



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news as well as a full page from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

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For further information, head to **page 3**.

## Ferries to complement new Qld port?

**BRISBANE** needs an \$8-a-ticket "FastCat" service from its new International Cruise Terminal (pictured) at the mouth of the city's river to downtown, Royal Caribbean International Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith has said.

In an interview with the *Brisbane Times*, Smith said a cheap river connection downtown should be prioritised, to supplant the expensive taxi ride - which can currently cost around \$50.

"One of the pieces of infrastructure that I think could work is putting a ferry pier [at the cruise terminal]," Smith said.

"You could get off the ship and get on a 'FastCat' and get to somewhere at the bottom of the Botanical Gardens, not far from Roma Street, instead of going on the road network."

"If you look at the visiting ships



across the summer who are calling in Brisbane for the day, wouldn't it be better if 1,500 Americans, Brits, and Aussies got on a 'FastCat' and had a beautiful river journey showcasing the city, down to the downtown rather than sitting on a coach through an unpleasant road journey?"

The potential of a new ferry stop at the new cruise terminal was raised earlier this year, in a submission to an expert panel tasked with refining Queensland's

tourism offering in preparation for the 2032 Summer Olympics.

The Port of Brisbane told *TBT* Brisbane City Council, which operates the CityCats, has not spoken with them about a new ferry wharf near the cruise ship terminal.

"Water connectivity via a small craft facility, which could promote tourism opportunities upstream and in Moreton Bay, is something the Port and council continue to discuss," the Port noted.

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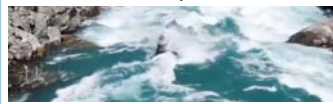


**A NEW** Zealand boater who descended perilous rapids on the Kawarau River for his 15 minutes of fame has been slapped with a NZD\$1,500 fine.

The daredevil, who videoed the feat and posted it to YouTube, was fined for entering a prohibited area of the incredibly dangerous rapids.

Despite the rather involved production value, which included drone shots and footage from the shore, the skipper contends he was unaware the footage would be posted online.

According to online sources, videos of similar popularity can earn anywhere between USD\$3 to USD\$5 per view, maxing out the publisher's earning potential at almost USD\$200,000 - much more than the fine he paid!



## Loyalty accounts to merge



**EVERGREEN** Tours' loyalty program is merging into Emerald Cruises' Explorer program, allowing members of either or both schemes to combine status benefits across the two brands.

Account holders were informed of the change via email yesterday, with passengers of either operator to now enjoy "better guest benefits" as an Explorer member.

This will see all Evergreen Explorer points transferred to a new Emerald Explorer account, or merged into an existing Emerald Explorer account; no action will be required.

Passengers will earn Explorer points when travelling with

either Emerald or Evergreen, all of which will be deposited into a single Emerald Explorer account.

You will be able to redeem your benefits when you travel with Emerald or Evergreen.

The change will be taking place over the next few days, with all personal data to remain secure.

Account holders will be notified via email of any changes in relation to the new Emerald Explorer loyalty account.

The email said more details about the Emerald Explorer program will be shared over the coming months.

More information on the program can be found [HERE](#).

**Pictured:** *Emerald Azzurra*.

## A tee-rific deal

**COSTA** Cruises' "Cruise & Golf" combines a cruise with some of the most beautiful golf clubs in the Mediterranean & the Arab world.

Starting this winter, "Cruise & Golf" will be available for *Costa Smeralda's* Mediterranean cruises, as well as *Costa Toscana's* itineraries in the Arabian Gulf.

Golf lovers will have the opportunity to play in some of the most beautiful golf clubs in Italy, France, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman during calls in the destinations.

Some of the clubs available include the Emirates Golf Club, The Els Club At Dubai Sport City, Abu Dhabi Golf Club, Yas Links Abu Dhabi, Al Mouj Golf, and Ghala Golf Club.

In Europe, golfers can choose from Marco Simone Golf & Country Club, Circolo del Golf Roma Acquasanta, Golf Garlenda, St. Anna Golf, Real Club de Golf El Prat, Club de Golf Terramar, Golf Son Gual Mallorca, T Golf Calvia, and more.

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Leanne Kuntze,  
MTA Travel, NSW



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