

Industry furious at border comments

OPINION

SUGGESTIONS by Health Department Chief Brendan Murphy that international travel is unlikely to resume until 2022 (**TD** yesterday) have attracted widespread attention, with the travel and tourism sector livid at the thoughtless impact his words have had on confidence.

Asked about the likelihood that international borders would reopen this year, Murphy told *ABC News Breakfast* that “the answer is probably no” - prompting a flurry of negative mainstream headlines.

However it's not all bad news, with Channel 9's *Today* show this morning seeing former ALP leader Bill Shorten saying “I think we're going to have to help bail out our travel agents”.

A number of **Travel Daily** readers have expressed their outrage at Murphy's comments, including this opinion piece from an anonymous industry leader which we are reprinting in full.

Want to join the conversation? Email your contributions to feedback@traveldaily.com.au.

I AM over this pandemic. I am over the hyperbole and politicking at all our expense. The comments yesterday by Brendan Murphy about international travel were damaging, irresponsible and confounding.

We are currently being

encouraged, pressured - and some would say, cornered - into taking a vaccine whose very effectiveness is still being debated.

To only then be told that we still won't be allowed in or out of the country because they do not know whether the vaccine will stop the spread of the virus is just ludicrous.

Would it be appropriate to mention here that the Secretary of the Department of Health does not write policies and that this is the domain of our PM?

Yet ScoMo has shown time and time again that he, nor his elected government, are in charge of the asylum and that the states are the ones running around like Nurse Ratchet.

Almost 12 months on and we are still awaiting a single definition on what a 'hotspot' is.

The constant opening and closing of internal borders has bordered on the absurd and has left the tourism sector in tatters.

There is still a reluctance to help the industry that they are suffocating and one must jump through hoops for any so called assistance past the end of Mar.

And these recent comments by Professor Murphy have just added more fuel to a raging fire.

So why are we not using available technology to allow people to quarantine at home?

By all means, anyone who flouts the rules should be sent off to a camp or hotel (not of their

choosing).

Why hasn't our Government paid to repatriate its own citizens? These repatriation flights could have been paid for using the money saved from having to pay for hotel quarantine in the first place (prior to this cost being unfairly passed onto the traveller).

Even now it would help those still stranded overseas to pay the jacked up air ticket prices.

I will not even enter into a debate on the legalities of holding one's citizens captive.

I mean it's not as if we are not allowing the rich, the famous, those who smell of liniment to enter and leave of their own free will - is it?

And who came up with 14-days quarantine? Even NSW Health had to do a backflip and change their own recommendation from 14 to 21 days. Yet most of their data is based on interviews rather than a follow-up test to determine whether the virus has dissipated.

It's all a numbers game which helps with perception and dare I say re-elections.

At the end of the day, I just want to be both physically and mentally healthy.

Yet I am over all the throwaway lines that continue to cause irrefutable and chronic damage to our livelihoods.

And I am over all the disinformation and games being played to the detriment of our industry.

Chocolate ahoy!

IN THE lead-up to Easter, **Travel Daily** has started a new cooking callout, looking for the best chocolate-inspired recipes from around the world and how it is best used in desserts, snacks, savoury dishes and drinks.

We are on the hunt for chocolate recipes from you, dear reader, so see our guide to some delectable rocky road - today on **page 4** for inspiration.

Take 5 and relax

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's (NCL) Take 5 offer has returned, providing up to \$2,900 in value.

A 50% reduced down payment is available, in addition to all stateroom categories across all ships and destinations receiving all five Free at Sea offers.

Guests can enjoy a free beverage package, shore excursion credit, the speciality dining package and wi-fi.

Lufthansa NZ GSA

LUFTHANSA Group has appointed The Walshe Group to be its new General Sales Agent in New Zealand, effective 01 Mar.

The new agreement follows a successful partnership between the companies in the Australian market for the last seven years.

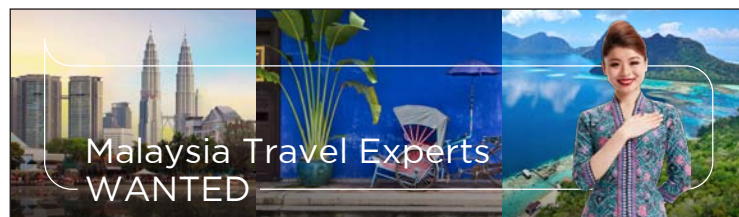
Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page.

The dynamic, interactive solution when you're not printing travel brochures

embrace
INTERACTIVE

DIGITAL TOURISM SOLUTIONS [SEE MORE](#)



Become a Malaysia Travel Expert with our online training program created jointly by Malaysia Airlines and Tourism Malaysia. Visit www.mhmalaysiaexpert.com and register today.

[Register Now!](#)

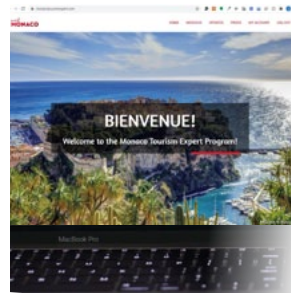
Travel Daily

Malaysia Truly Asia

TOURISM MALAYSIA

malaysia

malaysia airlines



Head to the *Travel Daily Training Academy* to find the answer and learn more about this and other destinations.

Garuda cuts commission

GARUDA Indonesia has become the latest carrier to stick the knife into travel agent remuneration, last week confirming it was reducing commission by more than a third.

The change is effective for all IATA/BSP agents located in Australia and New Zealand, reducing base commission from the previous 5% to 3% for tickets issued on GA (126) paper.

Garuda noted that agent commission was only payable for travel originating in Australia or New Zealand, with any tickets issued locally for points of origin

in other countries defaulting to 0% commission.

The change is effective from 01 Feb, with the carrier's reduction in agent pay the latest in a series of hits to the industry including cuts by Jetstar (*TD* yesterday) as well as Virgin Australia's new \$250 ADM threat for consultants who incorrectly apply the carrier's Future Flight Credits (*TD* 11 Jan).

AAT Kings sales role

KATE Sorenson has been named as General Manager of Sales and Revenue at AAT Kings.

The newly created role, effective from tomorrow, will see her responsible for both domestic and international sales across all AAT Kings Guide Holidays, Short Breaks and Day Tours along with Inspiring Journeys, SEIT Outback Australia, Down Under Tours and the Small Group collection.

QR back to Egypt

THE easing of diplomatic tensions in the Middle East has seen Qatar Airways confirm the resumption of services to Egypt.

Doha-Cairo flights commenced yesterday, with Alexandria to be added next week.

It's Thai to learn

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is hosting an Amazing Thailand in the New Normal webinar on Thu, in partnership with ONYX.

Four prizes are up for grabs for attendees, including two \$50 Coles gift cards, and two four-night holidays to Phuket and Samui for four people.

Hosted at 2pm (AEDT), registrations can be made **HERE**.

Gladys opens door on closing the door

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has suggested vaccine take-up in Australia might be improved if people were turned away from popular venues if they refuse to get the COVID jab.

"Opportunities to travel overseas or opportunities to enter certain workplaces or venues might be enhanced if you have the vaccine," she suggested.



Window Seat

YES, he may indeed be the man most likely to broker space travel, but a savvy stock communicator he is not.

Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk inadvertently sent the US sharemarket into a tailspin last week when he posted a cryptic tweet, "Use Signal", sending millions of dollars in investment toward a small medical device firm called Signal Advance.

The company's stocks skyrocketed by 11,708% in only three days, adding \$55 million to its overall valuation.

However, when Musk clarified that he was merely talking about people using the cryptic messaging service Signal instead of WhatsApp, people dropped it instantly, causing a plummet back to \$US13.54 a share - man, talk about mixed signals.

SILVERSEA®

DISCOVER
 AUTHENTIC
 BEAUTY

UP TO 20% SAVINGS WITH
 EARLY BOOKING BONUS

2021 VOYAGES

REDUCED DEPOSITS OF 15% + ROUNDTrip AIR INCLUDED
 CRUISE WITH CONFIDENCE + SHORE EXCURSIONS INCLUDED
(ON EXPEDITION VOYAGES)

2022/2023 VOYAGES

ROUNDTRIP AIR INCLUDED + SHORE EXCURSIONS INCLUDED*
*AVAILABLE ON ALL EXPEDITION VOYAGES AND WILL BE AVAILABLE ON CLASSIC VOYAGES STARTING APRIL 2022 FORWARD.

Book and pay in full by 28 February 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR SILVERSEA SALES MANAGER OR RESERVATIONS ON 1 300 727 155 OR +61 2 9255 0600 SILVERSEA.COM

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OFFERS & VOYAGES >](#)

Dec departures rise 10%

INTERNATIONAL departures from Australia increased by 9.8% for Dec when compared to the previous month, preliminary figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show.

The period saw close to 50,000 outbound trips made, with almost 20% of those being Chinese citizens heading home, in addition to 12,100 Australian citizens jetting overseas.

Travellers using temporary student visas also comprised one in four departures.

Meanwhile, international arrivals to Australia increased by close to 18% in Dec when compared to Nov.

Of the 35,100 estimated arrival trips made in Dec, 17,800 were by Australian citizens, while close to 5,000 travellers came in from New Zealand, followed by India (1,720), China (1,330) and the United Kingdom (1,130).

The biggest percentage increases came from Pakistan, which more than doubled its Nov numbers to 380 passengers, as well as India which jumped by 50% to 1,720 travellers.

New Zealand was another sharp mover, up 33.2%, as was China which increased by 11.2% to record 1,330 arrivals.

One of the biggest drops came from the United Kingdom, which saw travellers dip by more than 10% compared with Nov, while the Philippines also decreased by close to 14% to 430 travellers.

On a state-by-state basis, NSW continues to lead the way by taking the most returned travellers from overseas, recording 16,410 pax for the Dec period, followed in second place by Queensland with 6,200, Victoria (5,330), WA (4,580), SA (1,410) the Northern Territory (1,030) and Tasmania (140).

JQ hits Hamilton

JETSTAR has announced direct flights from Melbourne to Hamilton Island from Mar.

To celebrate the new route, a 36-hour flash sale launched at noon yesterday, with fares starting from \$99.

The flights are scheduled to depart four times weekly.

YEAR *in* REVIEW

2020

Travel Daily

INTRODUCING THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY 'HUB'

Your one-stop home for travel industry training.

Travel Daily



AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

WELCOME to 2021.

My hope is that you all have had a safe break over the Christmas and New Year period.

A time spent with family and friends to renew and restore.

The AFTA team continued to work over the break preparing material for the new Tourism Minister on proposing improvements to aspects to the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program.

Prior to Christmas, we received considerable feedback on the various issues pertaining to the program, its design and implementation challenges.

Our primary focus remains on clarifying and improving the details of the Federal Govt's financial support package, including the policy construct, the accessibility and the funding amounts to ensure that it is equitable for all who are eligible. We have been forwarding a range of examples of the technical shortcomings through to the necessary members of parliament and government agencies who are working on the program.

The appointment of Dan Tehan MP as the new Tourism Minister in Dec, replacing Senator Simon Birmingham, provides us with the opportunity to articulate the shortcomings of the Support Program to fresh ears.



afta

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS

In fact, a detailed letter was sent to the new Minister in Dec welcoming him to the role. The letter also highlighted areas of concern with the current design of the Support Program and

proposed solutions across five core areas.

Additionally, AFTA CEO Darren Rudd most recently spoke with the Tourism Minister just yesterday on a range of travel and tourism related matters, including an offer to work with him and his team in detail, on both the Support Program as well as the need to convince cabinet that the travel sector needs ongoing sector support in the form of a re-named JobKeeper. Many of the politicians are just now returning from their summer break but rest assured our conversations are very much alive and we hope that Members of Parliament continue to offer our sector support as the government resumes.

Also, we continue to keep the opposition fully briefed as AFTA is a non-politically aligned organisation (non-partisan).

On a final note, we are planning meetings with Premiers, State Tourism Ministers and other key stakeholders over the coming months to ensure that we continue to raise the profile of agents & the important role they play in the travel supply chain.

Whitsundays deal

INTREPID Travel is offering 25% off its six-day Whitsundays Island Explorer trip departing 03 Feb, with prices cut to \$1,872ppts.

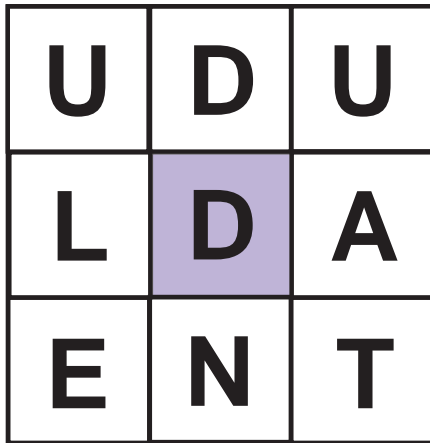
Highlights include hiking South Molle Island - more info [HERE](#).

Grandiosa to resume

MSC Cruises has announced that *MSC Grandiosa* will return to cruising in Italy on 24 Jan following a directive to suspend all voyages by the Italian Government early last month.

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.



Good – 20 words
 Very good – 30 words
 Excellent – 40 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Famous faces



THERE are three different faces that make up this picture. They are a mixture of famous celebrities and travel names. Can you figure out who the

eyes, nose and mouth in this picture belong to? And don't worry if you can't guess them all, two out of three ain't bad!

Get your chocolate fix

EVERYONE loves chocolate! So in the lead up to Easter lets explore the world with chocolate recipes from around the globe.

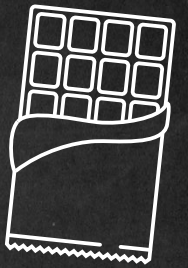
Send us your recipes showcasing the different varieties of chocolate and it's many uses in desserts, snacks, savoury dishes as well as beverages from somewhere in the world!

I'm kicking it off with my family's favourite – Rocky Road.

Submit your recipes to chocolate@traveldaily.com.au.

xx Jenny

Jenny Piper
 Owner,
 Business
 Publishing
 Group



Rocky Road

INGREDIENTS

- 35g sweet and salty popcorn
- 120g red raspberries or frogs, halved
- 40g roasted coconut chips or shredded coconut
- 250g packet marshmallows, halved or quartered
- 55g (1/3 cup) pistachios
- 400g dark chocolate, melted

METHOD

Mix all dry ingredients in bowl. Melt the chocolate and mix through dry ingredients. Spread into pan lined with baking paper. Put in fridge to set. Cut into pieces.

VARIATIONS

Use milk or white chocolate. Substitute nuts with any other nut variety. Try chopped up caramels, or Turkish delight instead of raspberries.

ANSWERS 18 JAN

Where in the world: Plaza Hotel, New York, USA

Pick the nation: Vietnam

Whose mascot is this: Whose mascot is this: Sir Purr - Carolina Panthers (American football)

5	7	3	8	9	1	6	4	2
8	2	1	4	3	6	7	5	9
9	4	6	7	5	2	3	1	8
4	3	5	9	2	7	8	6	1
7	6	2	3	1	8	4	9	5
1	8	9	5	6	4	2	7	3
3	5	4	2	7	9	1	8	6
2	1	7	6	8	5	9	3	4
6	9	8	1	4	3	5	2	7

WA Masters allure

ENTRIES have opened for the Australian Masters Games to be held in Perth late in the year.

The sporting event, designed for people aged over 30, is expected to draw visitors to Perth from across the country when it takes place in Oct, heralded by Tourism WA as an important injection into the state's visitor economy.

It is the first time Western Australia has hosted the event since 1993.

Disney ditches pass

DISNEYLAND Park has killed off its annual pass program, with executives promising there will be alternative offerings in the future.

Passes valid beyond Disneyland's closure last Mar will receive automatic refunds for the time the park was shut.

Those active after Disneyland closed will continue to receive food & beverage discounts at Downtown Disney's restaurant and shopping district.

Current passholders will also get a 30% discount on select merchandise from certain stores from Mon through to Thu until 25 Feb.

Eastar receivership

SOUTH Korean low-cost airline Eastar Jet has gone into receivership, as it continues to seek an interested buyer to keep the business afloat.

There are supposedly four entities interested in acquiring Eastar, after rival Jeju Air pulled out of a deal to buy it 12 months ago, due to the pandemic.

Cassis promoted to GM



LINKD Tourism has announced the appointment of Michael Cassis to the role of General Manager, where he will look after the company's local operations.

The promotion will see Cassis retain his existing account management responsibilities, such as key US and Japanese destinations including Oklahoma, Gifu, Kanazawa City and Nagano City, while also taking charge of seeking out new business opportunities in both domestic and international markets.

The new appointment arrives only nine months after joining the tourism marketing agency, and is one that Linkd Managing Director Kylee Kay believes will see the company secure new partnerships and clients.

"[Cassis] has shown true leadership, outstanding knowledge and market understanding, and the grit needed in these turbulent times

to lead each business unit out the other end," she said.

"There is nobody better to take Linkd to greater heights as we continue to provide value to our much-loved clients."

Before arriving at Linkd Tourism, Cassis spent more than five years with The Walt Disney Company where he held the role of National Marketing and Sales Account Management for Disney Destinations International.

Pictured: Kay and Cassis team up for the future.

AC cuts workforce

AIR Canada has slashed approximately 1,700 jobs, following capacity cuts of 25%.

It is the second such announcement from a Canadian airline in less than a week, after AC's rival WestJet announced it would reduce its workforce by more than a 1,000 in an attempt to stay afloat (*TD* 11 Jan).

Pets on the road

CARAVAN and motorhome community Camplify has revealed an emerging trend among its younger travellers for 2021, with pets accompanying Aussies on domestic road trips becoming increasingly popular.

Camplify said it had seen a large demand in those wishing to holiday with their beloved pets, up 134% from 2019 to 2020.

There has also been growth in younger van owners, with 21-30 now making up 15.9% of all campervan travellers in Australia.

MONEY

WELCOME to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.769

THE Australian dollar has dropped in value against most majors in the last week, brought on mainly by sharp declines in US sharemarkets.

The Aussie was also weakened by falls in key commodity prices which caused the US market to fall despite a trillion dollar stimulus package announced by President-elect Joe Biden over the weekend.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.769
UK	£0.566
NZ	\$1.079
Euro	€0.637
Japan	¥82.25
Thailand	฿23.16
China	¥4.989
South Africa	11.725
Canada	\$0.982
Crude oil	US\$55.10

For confidential tip offs, connect with *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)



Travel Daily

www.traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Associate Editors – Adam Bishop,

Myles Stedman

Contributors – Nicholas O'Donoghue,

Jenny Piper

info@traveldaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Hoda Alzubaidi

advertising@traveldaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8213 6350)

Travel Daily operates by paid subscription to people within the travel industry - sign up at www.traveldaily.com.au.

CRUISE
WEEKLY

travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy
Daily

Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Travel Daily* no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.