

Nine's ACA slams cruising again

CARNIVAL Australia has staunchly defended the cruise industry in a response to another highly critical story on Channel 9's *A Current Affair* (ACA) last night which questioned the sale of trips departing from Australian ports within the next 10 weeks despite the current Gov't cruise ban.

A Current Affair continued its ongoing anti-cruise rhetoric with a dramatic segment warning of the COVID-19 dangers of ocean cruising, with the sensationalised report highly critical of moves to relaunch the industry.

It featured an appearance by Honorary Professor Ross Dowling from Edith Cowan University in Western Australia who suggested that "most people won't want to cruise until there is a vaccine".

Dowling's involvement in the show has been described as "unfortunate" by a number of *Cruise Weekly* readers, given that

he is also chairman of industry body Cruise Western Australia which has been instrumental in helping build the WA cruise sector.

The report highlighted the first local post-coronavirus departures currently being advertised as departing from multiple ports, including a voyage from Melbourne in the first week of Nov and other cruises to Fiji and New Zealand in Oct.

A Current Affair's reporter Brady Halls - who also conducted the brutal final interview of former Australian Federation of Travel Agents Chief Executive Officer Jayson Westbury prior to his departure in May - said "experts in the industry are surprised at how soon these cruises have planned to set sail and believe that no one should be thinking of going on a cruise anytime soon".

Despite the overall dramatic tone, the ACA story wasn't all

negative, with a number of avid cruisers interviewed about their enthusiasm for returning to the sea and expressing confidence that the protocols expected to be implemented by cruise companies will keep passengers safe in the COVID-19 era.

As the segment closed, ACA host Tracy Grimshaw made reference to a Carnival Australia statement on the Nine website.

The statement notes that it is well known - particularly to the cruising community - that cruise lines have a rolling pause in place.

"Bookings on future cruises are possible with the most favourable arrangements possible for consumers," Carnival said.

"Our cruise lines know that the positive sentiment for the return of cruising remains strong for when it is safe to do so, and this is reflected by the willingness to book cruise holidays."

Cruise Weekly today

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

Quark and V.Ships Ultramarine tie-up

QUARK Expeditions has selected V.Ships to manage the operations of its new polar vessel *Ultramarine* (CW 19 May).

The cruise line's President Andrew White spoke of the two company's shared values, which made the partnership a viable exercise.

"V.Ships places a great priority on the protection of the environment—an issue very close to our hearts," he said.

"Similarly, V.Ships is focused on improving quality of health onboard and throughout its operations."

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FLOTILLAS in honour of United States President Donald Trump have featured in porthole before (**CW** 04 May), and the most recent Tampa Bay "Trumpzilla", which took place on the weekend is aiming to break the record for largest boat parade.

The crowds were attempting to smash the world record held by a 2014 Malaysian boat parade, with Guinness World Records still reviewing the footage to determine if it breaks the attempt six years ago.

Supporters turned out on boats, jet skis, kayaks, and canoes (pictured).



Silversea expeditions



SILVERSEA Cruises has unveiled a new collection of expedition voyages for 2021-22.

The revised season includes 157 expeditions departing from Jan 2021 to Jul 2022, including itineraries in the Kimberley aboard *Silver Explorer* (pictured), voyages in the Galapagos Islands aboard *Silver Origin* (**CW** 20 May) a deep Antarctica expedition, a 51-port Arctic grand voyage, and a number of Silversea firsts, including an ultra-luxury fly-cruise to Antarctica and an expedition world cruise (**CW** 18 Mar 2019).

The season features 12 maiden calls and 10 voyages in Northern Europe, departing from various ports in the British Isles and the Norwegian Fjords.

Also featuring is Alaska, Southeast Asia & Melanesia, the South Pacific, the west coast of the United States, and a variety of options in South America, including two itineraries to the fjords and channels of Chile.

Two of Silversea's fleet will see enhancements in time for the 2021 season, with *Silver Explorer*

deploying with an increased number of Zodiacs and expedition members onboard, and *Silver Wind* converting into an ice-class ship for her maiden voyages in polar waters.

Emmylou brox

AUSTRALIAN

Paddlesteamers has released a brochure detailing paddle steamer *Emmylou's* itineraries for 2021/22.

The program features a reduced deposit of \$400 per person, an increased 90-day full-payment due date, and a single supplement of 50% down from 60%.

Australian Paddlesteamers told **Cruise Weekly** it has already taken several bookings for 2022 cruises from European guests and continues to field interest from travel agents for charters for 2021, with 12 such departures already booked.

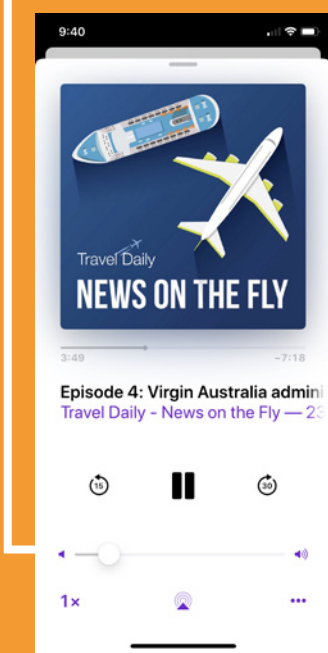
CLICK HERE to view the brochure.

Carnival hacked

CARNIVAL Corporation has been hit by a ransomware attack, with guest and employee data accessed.

The company has launched an investigation into the breach, which tapped into one of its' brands' information technology systems.

Carnival did not identify the brand that was affected and declined to provide more details, as the investigation process was at an early stage, although it did say certain "data files" were downloaded during the attack.



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