



### 7 slams cruising

LAST night's *Cruising - The Biggest Storm* documentary on Channel 7 across Australia will have reinforced negative perceptions of cruising, despite some upbeat moments about the pending Coral Expeditions restart and avid cruisers eager to take to the high seas again.

The two hour cruise-bashing report highlighted negative incidents over the last century, starting with the sinking of the *Titanic* and the torpedoing of the *Lusitania*, through to the 2012 *Costa Concordia* sinking.

The comprehensive hatchet job also raised the dangers of overtourism in connection with the new cruise wharf at Eden in NSW, air pollution at Sydney's White Bay and the 2002 death of Dianne Brimble aboard P&O's *Pacific Sky*.

Despite positive input from *Travel Daily's* Bruce Piper and renowned travel writer Helen Hutcheon, much of the report was bleak, including a segment featuring Princess Cruises class action law firm Shine Lawyers.

COVID-19 outbreaks on *Aurora*, *Hurtigruten* and *Princess* were highlighted, and the story omitted any mention whatsoever of the NSW Government's exhaustive *Ruby Princess* inquiry which found the cruise operator had complied with all requirements "to the letter".

## CLIA highlights impact of shutdown

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is aiming to mobilise support for a phased reopening of the sector in Australia and New Zealand, in a major activation of its #WeAreCruise initiative.

The campaign includes a new video series that will see businesses voice their support for a "carefully planned revival" of the cruise sector in the region.

Suppliers, travel agents and other industry participants continue to suffer economic devastation, with the videos highlighting the financial impact suffered by local businesses and the estimated 25,000 jobs at risk across Australasia while cruise bans remain in place.

An initial four videos will be released on social media over the next two months, as part of a wider campaign which also saw mainstream print media coverage over the weekend in Australia.

"Thousands of travel agents and other businesses across Australia and NZ have been devastated by the suspension of cruise operations and tens of thousands of jobs are at risk," said CLIA MD Australasia Joel Katz.

"While the suspension has been



the right response to COVID-19, it's absolutely vital that we open a pathway towards resumption with extensive health measures in place, so we can bring an economic revival to communities around our region," he said.

The #WeAreCruise series will initially tell the story of four businesses, including Brisbane-based family-owned cruise specialist travel agency Clean Cruising (pictured) which has lost most of its income despite a massive workload processing refunds and making alternative arrangements for clients.

Other businesses to be

highlighted include Indigenous tour company Wijingarra Tours in Western Australia's Kimberley region which has been forced to cancel this year's season, Christchurch-based Hasslefree Tours whose operations have been suspended, and NSW beverage wholesaler Kollaras & Co, whose major clients include cruise lines which source their wines and beers locally.

Katz urged travel agents and other industry supporters to join the campaign, share the videos and "amplify the industry's voice to governments" - see the website at [wearecruise.org](http://wearecruise.org).

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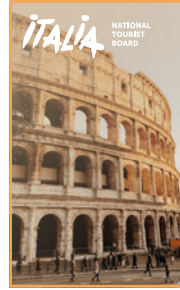
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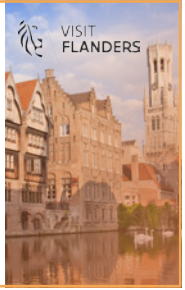
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## New ACA Chair

**THE** Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has announced Port Authority of New South Wales Chief Executive Officer Phillip Holliday will become interim Executive Committee Chairman in the lead-up to the ACA's Annual General Meeting, now scheduled for 25 Nov.

Holliday replaces Grant Gilfillan who has been Chair for the last three years, while Tourism NT Executive GM of Industry Development Scott Lovett will take on the role of Deputy Chair, which was recently vacated by Martin Bidgood, when he left InterCruises/TUI.

His position on the committee will be filled by InterCruises' James Coughlan.

Port of Brisbane Senior Manager for Port Operations Matthew Carley remains in place as ACA Treasurer.

The Association's Chief Exec Jill Abel thanked Gilfillan for his strong support while heading the Committee, saying he had been an "incredible mentor to all of us".

## Tas says no cruises yet



**TASPORTS** has said no decision has been made on when cruise ships might return to its harbours, after Coral Expeditions last month revealed it had developed itineraries in the state within the next six months (**CW** 24 Sep).

A tentative schedule posted by TasPorts showed *Coral Adventurer* returning from 18 Dec with 10 port calls pencilled in through to Mar.

The proposed calendar has now been taken offline, with Tasports assuring vessels will not return

until the Government gives the green light.

TasPorts said it was working with the industry to plan for the resumption of local port calls, but only when it was permitted, and deemed "safe and appropriate."

"There remains a high level of uncertainty regarding the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the 2020-2021 domestic cruise ship season, as such forward shipping schedules are subject to continual change," TasPorts said last week.

**Pictured:** *Coral Adventurer*.



**MARINE** biologists have captured and tagged a 1.5-tonne great white shark that has been dubbed the "queen of the ocean", off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Believed to be about 50 years old, 'Nukumi' (**pictured**) is the largest of her kind discovered in the Northwest Atlantic.

The shark measures more than five metres long, and is believed to be a grandmother, having reproduced around 15 times in her life, the first time likely to have been about 30 years ago.

This means she could have had as many as 100 offspring in her lifetime.



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