

Today's issue of TD

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

World360 in flight

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's World360 Rewards division has launched a points promotion on Qantas domestic flights booked through Flight Centre, Travel Associates and Cruiseabout.

Bookings between 01-30 Sep will earn one point per dollar spent, plus 250 bonus points under the promotion.

Qantas Frequent Flyers can also earn their standard Qantas Points on eligible flights, while credit card rewards may provide an additional earn opportunity.

The promotion follows World360 partnerships with tour and cruise operators including Collette, AmaWaterways, Viking and Back-Roads. ZH

Zenith names new CEO

ZENITH Payments, the company behind TravelPay, has named Anthony Drury as CEO, who will work closely with customers and partners across the group's specialist brands.

Drury, who served on the then AFTA board as non-executive director, joins with over two decades of experience in leading payment and tech businesses with executive roles at American Express and PayPal, plus a stint as head of corporate and distribution at easyJet.

"Payments are changing faster than ever, and there's a big opportunity to help travel agents and suppliers get paid and spend more time on their business,"

Clipping the stars

ENTIRE Travel Group is committed to helping agents better sell Star Clippers to their clients - see **back page** for info.



Drury said.

The new recruit also had a six-month stint as managing director - ANZ at Xero in 2024.

He steps into the role as current CEO Kevin Butler moves into the newly created chief payments officer position, focused on integration solutions, partnerships, product functionality and other strategic initiatives, including TravelPay's continued growth among travel agents and suppliers.

"Leading the Zenith business units for much of my time here has been one of the privileges of my career...I will focus on the areas I love best: our integration solutions, payment partners and products," Butler said. ZH

TD TRAVEL DAILY
ON LOCATION



BRISBANE

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you from **Brisbane**, where the **2026 Australian Cruise Association** conference is taking place.

MORE than 150 delegates are in Brisbane for this year's Australian Cruise Association conference, themed: 'Building Value Beyond the Berth'.

Attendees will hear from Cruise Association chief executive officer Jill Abel, Cruise Lines International Association chief executive officer Bud Darr, and a range of international speakers from cruise lines such as Holland America and Viking.

The evening will see guests throw their glad rags on for a Gatsby-themed celebration at Howard Smith Wharves.

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Thursday 3rd Sep 2026

Nunes leaves NCLH

LONG-TIME Oceania Cruises BDM Martine Nunes has announced that she will be leaving the cruise line, moving into an operational role working with Australian ports.

Nunes has been with NCLH since 2015, including 11 years focusing on Oceania. JB



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Expedia TAAP

Oz not getting fair share

THE healthy global growth currently being enjoyed by the cruise sector is not being reflected here in Australia, according to Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) president and CEO Bud Darr.

Speaking yesterday on the eve of the Australia Cruise Association conference in Brisbane, Darr said he arrived in Australia with "mixed feelings" about the sector's local performance.

The CLIA chief said that while he personally enjoys a close connection with Australia and its commitment to cruising, he also said that the local market was not earning its share of the market.

"What concerns me is that while the rest of the cruise industry is growing...we carried 34.3 million guests in 2024, 37.3 million in 2025, and we will hit 42 million by about 2029 - that [growth] is not being mirrored here in Australia," Darr said.

"I think the question that needs to be asked by those in a position to control it is 'Are we getting our share of the growth and not just maintaining the status quo?'"

Darr also placed a figure on the lost economic opportunity in Australia, stating the market had fallen short by \$1.1 billion YoY.

"That is a really big number when you're talking about a \$7.3 billion denominator.

"Australia has so much going for it, it's a wonderful destination and a strong source market, and I mean 1.1 million cruisers from



Australia out of a population of 27 million is extraordinary."

While the high cost of doing business in Australia has been well documented, Darr said that the market does not have to be "off the charts" more expensive to scare off investment, just moderately more to slip down the list of ship deployment. AB

CTM share plunge

FORMER Corporate Travel Management (CTM) managing director Jamie Pherous has seen his equity in the business drop by a staggering \$225 million after the business started trading today following a 12-month hiatus (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

Pherous' shareholding dropped in value from \$267.6 million to \$43 million after CTM's stocks plummeted today on the back of recent accountability scandals.

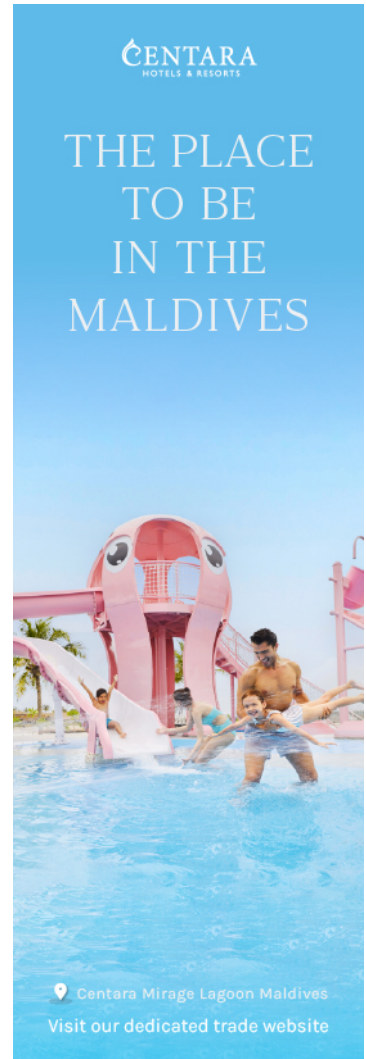
At the time of publishing, CTM's share price was down over 80% to \$3.07 a share.

While the Aussie travel management company has endured a horror 18 months, CTM recently extended a key contract in the UK (**TD** 10 Aug 2026) and was also cleared of systemic overcharging by the Federal Govt (**TD** 31 Aug 2026).

DFAT advisory update

AMID reprisal attacks taking place across the Middle East, Smarttraveller has reaffirmed that the warning level for the UAE, Qatar and Israel remains at 'reconsider your need to travel'.

Meanwhile, Lebanon also remains at 'do not travel' due to a high-risk security situation. AB



Discover the Northern Territory at NT Muster 2026

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Melbourne Tuesday, 8 September Crowne Plaza Melbourne

Brisbane Wednesday, 9 September Emporium Hotel Brisbane

Sydney Thursday, 10 September InterContinental Sydney by IHG

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Thursday 3rd Sep 2026

Altura welcomes trade

ALTURA Global has opened its platform to Australian and New Zealand travel professionals, enabling direct access to independently vetted DMCs across more than 30 countries and six global regions.

Designed by industry veteran Brett Harvey (pictured), the platform helps agents connect with overseas ground operators, product managers, advisors, and wholesalers, while tour operators can browse vetted DMC profiles and submit structured quote requests direct to local operators.

"The ANZ trade has always needed a faster, more trustworthy way to find and work with overseas ground handlers," Harvey said.

"Too often it comes down to word of mouth, or a cold enquiry into the unknown - Altura Global exists to close that gap."

Partners are assessed against



Altura's 'Six Pillar Framework', which covers operational and legal standing, service delivery, risk and crisis management, communications, financial transparency and responsible tourism practice.

"The badge on a partner's profile is a signal the trade can trust," Harvey said.

"It means the licensing, the insurance, the crisis planning and sustainability standards have actually been checked, not just claimed," he added.

Italy's AG Group headlines the platform's launch, bringing 41 properties and more than 60 white label Italian itineraries.

The platform is free for the ANZ trade, with quotes returned through its quote request tool carrying no commission.

Harvey also hinted at expansion plans, including specialist DMCs covering areas such as cycling and adventure.

"Wherever in the world the [Australian] trade wants to build a trip, we want a vetted, trusted specialist on Altura they can deal with directly." ZH

AQZ raises the bar

ALLIANCE Aviation Services Limited (AQZ) has announced its retail entitlement offer, allowing current shareholders to buy a new share for every 5.6 shares owned at 70 cents each.

The move will see AQZ raise a projected \$7 million from retail shareholders and \$33 million from institutional investors.

Shareholders can redeem the offer between now and 11 Sep 5:00pm AEST, with the option to buy all, some or none of the entitled shares. JB



MTA Advisor:
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Solomon Airlines cuts Airbus fleet

SOLOMON Airlines has flagged soft forecasts of Australian and New Zealand travellers as one of the key factors in its decision to return one of its two international aircraft at the end of its lease in May next year.

In announcing the return of the A320-200, the board also highlighted its intent to add two Twin Otter aircraft to the fleet.

CEO Matt Findlay described the move as more than a reaction to the ongoing global fuel crisis and costs: "We are also seeing the impact of forecast softer Australian and New Zealand market conditions."

Solomon Airlines will reduce Auckland-Vanuatu flights and suspend Vanuatu-Christchurch services from Nov while Honiara-Port Moresby flights will also pause before resuming operations in mid-Dec 2026.

All existing impacted bookings will be honoured. ZH

King taps Caswell

JULIE King & Associates (JKA) has named Anna Caswell as its new director of communications and content to lead its portfolio of travel clients.

"Anna brings a powerful combination of strategic thinking, destination experience, exceptional media relationships and a strong instinct for identifying the stories and opportunities that will resonate in market," JKA founder and CEO Julie King said.

Caswell joins with extensive experience across travel, destination marketing and PR, and brings a strong understanding of travel media landscapes.

She was most recently the head of travel and lifestyle at Anne Wild & Associates before it closed down operations (TD 19 Mar 2026).

"I'm excited to dig deeper into the stories that go beyond the expected and to work with the Destination Canada team to bring stories to life," Caswell said. ZH



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Celestyal is chilled

CELESTYAL has opened bookings for seven new winter sailings for 2027/28 on board the 1,260 guest *Celestyal Journey*.

Operating from 01 Dec 2027, the additions include four seven-night 'Mediterranean Mosaics' trips, two departing Athens, as well as two from Istanbul. *JB*

SWISS preps meals

SWISS is now offering its meal pre-selection service for pax on economy, available on long-haul flights of at least six hours.

Guests can choose between a meat and vegetarian dish for their main course, with selections able to be made between six weeks and 24 hours from departure.

Economy passengers can also pre-order meals for short-haul flights on the SWISS Saveurs menu, with a 10% discount on the onboard price.

Selections can be made on the SWISS app or website. *JB*

Vietnam seeks more value

VIETNAM is set to introduce a preferential visa system as the government shifts its focus from chasing volume to placing a higher value on travellers with big budgets and extended itineraries.

Under a new Politburo resolution, the government will prioritise visitors who it considers to make a significant contribution to tourism, although details surrounding the qualifying threshold, benefits and timeline have not yet been announced.

Compulsory travel insurance for international visitors will also be introduced, the govt noted.

Visa arrangements will also be made more flexible for key markets, with wider bilateral visa exemptions planned.

The strategy targets 45-50 million international visitors by 2030 and US\$80-90 billion (A \$112-126m) in tourism revenue, with tourism expected to contribute 10%-12% to GDP.



Crucially, the resolution calls for priority to be given to visitors who spend more and stay longer.

Vietnam is also looking to attract long-stay visitors and remote workers, while expanding high-end resorts, shopping, wellness, entertainment and cruise infrastructure.

Phu Quoc (pictured) has been identified as a future high-end beach resort and international events hub as part of the plan.

The move follows a record 21.2 million international arrivals in 2025, up 20.4%, with Vietnam now targeting 25 million visitors this year. *ZH*



Window Seat

DRINKING can lead to foolish endeavours, but even on our wildest nights, I would venture to say that most of us have not woken up in a wrecked plane surrounded by sunflowers.

That was the unique experience of a 24-year-old pilot in Hungary, who got drunk, stole a Cessna 172 aircraft, and promptly crashed it into a field - but not before coming uncomfortably close to a nuclear power plant.

Two fighter jets were sent to the area after the plane was detected by military radar in a no-fly zone, and found it badly damaged in a nearby sunflower field.

As for the rogue pilot, he escaped without so much as a scratch, and even tried to make a run for it.



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(The "Offer") applies to new bookings made from 1 September 2026 to 9 November 2026 ("Offer Period") for selected HX departures from 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2028. Bookings made outside of the Offer Period will not qualify. 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 double occupancy of cabin on the specified sailing or Tour Code. 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.



Michelin lands in SA

MICHELIN Guide South Australia is set to unveil its inaugural restaurant selection on 14 Oct at a special ceremony at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

The event is expected to attract industry leaders, chefs, and restaurateurs from around the world, showcasing SA as an emerging foodie destination.

"What has particularly impressed our Inspectors is the strong sense of place that runs through South Australia's dining scene," Gwendal Poullennec, international director of the Michelin Guide, said.

Beyond Adelaide's CBD, restaurants across the state draw inspiration from growers to celebrated wine regions and ingredients distinctive to the South Australian landscape. *JM*

Risk not always nationwide

EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING on from comments made this week by Leatherback Travel founder and CEO Mat Newton (*TD* 01 Sep 2026), the travel company owner believes Smartraveller should place a greater emphasis on travel advisories for specific regions rather than countries.

Newton told *Travel Daily* that more nuanced and detailed maps could reflect "the true risky zones of a nation rather than targeting an entire country".

He also contended that Smartraveller has a tendency to skim over the tight visa and insurance protocols many of these 'risky' countries adopt, pointing out that Iraq does not even allow travellers in without insurance.

"[It's] one of the few countries in the world where they check your insurance at the border.

"When you sign up for a visa, you can also sign up for insurance



on the spot."

Newton went on to explain that Lebanon has a similar protocol through a national insurance scheme underwritten by Allianz.

"That helps solve those concerns that Australians may have about being able to find an Australian-owned or operated provider," he said.

Both Iraq and Lebanon are currently at level four, which is 'do not travel'.

In addition to Newton's observations, Courtney Harman, general manager at Leatherback subbrand Patch Adventures, reassured that the company has measures in place when a destination becomes too risky, drawing on a recent example of needing to redirect a Jordan itinerary to Morocco. *JB*

TUI loses its cool

TUI River Cruises is preparing to carry out a major upgrade of the air-conditioning systems across its European river fleet after multiple technical problems during the region's summer season.

On one sailing, temperatures reportedly reached around 30 degrees, requiring portable fans to be brought in, while public areas on board *TUI Skyla* were said to have hit up to 40 degrees.

TUI Cruises said record-breaking temperatures in Europe put extra pressure on on-board cooling systems, with engineering teams conducting inspections, repairs or maintenance over the next couple of months.

The cruise line's air-conditioning systems are expected to be finished being upgraded or replaced by Mar 2027. *JM*

Total pax demand up

TOTAL air passenger demand grew 0.2% in Jul, despite year-on-year collective declines by carriers in North America and the Middle East, according to the latest data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Asia-Pacific airlines saw a 0.7% YoY increase in demand, although capacity shrunk by 1.7%, while European carriers recorded a healthy uptick of 3.1% in demand alongside a 3.2% rise in capacity.

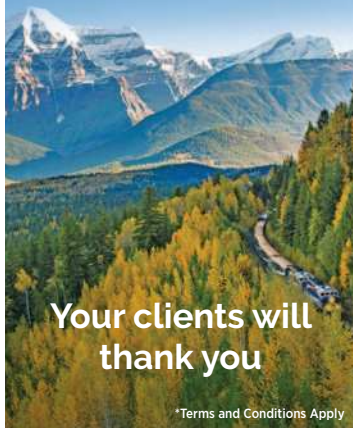
"Although high fuel costs, economic uncertainty and geopolitical tensions continue, carriers are expressing confidence in demand for the last part of the year with an almost 3% expansion of seat capacity in September," Marie Owens Thomsen, IATA's SVP sustainability and chief economist, said. *JM*

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EY unveils campaign

ETIHAD Airways has launched a new brand campaign, 'Beyond Borders', reflecting an ambitious new chapter for the carrier as it invests A\$28 billion over the next 10 years in new aircraft.

The centrepiece of the marketing push is a film featuring the stories of five real people across Abu Dhabi, Nairobi, New York, Phuket and Paris, including Suaad Al Suwaidi, the first female Arab wildlife photographer and conservation storyteller.

Five of Etihad's global sponsors also feature in the new brand push, including Manchester City's Erling Haaland and McLaren's Oscar Piastri. *JM*

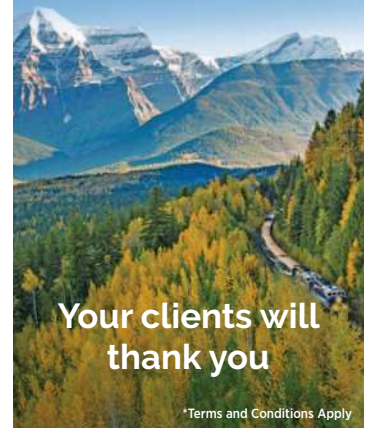


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AI helping smaller players

EXCLUSIVE

THE increased use of artificial intelligence (AI) in trip planning has paved the way for independent and boutique hotels to gain greater exposure than larger brands, according to Christian De Boer, managing director of Jaya House River Park in Siem Reap.

Speaking with *Travel Daily*, De Boer (**pictured**) credits the property's 11% YoY booking increase to AI platforms such as ChatGPT in broadening its reach.

"Earlier on in the year, you would hear about [AI referrals] occasionally, and then suddenly there was an enormous spike in people saying, 'oh yeah, I found you on ChatGPT,'" he said.

"Now it is almost every guest that says in some way, shape or form, they found our little hotel through ChatGPT."

De Boer explained that most of the content that an AI platform could collate on the property comes from user-generated data such as guest reviews, social posts and comments, concluding that AI is ushering in a new era of hotel marketing.

"We have always aimed at making our guests our sales team - and that has given us a lot of visibility now on the likes of ChatGPT and others," he said.

"One review, no-one cares - but if you have 50 reviews that all [have] a similar way of talking - then AI seems to pick it up.

"I think they [major hotel



brands] have to change their way of working quite drastically in order to continue to capture their part of what is traditionally their market share - otherwise, they will lose out to hotels like ourselves," De Boer added.

While the hotel chief conceded that tourism in Siem Reap is down by "quite a lot", he said the property's occupancy is higher than last year, giving Jaya House River Park a much bigger share of the travellers visiting the city.

Located on the Siem Reap River, Jaya House River Park is a boutique hotel comprised of only 36 rooms, along with two swimming pools and an all-day dining venue.

Complementing De Boer's other role of advisor to the United Nations on sustainable tourism, the property was also the first in Cambodia to be 100% single-use plastic-free. *JB*

Uniworld adds mystery



UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has unveiled eight new itineraries for 2028 to complement the launch of its three new Super Ships (*TD* 22 Jul 2026).

The fresh batch of journeys will explore lesser-known destinations along the Danube and Rhine, as well as introduce new ways to experience Germany and France during the holiday season.

Highlights include the 30-day 'Amsterdam to the Black Sea' sailing on board the new *SS Helen* or *SS Clara*, and the 15-day 'Grand France Holiday' on *SS Catherine* and *SS Joie de Vivre*.

Uniworld is also putting a new spin on its Mystery Cruise concept in 2028, with a new 11-day 'Mystery Journey' that the line said will "take the element of surprise beyond the river".

Departing 15 Jun, the only hints revealed about the itinerary are that guests will arrive through Luxembourg Airport and depart from Zurich Airport.

Ellen Bettridge, president and CEO of Uniworld, said: "2028 has been open for sale in ANZ for a few weeks now and we are seeing huge demand for the programs on our new-build fleet." *JM*

Honduras warning

SMARTTRAVELLER has updated its Honduras travel advice, urging travellers to reconsider their need to visit Olancho, Yoro and Colon (excluding Trujillo) due to growing threats of violent crime.

A high degree of caution should be exercised nationwide, with risks including carjackings, armed robberies and kidnappings.

Travellers should arrange airport transfers in daylight, ensure vehicle doors are locked and avoid going out after dark.

The government has also advised using official border crossings during daylight, taking care using ATMs and avoiding unattended food or drinks. *ZH*

Tempting Tahiti

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Paul Gauguin
CRUISES

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Thursday 3rd Sep 2026

Viking hosts Seine-sational trip

VIKING recently hosted a summer famil for top-performing agents, sailing the 'Heart of Paris and the Heart of Normandy' itinerary on board the brand-new *Viking Fjolvar*.

Highlights included visiting Notre-Dame and the Louvre, as well as enjoying front-row seats at the Moulin Rouge and exploring riverside villages such as L'Andelys, La Roche-Guyon and Rouen.

RACT Travel's Christine Benbow loved cruising the Seine and particularly appreciated the short distances travelling between ports, "allowing more time to enjoy the wonderful castles, medieval villages, gardens and unique historical attractions in this area steeped in history, from Lionheart to Joan of Arc".

"Life on board a Viking river ship offers understated luxury with every need catered for, from comfortable suites to sumptuous cuisine - the atmosphere is relaxed but with plenty of entertainment and options to join in," she told *Travel Daily*.

"I highly recommend Viking and this particular itinerary to immerse yourself in the excitement of Paris and the soul healing of Monet's garden."

Attendees included: Renay Marrett, Helloworld Travel Newcastle; Freya Berry, Helloworld Travel; Kelsie Brown, RACT Travel; and Maddison Green, Kieran Mackenzie and Summer Matthews, Cruise Travel Centre.

The trip was hosted by Viking's Shaun Kavanagh, Cat Woods and Angela Marotta.



THE famil started with a tour showcasing the highlights of Paris, including the Louvre.



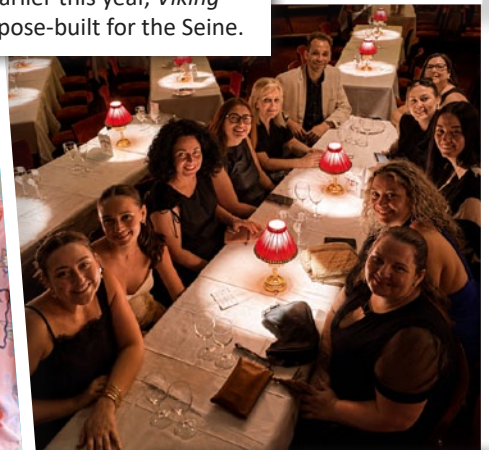
LAUNCHED earlier this year, *Viking Fjolvar* was purpose-built for the Seine.



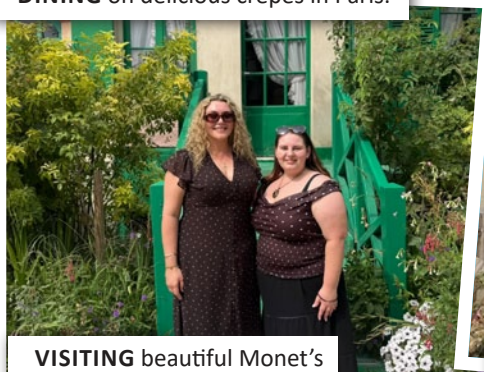
DINING on delicious crepes in Paris.



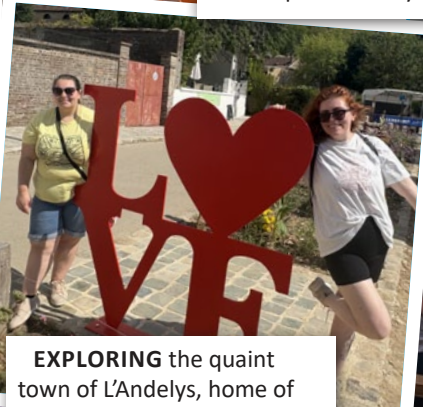
ON BOARD *Viking Fjolvar* with Captain Wendy Vandeville.



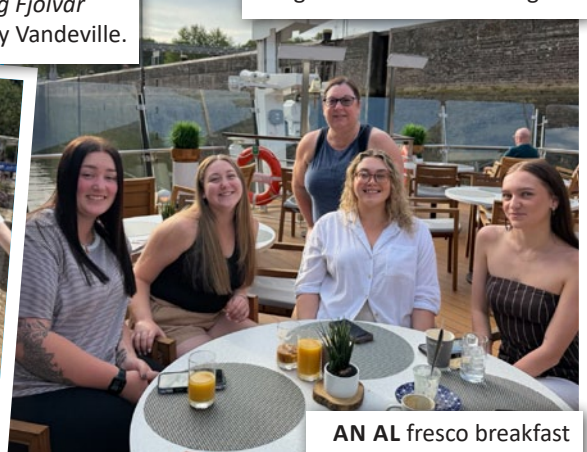
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AN AL fresco breakfast on the Aquavit terrace.



AVANI GETS SERIOUS ABOUT EVENTS

THE Avani Mooloolaba Beach Hotel has grown its business events offerings, expanding on the MICE potential of the Sunshine Coast (**TD** 30 Jul 2026).

Within the property are five new event spaces, including a 274m² ballroom with a capacity of 200 guests.

Other facilities include the 85m² Mooloolaba room with a breakout terrace, the 62m² Headland and Glasshouse rooms, as well as the 65m² Cove, accommodating up to 16 guests boardroom-style and around 50 attendees cocktail-style.

All of the spaces can be combined or divided depending on the nature of the event.

The function experience is further complemented by integrated in-house AV, a dedicated events team and locally-led catering services.



Kenneth Wagner, managing director of the hotel's owner and operator KPAT Hotels, said that investing in MICE is about placing more confidence in the Sunshine Coast's broader visitor economy.

"The Sunshine Coast has all the ingredients of an outstanding business events destination - strong air access, an exceptional natural environment and a growing food, tourism and

hospitality sector," Wagner said.

"What has been missing is more contemporary full-service hotel infrastructure that allows businesses to bring their people together, accommodate them under one roof, and create an experience that extends well beyond the conference room."

Dubbed 'The New Way to Meet', event programs at Avani Mooloolaba Hotel can incorporate activities such as yoga, painting, bootcamps and off-site experiences, with the emphasis on taking delegates beyond the office environment.

Clients can also opt for more traditional event formats.

Day delegate packages start from \$100pp for a full day and include meeting spaces, several meals throughout the day, barista coffee, hydration stations, wi-fi and an event concierge. *JB*

Adelaide advances

BUSINESS Events Adelaide has appointed two in-market international contractors, with the aim of growing the city's global reach.

Frances Iacono has joined as associate director of partnerships North America.

Based in New York City, Iacono has over 20 years of experience in delivering conferences and corporate events across Australia.

Joining her is Amanda Pelvay, who will step into the role of associate director of partnerships, UK & Europe.

With 12 years' experience, Pelvay is based in London and has joined from Pan Pacific Hotels Group, where she worked at a property in London focusing on luxury meetings and events. *JB*

WSI to open the door for events in Western Sydney

WESTERN Sydney is entering a "defining period" for incentive travel and business events on the eve of passenger flights at Nancy-Bird Walton International Airport (WSI), according to Panthers Group CEO Andrew Hill (**pictured**).

The rapid growth of Western Sydney has created the ideal environment for business travel and events, Hill said.

"It's no longer about wanting to be here, corporate Australia



needs to be here," he said.

"Panthers Group has built the facilities to ensure we are the destination of choice as the region stands up on the global stage," Hill added.

The group currently owns the

168-acre Panthers Precinct in Penrith, home of the Western Sydney Convention Centre and Pullman Sydney Penrith, which is a 20-minute drive from the new airport.

Last year, the centre hosted the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.

Revenue from meetings and events in the precinct has reportedly doubled since 2023, with active event bids extending into 2030. *JB*

Monica at MCEC

MELBOURNE Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has appointed Monica Rizzi to the newly-created role of general manager, operations.

She has joined from Harry the Hirer, where she was general manager of events.

In addition, Rizzi has held other senior leadership posts in the events sector, including roles with organisations such as Crown, Atlantic Group and Dann Event Hire. *JB*



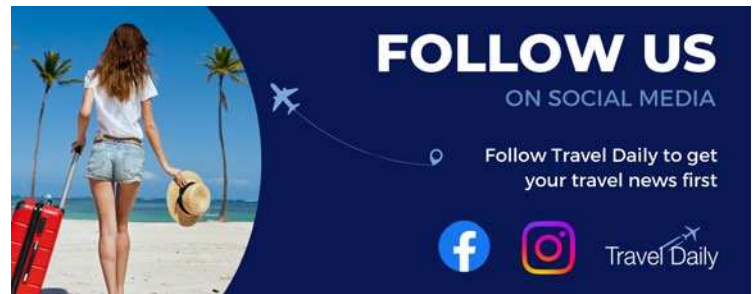
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APPOINTMENTS

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David Fredericks has been appointed as deputy chair at **Airservices Australia**. He has extensive experience in the public sector, most recently serving as secretary of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. In addition, the board has reappointed **Nicolle Connelly** as a director, first joining in Aug 2023.

Christian Sansom has left his position of direct sales manager - APAC at Scenic - Luxury Cruises & Tours to take on the role of head of sales - APAC at **Equity Transport Group**. He joined Scenic in Feb this year. Sansom's resume also includes time spent as head of sales - APAC roles at both Traveltek and HBX Group.

Luxury Escapes has appointed **Lloyd Hesson** as head of market management, following a 16-plus-year tenure at Expedia Group. During his time at the OTA, he held roles such as senior business development manager, market manager and product (accommodation) manager - Central & Eastern Europe.

APT Travel has promoted chief product and operations officer **Mladen Vukic** to the role of chief operating officer. He has been with the company since 2007, starting out in its reservations team. Other notable roles held include general manager - products and operations, as well as head of Botanica & small ships.

Jade Shaw has been appointed by **Globus family of brands** as its product marketing manager - APAC. She joins from Luxury Escapes where she held the role of partnerships and contracting manager - cruise. This is in addition to holding multiple product roles at blue-chip brand such as Helloworld, Cruise Express and Creative Cruising.

Lauren Tesch has joined **Capella Hotel Group** as regional director of sales, Australia and New Zealand. She assumed the role after a stint at travel management firm TAG, where she was commercial director for APAC. Her resume also includes a seven-year stint at Qantas, most notably serving in the role of commercial partnerships manager.

Scenic - Luxury Cruises & Tours has welcomed **Claudia Gross** to the role of integrated marketing campaigns manager, specialising in the Emerald Cruises & Tours brand. She was previously senior lifecycle marketing executive at Big Red Group, spending two years with the company. Before that, she was a marketing communications executive at the International College of Management Sydney.

Lizzie Weigh has been appointed by **Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG)** as global marketing operations leader. She joined FCTG after an almost 11-year tenure with Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ), reaching the position of senior marketing, media and partnerships lead. Her first role with the TEQ was social media and community management specialist, overseeing its social media operations until 2018.

It's high tide for NCL



GREAT Tides Waterpark on Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) Bahamian private island Great Stirrup Cay will open tomorrow (**TD 28 May 2026**), as content creators and other special guests gain a sneak peek of the new holiday attraction.

The water park is home to an array of rides, slides and other attractions, such as the 52-metre Tidal Tower; the 244-metre Wandering River, a dynamic river with a swim-up bar; and the family-friendly Splash Cay, featuring a large tipping bucket and eight mini slides.

Guests can enjoy an array of food trucks, ranging from barbecue at Low Tide Smoke, seafood at Catch of the Cay and ice cream at Tidal Treats

A ceremonial ribbon-cutting event was held at the precinct featuring president and CEO of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings John Chidsey, NCL president Marc Kazlauskas and US ambassador to the Bahamas Herschel Walker.

Following the ceremony, guests were invited into the park to

experience its attractions.

Special guests included professional ice hockey player Taylor Hall and actor Josh Peck.

All NCL cruises to the Bahamas feature a stop in Great Stirrup Cay, with sailings available aboard *Norwegian Getaway* and *Norwegian Aqua*. **JB**

Alright in Ahmedabad

AIR India has introduced its Easy Connect services to Ahmedabad, connecting the city to 26 destinations worldwide.

Travellers can now access Air India's global network from Ahmedabad via Delhi as international transit passengers.

The move means pax can check-in and clear immigration through to their final destination and remove the need to re-check baggage or change terminals while in Delhi.

Connection hubs include Shanghai, Dubai, Amsterdam, Paris, Frankfurt, Vienna, London, Milan, Birmingham, Copenhagen, Rome and Zurich. **JB**



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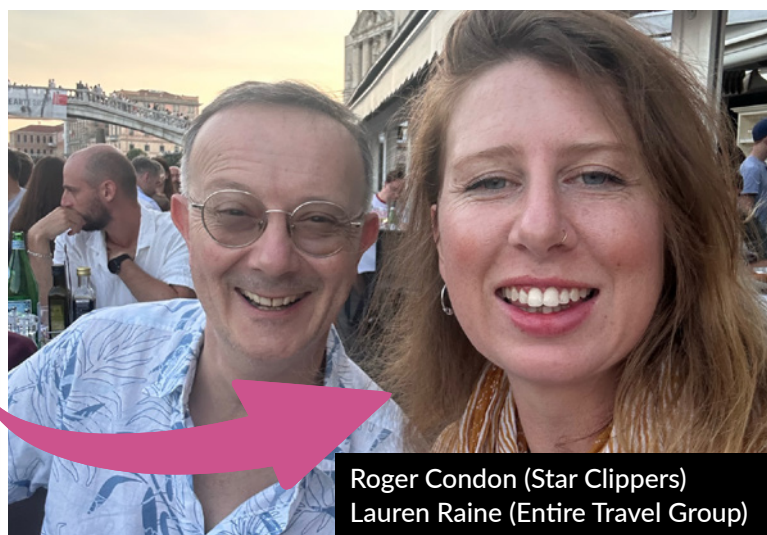


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As the Exclusive GSA for Star Clippers in Australia and New Zealand, Entire Travel Group is committed to helping agents sell with confidence through training, product expertise and firsthand experience. This recent famil voyage aboard Royal Clipper provided participating advisors with valuable insights into the Star Clippers experience, from life onboard to the destinations visited throughout Croatia and Montenegro.

Having experienced the itinerary firsthand, Lauren from our Europe Team would be delighted to assist with product information, recommendations, quotes and bookings.

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