



Cruise Weekly today

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

Mortimer update

AURORA Expeditions' Greg Mortimer, currently quarantined off the coast of Uruguay, has reported six ill, including one 60-year-old passenger, who is a possible COVID-19 case.

In a letter given to pax on Tue, which was also shared with **CW**, MD Robert Halfpenny informed guests of the situation, which included five other cases of mild fever.

The 60-year old was exhibiting early signs of pneumonia, and was allowed to disembark to seek medical care ashore.

No passenger has tested positive for COVID-19.

Myrmell plays front foot defence

CARNIVAL Australia President Sture Myrmell has released a video strenuously defending the cruise sector, which he says has been unfairly "demonised" throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

The video also sees Myrmell provide clarification of the heavily criticised *Ruby Princess* situation, urging Australians to reconsider their demeaning of the industry.

"The ship followed to the letter all of the formal health clearance processes that were active at that time - meaning that all travellers arriving from an overseas port were treated in exactly the same way whether they arrived by air or sea," he said.

"It is difficult for people and businesses who derive their livelihood and jobs from cruising to see it demonised in the way it has been and for its contribution to be discounted and devalued.

"Suggestions that cruising



makes no contribution to Australia's economic well-being are as hurtful as they are wrong... we are part of an industry that contributes more than A\$5 billion to the national economy, supports nearly 20,000 jobs and buys huge quantities of produce

from local suppliers...and there are thousands of travel agents who have made cruising part of their business as well.

"We are doing everything we can to repatriate crew back to their homes".

View the video **HERE**.



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How bad is cruising actually for the environment? Find out in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

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CRUISE & Maritime Voyages (CMV) has announced a 'Win the Gin' competition for agents.

The cruise line will award Australian craft gins from Giniversity and Adelaide Gin to agents across the month of Apr to inspire some fun amidst a challenging time for the travel industry.

The giveaway launched yesterday, with agents urged to head to CMV's agents-only Facebook group Agent Insiders ([CLICK HERE](#)) to enter and start getting lubricated!

Cruise & Maritime Voyages will pose a cruise-related question in the group each Wed at 1pm Central, asking agents to answer in 25 words or less or submit a short 15 second video to be in the running, with the best answers each week will win the gin.

The competition is designed to keep agents' spirits up - no pun intended!

Heritage's Prime show



HERITAGE Expeditions' 30-day Ross Sea voyage to Antarctica, 'In the Wake of Scott & Shackleton', is the star of a new 12-hour slow television documentary.

Go Further South will detail the 08 Jan voyage to the continent aboard expedition vessel and research ship *Akademik Shokalskiy* (pictured).

The program will premier at 7.30am on 10 Apr on Prime in New Zealand.

Heritage Expeditions General Manager David Bowen described the documentary as "essential viewing for anyone with an interest in Antarctica, its wildlife and history".

"*Go Further South* gives everyone who has ever dreamed of visiting Antarctica the opportunity to experience what it's like to follow in the footsteps of legendary explorers and step inside their historic huts, be amongst the ordered chaos of some of the world's largest penguin colonies, walk on the ice and marvel at some of the most spectacular scenery on the planet," Bowen said.

The 12-hour documentary will also be followed by the premier of a condensed, three-hour version, with both also able to be viewed live in New Zealand on Sky Go.

Carnival bonds

CARNIVAL Corporation has increased the size of its rescue bond sale to US\$4 billion, after orders for the deal came in way over US\$10 billion.

Having initially sought to raise US\$3 billion of three-year bonds, the Corporation has since raised this by US\$1 billion to further boost its liquidity through the COVID-19 crisis.

The Corporation will offer investors an annual coupon of 11.5%, equating to over US\$450 million in interest a year, with the bonds being issued at a discount to face value.

COVID testing plan

A **MILITARY-STYLE** plan has been hatched in New South Wales' cruise ship standoff to test crews for COVID-19, according to *The Australian*.

The plan supposedly involves flying doctors in helicopters onto the decks of the ships anchored off the state's coast, and testing those on board, believed to total more than 8,500.

CLIA calling for crew repatriation efforts

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has joined Carnival (see [page 1](#)) in calling for the repatriation of crew.

CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz called for better support and collaboration from all levels of government to aid crew members, and signalled the cooperation of cruise lines in following all necessary precautions.

"Cruise lines will arrange charter flights for their crew...but workable arrangements with government are required," he said.

Shout it out loud!

DO YOU know someone who is going above and beyond for colleagues, clients or the wider community through during COVID-19?

Expedition travel company and polar specialists Quark Expeditions has stepped up to encourage the industry, offering \$50 gift cards to both the nominator and the nominee to the best each week, which will feature in the "Shout Out" section of puzzle pages in *Cruise Weekly's* sister publication *Travel Daily*.

Tell us about anyone who stands out via the special email at shoutout@traveldaily.com.au, and don't forget to head over to *Travel Daily's* Subscriptions tab to sign up for free to Australia's favourite travel industry publication - **CLICK HERE**.