

## P&O's *Encounter* arrives in Brisbane

**THE** Brisbane International Cruise Terminal has finally swung into action as a year-round homeport, with the hugely anticipated arrival of P&O Cruises' *Pacific Encounter* on Sat.

The event was celebrated across the industry, including a group of key stakeholders (pictured) who helped heave the lines ashore.

Tiny and Rory Murphy from Hummers & Harleys; Nikki Giumelli from Bad Fishy Jet Boating; Bob Wood Cruise Group's Jay McKenzie, Hugh Dudgeon and Carmen Stevenson; Darren Webster from Kangaroo Bus Lines; Riverlife Brisbane's John Sharpe and Dan Russell from Clean Cruising put their shoulders to the rope to mark their anticipation of the return of cruise after more than two years.

Bannered as "Queensland's Own," the ship's Brisbane debut was also hailed by President of Carnival Australia and P&O Cruises, Marguerite Fitzgerald, who said Queensland, with more cruise destinations than any other Australian state, was a "vital element in the rebuilding of



cruise tourism in Australia and in our international region".

"It is fantastic to know that Queensland again has its own P&O ship to carry on a long tradition of having a ship based year-round in Brisbane, including the much-loved *Pacific Dawn* that did more than 500 transits of the Brisbane River," she said.

"Queensland has already done so much to support the restart of cruising with the phased return of domestic itineraries, but it can now also be the springboard for

the reopening of cruising in our region," Fitzgerald added.

*Encounter* is set to become a familiar sight in Brisbane, with 24 departures planned before the end of the year and another 54 cruises scheduled out of the Queensland capital in 2023.

Fitzgerald said "we are looking forward to a near normal summer cruise season around Australia in 2022-23 and *Pacific Encounter* will be a big part of that ongoing success story here in Queensland".

## Hapag-Lloyd deal

**HAPAG-LLOYD** is offering 25% off fares and no single supplement for an Antarctic expedition cruises ex Buenos Aires aboard its *Hanseatic Inspiration* departing in late Jan next year, as well as an inspirational Great Lakes itinerary in Jun 2023.

The deals are not listed online - for details call Landmark Travel on +61 2 9977 7100.

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## Win a bottle of bubbly with **Cruise Weekly**

**AS THE** official media partner of this week's CLIA Cruise360 Conference and Exhibition in Sydney, **Cruise Weekly** is offering the industry the opportunity to win a bottle of fancy French Champagne.

For your chance to win simply create an Instagram post of your celebrations (make sure your account is set to public) at either the pre-event cocktail

party on Wed night or during the conference on Thu, tagging @cruiseweekly and using the hashtag #ILoveCruiseWeekly.

We'll announce the winner on Fri as part of a special Cruise360 souvenir edition.



## Virgin boosts team

**VIRGIN** Voyages is expanding its Florida-based sales support team by 150%, as well as adding more field sales managers including a new Canada-based full-time role.

## Cruise Weekly today

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

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**FANS** of the *Game of Thrones* fantasy TV series can relive their wildest dreams aboard several Celebrity Cruises departures next year.

*Celebrity Beyond* will voyage through Italy, Croatia and Montenegro, taking passengers to key filming locations from the series including Dubrovnik (King's Landing) and the island of Lokrum where the Iron Throne sits.

A *Celebrity Apex* cruise from Amsterdam to Athens will call at a range of ports in Portugal, Spain and Malta, with a highlight being a visit to the Alcazar of Seville - also known as The Royal Palace in the show.

And an 11-night "Iceland and Ireland" sailing ex Southampton will take *Celebrity Silhouette* guests to several locations used in the show, including a Trip to Winterfell shore excursion involving a visit to Castle Ward Estate in Northern Ireland, complete with medieval archery in special Game of Thrones outfits.

That voyage will also feature a glacier safari from Akureyri in Iceland's north evoking the vast landscapes beyond the famed Wall in the series, with excursion leaders fervently hoping their passengers don't meet any White Walkers while they're there.

## Excitement builds for Royal return

**ROYAL** Caribbean International hosted a themed event at Warner Bros. Movie World on the Gold Coast last week, with about 400 trade and industry partners together celebrating the upcoming arrival of *Quantum of the Seas*.

From 01 Nov the Aussie favourite ship will mark Royal Caribbean's debut at the Brisbane International Cruise Terminal, homeporting from the newly developed \$177 million facility.

"As the most innovative ship to set sail from Brisbane, *Quantum* offers the boldest, most unique adventures Queensland has ever seen," said Royal Caribbean VP and MD Gavin Smith.

"In only 76 days *Quantum of the Seas* will celebrate its inaugural sailing from Brisbane, the first of many as part of our highly anticipated and long-awaited debut to Queensland," he said.

Smith said the Royal Caribbean team was grateful for the support of its travel trade partners, the Queensland tourism community, Village Roadshow Theme Parks and Port of Brisbane, who



all joined with the cruise line to celebrate the exciting and successful days that lie ahead.

The event also highlighted the partnership between Royal Caribbean and Village Roadshow Theme Parks which is offering guests sailing from Brisbane on *Quantum of the Seas* the "ultimate end-to-end Queensland getaway" combining a cruise with exclusive accommodation and attraction packages.

Smith said the offering allowed guests to combine two amazing family experiences into one holiday with amazing perks.

He's pictured **above** with the



Royal Caribbean Australian team, as well as **inset** with Port of Brisbane CEO Neil Stephens and Village Roadshow Theme Parks CEO Clark Kirby.

### Ambition charter

**THE** Scottish Government has chartered Ambassador Cruise Line's *Ambition* (formerly *AIDAMira*) to house Ukrainian refugees.

The ship, which is set to enter service for Ambassador next year, can accommodate about 1,200 people, with the extra housing required after an influx under the country's temporary visa scheme.

### NZ Cruise Association elects new Chair

**DESTINATION** Marlborough's Jacqui Lloyd has been appointed as the new Chair of the New Zealand Cruise Association after the organisation's Annual General Meeting last week.

She takes over from Debbie Summers who has led the organisation for the last six years and remains a board member after not seeking re-election as Chair.

Former Tourism NZ executive Tansy Tompkins was elected as NZCA's new Deputy Chair, with other Board members including Paul Yeo from Tourism New Zealand, Oscar Nathan of Tourism Bay of Plenty, Avinash Mirthy from Ports of Auckland, Annie Dundas from Auckland Unlimited, Sean Marsh of Te Puia and David Kriel from Port Napier.