

Cruise Weekly today

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

More cruise canx

CARNIVAL Corporation brands Cunard and AIDA Cruises have both extended their cruise cancellations.

Cunard's *Queen Mary 2* and *Queen Victoria* will be out of operation until 01 Nov, while *Queen Elizabeth* will not sail until 23 Nov, with guests still able to claim a 125% future cruise credit, redeemable on any new booking made through to the end of 2021.

AIDA has cancelled all its cruises with ports in the US and Canada for 2020.

Also extending its outage is Disney Cruise Line, with *Disney Wonder* out until 14 Sep, and *Disney Magic* until 02 Oct.

Greg Mortimer pax were asymptomatic

A NEW scientific paper published by a respiratory physician on board Aurora Expeditions' *Greg Mortimer* has confirmed four out of five COVID-positive passengers aboard the ship had no symptoms.

Professor Alvin Ing from Macquarie University was a passenger on the ship during its highly publicised journey to Antarctica, and took the opportunity while in isolation to document the spread of the virus, in a paper published last month in medical journal *Thorax*.

Ing's research notes that of the 217 passengers and crew on board, 128 ended up testing positive, but only 24 presented with symptoms, of whom half only had mild fevers or coughs.

There has currently been one death from the ship, with two passengers still remaining in hospital in Montevideo.

"The uniqueness of this study is that everybody on board was tested, regardless of whether they had symptoms or not," Professor Ing told Macquarie University's *Lighthouse* website.

"The numbers that were actually positive are a revelation because they showed firstly, how widely and quickly the virus spreads and secondly, how so many of the COVID-positive passengers were asymptomatic."

While a pandemic had been declared three days before the *Greg Mortimer* left Ushuaia on 15 Mar, all passengers and crew had been screened before boarding, and anyone who had transited China, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Macao, South Korea or Taiwan was not permitted to board.

"We all knew what was happening in China, South Korea and Japan at the time, but there were minimal cases in the USA,

and South America, we thought, was a safe continent," Ing said.

The report provides a timeline of the cruise, which was blocked from entry to any ports once the first fever emerged on day eight.

While strict isolation protocols were engaged and passengers confined to cabins, full PPE used for any sick patients and N95 masks for any contact with guests, Ing noted the spread of COVID-19 continued, perhaps through contaminated surfaces.

The fact that so many on board were asymptomatic means "isolation by itself doesn't protect you from acquiring the virus, unless you know who has the virus on board."

"This means everyone should be tested, even those without symptoms," Ing said.

COVID-19: In the footsteps of Ernest Shackleton can be viewed at thorax.bmj.com.

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Princess slams suit

PRINCESS Cruises has slammed two US lawsuits the line is facing, which claim it put passengers in danger of contracting COVID-19.

The company has asked the California federal judge ruling the case to dismiss the suits, claiming the passengers can't prove they were in danger of getting the virus aboard the *Grand Princess*.

The line has said the passengers are lodging "an unprecedented theory of liability" for emotional distress that the United States Supreme Court had previously warned against.

"If accepted, plaintiffs' theory would open the door to open-ended liability for every business, school, church and municipality across America," Princess said in both of its dismissal motions.

Ponant repatriation



ALTHOUGH Ponant is not yet able to resume cruise operations, it recently assisted with the repatriation of residents of the French islands of Wallis & Futuna.

Le Laperouse (pictured) was commandeered for the mission, which saw her return several of the territory's residents home from fellow French collectivity New Caledonia.

The first repatriation trip

was completed on 24 May, bringing more than 100 of the archipelago's residents home.

After five days of sailing from Noumea to the Wallisian capital of Mata Utu, the ship remained at anchor for nine days to complete quarantine.

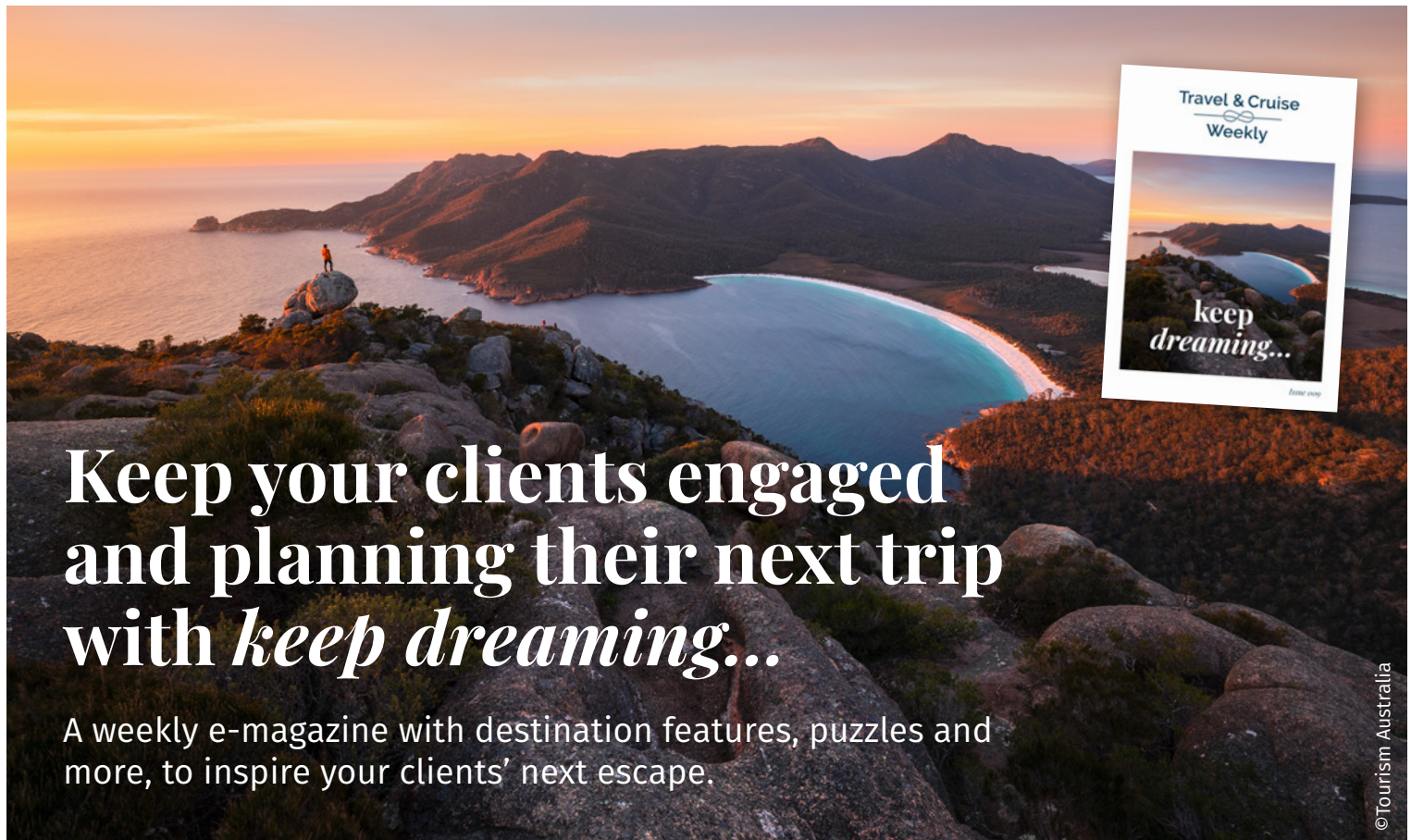
Wallis & Futuna closed its borders on 16 Mar, and has not been subject to COVID-19 contamination.



EARLIER this week in porthole, *Cruise Weekly* reported a rise in ocean pollution due to the re-emergence of the throwaway society brought on by COVID-19 (*CW* yesterday).

We're now happy to report financial services company Unifmoney is helping combat the problem in its own way, coming up with a new Visa card made from recovered ocean plastic.

The card, which the company calls Second Wave, will be produced by CPI Card Group, which estimates that for every one million Second Wave cards made, over one tonne of plastic can be diverted from entering oceans and waterways.



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Discover how cruise lines are facing the new challenge of increased hygiene measures in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**

Dubrovnik's tick

DUBROVNIK in Croatia has received a tick from the Global Sustainable Tourism Council for its sustainability measures, just a year after Cruise Lines International Association partnered with the city to support its actions (*CW* 26 Jul 2019).

Dubrovnik received a high ranking of 70% after examining four pillars of destination sustainability, including policy; planning; community involvement and benefits.

A Valiant float-out



FINCANTIERI completed the float-out of Virgin Voyages' *Valiant Lady* (pictured) late last month.

The second ship of four in the order, *Valiant* was moved from her building dry dock to the fitting-out berth at Fincantieri's Sestri Ponte shipyard near Genoa.

The shipyard recently returned to work after a long suspension while Italy fought COVID-19, with work roughly two months behind schedule.

RCL sells more

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises (RCL) recently sold US\$2 billion of bonds to boost its liquidity.

It was Royal Caribbean's second outing in the credit market in less than a month (*CW* 15 May) as it seeks cash while the COVID-19 pandemic keeps its ships docked.

The three-year bonds sold at par with a coupon of 9.125%, significantly lower than where it priced similar debt last month, and are linked to a group of seven ships.



In the House

RESTRICTIONS are easing on intrastate travel and many of our destination members enjoyed hosting their first guests in person this long weekend as Australians took to the road to explore all that our regions have to offer.

However, concerts and major entertainment performances are still some way from happening so it's great to see our member, Sydney Opera House (SOH) continuing to adapt in creative ways.

Titled from Our House to Yours, their clever digital program has enabled the SOH to stay in touch with their followers and potentially engage a new audience. They have developed a 365° Opera House experience accompanied by a beautiful symphonic background through to their first virtual behind-the-scenes tour which includes the backstage areas and even a sneak-peek inside the dressing rooms.

There has been great storytelling about little known tales including the "ghostlights" which are an age-old theatre tradition. Visitors can also attend virtual performances from children's music to cabaret to reggae and tune into a series of talks on various subjects.

Our other NSW members like Big Bus Tours Sydney, Taronga Zoo and Bridgeclimb are taking this time to get ready for the return of cruise passengers. We look forward to that momentous day!



This month Cruise Weekly has partnered with Celebrity Cruises to give you the chance to WIN a free cruise for two people onboard *Celebrity Solstice* departing Sydney.

Just like you, we're dreaming of seeing new shorelines on the horizon. Until then, we want to ensure you are looking after yourself because a little bit of self-love goes a long way!

How to enter:

1. Snap your best wellness selfie (whatever that means to you)
2. Post the shot in *Celebrity's Trade Facebook Group*
3. Include the hashtags #ModernLuxury and #CruiseWeekly

The most creative entry which features both hashtags will win!



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