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TRAVEL APP SOARS ON ANGEL INVESTMENT

Two Brisbane university friends with a shared love of travel are taking on the world with the first social network for travellers, receiving a boost from angel investors giving the start-up a multi-million-dollar valuation.

Travello connects travellers from all countries and languages based on their shared travel destinations, allowing them to meet up and share tours, recommendations and even a bite to eat.

The app aims to fill a niche 'pre-Facebook', introducing users who have not even met and may go on to connect through Facebook. It has been downloaded more than 60,000 times by users in the USA, UK, and in more than 180 other countries.

Co-founder Mark Cantoni said the company had attracted first-round equity investment from people and companies who have not previously invested in technology companies.

"For most of our investors this is their first foray into technology, they come from accounting, trucking, medicine and property development backgrounds," Mr Cantoni said.

"A tech-start-up is a different type of investment for them, but they have been attracted by the uniqueness of our app, and the enormous size of the market we are targeting.

"With nine million outbound travellers from Australia each year, we expect this app will become an essential pre-departure download, especially for those in the 18-34 demographic."

Travello's first funding round was recently oversubscribed with 22 investors staking \$1.26m in the company, valuing the emergent business at \$4.56 million.

The company has already been recognised by experienced start-up mentors, successfully graduating from the River City Labs and muru-D incubator programs.

Co-founder Ryan Hanly said the investment would allow the business to hire essential technology-focused employees to bolster the current team of two developers, with new features already planned.

"We have exciting opportunities on our development roadmap, including more location-based services, recommendations based on shared interest, as well as viral loops that encourage sharing of content and recommendations to non-user friends," Mr Hanly said.

"We believe the future for Travello is to provide users a complete travel app.



“Backpackers have flocked to this platform, but we are also seeing strong take-up from adventurers, expats and even solo-travellers, who are keen to meet likeminded people.

“Once users log-on, they typically stay on for more than five minutes, which shows it has enduring engagement for our customers.

“Like any app developer, we recognise we have to continue innovating to give users a product they want to keep coming back to, and so far, we are on the right track.”

You can download Travello from the App Store and the Google Play store here:

[App Store](#) & [Google Play](#)

About Travello

Travello is a social network app for travellers, helping them to meet new friends and connect with like-minded travellers from all around the world. In fact, we have travellers from over 180 countries on the app! It’s perfect for anyone wanting to connect with other travellers in any destination or even for travellers just wanting to ask for advice and tips, what’s on or events they are thinking of going to or to just get recommendations from our real world travel guide community.

So whether you are travelling alone or together with family or friends you’ll be able use Travello to meet other solo travellers, backpackers, digital nomads, adventurers, couples, families or expats that are in the same country.

The search parameters allow you to tailor the app to exactly how you want it. So you will only see and interact with those you want to on the app. This provides the ultimate user experience and the ultimate travel app.

Locating Wi-Fi access points is also crucial on your travels too and Travello comes equipped with a great Wi-Fi finder tool that will help you find the internet with ease!

Travello’s features include:

- Wifi finder – find free Wifi with thousands of spots worldwide
- Nearby screen – find thousands of travellers around you or in a future destination
- Trips – match travel plans with other travellers & connect before you arrive!
- Noticeboard – post and respond to notices from travellers around the globe
- Chat directly in the app with the new friends you add
- Discover – create traveller Meetups and find local deals

Find us on Facebook by searching 'Travello app', and also on Twitter and Instagram by searching '@travelloapp'

www.travelloapp.com