

Skal VP steps down

NORTH Queensland-based Fiona Nicholl, who became Global Vice President of travel and hospitality networking organisation Skal International last year after a global online election (**TD** 20 Oct 2020) has announced her resignation from the role effective immediately.

Nicholl, from the Cairns Skal Club, has also served as President of Skal Australia and is one of the youngest ever Skalleagues to take on the international VP role.

However yesterday she posted on social media about stepping down, saying "it is with a very heavy heart that I announce my resignation as International Vice President from Skal International".

Nicholl thanked everyone who had supported her and encouraged her to represent Australia on a world stage.

"It would've been an absolute honour to reach my goal of becoming President of an organisation that I hold close to my heart...sadly, I feel like I cannot continue in my current role and I therefore chose to step down," she said.

Nicholl, who is MD of tourism marketing firm Gateway Media, said she wished only the best for the organisation, and noted she would continue to be a proud member of her local Skal club.

Today's issue of TD

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

New grants appeal deadline

AUSTRADE has issued an update on the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program, advising of newly finalised deadlines for the submission of exceptional circumstances applications.

For Round One of the scheme, which closed on 13 Mar, agents and tour operators who wish to apply under the exceptional circumstances provisions must make their submissions by 11.59pm AEST this Thu 10 Jun.

For Round Two, which closes this coming Sat 12 Jun, exceptional circumstances applications must be lodged by 11.59pm AEST on 04 Jul.

In the meantime existing exceptional circumstances claims continue to be assessed, and can also be lodged within 10 business days of claims or review/appeal outcomes being finalised for either round of the program.

An updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document released by Austrade on Fri also confirms that it is now possible to apply under Round Two of the program even if a business did

not apply for the first tranche of funding, via an exceptional circumstances request.

The FAQ also adds new information for businesses with multiple outlets operating under a single ABN, noting that "a decision on multi-outlet businesses will be made shortly".

\$6.5m for ATE

TOURISM Australia's annual showcase, Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE), kicked off at the Sydney International Convention Centre this morning, with more than 1,000 delegates attending in person.

The week-long show was opened by Tourism Minister Dan Tehan, who confirmed that the Government had funded the event to the tune of \$6.5 million to ensure it would go ahead.

The first three days are being conducted "live" with in-person delegates, while the rest of the week will be in a virtual format to allow overseas buyers to engage with local suppliers.

Tehan assured the industry of the Government's support for the sector, urging delegates to "exchange like you've never exchanged before".

"Keep a smile on your face and make sure you know that our Government will stand with you over the coming months, because we know how important the tourism industry is to our nation's future," he said.

Vale Colin Robinson

COLIN Robinson, former Bentours International National Sales Manager, has died aged 81.

Robinson's industry career also included roles at Ya'lla Tours/Tempo Holidays, and together with wife Deirdre he also operated his own travel company called Canterbury Tours.

Jetstar unveils kit

JETSTAR has released its 2021 sales kit for agents, a guide to provide help regarding bookings and in-flight experience options.

The 23-page document also contains advice on disruption management caused by factors such as COVID, see **HERE**.

Join our virtual event

News TRAVEL NETWORK future of TRAVEL

Discover what's next for the travel industry and dive into the minds of the 'new Australian traveller'

Keynote speakers include the Hon. Dan Tehan, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Alan Joyce, CEO QANTAS Group and a panel discussion.

Streaming
Wednesday June 9, 2021
11:30am - 1:30pm AEST

REGISTER HERE

News Corp Australia



Jetstar Group Bookings – AU Domestic Promotion

For all NEW domestic Group bookings from 03 May – 30 June 2021:

- ✓ 50% off the deposit amount
- ✓ Unlimited name changes up to 24 hours before departure
- ✓ Final payment extended to 30 days (from 45 days)*

*Terms and conditions apply. See Jetstar's Group Booking page for details.

Get Group quote

Jetstar

Tourism wears the crown

A **LANDMARK** agreement signed by Destination NSW and Crown Lands will see some of the state's crown reserves turned into major regional tourism hubs.

The deal means NSW can now activate Crown land to open up new tourism opportunities, thereby boosting regional economies and advancing Aboriginal interests.

NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey said the new 10-year Crown land 2031 strategy would both support local communities through greater investment and also help to cultivate a greater range of cultural experiences on offer for visitors.

"Crown land is community land, we want our communities to unlock their full potential to support not only the local economy, but also its heritage and cultural opportunities, while keeping it in public ownership," she said.

In the report, the NSW Government states that Crown land can be accessed and enjoyed

by an expansive network of businesses and communities for a wide variety of purposes, including creating showgrounds, installing campgrounds and setting up recreational infrastructure.

The strategy also states it will support reconciliation with Aboriginal people in NSW by brokering a greater diversity of access and use with Aboriginal landowners, whilst making sure to protect sensitive cultural and environmental sites.

Qantas infiltrated?

QANTAS says allegations made by the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *60 Minutes* that the carrier's staff ranks have been infiltrated by up to 150 organised crime members are "disturbing".

The airline said it had not been made aware by any of Australia's law enforcement agencies that there were employees with connections to bikie gangs or crime syndicates.

"Qantas is the only commercial airline that holds a Trusted Trader accreditation with Australian Border Force which means every single employee connected to international air freight must pass a fit and proper test," Group Chief Security Officer Luke Bramah said.

"We have not been advised by Border Force of any of our employees failing this test," Bramah added.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?
JOIN US...

TUES: FIJI & SOLOMON ISLANDS
WED: LONDON, THE HOTEL CONNECTION

[REGISTER NOW](#)

GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON!

DESTINATIONWEBINARS.COM.AU

Destination
WEBINARS

Raman steps down

LONG-STANDING Abercrombie & Kent Australia and NZ chief Sujata Raman has resigned from the company after more than 30 years with the brand.

Citing the need to "pursue other interests", Raman departs after enjoying a successful tenure at the luxury brand, having been appointed Managing Director in 2002 before going on to become A&K's Regional Managing Director for Australasia, Hong Kong and China.

"Raman's leadership encouraged innovation and diversity, constantly inspiring those she worked with to contribute ideas across all areas of the business," A&K said.

Stepping into the role on an interim basis is Graham Wood, who rejoins the business after a two-and-half-year stint as Managing Director, Hong Kong & China between 2013 and 2015.

Most recently he operated his own bespoke luxury adventure travel agency called Tallis Journeys, which offered safaris for travellers wanting five-star trips with a focus on philanthropic and cultural interactions.

Come & see Europe

AGENTS now have the chance to embark on virtual tours of London, Edinburgh, Venice, Tuscany and Barcelona.

A new webinar series created by The Hotel Connection and Destination Webinars takes attendees to see the most iconic attractions of each destination, with a bottle of premium British gin up for grabs for those who sign up to the first session taking place Wed 09 Jun at either 5pm AEST (register [HERE](#)) or 7pm AEST (register [HERE](#)).

Nice palace digs!

AIRELLES Chateau de Versailles, Le Grand Controle has become the first hotel to open on the grounds of the Palace of Versailles in its 387-year history.

Rezdy inks Tourplan

TECHNOLOGY platform Tourplan and SAAS booking & distribution hub Rezdy have announced the launch of their live integration.

Tour operators and destination management organisations on Tourplan will now be able to make real-time bookings of all tours and activities listed on the Rezdy Marketplace, as well as access products via enterprise reservation systems like Merlin Entertainments and Sealink.

Tourplan customers will be able to access pricing and real-time availability in a seamless experience on Tourplan through this direct integration, as they are able to automate what was once a manual exercise to allow for more efficient trading than ever.

MEL/GBR delayed

REX Airlines has been forced to delay the launch of its Melbourne to Canberra services due to the ongoing lockdown in Melbourne.

Originally slated to take off for the first time on 10 Jun, the route will now kick off instead the following week on 18 Jun.



malaysia **3**
airlines

Booking group travel with Malaysia Airlines is now easier with MHgroupbooking

[Register now](#) and go into the draw to win **Gift Vouchers up to \$500***

Campaign Period: Now until 30 June 2021

*T&C applies

IT'S TIME FOR
YOUR CLIENTS TO
**WANDER
OUT
YONDER
IN WA**

FIND OUT MORE AT
[WESTERNAUSTRALIA.COM/
WANDEROUTYONDER](http://WESTERNAUSTRALIA.COM/WANDEROUTYONDER)

NINGALOO REEF



Yes Minister, this is ATE!

THE importance of the opportunity to gather face-to-face for Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) this week (**see p1**) was not lost on Federal Tourism Minister Dan Tehan, who is currently locked out of his home state of Victoria due to the ongoing COVID-19 response there.

Tehan welcomed delegates to the event at ICC Sydney this morning, saying he was "one of two Victorians here" but also noted the opportunity afforded by hybrid technology allowing those in lockdown to take part.

The first part of the event, designated as "ATE Live", is being conducted in a new format from Mon-Wed this week, with traditional seller booths replaced with networking areas defined by states and territories, and buyers situated in individual booths meaning sellers, rather than buyers, move between appointments.

ATE Online follows from 10-17 Jun, for international buyers who are unable to travel due to border restrictions.

To help the industry recover, Tourism Australia has generously offered fully subsidised participation fees as well as three nights' accommodation and flights for buyers and sellers.

A significant number of buyers are Australian retail travel

agents, who are adapting to the new world by focusing on the domestic tourism market and are now being targeted by suppliers.

Tehan is **pictured** with Tourism Australia MD Phillipa Harrison and Board Members Penny Fowler from News Corp and Hayley Baillie of Baillie Lodges.

Double the food!

FOR the month of Jun, Virgin Australia is offering its Velocity members the ability to earn two points for every \$1 spent on Youfoodz orders online.

The offer applies to a minimum spend of \$49 & excludes delivery.

GA domestic pivot

INDONESIA'S State-Owned Enterprises Minister has revealed the country's national carrier Garuda will have to shift focus to the domestic market for the airline to survive.

Erick Thohir provided an update at a media conference over the weekend, stating that ongoing headwinds created by COVID meant the carrier would need to focus on Indonesia's large domestic traffic potential as int'l flights continue to be disrupted.

A recent financial report showed Garuda's debt has spiralled to more than US\$4.9 billion.



Vic support package

THE Victorian Government has unveiled a \$32.2 million tourism support package in the wake of ongoing travel restrictions.

Ski resorts will be a major beneficiary, with \$4.4 million allocated as part of a special alpine support package to prop up ski-related businesses, while \$16 million has been spent to provide another 80,000 regional tourism vouchers.

Tourism businesses are also set to receive an extra \$11.8 million, or about \$4,500 each in extra funding, which when added to existing business support will mean an extra \$7,000 in support for each company.

KLM refurbishes

KLM has announced its fleet of Boeing 737-800 aircraft are currently undergoing a major overhaul, with Business and Economy class cabins being refreshed to increase both "comfort and style".

The airline added the reconfiguration would result in a lower fuel consumption, with each plane to weigh 700kg less.



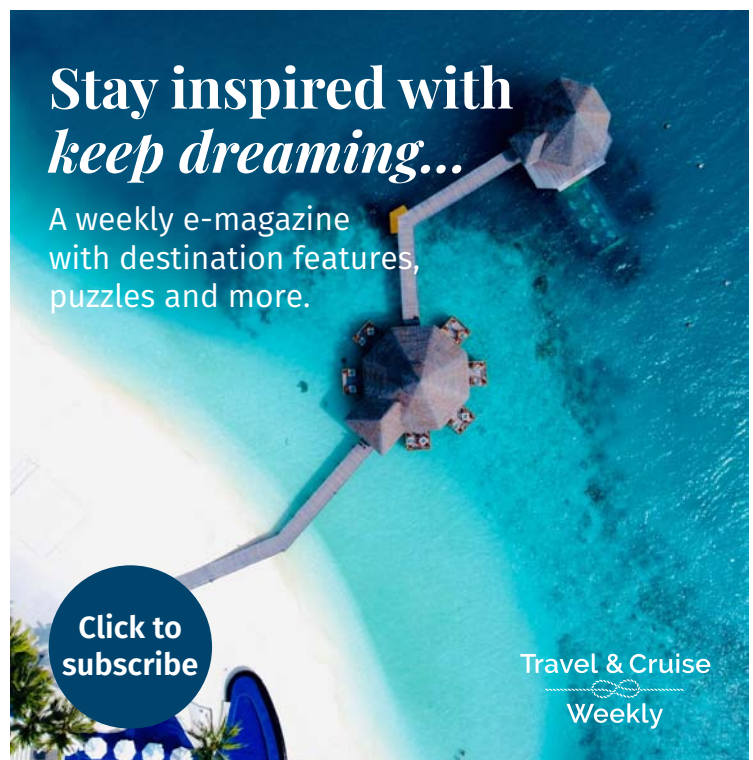
Window Seat

THERE'S no doubting the creativity of travel agents around the world, who have been forced to deal with all manner of crises since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The abrupt closure of Britain's borders with Portugal last week caused consternation - but one Scottish travel agency group came up with an instant solution by offering disrupted travellers the opportunity to visit one of the world's largest department stores instead.

Retail therapy trips from Scotland to the Primark outlet in Birmingham, including transfers, dinner, bed and breakfast at the local Park Inn Hotel, are on offer for £99.

The five-level Primark holds a Guinness World Record for being the largest fashion retail outlet in the world, and also boasts an in-store barber and beauty salon and three dining venues including a Disney Cafe.



Where in the world?



THIS city is nestled amongst the striking scenery of this peninsula, which serves as a stop for many cruises visiting the Arctic, or transiting from the eastern edge of Europe to North America.

The city is perched on high hills and surrounded by volcanoes - in

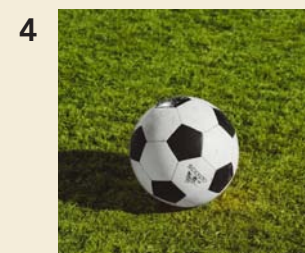
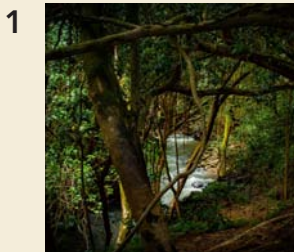
fact the area is so mountainous that the horizon cannot be seen clearly from any point in town.

Do you know the name of the peninsula where this city is located - bonus points if you can also name the city (it's a bit of a mouthful)!

Pick the nation

COUNTRIES have unique geography, ethnicities and cultures which come together to often form very distinctive symbols.

Based off the four different symbols and famous faces, see if you can figure out which country they represent.



Sudoku

DIABOLICAL

THE aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes.

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

www.sudokuoftheday.com - visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

Whose mascot is this?



GRITTY is not your typical mascot - he is oftentimes known for being more popular with the adult fans and scaring the younger followers.

However, as far as marketing goes, he has become an unbridled success, developing

into an internet sensation, and even appearing on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gritty was also seen sporting a face shield.

What team does Gritty represent?

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

ANSWERS 07 JUN
 Where in the world: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Kamchatka, Russia
 Pick the nation: Brazil
 Whose mascot is this: Gritty - Philadelphia Flyers (NHL)

Hotels still needed?

THE Accommodation Association (AA) has called on the Federal Government to continue using hotels to quarantine for returning Australians, even when new large-scale quarantine facilities are constructed.

"The proposed purpose-built quarantine hub will provide a solution for those returning from high COVID-risk environments but the reality is that we will still need hotels to play a role given the volume of travellers involved," AA's CEO Dean Long said.

AC bows to push

AIR Canada executives have opted to return their 2020 cash bonuses following a backlash from Canadian media (*TD* 03 Jun).

The carrier was scrutinised for awarding the bonuses while lobbying for government funding.

Geelong work starts

QUEST Apartment Hotels has commenced work on a \$70m mixed-use hotel development in Geelong, which when completed will feature 87 rooms.

Quest Geelong Central will open to the public in Q1 2023 and will boast a ground floor dining area, retail spaces, a rooftop gym, and multiple conference facilities.

Quest hopes the upcoming property will take advantage of a predicted increase in tourism demand in Geelong when the Spirit of Tasmania opens a new terminal in late 2022.

"This location, so close to our culture, sporting and events precincts, provides an excellent option for visitors to extend their stay and enjoy more of the experiences on offer in the city and beyond," Executive Director, Tourism Greater Geelong Brett Ince said.



CLOSE to 40 travel agents in Western Australia were able to get together and share a drink thanks to a recent networking event in Perth organised by Uniworld Boutique River Cruises and Lindblad Expeditions.

Despite the cruise sector going through the biggest challenge in its history, Uniworld General Manager Australia Alice Ager said she was amazed to see so much optimism in the room.

Pictured: Gaynor Vantsant, Travel Focus International; Gina Maitland, MTA; Raelene Wherlock, Travel Focus

International; Andree Haydar, Fun Travel and Jen Pagett from Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection.

Jetstar recognition

JETSTAR Airways will now include an acknowledgement of country in all of its PA announcements upon landing around Australia.

"While this is not a destination, it is a great step towards recognising our first nations people," the airline's Cabin Standards Manager Michael Morrison said.

BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Emerald Cruises Luxury Yachts 2023

Emerald Cruises' Luxury Yachts 2023 brochure sees the introduction of *Emerald Azzurra*, the cruise line's brand new five-star luxury yacht. Custom-designed to allow access to some of the world's most unique ports, Emerald promises travellers they will venture off the beaten path aboard *Azzurra*. Highlights of *Azzurra's* first season include the Adriatic Coast, the Eastern and Western Mediterranean, and the Red Sea. Travellers will discover some of the oldest communities to have ever existed, including a range of different island groups and a visit to the Holy Land. Also on offer for the season will be the Black Sea - a new destination for Emerald. Here, cruisers will discover a plethora of cities along the coast, including Istanbul, Sochi, Odessa and Batumi.

TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY WILL ENSURE YOU DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND

Make sure you are ready to take advantage of a travel bounceback - get up to scratch on a variety of destinations with the Travel Daily Training Academy.

[Click here to start learning](#)

