



## New charity supports Mystery Island

### EXCLUSIVE

**AN AUSSIE** cruise industry couple has launched a drive to support the people of popular Vanuatu port Mystery Island and its larger neighbour Aneityum, which have been left devastated by the pandemic-induced cruise pause.

Gary and Colette Porter live between Moama in New South Wales' Riverina region and Mystery Island, where they operate an inbound tour business.

Passionate cruisers, the pair have raised concerns about the residents of the islands.

"They have had a really difficult time over the last couple of years, no income suddenly or an option to earn from elsewhere, no government assistance at all, dangerous food shortages, supply ship shortages and along with four major natural disasters this year alone in 2022, they need real, and urgent help," Gary Porter told *Cruise Weekly*.

A new charity has been formally

registered in Australia called the Aneityum Island Community Fund Inc, along with a website and well-developed plans to raise support for the 296 families (about 1,850 people) who live on Aneityum.

Key goals are to advance the destination's health, education and social and public welfare, with initial activity having already seen an urgent food relief package comprising 25 tonnes of rice, sugar and flour delivered, along with new seeds to replace crops that were inundated in recent flooding due to tropical cyclone Gina in May this year.

The goal is to organise two major fundraisers each year, including a lottery launching today.

The travel industry is being enlisted to join the cause, by selling tickets at \$40 each for the opportunity to win a major prize comprising an all-expenses paid 10-night holiday in Vanuatu for up to six people - or alternatively \$60,000 worth of cruise/travel credit anywhere in the world.

Second prize is \$22,000 worth

of gold-minted Kangaroo coins or a \$22,000 cruise/travel credit, and the third prize is similar but valued at \$11,000.

Whichever travel advisor sells the most tickets also wins \$5,000, and there are \$2,000 and \$1,000 prizes for the second and third placed travel agent sellers.

The profits from the three-month fundraiser will be about \$455,000 and will be used to buy life-changing small earthworks machinery, medical equipment, farming items, tsunami sirens, and generators.

The charity works directly with the Government of Vanuatu and the Aneityum Area Council, and the 10 local board members receive no remuneration from the charity.

"Nothing has been done like this before for any South Pacific Island location and its success comes with life-changing benefits for Aneityum Island," Porter said.

For more information and to support the initiative see [aneityumisland.com](http://aneityumisland.com) or call Gary Porter on +61 447 061 449.

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Lindblad gets shot

**LINDBLAD** Expeditions has announced a new photography partnership with camera gear manufacturer OM System, formerly known as Olympus.

The pact will see Lindblad's expedition photography program offer guests "the finest in instruction," bringing aboard the ultimate in equipment for field testing including cameras and lenses.

OM gear will be offered on all Lindblad-owned ships except in the Galapagos.

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- Gavin Smith, Vice President & Managing Director Australia, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd

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### Electric ferry order

**NORWEGIAN** ferry operator Norled has ordered two new 130-passenger all-electric catamaran ferries.

The vessels will be delivered in Jan 2024 and will operate on the Bodo/Ytne/Gildeska/Vaeran route which has just been awarded to Norled.

The 40.6-metre carbon-fibre catamarans will also have significant cargo capacity and will be powered by a 4MWh battery pack.

They will have a maximum speed of 30 knots, with both ferries to operate the 60 nautical mile route in full battery mode and the project standing as a milestone for the rollout of emission-free high-speed ferries.

## NCL takes delivery of *Prima* in Italy

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) has taken delivery of *Norwegian Prima* at the Fincantieri shipyard.

Launching later this month, *Prima* will be the first major cruise ship christened in Iceland, after which she will commence her eight-day inaugural voyage in the country's capital of Reykjavik on 27 Aug, sailing to Amsterdam.

The ship is the first of six vessels to be delivered through 2027 in Norwegian's ground-breaking Prima-class, the cruise line's first new class in nearly a decade.

Present at the event was Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings President & Chief Executive Officer Frank Del Rio; NCL President & Chief Executive Officer Harry Sommer; Fincantieri GM of the Merchant Ships Division Luigi Matarazzo; and a number of other executives.

The delivery celebration was followed by the traditional flag



exchange ceremony.

American singer-songwriter Katy Perry will serve as *Prima's* Godmother, which will see her fulfil the long-standing maritime tradition of blessing and officially naming the ship.

She will also perform during the christening ceremony.

"Today we usher in a thrilling new era in cruising as we celebrate the delivery of *Norwegian Prima*, the long-anticipated first ship in our extraordinary new Prima Class," said Sommer, who is **pictured** with the *Prima* on board

leadership team.

"She is a true testament to our Guest First philosophy as well as our commitment to deliver unforgettable experiences that exceed expectations.

"We thank our wonderful partners at Fincantieri, whose coveted craftsmanship, expertise, and dedication, helped bring *Norwegian Prima* to life."

Following her inaugural voyage, *Prima* will sail a series of eight-day voyages from Amsterdam and Copenhagen offering guests the opportunity to explore Northern Europe and the Norwegian fjords.

### Encounter-ing NSW

P&O Cruises Australia's newest fleet addition *Pacific Encounter* will dock at Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal tomorrow morning.

After reaching the Heads at roughly 9:30, *Encounter* will sail into the Harbour, escorted by water cannon "hero tugs".

*Encounter* has sailed from Singapore to be in Australia, where she will now join her fleetmate *Pacific Explorer*.

Not long after her maiden arrival for P&O Australia in Sydney, *Encounter* will make Brisbane home, to spearhead the rebuilding of the cruise industry in the country's north.

P&O said *Encounter's* maiden arrival and spectacular welcome to Sydney is also an opportunity to salute the city's tugs and other maritime champions who keep our waterways safe.

## BE THE FIRST TO LIVE IT UP

To celebrate the launch of *Norwegian Prima* this month we're rewarding Travel Partners with Double Points!

70  
POINTS

Earn up to 70 Points on all Norwegian Prima and Norwegian Viva deposited bookings made between 1 - 31 August 2022\*.

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**THERE** have been many cruise industry casualties of COVID-19, and two of the latest are Carnival Cruise Line's "belly flop" and "hairy chest" contests.

The competitions will join a number of Carnival's Fantasy-class ships in retirement, *The Points Guy* has reported.

A Carnival spokesperson told the publication it wants to provide a more "family friendly poolside atmosphere".

The kitschiness and indecency of the now-defunct competitions have been replaced by a number of other lido deck activities - probably for the best!

## Hurtigruten launch events



**HURIGRUTEN** recently hosted a number of launch events across Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, commemorating its 130th anniversary next year.

A small number of travel advisors in each city attended the exclusive night of presentations, food, drinks, and giveaways, in celebration of Hurtigruten's two new iconic voyages, The Svalbard Express and The North Cape Express (**CW 16 Jun**).

APAC Managing Director and Vice President of Sales & Marketing Damian Perry along with APAC Marketing Director Joel Victoria welcomed attendees, while Regional Sales Managers Andrew Eddy, and Jerry Pilgrim (**pictured** with attendees at the Brisbane event) shared their wealth of product knowledge and entertained at their respective events.

The North Cape Express is poised to make history as Hurtigruten's first-ever sailing from Norway's capital city Oslo, venturing up to Europe's most northerly point, North Cape.

Meanwhile, the Svalbard Express is the revival of an iconic Hurtigruten voyage first sailed in 1968, cruising along the scenic Norwegian coast north

to Spitsbergen, the largest of Svalbard's islands.

Hurtigruten is also currently running a sales incentive where agents have the opportunity to win one of five cabins across these new voyages.

To learn more about the new iconic products or the incentive, **CLICK HERE**.

## NT cruise plans

**THE \$8 million Gove Port Tourism Precinct**, part of the Government of the NT's East Arnhem Regional Economic Growth Plan, proposes to support the visitation of cruise ships to the region.

The 10-year plan sets ambitious goals for economic and jobs growth across East Arnhem, including the delivery of tourism port infrastructure, for which planning is already underway.

The scheme will add marine and portside infrastructure adjacent to the Gove Boat Club in Nhulunbuy to create a marine tourism entrance to the region, which will support cruise ships to visit East Arnhem, the report said.

## NZ cruising is on!

**NEW Zealand's** maritime border reopened to all vessels at 11.59pm NZST yesterday.

From this point on, cruise ships arriving in New Zealand are classified as "Category 2 vessels", which means passengers and crew members need to be fully vaccinated, or excused for medical reasons/exempt before arriving.

There is also no requirement to test for COVID on arrival, however those arriving by air to join a cruise must meet New Zealand's air border entry requirements.

This includes presenting evidence of vaccination against COVID-19 if asked.



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