



Princess says thanks to Port Kembla

AS A thank you to the Illawarra community for housing *Ruby Princess*, Princess Cruises is making a contribution of \$50,000 to support the outreach to seafarers of the Mission to Seafarers at Port Kembla.

As *Ruby* prepares to sail from Australia, Princess President Jan Swartz (pictured) today applauded the ship's crew for their strength and fortitude, and thanked the region's community for supporting the crew while the ship was berthed at Port Kembla.

Swartz said crew members were inspirational in the way they dealt with extremely difficult circumstances while building a powerful bond with the local community.

"The nightly applause ceremony in which the crew clapped all of the people who supported and cared for them during this difficult time was a wonderful



expression of goodwill that was reciprocated by the community," she said.

"Thank you to the crew of *Ruby Princess* and to the local community for its embrace of the crew with the delivery of care packages and handwritten messages of support from so many people."

Swartz said the Mission's support of the *Ruby Princess* crew was emblematic of the caring

spirit of the Illawarra community as a whole, for which the cruise line was very grateful.

"The Illawarra community never lost sight of the fact that this was all about people caught up in difficult circumstances that were not of their making," she said.

Swartz also thanked operational staff from New South Wales Health, Australian Border Force, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New South Wales Police and Aspen Medical, for their professional approach during *Ruby Princess*' stay.

She said it had been "heartbreaking and distressing" to know COVID-19 is having such a terrible impact on so many people across the world, including the cruise line's guests, and crew members.

"Our hearts and thoughts go out to everyone that has been affected."

Avalon 2021

AVALON Waterways has revealed details of its 2021 cruise season, including a number of new ports and itineraries.

With the addition of more cruising in the Balkans, the cruise line has released six new voyages along the Danube which visit new ports such as Constanta, Golubac, Hainburg, Ilok and Ybbs.

The new ports can be visited on journeys such as the nine-day Balkan Odyssey, the nine-day Danube from Croatia to the Black Sea, and the 16-day Danube from Germany to the Black Sea.

CLICK HERE for details.

Cruise Weekly today

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

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Travel Daily

Good planning and encouragement the key

OPINION

Craig Bowen owns Cruise Traveller, a Queensland-based travel agency.

Got an opinion to share? Let us know at feedback@cruiseweekly.com.au.



I HAVE been asked many times over the past few weeks how Cruise Traveller is going with the unprecedented situation we're in.

The answer is in one sense obvious and brutally real – our 2020 has been decimated along with so many other sectors of our amazing, exciting industry.

Since the initial shock when the enormity of the impact of this pandemic started to hit home: health wise, commercially, socially and more - many of the articles I have read reminded me the overall dream is to travel, to

learn, to be amazed.

The incredible destinations which await us, the wonderful friendships that we will create in the future, the simply amazing nature-based experiences that small ship travel can present.

I have basically written off

“

It is now time to start making some of these future dreams come true

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2020 and totally focused both myself and my team on making everything count for 2021.

We have kept our entire team engaged - they worked with me to create the great business we have so we will get through this.

In carefully analysing our

business and reading various articles it has become apparent that in various sectors of the cruise industry, year-on-year sales are up for 2021.

To the end of Mar, Cruise Traveller is up 27%.

An article I read in the *Australian Financial Review* yesterday quotes a US survey at 40% up and another article indicates strong 2021 bookings.

It is now time to start making some of these future dreams come true for our guests – and the start to that is good planning.

Good planning now for your guests will give them the best deals and the best choice of dates and destinations, their preferred cabin categories.

The best way we can help our guests, our suppliers, the destinations we visit and our own businesses is to encourage 2021 bookings in every way.

Costa COVID-19

34 CREW members have tested positive for COVID-19 on *Costa Atlantica*, which is docked in Nagasaki for repairs.

In a statement, Costa Cruises said told *USA Today* the ship, which has been docked since 29 Jan, has had no passengers on board since the repair work.

“We have already upgraded the precautionary and containment measures including...quarantine on board, following the instructions from the Japanese government and the relevant health authorities,” the cruise line said.

The outbreak surfaced Tue, when the first crew member tested positive for the virus.

None of those infected have serious symptoms, and all are isolated in single rooms on the ship.

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A weekly e-magazine with destination features, puzzles and more, to inspire your clients' next escape.

Plus click here for a toolkit to help promote the magazine.





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

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



PORTHOLE

WE TEMPORARILY may not be able to travel, but Celebrity Cruises has decided we don't have to miss out on the Celebrity Treatment!

Presenting The Celebrity Treatment at Home, the cruise line's culinary team has produced a number of "mouth-watering" cooking videos, which have been shared on its Facebook page.

The daily step-by-step cooking videos emanate from Celebrity's shipboard restaurants with videos featuring Eggs Benedict from Luminae Restaurant and Spicy Ahi Tuna from Sushi on Five - **CLICK HERE** to view.

Action on board: Viennese string quartet



SHIP: All Riviera Travel River Cruises sailing on an itinerary that includes Vienna.

LOCATION: The Lounge of each ship.

COST: Included in fare.

CRUISE straight into some authentic Viennese culture with the performance of a string quartet when moored on the Danube River.

The evening's entertainment, which takes place in the ship's

lounge after dinner, features a local string quartet performing music from Mozart, Haydn, Bach and Strauss, including the famous Blue Danube Waltz.

You'll be "Bach" for more.

ITINERARIES INCLUDED: The Blue Danube; Vienna, Bohemia & Treasure of the Danube; Cruise the Heart of Europe; Budapest to the Black Sea; and The Danube's Imperial Cities and Yuletide Markets.

Carnival gears up

CARNIVAL Corporation has named Jeffrey J. Gearhart to its Board of Directors.

Now retired, Gearhart was formerly Walmart Executive Vice President Global Governance.

"As someone who led an enterprise-wide ethical-sourcing program in addition to overseeing all domestic and international legal matters for one of the world's top companies, Jeff brings extensive financial, operational, governance and strategic expertise to our boards of directors," said Carnival Corporation Chairman Micky Arison.

TasPorts respond to Burnie ship ban

TASPORTS Chief Executive Officer Anthony McDonald has called for decision-makers to remain "calm and considered" in shaping the future of cruising in the state.

Responding to suggestions from Burnie Councillor Ken Dorsey that his town should ban cruise ships for the following season, McDonald told *Cruise Weekly* the state's continued growth in the sector meant knee-jerk reactions should not be considered.

"Now more than ever, it's important that we remain calm and considered in our actions with a view to understanding what the recovery phase looks like," McDonald said.

"TasPorts has worked closely with government, relevant agencies and the cruise sector to enact measures in response to the suspension on cruise."

Cruise ship movements in Tas waters are banned until 30 Jun.



The cruise industry needs you

EARLIER this week NZCA put out a call to action to our members to share widely through media, friends, family, anyone and everyone the importance of cruise to New Zealand.

We asked our members to share their stories about why cruise matters to them and to their regions.

Every one of them will have a story to tell about what cruise means and how valued it is that should be made public.

Cruise ships boost New Zealand through taxes and fees, helping support businesses both large and small in ports and regions - tourism operators, hotels, retailers, travel agents, transport operators, food and beverage suppliers and many other businesses.

Statistics New Zealand confirmed the value of cruise at NZ\$570 million in the last cruise season.

The cruise industry won't re-start until it is safe to so, and it will be a gradual recovery once we open our borders to international visitors.

There will be significant changes in operations in order to be successful in a COVID-19 world.

We have to make sure that government and the general public know how important cruise is.