



## Restart on the river to be 06 Jun

**THE** news of an extended ocean cruising suspension (**CW** yesterday) has not stopped river operator Murray River Paddlesteamers, which on Fri announced a plan to resume operations on 06 Jun.

*Canberra* and *Emmylou* (pictured) fall outside the prohibition rules, as both carry less than 100 passengers, with the cruise line to operate on an ad hoc basis, subject to demand, which has thus far been strong.

Murray River Paddlesteamers Director Craig Burgess noted four cabins on *Emmylou* had already been sold for the two-night Winter Escape, departing 19 and 26 Jun - **CLICK HERE**.

The two departures promise all-day cruising, a riverside campfire, a walking tour of Perricoota Station in the New South Wales Riverina and a three-course Sat night dinner with complimentary



wines.

Priced from \$664 per person, a 20% discount is on offer if booked prior to 31 May.

Group charter interest, as well as bookings for the new six-night All the Rivers Run cruise (**CW** 24 Apr) have also been strong, with just a few cabins

remaining for the 09 Nov trip.

Murray River Paddlesteamers has also initiated a Cruise Well program, with a number of new pre-cruise initiatives designed to maintain guest health and safety, such as contactless boarding, social distancing and a range of pre-cruise information updates.

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Cruising restart?

**A TOURISM** restart timetable was agreed to on Fri and proposed by the Tourism Restart Taskforce, with a domestic resumption by 05 Jun also appearing to include domestic expedition cruises.

A chart posted by Australian Chamber Tourism Executive Chairman John Hart also showed international travel to NZ and the Pacific as potentially occurring from 01 Jul, but it is unlikely that will involve cruising, with yesterday's Australian Border Force directive further suspending the industry's operations until 17 Sep.

More in today's **Travel Daily**.

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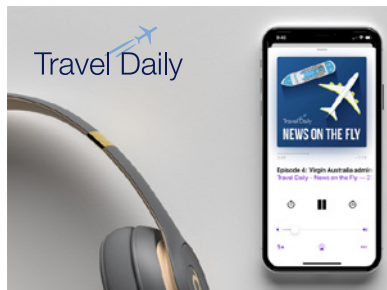
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Travel Daily

NEWS ON THE FLY

Episode 4: Virgin Australia admits 'Travel Daily' remains on the fly

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## PORTHOLE

**JUST** when you thought ships couldn't get in any more trouble!

A Gold Coast motorist was lucky to escape with his life after crashing into a parked boat (pictured).

The man was driving the streets of Palm Beach when he suffered a medical episode and veered into a boat trailer, with the watercraft then nearly crushing his car.



## Fincantieri positivity



**ITALIAN** shipbuilder Fincantieri reported its revenue at €1.3 billion at the end of the first quarter, down by only 4.5% despite a reduction of production of 20%.

The company also announced a backlog safety net of €31.9 billion, with production having gradually resumed since 20 Apr.

Fincantieri has committed to safeguarding its "relationships with strategic clients", and "to ensure the acquired backlog" by focusing on reassessing dates and

avoiding cancellations.

The shipyard estimates approximately €190 million in revenue was lost due to the COVID-19 shutdown, but it still managed to deliver eight vessels during the quarter, including Ponant's *Le Bellot*, Virgin Voyages' *Scarlet Lady* and Regent Seven Seas Cruises' *Seven Seas Splendor*.

Fincantieri also recognised its efforts towards sustainability, which have been rated "B" by the Carbon Disclosure Project.

## Swedish ferry operator mass layoffs

**SWEDISH** cruise ferry brand Tallink & Silja Line will make 450 employees redundant, following a 96% year-on-year plummet in passengers during the month of Apr.

The COVID-19 pandemic saw the Stockholm-Mariehamn-Helsinki overnight service come to a complete standstill on 19 Mar, with a number of crew members of *Galaxy* and *Silja Symphony*, as well as shore personnel, to be laid off.

"Various travel restrictions have put passenger sea transport under tremendous pressure, and it is clear by now that we will have to continue significantly restricting our activities for some time yet," said Tallink & Silja Line Chief Executive Officer Marcus Risberg.

"Thus we have no choice but to reduce the size of our organisation and lay off positions both on our ships as well as onshore."

## UnCruise steps up

**UNCRUISE** Adventures has accelerated conversations with United States Congress on behalf of small boat operators (**CW** 22 May).

The coalition's aims are to differentiate itself from ocean cruise operators and spotlight the industry's differences.

"The ability for small size cruise companies to continue to create their own definition will be key to their vitality and growth going forward," said UnCruise Chief Executive Officer Dan Blanchard.

"We have come together to advance the recognition of the domestic contribution of US small boat operators".

## Viking e-brochure

**VIKING** has launched its 2022-23 Mississippi River e-brochure, showcasing its newest range of itineraries (**CW** 31 Mar).

The digital brochure features information on the cruise line's purpose-built ship, *Viking Mississippi*, as well as the four different itineraries on which she will sail, including three eight-day voyages, and one 15-day sailing.

"Our brand-new digital brochure will have your clients tapping their toes to the rhythm of jazz, blues and folk, while dreaming of exploring the history of the Civil Rights Movement and the Civil War," said Viking Australia & New Zealand Trade Marketing Manager Erin Kramer.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access.

## Drinks on Celeb!

**CELEBRITY** Cruises' free beverage bonus sale ends today.

Those booking any four-night or longer sailing between Oct 2020 and May 2022 (excluding Galapagos Islands) before the end of the day can access the promotion, which applies to Inside, Outside, Veranda, Concierge and AquaClass stateroom categories - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

The cruise line's Australian sales team also celebrated National Travel Agents Day on Fri, posting a video message for agents to its dedicated Facebook group - [CLICK HERE](#) to view.