

Welcome TO OUR SUMMER EDITION

With the Festive Season fast approaching, this will be our last Newsletter for 2022. The Travel & Tourism Industry has bounced back and there is growing positivity and demand for both domestic travel and international travel. Airfares are understandably on the increase largely due to fuel excises. The airlines continue to face reduced services and many additional challenges, resulting in what seems like continuous flight reschedules, cancellations etc., all of which certainly hinder clients travel experiences. As we like to say, Be Prepared for the Unexpected!

Thankfully, we feel blessed to still be in business after the last three years and thank our clients so much for their continual support and words of appreciation and encouragement. We have been indebted to our staff for their commitment to our business over the last years, they have worked tirelessly to do their best for clients, and have not even taken their annual leave throughout these Covid years due to staff shortages from our original team of 8. Thank you for appreciating their work, and for your remarks of praise.

We look forward to sunny days ahead and assisting you with all your travel plans into the future.



Xmas & New Year Operating Hours.

We trust our clients are understanding of our decision to allow our staff to take a very well earned rest over the Christmas & New Year period to enjoy their time with family. Please note: Our office will be closed from:
Closed: Thursday, 22nd. December 5.00pm -
Reopening Tuesday, 3rd January 2023.

Please note, whilst every attempt will be made to return any urgent phone calls/emails at our earliest, we ask for your understanding for any delays experienced.

SOLO TRAVELLERS

XMAS BREAK-UP LUNCH

When: Saturday 10th December 2022 at 11.30am.

Where: Bairnsdale Club, Nicholson Street.

RSVP: Essential by Thursday, 8th December 2022.

2 Course Dinner \$20.00 per head

(Meal at Own expense –
Complimentary drink)

Come along and meet like-minded
friends and enjoy some Xmas Cheer.



STAFF NEWS

Bill Cooper was discharged from Maryvale Hospital on the morning of his 70th Birthday and 40th Wedding Anniversary following a knee replacement, as such he has been leading a reclusive life of late.

Jen Morris has just celebrated her 30th Birthday, and it was great to see Jen have a wonderful day with her family and friends, and of course her work colleagues, and more recently little Arli has celebrated her 1st Birthday – how times flies.

Abbey is heading off to Bali in early December for 50th Birthday celebrations for her mother, Jodie Alvin. This is sure to be a memorable occasion with many family & friends travelling to enjoy the occasion. Cheers to Jodie from all the team at Coopers Travel.

Georgia has just returned from Cairns after attending her first major Travel Conference, fully motivated and full of new with ideas. Georgia and her partner Ben took a little extra time to get out and explore Cairns, Port Douglas and Townsville, before boarding the Grand Princess in Sydney for a short 2 Night from Sydney to Melbourne. *See report Page 4.*



BOOK EARLY & BE WELL PREPARED FOR YOUR TRAVEL PLANS IN 2023

COOPERS TRAVEL urge all clients planning travel Internationally to **Book Early**. With many destinations removing many of the mandatory Covid requirements for travel internationally and domestically, the industry is booming. Industry reports indicate that travel is in much higher demand now that it was in 2019 pre pandemic.

Flights: As airlines continue to operate at reduced levels, there is huge demand for seats both Internationally and Domestically, with Business Class airfares showing increased popularity. Coopers Travel cannot emphasize enough the need to place your travel arrangements early to secure the best deals for price and availability. For those making last minute reservations expect to pay dearly and availability can be an issue. Hence the reports we have seen of late of the extravagant prices being issued by the airlines on last minute bookings. In general, if you book well in advance you can expect to secure reasonable air prices both Internationally and Domestically. If planning travel to UK please keep in mind the Coronation of King Charles 111 in early May 2023 with fares already at premium pricing.

Holiday Packages: Destinations in the Pacific & Asia are also in high demand, with Bali and Fiji booming and finding availability can be extremely tight. Japan is creating renewed interest however it should be noted that at the time of going to print travel to Japan must be all pre-arranged prior to departure. Korea is emerging as a new boom destination, with many expecting travel there to surpass all expectations. At the time of going to print we note airlines are commencing additional and new services into destinations including Bali, Korea etc. Domestically airlines are endeavouring to add additional flights and more destinations to meet demand, however airlines appear to be continually cancelling and rescheduling flights in what appears to be the norm for the industry for some time yet.

Travel Insurance remains essential – Be aware to check Policy inclusions. A reminder to all of our clients that the importance of Travel Insurance has never been more important, and it is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a policy in place prior to travel.

Passports: The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has implemented a range of measures to meet forecast continued high demand for passports, after seeing a massive jump in requests which meant huge delays in processing times.

In Jun 2022 the Department issued 266,000 passports to Australian citizens - more than four times the 60,000 issued during the near record low demand period of Jun 2021. Our advice is to check the validity on your passport now and ensure you lodge any renewals or application for passports early to avoid anxious moment and incurred additional expense for emergency issues.

Travel Agents Terms & Conditions and Fees: Coopers Travel ask all clients to read and understand our terms and conditions, and that of the travel wholesalers related to your travel booking in particular to any decisions you may make regarding changes to flight & travel arrangements which have already been confirmed by either deposit or full monies paid. We ask that you carefully consider your travel plans initially to avoid amendment and cancellation fees being applied. Coopers Travel act as agent to travel companies and we do ask for understanding in the direction travel is taking, and advise that in most instances we have absolutely no leeway in fees that may be applicable to bookings where changes are made by the client. Upon a wholesaler cancelling services or amending itineraries we are also dictated to by their terms and conditions. We strongly recommend that should you wish to amend or change your booking you discuss with your travel consultant the fees applicable and be understanding and respectful of the workload involved in these changes. Whilst Coopers Travel is always mindful of working extremely hard for our client, we do advise it has become necessary for our agency to add amendment/cancellation charges in many instances also, as per our terms & conditions. It is also now common for wholesalers preparing specialized Itineraries to request a non-refundable deposit before proceeding with planning. This deposit will then be deducted once you proceed with your booking.

The Early Bird gets the... Platinum Cabin!



DON'T MISS OUT! Platinum cabins for the Ghan and Indian Pacific have been released early for the 2024 season. Enjoy luxurious comfort, decadent dining, 5-star service, exclusive access to the Platinum Club, curated, high-end amenities, all off-train excursions, transfers and much, much more. These cabins sell out well in advance, so get in touch today to secure yours or enquire for our Gippsland Departure 2024 dates.



Looking
for
Xmas Gift
ideas

**We now stock
Travel Luggage!**

Christmas Sale! 10% Discount from 1st December – 22nd December 2022. Check out our new range of Luggage. Further stocks available in time for Christmas.



**Exclusive
Villas in Italy!**

Are you travelling to Italy in 2023? Contact Coopers Travel to enquire about the extensive range of Villas available through-out Italy. Locations include Apulia, Sicily, Tuscany, Sardinia, Umbria plus many more!



Spirit of Tasmania port relocates to Geelong

Spirit of Tasmania's Victorian terminal is relocating to Geelong. The new terminal located at Spirit of Tasmania Quay - 136 Corio Quay Rd, North Geelong.

Parking at Spirit of Tasmania Quay: The new terminal will have a free public parking area for visitors and passengers with their vehicles, including caravans and motorhomes, waiting to board the ship. There is also a dedicated passenger drop off/pick up parking area at the front of the terminal. Alternatively, the closest railway station to Spirit of Tasmania Quay is North Geelong Railway Station (a 20min walk). It can be accessed via the V-Line train from Southern Cross Station in Melbourne's CBD connecting to the North Geelong Railway Station.

My Bus Geelong have introduced a new shuttle service offering Spirit of Tasmania passengers transfers from Spirit of Tasmania Quay to the Geelong Railway Station, bookings are essential for My Bus transfers, with a minimum of 48 hours notice required.



Tour De Vines - Tasmanian East Coast - Cycling grows in popularity:

Possibly one of Australia's best and increasingly popular cycling trips. Most riders start in Launceston and cruise down the east coast to Hobart via the stunning Freycinet Peninsula (Wineglass Bay). The coastal road itself whilst undulating isn't technical or overly difficult, albeit with some traffic in the holiday months, so is within reach for most semi regular cyclists. It would be remiss to ignore the beautiful North East Tasmania Rail Trail just out of Launceston, which is the ideal off road start to get the legs warmed up.

This cycling trip combines beautiful beaches, rugged coastline, incredible seafood (think oysters straight from the sea), world class vineyards and cute seaside towns that make for ideal overnight stops. A diversion to the car-free Maria Island is ideal for cycling, and a true wildlife experience awaits. Check out the popular Tour de Vines Launceston to Hobart cycling tour.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING OUR LISTED GIPPSLAND DEPARTURES:

We are finally receiving final confirmation and costings on all departures listed for 2023. Due to the popularity on many of our tours, more especially the small group tours we are now asking that should you wish to confirm your spot on any of our Gippsland Departures that an initial \$ 250.00p.p. refundable deposit be lodged with our office. This refundable deposit secures your confirmed space on the tour until such time as you receive a copy of our fully confirmed itinerary and costing. Upon advice that you wish to proceed with your booking, and a full statement of account outlining the full deposits and payment details will be provided to you, and from this point all normal **'terms and conditions apply'** and deposits become non-refundable.

We continue to urge clients to register interest in any of our tours, as this assists us in our initial planning of these departures, and there is no deposit required unless you specifically wish to ensure you have space confirmed on a first in basis. This has come about due to the high demand on certain tours.

FREE & EASY STYLE GROUPS:

You will find several tours listed in our departure list that offer you the opportunity to design your own Itinerary in effect, whilst still travelling with a tour escort and a likeminded group. This allows greater flexibility in the tour, and these are designed to allow flexibility with pricing and participation to suits clients individual needs, whilst still enjoying the security and company of travelling with a group.

AIR DEALS FOR our Europe River Cruise:

For all clients who had expressed interest in taking our Europe River Cruise for 2023 we ask you please confirm your bookings at your earliest to avoid air fare increases that will affect the package prices and early deals.



Georgia Somerville | Grand Princess Cruise

On the 2nd of November my partner and I were fortunate enough to experience the Grand Princess from Sydney to Melbourne. Our journey began with receiving our Medallion to board the ship which was a seamless process (app or no app, the process is the same) and then we sailed out of lovely Sydney with cocktail in hand and wild weather bound for Melbourne! Our dinner at the Crown Grill restaurant was highly recommended and worth the small surcharge, which I would suggest booking early to secure your reservation. Although the weather wasn't on our side the first morning we manage to check out all the ship had to offer including Karaoke, Bingo & the ships famous pizza bar! My experience onboard Princess post COVID overall was enjoyable, we understand some thing may not be the same in the post COVID cruising world however we believe Princess along with many other cruise lines are doing their best to bounce back and accommodate their guests in the best way possible!

The team at Coopers Travel wish all clients a wonderful Christmas and New Year Festive Season, we trust you all enjoy some very happy days with family and friends, and wish you all a Safe, Healthy & Happy 2023