

Cruise Weekly today

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

\$300k for solution

THE Federal Government's Budget released on Tue dedicated \$300,000 to developing options for additional cruise ship berthing sites in Sydney to support the growth of the cruise ship tourism sector.

CLIA Australasia md Joel Katz welcomed the contribution.

"This is a recognition of the growth of the cruise industry and the significant contribution that cruise delivers to the Australian economy."

Last year a cruise reference group appointed by the NSW Govt recommended Garden Island as its preferred location for another cruise terminal.

New Brisbane terminal green light

BRISBANE is set to receive a \$158m mega cruise ship terminal, with the ACCC granting conditional authorisation for an agreement between the Port of Brisbane and Carnival Australia.

The agreement will see Carnival Australia pay a fixed annual amount to the Port for 15 years in return for preferential berthing rights at the new facility.

Carnival will receive up to 100 "Foundation Berthing Days" a year, up to a maximum of four days a week.

The consumer watchdog's green light is subject to two conditions which the ACCC said would "reduce the agreement's anticompetitive effect and to promote competition and choice for cruise customers".

The first specifies that Carnival cannot book more than two of the three "weekend" days (Fri-Sun) in any given week.



"This means one of these premium weekend days will be available to competitors so other cruise operators can compete with Carnival in Brisbane," said ACCC Commissioner Roger Featherston.

"If no other operator books the third weekend day, Carnival will be allowed to use it," he added.

The second condition is that if the terminal is expanded in the future to provide a second

berth, Carnival cannot be given first right of refusal for a similar agreement which would give it first choice of days at that berth.

"Our decision means that if a second berth is built, we should see improved competition between cruise lines," Featherston said.

Carnival is currently the only cruise operator regularly running cruises out of Brisbane.

A render of the facility is **above**.

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Discover the latest river ships setting sail in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

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Dream's Global to Aus



DREAM Cruises is working to build up the Australian market to allow it to bring a Global Class vessel to local waters in 2021.

At 204,000 tonnes, the Global class (**pictured**) would be larger than the 168,666-tonne *Ovation of the Seas*, which currently holds the title for the largest cruise ship to ever sail in Australian waters.

Genting Cruise Lines' svp international sales, Michael Goh, told **CW** yesterday the plan for the class was to have a six-month operation in North Asia followed by six months in Asia Pacific.

"Australia has been identified as one of the places that we wanted to come," Goh said.

The brand is in the process of growing its presence and brand recognition through increased marketing and media activity and continuing to work with its local trade partners.

Goh said the line was aiming to bring the ship down under in 2021 and firm deployment plans would have to be ready by 2019.

Sydney and Melbourne have been pinpointed as potential ports for the Global class, with Goh emphasising it would have to be a major city which could support the ship's capacity for up to 9,000 people.

Dream Cruises would target a mix of Australian guests and fly-cruise, anticipating a split of 50-60% local cruisers and the remaining from int'l passengers.

Australia is currently the seventh largest market for Dream Cruises, but Goh said he would like to see it reach the top five "in the near future".

"We see many Australians flying to Hong Kong to board our ship and we are seeing more Australians head to Singapore."

Construction is underway on the first of two Global class ships on order with shipyard MV Werften, with delivery slated for late 2020 and 2021.

The two vessels were previously allocated to the company's sister cruise line brand Star Cruises.

Silver Spirit emerges



SILVERSEA'S *Silver Spirit* has emerged from drydock 15m longer following completion of a complex lengthening and refurbishment project.

The massive feat saw the ship split in two and lengthened with the insertion of a pre-built section, and renovated extensively (**CW** 13 Mar).

Silver Spirit's 59-day drydock saw roughly 1,000 skilled workers committing approximately 450,000 hours to the project, which ran

according to schedule.

The vessel is sporting a new look, along with a larger pool, increased dining options and upgraded public spaces.

Silver Spirit embarked upon her inaugural voyage from Civitavecchia (Rome) on 06 May, bound for Barcelona.

The itinerary is the first in a series of European voyages and in Sep *Spirit* will cross to North America, where she will remain until Nov.

Silver Spirit is **pictured**.

CLIA LIVE to Brisbane and Melbourne

CLIA Australasia has announced it will hold CLIA LIVE events in Brisbane and Melbourne later this year, following the success of the inaugural CLIA LIVE in Sydney last month (**CW** 08 Mar).

The two-day training initiative for CLIA accredited agents will see dozens of reps from local and international cruise lines provide short presentations on their brands' unique selling points.

The events will take place in Brisbane on 17-18 Jul and in Melbourne on 18-19 Sep - **CLICK HERE** for more details.

Carnival Legend US move detailed

CARNIVAL *Legend* will bid farewell to Australia in Oct 2019 and reposition to Tampa, Carnival Cruise Line has revealed.

Legend will operate week-long Caribbean sailings currently operated by *Carnival Miracle* which will be positioned to another homeport to be announced shortly.

Earlier this year Carnival Cruise Line confirmed *Legend* would be replaced in the local market by *Carnival Splendor* (**CW** 08 Feb).

The down under regular is spending two weeks this month in Portland for a drydock, after which it will head to Alaska and then return to Australia, for its final regular seasonal deployment.

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MSC Seaview delay

MSC Cruises is set to take delivery of its new arrival *MSC Seaview* on 04 Jun, slightly later than anticipated.

In a statement, MSC Cruises said the *MSC Seaview* required "a few extra days of final fitting" and as a result, the short cruise originally planned from 07-10 Jun had to be cancelled.

Due to the changes, the inauguration ceremony will now take place in Genoa, Italy on 09 Jun.

The vessel's first full cruise will be the scheduled 10 Jun departure from Genoa.

Dream team says thanks



DREAM Cruises said thank you to a bus-load of its key trade partners and media yesterday, whisking them away for a surprise in Sydney.

The group jumped aboard the Dream Cruises-branded Sydney Hillsbus, dubbed the "Dream Cruises Express", which took them on a joyride around the city to a mystery lunch location.

The bus then pulled up at Sails on Lavendar Bay, where guests

tucked into a decadent lunch with the "Dream Team".

The Dream Cruises team **pictured** are: Andrew Loving, sales manager NSW & ACT; Katrina Katich, sales manager SA & WA; Michael Goh, svp Int'l Sales; Kjirsten Trundle, sales manager QLD & NT; Brigita Devries, assistant vice president sales; Leonie Fraser, sales & marketing executive and Aaron Eilers, inside sales manager.

Dollars for Dreamlines

THE parent company of CruiseAway by Dreamlines has announced it has raised US\$55m in funding to support the company's growth and international expansion.

The Series-E funding was led by Princeville Global, which joins the business as a partner.

Emmanuel DeSousa, managing partner of Princeville Global, commented that "The cruise industry is the last sizeable, global travel segment to be disrupted by a tech-focused online booking platform" adding that "under the leadership of its founders, Dreamlines is uniquely positioned to continue transforming the cruise industry to an online model, leading in Europe & expanding around the world".

Since launching in 2012, Dreamlines has expanded into 10 countries, partnering with over 100 cruise operators and offering the largest portfolio of cruises around the world.

The company entered the Australian market in 2014 with the purchase of Gold-Coast based CruiseAway and cruisecentre.com.au from Fred Sparksman's Cruise Marketing Group (**CW** 20 Oct 2014).



WHETHER you enjoyed the hit musical film *Mamma Mia!* or you just love the Greek Islands, diehard fans of both will be united in song and scenery when signing up for Star Clippers' *Mamma Mia* cruising itinerary.

Departing Piraeus on 18 May, 08 Jun, 29 Jun and 17 Aug, guests aboard the *Star Flyer* will visit the islands of Skiathos and Skopelos, where scenes from the movie were shot.

Guests can relive the moment Sophie and Sky sang *Lay All Your Love On Me* at Kastani Beach, or step into the Agios Ioannis Prodromos Monastery in Nisi Glisteri, where the wedding scene was filmed.

Our only question is - does Pierce Brosnan come with that?



Royally Good News

THERE may be a focus on the royal wedding but at ACA we are more excited about Royal Caribbean's recent announcement of its 2019/2020 deployment.

Three of its megaliners will return to Australia for the season – *Ovation*, *Radiance* and *Voyager of the Seas*.

We look forward to welcoming *Ovation* back for her fourth season in Australia which will be her longest yet in our waters.

Being the most modern and largest ship to sail here, RCCLs "jewel in the royal crown", has become the poster child for big ship cruising and has likely enticed many Australians to trial their sea legs.

With her Top End and Bottom End Voyages in 2020, the good news for our members is that *Radiance* will cover multiple destinations around Australia including both capital cities and numerous regional ports.

The Top End cruise travels from Sydney to Fremantle in the west and will take in Cairns, Port Hedland and Geraldton on the way.

The slightly longer Bottom End itinerary travels a reverse route and takes in Esperance, Adelaide, Melbourne & Hobart before returning to Sydney.

Voyager has become an Australian favourite and returns after a multi-million dollar revitalisation.

Her short sampler cruises and state-focused cruises in Tasmania and Queensland, will again be perfect for the new to cruise market and help travellers experience a range of onshore activities as well.

We welcome this exciting news from RCCL which will undoubtedly continue to support the growth of the cruise market in Australia.

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