

Industry lobbies

AN AUSTRALIAN travel industry lobby group, established by agents using a private Facebook page is calling for agents wishing to be part of a push for the Federal Government to provide a financial support package to assist with fixed costs and overheads.


The group has been reaching out to local, state and federal members to bring attention to the industry's dire situation.

It has now received a request from Federal Minister for Small Business Michaelia Cash to provide details of all agents that are wishing to be part of the initiative.

To join the Federal Government action, complete the following form [HERE](#), or to see the Facebook page, [CLICK HERE](#).

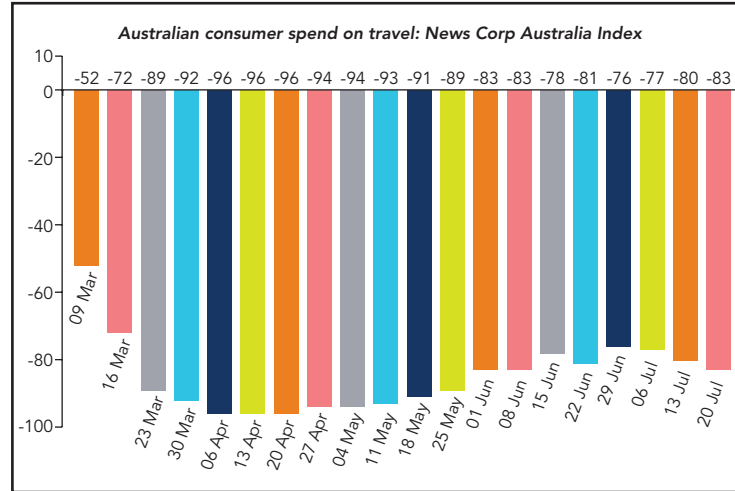
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COVID up, spending down



EXCLUSIVE

THE spike in coronavirus cases in Australia over recent weeks has put paid to the nascent recovery of consumer travel spending, according to the latest News Corp Australia index.

Although there had been signs of an upturn or at least a stabilisation in the previous report (**TD** 21 Jul), the new figures - based on consumer spending on travel via credit cards for the week ending 20 Jul - now indicate a reversal.

"The market has been shaken by recent outbreaks and border restrictions," said Fiona Nilsson, News Corp MD Food & Travel.

Tas opening delay

TASMANIA'S borders will remain closed to all jurisdictions until at least 31 Aug, according to an update from the state's Premier Peter Gutwein yesterday.

The Apple Isle was set to open to travellers from South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory this Fri 07 Aug, but Gutwein cited health advice, the uncertainty in Vic and the impacts of COVID-19 on other states for the change of heart.

Plans to open up Tasmania to other parts of the country including Qld, ACT, NSW and Vic effective from 14 Aug have also been kyboshed.

"All sectors have dropped back to Jun levels, with cruise showing a small improvement week on week.

"Yet consumer interest in travel destinations has not waned, suggesting consideration is ongoing and even increasing throughout COVID-19," she said.

The figures are delayed by about two weeks, with further declines expected as the impact of Victoria's dramatic lockdown, the Queensland outbreak and ensuing border closures continue to make their impacts felt.

Au-NZ backburner

NEW Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has indicated a trans-Tasman bubble with Australia may be "on the backburner for...several months".

Speaking on NZ's *The AM Show* yesterday, Ardern said "one of the things we said as part of our criteria was that anywhere we have quarantine-free travel, they have to be free of community transmission for a period of time, 28 days".

"That is going to take a long time for Australia to get back to that place," she said.

The NZ PM, who faces an election next month, has flagged the reopening of a travel bubble with the Cook Islands which is likely to be implemented before any travel from Australia.

Today's issue of TD

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

Jetstar suspends flts

QANTAS and Jetstar have suspended their schedule of flights from Sydney to Coolangatta and Cairns for the rest of the month.

A Qantas Group spokesperson said the airlines were reducing their services from Sydney to Queensland, noting there had been a significant drop in demand for travel between Sydney and Queensland destinations following enhanced border restriction.

"Of course, when there's a relaxation of border measures we'll be ready to respond with increased flights," the spokesperson told **TD**.

Flights from Sydney to Brisbane will operate with reduced frequency and the spokesperson said an update on Sep flights would be released in coming weeks.

Gauguin COVID

POLYNESIAN cruise line Paul Gauguin has been forced to cancel a cruise after a passenger tested positive for COVID-19.

The 20-year-old American woman tested negative before boarding her flight from the US, however, the asymptomatic passenger tested positive on board *Paul Gauguin* on Sun.

All other pax and crew were immediately isolated and tested, with the results all coming back negative, and the crew now in quarantine for seven days.

VA ramps up Qld

VIRGIN Australia will resume services between Brisbane and Hamilton Island today.

The thrice weekly services between Qld's capital and Hamilton Island will be operated using Boeing 737 aircraft.



Discover travel industry businesses that are transforming to cope with the challenging conditions of COVID. Read more in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read [travelBulletin](#)

Insurance key to recovery

THE World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has released a new set of insurance guidelines it hopes will help expedite the recovery of the travel sector.

WTTC believes the new advice is necessary to ensure the insurance industry is “fit for purpose” to accommodate the needs of travellers in a COVID-19 world, with travel insurance playing a vital role in providing peace of mind and risk mitigation to consumers and suppliers.

Highlights of the guidelines’ suite of recommendations include a need for insurers to “plug gaps” and provide travellers with appropriate coverage, give mandatory COVID-19 protection, as well as create blanket crisis management coverage to instil the confidence needed to generate a spike in travel.

WTTC is also proposing insurers make it better known to consumers what the terms

and conditions, restrictions, and coverage limits of each insurance products and policies are.

The guidelines also cover the corporate travel space, recommending organisations provide risk management plans, and inform all staff of the protective measures being taken, including the insurance plan that will protect them on trips.

“We have worked closely with key players across the travel insurance industry to make recommendations to ensure individual travellers, groups and organisations can feel safe,” said WTTC CEO Gloria Guevara.

“The measures....should help guide travel insurers to create products which contain every contingency needed to enable travel to recommence to those countries which have relaxed their border controls,” she added.

To view the insurance guidelines in full, visit wttc.org.

Aviation is halfway

TRAVEL data provider OAG has reported global aviation capacity crept up to 60 million seats this week, cracking the halfway point to recovery.

The figure represents 50.4% of capacity, compared to the same time last year.

Flight ruffles Uluru

PARKS Australia has temporarily closed Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park after the arrival of 42 pax at Yulara airport on a Jetstar flight from Brisbane upset locals.

The NT Govt recently added Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan to its list of COVID-19 “hotspots”, with the plane’s arrival upsetting local indigenous custodians who have called for the Yulara airport to remain closed due to fears of the virus spreading in the community.

The Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation is now in discussions with Parks Australia to reach a resolution.



Window Seat

THE owners of a bed and breakfast in Michigan have received a flood of hateful emails after the Norwegian flag that adorns their property was mistaken for the controversial Confederate battle flag.

Greg and Kjersten Offenbecker obliged by taking down the flag at the entrance of The Nordic Pineapple, with Kjersten admitting that when the town first starting talking about her flag, she initially thought it was praise, before realising the murmurs were in fact critical.



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Social Distancing



Refreshed Cabins



Deep Cleaning



Equipped Crew



Enhanced Hygiene



Wellness Kits



Booking Flexibility



Refreshed Meal Service



Lounge Initiatives



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Ritz-Carlton Pyrmont back?

THE NSW Government's recently unveiled strategy to reinvigorate Pyrmont in Sydney (**TD** 31 Jul) may pave the way for The Star casino's owners to build a \$529 million, 237-metre mixed hotel/residential development.

The government's push to make the suburb a major tourism draw card could allow buildings to be constructed up to 180 meters tall, effectively reversing previous rebuttals to The Star's drafted development, which included the build of a 51-storey Ritz-Carlton hotel in Pyrmont.

The project had been initially rejected by the NSW Independent Planning Commission late last year (**TD** 21 Nov 2019), citing fears the proposed high-rise tower would "reduce the visual amenity of the area".

The initial submission included plans to construct a Ritz-Carlton hotel, more than 200 residential units, as well as more than tripling the height of the existing Star Casino structure.

Taking aim at the prospect of the development being

resurrected under the government's plan was Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore, who labelled The Star's mega tower an "inappropriate" proposal.

"It is deeply disappointing to see The Star's zombie tower rise from the dead," she said, adding that future developments in the precinct should prioritise jobs and not support the gambling sector.

MEL goes solar

MELBOURNE Airport will introduce a new solar farm in Jan, with the capability to produce enough renewable energy to power all four passenger terminals.

The project is the largest of its kind in Australia, and is set to generate 17 gigawatt hours of electricity each year, which is equal to nearly 15% of MEL's annual electricity consumption.

"The project is expected to deliver significant annualised energy cost savings," said MEL Chief of Landside Access Utilities & Facilities Group Lorie Argus.

Get tested for bowel cancer!



DESTINATION HQ Managing Director Stuart Ingram (**pictured**) recently had a health scare, fortunately dodging a potential bout of bowel cancer.

After another member of the travel industry was diagnosed with the cancer recently, Ingram decided to get himself tested, with the initial screening indicating positive traces.

Ingram was admitted to Linacre Private Hospital for a further investigation, which revealed a precancerous six-centimetre-growth inside his bowel.

He will return to hospital next week to have surgery to remove the growth.

If not for the pandemic, Ingram

said he would not have had the excess time to get tested, which may not have been the case 12 months ago.

IAG Amex injection

OWNER of British Airways (BA), International Airlines Group (IAG) has signed a multi-year renewal of its worldwide partnership with American Express (Amex).

Under the terms of the renewal, Amex will pay IAG subsidiary IAG Loyalty £750 million (A\$1.38 billion), the majority of which will be used for the pre-purchase of the frequent flyer currency, Avios points.

American Express said it would also use the points for its BA co-branded credit cards and Membership Rewards Program.

On Fri IAG reported its results for the six months to 30 Jun, recording a 2020 statutory loss after tax and exceptional items of €3,806m and a 60.8% drop in pax revenue on the 2019 period.

BA recently announced it would continue the suspension of its flights between the UK and Australia until at least 24 Oct (**TD** 27 Jul).

Hurtigruten update

FOUR Hurtigruten passengers have been confirmed as having coronavirus and the line's expedition cruise operations have been temporarily suspended.

The move follows confirmation yesterday that 36 crew members aboard *Roald Amundsen* and one passenger tested positive to COVID-19 (**TD** yesterday).

Travel & Cruise Weekly

@andBeyond



Inspire their next family holiday. Check out the special family edition of *keep dreaming...*

Q: WHERE IN THE WORLD IS FLANDERS?

A: A fantastic region in Europe with gorgeous medieval art cities, history & culture, cycling, fries, beer, waffles, chocolate, fries, beers, waffles, chocolate, fries, beers (repeat).

VISITFLANDERS



[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

QT a step closer for west Syd



THE ceremonial turning of the sod for a new mixed-use commercial/residential development took place at 8 Phillip Street in Parramatta last week, with developer Coronation Property taking a step toward the opening of a new QT Hotel in Sydney's west.

When the property opens its doors in late 2023, it will be the first location for the brand in the area, boasting 250 rooms across 18 storeys, and will also include amenities such as a signature restaurant, multiple meeting and event spaces, & a grand ballroom. The building will also house 314 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments.

"8 Phillip Street marks another step in Parramatta's rapid and ongoing development as Sydney's second CBD," said State Member for Parramatta, Geoff Lee.

"Not only does it add more in the way of much-needed housing for the people of western Sydney, it also combines five-star hotel accommodation - a trend which is seen in major cities across the world, such as New York."

The major development has been in the pipeline for quite some time, with a lengthy

development approval process kicking off back in 2016.

The QT hotel will join a number of locations already in operation in Australia, including Sydney's CBD, Melbourne, Canberra and Perth.

Pictured: Coronation Property Chairman George Sahyoun and MP Geoff Lee find themselves at the top of the pile this week.

Crystalbrook appts

CRYSTALBROOK Collection has appointed Megan Knoetze as its Group Director People & Culture.

She joined the company on 27 Jul as a member of the Crystalbrook's executive leadership team.

Knoetze was most recently with InterContinental Hotels Group.

Tokyo 1hr testing

HANEDA and Narita airports in Tokyo have implemented COVID-19 "antigen tests" for international arrivals, which allows passengers to be processed in less than one hour.

The test requires travellers to provide saliva as opposed to nasal swabs or blood - effectively doubling medical capacity.

AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents



WE KNOW

Australians want to travel again. We also know that travel agents want to help get

Australians travelling again.

International travel is the bread and butter for Australia's travel agents and while we're starting to see domestic travel slowly emerge, albeit with the ongoing challenges of COVID clusters, until outbound travel resumes, life is going to continue to be extremely challenging for our sector.

So how can we re-open our domestic and national borders in a medically led and responsible manner while protecting lives?

The answer is simple.

Conceptually, travel bubbles could start right now between those states and countries that already have low rates of COVID-19 and little risk of community transmission, as deemed so by epidemiologists.

This would allow Australia to work through its own international travel protocols as distinct from all other countries which are currently experiencing full commercial airline travel.

At present, the establishment of scientifically and medically led travel bubbles is the main focus of AFTA and we believe a step in the right direction to restarting the economy and creating jobs.

AFTA is bringing together a group of experts and business leaders within our sector, and across others, to deliver solid thought-leadership, drive change and bring confidence to consumers, businesses and governments.

We must find a better balance that accommodates both health precautions and border openings, and travel bubbles are the right way forward.

What is extremely promising is that the Asia-Pacific zone is seen as one of two large travel bubbles that could occur, along with Europe.

AFTA is committed to doing all that it can to help members get through this period and will continue to work closely and collaboratively with government, at all levels and across parties, and with other industry bodies, to map out the best path forward and get Australians doing what we do best – travelling!

Destination online

THIS month's BYO Coffee Cluster Webinars will see another 12 suppliers and tourism bodies join Destination Webinars' Charlie Trevena each week on Thu at 11am.

Each session features three suppliers delivering a 15-minute update followed by a live Q&A, with this week's webinar featuring Abu Dhabi, Bunnik and Holland America.

CLICK HERE to view the calendar and register.

Crooked service

CROOKED Compass has introduced a new travel concierge service, offering exclusive travel consultations with founder Lisa Pagotto.

The service is available to travel agents, with clients also able to join upon request.

The half-hour personalised calls can be done over the phone or via Zoom, and provide an opportunity to ask questions relating to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

MSC initiatives

MSC Cruises has revealed details of the cruise line's comprehensive health and safety protocols for the restart of operations in the Mediterranean.

A dedicated task force, with the input and support of leading external medical experts, has developed the protocol alongside new MSC-specific operating procedures.



Classificati Registro Italiano Navale (RINA) has verified the protocol meets the European Maritime Safety Agency Guidance.

Intrepid discount

INTREPID Travel has announced a 10% off sale for all Australian trips booked throughout the month of Aug.

Small group tours on offer include Arnhem Land Adventure, Daintree Retreat, Perth to Broome Overland & Top End and Uluru Adventure.

Accommodation, transport and some meals and activities are included.

Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

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.

D	T	F
A	G	O
L	O	E

Good – 18 words
 Very good – 27 words
 Excellent – 35 words

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

International Beer Day



THIS Friday, being the first in Aug, is International Beer Day. Because August is hot in half of the world, the month was chosen in 2008 to celebrate ales, pilseners and lagers of all kinds across the world. Some ways you can celebrate

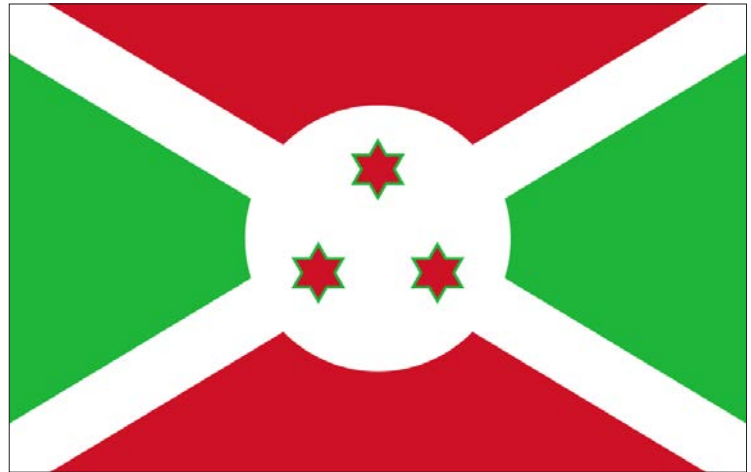
this momentous occasion include attending a beer tasting, touring a brewery or asking your bartender to recommend you something different for a change. So at Fri drinks (whether at home or at the pub), don't forget to raise a glass of beer.

ANSWERS 03 AUG

Where in the world: Rialto Bridge, Venice, Italy

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

Whose flag is this?



THIS country was colonised by Belgium when it was controlled by Spain, and this flag's cross may have been borrowed from them, as the symbol was common in the 17th century.

The flag for a long time had a different symbol in the centre but this was removed in 1966 when

the country's monarchy was overthrown, replacing it with the three stars you see today.

The stars supposedly represent the national motto "unity, work, progress" but could also stand for the three main ethnic groups of the country.

Do you know whose flag this is?

Pub quiz

- Which country is the only to feature a bible on its flag?
- Which state has a higher population - New Jersey or New South Wales?
- The first Europeans to sight Australia were Dutch explorers – they first named the land what?
- Now scheduled to open in October this year, Berlin Brandenburg Airport, the city's third aerodrome, was originally scheduled to open in October of which year?
- Is Iceland a Nordic country, a Scandinavian country, or both?
- The House of Thani rules which country?
- The state of Western Australia is the second-largest administrative division in the world – what is the largest?
- What is the most populous town in the Noosa Shire?
- Australia's capital Canberra is not the country's most populous city. How many other national capitals are not their country's largest settlement?
 - 17
 - 34
 - 51
 - 68
- Italy has a border with two microstates, as well as Austria, France, Switzerland and which other country?



AIDA Aug delay

AIDA Cruises has announced the cancellation of its scheduled short trip European sailings departing between 05-12 Aug on board AIDAprera and AIDamar.

The reason for the delay was attributed to the formal resumption approval still needing to be rubber-stamped by its flag state, Italy.

"We very much regret this delay, we would have loved to welcome our guests back on board from 05 Aug...we assume that we will receive the last formal approval by the flag state Italy in a timely manner," the cruise line said.

Refunds will be automatically reimbursed according to the payment method made.

No new relaunch date has yet been announced.

Greek cruise boost

GREECE'S Shipping Ministry has revealed a loosening of cruise and ferry restrictions in the country.

Relaxed measures now allow passenger capacity to increase by 80% from the current 60% for ships without cabins.

For vessels with cabins, pax limits will be expanded from 65% to 85%, and the number of people allowed in each cabin has also been increased to four, so long as they are close relatives.

Canada webinar

DESTINATION Canada is hosting two webinars tomorrow, discussing regions such as Newfoundland and Labrador.

Register for the 8.30am session [HERE](#) or 10.30am webinar [HERE](#).

QR passengers delighted



QATAR Airways celebrated Eid Al-Adha last week by gifting passengers travelling through Sydney Airport with a box of traditional Turkish Delight.

The airline's trade sales team surprised a number of customers who were preparing to board flights between Australia and Doha, putting a smile on the face of travellers in a challenging time.

Eid al-Adha is the Feast of the Sacrifice and is the last of the two Islamic holidays celebrated worldwide each year.

Raffe promotes

RAFFE Hotels and Resorts has announced the appointment of Lisa Costello to the role of acting Group Director of Sales and Marketing, effective immediately.

She arrives in the position with 17 years of sales and marketing experience in Fiji, and was most recently in the role of Group Sales Manager for Raffe Hotels.



Pictured: Commercial Manager Cassandra Kerr and Senior Sales Executive Adam Joseph flank two lucky QR passengers.

It is virtually Elvis

WITH many travellers unable to access Elvis Presley's famous Graceland residence due to travel restrictions, Memphis Travel has launched 10 new virtual tours of the legendary rocker's house and life to mark Elvis Week 2020.

Using augmented reality technology, users can be serenaded by Elvis, dress up as the king, or be at the front row of one of his concerts.

Purchase tickets [HERE](#).

RJ suspends flying

ROYAL Jordanian Airlines has cancelled all flights to and from the capital Amman until at least 01 Sep due to ongoing airport closures and travel restrictions.

Affected passengers can change booking dates and avoid penalties so long as the cancellation is due to airport closure, with voucher options also available, valid for two years from issuance date.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US0.71

THERE are still a lot of concerns about COVID-19 spooking the Aussie market and the dollar, but financial experts believe the price of our currency is being driven forward for the moment by the actions of the Federal Reserve's recent creation of more money and credit in the marketplace.

That perception has actually strengthened the Aussie dollar over the last couple of weeks, and should continue to do so, despite Melbourne going into stage four lockdown.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.71
UK	£0.54
NZ	\$1.07
Euro	€0.60
Japan	¥75.04
Thailand	฿22.11
China	¥4.97
South Africa	12.14
Canada	\$0.95
Crude oil	US\$40.27

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

