



## Duffy to address Aus industry show

Cruise Lines International Association president Christine Duffy has been confirmed as the keynote speaker at Cruise3sixty Australasia.

**TRAVELLING** from CLIA headquarters in the US, Duffy will be one of 15 local and international cruise industry heavyweights presenting at the show, to which only a small number of tickets remain available.

Anticipation is building throughout the Australian cruise industry with just less than two months to go until the first local edition of the annual North American cruise industry trade show Cruise3sixty.

The event will take place at the Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney on 07 Feb 2014, one day prior to the CLIA Australasia awards ceremony.

Cruise3sixty Australasia is taking place through the collective efforts of TravelTrends, CLIA Australasia and **Cruise Weekly**, with 370 delegates registered to attend and more than two-dozen cruise operators signed to exhibit.

A president's panel featuring Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry, Royal Caribbean Int'l regional vice president Asia-Pacific Gavin Smith, APT founder Geoff McGeary and Aqua Expeditions ceo Francesco Galli Zugaro, will take place, with topics of discussion to include the ongoing growth of the Australian industry.

"The huge demand from CLIA members for both the conference and the exhibition just underlines the rapid growth of our local cruise industry in recent years and the enormous energy and potential it holds," CLIA Australasia general manager Brett Jardine said.

## A royal troupe of lip warmers

**ROYAL** Caribbean International's Australian sales team once again threw their support behind the annual 'Movember' fundraising drive to raise money for cancer research.

The line managed to raise \$1,800 for the cause, and **pictured** below prior to the great shave-off of their month-long 'mo' from left is Robert Shaw, Tony Soden, Peter Carson, Darren Chigwidden, Cameron Mannix, Mark Kinchley, Peter McCormack and Mark Rheinbay.



## Top shelf CW issue today

Today's trade issue of **CW** features four pages of all the latest cruise information.

## Free Fiji cruises for top sellers

A **NEW** incentive has been launched for Australian travel agents by Captain Cook Cruises Fiji, with free cruises up for grabs for strong sellers of the line's range of departures.

All new bookings on any of the Captain Cook Cruises Fiji 3, 4 and 7-night cruises aboard the *MV Reef Endeavour* are eligible as part of the incentive, with free cruises available once an agent books a total of ten passengers.

Agents who book 20 passengers prior to redeeming for an award are also able to take their partner along on their free cruise.

The line's new Four Cultures Discovery Cruise and Colonial Fiji Discovery Cruise also form part of the incentive.

Only three and four-night sailings are able to be redeemed as free reward sailings, however the line is offering special rates for agents who wish to upgrade to the week-long departures.

The new incentive opens for sales as part of Captain Cook's Annual Sale on 26 Dec and will run until 31 Mar 2014, with free cruises able to be redeemed for departures from 01 Apr 2014 until 31 Mar 2015.

Additionally, consultants must complete the Captain Cook Accreditation Program in order to claim a free cruise upon meeting pre-set minimum sales numbers.

For more information on the incentive, phone (02) 9126 8160

## Shopping assistance by Tauck

**RIVER** cruise and land touring operator Tauck is offering \$40 Coles / MYER gift cards to Australian travel agents who book and deposit on any new Tauck bookings before 15 Dec.

Further, bookings made by 20 Dec will see clients earn a free hotel night prior to or following their booked tour.

For more information on the incentive, phone Travel the World on 1300 950 622.

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## CMV releases 2014-15 WA program

*Astor* arrived in Fremantle yesterday to start the first of three summer cruising seasons in Western Australia.

**TO MARK** the occasion, Cruise and Maritime Voyages unveiled its schedule for next season.

The new brochure, covering Nov 2014 to Apr 2015, shows similar itineraries to the current season, with a series of short breaks along the west coast, cruises to Bali and Lombok, and a circumnavigation of Australia.

The first voyage, repositioning *Astor* from Europe back to Perth, departs 05 Nov from London instead of Rome, and arrives 13 Dec 2014, calling at Le Havre (France), Lisbon (Portugal), Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Tenerife (Spain), Porto Grande, Mindelo (Cape Verde Islands), Georgetown (Ascension Island), Cape Town (South Africa), Mossel Bay (South Africa), Durban (South Africa), Pointe Des Galets (Reunion Island) and Port Louis (Mauritius).

Theme cruises include a four-night wine and food voyage via Bunbury & Albany in Jan 2015 and a five-night rock'n'roll party in Mar 2015.

More than 250 passengers disembarked *Astor* on Wed after almost a month at sea travelling from Civitavecchia, Italy.

The ship sailed along the coast past Rottneest Island, Scarborough and Cottesloe before pulling up alongside the Fremantle Passenger Terminal shortly before 8am yesterday.

Among those who greeted *Astor* were WA Tourism Minister Liza Harvey, chairman of Tourism WA Peter Prendiville and local mayors, who presented official plaques to Captain Emmanouil Psarrakis.

The owners of *Astor* will spend more than \$6 million on product and services while in Perth over the next four months.

The 620-pax vessel is committed to three summers based in Fremantle, with options to extend further.

Meanwhile, the city is on track for one of its biggest cruise ship seasons in 40 years.

According to the City of Fremantle, passenger numbers in 2013-14 will reach levels not seen since the 1970s, with 32 ships scheduled to bring in more than 65,000 tourists, compared to 55,000 people on 17 ships last season.



*Astor* arrived at its new WA summer home yesterday morning.

## Technology on ships

FOR most of us, there is only one major concern when getting on a cruise and that is ensuring we receive great value!

However there are many areas behind the scenes that do have an impact on the final price paid by the cruiser.

One particular area which many will scoff at is the type of paint used on the surface of the ship's hull. It is a fact that the latest paint technology is assisting cruise lines in making substantial fuel savings therefore reducing overall operating costs.

Most of us have a motor vehicle and the price of fuel certainly has an impact on our everyday lives but just imagine if you were filling up the tanks of a cruise ship each week instead of the family sedan!

When a cruise ship is coated with high quality paint, the smoothness of the hull reduces friction with the water, therefore allowing the ship to travel further using less fuel. The result of this is not only reduced operating costs but also fewer emissions. This can save a cruise line hundreds of thousands of dollars in fuel over the space of a year and naturally this saving is reflected in the final price paid by the passenger.

A great example of savings made are confirmed by Cunard when QM2 was repainted during a dry-dock in Hamburg in 2008. Her highly efficient paint job shaved \$30,000 per day off the fuel bill – not bad!

## Six new Viking land extensions

**VIKING** Cruises has developed and launched six new land-based extension itineraries for passengers to purchase as an optional at the end of one of its European river cruises.

Most of the add-ons are three nights in duration, with two night options also available depending on the voyage chosen and its respective port of disembarkation.

Available extensions include Bruges, Krakow, Nuremberg, the French Riviera, The Hague and Lake Geneva, with each offering the services of the Viking Concierge on-site at hotels used to help guests book day tours and dining.

Experiences on offer include local attractions such as castles, museums, beer halls, art galleries, alpine train journeys and more

All of the extensions begin with a walking tour for guests to familiarise themselves with the city, along with quality accommodation.



Cruise News & Views...

Brett Jardine - General Manager



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## Entry closing for Arctic Safari

**WILD** Earth Travel is reminding travel agents to get their entries in quickly for its Arctic Safari competition, with an 11-day voyage up for grabs to the selected winner.

The operator has recently launched its 2014 Small Ship Cruises Worldwide Voyages brochure, with an entry into the draw awarded to agents who correctly name the Scottish island featured on the cover.

Five bonus entries are also up for grabs for every new booking made by 5pm tomorrow.

Drawing of the top prize will be made on Mon 16 Dec - email [info@wildearth-travel.com](mailto:info@wildearth-travel.com) for more information and to enter.

## Carnival marketing director

**FORMER** marketing director of Fairfax-owned online dating website RSVP Jayne Andrews has joined the team at Carnival Australia.

Andrews has taken on the responsibilities of marketing director for the Carnival Cruise Lines brand, tasked with overseeing promotion of the line's new Australian ship, *Carnival Legend*.

## NCL 2015 summer status quo

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Lines has announced its ship deployment for the summer of 2015, with little changes compared to the year before.

*Norwegian Star* will return to Baltic operation with a series of nine-night cruises, while the line's new *Norwegian Getaway* will remain in the Caribbean for the second straight summer.

## Quantum year ahead for Travelscene agent

**HISTORY** will be made next year by Kristina McGhee from Travelscene Rye Beach as she will be one of the first people in Australia - and indeed the world - to step on Royal Caribbean International's revolutionary new *Quantum of the Seas*.

McGhee was selected as the winner of the line's recent competition, submitting her entry in the form of a *Quantum* themed re-imagining of the classic Frank Sinatra anthem New York, New York.

Her prize includes flights to the city and a cabin on the inaugural sailing of *Quantum of the Seas*, which debuts from its maiden homeport of New York City last next year.

Congratulations also go to Karryn Cook from Harvey World Travel Umina, NSW & Julie Allen of Allen's Travel Collaroy, who took out second and third prize, winning a 7-night Tasmanian cruise on *Rhapsody of the Seas* and a 5-night East Coast sailing on *Radiance of the Seas* respectively.

Royal Caribbean's DOSM Vic/Tas Cameron Mannix is **pictured** above right presenting the top prize to Kristina McGhee.



## Odyssey local landfall for 2014

**SEABOURN** *Odyssey* has tied up in Australia for the first time this season, with the luxury liner arriving into Darwin this morning.

The vessel will make 22 visits to 11 different ports over the next few months as it embarks on its longest local season ever.

After an overnight stop in Cairns early next week, *Odyssey* will arrive in Sydney on 23 Dec for the first of three visits this season.

Sister-ship *Seabourn Sojourn* will visit 11 local ports over 19 days as part of a 116-day world cruise, arriving from NZ on 08 Feb next year.

## Uniworld savings extensions

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruises has extended the deadline to 31 Dec for discounts of up to \$2,400 per couple on selected Europe and Russia river cruise itineraries departing in 2014, if paid in full at the time of booking.



[Click here for more details](#)



The Auckland Hop On Hop Off Explorer bus stop is directly out front of the new Queens Wharf cruise ship terminal

## Victoria anniversary sailings

**YANGTZE** River cruise line Victoria Cruises will introduce a brand new itinerary next year in celebration of its 20th anniversary of operations on the Chinese river.

The new voyage will take place on the Goddess Stream at the river's southern end.

A variety of promotions and special offers will be rolled out over the course of the year, many of which on the line's Facebook page, with pricing set to remain unchanged for 2014.

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### Agents get a sneak preview peek at Astor

**CRUISE** and Maritime Voyages Australia recently escorted a group of Aussie travel agents and special guests to Phuket to provide an up-close and personal preview at *Astor* (see p2).

The vessel was gradually making its way from Rome to its new summer home of Fremantle, arriving in the WA port for the first time yesterday.

While in Phuket, the group went onboard to tour *Astor's* facilities for a preview of what the many Aussie passengers booked on one of the ship's voyages have to look forward while sailing from Fremantle.

*Astor* will base herself in the WA port for



at least the next three summers, this year offering 14 itineraries in and around the Australian coastline and to Indonesia.

**Pictured** above pointing out the ship they would love to cruise aboard, from left is Lisa Young, Brian Crisp, Greg Wilson, GTS Travel Mirrabooka; Claudia Woejtsle, RAC Travel; Leanda Blank, West Coast Cruise and Travel; Vilma Rovedatti, Cruise and Maritime Voyages; Debbie Durrell, Jetset Belmont; Amber Reid, Cruiseco; Jordan Fransz, RAC Travel and Matthew Clements, Bicton Cruise and Travel.

### Ship performers practice room

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises Ltd will construct a new US\$20 million facility to serve as a training and rehearsal facility for shipboard performers as well as student apprenticeship college.

Ground breaking work will commence this week on the new facility, to be located at the Florida International University's Biscayne Bay campus, south of Miami.

The facility will offer two three-storey high studios fitted with rigging systems for acrobats and aerial performers to hone their craft, ten additional rehearsal studios for stage-based performers and a 300-seat theatre.

"We are excited to partner with FIU on our new entertainment facility...it will enable Royal Caribbean to continue to produce world-class entertainment for our ships," Royal Caribbean chairman and ceo Richard D Fain said.

Fain added that the increasing sophistication and theatrical standards of its performances warranted the state-of-the-art facility, while FIU students will also have access to elements of corporate and shipboard industry training.

### Virgo to undergo renovations

**SUPERSTAR** *Virgo* will enter a three-week drydock in Jan for a significant refurbishment and interior renovation program which will see the level of onboard luxury improved as part of a project costing US\$19.7 million.

As part of the works, cabins will be refreshed, with a remodelling of balconies along with improved dining and leisure offerings.

Onboard retail space will triple in size, with new upmarket brands such as Lancome and expanded duty-free outlets to be added.

Upon emergence from drydock, *Virgo* will continue its Singapore season prior to repositioning to Hong Kong for a six-month season from Apr to Oct 2014.



**GHOSTS** of Lake Huron in the Great Lakes region of the United States continue to be unearthed, with the latest discovery being a 152-year old shipwreck found in 175-feet of water earlier this year.

Mystery surrounds the exact cause which sent the Keystone State - a side-wheel steam powered paddle wheeler - to its watery entombment along with the souls of 33 occupants, but a ferocious storm in Nov 1861 seemingly played a part.

The vessel was en route to Detroit from Milwaukee across the Great Lakes, last seen near Port Austin "sailing into oblivion" according to explorer David Trotter, who found the wreck.

Trotter says he has found a number of old wrecks in recent times, with another sunken paddle steamer - the New York, which sank in 1910 - located and identified last year.

### Serenity sails out of drydock

**BRAND** new Crystal Penthouses have been unveiled as among the highlights of a US\$17m drydock renovation project aboard *Crystal Serenity*, which has now rolled out of drydock following the project (**CW** 13 Jun).

The vessel has undergone a significant makeover, with new dining outlets complete with new menus and environmental upgrades among the biggest changes.

Deep cleaning was carried out throughout all staterooms, with the tender boarding area also now boasting a welcoming new design.

"We have completely reimagined spaces to create chic and contemporary public areas and accommodations that are as comfortable and inviting as they are dramatic and stylish," Crystal Cruises president Edie Bornstein said.

Crystal has now spent more than US\$52m on upgrades to *Serenity* over the last two years.

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