



## Council blasts Botany Bay port plan

EXCLUSIVE

**THE** Mayor of the Randwick City Council has lambasted the New South Wales Government's decision to develop a Detailed Business Case (DBC) for a third Sydney port at either Molineaux Point or Yarra Bay (*CW* 18 Sep).

Speaking with *Cruise Weekly* late last week, Randwick Mayor Kathy Neilson said she was disappointed with the lack of consultation and transparency from the State Government.

"Yarra Bay has a strong Aboriginal connection, with families enjoying an uninterrupted connection to the land for thousands of years, the area is also home to recreational sailing, kayaking, diving and fishing," Neilson said.

"Randwick Council questions why these members of the community, as well as groups such as the La Perouse Aboriginal



Land Council, have not been consulted about the future use of this land," she added.

Neilson also suggested the construction of a terminal in the proposed areas would devastate local marine life.

"A cruise ship terminal in Yarra Bay would change the nature of the area from a natural recreational area to a mega cruise ship terminal," she said.

"The bay is home to protected marine species as well as a colony

of seals on Molineaux Point, all of which would be placed in danger," Neilson added.

In response, the Randwick Council has allocated \$50,000 to researching the impacts a terminal will have on the bay.

**Pictured:** Yarra Bay.

### Cruise Weekly today

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



On location in  
Charlottetown

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you from on board the brand new *Scenic Eclipse* cruising in the spectacular Canadian Maritimes.

**TODAY** *Scenic Eclipse* is visiting Charlottetown, the capital of eastern Canada's Prince Edward Island, the inspiration for the famous novel *Anne of Green Gables*.

Guests have a choice of activities, such as helicopter rides, kayaking & a selection of shore tours including a musical version of the story.

We have produced an album showcasing *Scenic Eclipse* - see all the details at [facebook.com/cruiseweekly](https://facebook.com/cruiseweekly).



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## NCL extends promo

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) has extended its Earlybird Sale until 30 Sep, allowing guests to receive a 20% discount on select cruise fares.

The offer is also able to be used in conjunction with deals, including NCL's "Take 5 Free" promotion, and applies to more than 230 sailings departing in 2020 to destinations such as Europe, Asia, Hawaii, Alaska, as well as Australia & New Zealand.

## Moderate concern

**DESPITE** the cruise industry's vocal commitment to environmental sustainability, 42% of agents feel the issue is only "moderately important", according to the latest *Cruise Weekly* survey.

The report showed that only 10% of agents felt sustainability was extremely important, while more than one fifth believe it isn't important at all.

Hurtigruten leads the way on sustainable cruise practices, garnering a rating of 19%, while Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic wasn't far behind on 18%, followed by Royal Caribbean and Ponant who both scored 17%.

On the topic of overtourism in the cruise sector, 35% of agents thought it was a problem facing cruising, an 8% bump in concern on 2018.

## Paul all-inclusive

**PAUL** Gauguin Cruises has announced all-inclusive itineraries for bookings on select cruises made by 30 Sep.

Included in each package are flights, as well as pre-cruise accommodation, applicable to sailings such as a nine-night Tahiti cruise in Feb 2020, and a 13-night Cook Islands adventure in Nov 2019.

## Scenic crew check out *Eclipse*



**THERE'S** nothing quite like seeing a new ship for yourself, and a number of Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours staff are experiencing *Scenic Eclipse* in person this week as she cruises from Halifax to New York (see p1).

The newbuild, which was christened by Helen Mirren in New York earlier this month, has passengers on board from across the globe, who are making the most of its 114 luxury suites with an almost 1:1 crew to guest ratio.

While an extensive activity program is offered featuring air, land and water-based experiences in each port, there's also plenty to enjoy on board too, with extensive wellness facilities such as yoga classes, saunas,

pools, a fully equipped gym and a variety of spa treatments.

There's also a huge variety of culinary options, with all dining and beverages included at no extra cost, even for the specialty restaurants such as the Koko Teppanyaki bar and French-themed Lumiere which offers a fully curated degustation each evening.

**Pictured** above from left are Zena Dalton, Scenic Senior Sales & Development Manager Vic/Tas; Karyn Blenkinsop, Scenic Sales & Marketing Manager NZ; and Jacqui Tan, Scenic Senior Sales & Development Manager WA/SA.

See a specially made video from on board *Scenic Eclipse* at [cruiseweekly.com.au/videos](http://cruiseweekly.com.au/videos).

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## MSC shorex commission



MSC Cruises has addressed a key issue raised at CLIA's recent Cruise360 conference in Sydney by introducing agent commission on prepaid packages, including shore excursions.

Valid for departures from 01 Apr 2020, MSC will pay 5% on a range of categories such as excursions, drinks, specialty restaurants, wellness, internet, laundry, spa & fitness and more.

Agents can build client loyalty by curating a tailor-made

package for their customers, according to MSC Cruises Marketing Manager, Leisa Chell.

"The introduction of agent commission on pre-paid items is a win-win for agents and their clients," she said, with cruisers also benefiting with savings of up to 20% on popular excursions and up to 56% on a Specialty Restaurant package.

Items can be added during the booking process on the MSC Book platform at [mscbook.com](http://mscbook.com).

**Pictured:** *MSC Seaside*.

## Heritage's new Laos ship



HERITAGE Line has announced the launch of a new vessel named *Anouvong*, specifically designed to traverse the upper Mekong River in Laos.

Due to be launched on 29 Sep 2020, the cruise line's latest vessel will boast 10 luxury cabins equipped with state-of-the-art amenities, comprised of eight staterooms and two sprawling suites across two decks.

All cabins have floor-to-ceiling glass doors that open onto either a French balcony (staterooms) or private balcony (suites), while the two Signature Suites showcase individually designed interiors with a large bathroom & jacuzzi.

"Our aim was to build a luxury

vessel with cabin sizes as large as possible, plus a range of enjoyable onboard facilities," said Heritage Line's Director of Sales and Marketing Andreas Schroetter.

"This was a challenge, as the Laotian Mekong River imposes natural restrictions such as fluctuating water levels, wandering sandbanks and winding curves that all impact the size of a ship," he added.

Common space features on the ship include an al-fresco terrace deck equipped with comfortable sun loungers and an air-conditioned Cafe-Bar & Lounge.

**Pictured:** A render of the new *Anouvong* river ship.



## EXPLORE<sup>4</sup>

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Seeing polar bears is only the start on a cruise to the Arctic. Read more in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

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

## Two cruise deaths

**THE** demise of two elderly men on board a cruise from Iceland to Southampton are not being treated as suspicious, with the separate incidents occurring last week aboard Tui Cruises' *Marella Explorer*.

Authorities will conduct post-mortems in Dublin, the first port visited following the discovery of the bodies.

According to the *Irish Sun* both apparently passed away during the night due to natural causes, with a source saying the cruise was mainly carrying senior citizens, with onboard deaths occasionally occurring due to the age demographic.

## Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Maasdam</i>	26 Sep
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	27 Sep
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	27 Sep
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	28 Sep

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	27 Sep
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	28 Sep

DARWIN	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	26 Sep

EDEN	
<i>Maasdam</i>	27 Sep

AUCKLAND	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	29 Sep

## FACE-2-FACE: Bianca Schefe

Business Development Manager  
Your Travel & Cruise



### 1. What is the favourite part of your job?

Not only do I get to talk all day, I also get to help our home-based consultants with ideas and strategies to help build their "boutique" travel business.

### 2. What is the key to success in the cruise industry?

Customer service! It's important to get to know your clients and make sure you create lasting memories by selecting the right cruise holiday and cruise ship for them.

### 3. What is the biggest challenge facing the industry?

The lack of cruising infrastructure in Australia. As the ships become larger and more frequent, it continues to be an ongoing challenge for our industry.

### 4. What was your best fam?

Experiencing the launch

of *Oasis of the Seas* in Fort Lauderdale.

### 5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Still cruising!

### 6. Advice for up-and-comers?

You need to have passion, motivation and be prepared to constantly learn in the ever-changing industry. Also, don't worry about "knowing the world" – become an expert on what you are passionate about.

### 7. How do you wind down after a busy week?

Wining and dining.

### 8. What should the cruise ship of the future look like?

It's going to be hard going higher so maybe it's time to head underwater with underwater cabins.

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

I love spending quality time with my little girls.

## Celebrity reinstates in-house movies

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has backflipped on a decision to remove free movies from its onboard staterooms, after "intense discussion" of the matter on several cruise industry online forums.

The initiative only lasted a few days, with Celebrity issuing a statement saying "after careful consideration of guest feedback, we have decided to reinstate the complimentary in-stateroom entertainment. In addition, we will continue to offer a wide selection of the new releases and iconic films in our theatres, outdoor screens and in the guest staterooms using the on-demand TV system".

## Royal loves Greece

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises is expected to bring 662,176 cruise passengers to Greece by the end of the year, with numbers projected to increase by 19.8% percent to 825,348 arrivals in 2020.

The figures were unveiled during a trip to the Mediterranean country last week, where Royal executives met with the Greek Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, to flag their interest in adding calls to Greek ports on the mainland and to islands that have a cultural interest.



**CARNIVAL** Cruises' Chief Fun Officer Shaquille O'Neal recently told US media that his friends keep hitting him up for mates keep rates since joining the line.

"They always call me and try to get the discount from the discount, I'm like, you're already getting the discount rate".

The 216cm sports star also revealed he used to think cruising was for the elderly.

"I was Shaquille O'Neal, King of Miami, and I'd see these huge ships and assume it was all for old people... I had no idea the inside was like that," he said.

