

## Today's issue of TD

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

## Spirit of Tassie adds

**IN A** move designed to incentivise more travel to Tasmania, Aussies will be able to bring a car or motorbike on the Spirit of Tasmania at no extra charge between 01 Mar & 30 Jun.

The Australian Government made the decision to expand the Bass Strait Passenger Vehicle Equalisation Scheme yesterday, which previously offered generous rebates from 01 Jul 2020, to ensure the state's economy remains competitive through the lean COVID period.

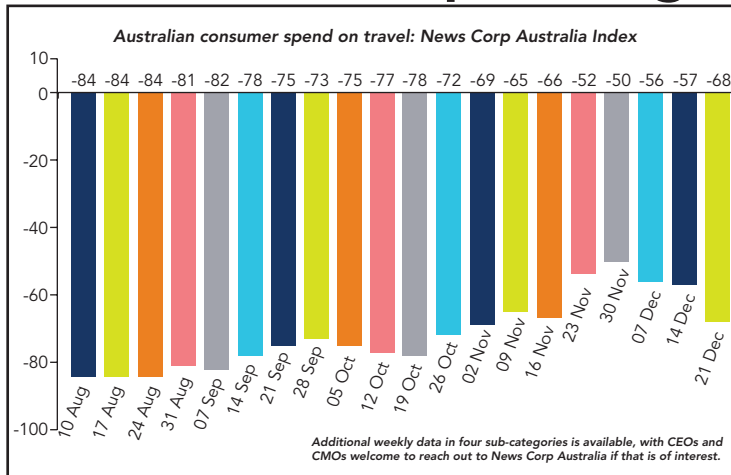
"Visitors who travel to Tasmania by sea are among the most valuable to the industry, they spend more, stay longer & travel further into regional areas," said Assistant Industry Development Minister Jonathon Duniam.

## Recruiting returns

**DESPITE** the ongoing significant challenges being faced by the industry, travel specialist recruiter AA Appointments is wanting to encourage the sector with news of some green shoots of recovery.

The company recently filled a TMC Chief Operating Officer role, and is also working to recruit a BDM in Melbourne, a Sales & Marketing exec in Sydney and a Leisure Travel Manager in Bris - see [aaappointments.com.au](http://aaappointments.com.au).

## Borders slam spending



### EXCLUSIVE

**THE** Australian travel and tourism sector has once again been crippled by domestic border closures, with the latest exclusive News Corp Australia/Travel Daily index confirming the impact on consumer confidence and spend on travel over the holiday period.

After starting to show some early signs of recovery late in 2020, the year-on-year index of consumer payments on travel has once again slumped, with worse likely to come, because these figures only account for the week up to 21 Dec as the Avalon outbreak was starting to take off.

News Corp Head of Travel, Dwayne Birtles, said "the yo-yo of consumer confidence where it relates to travel has once again returned, and this time not in the upwards direction that we saw pre-Christmas".

The imposition of restrictions

saw considerable cancellations, leading to a 15 percentage point hit on accommodation spend.

Air spending was also slammed, with the "flights under \$350" category reversed to drop a huge 40 points week-on-week.

However Birtles noted that the decline was only back to levels in Nov, and not as bad as when the market bottomed out in Apr/May.

## Mandatory masks on all flights likely

**A SPECIAL** National Cabinet meeting called by Scott Morrison today is likely to include a call to make it compulsory for passengers to wear a mask on all international and domestic flights departing or entering Australia.

Other health items reportedly on the agenda today include COVID testing of all passengers before and after flights arriving in the country, and whether masks should also be made compulsory in Australian airports.

## Say Hello from Here

**SAVINGS** of up to \$600 per couple are on offer for select AAT Kings and Inspiring Journeys itineraries as part of the brands' Hello from Here promotion.

The deal applies to travel between 01 Apr and 31 Mar 2022 and expires on 01 Mar 2021.

Call 1300 228 546 for details.



### Expedition Specialist

#### Recruiting Now

Hurtigruten now has an opportunity for an Expedition Specialist to join our Head Office team in Melbourne.

Building on our explorer heritage dating back to 1893, Hurtigruten offers unique nature experiences and our focus on sustainable expedition travel means we have an environmental footprint we can be proud of.

At Hurtigruten we give our employees the opportunity to work with purpose; to innovate, to develop and to be challenged.

#### THE ROLE:

- Work in a varied and fast-paced environment with supportive leadership and excellent training
- Provide an outstanding level of customer service
- Become an expert on our wide range of adventure travel across the globe, with emphasis on the Arctic and Antarctic
- Consult with wholesale and retail clients to maximise every sales opportunity

#### SKILLS:

- Demonstrated consumer sales or wholesale sales experience in the travel industry
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Desirable: knowledge of our product and destination

Hurtigruten offers great company incentives and rewards with a supportive leadership team.

If you think you might be right for this role, please apply at <https://1945313195.webcruiter.no/Main/Recruit/Public/4325428699>

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**Discovery**  
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## Urgent Federal grant survey

**EXCLUSIVE**

**TRAVEL** agents are being asked to urgently complete a very brief survey in relation to the Government's \$128 million Consumer Travel Support Program, ahead of a confidential high level meeting organised by WA agents Christine Ross-Davies and Jo Francis.

The pair, whose tireless efforts have seen them relentlessly pursue support for the industry throughout the pandemic, have continued to push for the Government to address the flaws in the grants scheme which have led to massive disparities in the levels of support provided due to BAS reporting anomalies by different agencies (**TD** yesterday).

"We are still liaising with multiple departments on a daily basis, doing everything we can to keep the hope alive for the majority of agents who are not going to be supported sufficiently by this grant funding in its current format," Ross-Davies told **TD**.

While not at liberty to advise details of the meeting, the pair said they were acting on "a request to provide data to confirm the disparity in the grant funding reporting".

The survey is anonymous, and even if agencies are set to benefit at a higher level as a result of reporting TTV on their BAS, they are still being asked to complete the poll.

"Be assured that your level of

funding will not be impacted by this data, however it could be useful in assisting your agency owner colleagues," they said.

The completely confidential survey simply asks two questions:

- Before COVID or any grant application existed, did you report commission/revenue or total sales (TTV) on your BAS;*
- Have you changed the figures you report on your BAS for the 2019 calendar year?*

The deadline for completion is 5pm tomorrow, Sat 09 Jan, so that the results can be collated prior to the key meeting - for more details **CLICK HERE**.

AFTA wasn't able to comment on this new development prior to **TD's** deadline today.

**Complete URGENT poll**

## Tjapukai shuts down

**AUSTRALIAN** indigenous attraction Tjapukai is closing down permanently after failing to withstand the financial burden of the travel shutdown.

The once popular tourism draw located in Cairns had been in operation for close to 30 years and was a prominent employer of indigenous staff in the region, but international borders closed alongside ongoing domestic shutdowns, the attraction has been forced to close for good.

"The closure of Tjapukai is a great loss to the tourism industry as it is a foundation product that set the benchmark for Indigenous cultural tourism experiences in Australia," lamented Tourism Tropical North Queensland Chief Executive Officer Mark Olsen.

All forward bookings have been cancelled, but for alternative Indigenous activity options, visit Discover Aboriginal Experiences by **CLICKING HERE**.

**MEANWHILE**, Qld Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has announced the state's borders will be closed to all of Greater Sydney until at least 31 Jan.

## AussieHolidays sale

**ENTERPRISING** industry players wanting to reinforce a pivot to domestic are being invited to submit expressions of interest for the purchase of the AussieHolidays.com domain name.

The name is being sold by Tony Wilson, who previously headed up the Global Travel Corporation which included operations such as Drive Travel, Canal Boat Holidays and Motorhomes Worldwide (**TD** 18 Jan 2010).

Expressions of interest can be submitted via the email [ahw24643@gmail.com](mailto:ahw24643@gmail.com).

## WA eyes possible Qld border closure

**OPEN** borders between WA and Qld may be in doubt, WA Premier Mark McGowan has hinted, with Brisbane going into a three-day lockdown from 6pm today.

"We will monitor the situation in Queensland very closely and our Chief Health Officer will liaise with the health experts over there to provide us with up-to-date & informed advice," he said.



## Window Seat

**VIRGIN** Australia has recently been put through one of its first big tests under Bain Capital ownership - returning home a VIP (**pictured**) that failed to get on their flight.

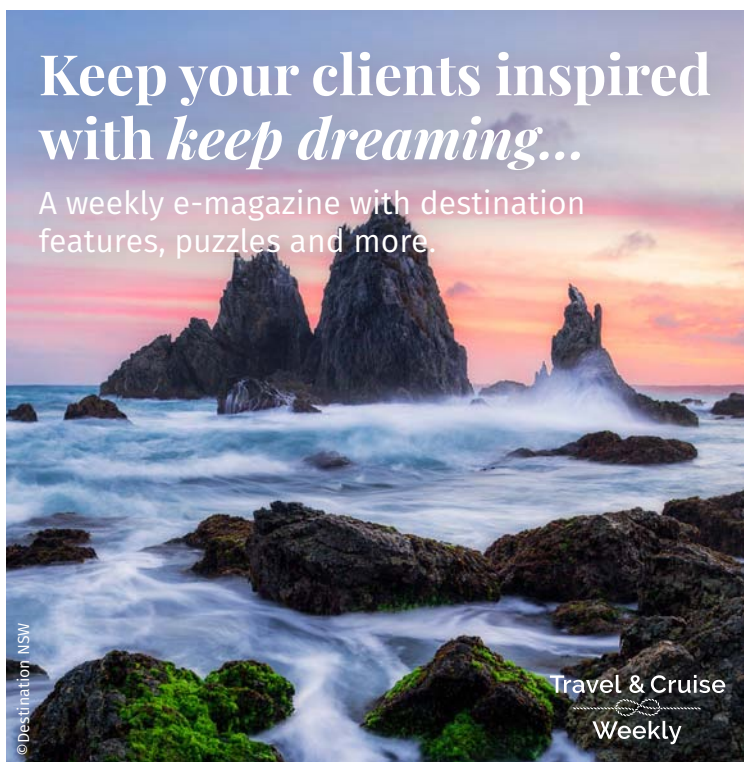
The airline first took to Twitter to identify where the dinosaur lived - a task which occasionally proves futile, but in this instance, was a success.

VA promptly printed the fluffy VIP a boarding pass and made sure it was on the next flight to Townsville, where it was greeted by its owner Mia (**pictured**).



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## Domain name for sale

[AussieHolidays.com](http://AussieHolidays.com)

For more information and inquiries email:

[ahw24643@gmail.com](mailto:ahw24643@gmail.com)

## CORPORATE UPDATE

### GBTA's inclusion push

**THE** Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) has launched the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Committee, a move designed to enhance the support for inclusion in the corporate travel sector.

Committee Chair J Grant Caplan, along with US Vice Chair Carol Fergus are the first to be named on the new body, with Vice Chairs representing the UK, Canada and Latin America to be named soon on what is being described as a "first-of-its-kind" initiative for the business travel space.

Upon its official launch, the new committee stated its goals will be to provide the resources, education and support to enable the travel industry to embrace and drive diversity, equality and

inclusion within organisations. "Our goal is to be the industry voice advocating for diversity, equality and inclusion, and to raise the profile for all individuals from all walks of life, religion, race, age, gender, sexual orientation and disabilities, mental health and invisible illnesses," said interim Executive Director GBTA Dave Hilfman.

"By tackling the uncomfortable, we want to foster an open, transparent, and welcoming arm, where trust and integrity will be at the forefront of our agenda," he added.

### Pherous water fight

**CORPORATE** Travel Management CEO Jamie Pherous is taking the Brisbane City Council to court over a pool at his home overlooking the Brisbane River.

*The Australian* cited the case earlier this week, with Council officials claiming the proposed construction is too close to the edge of the cliffs and would dominate the view from the riverside walk & Kangaroo Point.

The new pool is part of a reported \$20 million house Pherous is building on the Moray Street, New Farm site which he bought in 2018 for \$11.3 million.

### FCM health pact

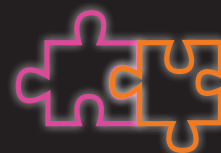
**FLIGHT** Centre's FCM Travel Solutions has launched a new partnership with Singapore-based Fullerton Health which will underpin a new Digital Health Credential program.

The deal promises to give FCM clients access to affordable PCR COVID-19 testing, and comes alongside the development of a new travel portal which will integrate a "digital health wallet" to display test certificates and vaccination results.

FCM Asia MD Bertrand Sallet said the collaboration aimed to create a one-stop travel and health solution for road warriors.

**NEED A DISTRACTION AMID THE DOOM AND GLOOM?**

Check out our daily puzzle page.



Travel Daily

### In NSW's neck of the woods



**TO HELP** support its pivot to Australia-based Safaris, The Africa Safari Co has called on the Aussie trade to experience some of its amazing new local product.

Agents were whisked away on some of the operator's regional NSW experiences in towns like Orange, Dubbo and Mudgee.

Highlights along the way included sampling some great Aussie wine and checking in on some of the cheeky animals who call Dubbo Plains Zoo home.



**Pictured:** Agents Lynn, Belinda, Cola, Carol, Mimi, Georgina, Mary, Nicole are led by The Africa Safari Co CEO Susie Potter to meet with one of Dubbo's tallest inhabitants, while **inset** the group enjoyed a delicious wine tour.

### Ningaloo attracts

**A NEW** study has revealed the extent to which the Ningaloo Coast acts as a major tourism hub for Western Australia, generating \$110 million in value added annually to the state's economy.

The Deloitte Access Economics study, commissioned by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions, showed tourism was responsible for 90% of the region's economic contribution.

Figures show in the full year 2018-2019, an estimated 218,000 people visited the Ningaloo Coast and spent approximately 1.3 million nights.

One quarter of visitors were from international markets, and each holidaymaker spent an average of \$137 per day.

### Surf's down bro

**HAWAII** has suspended all surf competitions indefinitely due to safety management concerns regarding beach crowds.

The cancellations will affect two World Surf League events - the Sunset Open and the Jaws Big Wave Championships.

At last month's Pipe Masters, 1,100 COVID tests were conducted, with five positives.

### Thai carrier cuts

**BANGKOK** Airways has cut flights and closed airport lounges following a new wave of coronavirus infections and lockdowns across Thailand.

From today, all of the airline's lounges will be closed until the end of the month.

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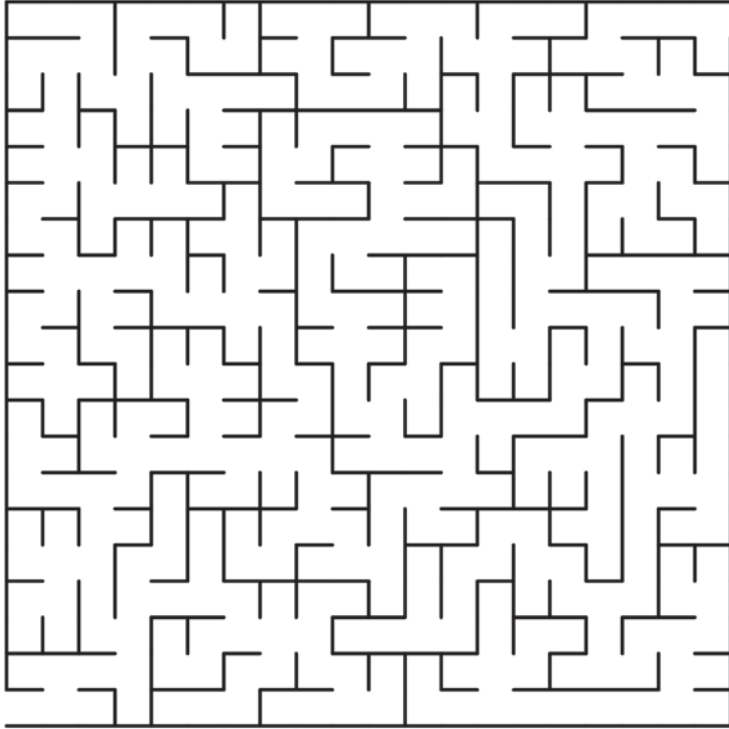
Skroo Turner on Flight Centre, the pandemic and what the future holds for the business and industry - read it all in our exclusive interview in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin



## A-maze-ing

**CAN** you find your way through this maze?  
Start at the top right corner and finish in the bottom left.



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## Pub quiz

1. Mount Fuji is located on which Japanese island?
2. What destination is known as Stampede City?
3. Doi Inthanon is the largest mountain in which country?
4. What is the capital of Vietnam?
5. In what decade did Cambodia gain independence from France?
  - a) In the 1940s
  - b) In the 1950s
  - c) In the 1960s
6. The Eixample district in Barcelona was recently voted the world's most "what"?
7. The Treasury Buildings are a heritage register complex in which state?
8. Puente de la Mujer is a bridge in what city?
9. Katmai National Park & Reserve is found in what country?
10. After the arrival of Europeans, what emerged as Hobart's first major industry?

## Icon under a microscope



**THIS** landmark is iconic and easily recognisable when you see the whole picture, but can you identify it from this very small

portion of the image?

The icon is synonymous with the city it is located in and connects it to another county.

## Test your knowledge

**FOR** travel, flying is a key part of our industry, and it's also full of symbols and acronyms.

Agents have to know airport codes, airline codes, airline liveries and more.

How well do you know the aviation industry? Do you know what airports these codes stand for, and what plane liveries are pictured?

### AIRPORT CODES

1. AKL
2. SLC
3. LGW
4. KTM

2



### AIRLINE LIVERIES

1



3



### ANSWERS 07 JAN

Whose flag is this: Mexico

Know your brands: 1 Singapore Airlines, 2 Fitbit, 3 Lacoste, 4 Cartier

Whose animal is this: Mouflon - Cyprus

## GC to NZ flights

**THE** Gold Coast and Queenstown in New Zealand could soon be linked by a new private jet service for small groups if entrepreneur Kevin Carlin gets his way.

The businessman has founded Private Jets Ltd which would carry groups of up to 12 people at a cost of \$3,000 per person, one way, offering Aussies a fast and luxurious way to access the ski fields of Queenstown.

Perks on board the 3.5-hour flight would include Champagne and "high quality food", with Carlin flagging Apr or May as a potential launch date if a two-way bubble can be formed.

Carlin has also recently launched the new six-star Carlin Hotel in Queenstown.

## Supersonic closer

**THE** prospect of launching supersonic flights in the United States is a step closer this week after the US Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) clarified what is required for airlines to introduce the high-speed jets to the market.

The regulatory bodies said they had now made it easier and more streamlined to understand what is required to apply for supersonic aircraft services on safety and environmental grounds, following an increased interest from the aviation sector.

The FAA currently prohibits civil supersonic flight in American air space, with the enhanced procedure to make it easier to test flights in excess of Mach 1.

## Quarantine-free hugs



**THE** first "safe travel zone" trials between New Zealand and Queensland got underway this week, with travellers welcoming the prospect of quarantine-free travel with open arms.

While only a one-way bubble at this stage, Brisbane Airport Corporation's Chief Executive Officer Gert-Jan de Graaff heralded the moment as a key a first step toward re-establishing international travel to and from Australia.

"We look forward to the

resumption of two-way travel between our countries soon and will work closely with all relevant bodies to ensure we are ready to go when that happens," he said.

"As a result of Queensland's outstanding management of COVID-19, I am very confident that these safe travel zone flights between Queensland and New Zealand will be a success and provide a blueprint for similar arrangements with other countries in the future."

**Pictured:** Families embrace at Brisbane Airport this week.

## TRAVEL SPECIALS

**WELCOME** to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to [specials@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:specials@traveldaily.com.au)

**Airmorth** is offering a range of discounted flights to celebrate the new year, including flights from Melbourne to Toowoomba from \$185, Perth to Broome from \$255, Cairns to Darwin from \$279, & Darwin to Alice Springs from \$325. The deal is valid for travel between 01 Feb and 31 Mar and 27 Apr to 24 Jun, and must be booked by COB today. Call 1800 627 474.

**Viking Cruises** has discounted its 23-day European Sojourn river cruise, sailing from Bucharest to Amsterdam, to \$10,995 per person, twin share. The voyage explores many of Europe's famous waterways in countries such as Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. Call 138 747 for more details.

**Trafalgar** has launched its new break out & break free promotion, offering travellers up to 12.5% off 2021 and 2022 trips. The new deal is valid for bookings made before 04 Mar. Call 1800 002 007 for more information.

Book any sailing with **Virgin Voyages** by 09 Feb and receive 10% off the regular fare, plus up to \$400 in onboard credit and an extra \$100 towards a bar tab. Ship credit can be used for both on and offshore experiences, which includes wi-fi, fitness classes and catamaran trips. **CLICK HERE.**

## Boeing settles MAX

**BOEING** has agreed to pay US\$2.5 billion to settle an ongoing criminal case in the United States that alleged the airline deliberately concealed key safety details about its 737 MAX from aviation officials.

Roughly one fifth of the sum will go to families of the 346 passengers killed in two separate air tragedies caused by Boeing's malfunctioning flight control system software, an Ethiopia Airlines flight in Mar 2019 and a Lion Air service in Oct 2018.

Boeing CEO David Calhoun said the decision to settle the case was "a step that appropriately acknowledges how we fell short of our values and expectations."

## Murray River deals

**MURRAY** River Paddlesteamers is offering discounts of up to \$530 per couple on overnight Murray River cruises when bookings are made by 31 Jan.

The company is also providing a 10% saving and free undercover car parking for all three- and four-night Winter Sun voyages when booked by the same date.

Further incentives being rolled out include free wine and beer with dinner from Apr 2021 on two- to six-night sailings.

All deals take place on board the 16-passenger *Emmylou*.

To take advantage of the promotion, call Cruise Traveller on 1800 507 777.

Got a confidential tip? Contact *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)

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