



Ponant returns to cruising tomorrow

PONANT will be the first international cruise line to recommence sailing in Australian waters tomorrow, following the arrival of *Le Laperouse* into Darwin over the weekend.

The highly anticipated restart of Ponant's Kimberley season saw the cruise line's Asia Pacific Chair Sarina Bratton meet with Captain Xavier Rutten in Darwin on ANZAC Day (pictured) to welcome *Le Laperouse*.

"We celebrate the restart of cruising in Australia, and specifically expedition cruising in the northwest region of Australia," Bratton said.

"Not only is this an emotional moment for thousands of Australians whose travel dreams were put on hold since 2020, it is a major milestone in terms of economic benefits to the North West indigenous communities who work with us to showcase



the beauty of the Kimberley region and whose income relies on the international expedition sector.

"Our suppliers, port authorities, food & beverage providers, hoteliers, and last but not least, our supportive network of travel agents and trade partners are also excited with our company restarting Kimberley operations.

"It has been a long two years

of inactivity in Australia for our suppliers, our travel partners, and our company," she said.

Le Laperouse will set off on a 10-night expedition from Darwin to Broome tomorrow.

Ponant will double down on the local market next month, with *Le Soleal* joining *Le Laperouse* on the Kimberley effective 28 May.

See a time lapse of *Le Laperouse* arrival at cruiseweekly.com.au.

Cruise Weekly today

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

New Oceania, RSSC PR

BARKING Owl Communications has been appointed to represent Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) locally.

The move reflects a decision to "embark on a new voyage with our media relations strategy," according to the cruise lines' SVP & MD APAC, Steve Odell.

The account had previously been held by Anne Wild & Associates (CW 12 Nov 2015), with that firm continuing to representing the two lines' sister brand Norwegian Cruise Line.

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CLIA commits to net-zero 2050 target

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Global Chief Executive Officer Kelly Craighead has confirmed the body's ocean-going members have committed to pursuing "net-zero carbon cruising by 2050".

Speaking at a conference in Miami overnight, Craighead said the environmental commitment would also see all ships calling at ports where shoreside electricity is available will be equipped to utilise the shore power, allowing engines to be switched off, and effectively eliminating carbon emissions while in port.

Where shoreside power is not available, the ships will use alternative low carbon technologies used by ports.



"The industry is acting now for the future," she said.

"We are reducing the carbon footprint of our ships while at berth and at sea investing in advanced environmental technologies and partnering with cities and ports on sustainable destination management.

"By equipping cruise ships with the ability to connect shoreside power and using it where available, the cruise industry is prepared to eliminate emissions while at port for the benefit

of local communities...this is responsible tourism in action," Craighead said.

CLIA will also join the Global Maritime Forum Call to Action for Shipping Decarbonisation, which aims to make zero emission vessels and fuels the default choice by 2030.

CLIA Chair Pierfrancesco Vago from MSC said "the cruise industry has an extraordinary ability to innovate, and we want to channel our collective expertise and commitment to help find solutions as an active partner in the effort to decarbonise shipping.

"We continue to set ambitious carbon reduction goals as an industry, and cruise lines are showing the way by partnering with fuel suppliers, shipyards, technology manufacturers and academic institutions to develop new lower carbon fuel sources," Vago added.



on location aboard **Celebrity Beyond**

Today's issue of CW is coming to you from the UK courtesy of **Celebrity Cruises**.

CELEBRITY Cruises Chief Executive Lisa Lutoff-Perlo says the launch of *Celebrity Beyond* this week means the future is bright, thanking the industry for its ongoing support through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking on board the newbuild overnight, Lutoff-Perlo said the brand's "relaxed luxury" appeals to a wide range of demographics, with key aspects including destinations, design, wellness, comfort, and cuisine resonating strongly with *Celebrity's* target markets.

"We have a tremendous amount of optimism," she said - more on **page three**.

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Manhattan MSC

MSC Cruises has announced that its new *MSC Seascope* will be launched in New York City, with a formal naming ceremony to take place on 07 Dec this year at the Manhattan Cruise Terminal.

The cruise line's perennial Godmother, screen goddess Sophia Loren, will name her 18th ship for MSC, with the event kicking off *MSC Seascope's* inaugural American season in the Caribbean.

MSC has also unveiled its Northern Hemisphere Summer 2023 program, which will see the cruise line's vessels visiting more than 140 destinations in 40 different countries across the globe.

The itineraries include the first season of *MSC World Europa*, the line's first LNG-powered ship which will operate in the Mediterranean.

Coral downplays onboard COVID cases

A "SMALL number" of passengers aboard Coral Expeditions' *Coral Discoverer* tested positive during her most recent 10-night sailing between Darwin and Broome, the line has confirmed to **Cruise Weekly**.

The sailing, which arrived in Broome on ANZAC Day, carried 60 guests and 30 crew members, with those who were infected isolating while on board.

"Coral Expeditions operates voyages under an approved SailSAFE plan and with full compliance with WA Department of Health directions," the cruise line said.

"WA Health was advised of the detection and management of cases onboard daily throughout the voyage...affected guests and crew were provided care by onboard medical specialists."

Coral disembarked its positive

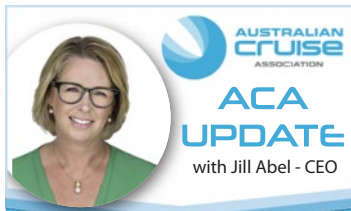
cases in Broome to complete their isolation requirements, as is permitted by the WA gov't.

MEANWHILE, APT has confirmed to **Cruise Weekly** there are no guests or crew members on board *Caledonian Sky* who have tested positive for COVID, despite mainstream media reports to the contrary.

Since *Caledonian Sky* began sailing last month (**CW** 28 Mar), only two guests have presented with COVID - both of which APT managed to isolate.

"As per our requirements all passengers and crew are fully vaccinated and must have returned a negative COVID test prior to embarkation," the company said.

APT's voyages are almost fully sold out right across the season through until Sep, with travel advisors urged to get in touch for interested clients.



AUSTRALIAN
CRUISE
ASSOCIATION
**ACA
UPDATE**
with Jill Abel - CEO

New tours for cruise

WORDS could not describe the feeling of exhilaration as *Pacific Explorer* sailed gracefully into Sydney Harbour under the watchful eye of the marine pilots from ACA member organisation, the Port Authority of NSW.

Flying her "We're Home" banner, she also carried with her the hope of a brighter, revitalised future for the cruise industry after two long years of waiting for the green light.

We are grateful for the support of the NSW State Government for providing the necessary approvals to open as the first state to welcome back international cruising.

As cruise passengers return to our cities, Sydney has been quick to step up with new tour offerings.

The Opera House is launching a range of new 2022 experiences including a new architectural tour which explores the design history of this Sydney icon.

The Concert Hall will re-open this year for performances and will also feature in tours.

Taronga Zoo is "wild" about being included on shore excursions once again with a range of touring options available.

They also offer pre- and post-cruise accommodation at their Wildlife Retreat.

Destination NSW is also showcasing activities such as a visit to the Hickson House Distilling Co in The Rocks, or for the more adventurous types, nine new rides at Luna Park.

Our delegation will be talking up all there is to offer around Australia as we attend Seatrade Cruise Global this week.

Taking cruising *Beyond*



CELEBRITY Cruises' industry partners continued their immersion into the brand new *Celebrity Beyond* overnight, experiencing the multiplicity of eateries, bars, accommodations, wellness options and activities on board the line's newest ship.

The second day of the cruise to nowhere out of Southampton was marked by a huge variety of action, including the opening

of several of *Beyond's* upmarket boutiques, meetings, networking and perhaps a couple of sneaky treatments at the spectacular onboard spa.

Pictured making the most of the innovative newbuild are, from left: Stacey Clark from Phil Hoffmann Travel and Jeff Leckey of House of Travel, with Celebrity Cruises' Hannah Taylor and Tim Jones.

Princess webinar

PRINCESS Cruises is inviting the travel industry to learn more about its latest health and safety measures, as it prepares for a return to service, starting in Jun.

Held at 11am today, the presentation is designed to provide the most important insights and knowledge for travellers with the latest health and safety measures that will be required when cruising around Australia.

CLICK HERE to sign up.

Carnival CEO shuffle

CARNIVAL Corporation has announced that its CEO Arnold Donald will step aside and become Vice Chair of the company, with 48-year-old Josh Weinstein to take on the role of President & CEO effective from 01 Aug.

A 20-year veteran of Carnival Corporation, Weinstein is currently Chief Operations Officer for the cruise giant, while Donald will move onto his new board role after nine years overseeing the business.



IF IT has kale in it, it must be good for you, right?

That's definitely the thinking behind some of the travel industry health nuts aboard Celebrity Cruises new *Celebrity Beyond* this week as she cruises out of Southampton on her inaugural voyage.

A popular haunt for some of the Australians is the Martini Bar on Deck 3 - but don't worry, it's apparently all for a good cause.

One of the more popular tipples, in line with Celebrity's focus on wellness, is the 'Kale Martini', and of course some of the local contingent just had to give it a go - obviously only in the name of health.

The martini (**pictured**) includes Grey Goose Vodka (for medicinal purposes naturally) with celery, lime, ginger, and apple, plus just a hint of liquidised kale.

Apparently it's so good for you that several unnamed Queensland-based travel agents had to try more than one - for scientific reasons of course.

