



Cruise Weekly today

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

Royal restructures

ROYAL Caribbean has announced a major reorganisation of its Australian operations, implementing a new trade sales structure that will create dedicated brand teams to “take advantage of growth opportunities”.

RCL MD Australia and NZ Gavin Smith will continue to lead Royal Caribbean, while Susan Bonner will return to oversee the search for an MD for Celebrity Cruises, establishing a team dedicated to creating “modern luxury”.

Royal’s Azamara brand will also be bolstered by a new local sales resources and international support team.

One Ocean restructuring concerns

THE cancellation of a third successive voyage by embattled cruise operator One Ocean Expeditions (OOE) is raising concerns among its Australian and New Zealand clientele.

The planned 06 Nov 2019 RCGS *Resolute* departure was cancelled just a week before it left Ushuaia, and rather than offering refunds, OOE instead is providing a “future cruise credit” for any voyages for the next 24 months.

OOE MD Andrew Prossin said in the interim clients should “contact their insurance company regarding the cancellation”.

In a further update last week he assured customers that “recent efforts at restructuring have been going well and we are in advanced discussions with a qualified potential partner to rebuild our business for now and for the future”.

The company’s website is once



again live and accepting bookings, and in his note to passengers Prossin said once matters were resolved “we will be in touch ASAP regarding future plans, including any changes to our voyage itineraries”.

Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) MD, Brett Jardine, speaking on behalf of CATO members, said “we are extremely disturbed at the lack of transparency to date and find it unacceptable that an operator can cancel departures without consideration of a refund.

“Australian agents looking at

future OOE departures on behalf of clients should ensure they are working through Australian-based tour operators that specialise in this sector of the market, as they are in the best position to provide up-to-date advice,” he said.

Adding further weight to the line’s deteriorating financial position has been the effective cancellation of its International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) membership, with the body alerting its members this month that OOE was a member currently “not in good standing”.

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Muse's longest in Oz

SILVERSEA Cruises' *Silver Muse* is gearing up for her longest deployment in Australia and New Zealand to date, with the ship scheduled to arrive in Darwin on 25 Nov and stay in the region until 05 Mar next year.

Muse's upcoming arrival will include maiden calls in Hobart, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands, and will also offer a range of popular itineraries such as a 50-day circumnavigation of Australia voyage, which will make overnight stops in Perth, Bali, Cairns and Sydney.

"We are thrilled to welcome back our stunning flagship vessel, *Silver Muse* to Australia and New Zealand, we are continuing to increase the range of unique destinations on offer this season," said Silversea's Managing Director Australia and New Zealand Adam Armstrong.

For more information on *Muse's* local sailings, call 02 9255 0600.

Seabourn hull test

SEABOURN has marked another milestone in the construction of its upcoming expedition ship *Seabourn Venture*, with the cruise line completing ice model testing for its PC-6 rated hull.

The testing was completed in Finland, and aims to ensure the vessel will perform as intended in the often treacherous icy conditions that expedition ships encounter.

Achieving the rating of A PC-6 Polar Class means the vessel is capable of summer & autumn operation in far reaching destinations such as Antarctica and the Arctic.

"Our team is fully committed to taking luxury expedition travellers to some of the world's most sought-after locations," said the line's Vice President of Expedition Operations Robin West.

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has entered into a five-year fly-cruise marketing partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board and Changi Airport Group.

The multimillion agreement will target key markets in the region such as India, Indonesia and Malaysia, but will also focus on long-haul markets including Australia and the United States.

Singapore is hopeful the deal will bring in an estimated 623,000 international fly-cruise visitors to the country, generating more than S\$430 million in tourism receipts between 2019 and 2024.

Royal Caribbean said that Singapore's homeport status, high

standard of port infrastructure, and easy connectivity to global destinations positions the city as a "crucial destination" in its regional strategy.

"This tripartite partnership marks a significant milestone in our 50th year as a global cruise brand, and our work here in Singapore has played a huge role in driving our growth regionally," said the cruise line's MD, Asia-Pacific Angie Stephen.

The announcement coincides with news of Royal's five-year Quantum Class deployment in Singapore, which includes the *Quantum of the Seas*, pictured at Marina Bay in Singapore.

Advertising Coordinator

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Want to know what a cruise on *Scenic Eclipse* is like? Read more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

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travelBulletin

Eclipse discounts

SCENIC Cruises & Tours is offering savings of up to 10% per person and an additional \$200 off per couple on select 2020 *Eclipse* departures when bookings quote "EXPLORE20".

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	25 Nov
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	25 Nov
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	27 Nov
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	29 Nov
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	30 Nov
<i>Explorer Dream</i>	01 Dec
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	01 Dec
<i>Vasco da Gama</i>	01 Dec

BRISBANE

<i>Explorer Dream</i>	28 Nov
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	28 Nov
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	29 Nov
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	29 Nov
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	30 Nov

CAIRNS

<i>Maasdam</i>	27 Nov
<i>Silver Muse</i>	29 Nov

DARWIN

<i>Silver Muse</i>	25 Nov
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FREMANTLE

<i>Sun Princess</i>	27 Nov
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AUCKLAND

<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	25 Nov
<i>Vasco da Gama</i>	27 Nov
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	30 Nov
<i>Ruby Princess</i>	01 Dec

Sparkly selfie to remember

TRAVEL The World's National Sales Manager Sharon Hondo recently had the chance to crack the bubbly open with the new head of cruise disruption himself, Richard Branson.

While in town to formally launch the Virgin Voyages brand to the Australian market (**CW** 13 Nov), Hondo was part of the team celebrating the milestone moment, taking the time to grab this very sparkly selfie.



Virgin Voyages recently appointed Travel The World to represent it in Australia.

Inset left is Branson making it rain in Sydney at the launch.

Northern Lights

HURTIGRUTEN has introduced the Follow the Lights small group escorted tour through Finland and Estonia, featuring a northbound cruise from Bergen to Kirkenes, a two-day rail, ferry and coach tour from Oslo to Bergen, and visits to the famous Santa Claus village and Finnish lakes.

Departures are available between Sep 2020 and Mar 2021 - **CLICK HERE** for more.



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) welcomed *Norwegian Encore* to the fleet last week with a christening in Miami.

Godmother Kelly Clarkson and the cast of *Choir of Man and Kinky Boots* all performed to the around 3,500 guests, who also heard Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings President and CEO Frank Del Rio address the crowd, saying, "five years ago, we launched our history-making Breakaway Plus class...today, we are proud to christen *Encore*."

The grandest entrance went to exiting NCL President and CEO Andy Stuart, **pictured** arriving via one of the ship's go-karts.



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