

Carnival Splendor ready to Rock-n-Glow

THE perms, shoulder pads, and fluorescent headbands were out in full force last night on board *Carnival Splendor*, as travel agents jitterbugged the night away to celebrate the vessel's big debut in Sydney.

Hundreds of agents were invited on board to mark *Splendor's* official welcome, where they were able to enjoy her many new features added following a recent dry dock, including three new cafes in JavaBlue, Juice and Java and the Serenity Bar.

Splendor also now boasts four new dining concepts on board such as the brand new India-inspired Masala Tiger, as well as Guy's Burger Joint, popular steakhouse Fahrenheit 555, and the 24/7 Italian restaurant Pizzeria del Capitano.

Speaking on board the ship last night, Carnival's Vice President and General Manager, Australia



Jennifer Vandekreeke said that the line had invested a great deal of time to make sure *Splendor* would make a big splash in the Australian market.

"It really was a collaborative effort with our operations team to make sure we brought a ship down to this market that was really going to be bigger, bolder and better than previous Carnival ships," she said.

"This was the first Carnival ship I sailed on in 2008 and when I saw her recently after her dry dock, I could barely recognise her because the changes were so amazing," Vandekreeke added.

Further fun additions include the installation of the Green Lightning water slide, featuring a heart-pumping 11-metre drop.

Pictured: The Bicton Travel team flaunting their eighties flare.

Cruise Weekly today

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



On location in Hilo, United States

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line, which is this week hosting its 2019 Legends famill.

PRIDE of America has finally made her way to the Island of Hawaii, where she will spend the next two days.

Today, NCL Legends will venture to a national park before launching into the "glow party" at night.



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CCC Gold Lunch

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has announced a Gold Lunch cruise series, which will operate once a month from Feb to Dec 2020, showcasing Australia's "finest food, wine and liquor" in a six-course menu complemented by harbour views.

The 10 cruises, featuring five different themes, will be held aboard Captain Cook Cruises' *MV Sydney 2000*, which will offer departures on Thu, Fri, and Sun, with each cruise departing at 12pm from King St Wharf No.1 and finishing up at 3.30pm.

Each of the cruises will feature presentations from Australia's top wineries including Tyrrells and Brokenwood, and prestige suppliers including Andrews Meat and M&G Seafoods.

The cruise line is offering guests an earlybird special of \$129 per person, down from the regular price of \$169, which can be booked [HERE](#).

Silver Muse in Tas

SILVERSEA Cruises' *Silver Muse* arrived in Hobart yesterday, marking the first of a number of maiden calls the ship will make during her second season in the region.

The luxury ship will stay in the Australia-Pacific until the end of Mar, during which time it will make three calls in Hobart, where it will offer a range of optional excursions, including a half-day sightseeing excursion by air and sea, a visit to Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, and tastings at an oyster farm and winery in the Coal Valley.

Silver Muse will return to Hobart on 22 Jan and 08 Mar next year, and 14 Feb in 2021; she will also sail into Tasmania's port city of Burnie on 30 Dec, and 20 Jan, 12 Feb, 07 and 27 Mar, 12 Nov and 23 Dec in 2020.



AGENTS on Norwegian Cruise Line's 2019 Legends famill on board *Pride of America* were treated to dinner last night at Jefferson's Bistro, the ship's French speciality restaurant, ahead of one of *Pride's* shows; *Lights, Camera, Music!*

The three-course meal and minstrels capped off a day in which attendees were allowed to explore the island of Maui at their own leisure, ahead of the ship's departure for the Island of Hawaii, known as The Big Island.

Pictured from left are Jemma Lee, Norwegian Cruise Lines; Matt Clements, Bicton Travel;

Kelly McHugh, Imagine Cruising; Leah Giri, Ecrusing; Simone Ryan, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Steve Healey, Our Vacation Centre; Sally Berry, Clean Cruising; Ambar Riedemann, Cruise1st; Jacinta Baker, Norwegian Cruise Lines and Elizabeth Quinn, Cruise Guru.

Paul Gauguin sale

PAUL Gauguin Cruises is offering reduced fares until 31 Dec on four of its itineraries, including the seven-night Tahiti & Society Islands cruise - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.



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  [Carnival Fun Zone](#)

Bubbly for bookings

SILVERSEA Cruises has launched a new trade incentive program that will see every agent who secures a booking of over \$50,000 receive a Pommery Champagne gift pack.

The promotion will run indefinitely, with agents encouraged to secure bookings in order to score themselves a bottle of French bubbles.

Pictured below is Helloworld Claremont WA Owner John Davidson receiving his thank you gift from Silversea Business Development Manager - WA/SA, Rebeka Belcher.



P&O aids Vinnies

P&O Cruises and its guests have made a \$50,000 donation to the Vinnies charity to aid relief efforts for victims of the ongoing and widespread NSW and Queensland bushfires.

The contribution was made up of \$25,000 from the P&O Pacific Partnership, which is funded by guests from a \$1 contribution to their onboard cruise accounts, which the cruise line matched.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW CEO Jack de Groot said the donation will help the charity provide "immediate necessities like food, clothing and financial help for families who've been forced to leave their homes" and "help them rebuild and recover once the horrors of the bushfire season are over".

CLICK HERE to donate to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal.



SILVER Muse played host to a number of Silversea staff and travel agents last weekend as the ship cruised from Sydney to Melbourne.

With two nights on board, guests were able to experience a number of the ship's stunning

restaurants including La Dame, Silver Note and Atlantide.

Pictured before the "formal" night are staff members Jim Petritsis, Julian De Carlo, Kara Raso, Sandra Cahill and Hayley Tissington together with their travel agent guests.



2021 Polar Luxury Expeditions out now!

DISCOVER ►



Quark solar eclipse

QUARK Expeditions has announced the addition of two new Antarctic Solar Eclipse Voyages for 2021 to commemorate its first solar eclipse journey 16 years ago.

New trips include the 17-day Solar Eclipse 2021: Totality in Antarctica with South Georgia experience, which will take guests to South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula, as well as the 20-day Solar Eclipse 2021: Totality in Antarctica with South Georgia and Falkland Islands.

For more information on the cruises, **CLICK HERE**.

Princess reaches for the Sky



PRINCESS Cruises christened its new build *Sky Princess* on Sat, naming two NASA women, Captain Kay Hire and engineer Frances "Poppy" Northcutt, godmothers of the ship.

"As we celebrate our newest, most technologically advanced ship - one whose spirit of adventure and discovery match

the grandeur of her name...we also applaud the groundbreaking women of the US Space Program," said Princess Cruises President Jan Swartz.

Pictured: Poppy Northcutt, Captains Heikki Laakkonen and Kay Hire, and Princess Cruises president Jan Swartz preparing to launch the champagne bottle.



Year in review

THIS year we have stood together as an industry celebrating shared successes like the opening of new port facilities, inaugural visits by international cruise line players and maiden voyages to regional ports.

We worked closely again with organisations like CLIA and NZCA and signed an MOU with the Global Port Network.

A record contingent headed to Seatrade USA, and we welcomed some great speakers to our annual conference in Geelong including Melissa Witsoe ahead of Windstar's inaugural visits here in 2020.

We have seen many new members join ACA, and we welcome Transam Argosy which provides port agency services on Norfolk Island. The island's three new passenger transfer vessels have opened the door for increased cruise visits.

Australia Cruise Ship Excursions has also joined ACA as providers of group sightseeing tours. They operate in Melbourne, Sydney and Newcastle offering historic site walking tours, wine tours, harbour cruises and wildlife tours.

But our industry also stands together in difficult times. Earlier this year Carnival Australia stepped up to support tours in Tasmania following the fires. They have also introduced drought relief cruises to help regional families doing it tough.

This week we have come together again in the shadow of the volcanic eruption in NZ which has impacted passengers on board *Ovation of the Seas*. Our thoughts are with the passengers, crew and team at RCL who are having to come to terms with this tragedy.

Hug your loved ones and see you all back on deck in 2020.



AHOY fitness fanatics - the "WOD (Workout of the Day) on the Waves" fitness cruise is returning for the second time in Apr on Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Infinity*.

The cruise will depart from Miami and sail across the Caribbean for four nights, giving guests the chance to participate in workouts and seminars led by US Olympic athletes and CrossFit Games champions.

There will be eight dedicated workout areas on the ship that will host different fitness classes all day long for guests to come and go as they please, as well as special events, including an "island workout experience" at Happy Hour CrossFit in Nassau.

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