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\*Agents earn a \$500 Gift Card (Coles/Myer Gift Card for Australian Agents or Westfield Gift Card for New Zealand Agents) per person booked on an Antarctica 2018-2020 Luxury Expedition. Agents will also earn an additional 5% Commission. Both these Trade Incentive offers are in addition to normal commission provided. To be eligible cruises must be booked and deposited between 1 June and 31 July 2018. Incentive is for new bookings only. Bookings through wholesalers are eligible. Other conditions may apply. Photographs © PONANT. ABN: 35 166 676 517.

### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a cover wrap from **Ponant**.

### Ponant offers \$500

**EVERY** passenger booked on Ponant's 2018 and 2019 Antarctica cruises will score agents a \$500 gift card, plus a bonus 5% commission.

For more information, see today's **cover page**.

### SeaLink departure

**SEALINK** has announced the retirement of company secretary Paul Blewett earlier this week.

The company's chief financial officer Andrew Muir has taken on the role following Blewett's departure.

## New RCL head eyes capacity challenge

**THE** newly appointed Royal Caribbean Cruises vice president and managing director for Australia and New Zealand, Susan Bonner, maintains port development will be the biggest challenge facing the brand over the next 12 months.

Bonner formally assumed the role from Adam Armstrong late last month (**CW** 28 Jun) and is now responsible for spearheading the Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises brands in the local market.

"We are very well aware of the capacity constraints in Sydney and continue to bring these to the attention of all stakeholders, particularly the NSW and Federal Governments," Bonner said.

"The cruise industry needs a new terminal east of the Sydney Harbour Bridge as soon as possible...our support for Port



Botany as an option is pragmatic, we believe a solution there is possible but we are providing input into the government's consideration of both options," she added.

Outside of Sydney, Bonner says other ports in the APAC region will need to adopt a proactive approach to the cruising sector.

"We work closely with communities around Australia and New Zealand to 'future-proof' ports," Bonner said.

"Port and infrastructure development is going to be vital

to meeting demand and allowing communities to benefit from cruising's economic injections."

Despite any external growth constraints, Bonner is confident the next 12 months at RCL will be fruitful in Australia.

"*Solstice* will return for its seventh Australian cruise season, offering four brand new South Pacific destinations in Tonga, Samoa and American Samoa... and Royal Caribbean is gearing up for the billion-dollar *Ovation of the Seas*' (**pictured**) longest ever season down under," Bonner said.

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# CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 10th July 2018



Hop onboard Norwegian Bliss with us in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK** to read **travelBulletin**

## Port plans Disney

**PORT** Canaveral is investigating an upgrade plan at Disney's Cruise Terminal 8 & neighbouring Cruise Terminal 10 to cater for Disney Cruise Lines' growing fleet.

A feasibility study has received approval with Port Canaveral chief executive Captain John Murray expressing a "desire to refresh Terminal 8 and bring it up to current standards".

Disney Cruise Line is expecting three new LNG-powered ships to arrive in 2021, 2022 and 2023, and at current capacity Port Canaveral would be unable to accommodate them.

## Seabourn appoints

**SEABOURN** has promoted its expedition leader Robin West to the role of vice president, expedition operations and planning, to oversee the development of expedition cruising product.

## Wendy Wu newbuild



**WENDY** Wu Tours (WWT) has confirmed the construction of its first company-owned river ship, with the new *Victoria Mekong* set to commence operations in 2020.

The ship was announced in the UK last week, and will offer a "uniquely scenic" itinerary between the Mekong Delta in Vietnam and Phnom Penh in Cambodia - four nights upstream or three downstream.

The US\$10m project is a partnership with Vietnam's Thien Minh Group (TMG), which said the *Victoria Mekong's* shorter itineraries were a "great value alternative to the traditional

seven-night Mekong cruise, and the perfect length to easily add to an escorted tour of Vietnam and Cambodia".

WWT founder Wendy Wu said the addition of the four-star product to the company's portfolio "means we can control our own destiny".

Features of the ship include 33 deluxe cabins and two "VIP suites", along with a swimming pool with a bar and sundeck, a spa, library, games room and a restaurant with an open kitchen.

The ship will also be sold through third-party operators, the company confirmed, while Wu said it would help her company meet ongoing strong demand for Mekong River cruising.

**Pictured:** A rendering of Wendy Wu Tours' *Victoria Mekong*.

## HAL sells vessel

**HOLLAND** America Line's 835-passenger *Prinsendam* has been sold to German cruise company Phoenix Reisen, but will be chartered back to HAL to sail its planned cruises until 01 Jul next year.

*Prinsendam's* itineraries after that date are scheduled to be assimilated by *Rotterdam*, *Volendam* and *Veendam*, with passengers booked to be redeployed on these vessels.

## P&O sells Oriana

**P&O** UK has confirmed that *Oriana*, its oldest ship, will leave the fleet in Aug, but did not specify who is buying it.

The 1,880-passenger vessel joined the UK cruise line in 1995 and is being replaced by two larger 5,200-pax ships.



**P&O** Cruises' *Pacific Explorer* has celebrated her first birthday in style on Sydney Harbour with a colourful party featuring the cruise line's biggest birthday cake at sea yesterday.

The cake stood an impressive three metres tall on the top deck, with the unique cake accompanied by performances from acrobats, jugglers and dancers from the ship's production *Love Riot*.

Just as impressive are the amazing cupcakes P&O delivered to the **Cruise Weekly** team this week - many hungry returns *Pacific Explorer!*



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CRYSTAL

## Cruiseco collection

**CRUISECO** has announced the launch of its new Christmas Collection, a brochure containing cruise holiday experiences from 12 major brands.

Deals are available across 23 packages, with cruises available in a range of regions such as South America, Southern Europe, North Africa, Australia, the South Pacific, and South East Asia.

A river cruise along the Rhine in Europe is also on offer.

To view the Christmas Collection brox, **CLICK HERE**.

# CRUISE



Tuesday 10th July 2018

## CMV to farewell Astor



**AFTER** six years of cruising from Fremantle and Adelaide, *Astor* will sail Australian shores with Cruise & Maritime Voyages (CMV) for

the last time in Mar 2019. CMV is offering "Extend your Escape" (back-to-back) deals for *Astor's* cruises between Dec 2018 and Mar 2019.

One loyal passenger has booked nine consecutive voyages on *Astor* this season, according to Dean Brazier, managing director of CMV Australia.

"A guest could sail from Fremantle to Adelaide via Esperance for five nights before heading off on a three-night cruise sampling the delights of Kangaroo Island and Port Lincoln," Brazier said.

A bonus 20% off already reduced fares applies for bookings made by 31 Aug.

Three-night cruises start from \$679 per person, twin share with the second guest travelling for half price.

CMV's new ship *Vasco da Gama* will begin its first Australian season in Dec 2019.

**Pictured:** The 600-passenger capacity *Astor*.

### Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	13 Jul
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	16 Jul
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	16 Jul
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	10 Jul
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	13 Jul
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	14 Jul
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Expeditions 1</i>	12 Jul
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	13 Jul

## Coral invites veteran



**CORAL** Expeditions has announced experienced yachtsman Tony Carpenter (**pictured**) will join as the guest lecturer for this year's Sydney to Hobart-themed expedition cruise due to set sail in Dec.

"It is a unique opportunity to be up close to the action and

I'm looking forward to sharing my experiences and knowledge of the race," Carpenter said.

Passengers on "A Yachtsman's Cruise" will watch the famous yacht race sail through the Sydney heads from the Explorer sundeck of Coral's flagship vessel, the *Coral Discoverer*.



## NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE HOLDINGS LTD.

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Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) is a global leader in cruise with three world class brands, Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises & Regent Seven Seas Cruises, and aggressive growth plans for Asia Pacific.

We are seeking a results-driven PR Executive to join our APAC team in Sydney's CBD in this newly created role. Reporting to the Vice President, Marketing, Asia Pacific and working closely with the Asia Pacific and global NCLH marketing teams, this hands-on role will be a stakeholder in PR planning for the region and accountable for developing a PR strategy and activity plan, as well as executing regional PR initiatives and activities to timeframe and to budget.

Minimum 3 years public relations experience and a BA/MA degree in Communications, Marketing, Advertising or a related discipline.

**Confidential applications to Philippa Baker**  
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## CRUISE

WEEKLY

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