



Cruise Weekly today

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

ACA date change

THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has confirmed its 2021 conference will now be held from 10-12 Nov, due to the current coronavirus situation.

The event will still be held in Townsville, with Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel saying the ACA aimed to give more confidence to delegates.

"We felt these new dates gave us more certainty around being able to hold the event this year, and also provide enough time for our speakers and attendees to change their travel plans," Abel said.

An exciting line-up of keynote speakers has already been announced including Gavin Smith (Royal Caribbean), Sture Myrmell (Carnival Australia), and Stuart Allison (Princess).

Deloitte Access Economics' Adele Labine-Romain and Respond Global's Ian Norton will also speak at the two-day program, to be held at The Ville Resort-Casino.

Delegates who have registered and booked their accommodation will be automatically moved to the new dates, and those still to register can do so **HERE**.

Global leaders to join CLIA forum

EXCLUSIVE

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia will welcome senior industry figures from across the globe at its upcoming Virtual Cruise Forum taking place later this month.

The free event is being held in lieu of the Cruise360 Australasia Conference in Sydney, which has been postponed due to the city's ongoing COVID-19 lockdown.

Taking place on 27 Aug, the CLIA Virtual Cruise Forum will "combine the global perspective of international leaders with the insight of key regional executives working on the local resumption of cruising," according to CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz.

"At a critical time for our industry, this online forum will give travel agents valuable insight that will help ensure they benefit

from cruising's recovery," he said.

The event will open with a session featuring CLIA Global CEO Kelly Craighead and local industry leaders Gavin Smith from Royal Caribbean International, Carnival Australia President Sture Myrmell and Ponant Chairman Asia Pacific Sarina Bratton, in a panel discussion moderated by **Cruise Weekly** publisher Bruce Piper.

Other international guests who will be part of the discussion include Regent Seven Seas Cruises Jason Montague, MSC Cruises CEO Gianni Onorato and Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection CEO Ellen Bettridge, along with Singapore Tourism Board Director of Cruise Development Annie Chang.

Topics on the day will include a State of the Industry update detailing the latest developments on cruising's road to recovery, and how the sector is working to

rebuild confidence.

Travel advisors will also be updated on how they can achieve new relevance as cruise specialists, while the forum will also give insights into how close collaborations have resulted in the successful resumption of operations in other markets.

Katz noted that with the industry keen to have certainty amidst the current cruise pause, "it has never been more important for our cruise community to unite around our common goals".

"With the help of global industry leaders this forum will help define our path forward."

The CLIA Australasia Virtual Cruise Forum will take place from 10am-4pm AEST on Fri 27 Aug, with the event open to all CLIA members at no charge.

For more details and to register see cruising.org.au.

Norwegian's latest *Embark* episode is out

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has released the third episode of its *EMBARK - The Series* documentary detailing the return of cruising, with "All Hands on Deck" now streaming.

The latest instalment takes viewers behind the scenes to see how NCL's team members have united to prepare for the cruise line's return to cruise operations.

All Hands on Deck also follows

executives including Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Chief Frank Del Rio and NCL President Harry Sommer, as they visit *Norwegian Gem* to discuss her upcoming renovations.

She will be the first ship to set sail from NCL's new PortMiami terminal when she returns to service on 15 Aug, following last week's momentous *Norwegian Jade* restart (**CW** 27 Jul).

See nclembark.com.

New Paul Gauguin modules released

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has launched new Learning Academy Modules, enabling travel agents to expand their knowledge of the French Polynesian cruise operator.

CLIA accredited agents who complete the training in Aug will go into a draw to win one of 20 Paul Gauguin gift hampers - pro-au.ponant.com.



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DISCOVER THE ALL-NEW NORWEGIAN CENTRAL.

We've recently enhanced our trade portal, giving you the tools you need to learn, promote, book and connect with NCL.

LEARN MORE





EVERYONE knows seafarers are a resourceful lot, but who knew that extended to canoeists?

Recent Australian Olympic slalom champion Jess Fox raised eyebrows earlier this week when she used a condom to fix the damaged nose of her kayak (pictured).

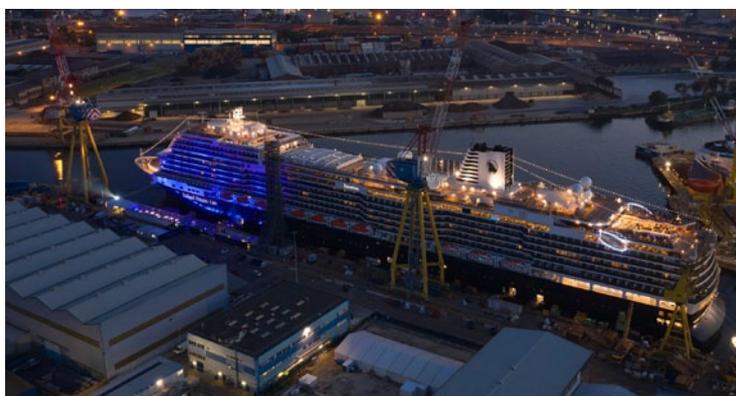
Fox, who later navigated the kayak to a bronze medal in the K1 event, filmed a member of her crew covering the end of the kayak with a carbon mixture, then stretching the condom over top to secure it.

The Tokyo Organizing Committee said it plans on distributing 150,000 condoms during the Olympic Games, but they are intended to be used once the athletes return home.

Let's hope that upon review, it doesn't cost Fox her medal!



HAL new flagship



HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has taken delivery of its highly anticipated new ship *Rotterdam* from Fincantieri.

The ship officially became the 11th in the HAL fleet on Fri, with a ceremony taking place at Fincantieri's Marghera shipyard the evening prior (pictured).

The ceremony was attended by *Rotterdam's* master, Captain Werner Timmers, Holland America Group Vice President of Newbuilding Services Cyril Tatar, Fincantieri Chief Executive Officer Giuseppe Bono, and several other executives.

Video congratulations were extended by Holland America Group President Jan Swartz, and HAL President Gus Antorcha.

"*Rotterdam* looks stunning and will certainly live up to bearing such an iconic name as the new

flagship of our fleet, carrying on a tradition of excellence that our guests have loved for nearly 150 years," said Antorcha.

"Thank you to our partners at Fincantieri and our own team members who worked tirelessly to deliver the ship on schedule during what has been the most challenging of times, and also deliver a ship that looks beautiful, is immaculately finished and will be an incredible addition to our brand.

"We cannot wait to welcome guests on board later this fall."

Rotterdam will make her transatlantic crossing on 20 Oct from Amsterdam to Fort Lauderdale, where she will begin her maiden season in the Caribbean.

Naming ceremony details will be announced at a later date.

MSC Jeddah ext

MSC Cruises has signed a new five-year deal with Cruise Saudi, which will provide the line with preferential berthing rights at Jeddah Islamic Port through to 2027.

The cruise line's *MSC Bellissima* was at the centre of the recent inauguration of Jeddah Port, with the ship to homeport in Saudi Arabia's commercial centre.

Bellissima's highly anticipated inaugural season in the Red Sea will see three- and four-night cruises sail to Egypt and Jordan until the end of Oct (CW 14 Jul).

Viking France back

VIKING has welcomed guests back on board for river voyages in France.

Travellers are now embarking on journeys on the Seine and Rhone rivers for the Paris & the Heart of Normandy, Lyon & Provence and France's Finest itineraries.

The Chateaux, Rivers and Wine itinerary will resume later this month.

Four new Viking longships, *Viking Fjorgyn*, *Viking Kari*, *Viking Radgrin*, and *Viking Skaga*, have also launched on the Seine.

49%

will book trips well into the future - more than 8 weeks out

Source: nib Travel Brands Survey, May 2021, N=1044, Australian respondents - booking prior to departure date.

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