



## A Message from the Foundation Committee

Welcome to our Q3/2021 National Newsletter.

We hope this newsletter finds you all well, double-vaccinated (ready to travel) and in good health.

Apologies again for the delay of this Newsletter. Owing to the lockdown in both NSW and Victoria, it has been very difficult for our Chapters to plan and reschedule the remaining events for 2021. These lockdowns have also impacted on our plans to return to Longreach in November to seal the Time Capsule, and to progress our planning of the Sydney Grand Milestone Reunion with Qantas, originally earmarked for October 2021.

However, we are pleased to announce that in late September, we reconnected with Qantas and have agreed to a provisional timeline for these events. Please refer to the details in this Newsletter.

## In this Edition:

1. Red Tail Grand Milestone Event – Sydney
2. Red Tail Time Capsule – Longreach
3. Red Tail Road to 100 Longreach Videos and Photos
4. Far North Queensland Reunion Outcome
5. Forthcoming Red Tail Chapter Reunions
6. The Future of Red Tail beyond the Road to 100
7. Qudos Bank
8. Chapter Newsletter
9. Red Tail News and Reviews (Q3 2021)



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destinations

## 1. Red Tail Grand Milestone Event – Sydney

We are planning to host the Sydney Grand Milestone Reunion event at the Qantas Campus in Mascot sometime in March 2021. It will be a luncheon event with the final date to be confirmed as soon as possible. We are waiting for Qantas staff to return to work in October but expect to have the date confirmed by the time our Q4 Newsletter is published in December. Members from all Chapters around Australia and the world are invited to attend.

## 2. Red Tail Time Capsule at Longreach

We would like to thank the many of you who have joined us in this initiative. We have received very positive updates from many of you who have mailed-in your momentos for inclusion in the Time Capsule.

It was our intention to return to Longreach in November to seal the capsule and conclude our Centenary celebrations. However with the impact of COVID we have decided to postpone our return to Longreach to late April 2022. It will mark the first anniversary of our Red Tail journey to Longreach and conclude our Red Tail Road to 100 initiative.



### Background on the Red Tail Time Capsule at the Qantas Founders Museum - Longreach

To commemorate our contribution to the 100 years of Qantas and our visit to Longreach in April 2021, the Red Tail committee has organised to leave behind a time capsule with our member's momentos. The capsule will be positioned under the nose of the 747 which is on display at the Qantas Founders Museum in Longreach.

The capsule will be left open until mid- April 2022. Red Tail Members and Qantas Staff past and present who wish to leave a small memento can do so by mailing it to the Qantas Founders Museum. Members are encouraged to consider leaving a Long Service Pin or something small as space is very limited.

**Attached is a form that you can print out and complete to accompany your memento.**

Include the form with your memento and mail it in a "small" Australia Post Padded Envelope to:

**Qantas Founders Museum  
Attn: Red Tail Time Capsule  
PO Box 737, Longreach. QLD 4727**

For more information on how you can participate email [admin@redtailroadto100.com](mailto:admin@redtailroadto100.com)

### 3. Red Tail Road to 100 Longreach Videos and Photos

It has taken us a long time but we are pleased to announce that we have finally completed the production of the videos from Longreach. You are able to view them on our Red Tail YouTube Channel. There are two videos for your reference.

- [Click here](#) to view the highlights video
- [Click here](#) to view all the interviews and speeches in full. Note there is a directory of each and their location on the video. This will allow you to go directly to the speech or interview you would like to see.

We also encourage you to view the many photos that were taken by our official photographer and those shared by our members. [Click here](#) to view them all.

### 4. Far North Queensland Reunion - 9 October – Overbooked!

Our Far North QLD event was finally celebrated after two postponements with a fantastic attendance of 118. We missed our interstate Red Tail travellers but they could see us all via Facebook Live on our Facebook page 'Red Tail Road to 100 FNQ Reunion'.

It was a great turnout with current and ex staff enjoying the afternoon/evening together. There was a screen presentation commencing with 'Final Call, Go to Gate', an introduction for our Centenary Flight departure, Flight Close and then our Safety Briefing before take-off. All available to see on our Facebook page.

Our reunion was a celebration of not just our Centenary but also our 'friendships'. We all look forward to getting together again in the future.



## 5. Forthcoming Red Tail Chapter Reunions

Planning for the coming State and Chapter Reunions have also recommenced and the following are currently planned or in the planning.

Chapter	Date	Venue	Time
Western Australia	Tuesday 16 November 2021	Mount Lawley Golf Club	6.00pm
Victoria	Sunday 20 February 2022	Pier Port Melbourne	11.00am
Queensland	TBA - early March 2022	TBA	11.00am
Freight	Saturday 26 February 2022	The Rocks	12.00pm
ACT	TBA - Feb/Mar 2022	Sebel Hotel Canberra Civic	11.00am
NSW	TBA - late March 2022	Qantas Campus – Mascot	11.00am
Longreach	TBA - April 2020	Qantas Founders Museum	5.00pm

Please refer to the Chapter pages on this newsletter for more details on each of these reunions.

## 6. The Future of Red Tail beyond the “Road to 100”

As you know, all good things must come to an end, and for us, our “Road to 100” took its first step towards its conclusion during the visit to our birthplace of Longreach in April. It has always been our intention to conclude with a finale in Sydney and that is what we are planning for in March.

However many of you have expressed on numerous occasions the desire for Red Tail groups to continue fostering friendships, sharing stories, experiences and attending gatherings.

The Foundation and Chapters Committees are enthused with your response and have commenced discussions on extending the Red Tail initiative beyond our Centenary objectives. We have also relayed your sentiments to Qantas and they also support the extension of the Red Tail Initiative.

Therefore over the next few months we will be working on new objectives for a Red Tail beyond the Road to 100. We plan to retain the name Red Tail whilst finding a replacement for “Road to 100”. As part of our planning process, we would encourage members to send in your suggestions on what you would like Red Tail to represent. We aim to announce our findings and plans in March, at the Grand Milestone Event finale in Sydney.

Please email your thoughts and suggestions to [admin@redtailroadto100.com](mailto:admin@redtailroadto100.com)



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## 7. Qudos Bank

### Stay Alert: six scams to watch out for



We're all spending more time at home and online at the moment, which can leave us open to more opportunities to encounter and fall victim to a scam. Staying safe means staying up-to-date with how scammers are changing their tactics and adapting them to the current environment.

#### **Watch out for phishing emails**

We're interacting with organisations online more than ever before, as businesses and Government agencies keep us updated on how our society is changing and their services are adapting.

With an increase in incoming communications, it's important to remember to be cautious about clicking links in emails and opening attachments. Scammers frequently send spoof emails which look real, but which aim to steal your valuable personal information by tricking you into entering your secure information into a fake website.

If you receive an email from any organisation, it's always safest to go directly to their website from your web browser and log in from there, rather than clicking a link.

Find out more about how to keep your personal information safe on our Attempts to Gain Personal Information webpage.

#### **Be wary of ATO-related telephone scams**

Tax time typically sees an increase in the number of scams, and with changes to many peoples' personal and financial circumstances, there are plenty of opportunities for scammers to take advantage of peoples' uncertainty.

The ATO has received reports of scammers sending members of the public automated phone calls pretending to be from the ATO, Services Australia and the Department of Legal Services claiming that their TFN has been suspended and that there is a legal case against them.

The call tells people they must contact the caller by pressing '1' or they will be referred to the court and arrested, and then asks them to provide private financial information.

If you receive this call, hang up and do not provide the information requested. The ATO or other Government agencies will never send unsolicited pre-recorded voicemails or threaten you with immediate arrest.

Learn more about identifying extortion attempts on our Threats and Extortion webpage.

### **Don't fall for investment scams**

The prospect of an investment with high returns and low risk can be tempting, As people seek alternate means to generate an income particularly if your personal circumstances have been negatively affected by the current situation.

Investment scams are the most common scam reported to the ACCC, often beginning with a cold-call offering an opportunity 'not available' to the general public.

The type of investment offered varies – it could be shares, real estate, virtual currency, option trading, or foreign currency trading. The scammers can be very convincing and may position the opportunity as low risk, with the ability to sell anytime or get a refund for non-performance. These scams are often accompanied by polished marketing materials and can feel like a legitimate opportunity.

Be cautious. As with many frauds and scams, if the offer seems too good to be true, it most likely is.

If the person providing the offer does not have an Australian financial services licence (AFSL), calls you repeatedly, or says you need to make a quick decision to avoid missing out the investment offer may well be a scam. If you spot any of these signs, hang up the phone and end the conversation.

Find out more about how to stay safe from these types of scams on our Investment Scams webpage.

### **Stay safe from Superannuation scams**

The ability to access superannuation early through the Financial Hardship scheme has put some people firmly in the sights of scammers. In May 2020, the Federal Police put a temporary halt on the scheme as they investigated nearly 150 fraudulent withdrawals.

Scammers typically cold-call people and claim to be from organisations that can help them gain early access to their super or offering to check whether they are eligible.

Be wary of any inbound caller who wants to talk to you about your super. If you want to discuss your super, contact your provider directly using the details on their website.

If you think you may have provided information about your superannuation to a scammer, immediately contact your superannuation provider and let them know.

### **Be careful of romance scams**

Spending more time at home has meant that more people are turning to online dating and other social platforms to find a personal connection. Unfortunately, the person behind the profile isn't always who they say they are and dating apps are a frequent hunting ground for scammers who try to build an emotional connection with their victims and then request money.

The scams aren't just limited to traditional dating sites and apps – ACCC's Scamwatch reports that the highest losses were from romance scams originating on Instagram and Facebook, with social mobile games like Words with Friends also used.

The key to staying safe is to never give out personal or financial information to anyone you haven't met in person, no matter who they say they are or how strongly you feel for them.

Visit our Dating and Relationship Scams webpage to learn more about how to protect yourself.

### **Avoid 'lockdown puppies' scams**

Lockdown has meant that more people than ever have been looking for companionship in the form of a pet, with a new puppy being a popular way to beat the lockdown blues. Unfortunately, the rise in demand for four-legged friends has also seen a rise in puppy-related scams, with unscrupulous classifieds sellers taking money for dogs that don't exist. Scamwatch has reported that April 2020 saw a 500% increase in the number of dog-related scams reported when compared to a typical month in 2019, with popular breeds like Cavoodles and French Bulldogs most likely to feature.

If you are considering buying a pet online, it's a good idea to conduct a reverse image search of the pictures used in the ads and paste the wording from the ad into a search engine to check whether they have been used elsewhere. If they have, it may be warning sign that something is wrong.

Find out more about common scams visit our Buying and Selling Scams webpage.

These six scams are some of the most common that are currently being reported, but scammers tactics are constantly evolving. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to stay informed of the latest scams.

If you have been targeted by a scam relating to your Qudos account, forward the hoax email or scam details to [fraudwarnings@quodosbank.com.au](mailto:fraudwarnings@quodosbank.com.au), or contact us on 1300 747 747 (Mon-Fri 7am-7pm and Sat 9am-5pm).

## 8. Chapter Newsletters:

### Western Australia



Patron  
Dick Chandler



Reunion Director  
Chris Shearwood



Secretary  
Robbie Murray



Committee  
Tony Mc Grath



Treasurer  
Val Jolley

### *Western Australia Milestone Reunion: 16 November 2021*

- When:** Tuesday, 16 November 2021  
**Where:** Mount Lawley Golf Club  
1 Walter Road West, Inglewood WA 6052  
**Time:** From 6pm till late  
**Cost:** \$49.00 per person  
**RSVP:** [Click here](#) to save your spot

**"WA RED TAIL ROAD to 100/101st FUNCTION for 2021 is ON !!!**

At last the stage is set! A double celebration all in one evening; both a 100th and 101st birthday party for our great airline, QANTAS.

Many of you have already reserved your tickets but for those who haven't yet done so just [Click here](#) for full details.

Hit the spot for paying \$49 by credit card for a great evening of fellowship, tasty finger food and more. Drinks can be purchased at Club rates from the bar.

The evening will kick off at 6.00pm on Tuesday 16th November at the scenic Mount Lawley Golf Club, 1 Walter Road, Inglewood. Free ample parking is available without any hassles and directions to the venue room at the Club will be clearly visible.

**We are not expecting another round of Covid lockdown but in the event there is, TICKET REFUNDS WILL BE PAYABLE TO ALL. Accordingly, advance payment is not a worry.**

Whilst the evening is all about socializing and reminiscing about happy times past there will be a short formal speech or two to acknowledge a few special people and sponsors for the night. The speeches will be during the early part of the evening so they can be heard and don't interrupt what we are really there for which is to make merry.

Alongside my seagoing career, working for QANTAS were the happiest and rewarding days of my life even though not the most remunerative. I am very much looking forward to sharing some of my experiences with you and, at the same time, looking forward to hearing about yours too.

Your Committee and I also encourage you to tell us about how Red Tail should continue (or discontinue) with a different focus after the finale to celebrate the glorious 100 years of our iconic airline.



There are now only a few short weeks left to the "big day"... so please do make it and book as quickly as possible so we can inform the Mount Lawley Golf Club of numbers in good time and you won't miss out on this significant event.

Your patron, Dick Chandler, your Committee and I all really look forward to catching up with you again... but if we forget one or two names, please forgive us. Like our airline, old age catches up with us all!

Take care for now.

Chris Shearwood  
Honorary Red Tail Director WA  
*on behalf of the*  
**WA Red Tail Road to 100** committee  
[gantas100birthday@gmail.com](mailto:gantas100birthday@gmail.com)  
[www.redtailroadto100.com](http://www.redtailroadto100.com)

How to book? It's easy.. Just [click here](#) for full details and RSVP

## Australian Capital Territory



Patron  
Charles Wade



Reunion Director  
David Fisher



Treasurer  
Dick Collard



Committee  
Pat Williams (nee Esguerra)



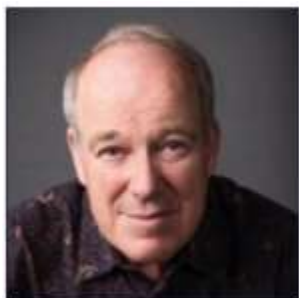
Committee  
Mike Torpy

### *ACT Milestone Reunion: February or February/March 2022*

**When:** February/March- Dates TBA  
**Where:** Sebel Hotel Canberra Civic  
197 London Circuit, Canberra ACT  
**Time:** 11.00am  
**Theme:** Cocktail style function

*David Fisher – Reunion Director – ACT*

## New South Wales



Patron  
Jim Bradfield



Reunion Director  
Ian Robinson



Committee  
David Thompson



Committee  
Judy Rose

*The NSW Chapter Committee - L to R: David Thompson, Judy Rose, Ian Robinson*

### *Sydney Grand Milestone Event: March 2022*

The recent COVID lock-down in Sydney has delayed our planning however we have commenced planning for the event to take place in March 2022. We will keep you informed as soon as we are able to firm up these plans.

**Date:** March 2022

*Your Sydney Committee, Judy Rose, David Thompson, Ian Robinson*

## Queensland



Patron  
Phil Thow



Reunion Director  
Peter Kinnane



Treasurer & Secretariat  
Max Ellerman

### *Queensland Milestone Reunion: Early March 2022*

**Where:** Queensland Museum

**When:** Early March

We are more optimistic that we will be able to have our celebrations at the Queensland Museum. We are working with Qantas in planning this event, which remains dependent on COVID regulations. We will continue to keep Members updated.



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## Victoria



Patron  
Rod ('Chirpa') Robson



Reunion Director  
Pat Williams



Secretary  
Ian Carver-raid



Committee  
Robyn Walters



Dave DeBono  
Committee



Mike Menner  
Committee

### *Victoria Milestone Reunion: 20 February 2022*

Save the date for our Centenary Milestone Reunion.

**When:** Sunday, 20 February 2022  
**Where:** The Mitre Tavern (TBC)  
5 bank Place, Melbourne (CBD)  
**Time:** From 12.00noon for lunch – till late  
**Cost:** \$45 per person

Don't forget - Save the Date for reunion number 3, the last in our RTRT100 series. Let's gather as many as possible, especially those who couldn't make it to Longreach.

See you all on Sunday 20 February from 1130 for lunch and till late. No border closures allowed then! Spread the word.

We are keen to hear from you. Please [click here](#) and complete your expression of interest.

**Pat Williams - Reunion Director Victoria - [pat.1203@gmail.com](mailto:pat.1203@gmail.com)**



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## Far North Queensland



Patron  
Phil Thow



Reunion Director  
Frances Mellick



Committee  
Val Dudley



Committee  
Geoff Jensen



Committee  
Fiona Nicholl

### *FNQ Chapter - Cairns*

Reunion event – 9 October - Reef Hotel Casino, BAR 36



[Click here](#) to view more photos and [Click here](#) to view the video.



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## Junior Commercial Trainee



Patron  
Bruce Baird



Reunion Director  
Chris Kewley

Hello fellow JCTs. I hope you are all surviving as best you can with this dreaded Covid pandemic. As we near the end of Qantas' 100th birthday year, I am so pleased that I managed to hold the long planned JCT Reunion on 17 March this year. What a great catch-up opportunity it was.

As a lot of you know, I started searching for JCTs and planning for a Reunion as part of celebrating Qantas' 100th birthday, well before we became involved with Red Tail Road to 100. The JCT Chapter did, however, fit comfortably under the Red Tail banner once we did become involved.

The JCTs were a unique group of 'young boys' who were well trained with a good knowledge of the workings of Qantas and the outside world as well as the ability to network. They were developed to hopefully occupy senior positions. Their training and background also made them attractive to most other Companies. They are a special group of guys who love a drink and reminiscing.

I have been giving some thought to the future, realistically recognising that some people actually like reunions, some do not like reunions and some believe one reunion is enough.

However, it is not much use in me thinking about future ideas, if no-one is interested in getting together.

What I would like the JCTs to do is have a think over the next few months about whether you would like another Reunion or ongoing Reunions, and if so, in what format. There are various options that could be considered.

So, my plan in 2022 is to email all JCTs asking who is in favour, or not, of any more Reunions, and if so, ideas on options and format.

The one preference I do have is that now that I have found you all, regardless of whether or not there are any more reunions, is that I would like to keep the communication going amongst a unique group of people.

Until next year.

Kind regards  
Chris Kewley  
0419.628848 (m)

# Qantas Flight Hostess Club Inc.



Patron  
Joan, Lady Cutler



President  
Annie Oeding



Secretary  
Jane Pickhaver



Treasurer  
Liz Laughlin



Editor "Hostess"  
Robyn McGaw



Co-Author  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book  
Karen Hayward



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sadly, due to COVID we have had to postpone our Annual General Meeting which was to be held on Monday 6 September.

As NSW is in lockdown, which seems to be continuing, Deckhouse has advised they will not be permitted to hold functions for some time under COVID-19 rules.

Your committee held a ZOOM meeting and discussed options but, since then, it appears functions will be delayed even further. We discussed Monday 18 October and Monday 15 November. Listening to updates now it looks as though November would be more realistic and perhaps not even possible.

We will keep you all updated and hopefully we will be able to give you 14 days' notice which is required for an AGM, particularly as this is an election year.

To help everyone feel more included in our Club, we thought we would re-introduce our Social Media account to communicate and interact with each other. We already have Facebook exposure and will start an Instagram account. Join in by sending us photos we can post which other members will enjoy seeing. We are hoping this interaction is a plus for you all while "staying at home" during lockdown, whichever state you are in.

To find our account on Facebook in the search area type Qantas Flight Hostess Club and then become a follower. Same for Instagram.

Please email us if you have any questions or just want to keep in touch.

Annie & the Committee

**Annie Oeding**  
PRESIDENT



## FROM THE MELBOURNE BRANCH

### Q.F.H.C. President's report for the 2021

Good Afternoon Ladies and welcome to our A.G.M. for 2021.

It is always nice to see you once again and it is encouraging that so many of our members are attending today to catch up on the news of our club and renew precious friendships.

For those that missed the functions that we were able to arrange beginning in January this year, we're sorry that you couldn't make it, but understand everyone has commitments and you were missed.

Our first meeting took place on 11 January and was a casual Ladies get together at *Giorgios* on High Street, Armadale, for morning coffee. This was after an absence of some 13 months, and it was great to see your lovely smiling faces again.

Next on 6 February came the function held at *McCrae* at a lovely beach house where Lorraine was our hostess. It was a lovely sunny day; we had a very good turn up of some 14 attendees. Everyone enjoyed the ambience, the hospitality and the company of each other.

Not to let the momentum diminish, the committee hosted a high tea at (our home) on 29 April. Also well attended, it was so good to see so many members and partners free to join us and it was a lot of fun.

We would love to build our club membership again and we ask anyone who may know of lapsed members to encourage them to join with us again, they would be very welcome.

This is not an election year, so everyone can relax and gather your reserves in order to be on committee next year. It is after all a rewarding thing to take on and will secure the continuation of our treasured club and would certainly enhance your resume.

Your committee members Lorraine McKenzie and Jane Shipp have been a great support during this year to me, as it was impossible to even contemplate going down to Melbourne. Thank you, Lorraine and Jane, for all your splendid help and bringing such good energy to our meetings and functions.

Best Wishes

**Geraldine Black**  
President

Melbourne Branch

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The best thing about being over 50?



We did all our stupid stuff before the invention of the internet, so there's no proof!

### 5 Stages of a Woman's Life:

- To grow up
- To fill out
- To slim down
- To hold it in
- To hell with it



Covid 19 played havoc with a lot of things last year including our AGM for 2020 which had to be cancelled. Hence, today's AGM and luncheon was an extra special one and a great reason for everyone to catch up.

Our meeting was held at the fabulous *Vaparetto* Venetian Bar in Hawthorn where we enjoyed a simply delicious 2 course Italian meal which didn't disappoint anyone's palette!

We had great attendance (for our now small club) with 12 members enjoying the afternoon. Along with committee members Geraldine Black, Jane Shipp and Lorraine McKenzie, the following ladies were in attendance: Sue Love-Davies, Pam White, Myra Scott, Rosemary Barr, Patrice Rush, Loretta Paterson, Carol Lipman, Catherine Newman and Christine Seel. Apologies were from Janet Sernack, Pauline Ewers, Thea Fraser and Louise Dobbins.

After the AGM Rosemary was surprised with a birthday cake and lots of happy birthday wishes. It was fabulous that she changed her plans to spend her actual birthday with us! Later, Myra explained some interesting aspects of her book "How Australia Led the Way" which has just been re-released.

Our "Back to Paynesville Weekend" booked for the end of February 2022 was once again met with great enthusiasm with everyone promising to attend and the Christmas Luncheon date was confirmed for Sunday 21 November 2021 with a venue yet to be confirmed.

A very successful, productive and enjoyable afternoon was had by all!

### Jane Shipp



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## FROM THE QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Due once again to COVID-19 restrictions, the Queensland Branch AGM scheduled for 12 August had to be postponed.

Bronwyn McLeod advised that the 33rd QFHC AGM and Lunch will be held at Barolos Restaurant, Toowong on Thursday 16 September, 10.30am arrival for a 11.00am meeting.

A new committee needs to be formed to keep the QLD club continuing. If we cannot form a new committee our club is in danger of folding. We also need new blood on the committee. It is not a difficult job and its great getting together for meetings. So many friendships have been formed by getting to know each other better through the meetings.

**Bronwyn McLeod**

## HISTORY FROM PATRICIA WOOD (QLD BRANCH)

Whilst at the tribute luncheon in Brisbane in July for Judy Potts and Anne Lewis, I was speaking to Patricia Woods and again recently.

Patricia flew from 1963 to 1991 and, during this time was based in London several times. Whilst living in Windsor, she would often stroll through the Windsor Great Park and come across their Royal Highnesses – The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Their favourite event was the Windsor Horse Show, and the Duke would ride down to Ascot in his carriage and Pat spoke to him saying 'hope you do well Sir'. The Queen was usually dressed in a pleated skirt and head scarf and when she entered the stand everyone stood up and then sat down.

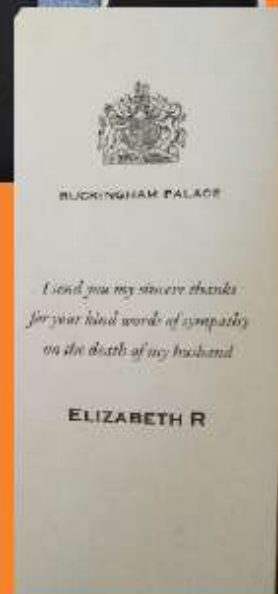
When HRH Prince Phillip passed away Pat wrote a personal letter to the Queen saying how much she admired them and what wonderful work the Duke did for young people – considering the anything but normal childhood – and saying they were fortunate to have met and had a love story for the whole world to see. She finished off the letter by saying 'May long you reign'.

A short time later a lovely card arrived from the Queen thanking her for her sincere condolences and signed 'Elizabeth R'. Attached are photos of the letter.

**Robyn McGaw**

*I was told that Christine Farrell and Pamela Fontainas (nee Baker) were on the Royal Flight on 9 February to 31 March 1977 with HRH Prince Phillip and have some wonderful memories.*

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## The Americas



Patron  
John Rowe



Reunion Director  
Jim Prasad



Committee  
Patrick Clark



Committee  
NW USA & Canada  
Skip Reichenberger



Committee  
South America  
Bill Duplak



Committee  
Northern California  
Carla Boy



Committee  
Arizona & Nevada  
Donna MacEachern



Committee  
East Coast USA  
Anne Fullford



Committee  
Texas/Oklahoma/Louisiana  
Maxine Cole Coday

### *The Americas Milestone Reunion: Los Angeles, Second Half of 2021*

## Tales from Red Tail the Americas

### Tales from the Red Tail The Americas for Third Quarter 2021

This quarter too has been a quite one for The Americas Red Tail members.

We have remained connected mostly via social media and emails. It appears that most of us are optimistic about life getting back somewhat normal soon. The thread from COVID 19 pandemic is diminishing and vaccination rates in our group of mostly seniors is better than average, and these are encouraging signs.

I was hoping for a regional reunion in fourth quarter of 2021 to celebrate our 101<sup>st</sup> birthday but it does not appear to be getting much traction and understandably so. Maybe we will have few smaller group gatherings in 2021 and continue to work towards a larger regional reunion in 2022 in LAX area.

On Aug 04, 2021 we were saddened to learn that Skip Reichenberger from our Northwest USA team passed away. I had spoken to Judi just few weeks prior when Skip had returned home after a short hospitalization. Our thoughts and prayers are with Judi and the family.

Wish you all good health and safe and joyous holiday season with family and friends.



For all life's  
destinations

## 9. Red Tail News and Reviews (Q3 2021)

### Breaking News: Australian airports to be divided into red zones and green zones

Here's another sign of how international travel will look very different once Australia's borders reopen.

By [David Flynn](#), October 14 2021

Share this article:



Australians returning from overseas will be corralled into separate green zones and red zones at the nation's international airports, depending on the federal government's 'Covid risk rating' of the country they're arriving from.

The government will also nominate 'green zone routes' – similar to the New Zealand travel bubble and Singapore's Vaccinated Travel Lane scheme – which will be subject to "eased Covid-19 border restrictions", according to [Covid-19 safety protocols](#) drawn up by the Department of Health in a document [updated on Tuesday October 12, 2021](#).

With the return of overseas flights [just weeks away](#), Australia's international airports are now preparing for the newly-complicated process of handling arrivals and transits in a world splintered by the coronavirus.

"Travellers arriving in Australia will arrive via either the red or green travel zone, as determined by the Australian Government," the document states.

- passengers arriving "from a high or medium-risk country for Covid-19" will be restricted to the airport's red zone
- passengers arriving "from a low-risk area" will be segregated into the green zone

Red zoners will be required to "undertake mandatory quarantine in designated accommodation for 14 days from the day they entered Australia, or as otherwise determined by the state or territory of arrival."

"Modified quarantine requirements may be applied to vaccinated travellers," the Department of Health notes, while also advising that "the quarantine period and nature of quarantine accommodation may change at short notice."

Of course, the green zone is the place to be, as it means travellers can skip "14-day mandatory quarantine" on the following conditions:

- if they have been in only Australia or a designated green zone area for at least the 14 days immediately before the date of departure, and
- they travelled on a green zone flight

"Travellers in the green safe travel zone will not be in contact with passengers from any other countries when transiting through the airport," the Department of Health declares.

States and territories reopening their borders are now moving towards home-based quarantine for fully vaccinated travellers, with the initial seven-day period expected to be shortened to a handful of days under a 'test and release' scheme which airline and tourism chiefs believe is crucial to get Australians flying again.

Earlier this month, Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce stressed that home quarantine was only a short-term solution.

"We need to move, hopefully, quite rapidly away from the seven days [home quarantine]" and towards "a testing regime – test and release – which is what a lot of countries are doing at the moment."

## [Here is Qantas' new international flight schedule](#)

Singapore, London and Los Angeles all headline the first week of the airline's overseas return.

By [David Flynn](#), August 27 2021

Share this article:



Saturday December 18, 2021 is when Qantas expects to resume flying to a select group of international destinations, and for some it's been a staggering 21 months since they last saw the iconic 'flying kangaroo' emblazoned in white against a red tail.

It marks the starting point for a gradual rebuilding of its international network, based on advice from the government over the reopening of Australia's international borders once the national vaccination rate passes the 80% milestone.

"It's obviously up to government exactly how and when our international borders re-open," Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce cautions, but says he has shared his plans with the government "and they agree with our broad assumptions, and agree that our plan is reasonable."

The airline's plans also hinge on the prospect of either quarantine-free travel bubbles or 'green lanes' between countries, or a limited period of manageable home isolation on their return to Australia instead of spending 14 days in hotel quarantine for upwards of \$3,000.

Singapore, London and Los Angeles all headline the airline's overseas return from December 18, with daily flights – mostly on the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner – and Qantas planning to [reopen its lounges at those destinations](#).

Jetsetters can also look forward to taking off for Vancouver, Tokyo, Fiji and Honolulu in the days following.

Hong Kong, San Francisco and Dallas/Forth Worth are back on the map from the week commencing February 14, 2022 – although as *Executive Traveller* exclusively reported earlier this week, Qantas has decided to [permanently close its popular Hong Kong lounge](#).

This list below doesn't include flights between Australia and New Zealand, which Qantas expects will resume in mid-December 2021 "on the assumption some or all parts of the two-way bubble will restart."

Here are the first international routes which Qantas expects to open, based on the airline's schedule - as always, and especially in the era of Covid-19, they're subject to change.

- **Sydney-Singapore-London/Heathrow:** from December 18, 2021 – daily Boeing 787
- **Sydney-Los Angeles:** from December 18, 2021 – daily Boeing 787
- **Sydney-Singapore:** from December 18, 2021 – daily Airbus A330
- **Sydney-Honolulu:** from December 20, 2021 – four Airbus A330 flights per week
- **Sydney-Tokyo/Haneda:** from December 19, 2021 – four Airbus A330 flights per week
- **Sydney-Vancouver:** from December 18, 2021 – three Boeing 787 flights per week
- **Sydney-Nadi (Fiji):** from December 19, 2021 – four Boeing 737 flights per week
- **Sydney-Hong Kong:** from February 14, 2022 – four Airbus A330 flights per week
- **Sydney-Dallas/Forth Worth:** from February 14, 2022 – five Boeing 787 flights per week
- **Sydney-San Francisco:** from February 16, 2022 – three Boeing 787 flights per week
  
- **Melbourne-Los Angeles:** from December 19, 2021 – four Boeing 787 flights per week
- **Melbourne-Singapore:** from December 18, 2021 – four Airbus A330 flights per week

- **Melbourne-Hong Kong:** from February 15, 2022 – three Airbus A330 flights per week
- **Melbourne-Tokyo/Haneda:** from February 15, 2022 – three Airbus A330 flights per week
- **Brisbane-Los Angeles:** from December 19, 2021 – three [Airbus A330](#) flights per week
- **Brisbane-Singapore:** from December 19, 2021 – three Airbus A330 flights per week
- **Brisbane-Noumea:** from January 8, 2022 – one Boeing 737 flight per week
- **Brisbane-San Francisco:** from February 14, 2022 – three [Airbus A330](#) flights per week
- **Perth-London/Heathrow:** from December 18, 2021 – daily Boeing 787
- **Perth-Singapore:** from February 14, 2022 – daily Airbus A330

Qantas says all passengers on these flights will need to be fully vaccinated; the airline will introduce a [Travel Pass smartphone app](#) to not only confirm vaccination status but also store and show the results of pre-departure Covid tests, which are likely to be a requirement of entry to many countries.

Qantas will bring more destinations online from April 2022, including those which "still have low vaccine rates and high levels of Covid infection" – such as Bali, Jakarta, Manila, Bangkok, Phuket, Ho Chi Minh City and Johannesburg.

July 2022 will see Sydney-Los Angeles flights upgraded to an Airbus A380, with Sydney-Singapore-London to follow from November 2022, as the [superjumbos make a welcome return to the skies](#).

Qantas has extended its Fly Flexible policy, offering travellers who book international flights before February 28, 2022 the ability to make unlimited date changes to their travel through to December 31, 2022 (although a fare difference may apply, depending on the ticket pricing for a later booking).

Read more: [Qantas Airbus A380s to return from July 2022](#)



**[David Flynn](#)**

David Flynn is the Editor-in-Chief of Executive Traveller and a bit of a travel tragic with a weakness for good coffee, shopping and lychee martinis.

## Australia completes home quarantine trial for overseas arrivals

The pilot scheme will help chart new options for Australians returning from 'low-risk' countries.

By [Chris Chamberlin](#), September 3 2021

Share this article:



With Australia's borders expected to begin reopening and international flights returning from the end of this year, all eyes are on the home quarantine trial that wraps up in South Australia this weekend.

Under the government's Covid-19 roadmap, reaching the 80% vaccination milestone – now on track for mid-November – will trigger not only a “gradual reopening of inward and outward international travel with safe countries” but “proportionate quarantine and reduced requirements for fully vaccinated inbound travellers.”

This is expected to include the welcome option of spending any post-travel quarantine period in the comfort of your home, rather than a government-arranged hotel with a \$3,000 price tag.

Australians returning from 'low-risk' countries – as opposed to unrestricted travel bubble destinations – could see their isolation period reduced to seven days or less.

Expert medical advice “shows that a vaccinated person doing quarantine for seven days is stronger than an unvaccinated person doing quarantine for 14 days,” Prime Minister Scott Morrison noted when [announcing the trial](#) in July this year.

Earlier this week, Morrison reiterated that “home quarantine needs to be a viable and widespread option for people who are travelling overseas and returning,” as well as “people who are overseas and have been vaccinated with the vaccines that are recognised in Australia.”

## Inside the SA home quarantine trial

To help assess the home quarantine option, South Australia last month allowed 50 residents of the state to participate in the country's first trial of self-managed home quarantine after returning from overseas on August 22.

The 14-day trial comes to an end this weekend, and the outcome of the pilot program will be eagerly examined by national and state health authorities as an isolation measure for some international arrivals.

A cornerstone of the trial was the use of smartphone technology to monitor and enforce the 'stay at home' rule.

“Australia’s first home quarantine trial has been enabled by the Home Quarantine SA app,” a spokesperson for South Australia’s Department of Premier and Cabinet tells *Executive Traveller*.

Available for [Android](#) and [iOS](#) devices, the Home Quarantine SA app is designed to “ensure that people are compliant with their home quarantine direction, and ensures they are at their approved home quarantine address.”

### High-tech monitoring

The app automatically confirmed each person's location at random times throughout the day, using GPS check-in plus facial recognition as an additional layer of security.

It also asked travellers to complete daily Covid-19 symptom checks and kept them informed of their required testing schedules.

The only times that participants in the trial were allowed to leave home was to visit a drive-through Covid test centre, which had to be done in their own vehicle rather than using taxi or rideshare services or public transport.

In approach, the Home Quarantine SA app works along the same lines as G2G Now, which is used to monitor domestic home quarantine in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

However, “the technology is the most advanced of its kind in Australia, and if the trial proves successful, could provide more options for home quarantine for returned South Australians,” says the SA Department of Premier and Cabinet spokesperson.



## Qantas now offers Covid-19 travel insurance for international flights

As Australians prepare to jet overseas once again, Qantas passengers can add Covid cover to their flight bookings.

By [Chris Chamberlin](#), September 17 2021

Share this article:



Qantas is now offering Covid-19 travel insurance as the airline prepares to resume international flights [from December 18, 2021](#).

Qantas' Covid-19 travel insurance isn't included in the price of your airfare: it's one of many add-ons that can be purchased when booking your flight or any time afterwards, such as when you're ticking off bookings for hotels, car hire and the like.

The cost depends on your age, where you're flying to and how long you'll be away, but typically ranges from \$118-\$427 for a one week trip overseas.

### **What's covered under Qantas' Covid-19 travel insurance?**

Qantas has added Covid-19 coverage to its Qantas International Comprehensive Travel Insurance package, and most of the benefits are activated when either the policyholder, their travel companion or a close relative or business partner back home tests positive for Covid-19.

For the insured traveller, coverage extends to cancellation costs incurred if a journey needs to be cancelled *before* it begins – such as if, despite being fully vaccinated and ready to fly, you show positive for Covid-19 on a pre-departure test taken 72 hours before your flight.

Qantas' Covid-19 cover also takes care of additional expenses faced *during* a trip: for example, if you're denied boarding on a flight either due to a positive Covid-19 test or because an airline suspects you have Covid-19.

If a close relative or business partner in Australia is hospitalised or dies due to Covid-19 and you need to cancel your trip, pre-paid costs may also be covered.

Other scenarios – like the unexpected closure of your accommodation due to a coronavirus outbreak on the premises – are covered too, subject to conditions.

Additionally, if you test positive, or are identified as a 'close contact' of a positive Covid-19 case during your journey and are confined to compulsory quarantine, there's coverage for those additional accommodation, meal and travel costs, including reasonable in-room entertainment.

If you're delayed returning home – and being unexpectedly stuck in quarantine is a good example – the policy can also look after additional childcare and pet care costs in Australia.

For full details of what's covered, head to the [Qantas Insurance website](#).

### **What's *not* covered by Qantas' Covid-19 travel insurance?**

As with any insurance policy, exclusions apply – and it's important to understand them before relying on the insurance coverage.

On this policy, "change of mind" isn't covered: for instance, if government restrictions don't prevent you from travelling to a particular country but you decide not to go anyway due to the risk of Covid-19.

Also not covered: the costs of broadly-imposed government quarantine which isn't a direct result of either a positive Covid-19 diagnosis or due to being a close contact of the same.

An example of this would be entering mandatory 7- or 14-day hotel quarantine at your destination; likewise, as this is *international* travel insurance, the cost of going into hotel quarantine on your return to Australia isn't included.

These are just some of the exclusions that apply to Qantas' COVID-19 cover: again, the [Qantas Insurance website](#) has the full details.

### **How much does Qantas' Covid-19 travel insurance cost?**


It's worth pointing out that Qantas' insurance doesn't *only* cover COVID-19: that coverage is just part of the airline's International Comprehensive Travel Insurance bundle, which also provides protection for lost luggage, travel delays and so on.

The cost of Qantas' international comprehensive travel insurance policy varies depending on the length of your trip, your destination of choice, and in some cases, a traveller's age.

Here's a sample of quotes we obtained through the Qantas website, based on an adult traveller aged in their mid-40s, travelling overseas in early 2022:

- One week in Singapore: \$118
- One week in the United Kingdom: \$187
- One week in the United States: \$427

When booking flights through the Qantas website, you'll find an insurance quote as part of the booking process:



### Pack Qantas Travel Insurance and earn Qantas Points

Stay informed with the latest travel insurance alerts. For updates contact [Qantas Travel Insurance](#).

Buy your travel insurance from [qantas.com/travelinsurance](#) if you:

- need cover for [someone over 69 years of age](#) or with an [existing medical condition](#) that is not automatically covered; or
- don't need cover for all passengers.

Qantas Travel Insurance is underwritten by XL Insurance Company SE, Australia branch [ABN 36 083 570 441], and managed by nib Travel Services (Australia) Pty Limited [ABN 81 115 932 173, AFSL 308461]. Qantas (AR 261363) is an authorised representative of nib. This is general advice only, consider the [Product Disclosure Statement](#) and your personal circumstances before buying travel insurance.

**FREQUENT FLYER** | **QANTAS INSURANCE**

Price below is charged per passenger except [accompanying children](#) (the subtotal shown may reduce when you enter the passenger details).

#### International Comprehensive Travel Insurance (69 years or under)

By selecting this cover for a single overseas trip you agree to the T&Cs below. Plus earn 1 point per A\$1 spent on this policy. [Summary of benefits](#)

**\$187.00 AUD**

#### Important COVID-19 information

Cover is available for some coronavirus related events under this policy. However, cover is not available for loss arising from:

- government intervention including travel bans, border closures or broadly imposed quarantine requirements,
- events for which the Australian Government has issued a 'Do Not Travel' warning for your destination(s), or
- failure to follow advice from the Australian Government or other official bodies.

See the PDS for full details, limits and exclusions and check [smartraveller.gov.au](#) and the [Australian Government Department of Health](#) website for the latest government advice.

[Options are available](#) if you can't travel due to coronavirus related travel restrictions and no longer need your policy.

There's no obligation to purchase this – but if you book your flight without insurance and later decide you'd like to buy cover, this can be done through the [Qantas Insurance website](#).

### How does Qantas' Covid-19 cover differ from other airlines?

Several international airlines currently provide dedicated Covid-19 coverage at no additional cost for eligible travellers.

For example, at the time of writing, Qantas' partner Emirates provides gratis cover for up to US\$500,000 in overseas medical expenses after a positive Covid-19 diagnosis.

While Qantas charges extra for insurance, it's a full 'comprehensive travel insurance' package just like you'd have bought in the days before the pandemic

That makes Qantas' travel insurance a decent buy, particularly for coverage beyond Covid-19 itself – although it never hurts to shop around on price, with other insurers like Allianz and Covermore also selling policies that cover aspects of Covid-19.

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The above is intended as a general guide only, drawn from information published by the insurer as available at the time of writing. Insurance policies can change over time. *Executive Traveller* makes no guarantee to the validity of any claim, or that the information published here remains up-to-date.

Conditions, exclusions, limits and policy terms and conditions apply to all travel insurance products, and may differ between policy types, plans and add-ons. Refer to the relevant policy documents for more specific information about the coverage available, and to determine whether a product adequately meets your needs. All questions regarding insurance policies and products must be directed to the insurer, and cannot be answered here or elsewhere by *Executive Traveller* staff.



### **Chris Chamberlin**

Chris Chamberlin is the Associate Editor of *Executive Traveller*, and lives by the motto that a journey of a thousand miles begins not just with a single step, but also a strong latte, a theatre ticket, and later in the day, a good gin and tonic.

## **Hotel quarantine to end for fully vaccinated travellers in NSW**

Travellers returning to NSW from overseas will soon be able to isolate at home, rather than in a government-arranged hotel.

By Chris Chamberlin, September 17 2021

Share this article:



International travellers who fly into New South Wales will soon be able to quarantine at their home instead of a hotel if they're fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

"We are sending a really clear signal that the future of hotel quarantine will end for people (who) are double vaccinated," NSW Tourism Minister Stuart Ayres said today.

The state is also on the way to reopening its international borders once it reaches the 80% fully-vaccinated milestone, which is now forecast for late October – with home isolation shaping up to be an option for "Aussies returning home through Sydney airport (and) also our citizens having the opportunity to go overseas when previously they weren't able to," NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian said.

Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce welcomed the state's announcement, saying "we've been working closely with the Federal and NSW Governments on how we can safely transition to home quarantine, which is an important stepping stone in re-starting international passenger services."

The first step in NSW's exit from the hotel quarantine model will involve a small trial of home quarantine, under which 175 returning travellers will isolate at home for seven days, rather than in a hotel for two weeks.

Those selected for the pilot program will include a mix of Qantas crew, NSW residents and non-Australian residents who have a suitable place to spend their week of self-isolation.

The trial will "utilise technology, particularly facial recognition and location-based services apps on your phone to allow police and health (officials) to continue to check-in on a person during their home-based quarantine."

Of the 175 people selected for the pilot, 50 will be Qantas air crews, with the remaining 125 being regular travellers who would be selected prior to their arrival into Australia.

Upon arrival, transport between the airport and the traveller's home would be arranged by NSW Health during the trial phase, to avoid the use of taxis and rideshare services.

"This is very welcome news for our crews who have been flying overseas to bring Australians home and to carry essential freight, chalking up months in quarantine since the pandemic began," Joyce said.

"They are all fully vaccinated and it will make a real difference to their lives being able to quarantine in their own home and to halve the amount of time they're isolated.

A timeline for the broader use of home quarantine in NSW has not yet been identified, but the trial will initially run for four weeks, with around 40 travellers participating in the trial each week.

Today's meeting of the National Cabinet will discuss a broader adoption by states of home quarantine for fully vaccinated Australians returning from overseas.

Also read: [South Australia's home quarantine trial for overseas arrivals](#)



**[Chris Chamberlin](#)**

Chris Chamberlin is the Associate Editor of Executive Traveller, and lives by the motto that a journey of a thousand miles begins not just with a single step, but also a strong latte, a theatre ticket, and later in the day, a good gin and tonic.

## When Australia’s borders reopen, will travel insurance cover COVID-19?

From medical bills to cancellation fees if you test positive and can't fly, there's a lot to look for in travel insurance.

By [Chris Chamberlin](#), September 20 2021

Share this article:



With international travel set to return from December 2021 and across 2022, travel insurance will be more critical than ever before – but where do you stand when it comes to COVID-19?

What if you catch the coronavirus during your journey, or if you’re unexpectedly required to isolate, potentially for two weeks away from home and at your own expense?

Some insurers and even some airlines are now offering COVID cover – but what’s included can vary significantly between policies and providers.

## **Which airlines offer COVID travel insurance?**

A host of airlines now offer some degree of protection against the costs of COVID-19, including Qantas, Emirates, Cathay Pacific and more.

With some, such as Emirates, Cathay Pacific and Japan Airlines, that coverage is complimentary with your ticket – although of these three, only Emirates provides coverage without an 'end date', as Cathay and JAL currently list their offers as expiring across December 2021/January 2022.

Etihad, having previously extended its COVID policy by one year, also has eligible passengers covered until March 31 2022.

Qantas offers COVID insurance as a cost-extra item, as part of a much broader travel insurance plan.

The airline says its policy covers Australians travelling abroad if they catch COVID, which includes related medical expenses (generally, unlimited), as well as the costs of unexpected quarantine overseas if required after testing positive (up to \$2,500).

**Read more: [Qantas now offers Covid-19 travel insurance for international flights](#)**

## **Australian travel insurance with COVID-19 cover**

The big question: what happens if you test positive to COVID-19 while overseas?

The answer really depends on where you are in the world *and* the requirements of the country you visit – but if a hospital stay gets added to your itinerary, that's where travel insurance typically has your back.

Allianz, for example, provides overseas medical and hospital cover on its latest policies “if, during your period of cover, you are positively diagnosed as suffering a sickness recognised as an epidemic or pandemic, such as COVID-19”.

But that comes with a catch.

If the place you've travelled to is marked as “reconsider your need to travel” or “do not travel” by Smartraveller – which currently applies to every country in the world other than New Zealand – coverage doesn't apply.

Other insurers, like Covermore, aren't as restrictive with new policies.

Covermore excludes only destinations zoned at the highest level of “do not travel”, and insures a broader range of scenarios like the cost of changing plans if a family member catches COVID, or if you test positive before your travels and then can't fly.

**The takeaway:** Every insurer is different – and for that matter, different policies may cover different things, and coverage can change over time – so before relying on travel insurance, be sure to read the fine print, and be aware of any restrictions, exclusions and limits that may apply.

### **After COVID, travel insurance may be compulsory**

As international travel returns, some countries may make insurance a requirement of entry: particularly when it comes to COVID-19.

Under the recently-launched 'Vaccinated Travel Lane' between Singapore and Germany, for example, travellers can only fly if they have COVID cover.

Singapore requires those visitors to have insurance with at least S\$30,000 in cover for COVID-related hospitalisation and medical costs while in Singapore.

In that instance, the insurance policy doesn't need to be purchased in Singapore: just valid in Singapore.

This highlights how things could work for Australia-Singapore travel, once those borders reopen.

**Read more:** [How an Australia-Singapore 'Vaccinated Travel Lane' could work](#)

### **Medicare COVID-19 cover overseas**

Many Australians don't realise that Medicare isn't just your safety net at home: it can also help with medical costs when you've travelled overseas.

While not being a true replacement for commercial travel insurance, Australia maintains 'Reciprocal Health Care Agreements' with 11 other countries – and if you do require medical care or medicine while abroad, those costs may be significantly reduced, or even 'bulk billed' back to Australia.

This applies in popular destinations such as New Zealand and the United Kingdom, as well as Belgium, Finland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Ireland, Slovenia and Sweden.

The [Services Australia](#) website outlines exactly what's covered in each country, and what you need to do.

But, there's a golden rule: you need to bring your Medicare card with you when you travel.

While it's now possible to load a digital Medicare card onto your phone through the Express Plus Medicare app for [Android](#) and [iOS](#) – and that's a great backup to have – slipping the plastic card into your passport wallet before jetting abroad could prove a lifesaver.



In fact, even if you do have travel insurance, many insurers won't pay for costs that you could have claimed through this Medicare scheme, giving even more reason to travel with your Medicare card.

Also read: [Add a Covid-19 vaccination card to Android or iPhone](#)



**Chris Chamberlin**

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**Qantas restarts flights to Bali, Jakarta, Bangkok, Manila, Jo'burg**

The 'second wave' of Qantas' rebooted International network will take wing on Sunday March 27, 2022.

By David Flynn, September 27 2021

Share this article:



Qantas plans to restart international flights to a destinations near and far at the end of March 2022 as the airline begins the 'second wave' of restarting an international network that's been largely dormant for the past two years.

The airline's schedule now lists flights to Bali, Jakarta, Bangkok, Manila and Johannesburg lining up on the runway from Sunday March 27 – and for several of those cities it will be the first red-tailed Qantas jet that's visited since the airline stopped all international flights in March 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

- **Sydney-Bali/Denpasar** QF43 is slated to run daily from March 27, with **Melbourne-Bali/Denpasar** QF45 daily from March 28; both flights will be handled by a Boeing 737
- **Sydney-Jakarta** QF41 resumes March 27 with an Airbus A330 showing six days a week
- **Sydney-Bangkok** QF23 is listed from March 27 as a daily Airbus A330
- **Sydney-Manila** QF19 is another daily Airbus A330 flying from March 27
- **Sydney-Johannesburg** QF63 makes a daily return from March 27, with a Boeing 787 tackling the 14 hour flight

Although all these flights are now on sale, they remain subject to travel restrictions which may be imposed by governments at either end.

However, the Australian government has said that under its national Covid-19 recovery plan, vaccinated citizens and residents will be free to leave the country without seeking special permission once 80% of the adult population is fully vaccinated – a milestone which is expected to be reached by mid-November 2021.

### **Quarantine remains the catch**

More crucial for business travellers and holiday-makers, as well as those jetting overseas to reconnect with family and friends, will be quarantine conditions imposed on Australians returning after visiting those countries.

"The key factor in determining the ongoing demand level for international flying will be what the quarantine arrangements are for Australians when they return," Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce stressed today.

"The [seven-day home quarantine trial in New South Wales](#) is a great step forward and we're hoping the system evolves quickly for vaccinated travellers from low-risk countries to not have to quarantine on arrival, particularly given Australia itself is on track to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the world."

As previously reported, Qantas will resume flying to Singapore, London, Los Angeles and Vancouver on December 18, 2021, with Tokyo, Fiji and Honolulu in the days following, while Hong Kong, San Francisco and Dallas/Forth Worth come back on the map from the week commencing February 14, 2022.

Joyce has noted in the past that he has shared his plans with the government "and they agree with our broad assumptions, and agree that our plan is reasonable."

One wrinkle in Joyce's plans is the insistence of the West Australian government to keep the state's borders closed until early 2022, which has led to the airline postponing the planned December 18 restart of its flagship direct Perth-London service.

Instead, that Boeing 787 flight will now run via Darwin or Singapore until at least April 2022, with the airline to decide in the coming weeks which city will see the Kangaroo Route stopover.

## Qantas to suspend Perth-London flights until at least April 2022

WA's hard stance on borders will see Qantas' direct Perth-London flights swapped to Darwin-London or Singapore-London.

By [Chris Chamberlin](#), September 27 2021

Share this article:



Qantas will no longer fly from Perth to London when international flights resume [from mid-December 2021](#), due to Western Australia's determination to keep its borders closed when most of the country reopens by the end of this year.

The airline's prestigious Boeing 787-9 direct Perth-London route will be suspended "until at least April 2022", Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce confirmed today, with Perth to be replaced by either Darwin or Singapore.

"At this stage, WA doesn't intend to open to international travel until sometime next year, so we'll unfortunately have to temporarily move our Perth-London service until at least April 2022," Joyce said.

This would mean that QF9 temporarily flies either Melbourne-Darwin-London or Melbourne-Singapore-London.

Qantas has gained considerable familiarity with Darwin due to a series of repatriation flights over the past 12 months, and the airline says it has entered "detailed discussions with the NT Government and Darwin Airport to assess operating the direct London flight from Darwin during this time."

Those discussions for what would be a daily Melbourne-Darwin-London service "focus on the logistics of domestic and international transit" – more to the point, if the NT Government will permit those transits, both of inbound London passengers and Australians connecting to Darwin from other states.

However, as a time-proven stopover for the Kangaroo Route, Singapore remains a solid fallback.

"If this service can't operate through Darwin, it will instead fly Melbourne-Singapore-London until at least April 2022," Qantas said.

The Darwin vs Singapore decision is likely to be made within the next two weeks, although the airline "looks forward to operating this flight via Perth again when circumstances allow."

Qantas first flagged the potential [Darwin detour last month](#), although WA did not subsequently budge on border controls; the airline today closed reservations for the Perth-London flight through to March 26, 2022.

### **Darwin vs Singapore on the Kangaroo Route**

On the one hand, routing flights via Darwin could make the journey easier for travellers – particularly in light of COVID-19.

By not visiting a third country during the trip, passengers would arrive in the UK directly from Australia, and so would only need to comply with UK/Australia entry requirements.

Routing via Singapore would instead rely on The Lion City being treated the same way as Australia and the United Kingdom when it comes to quarantine.

Of course, Darwin Airport hasn't traditionally been big for Qantas international flights, with the airline having only a single [Qantas Club lounge](#) in the domestic section of Darwin Airport.



**Review: [Qantas Club domestic lounge, Darwin Airport](#)**

Although accessible before international departures and providing shower facilities, it's certainly not in the same league as Qantas' Singapore's lounges.

At Changi Airport, Qantas has both a [flagship first class lounge](#) and a separate [business class lounge](#), which served London-bound flyers prior to COVID-19.

As Qantas did when overseas flights [first resumed from Sydney and Melbourne](#), it could well open that first class lounge to *all* eligible lounge guests in the early days.



**Review: [Qantas first class lounge, Singapore Changi Airport](#)**

Which route the airline will take remains to be seen, however, with both having distinct advantages.

## Western Australia also locked out of domestic travel

The state's tough stance on borders is also expected to see it closed to arrivals from New South Wales and Victoria into next year.

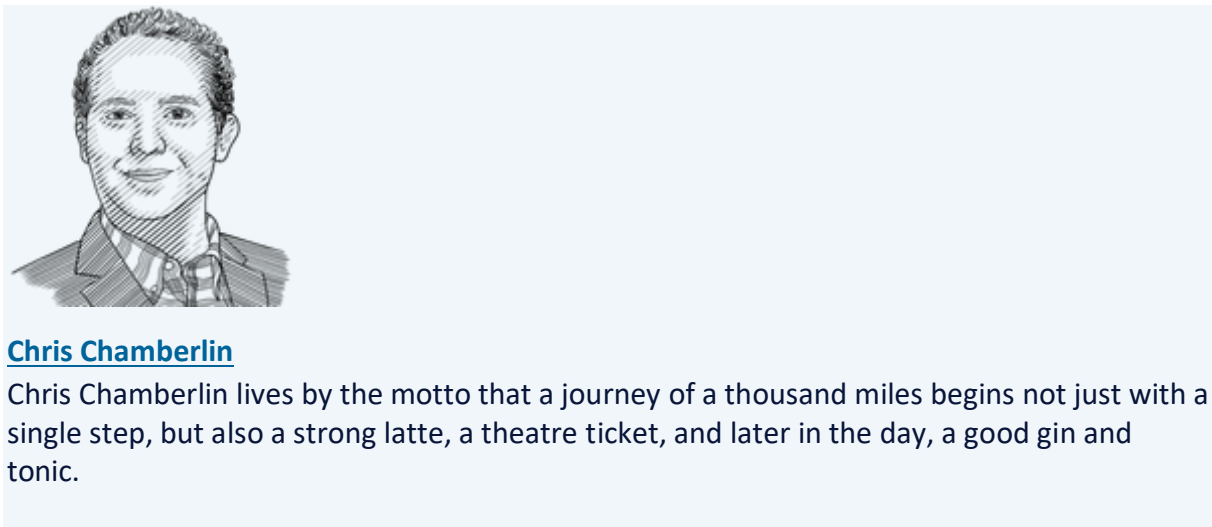
While Qantas will continue running five return flights a week from both Sydney and Melbourne to Perth for essential travellers, it now doesn't expect WA's border to come down until February 2022.

"Based on our discussions with Western Australia, we know their borders won't be open to New South Wales and Victoria until early next year," continues Joyce.

As a result, "we've sadly had to cancel the flying we had planned on those routes in the lead-up to Christmas."

However, the airline does expect WA to relax its border controls on Queensland travellers in the coming weeks – which currently require 14 days of self-isolation on arrival in WA – and stands ready to "adjust its schedules in response."

Previously: [Qantas says it could fly to London via Darwin](#)



### [Chris Chamberlin](#)

Chris Chamberlin lives by the motto that a journey of a thousand miles begins not just with a single step, but also a strong latte, a theatre ticket, and later in the day, a good gin and tonic.

## [Qantas to skip Singapore, fly Sydney & Melbourne to London via Darwin](#)

The Kangaroo Route will replace both its Singapore and Perth stopovers with Darwin until at least April 2022.

By [David Flynn](#), October 8 2021

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Everyone expected that the shape of international travel would be different once overseas flights resumed, but few people – if indeed anybody – could have predicted *this*.

When Qantas restarts its Sydney-London and Melbourne-London flights in the coming months, the airline says they'll *both* operate via Darwin, with the NT capital filling in for Singapore – in the case of the Sydney QF1/QF2 service – and Perth (Melbourne's QF9/QF10).

The airline this week reached agreement with the Northern Territory Government and Darwin Airport to temporarily reroute its flights from Melbourne and Sydney through Darwin.

"The Darwin hub arrangement will be in place in time for borders reopening from 14 November 2021 until at least April 2022 when London flights are scheduled to operate via Perth again," the airline confirmed in a statement issued this evening.

"While this is a temporary change to the route, Qantas will watch how it performs and is open-minded about what it could lead to down the track."

The NT Government describes the arrangement as creating "a travel bubble at the Darwin International Airport terminal for passengers travelling from Melbourne and Sydney to London via Darwin."

Darwin-based passengers will also be able to book the direct QF1 or QF9 flights to London.

### **Sydney-Darwin-London from 14 November**

Sydney-Darwin-London flights will begin on 14 November, with the Melbourne-Darwin-London route currently scheduled to begin on 18 December 2021 – although this could also start earlier, depending on the outcome of Qantas' discussions with the Victorian Government on shorter quarantine arrangements for returning travellers.

"The Kangaroo Route is one of the most iconic on the Qantas international network and we are delighted that Darwin will play a vital role in Australia's post pandemic reopening to the world," said Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce.

"Qantas has been flying repatriation services from London to Darwin as part of the airline's efforts to help bring Australians home over the past 12 months, so our pilots already have extensive experience operating this particular route."

Perth famously ruled itself out of the running due to West Australia's insistence on keeping its borders closed until what state premier Mark McGowan has said could be March or April 2022.

Singapore – which has long been the familiar stopover for Qantas' Kangaroo Route – will also be skipped, likely owing to issues with transit arrangements at Changi Airport, although Qantas didn't offer any explanation or comment on that front.

The new Darwin-centric QF1 will take off from 14 November 2021, departing Sydney five times a week at 6.30pm; it'll land in Darwin at 9.25pm for a brief refuelling stop ahead of the 13,800km, 17h20m journey to London's Heathrow airport.

## How the Darwin stopover will work

So what does this mean for travellers flying between Sydney or Melbourne and London via Darwin?

Qantas says that passenger transit arrangements will be split into two stages to reflect Covid-safe arrangements in the Territory itself.

In stage one, which presumably starts with QF1 on 14 November, transiting passengers from all Australian states – or returning from London – will be able to visit Darwin Airport's international Catalina Lounge as well as shops and cafes in the international terminal.

Qantas hasn't yet advised on lounge eligibility or access for the Catalina Lounge.



Passengers travelling from London to Sydney and Melbourne via Darwin and wanting to travel onwards to other Australian cities may also be subject to state and territory quarantine requirements.

In stage two – for which Qantas hasn't shared a timeframe, but might be based on an NT vaccination threshold – transiting passengers will have the option to leave the terminal and visit Darwin, providing a tourism boost for the top-end city.

As previously and extensively reported, all passengers on international Qantas flights must be fully-vaccinated with a TGA-approved or recognised vaccine (apart from some exemptions made for medical reasons and children).

They'll also be required to return a negative PCR Covid test at least 48 hours prior to departure, and upon their return to New South Wales, spend seven days in home quarantine.