



Cruise Weekly today

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

Dudley steps back from Ecrusing

ECRUSING Travel founder Brett Dudley has resigned from his role as a consultant to the company.

Dudley, who founded Ecrusing in 2000, sold the company, and his other travel business Latitude 33, to Sky Bound Capital in Feb 2020 (CW 18 Feb 2020).

However, Dudley yesterday informed the industry he has decided that "given the current and continuing uncertainty of the industry, it was only fair to the company to resign".

Dudley insisted "it is not the end of the road for me".

Tehan: cruise to resume "ASAP"

ALTHOUGH PM Scott Morrison and Minister for Health Greg Hunt failed to address cruise in their press conference yesterday, Minister for Tourism Dan Tehan has revealed his desire for the industry to restart "as soon as we possibly can" (CW breaking news yesterday).

Speaking on Sky News' *The Kenny Report* yesterday, Tehan said following the reopening of Australia to international tourists in a fortnight, cruising would also resume at some point this year.

"My hope would be, over the coming weeks and months, we'll be able to resume cruising," he said.

While Tehan offered no specific restart date, he mentioned discussions had been opened with state and territory leaders.

However, the lack of a firm date or plan was no comfort to Cruise Lines International Association's



(CLIA) local Managing Director Joel Katz, who emphasised Australia is still the only major cruise market in the world without such details revealed.

"Opening up to international visitors is great news for the inbound tourism industry, but... the cost to the Australian economy of the ongoing cruise

ban is now approaching \$10 billion and we've still heard nothing from government on how we can move forward," he said.

"We're now in the ridiculous situation where international borders are opening and Australians can travel overseas to cruise, but they can't sail domestically in their own waters."

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WE ALL miss hitting the water aboard a cruise ship, but this is ridiculous.

A woman floating on an air mattress has been rescued from an Oklahoma lake, after trying to raft to a boat.

A man accompanying the woman on the treacherous voyage made it back to shore, but the woman continued to float for two days before she was discovered by crew members working for BNSF Railway.

The woman was freezing when she was found, her hands were cut up and bleeding, and she struggled to walk, but the crew was able to warm her up with the train's engine.

She was taken to the hospital and is expected to recover.



EW expands barge fleet



EUROPEAN Waterways (EW) has bought two new canal barges, reflecting a surge in popularity for the cruise style.

The line's two new barges, *Enchante* (pictured) and *Finesse*, are double-decker vessels carrying up to eight passengers and a crew of five.

The barges feature luxurious en suite cabins, large sun decks for al fresco dining, and a spa pool.

Other highlights include a spacious saloon with an open demonstration galley where the chef prepares the day's gourmet

meals in full view of guests.

Enchante will cruise the Canal du Midi, while *Finesse* will explore the Canal de Bourgogne and the Canal du Centre.

The purchases expands EW's fleet to a total of 17 vessels.

"The surge in canal barge cruising is part of a growing trend among travellers who seek out 'slow travel' experiences that allow them to become immersed in the history, culture and cuisine of the cruise region," said the cruise line's Managing Director Derek Banks.

Windstar appt

WINDSTAR Cruises has hired a new Director of Revenue Planning, Cristienne De Souza.

The new position reports to Windstar's Vice President of Revenue & Itinerary Planning Kristin Badgett, and is based in Miami – the cruise line's official new headquarters, starting this Jun.

De Souza will work with Badgett to determine strategy and implement pricing for the Windstar fleet.

Wish's nightmare

DISNEY Cruise Line's newest ship *Disney Wish* has been delayed by six weeks.

The cruise line announced the hold-up is due to COVID-related issues at its shipyard in Germany, Meyer Werft, which is owned by the embattled Genting Hong Kong (*CW* 25 Jan), and was recently refused a state bailout.

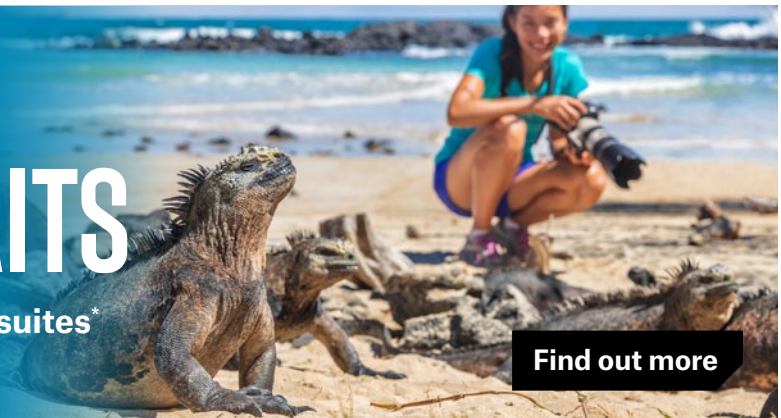
Wish was set to embark on her maiden voyage on 09 Jun, but will now set sail for the first time on 14 Jul, with 12 sailings cancelled in total.

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