

Cruise Weekly today

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

Sea Princess gastro

GASTRO has hit about 200 passengers on board *Sea Princess* as she docked in Brisbane this morning.

The medical incident broke out on the final leg of a two-week roundtrip between Brisbane and New Zealand.

A Queensland Health spokesperson confirmed to the ABC that on-board testing concluded norovirus was the cause of the outbreak.

Sea Princess will be disinfected and receive additional cleaning after the outbreak ahead of its departure this evening on a two-week roundtrip sailing to New Zealand.

Competition fierce with cruise sales

THE new year sales season has hit full pace, with the major cruise lines rolling out the red carpet for Australian travellers with a succession of special offers and booking incentives.

Summer tactical campaigns launched this year by the big operators aim to build on the golden run of growth experienced recently in the Australian cruising sector, with both passenger numbers and cruise options at record levels.

Among the offers revealed since Boxing Day are discounted deposits, free room upgrades, on board spending money, cash discounts and air credits.

P&O Cruises is offering \$1 deposits on itineraries as well as up to \$300 in onboard credit per room if booked by 13 Feb as part of its Oh Ship Sale, while Carnival Australia is hoping to entice customers with a half price



deposits and savings of up to \$800 per cabin with its Escape With Carnival Sale until 26 Feb.

Royal Caribbean International is offering up to 45% off select itineraries across its Australian fleet including *Ovation of the Seas* until the end of next month.

Deals include an interior room on a nine-night South Pacific cruise departing from Sydney in Nov for \$1,809 per person, instead of the regular rate of \$3,289 per person.

Seabourn is offering a 50% reduced deposit and complimentary room upgrades on select bookings until Mar, while P&O Cruises is offering a Balcony Room for the price of an Oceanview room on a number of *Pacific Explorer* cruises.

Norwegian Cruise Line is offering shore excursion credits, speciality dining packages, a beverage package and wi-fi as part of its *Norwegian Jewel* 2018/19 season opening offer.

NORWEGIAN JEWEL 2018/19 SEASON OPENING OFFER

UP TO **US\$2,800** IN VALUE

CHOOSE UP TO
5 Free
OFFERS*

- 1 BEVERAGE PACKAGE
- 2 SPECIALTY DINING PACKAGE
- 3 SHORE EXCURSIONS CREDIT
- 4 WIFI
- 5 FRIENDS & FAMILY SAIL AT A REDUCED RATE

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Thursday 4th January 2018

RCCL Aust gratuities

ROYAL Caribbean Cruise Line has confirmed that increased recommended gratuities for Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises announced in the US earlier this week (**CW** Tue 02 Jan) do not apply to cruise fares sold in Australia.

Australian RCI guests cruising worldwide continue to pay a single inclusive cruise fare incorporating main meals, kids club, activities, entertainment, accommodation, and more.

MEANWHILE, Royal Caribbean Cruises has named Laura Miller as its new senior vice president and chief human resources officer.

Seabourn 30 years

LUXURY cruise line Seabourn is celebrating its 30th birthday in 2018 by unveiling a range of new offerings for the year ahead. The biggest launch will be the addition of its fifth ship, *Seabourn Ovation*, due to set sail on its debut season in spring 2018 (**CW** 19 Jan 2017).

Other celebratory services include a new Passion Pearls cocktail available on board its ships, created by mixologist Brian van Flandern.

Seabourn will also conduct two Wellness Cruises with Dr Andrew Weil & offer several land-based tours in 2018.

Chimu sets history

CHIMU Adventures has made history, with one of its expeditions visiting Cape Denison, home to huts from Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition to Antarctica.

This was the first time in seven years that tourists have made it close enough to see some of the buildings from Mawson's 1911-1913 expeditions due to limiting ice conditions previously.

The group did not get to land and explore the huts due to a late change in weather.

Just 46 guests from Australia, Switzerland, Taiwan and Singapore were aboard the ship which departed from Hobart on 15 Dec 2017.

The guests sailed on the Russian expedition ship *Akademik Shokalskiy* to complete the trip.

FACE-2-FACE: Leighton Schembri

CRUISE manager of the Goldman Group.



1. What motivates you in your career?

The excitement that the cruise industry provides and sharing that with people who have not yet experienced cruise.

Listening to their experience from a cruise that you recommended and the fact that they wish to go again.

Plus, the friends that you make along the way.

2. Most common assumption people make about your job?

That I'm always away...or on a ship.

3. What is the key to building great relationships with agents?

Providing the best and simplest tools to keep your brand front of mind.

4. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

Other land-based holidays and overcoming a client's hesitation to cruise. For travel consultants to recommend a cruise, and have the client on the right brand to ensure they have a memorable cruise experience. The industry also needs to continue to strive for world class port facilities, especially in Sydney.

5. Advice for up-and-comers?

Take advice from people that are successful, because they are successful for a reason.

6. What was your best fam?

A trip to China with a work colleague, to be part of the christening ceremony of Royal Caribbean's *Ovation of the Seas* where Fan Bingbing was the godmother. This type of involvement is something that does not come by often.

7. My next cruise will be...

Regent Explorer - hopefully.

8. Favourite cruise destination?

Europe.

9. Celebrity you'd like to cruise with?

Actress/Comedian Rose Byrne.

10. Favourite thing to do in port?

Find a local café and people watch and enjoy the time with new friends met onboard.

11. When not at work, how do you spend your time?

Spending time with family and friends, keeping active, plus getting into a good Netflix series – *The Crown* is top of the list at the moment.



A GROUP of Kiwis has built a sand island in coastal waters in a creative attempt to avoid a ban on drinking in public places on New Year's Eve.

The group built the structure at low tide on NZ's North Island and installed a picnic table and ice box for drinks.

Locals joked that they were in "int'l waters" and thus exempt from an official liquor ban, with local police labelling it as "creative thinking".



Ventus Australis sets sail in Patagonia

VENTUS Australis has commenced operating itineraries to Cape Horn and the glaciers of Tierra del Fuego in South America after being christened as Australis' second ship.

Tailor-made for cruising along the mountain and glacier-lined fjords of Patagonia, *Ventus Australis* has capacity for 210 passengers.

Ventus Australis will operate out of Punta Arenas, Chile where she will sail four-night cruises to Ushuaia in Argentina or return.

To celebrate the second ship for the Chilean cruise line, Australis has frozen fares for the 2018/19 summer season.

Australis is also offering a 10% discount to passengers who combine two four-night cruises.

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