



## Mclaughlin joins Aurora as sales chief

**STEVE Mclaughlin (pictured)** has returned to the expedition cruise sector, yesterday taking up his new role as Director of Sales APAC for Aurora Expeditions (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

The move sees Mclaughlin once again working alongside new Aurora Chief Executive Officer Monique Ponfoort (**CW** 04 Nov), with whom he previously worked at Ponant as Director of Sales Australasia from 2014 until 2017, where she was Vice President & General Manager Asia Pacific.

Since then he has been Oceania Cruises' Vice President Sales (**CW** 07 Feb 2017), a role he left in Aug 2019 after a reshuffle.

"I am incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to join the Aurora Expeditions team," Mclaughlin said, adding he was attracted to the company as a home-grown Australian business with an exciting future, with it



awaiting the delivery of its second purpose-built vessel *Sylvia Earle*.

"I cannot wait to work closely with Aurora Expeditions' loyal trade partners on our new expedition itineraries and remote destinations," he said.

Ponfoort paid tribute to Mclaughlin's global sales

connections, industry knowledge and customer service skills.

"I am thrilled to be working with Steve again...and that he has returned to his true passion of expedition cruising to join us.

"Steve's impressive and extensive sales experience ensures he will bring a wide range of perspectives and know-how to our business," she said.

"He is a true veteran of the trade, and I really look forward to working alongside him as the company continues to grow."

Mclaughlin takes over from Director of Sales Asia Pacific Dianna Schinella, who had been in the role since 2017, and is moving on to a position outside of the industry.

"We thank her for her incredible dedication over the last 3.5 years, creating long-lasting relationships with our trade partners," Ponfoort said.

## Azzura floats out

**SCENIC** Group's brand new *Emerald Azzura* has hit the water, floating out from the Halong Shipbuilding Company in Vietnam just over a year before her scheduled debut in Jan 2022.

Chairman and founder Glen Moroney hailed the milestone, following which will be the commencement of the 100-passenger *Emerald Azzura's* interior fitout.

"Once again Emerald Cruises is looking to the future and building a game-changing vessel at a time when small-ship experiences are gaining popularity," he added.

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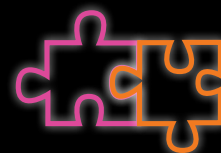
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Travel Daily



**A BOOK** by Australian sailor John Bertrand has been returned to a Townsville library last week - 33 years overdue.

Initially borrowed in 1987, the book had a pretty good excuse for not returning for over three decades - similar to its author, it was sailing around the world.

It is said *Born to Win* has been shared among yachtsmen as they sail the globe, before a woman recently unearthed it aboard Tasmanian vessel *Roama* and returned it, seemingly with many more words written in it than it was printed with.

Owners have written many comments throughout, with one suggesting the tradition started with someone suggesting the book be passed to those sailing westward.

According to the scribbles, the book has been as far as Greece, Spain and Sweden, with one prophesying it would one day return to its library - mission accomplished.

## Ponant Kimberley



**PONANT** has increased its commitment to the Kimberley region for 2021 with the introduction of three new voyages.

The cruise line has released two new departures of its top-selling Australia's Iconic Kimberley 10-night itinerary, departing 30 Jun and 10 Jul, and has also introduced a newly created 12-night Australia's Iconic Kimberley & Rowley Shoals expedition, departing 10 Sep.

Ponant has also introduced three other luxury expeditions

in Western Australia in Sep and Oct 2021, visiting the best of the state's coastal regions and offshore reefs.

The West Coast Expedition travels from 22 Sep to 02 Oct, the South West Australia Highlights sails from 02 Oct to 10 Oct, and the West Coast Highlights voyages from 10 Oct to 17 Oct.

The new program will voyage onboard *Le Soled*, as she joins *Le Laperouse* (pictured) in Australia.

Pre-registration is available now, with sales to formally commence on 15 Dec - call on 1300 737 178.

## P&O suspends NZ

**P&O** Cruises Australia is delaying the start of its 2021 New Zealand season until 12 Mar.

The cruise line said it would notify guests booked on *Pacific Explorer* who are departing between 06 Feb and 04 Mar, and would offer them a full refund or a future cruise credit.

## Avalon policy

**AVALON** Waterways has suspended its operations through to the end of Feb, due to elevated travel restrictions and various government advisements.

In response, Avalon has introduced its Peace of Mind Travel Plan, which will allow guests currently booked through to the end of Feb to move travel dates to any of the Globus family of brands without incurring cancellation fees.

If guests do not wish to transfer, they can receive the full value paid in the form of a future booking credit.

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