



## Tehan urges cruise booking confidence

**AUSTRALIA'S** Minister for Tourism Dan Tehan (pictured) has come out strongly in favour of a resumption of cruising, yesterday saying consumers should have no hesitation in making bookings.

During an interview on the Nine Network's *Today*, Tehan was asked by host Karl Stefanovic whether or not Australians should feel safe taking up the plethora of cruise offers in the market, in the context of the *Ruby Princess* spread of COVID-19.

"The cruise industry has done a lot of work to make sure that cruising now is COVID-safe," Tehan assured viewers.

"They've put protocols in place, so people should be confident to be able to go and book cruises."

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz welcomed Tehan's comments, telling *Cruise Weekly* "it's



really encouraging that the new Minister appreciates the important role that cruise can play in the tourism recovery".

Katz noted cruise contributes more than \$5 billion to the national economy and supports more than 18,000 jobs.

The CLIA local MD confirmed the Association had been working closely with Tehan's office.

"We are continuing to work with the government to develop a pathway to a carefully managed, phased resumption of domestic

cruising," Katz said.

"Australia's success in stemming community transmission creates an opportunity for ships to safely return to Australia with strict protocols and offer local cruising for locals, while international borders remain closed," he added.

The Australian Government's official Human Biosecurity Emergency Period, formally banning the entry of foreign-flagged cruise ships into Australian waters, is currently in place for about six more weeks, after being extended until 17 Mar by Minister for Health Greg Hunt (*CW* 09 Dec 2020).

However at the time he announced the extension, Hunt confirmed the government was working closely with the industry to "develop a framework for the staged resumption of cruise ships in a manner that is proportionate to the public health risk".

### Cruise Weekly today

*Cruise Weekly* today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Hurtigruten**.

### Gone in (almost) 60 seconds

**IF YOU** were hoping to travel aboard Oceania Cruises' 2023 World Cruise (*CW* 28 Jan) but aren't already booked, bad news - the cruise sold out in a day.

According to a statement from Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, the itinerary went on sale on 27 Jan, and was fully booked that day, with more than one-third of travellers first time and new-to-brand guests.

Approximately 20% of World Cruise guests also opted to extend their voyage beyond 180 days up to a total of 218.

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**TRIBUTES** have flowed in for one of Loch Ness' favourite "Nessie Hunter" tour boat Captains, Dave Bell (pictured), after his sudden death on the weekend.

The 54-year-old, who took locals monster hunting around the freshwater loch, was popular with both locals and tourists alike.

Bell was the skipper of Loch Ness Cruises, which operated out of Drumnadrochit, and was the love of his life, in addition to soccer, the outdoors, and his family.

It is not known whether Bell ever sighted Nessie, but *Cruise Weekly* likes to think he did.



## An actual real-life event



**SILVERSEA** Cruises held a travel agent event last week in Sydney, bringing together a number of its key partners after far too long.

The group caught up, had a drink, and learned about where Silversea is at right now, and its outlook for the future.

A few lucky agents also kicked off 2021 in style, taking home a Silversea goodie bag packed with its luxury partner brands, such as Bulgari, Lalique, and Pommery.

"We are so grateful to finally be allowed to catch up with our



agent family after such a long time apart," said Director of Sales Australia & New Zealand Steve Richards, who is **pictured left** with Orbit World Travel's Alicia Philips, and Cruise Express' Hardy Schneider; **inset** is Creative Cruising's Carina Mullen, and Chung Pak Travel's Corry Fung & Gloria Chu.

## Fred further pause

**FRED.** Olsen Cruise Lines has extended its pause in operations until end of Jun.

The cruise line had been due to resume sailing on 22 May, with 14 sailings now affected due to the current restrictions in England.

All guests impacted will be given a number of options, including a "no quibble" refund or an additional future cruise credit.

## Seabourn 2022

**SEABOURN** Cruise Line has announced its Alaska, Canada, Europe & New England itineraries for next year.

A wide range of itineraries are being offered in each region, including 68 sailings in Europe in summer 2022, with voyages of seven to 14 days, and options to combine voyages to up to 38 days.

*Seabourn Encore*, *Seabourn Ovation*, *Seabourn Quest* and *Seabourn Sojourn* will visit a combination of popular cities and hidden gems & destinations accessible only to smaller ships and yachts, as well as 27 European ports Seabourn has not visited.

Maiden calls include Canarias, Douarnenez, Esbjerg, Ferrol, Fuerteventura, La Ciotat, Laerdal, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Puerto Rosario, Trogir and Vis.

Seabourn has also scheduled 15 2022 summer sailings aboard *Odyssey* in Alaska & British Columbia - call 13 24 02.



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## Viking weekly deal

**VIKING'S** deal of the week is for its 12-day Pharaohs & Pyramids tour, priced from \$7,295 per person.

As a special offer to celebrate the launch of the cruise line's newest river ship *Viking Aton*, travellers can save up to \$2,000 per couple when booked before the end of Mar.

For additional information, phone Viking on 138 747.

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