

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 04 Aug 2016

## Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos.

## Border Force strikes

**BORDER** Force officers will walk off the job at ports, international airports and other sites for 24 hours on 12 Aug.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection strike is over enterprise agreements, with more than 100,000 workers going without a pay rise for three years.

## Scenic info sessions

**THE** third round of Scenic's Ever Wondered sessions for 2016 will run from 31 Aug-11 Oct.

A total of fourteen sessions are being held nationwide, including in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, Benowa and Burswood.

Pre-booking is essential, for the full schedule, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Silversea's \$170m refurb

**THE** biggest fleet-wide refurbishment plan in Silversea's history - worth US\$170 million - has been unveiled.

*Silver Whisper* will undergo a revitalisation inspired by World Cruisers by the end of 2016.

When she emerges from drydock, *Whisper* will be adorned with marble flooring in her bathrooms, along with a freshly tiled pool and new chaise lounges in open air spaces.

The Restaurant and La Terrazza will be re-skinned with new carpet and hard-wood parquet respectively, and will each receive upgraded furniture.

Internet will be vastly improved as part of the renovations, as two satellite antennas will be installed, along with new, interactive TVs and on-demand movies in every suite.

*Silver Wind* will receive jazzed-up furniture, technology

upgrades, new flooring in the La Terrazza and the Main Restaurant and the pool deck will undergo a complete rip-and-replace in Oct.

Also in Oct, The Restaurant on *Silver Discoverer* will be remodelled, The Discoverer lounge will be transformed from a breakfast venue to a sophisticated lounge and snazzy AV technology will be installed in the Explorer lounge.

## Lindblad ceo shares

**LINDBLAD** Expeditions Holdings has lodged a stock exchange filing to register one million shares in the now listed company, which can be used in awards made under its ceo share plan which was approved by shareholders in early Jun this year.

The company's ceo is Sven-Olof Lindblad and the proposed max price per share is US\$9.80.

## Uniworld shake up

**ELLEN** Bettridge has been named president and ceo of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection, succeeding Guy Young, who has been promoted.

Effective 06 Aug, Bettridge will work alongside Young to transition the move, which will see him take on two newly-created roles within parent company, The Travel Corporation.

Young will continue to be based in Los Angeles and will become president of Costsaver and global brand engagement officer of TTC, reporting to Brett Tollman.

Bettridge comes from Azamara Club Cruises, where she was vice president, sales and marketing.

Brett Tollman, ceo TTC said of Bettridge's appointment "I have known and admired Ellen for many years. She is a superbly capable and talented travel industry professional, with an exceptional reputation and a winning track-record".

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## Royal Caribbean growth

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises has reported an adjusted net income of US\$235.2m, a massive gain on the \$185m reported in 2015.

The result is better than predicted in its guidance due to lower fuel expense.

Sale of 51% of the Pullmantur Group resulted in increased yields and costs metrics for 2016, as the Group's yields and costs are lower than the fleet average.

"Our business remains strong and we continue to improve our return profile," said Richard Fain, chief executive officer.

For the six months ended 30 Jun, operating expenses inched up \$13.1 million to \$2.56 billion while the company brought in a total revenue of \$4 billion, an increase of \$149 million on the prior corresponding period.

Reservations for the rest of 2016 remain at similar levels to last year's record highs and the booked position for the next

twelve months is also up on both rate and volume, versus the same time last year.

"While there are always puts and takes in our key markets, our portfolio is performing as expected, our booked position remains strong, and our newbuilds are entering their markets to great fanfare," said Jason T. Liberty, cfo.

"These factors are driving another year of record earnings."

The cruise line has modified its full year adjusted earnings per share to a range of \$6.00 to \$6.10, a \$0.20 decrease at the midpoint versus previous guidance.

This has been attributed to a \$0.27 negative impact from currency - including the drop in the GBP following Brexit - and fuel rates.

The cost of fuel in H1 2016 came to \$55 million less than the PCP, at a total of \$353 million.

## Frozen takes the stage



FOR the "first time in forever," Disney Cruise Line will debut *Frozen, A Musical Spectacular* on *Disney Wonder* on 10 Nov.

The stage show will combine traditional theatrical techniques with modern technology and will expand upon the most imaginative elements of the film.

Jim Urry, vp entertainment, Disney Cruise Line said "the production is going to delight each one of our guests because it's a story for absolutely everyone in the family".

The production is led by director Sheryl Kaller, who is joined by costume designer Paloma Young and choreographer Josh Prince.

## Carnival 2017 lineup

COUNTRY music stars Tim McGraw and Little Big Town along with comedians Jay Leno and Jeff Foxworthy have been named as part of the initial Carnival Live line-up for 2017.

McGraw will perform on *Breeze* 02 Mar and *Carnival Valor* 03 Mar and Little Big Town will take to the stage of *Carnival Dream* 11 May and *Carnival Valor* 12 May.

Ex-Tonight Show host Jay Leno will be on *Carnival Victory* 03 May and on *Carnival Vista* 04 May while Foxworthy will entertain on *Carnival Freedom* 21 Jun and *Carnival Ecstasy* 22 Jun.



  
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Get updated on all Crystal's news in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK HERE**  
to read

## Koningsdam floats in Seattle



**THE** streets of Seattle are not the first place you'd expect to see Holland America Line's *ms Koningsdam*.

Over the weekend, a 13m-long,

replica helium balloon of the ship navigated its way through the company's hometown on a 4km journey through Seattle with the help of 30 employees.

The float was part of the Alaska Airlines Seafair Torchlight Parade.

## Carnival dash for cash

**ON BOARD** credit of up to \$400 per cabin and half price deposits are being offered by Carnival Australia with its Dash for Cruise Cash sale.

The offer applies to the nine-day New Caledonia cruise on *Carnival Spirit* departing 29 Jan, 12-day New Caledonia & Vanuatu sailing 08 Mar on *Carnival Legend*, eight-day New Caledonia cruise out of Sydney on 28 Feb on *Carnival Legend* and more.

Book by 29 Aug - **CLICK HERE**.

## Genting HK loss

**PARENT** company of Star Cruises and Crystal Cruises, Genting Hong Kong has warned of a projected first half loss between US\$60m and \$US75m.

The loss has been attributed to the absence of an accounting gain which occurred in May 2015, a disposal of certain stakes in NCLH in H1 2015, one-time start-up costs for the launch of new Dream and Crystal cruise brands in 2016 and higher overall expenses.

## Solomon Is cruising push

**EXPANSION** of the fledgling cruise sector in the Solomon Islands is a key agenda for the country's government, as part of a major push to boost inbound visitor numbers.

Solomon Islands Minister for Culture and Tourism, Bartholomew Parapolo, yesterday hosted an event in Sydney where he unveiled his vision for the Solomons' cruise future.

Last year the Solomons welcomed a total of four large cruise ship visits - and that figure will double this year, increasing further next year with arrivals by *Sun Princess*, *Crystal Symphony*, *MS Paul Gauguin* and *Silver Discoverer* scheduled.

Parapolo said Carnival Australia alone was sending eight large ships to the Solomons in 2017.

But calling at ports such as Honiara and Gizo is just the start, with Parapolo thanking the Australian government for its support in conducting an extensive hydrographic survey of the Solomon Islands.

"This will allow cruise ships to go to many parts of the Solomon Islands," he said.

Also in the works is an expansion of the Honiara International Seaport to allow it to handle larger vessels.

More from the event on **page 4**.

## Fred.Olsen loses case

**FRED.OLSEN** Cruise Lines has been ordered to provide compensation to 16 passengers for the distress they suffered as a result of a norovirus outbreak during a cruise five years ago.

A British Court of Appeal has dismissed a claim by Fred.Olsen attempting to overturn a 2015 ruling which found the cruise line was guilty of neglect for the outbreak.

The cruise line said it was "extremely disappointed" by the decision, with a spokesperson saying Fred.Olsen believes it had made "every reasonable effort, in accordance with its approved norovirus outbreak prevention and control plan, to prevent and contain the virus on board *Boudicca*".

Law firm Irwin Mitchell, which represented the plaintiffs, said it had already secured settlements for other clients who were affected by the norovirus.

## Cruise360 Marseille

**CLIA** UK & Ireland have postponed Cruise360 Marseille 2016, saying the event will be rearranged to take place in 2017.

In a statement, the association said, "We are very disappointed that the event will not be taking place in 2016 and are now working closely with those who have already registered".

The event is not to be confused with CLIA Australasia's Cruise360 conference which will be held on 16 Sep (see left).



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**ECRUISE** founder and ceo Brett Dudley has always said how fortunate he is to be working in the cruise sector - and his run of luck continued at an event earlier this week.

The government of the "great state of Nevada" in the USA is running its first ever trade mission to Australia, hosted by none other than Governor Brian Sandoval, who welcomed several hundred travel people to a cocktail function at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art. On arrival guests were invited to drop their business cards in a bowl for the obligatory door prize, and later in the evening Sandoval picked the winners, with Dudley taking home the major prize.



Dudley, who's pictured above collecting his vouchers from TravelNevada's Corey Marshall, will be heading to Nevada to take part in the Governor's Global Tourism Summit taking place at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno 11-12 Oct this year - flying courtesy of United Airlines and also having a choice of pre-fams prior to the conference. A number of guests noted the irony that Nevada, being a land-locked state "doesn't actually have a lot of cruising".

## Smiles from the Solomons!



**ABOVE:** This group was part of a senior delegation from the Solomon Islands visiting Sydney yesterday, as part of an ongoing push by the destination to boost its tourism (see page 3) amid a significant boost in the areas of infrastructure, quality and service improvement.

**Pictured from left are:** Andrew Nihopara, Permanent Secretary for the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Culture & Tourism; Bartholomew Parapolo, Solomon Islands minister for Culture & Tourism; Jenny Barile from the High Commission of Solomon

Islands in Canberra; and Josefa Tuamoto, Solomon Island Visitors Bureau ceo.

## Costa agreement

**COSTA** Cruises has acquired a 33.3% share in shipyard Chantier Naval de Marseille, a subsidiary of San Giorgio del Porto, to develop a world-class centre for ship repair and conversion.

The agreement calls for an investment of 10 million Euros, which will fund increasing the efficiency of the shipyard by equipping it with the best available technologies.

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## ACA Update



Jill Abel - CEO



## ACA Conference News

Three new speakers have been added to the program for what is shaping up to be an exciting ACA 20th anniversary conference.

Adding to the already confirmed international line-up of Edie Rodriguez, Crystal Cruises and Bruce Anderson, Starcrest Consulting is Captain Michael McCarthy, chair of Cruise Europe and commercial manager for the Port of Cork Company, Ireland. Michael will provide fascinating insight into the European cruise environment including the impact of recent political developments such as Brexit and increasing security threats.

Cruise industry pioneer, Ted Blamey, founder of Chart Management Consultants and long serving member of our Association will look at the highly important Asian market. Ted is an Asia-Pacific expert and has authored white papers on the Asian cruise market. We look forward to him sharing his extensive knowledge of this arena as he updates the audience on what we know one year on.

Closer to home, Earthcheck gm, consulting, Mark Olsen will discuss the importance of Destination Development and how the brand and identity need to deliver on the promise to meet visitor expectations.

The conference, themed "20 Years - Our People, Our Passion, Our Success" will focus on how we constantly evolve the delivery of positive shoreside outcomes for cruise passengers including the role of ports, the welcome experience and destination infrastructure.

To register for the conference, to be held 07-09 Sep at Sydney's Four Seasons Hotel, [CLICK HERE](#).

**Cruise Weekly** is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication. An industry-focused PDF edition of Cruise Weekly is published every Tue and Thu, and there's also a consumer-facing email newsletter published each Wed - sign up free at [www.cruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au).

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Part of the Travel Daily group of publications

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