



### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

### Jardine solo venture

**BRETT** Jardine, former Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia commercial director has launched consulting business, Cruise Boss.

Jardine has spent over 27 years in the travel industry, telling **CW** "I have been fortunate to experience many aspects of cruising and general business that impact both agents & suppliers".

"With this in mind Cruise Boss has been established to contract to business of varying size and style where the cruise industry is a primary focus."

Cruise Boss has taken on Viking Cruises as its foundation client.

Jardine said he is "delighted to be assisting the team at such an exciting time for the business".

## Carnival looks to Mel/Bris

**SYDNEY'S** cruise infrastructure challenges are "emerging as others' opportunities", Carnival Australia's executive chairman Ann Sherry has declared.

Sherry told **Cruise Weekly** that Carnival is increasingly basing ships in other cities such as Melbourne and Brisbane due to capacity constraints in Sydney.

She warned "we are nearing crunch point where we need to find a way to unblock the stalemate in Sydney Harbour & find a way of sharing the Garden Island facility between Navy & cruising for the benefit of Sydney".

"This is the last big piece of the tourism puzzle now we have agreement on the second airport and have rebuilt the convention and exhibition centre in Sydney".

The comments follow Royal Caribbean Int'l's move last week to cut the number of local ships to three in 2018/19, down from

five this season (**CW** 27 Apr).

On Fri the govt confirmed it is looking at how to make greater use of existing capacity, including the consideration of double turnarounds (or double stacking) in the OPT - a plan rejected by Carnival Aus and Royal Caribbean.

"In addition to losing cruise business to Melbourne and Brisbane, 'double stacking' risks making Sydney an unattractive port for local and int'l cruise pax," a Carnival spokesperson told **CW**.

The early morning arrival would require passengers to be ready to leave the ships as early as 5:30am and the evening turnaround would cause guests to embark late into the night "with all passengers effectively losing the first night of their cruise."

"Either way, pax will see 'double stacking' as an awful way to either start or finish a cruise holiday," Carnival said.

### NTIA finalists named

**THE** 2017 National Travel Industry Award (NTIA) finalists have today been revealed by the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA).

In the running to be named best cruise operator - domestic deployment are: Carnival Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises, P&O Cruises Australia, Princess Cruises and Royal Caribbean Int'l.

Finalists for the best cruise operator for domestic deployment include Celebrity Cruises, Princess Cruises, Royal Caribbean International, Seabourn and Silversea.

Meanwhile, the award for best river cruise is between APT, Avalon Waterways, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection and Viking Cruises.

Cruise Guru is also in the running for the best OTA and Infinity Cruises for best specialty wholesaler - view finalists **HERE**.

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Step on board Uniworld's newest ship in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK HERE** to read

**travelBulletin**

## Evergreen's rebranding

**EVERGREEN** Tours has a new look and a new name - Evergreen Cruises & Tours - under a rebrand announced this week.

The company made the move to better reflect its range of cruises and tours and has rejigged its logo with an infinity symbol



from Budapest to Amsterdam can join an 11-day Baltic cruise with Princess Cruises, or a choice of Holland America sailings covering Norway and the Arctic Circle or Scotland and Iceland.

In addition, pax sailing from Basel to Amsterdam for eight days can add on a 14-night Britain and Ireland cruise

and a central wave element to signal the "importance of our cruising program and link to sister company, Emerald Waterways".

The reveal coincided with the release of the main 2018 Europe River Cruising brochure (pictured), which included an expanded cruise offering.

"On the back of last year's successful France and Portugal program we've expanded our brochure to feature new river and ocean cruise combinations," said Angus Crichton, general manager of Evergreen Cruises & Tours.

In 2018, passengers cruising with Evergreen for over 15 days

with HAL.

In Southern France, Evergreen's eight-day Sensations of Southern France connects with a seven-night MSC cruise while an eight-day Bucharest to Budapest river cruise can be followed by a Russian River cruise.

The new look will be rolled out across all channels over the next few months.

### Carnival Bahamas

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line will develop a new Bahamian cruise destination on Grand Bahama Island and has inked a deal with the Bahamian government.

To be funded and operated by Carnival Cruise Line, the port will be "the largest purpose-built cruise facility ever constructed in The Bahamas," the cruise line said in a statement.

It will feature a 1.6km beach, food, beverage and shopping outlets, water-based amenities & recreational facilities, and capable of hosting two of Carnival's largest ships simultaneously.

### Holidays' new team

**COS** Matteo had been named national sales and bdm of cruise, rail and tour specialists Holidays of Australia and the World.

Matt Scott has also been appointed product manager and Dani Parker as team leader of marketing, digital & social media.

## Norwegian Sky arrives in Havana



**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line arrived in Havana, Cuba, for the first time on Tue.

*Norwegian Sky* sailed into the Cuban capital on the first of her weekly roundtrip cruises from Miami to Cuba, with a total of 53 four-day voyages to Cuba scheduled, 52 of which include an overnight stay in Havana.

"Today is a momentous day for Norwegian Cruise Line, our guests and our travel agent partners, as we open our doors to Cuba's natural beauty, warm people and historical treasures," said Frank Del Rio, president and chief executive officer for Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings.

Andy Stuart, president and ceo for NCL said the line's Cuban voyages offer guests "a unique opportunity to engage in true cultural immersion with the freedom and flexibility to explore

this destination on their own timetable and as they choose".

*Norwegian Sky* will also call on Great Stirrup Cay, NCL's private island in the Bahamas, during her four-day Cuba cruises.

### Ovation cancellations

**ROYAL** Caribbean International cancelled two sailings on its newest ship, *Ovation of the Seas* for an unscheduled drydock.

In a statement, RCI said *Ovation* underwent "maintenance on components of the ship's propulsion system".

"The work was necessary but not urgent, therefore after exploring numerous options, we determined to undertake the work between 26 Apr to 03 May, which regrettably meant we needed to cancel two four-night cruises," Royal Caribbean said.

The maintenance is now complete and *Ovation of the Seas* will today sail as scheduled from Tianjin on a six-night cruise.

### Vanuatu disruptions

**THE** Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade has issued an advisory for Vanuatu indicating that cruise ships are currently unable to enter Vanuatu waters due to Tropical Cyclone Donna, expected to hit the country on Sat & Sun.

International flights are also likely to be disrupted from Fri.

Customers are recommended to contact their cruise operator, travel agent or airline for info on any potential disruptions.

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CRUISE WEEKLY



## UnCruise 2018 Alaska

UNCRUISE Adventures has packed in more visits to Glacier Bay National Park and seven new itineraries in its just-released schedule of 2018 Alaska cruises.

New additions include 13 Alaska's Glaciers & Whales departures, nine Alaska's Inside Passage & San Juan cruises and 19 Glacier Bay National Park Adventure Cruise sailings.

A full day at Haines has also been added to five itineraries.

## Agents say hello to Ovation



**THE** Cruise Team and Royal Caribbean International recently treated 11 West Australian Helloworld agents on a family to Singapore to experience *Ovation of the Seas*.

The group stayed at the revamped Park Royal on Beach Road before embarking on their cruise and then indulged at the Capella Resort Sentosa before flying home.

**Pictured** are: Lorraine Wilson, HLO Esperance; Karen Way, HLO Alexander Heights; Tanya Lepidi, HLO Dunsborough; Tracy Trivanovic, Magic Travel; Stacey Van den Akker, Travel Key; Nicole Chapman, The Cruise Team; Cassie Perry, Everywhere Travel & Cruise; Toni Bardsley, Global Travel Solutions; John Davidson,

HLO Claremont; Lisa Bone, HLO Bullcreek; Bronwen Milsom, Royal Caribbean International; Jennifer Wilson, HLO Geraldton and Olga Shrewsbury, HLO Joondalup.

## RCI new short sailing

**A NEW** six-night Tasmania cruise on *Explorer of the Seas* departing roundtrip from Sydney on 09 Dec has been released by Royal Caribbean this morning.

The voyage will spend three days at sea and make calls at Hobart and Melbourne.

Fares start at \$749ppts, which includes a 30% saving and half price deposits as part of RCI's Endless Summer Sale when booked before 31 May.

**MEANWHILE**, Royal Caribbean will bolster its presence to the Caribbean with the deployment of *Vision of the Seas* for the 2018/19 northern winter season.

*Vision of the Seas* will operate a series of seven-night itineraries to the Bahamas and Yucatan Peninsula from New Orleans, marking the cruise line's return to 'The Big Easy' after a 3-yr hiatus.

*Enchantment of the Seas* will also reposition from Miami to Galveston in a boost for the Gulf Coast, joining *Liberty of the Seas* and offering a mix of four-, five- & seven-night Caribbean sailings.

## Delfin III inaugural

**DELFIN** Amazon Cruises is offering a 20% discount on select 2017 departures on its newest addition to the fleet, *Delfin III*.

The *Delfin III* inaugural offer applies to all four room categories on three- or four-night sailings and must be booked by 30 May.

The 42-pax *Delfin III* launched in Jan and features two lounges, a dining room, open-air sun deck, plunge pool, gym and spa.

See [delfinamazoncruises.com](http://delfinamazoncruises.com).



## Tourism WA grant

**THERE** is no underestimating the role of guides in the delivery of a positive onshore experience for cruise passengers.

As such I was delighted to receive the news this week that Tourism Western Australia has provided a much needed grant to Tour Guides WA to fund specialised training programs for those involved in the greeting process.

The program will begin its roll out in Geraldton later in May with training open to tour coach drivers, tourism attraction guides, cruise ship meet and greet volunteers and any others in the community who might be a touchpoint for pax.

We understand the training will next be held in Busselton in June with further roll out to other WA ports in the near future.

Guiding has often been a subject of discussion at our conferences and the Association has delivered workshops around Australia reinforcing the importance of the destination delivery programs.

Christine Cole spearheaded this program for Tourism WA working closely with Cherie Toovey, President of Tour Guides WA. Cherie has extensive experience delivering meet and greet workshops and has also worked as a guide.

James Coughlan, Intercruises, another ACA member supported the development of the training framework - key elements of their company's online program will be incorporated.

In rolling out this program, cruise lines will now get additional reassurance that our Association and its members are working hard to deliver a continuation of the excellent service that their passengers receive on board.



**SEA LIFE** Aquarium in Melbourne today honoured International *Star Wars* Day - "May the Fourth Be With You" with an underwater battle.

Darth Ray-der and Luke Skywalker donned their scuba tanks and fins (**pictured**) in a move to raise awareness for the plight of sharks.



The aquarium is inviting everyone to join "The Shark Side", highlighting that most sharks are placid and no threat to humans.



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**Postal address:** PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

**Street address:** Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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**Publisher/Editor in chief:** Bruce Piper

**Editorial:** [info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)

**Managing Editor:** Jon Murrie

**Contributors:** Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Matt Bell, Rebecca Le Bas

**Advertising and Marketing:** Sean Harrigan, Melanie Tchakmadjian [advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)

**Business Manager:** Jenny Piper [accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au)

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