

## Link appoints NBM

**LINK** Travel Group has named Camryn Rathbone as its new national business manager, who will replace the ATIA-bound Emmalita Malmberg (**TD** 03 Mar) from 09 Mar.

Rathbone joins the high-profile travel collaboration from Air New Zealand, where he has been national partnerships manager for over seven years.

In a win for Link members, the group confirmed the national business manager role has also been upgraded to a full-time position to cater to the maturing needs of its growing network.

Rathbone will be charged with assisting members to identify opportunities and plan for greater business and revenue growth.

"I have done business with Camryn in the past and know that his high business acumen and business planning skills will unlock revenue growth potential for both Link and our members," GM Scott Darlow said. **AB**

## ATIA corrects the record

**AUSTRALIAN** Travel Industry Association (ATIA) CEO Dean Long has slammed mainstream reporting which yesterday wrongly suggested that Australian travellers should cancel bookings to Europe for the next six months on the basis of expert advice.

"There will be some delays and a bit more disruption than what we are used to but no one in the travel sector is going to [operate] where it's unsafe," Long said.

"There are plenty of safe ways to get to Europe and the aviation sector has, and will, continue to adapt - Asia is open and operating and we have flights coming out of

the Middle East.

"Importantly, do not cancel... if you're booked to travel shortly via the Middle East, it is critical that you do not panic-cancel but rather wait for your airline to cancel, otherwise you are erasing all of your rights of a refund or rebook," Long added.

Avlaw Consulting chair Ron Bartsch, the expert misquoted by multiple media agencies, has also clarified his observations.

"My comments were about the operational complexities created by Middle East airspace restrictions - the impact on flight corridors, hub disruptions and fuel costs, which will continue to be felt for the next six months.

"I did not advise Australians to cancel their travel plans to Europe, aviation is an adaptive industry...decisions should be based on accurate information and not headlines that misrepresent what was said." **AB**

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features eight pages of the latest travel industry news, including a photo page from **Viking**, our **Corporate Update**, and full pages from **APT**.

## VA ticked for Vanuatu

**ADDITIONAL** capacity on the Brisbane-Port Vila route has been approved for Virgin Australia via a codeshare deal with China Southern Airlines (**TD** 27 Jan).

In making its decision, the IASC said the collaboration will provide added options and choice for tourists travelling between China and Vanuatu via Australia. **AB**

## HLO office rezoned

**HELLOWORLD** Travel has confirmed that its registered head office address located at 179-185 Normanby Road, South Melbourne 3205 has been rezoned to 179-185 Normanby Road, Southbank 3006. **AB**

## APT salutes Qld

**THE** APT Travel Group is today honouring Queensland's top performers, congratulating them on their bookings with the company - more on **p9** and **p10**.



VIKING

## FREE VIKING VIRTUAL EVENT

*Don't miss this chance to engage your clients and let Viking inspire them to book their next voyage with you.*

Join our free, interactive Viking Virtual Event designed to immerse your clients in one of our best-selling voyages.

This live, guided experience will inspire your clients and answer their questions live, and most importantly encourage them to book with you. Plus, every client you register and attends earns you \$10 in Rewards by Viking points. If one of your attendees makes a booking with you from the event, you receive a bonus \$50 in points, on top of your commission.



### *Mediterranean Odyssey*

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2026 11.00AM AEDT

Journey from Barcelona to Venice on a 13-day voyage through iconic cities, Renaissance art, and sun-soaked coastlines. Get insider tips, see what life is like on board, and take advantage of special booking offers.

**REGISTER NOW**

#### EVENT TIME ACROSS REGIONS:

11.00AM AEDT – SYDNEY, MELBOURNE

10.30AM ACST – ADELAIDE

10.00AM AEST – BRISBANE

8.00AM AWST – PERTH



**SHIKOKU CULTURAL JOURNEY** **MWTOURS**

**\$4,599** PPD SURCHARGES MAY APPLY

PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON 4 PAX SHARE | LAND ONLY

**7 DAYS | PRIVATE TOURING**  
FAMILY FRIENDLY | MIN. GROUP SIZE 4

[VIEW DEAL](#)

## Odell to make Aussie return

**EXCLUSIVE**

**STEVE Odell (pictured)** is transitioning to a new role with Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) and Oceania Cruises, which will see him return to Australia as an ambassador for the two brands.

Odell was most recently the senior VP international & consumer sales for the two Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) luxury marques - a role which took him from Sydney to the firm's head office in Miami two years ago (**TD** 15 Jan 2024).

His new title will be 'luxury group ambassador' - a role which he will fulfil when he make his first visit to Australia in Apr, as *Oceania Vista* makes her inaugural call to the country.

"Steve is a well-known, much-loved, and highly accomplished sales professional in the luxury travel industry, and we couldn't be happier that he has agreed to continue his connection with our



brands," chief luxury officer Jason Montague said.

The highly respected cruise industry leader has been with NCLH for more than 10 years, having opened the company's local office in 2015 (**TD** 01 Jul 2015), and helped to run RSSC locally from 2019-2022.

The change arrives as NCLH's ultra-luxury brand also appointed a new president this week, promoting chief commercial officer Wesley D'Silva into the position (**TD** 05 Mar).

RSSC has not had a dedicated president since Andrea DeMarco stepped down just over 12 months ago (**TD** 07 Jan 2025). *MS*

## MU goes daily at BNE

**CHINA** Eastern Airlines has committed even further to Qld, announcing it will fly to Brisbane from Shanghai on a daily basis, year-round from 15 Jun.

The permanent move from the standard five flights per week to seven will deliver an annual capacity of almost 100,000 seats between the major cities.

The Chinese carrier previously operated 10 services a week between 22 Jan and 28 Feb. *AB*

## Intrepid cancels trips

**INTREPID** has scrapped all departures in Egypt, Jordan, Oman and Saudi Arabia up to and inclusive of 31 Mar 2026, a call it said was in line with major govt travel advisories.

"While we will always follow official guidance, in destinations unaffected by this conflict, we encourage people to travel responsibly," Intrepid said. *AB*

## EY's gradual increase

**ETIHAD** Airways has announced it will resume a limited commercial flights between 06-19 Mar to and from Abu Dhabi.

In a statement published today, the UAE carrier said it will operate more services on key routes, including Cairo, Delhi, London, Frankfurt, New York, Paris, Moscow, Toronto and Zurich.

The news comes after Etihad resumed a small volume of flights to and from Australia and on to Europe yesterday (**TD** 04 Mar). *JM*

## Goldman NDC push

**GOLDMAN** Travel Corporation has revealed it is now in the top three NDC agencies within Link Travel Group, with Qantas adoption at 74.7%.

"This is a great reflection of how quickly the team has adapted to new systems and embraced the shift to NDC - and most importantly, the value this is already delivering to our clients," said joint MD David Goldman. *AB*

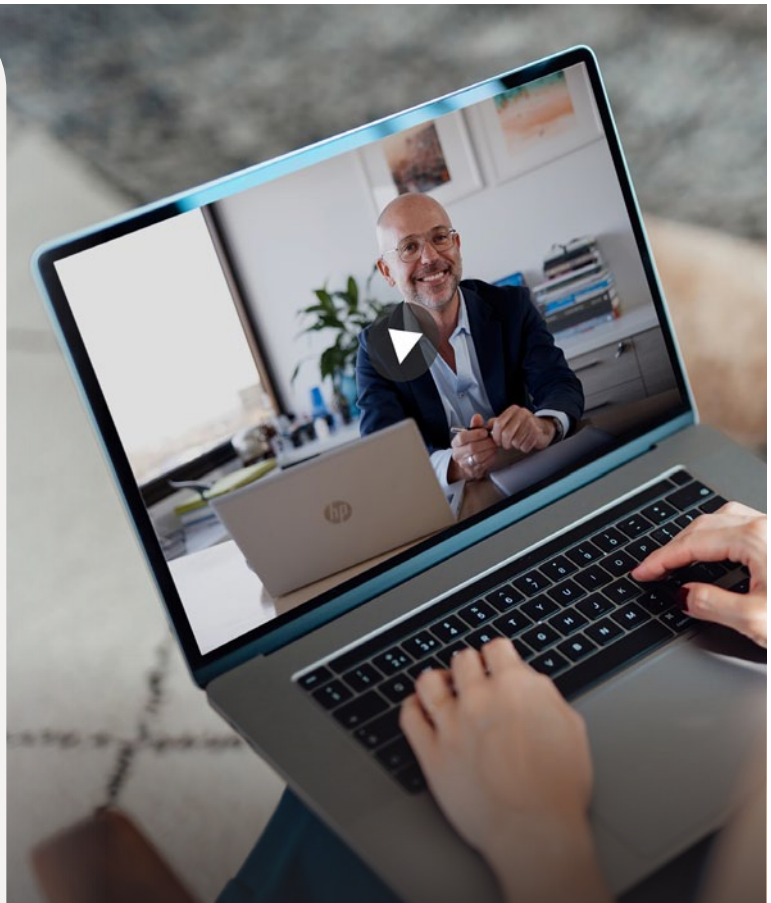
## Switch ON to Qantas NDC

Hear how our partners made the switch to Qantas NDC and discovered a smarter way to book and support their customers.

[Watch now](#)



NEW DISTRIBUTION CAPABILITY





Travel Daily  
**SPECIAL REPORT  
 OUT NOW**  
**Future Forward:  
 Introducing the 2026 traveller**  
**» CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT**

## Windstar ups Tahiti

**WINDSTAR** Cruises is doubling down on French Polynesia, confirming it will have two ships operating year-round in Tahiti from Mar 2027.

The decision aligns with news that Air Tahiti Nui will operate direct flights between Sydney and Papeete in Dec (**TD 04 Mar**). **AB**

## Force for Good kicks off



**ANNUAL** leadership and networking event A Force for Good has kicked off this morning at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth ahead of International Women's Day on Sun.

Founder Helene Taylor (**pictured**) set the scene by sharing the event's mission of encouraging more women to step into senior executive roles.

Taylor recalled how there was "a fairly strong boys' club culture" in parts of the travel industry when she first launched the event back in 2017.

"Some people really didn't like what we were doing," she said.

"But this event was never about boy-bashing - it was about helping women believe in themselves," Taylor added.

She also noted the importance of celebrating the male allies in the industry who have helped to drive change in their businesses over the years, calling out names like Intrepid's Brett Mitchell, Uniglobe's David Hughes and Neil Rodgers from Adventure World.

However, misogyny continues to exist, particularly in the

broader political landscape "and those attitudes can filter down", Taylor warned.

"We must protect the progress that has been made and keep advancing it forward," she said.

A line-up of powerhouse speakers is scheduled for today, including headline presenter and big wave surfer, Mark Mathews, known for inspiring audiences with his stories of resilience and overcoming fear.

Joining him will be TTC Tour Brands MD Toni Ambler, HelloWorld COO Cinzia Burnes, Flight Centre Travel Group global CEO leisure travel James Kavanagh, and many more.

The day will also include a panel discussion featuring emerging young leaders and a conversation on sustainability featuring execs such as Qantas' head of sales channels Alexandra O'Connor, Bunnik Travel Group joint-CEO Dennis Bunnik, and Inside Travel Group founder Simon King.

An exclusive networking party took place last night for guests, with all ticket sales donated to Animals Asia. **JHM**

## Women-led trips

**INTREPID** Travel has released three new Women's Expeditions in Peru, Cambodia and Bhutan.

Each trip is led by a local female leader, with the duration ranging from eight to 11 days and featuring activities that break down gender barriers and support female businesses. **AB**

**ROYAL BRUNEI AIRLINES**

Celebrating  
**Royal Brunei Airlines  
 6x Winner**  
 World's Leading Cabin Crew  
 (2020 - 2025)

6<sup>th</sup> year in a row, earn  
**6% commission** on every ticket issued in March.

That's  
**Double  
 COMMISSION**  
 Royal Brunei. Service where it counts

For more details, contact  
**melrba@rba.com.bn**  
 or your consolidator  
 Terms and conditions apply.

**HAWAIIAN AIRLINES.**

**FLASH SALE**

Honolulu and Neighbour Islands on sale.  
 Flights from Sydney to Honolulu in Main Cabin fares starting at<sup>1</sup>

**\$840**  
 AUD RETURN

Includes 2 x 23kg Checked Bags

Request AS in your GDS

\*Alaska Operated as Hawaiian Airlines  
 Booking Dates: 6 - 8 March 2026  
 Terms & Conditions apply

**From the harbour**

**To the lagoon**

Flying non-stop PPTSYD from 14 December 2026  
 Sign up here for travel agent news & updates

**AIR TAHITI NUI**

## Women leading the way in restoration

EXCLUSIVE

ON THE eve of International Women’s Day this Sun, reef manager for Daydream Island Lisa McMullen (pictured) has told *Travel Daily* that more female pathways in both the eco travel and tourism industries will expand in the near future.

McMullen explained that these pathways will grow as scientific practices evolve, calling on more women to “just get in people’s faces and start having conversations”.

She leads a predominantly female team at the only eco-certified resort in the Whitsundays, labelling them an “incredible group of women who are leading the charge for the science and the research in this area and science tourism.”

Reflecting on working alongside other Whitsundays marine conservation organisations, McMullen said “nearly every



meeting I’m having at the moment is with a female project lead, so seeing those people and just being like, ‘yes, we can do this together’”.

Her team at Daydream have been at the forefront of not only conserving the island’s wildlife and coral lagoons, but also attracting tourists through setting an example, stating “people

who are looking for those eco-certifications will definitely come here (Daydream Island)”.

“When they see that there’s a team of marine biologists doing their site stewardship actions, then they would definitely be more inclined to come here as well,” she added.

McMullen credits this group dynamic and strong representation to the expanded dialogue seen within the industry, describing her initial steps as “intimidating” in a male-led industry “before it was a little bit more closed off”, she explained.

“The web of communication is getting bigger, we’re cross-skilling and talking to each other more.”

McMullen also draws on her experience of having a female mentor in coral restoration, describing her as “brilliant” and “amazing”, alongside having the shared experience of coming up in a male-dominated industry. *JB*



## Window Seat

DRINKING and driving might be a firm ‘no’, but that didn’t stop a high-performance McLaren Artura from making a champagne-filled entrance at Sofitel Melbourne on Collins during Formula 1 week.

Guests were surprised to find the supercar’s boot packed with bottles of Pommery.

For those who are not a fan of the bubbles, the hotel’s Atrium Bar is serving up a bespoke Grand Prix cocktail, which blends premium Patron tequila with fresh lime and agave, elevated by a touch of creme de violette and finished with a blue salt rim. *JM*



It’s Different Out Here™

## OUR PRICES HAVE DROPPED. YOUR HORIZONS HAVE EXPANDED.

Your clients can now set sail for less with NCL’s **JUST CRUISE** fare, making it easier for you to sell and earn. Designed to provide greater flexibility and more choice than ever before, your clients will enjoy all the great things about NCL®: world-class complimentary dining, award-winning entertainment, diverse onboard activities designed to help them recharge, personalised service, as well as spacious, stylish staterooms & more.

Or, for the best value at sea, they can **upgrade to Free at Sea™** for only \$59<sup>PP</sup>/day and receive all of the **JUST CRUISE** inclusions plus **premium beverages, specialty dining, excursion credits & a Wi-Fi package\***.

### JUST CRUISE PROMO CODE - EASYFARE

- ✓ World-Class Complimentary Dining
- ✓ Diverse Onboard Activities
- ✓ Award-Winning Entertainment
- ✓ Spacious & Stylish Accommodation
- ✓ Personalised Service
- ✓ Service Charges

### UPGRADE TO FREE AT SEA™ ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$59<sup>PP</sup>/DAY\*

- ✓ All of the JUST CRUISE Inclusions
- ✓ Premium Beverages
- ✓ Specialty Dining
- ✓ Wi-Fi Package
- ✓ Excursion Credits
- ✓ Reduced Rate for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Guest (select sailings)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BDM OR CALL 1300 255 200

**NORWEGIAN  
CRUISE LINE®**

©2026 NCL Corporation Ltd. NCL Australia Pty. Ltd. ABN 80 607 578 781. Ships’ Registry: Bahamas and USA. 3331550 02/25

## Consultants to leaders



**TRAVELLERS Choice** has formally launched its training program, ProAdvance (TD 02 Dec 2025), with 12 senior consultants embarking on the six-month

program to turn them into business leaders.

The course will use a combination of self-paced learning modules with monthly Zoom workshops, which will provide consultants with “the skills and confidence they require to take the next step in their career progression”, according to Nicola Strudwick, GM - sales at Travellers Choice.

Strudwick added that providing its consultants with the tools to transition into management will assist in “the vital issue of succession planning”.

ProAdvance also allows for consultants to tailor their courses and zero in on areas that are of most interest or importance.

It was reported that the most popular topics focused on better understanding the financial needs to run a solo agency and commercial practices, such as cash flow forecasting, generating P&L reports, as well as setting sophisticated budgets, sales targets and marketing strategies.

Furthermore, the course also allows for consultants to improve their general people management skills, with modules educating members on conflict resolution and strategies for collating ideas in a team setting. *JB*

**Pictured:** Emma Sullivan and Emily Troube from Jamison Travel & Cruise in Canberra.

## SUNSHINE COAST WELLBEING SHOWCASE

**LAST** Friday, Accor hosted a curated one-day Sunshine Coast famil, departing from Mantra South Bank Brisbane to bring their Wellbeing, Built into Every Event campaign to life in a practical, destination-led setting.

The day commenced at Mantra Mooloolaba Beach, where guests were welcomed into the recently refurbished lobby and pre-function spaces before exploring the upgraded conference facilities and enjoying a refined morning tea curated by Pavilion Mooloolaba.

Continuing on the journey, Peppers Noosa Resort & Villas welcomed the famil with an interactive CSR experience delivered by Noosa Landcare, highlighting regional environmental initiatives and collaboration. Guests received a native seedling and Koalas in the Noosa Region guide a tangible example of meaningful sustainability integration.

A guided breathwork and stretch session led by Josie from Holistic Health Noosa Hub



illustrated how short wellness activations can elevate delegate energy and concentration.

By lunchtime, Executive Chef and Food & Beverage Director Andrew Wilcox curated an interactive BBQ experience celebrating Queensland produce, wines and local suppliers - a genuine



paddock-to-plate showcase that brought the region’s flavour to life.

Designed to demonstrate how wellbeing can be intentionally embedded into conference design, the showcase focused on fuel, focus, flexibility and future-ready delivery.

Each experience was personally hosted by the property General Managers, underscoring the strategic importance of Meetings & Events across the portfolio.

For planners looking to embed wellbeing into their next event, explore Accor’s portfolio [HERE](#) or email [conference-GCAU@accor.com](mailto:conference-GCAU@accor.com)



**TOP:** Curated lunch at Park & Cove, Peppers Noosa Resort & Villas

**MIDDLE:** 1 Bedroom Ocean View Apartment at Mantra Mooloolaba Beach

**BOTTOM:** The Macquarie Conference Centre at Peppers Noosa Resort & Villas

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

**WE'RE HIRING!**  
INTERNATIONAL PET TRAVEL CONSULTANT  
BRISBANE MELBOURNE SYDNEY  
FULL TIME  
MON-FRI | 9AM-5PM

Join our team of pet-loving professionals helping pets travel safely across Australia and around the world.

EMAIL YOUR RESUME & COVER LETTER TO [HUMAN.RESOURCES@JETPETS.COM.AU](mailto:HUMAN.RESOURCES@JETPETS.COM.AU)

# Viking ends Antarctica season on a high note

AS VIKING'S final Antarctica voyage of the season draws to a close at the end of Q1, the cruise line is delighted to share a selection of photos from a recent famil, celebrating another successful season exploring the White Continent.

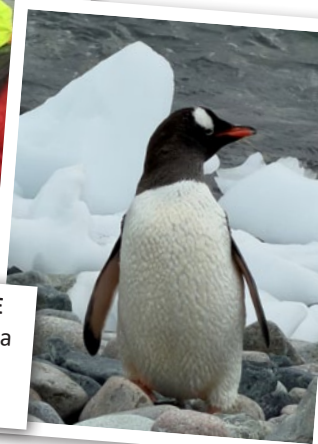
Steve Parker, Viking's commercial manager for New Zealand, and Simon Treloar, Viking's director, consumer marketing, had the pleasure of hosting eight valued travel advisors and their travelling companions on the 13-day 'Antarctic Explorer' voyage aboard *Viking Polar*.

Together, they experienced the very best of expedition travel, from submarine dives beneath the icy surface and up-close wildlife encounters to kayaking among polar landscapes.

Back on board, guests enjoyed the comfort of *Viking Polar*, including the Nordic Spa, six onboard dining options and enriching lectures in The Aula, the ship's state-of-the-art panoramic auditorium.



**DAY** one adventure: exploring the beauty of Melchior Islands.



**AN UP-CLOSE** encounter with a curious Gentoo penguin.



**STEVE** Parker, Viking; Mark Nicholson, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Michael Gazal, TravelManagers; Simon Treloar, Viking; Christine Dagostino, Cruiseabout; and Kelly Little, Travel Associates.



**WILDLIFE** encounters were abundant, with majestic Humpback whales making frequent appearances.



**SIMON** Treloar, Viking; Carol Sutton, House of Travel Hamilton City; Steve Park, Viking; Jenny Neilson, House of Travel Hastings; Shane Kennedy, House of Travel Tauranga; and Kate Smyth, House of Travel Morrinsville.



**JENNY** Neilson, House of Travel Hastings; Shane Kennedy, House of Travel Tauranga; Steve Parker, Viking; Kate Smyth, House of Travel Morrinsville; Carol Sutton, House of Travel Hamilton City.



**ZODIAC** cruising beneath the towering ice.



**VIKING'S** Steve Parker ticks off his seventh continent - Antarctica conquered.



**VIKING** Polar.



**KATE** Smyth and Carol Sutton enjoying a submarine excursion.

## CORPORATE UPDATE

### China eases conflict pain

CHINA and other Asian aviation hubs are emerging as critical transit points for business travellers amid global airspace disruptions caused by the Middle East conflict.

New figures from the flagship business travel divisions of Flight Centre Travel Group, FCM Travel and Corporate Traveller, show that passenger volumes through key Asian airports have increased by 17% over the last few days.

China has seen the biggest uplift, with a rise of 86% from Mon 02 Mar-Thu 05 Mar compared to Mon 23 Feb-Thu 26 Feb, while Malaysia also recorded



a pax volume boost of 13%.

“The safety and well-being of our customers and staff is our top priority during this challenging time - we’re closely and actively monitoring the situation,” said Melissa Elf, global COO, FCM Travel and Corporate Traveller.

“Business travel is known for its resilience and flexibility, with companies looking at alternative routes that are safe to travel through, rather than cancelling.

“Our latest data shows that corporates continue to find ways through alternative routes to get deals done,” she added. JM

### GBTA forums in Oz

THE Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) will host a series of events around Australia and New Zealand next week to explore the issues that are currently facing the business travel sector.

Kicking off in Brisbane on 11 Mar, the one-day forums will bring together corporate travel managers, procurement leaders, airlines, hotels, technology providers, and other crucial players.

Attendees will hear expert insights on hot topics, ranging from AI, workforce mobility and business trends, as well have the chance to connect with peers and key industry figures.

For details on how to register for each event, click [HERE](#). JM

### HA biz class bites

HAWAIIAN Airlines has unveiled a new business class menu on the Sydney-Honolulu route, developed by the carrier’s new executive chef, Dell Valdez.

Debuting this week, menu items included tender braised short rib with a scallion ginger risotto and seasonal vegetables, and herb roasted pork loin with a soy kabocha squash puree.

The menu is the first of many changes for the carrier over the next five years, including a redesign of cabin interiors on its Airbus A330 aircraft, which operates the SYD-HNL route. JM

Travel Daily  
**SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON MALAYSIA WITH TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY**  
 Click here to discover



### How to handle a crisis



BUNNIK Tours has offered a behind-the-scenes look at its crisis management over the last few days, following the start of the Iranian conflict.

The tour operator recounted how its emergency assist (EA) team kicked into gear on Sat night to reach out to passengers who were about to depart and whose flights were cancelled as a result of airspace closures.

“Through the night they reached out to our teams in Egypt and Jordan to get assessments on what was happening on the ground,” Dennis Bunnik, joint-CEO of Bunnik Tours, said in a blog posted to the company’s website on Wed.

“On Sun morning, our crisis management team was activated and Marion, Sacha and I had our first conference call.

“During the day our EA team and myself were in communication with various

clients overseas,” he explained.

When the crisis team held its first in-person meeting on Mon morning, the company had already created a full report on which tours and passengers were impacted, along with efforts to confirm the safety of all clients and team members, and halting all online advertising for the Middle East.

One part of Bunnik Tours’ operational team focused on clients currently on-tour in impacted regions, while other operational and sales staff concentrated on managing upcoming tours.

“Our ticketing team have performed some absolute miracles this week,” Dennis Bunnik said, also recounting his participation at various industry and media debriefings throughout the week. JM

Read the full account from Bunnik Tours [HERE](#).



**OUT NOW:**  
**SOUTHEAST ASIA SPECIAL REPORT**  
**» CLICK HERE TO READ**



## SPECIALS

Send your special deals to:  
specials@traveldaily.com.au

**Cebu Pacific** is holding its 30-year anniversary sale, with flights to the Philippines from \$213 one-way, for travel between 01 Nov and 31 Mar 2027. The airline is also offering domestic connections to other parts of the country from Manila. Click [HERE](#) to see the flights on offer before the sale ends 11 Mar.

**Jetstar Holidays** has launched its Bali Packages Sale with five-night packages from \$562pp. Resorts featured include SEVN Legian, Bali Dynasty Resort, and Mercure Bali Legian. Sale ends 11 Mar unless sold out prior, and travel dates vary. Click [HERE](#) to see more.

Sri Lankan luxury boutique resort collection **Resplendent Ceylon** is offering its guests savings of up to 25% on a select number of its family-friendly seasonal experiences. These include estate walks, tea factory visits, and tea-infused dining sessions. Contact the brand [HERE](#).

**Daydream Island Resort** is launching a family holiday package from \$399 per night including kids (2-12) staying and eating free, \$200 dining credit, and a guaranteed room upgrade. The package is available on travel until 31 Mar 2027. Bookings can be made [HERE](#).

To celebrate its 85th birthday, **Philippine Airlines** is having a sale with return flights to the Philippines from \$794. The deal ends 15 Mar with no set travel period. More information on the sale [HERE](#).

**Wendy Wu Tours** has launched The Ultimate Flight Sale with either free or 50% off airfares on all group tour dates. Itineraries on offer include traditional Asian tours along with newly introduced departures for Africa and America. Check out the sale [HERE](#) before it ends 27 Mar.

**Fiji Airways** is offering up to 50% off one-way international fares from the Gold Coast, including Fiji from \$215, North America from \$499, Samoa and Tonga from \$389, and Japan from \$519. The sale ends 09 Mar with a travel period between 11 Jun and 28 Feb 2027. See more [HERE](#).

**Cruise Traveller** has launched its 11-night Ancient Wonders Unveiled package, departing 23 Jun aboard the 264-guest yacht *Le Boreal* from \$10,099pp twin share. The package also includes two-night stays in Athens and Istanbul before and after the sailing. Click [HERE](#) to book before 20 Mar.

**Trafalgar** has introduced spotlight savings with 30% off select 2026 river cruise sailings between Apr and Jun. Featured itineraries on sale include Best of the Rhine and Amsterdam, as well as Best of the Danube. See more [HERE](#).

**HX HAS** announced additional departures with no solo supplement across its 2026 and 2027 seasons. New locations include the Galapagos Islands, Antarctica, the North West Passage, and Svalbard. See more of the offerings [HERE](#).

## Brooks visits Sydney



**STEPHANIE** Brooks, vice president of product & operations at Globus family of brands (GFOB), visited the company's Sydney office this week.

In her first trip to Australia, she addressed the Sydney team on notable product updates and provided local agents with the opportunity to ask questions to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of key offerings.

Brook's arrival comes at a

pivotal time as GFOB has plans to not only expand its catalogue of offerings for the near future (**TD** 10 Nov 2025) but also curate packages that make them stand out from the competition (**TD** 19 May 2025). *JB*

## Sun rising at Mai

**MAI** Sunset Beach resort in Fiji's Yasawa Islands will reopen 01 Apr following its acquisition by South Sea Cruises Group and significant redevelopments to the property.

The beachfront resort is located on a 1.5km stretch of sand on Naviti Island, comprised of 10 keys, alongside the addition of beach tents, adventure tents and garden bures, with a shared accommodation option set to be introduced in Oct.

Guests can also enjoy beach front massages, dedicated water sports, and upgraded communal and recreational spaces.

Bookings for the resort are now open for stays starting in Apr. *JB*



## Girl power in aviation

**VIRGIN** Australia has invited almost 60 schoolgirls from across Queensland to take part in its Future Aviators Program.

The students will take a day off school to get a behind the scenes look into Virgin's operations including tours of the maintenance hangar and cabin crew training facilities, alongside the opportunity to step into VA's new Boeing 737 MAX-8 aircraft.

In its second year, the program aims to encourage more girls to pursue a career in aviation, especially in underrepresented areas such as engineering and flight operations. *JB*

# THE APT TRAVEL GROUP

## Honouring Queensland's TOP PERFORMERS

VIPs are at the heart of The APT Travel Group, and that spirit was front and centre at the Awards Dinner in Queensland. Industry representatives from key VIP agencies and retail network head offices joined APT to celebrate those who set the benchmark in 2025. Adding to the occasion, owner of The APT Travel Group, Lou Tandy shared a business update with partners on the night. Queensland's agents brought infectious enthusiasm to the night, creating a lively atmosphere of celebration and dancing. Among the standout achievements, Flight Centre Bundaberg was honoured as the Top Performing Agency for 2025, while Flight Centre Tweed City took home the Rising Star award, marking an impressive year for both stores.



The APT Travel Group's Chief Sales Officer, Scott Ellis hosted the awards night with Owner, Lou Tandy



Melanie Trani and Samantha Gesch from Top Performing QLD Agency, Flight Centre Bundaberg, pictured with Madison Baier and Scott Ellis



Evan Savickas and Ramin Moeini from Outstanding Sales Award recipient Flight Centre Carindale, with Lou Tandy, Madison Baier and Scott Ellis



Ben Dolphin from Exceptional Performance Award winner, Helloworld Mount Pleasant pictured with Lou Tandy, Marlene Nolan and Scott Ellis



McGeary Club honouree Our Vacation Centre's Hilkay Wong, Jordan Ring, Eileen Corbett, Greg Thorn, and Madelyn Samuels



Shonny Day, and Vanessa Caton from Outstanding Sales Award recipient Flight Centre Northlakes, with Lou Tandy, Marlene Nolan and Scott Ellis



Rising Star winner Flight Centre Tweed City's Blake MacKenzie and Aidan Thomas with Tatiana Parry and Scott Ellis



Georgina Chamarenko and Belinda Gormack from Local Area Marketing Award winner Fruition Globe Pty Ltd, with Lou Tandy, Madison Baier and Scott Ellis



Kirstyn Bliss, Laura Hermann and Bernie Freyling from Toowoomba Cruise & Travel awarded Diamond Agency



Scroll down for more highlights from the night

# THE APT TRAVEL GROUP

## Honouring Queensland's TOP PERFORMERS



Global Journeys were awarded McGeary Club honours and celebrated their consultants all reaching the Million Dollar Club



Platinum Agency, Gallivanter Travel Rockhampton's Sheron Konig and Andrea Thomasson with Marlene Nolan



Sally and Scott Hennessy from Platinum Agency, Australian Tours and Cruises and Travellers' Choice's Kerrie Selby with Karen Newbury



Top performing agents from Flight Centre enjoying a night of celebration



Top performing agents from Helloworld Travel Group gather to celebrate their achievements



Chirn Park Travel awarded Diamond Agency. Laura Shackell and Dominique Orange with Tatiana and Scott



The Queensland Sales team from The APT Travel Group – Marlene Nolan, Karen Newbury, Madison Baier and Tatiana Parry



Travel Associates Runaway Bay awarded Diamond Agency. Lisa Levido and Sam Reynolds with Tatiana and Scott

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE ON YOUR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS!

