

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest news, including a photo page from last week's **Ramsgate Travel** event. The next issue of **Travel Daily** will be on Wed 26 Apr due to tomorrow's Anzac Day public holiday.

KE BNE year-round

KOREAN Air has returned to BNE, with the permanent restoration of five weekly flights to Seoul, effective today.

Brisbane Airport CEO Gert-Jan de Graaff said the move would see an additional 89,000 weekly inbound seats supporting over 1,200 jobs in Queensland.

"It turns the tap back on for large-scale South Korean tourism to Queensland, and makes it easier for students to study here and their families to visit," he said.

Stirling Hinchliffe, Qld Tourism Minister, said the return of the route had been enabled by the state's Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, and is an important part of Queensland's post-pandemic international visitor recovery.

Swan Hellenic seals new culinary deal

SWAN Hellenic has announced "an entirely new dimension in gastronomic discovery by sea" as part of a partnership with global chef organisation JRE-Jeunes Restaurateurs.

The pact involves a series of special sailings featuring Maris, a new onboard dining experience showcasing a different signature dish each night courtesy of a JRE "leading light" on each voyage.

Ramsgate - 40 fab years

EXCLUSIVE

SYDNEY suburban agency Ramsgate Travel Service marked a rare milestone last week, celebrating 40 years in business at an event attended by key clients and longstanding suppliers.

Owner Justine Sealey recounted the highs and lows of the last four decades, with the agency founded by the legendary Rosemary Peart in 1982.

Sealey, who started there in 1988 doing work experience, took over as owner in 2018, and noted that the agency held a firm place for many years as an AFTA National Travel Industry Awards finalist and winner for 'Best Suburban Travel Agency'.

Ramsgate Travel Service is a member of the Australian Travel Agents Cooperative (ATAC), with Sealey noting that "it was extremely important to Rosemary to not be part of a franchise, instead to be an independent travel agent that sold what was best for the client".

"This would guarantee a lifelong client in her eyes, and continues to be part of our success...it was always about securing a return visit client, rather than the up-front commission that would be made," Sealey said.

Ramsgate has long been a key producer for many suppliers, some of whom generously

sponsored the landmark event.

Chris Hall, former APT chief and now CEO of Ponant, gave a personal presentation noting that when he started his career with Insight Vacations, Ramsgate Travel Service was among the top outlets for the brand - so much so that Insight's chief at the time, Chris Newman, would take brochures to the agency for any corrections prior to being printed.

"Rosemary was admired and respected by all areas of the industry - airlines, cruise lines, wholesalers, everyone wanted to work with Ramsgate Travel because of Rosemary, but also because of the team she was building - including Justine who now owns the agency," he said.

"A 40-year-old business is rare in this industry, and this is a milestone that I'm so pleased to see is being celebrated."

More from the Ramsgate Travel Service celebration on **page six**.

UK tourist accused of Thai hotel arson

A BRITISH tourist visiting Chiang Mai in Thailand has been arrested over accusations he set his hotel room on fire.

Officials said firefighters were called to the scene at the Y Smart Hotel at about 11pm, with the incident allegedly following an altercation with a receptionist.

The man checked out after the argument, and about an hour later the fire alarm was raised for a major blaze which saw other guests trapped on their balconies.

An ensuing manhunt saw the tourist arrested, with investigations still continuing.

Maltese Six Senses

IHG Hotels & Resorts has confirmed the development of a new Six Senses property on the Maltese island of Comino, located midway between Malta and Gozo.

The Six Senses Comino will feature 19 standalone retreats ranging from two to four bedrooms along with 71 low-rise suites and extensive spa and wellness facilities.

The project is scheduled to open in 2027.



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Monday 24th Apr 2023

Ramsgate Travel celebrates the big 4-0

THE 40th birthday celebration for Ramsgate Travel Service (see p1) saw suppliers from across the industry out in force to support the agency's milestone.

One of the speakers at the event was Abercrombie & Kent chief Debra Fox, who wrapped up proceedings by noting that both now and in her former role at APT, Sealey was always a key sounding board with her finger on the pulse of what clients want.

"Congratulations, I know the business will continue to thrive and I will remain firmly your biggest supporter and I am so glad that I can call you my friend," Fox said.

Pictured from left: Ramon Drew, Viking Cruises; Aaron Dodkin from Back-Roads Touring; Regent Seven Seas Cruises' Scott Graham; Barbara Baron from APT; Talia Mastronardi, Ramsgate Travel; Silversea Cruises' Christine Gardner; Ramsgate Travel owner

Justine Sealey; Tony Archbold from Crystal Cruises; Jenny Day, Ramsgate Travel; Beth Ellicott from Abercrombie & Kent; and Alice Ager of Uniworld Boutique River Cruises.

Other industry guests in attendance included former Wingsaway Travel & Cruise owner Anne Rogers who is now in charge of Ramsgate Travel's burgeoning in-house escorted tour program; Oceania Cruises VP Jason Worth; and Ponant CEO Asia-Pacific, Chris Hall.



JUSTINE Sealey and her longstanding right-hand women, Talia Mastronardi and Jenny Day.



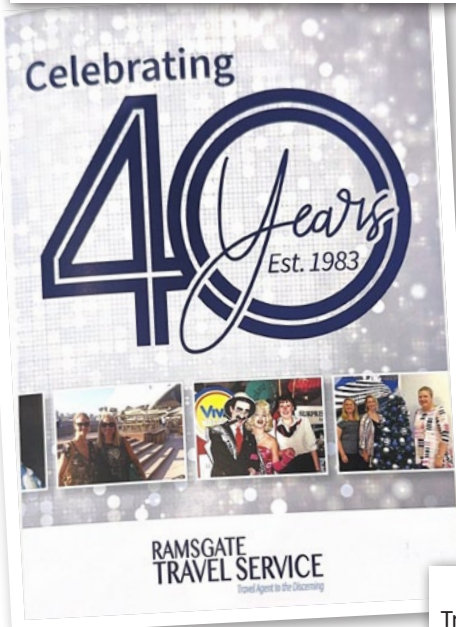
AUSTRALIAN Travel Agents Cooperative (ATAC) GM Michelle Emerton was on hand to honour one of the group's key members.



JUSTINE thanks her mum for all her support over the years.



OCEANIA Cruises VP Jason Worth.

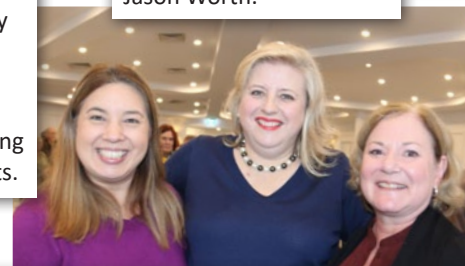


INDUSTRY

partnerships are key for Ramsgate, with Marita Nasic from CLIA and AFTA's Amanda Rixon among the honoured guests.



LONG time friend Debra Fox from A&K gave a stirring tribute to Justine and Ramsgate Travel.



BARRY and Anne Rogers ex Wings Away Travel & Cruise, now Ramsgate's tour manager.



PONANT CEO Chris Hall's long association with Ramsgate Travel Service started when he was a fresh-faced sales representative (and had much more hair).