



Entsch-ing toward a cruise restart

EXCLUSIVE

A FUNCTION organised by Carnival Corporation and federal Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch has led to a conga-line of high-profile federal politicians rallying for a restart of the cruise industry (**CW** yesterday).

Meeting in Canberra a few weeks ago (**CW** 18 Jun), Carnival made a "very compelling case", which was heard by up to 15 members of parliament, who have since thrown their weight behind a cruise resumption, Entsch told **CW**.

MPs including Angie Bell, Matt Canavan, George Christensen, Jason Falinski, Hollie Hughes, Bob Katter, Andrew Laming, Kristy McBain, Dave Sharma, Zali Steggall, Phil Thompson, Ross Vasta, Terry Young, and Trent Zimmerman have all signed up their support, with Entsch saying it "beggars belief" why we can't

be talking about a cruise restart, with the industry having already gained momentum around the globe.

"What we're endeavouring to do is to get the decision-makers within government to sit down with the decision-makers in the cruise industry, as we've seen happen with the CEOs of Virgin and Qantas," Entsch explained.

"If we sit back and procrastinate for long enough, as we've seen with Cunard, itineraries will be set well into the future, and they will exclude Australia."

"We can walk and chew gum at the same time...cruising is a critical part of our economy, let's start to get it up and running."

Entsch is keen to see cruising take off again in the eastern states, as reflected in the support lent by MPs representing eastern coastal electorates, but said he would also like to see cruises to

New Zealand.

"I would suggest if we can fly people from Australia to New Zealand, there's no reason we can't cruise them over there as well," he said.

Entsch even suggested voyages to Antarctica should be on the table - another angle exploited by airlines, but not able to be accessed by the cruise industry.

Having sent a letter to the Ministers for Tourism and Health, Dan Tehan and Greg Hunt, Entsch noted the Treasurer had also expressed interest in the cause, with one of his representatives present at the function.

"I'm a very strong advocate, as are all my colleagues who signed up...it shows there is a strong interest within government," Entsch said.

"I want to find a way we can do this, as opposed to finding excuses as to why we can't."

Cruise Weekly today

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

A Unique p'ship

UNIQUE Cruises has teamed up with Back-Roads Touring, releasing eight new cruise-tours in France, Ireland, Italy and Scotland.

The cruise agency's Director Walter Nand said Back-Roads' product complements Unique's offerings perfectly.

"Agents can provide clients with the exclusive use of a luxury hotel barge combined with an exclusive charter of a Back-Roads tour, creating an independent travel bubble for their small client group," he said.

Passengers can also join a departure if they are not travelling with a group - uniquecruises.com.au.

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SH Australia canx

SWAN Hellenic (SH) has cancelled its Australia cruises for the first half of next year in response to the "extensions of pandemic isolation measures for international visitors".

The cruise line said it still plans to voyage Down Under late next year and in 2023, but has been forced to replace its first cruises to Australia with sailings in Antarctica and the Americas.

Ranging from Patagonia and the Antarctic to Mexico, Alaska and the Russian Far East, *SH Minerva* will cruise 10-to-14 day itineraries between Feb 2022 and May 2022.

"Although disappointed we can't explore Oceania in the first half of 2022 – and of course we are planning to be there in late 2022 and again in 2023 – we're very excited to offer these wonderful new cruises to the curious-minded and adventurous voyagers for whom a Swan Hellenic cultural expedition cruise is the natural choice," said SH Chief Executive Officer Andrea Zito.

Crystal's Iceland *Endeavor*



LUXURY expedition yacht *Crystal Endeavor* (pictured) recently departed MV Werften in Stralsund, sailing to Iceland for her inaugural voyages.

A pier-side sail away celebration was held at MV Werften for Genting Hong Kong employees and family members.

Endeavor turned around in Sudhagen and then entered the Ziegelgraben en route to the Baltic Sea, sailing with a fully vaccinated crew.

She is scheduled to arrive on Thu in Reykjavik, from where she will depart on her inaugural voyage on Sun - the first of a series of five, 10-night cruises.

"Today is a milestone day for Crystal as our new state-of-the-art expedition yacht *Crystal Endeavor* sails to Iceland from MV Werften to set a new industry standard as the most spacious, most powerful and most luxurious expedition ship in the industry," said Crystal President Jack Anderson.

"We want to thank everyone at MV Werften for their partnership and their uncompromising German engineering and design excellence in crafting an intrepid new polar class yacht that will offer our guests incredible adventures to the far reaches of the globe, with the highest standards of safety and sustainable features that demonstrate extreme care for our guests and the world's oceans and the destinations we visit."



THAT'S one way to self-isolate!

A Brisbane man is getting ready to row his handmade boat solo from Chile to Australia.

The 22-year-old, who recently completed his apprenticeship in marine craft construction, is putting the final touches on his rowboat, *Maiwar*, in which he plans to make the epic voyage.

The man hopes to become the youngest person to row across the Pacific Ocean, visiting Tahiti, the Cook Islands, and Tonga on his way home.

He also hopes to navigate largely via the stars - that is enormous faith in one's ability in more ways than one!

American COVID

THREE passengers aboard American Cruise Lines' *American Constellation* have tested positive for coronavirus.

The ship was sailing in Alaska at the time, with the three individuals who tested positive, and their travelling companions, disembarking in Petersburg to self-isolate.

American said two of the three cases are fully vaccinated, with any unvaccinated crew members to self-isolate aboard *Constellation*.

All remaining guests are fully vaccinated, and upon arrival in Juneau, will be flying home.

As a result, *Constellation's* 14 Jul voyage has been cancelled.



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