

A meeting of the minds



TWO independent Australian travel companies have decided to unite and strengthen their respective offerings, with Virtuoso member and luxury travel specialist Trans World Travel joining forces with the recently created Y Travel.

One of three co-founders of Executive Edge Travel, Yvonne Verstandig and her latest business Y Travel will bring a level of creative prowess and experience to Trans World Travel that the company hopes will steel it for the challenges of the future.

"Yvonne needs no introduction to our industry, she...brings to us a wealth of knowledge, experience, passion and creative energy, helping evolve our company for the next challenging and thrilling chapter," enthused Trans World Travel co-founder

Rob Mackie.

Reflecting on the decision to link up with another business, Verstandig said she was excited to start a new journey as the travel sector wakes up from the challenges of the pandemic.

"I strongly believe in the power of travel, be it locally or abroad," she said.

"I know first-hand the enrichment it can bring to our lives, our clients are so eager to explore again, and I cannot wait to introduce them to a more considered purpose to travel.

"I am ready and eager to embark on this new venture with the team and cannot wait to deliver this new vision," Verstandig said.

Pictured: Allan Verstandig, Karen Mackie, Rob Mackie and Yvonne Verstandig.



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!



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

AFTA is still working with Austrade and various other government agencies to finalise the specific details, and the delivery mechanism, for the \$128 million tailored travel sector support package.



agency, tour operator and wholesaler communities can make an application before Christmas.

You may have read that the interview with The Travel Industry Hub and Bruce Piper scheduled for

yesterday was postponed.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the very extensive and complex process to have the web-based grant application process open before Christmas.

This is both intentional, to respect your valuable time, but also to ensure that we are only communicating the final and correct facts to you.

The legislative approval for the funding is underway, and the cross-agency implementation plan is well advanced, but some of the aspects related to the platform are not yet finalised.

As soon as we are confident that the detail is in a finalised state we will reschedule the interview.

We have received a lot of questions from members related to grant eligibility and timing, and so we want you to know that AFTA, and all the other parties involved, are working very hard towards the goal of optimising the grant eligibility for the sector, so that the travel

Additionally, we have scheduled an AFTA member-only webinar next week to go over the funding architecture, eligibility criteria and distribution framework.

The webinar is planned for Wednesday 16 Dec 2pm AEDT and you can register **HERE**.

Thank you for your stamina, it has been a long hard road to get to here and we are so very close.

Stay tuned.

CX adds insurance

CATHAY Pacific has partnered with AXA General Insurance Hong Kong Limited to offer free COVID-19 coverage for all passengers.

The policy includes the cost of a PCR test and any required hospitalisation, covering up to US\$200,000 in medical expenses.

Customers will also receive an allowance of US\$100 per day per passenger for up to 14 days during any period of "unforeseen and mandatory quarantine".

The new CX insurance will be automatically applied to all bookings for travel until Feb 2021, covering travellers for 30 days from departure or until they return home.

Westin Surabaya

WESTIN Hotels & Resorts has opened a new property in Indonesia's second largest city, Surabaya in East Java.

The new Westin Surabaya is the country's fourth Westin property, as well as being the 57th Marriott International hotel in Indonesia.

NZ people person

AIR New Zealand this morning announced the promotion of Nikki Dines to become its Chief People Officer.

Dines has been with the carrier since 2013, and will take up her new position effective 01 Feb 2021, replacing Joe McCollum who will shortly finish up his fixed term appointment (**TD** 25 May).