planes on long-haul international routes out of Sydney and Melbourne, such as Sydney to London via Singapore and Melbourne to Los Angeles, however its longer routes are set to be assumed by Airbus A350-1000ULR aircraft.

Qantas said the reason for acceleration of the iconic model's phase-out was driven by supply chain challenges resulting from A380s being out of production, and in turn increasing operational risks and maintenance costs.

On the other side of the coin, the airline said its confidence in the delivery schedule of its future fleet is now much higher, with



delivery of its Sunrise aircraft and 787-9s coming online from 2027.

As a result of the earlier timeline, Qantas said it would maximise capital and cashflow efficiency, with Sunrise capacity preserving its network footprint and driving earnings growth.

Qantas' decision will also support a higher premium cabin mix for its customers, in the process helping to cater for an increasing high-end demand.

The first three Project Sunrise aircraft were also confirmed to be scheduled for delivery in Apr, May and Jun 2027, with an extra two due to arrive at the end of Nov next year.

The first route will be London-Sydney followed by New York City not long after. *AB*

Farewell to Freddy

BRAND USA has announced the resignation of its president and chief executive officer Fred Dixon, effective 13 Nov.

Dixon will take on the role of president and CEO of NYC Tourism + Conventions, following Julie Coker's move to Visit California (*TD* 29 Jun 2026).

The Brand USA board is now searching for a successor to Dixon, led by newly elected chair Todd Davidson. *JB*

Coral targeting solo

CORAL Expeditions is expanding its solo traveller program, in a move to make expedition cruising more accessible, flexible, and welcoming for passengers travelling by themselves.

The cruise line has introduced a record number of departures without a solo supplement on long-lead voyages, while it has also extended its solo traveller standby offers for close-in cruises.

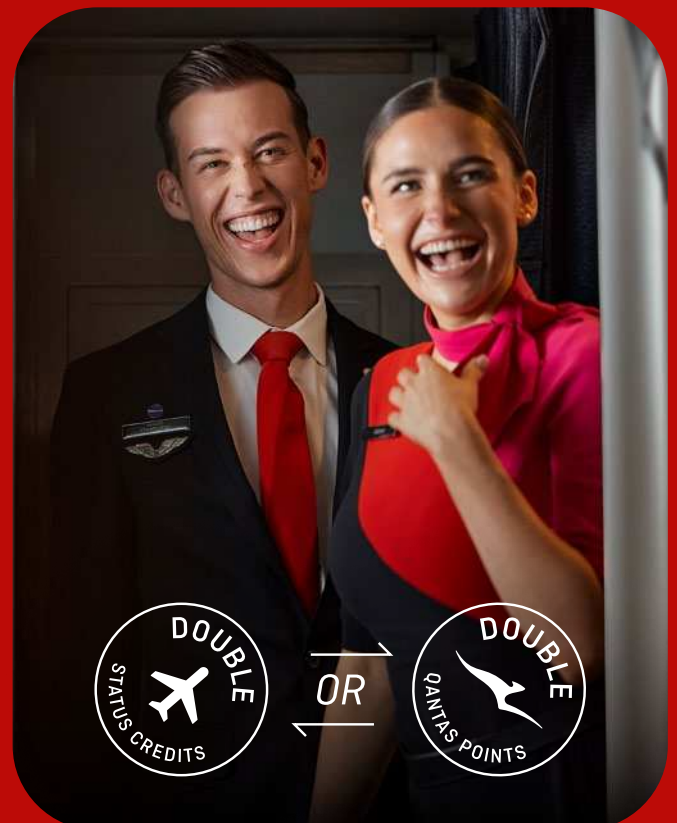
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Swan's record month

SWAN Hellenic recorded 170% YoY revenue growth in Jul, with its total earning increase year-to-date at 268%.

The line's new APAC itineraries achieved a 373% YoY rise, alongside its Africa itineraries notching up growth of 98%. *JB*

We have Webjet concerns

HELLOWORLD CEO and MD Andrew Burnes did not mince his words when talking about the management of Webjet, stating in an earnings call yesterday that he was "not very happy with its performance to date".

The travel agency giant now owns more than a fifth of the OTA, however its annual results published yesterday showed that Helloworld was forced to recognise a \$34.3m loss from the revaluation of its shareholding in the business (**TD** 26 Aug 2026).

"Our investment is currently sitting at 20.29% of the shares in the group, and it has crossed the 20% threshold because of the share buyback, which [Webjet] is continuing to maintain despite our best efforts to tell them that it is not really a very good idea," Burnes said.

"[Our Webjet equity] has fallen in value, we all know that, and...I think that the major shareholders in that group, including ourselves, are not very happy with its performance to date."

AQZ raising the roof

ALLIANCE Airlines has formalised the \$40 million capital raising that it flagged yesterday in its FY26 results (**TD** yesterday).

Existing investors are offered the chance to buy new stock at one new share for every 5.6 shares held at 70 cents per holding - an approximately 20% discount on AQZ's current share price. *MS*



The comments follow a decision earlier in the week by Andrew and Cinzia Burnes to withdraw their nominations as directors of the company (**TD** 24 Aug 2026).

Helloworld previously competed with a BGH Capital-led bid to acquire Webjet, offers that were ultimately rejected by the OTA's board in Feb (**TD** 13 Feb 2026). *AB*

Jailhouse Journey

VINTAGE Rail Journey's Elvis Festival Train package for the Parkes Elvis Festival is now on sale, with an expanded itinerary running from 07-11 Jan 2027.

The five-day trip provides a mixture of regional experiences and rock'n'roll flair, allowing guests to connect with like-minded Elvis fans, as well as enjoy live entertainment and cocktail parties on board, complemented by the landscape of regional New South Wales.

The trip starts from \$4,990 per person in a heritage twin or single cabin, with all-inclusive dining and beverages, transfers to and from the festival and reserved tickets to the Ultimate Elvis tribute artist contest. *JB*

South Sea Cruises

SOUTH Sea Cruises Group will retain its revised rates introduced due to the Fiji Tax, despite Fiji's decision that the 5% levy will not apply to bookings made before 01 Sep (**TD** 26 Aug 2026).

Bookings made from 26-31 Aug will attract the new rates. *AB*

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FCTG trials conversational AI tool

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) continues to use artificial intelligence to evolve traditional booking processes, with its FCM corporate business trialling a new conversational booking capability through its Sam AI platform.

The company's FY26 results released yesterday (**TD** 26 Aug 2026) showed that Sam is progressing from an AI assistant providing insights to supporting a full conversational booking experience, with Sam Booking now being piloted.

Since its launch, Sam has been billed by FCTG as a "companion that is always one step ahead", currently explaining common information requests around policy, trip details, visa requirements and more.

The AI tech can also flag disruptions before travellers notice them, search, book, rebook, or cancel all in the one digital interaction.



The development forms part of FCTG's broader push to use AI to improve productivity and the customer experience across its travel businesses, with the company in Feb stating that AI is now saving its advisors around 67,000 hours in labour a year (**TD** 25 Feb 2026).

So bullish has FCTG been on AI that last month it appointed Christopher Steiner to the role of chief AI officer (**TD** 17 Jul 2026), where he is charged with leading the agentic accelerator program, which is focused on transforming the company's global leisure operating model into an AI powered productivity engine.

During the CAPA Airline Leader Summit in Adelaide last month, FCTG's global leisure CEO James

Kavanagh said the business could potentially add 3,500 AI agents to the business in the future that would work side-by-side with human advisors.

Meanwhile, rival Helloworld has taken a markedly different approach, focusing its AI investment on finding major efficiency gains.

On an earnings call yesterday, CEO and MD Andrew Burnes said there was a "tremendous amount of hype" around AI.

He specifically disparaged the notion that AI agents could one day replace human advisors.

"When we look at why a customer walks into an agency... that's [because of] the travel agent, not some sort of digital agent," Burnes said.

He added that research showed planning a trip with a human expert was one of the most pleasurable parts of the travel process for customers. **AB**



Window Seat

ENJOYING local food is one of the best parts of visiting Tokyo, so imagine scoffing down some sushi on the road, seeing the iconic sights of the Japanese capital.

The new 'Sushi Bus' offers this opportunity, combining a sushi train with a sightseeing tour on wheels.

Passengers sit on the second floor of an open-top bus while sushi travels around them on a conveyor belt, allowing them to eat as they take in views of the world's third-largest city - sign us up.



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NORTHERN LIGHTS
PROMISE

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WEB upgrades outlook

WEB Travel Group's revenue for the first half of the financial year is now expected to be up 14-16% on H1 last year, an increase on the previous forecast of 11-15% (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

Underlying EBITDA for the first half is also anticipated to be between \$85-89 million, a lift on the previous guidance range of \$80-86 million.

Web Travel Group MD John Guscic said the reason for the upgraded forecast was the increased velocity of bookings and improved margins in trading.

All markets have performed better in the second quarter, but the Americas has seen "extremely strong growth", Guscic noted.

"H127 is on track to be the third consecutive six-month period where TTV margins have improved over the previous corresponding period," he added.

Meanwhile, Web Travel Group is also considering a name change to WebBeds Group, with chair Roger Sharp conceding this was the name the company should have chosen at the time of its demerger from Webjet OTA.

Sharp also addressed a recent class action against the company and a Spanish tax audit, reaffirming previous statements on both issues.

He said that while Web Travel Group is taking the audit "very



seriously", processes such as these are part of the normal administration of tax systems.

With regard to the class action, Sharp said the company believes it has complied with all of its continuous disclosure and regulatory obligations. **AB**

Oceania enrichment

OCEANIA Cruises is elevating its onboard enrichment program across its fleet with an enhanced roster of expert speakers, special interest programming and engaging new experiences.

The new program will roll out across the fleet from next year, with dedicated speakers added to every sailing, and voyages of 12 days or more to offer additional special guests.

Speakers will specialise in heritage, culture, or history, as well as astronomy, sports, artificial intelligence, technology, health, longevity and other contemporary topics.

Read more in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**. **MS**



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FAMIL IN FOCUS: HELLOWORLD AGENTS DISCOVER THE SPIRIT OF HAWAII

TEN Helloworld travel agents recently experienced the best of Hawai'i on a hosted famil designed to build destination knowledge and showcase the islands' breadth of sellable experiences for Australian travellers.



Hosted by Hawaiian Airlines' Kastine Aman O'Connor, Viva Holidays' Kim Knight and Outrigger Resorts' Maria Alaveras, the famil highlighted the ease and appeal of a Hawai'i holiday, combining iconic experiences with practical product insights agents can use when planning future itineraries.



On O'ahu, agents explored Kualoa Ranch, famous for its dramatic landscapes and *Jurassic Park* film locations, checked out the North Shore and visited the famous Dole Pineapple Plantation. They also tapped into Waikiki's entertainment scene, with evening highlights including the Rock-A-Hula luau, with Hawaiian music, dance and island-style hospitality, and 'Auana by Cirque du Soleil, the new Hawai'i-inspired production at the Outrigger Waikiki Beachcomber Hotel.

The group also travelled to Hawai'i Island (also known as the Big Island), where they visited Heavenly Hawaiian Coffee Farm Tour in Kona for coffee

tasting before an evening manta ray snorkelling experience delivered one of the famil's standout moments.

From premium beachfront stays and immersive cultural experiences to adventure, entertainment and easy island-hopping, the famil reinforced Hawai'i's strength as a versatile, high-value destination.

It also reminded agents that Honolulu can be enjoyed as a free stopover with Hawaiian Airlines, when travelling onwards to neighbouring islands, with only nominal taxes, making it even easier to build a richer, multi-island holiday. Agents returned with refreshed product knowledge, first-hand stories and practical selling tools to inspire more experience-led Hawai'i recommendations across the Australian market.

TOP: Heavenly Hawaiian Coffee Farm Tour, Kona
Back left - Rhiannon Hutton (MTA), Amber Padlie (Travel Club by Travel and Leisure), Eden Frame (RACT Travel Rosny), Kim Knight (Viva Holidays)
Front left - Evelyn Swayne (Kingscote Travel), Roslyn Mcdowall (Sirocco Travel), Karen Spencer (Go Tours Travel), Michelle Cook (Swan Valley Travel & Cruise)

Middle to right from pink skirt: Rikki Johnson (Jonkers Travel), Maria Alaveras (Outrigger Resorts), Kimberley Sheehan (Helloworld Regents Park), Katie Elliss (Helloworld Sunbury), Kastine Aman-O'Connor (Hawaiian Airlines)

MIDDLE: Evening manta ray snorkelling, Kona

BOTTOM: Exploring Kualoa Ranch, O'ahu



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

TravelManagers connect in Hobart

THE 2026 edition of the annual TravelManagers conference recently made its way down to Hobart, focusing on the theme of connection. Across the three days, personal travel managers (PTMs), suppliers and other delegates bonded over their passion for travel and cultivated ways to grow their operations.

The conference kicked off with a captivating address by opening keynote speaker Lisa O'Neill. Hosted by Viking, the welcome function took place at Princes Wharf 1, near Salamanca Place, giving guests the chance to enjoy Tasmania's wide array of culinary offerings.

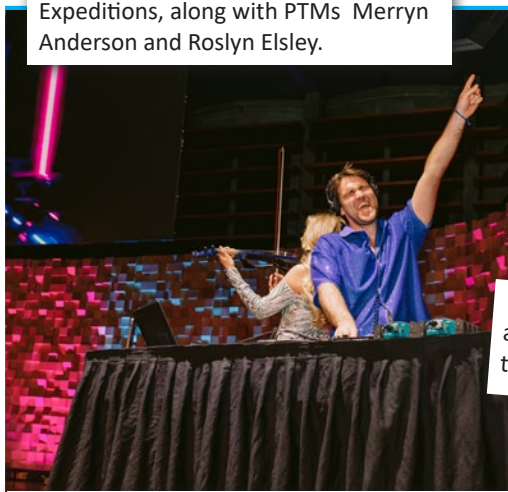
During the second day, conference guests took part in the group activity, which was a race around Hobart, giving attendees a chance to bond over the sights of the city while also raising money for key African charitable causes.

Following the event, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings hosted the Bootin Scootin' Bash, a cowboy/country-themed party in Hobart's Hanging Garden venue, where guests dressed up in their best outfits and showed off some moves on the dance floor.

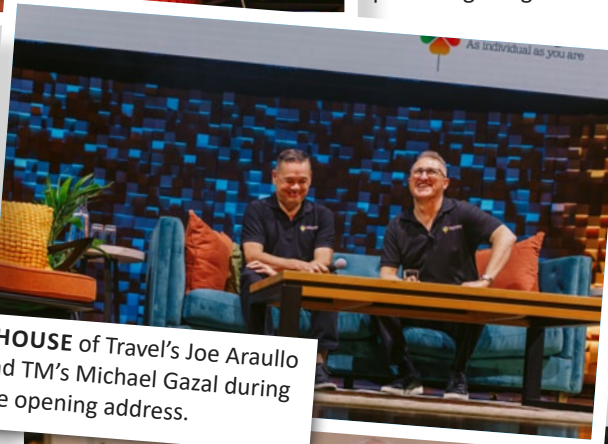
The conference closed with a fireside chat with former political prisoners Cheng Lei and Kylie Moore-Gilbert preceding the gala awards dinner.



CONFERENCE MC Jordana Borensztajn giving away special prizes to Janelle Ramsay from Ponant Expeditions, along with PTMs Merryn Anderson and Roslyn Elsley.



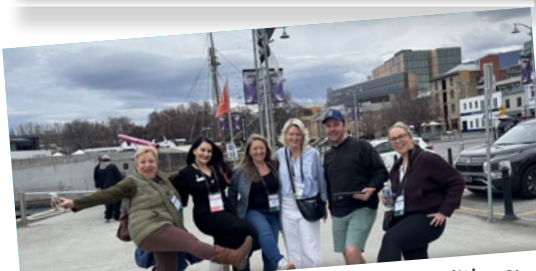
AN ELECTRIFYING opening performance from Kate the violinist and DJ Hugo, together known as Vivid.



HOUSE of Travel's Joe Araullo and TM's Michael Gazal during the opening address.



LISA O'Neill giving her keynote speech on how PTMs can maximise their energy.



LISA Leary, PTM; Kat Nitariski, HX Expeditions; Nadia Rosenberg, PTM; Karen Whitehead, PTM; Gareth Coakley, HX Expeditions and Amanda Dadic, PTM during the race around Hobart.



INGRID Berthelsen, Evolution Travel Collective and Frank Levey, Beyond Travel at the Viking welcome function.



NICK Roelofs and Maria Brufatto from G Adventures at the Boot Scootin' Bash.



LEEARNE Groves, NPO; Justine Beekmans, PTM; Stacey Farmham, PTM; Tracey Lowry, PTM; Aaron Dodkin, APT Travel Group; and Amy Ferguson, PTM at the gala awards dinner.



TM'S Jose Canas accepting the TravelManagers Spirit Award.



LEI and Moore-Gilbert speaking with Borensztajn about their experiences in prison.



\$1 BILLION EVENTS PIPELINE CONFIRMED

THE Australian Business Events Association (ABEA) has released its Domestic Forward Calendar for 2026, with 806 events tipped to generate over \$1 billion in delegate spend.

Additionally, the 806 events will span a total of 3,031 event days, welcoming over 451,000 delegates, along with 1,643,093 delegate days.

Furthermore, the \$1 billion-plus in delegate spend will include \$952.7 million from domestic attendees and \$88.4 million from international event visitors.

"It is valuable and impressive to see the size and breadth of the domestic opportunity and to provide government with the insights needed to keep highlighting the value of business events for Australia," ABEA CEO Melissa Brown said.

"Business events generate



significant economic value, but their impact extends well beyond delegate spend.

"When a conference goes into a city, town or regional centre, it drives jobs, confidence and sharing - there is nothing as impactful as business events, and our contribution is significant," Brown added.

Out of all the events in the Domestic Forward Calendar, health care and social assistance are the most represented

industries, accounting for 37%.

This sector alone is set to welcome a projected 142,797 professionals, with 9,143 of those being international.

Highlighting the potential for further commercial opportunities, 66% of all future association conventions featured in the calendar contain a trade or exhibition component.

The new calendar is separate from ABEA's International Forward Calendar. *JB*

Vic leads fintech

MELBOURNE has been named as the host city for the inaugural APAC edition of Money20/20 Australia, set to be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 15-17 Feb 2028.

The event was secured by the Melbourne Convention Bureau in conjunction with the Victorian Government and Tourism Australia.

It will bring together global leaders in finance, technology, payments and commerce to collaborate on ways to drive innovation and reshape financial services.

"Labor is backing Victoria's thriving fintech sector and bringing the world's biggest business events to Melbourne - creating more opportunities for local businesses, workers and investors," Victoria's Minister for Major Events Anthony Carabine said.

"Securing Money20/20 Australia is another win for Melbourne - putting Victoria on the global stage and showcasing why our city is the best place in Australia to do business, innovate and invest," he added.

But Money20/20 Australia is not the only big tech win, with Melbourne next month hosting the inaugural Australian Data Centre World and AI Summit. *JB*

AIME reveals new branding, marking a new chapter for growth

ASIA-PACIFIC Incentives and Meetings Event (AIME) has announced the launch of new branding, as the trade show enters its 34th year.

The refreshed look is characterised by a bolder, brighter and more contemporary design, anchored by the tagline 'Bring your ambition to Melbourne. Share it with the world'.

Additionally, the new symbol is formed with directional



shapes that spell out AIME, representing the connection the event provides and the floral emblem of Melbourne, the native paper daisy.

AIME's new branding will be rolled out across its digital

platforms in the lead-up to the event on 15-17 Feb 2027.

MEANWHILE, applications are now open for the AIME 2027 Hosted Buyer Program, allowing corporate event planners, incentive specialists and professional conference organisers to experience the events platform first-hand.

The program mixes human curation with AI to create pre-scheduled appointments with exhibitors worldwide. *JB*

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Airline Marketing New Zealand has appointed **Simon Roll** as general manager. He previously served as senior regional managing director ANZ for Sabre, where he worked for over 27 years. His appointment follows the resignation of Julie Rice, who spent over 20 years in the airline representation sector.

Leanne Fonagy has joined **Eight Communications** as an account director. Her new role will see her handle public relations for several companies in the Australian market, including AAT Kings, Pan Pacific Hotel Group and Seabourn. Prior to taking on the role, she led Norwegian Cruise Line's PR in the Asia-Pacific region for three years. Her other PR roles included Anne Wild & Associates and Silversea.

Andrew Nihopara has been appointed as the new CEO of **Tourism Solomons**. He previously worked with the DMC as its head of marketing from 2001 to 2004. His other notable roles include marketing manager and deputy CEO at the Pacific Tourism Organisation, as well as permanent secretary for the country's Ministry of Culture and Tourism within the Solomon Islands government.

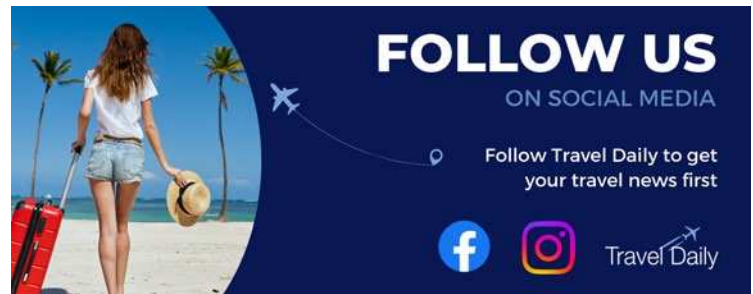
Uniworld Boutique River Cruises has welcomed back **Fran Gildon**, taking on the role of business development manager. Her previous stint at the cruise line was from 2022 to 2025, serving as national BDM. She has spent the past year at Azamara Cruises as strategic BDM.

Intrepid Travel has promoted **Kate Cropper** to a group general counsel & corporate governance role. She has been with Intrepid for nearly seven years, most recently serving as general counsel. Before that, she worked as a legal counsel for a variety of companies including Australia Post, Prestige Hospitality Limited and Thomson Reuters.

Marcus Eklund will take on the role of global chief commercial officer at **BCD Travel**, effective 14 Sep. He will join from FCM Travel Solutions where he was global managing director for the past 10 years. Before that, he was head of sales engineer & consulting at Amadeus.

G Adventures has appointed **Georgia Nankivell** as its global purpose specialist for Victoria and Tasmania. She has been with the operator since 2023, joining as a global connection officer and has since held multiple sales roles such as National Geographic signature specialist. She was also named as a mentor for the G Values Fund, assisting other team members in building a community-focused tourism enterprise.

Linkd Tourism has made a series of appointments, including **Millie Brown** moving to the role of general manager, trade and operations; **Emma Prineas** to the role of general manager, public relations and marketing; **Cathy Xu** into the position of marketing and campaigns director; **Mel Newtown** into trade director; and **Sally Miles** into an associate director position.



The connection is on us

GARUDA Indonesia is offering 107,845 roundtrip domestic flights free of charge as part of its Free Domestic Flight program, running until 30 Nov.

The complimentary flights are available with international tickets to major gateways such as Jakarta and Denpasar, encouraging travellers to see more of the archipelago nation.

"Indonesia boasts a wealth of diverse destinations, and we see a significant opportunity to make every trip to Indonesia a more enriching experience," explained Prina Eka Putri, marketing group head at Garuda Indonesia.

"Through this program, we are aiming to provide a stronger incentive for int'l visitors...to stay longer, explore more destinations, and discover unique experiences across various regions of Indonesia," she added.

By dispersing visitation, Garuda



is hoping to boost the economic benefits of tourism nationwide across hotels, restaurants, tours, and more. *JB*

Rydges in Bangkok

EVT Hotels & Resorts has signed a hotel management agreement for **Rydges Bangkok Sukhumvit**, which is set to open in early 2028.

The upcoming 165-key hotel will be the first Rydges property in Thailand, as EVT continues its APAC expansion following the opening of QT Singapore (*TD* 16 Sep 2024).

In addition, EVT has made several senior appointments to bolster regional development, including chief development officer Brett Forer and executive vice president, Asia Harry Thaliwal, who will operate out of its Bangkok office. *JB*

Costco lands at BNE

COSTCO has agreed to set up shop inside Brisbane Airport, marking its debut in the city.

Opening in late 2029, the store will cover 6.7 hectares, and be located opposite the international terminal, along with a 15,600m² warehouse and fuel station. *JB*



Azamara peaks '29

AZAMARA Cruises has lifted the lid on details about its 2029 World Cruise Collection.

Leading the itineraries list is the 195-night 'World Cruise from San Diego to Copenhagen', taking place aboard *Azamara Quest*.

It will feature 126 ports of call across five continents and 40 countries and territories. *JB*

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