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On location in Punta Arenas, Chile

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of Aurora Expeditions, aboard flagship *Greg Mortimer* as she heads to Antarctica.

AURORA Expeditions recently restarted its 'Antarctic Explorer' itineraries following the pandemic-enforced break, and *Cruise Weekly* is lucky enough to be on board what is just her second voyage of the season.

The journey started with an overnight stay in Hotel Dreams del Estrecho in Punta Arenas, which overlooks its namesake, the Strait of Magellan, from where *Greg Mortimer* departed yesterday.

The ship is now navigating through the southern Chilean sea route towards the country's spectacular fjords, as she begins her trip to Antarctica - follow our journey in **CW** next week.

Oceania sale

OCEANIA Cruises is offering a host of included amenities and upfront bonus commission, along with US\$100 shipboard credit as part of an Australia Day sale.

Clients are encouraged to book early to secure the best availability, with OLife Choices options including prepaid gratuities and a choice of free shore excursions, free beverage packages or shipboard credit.

Details on the **cover page**.

Cruise Weekly today

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

CLIA backs industry day of action

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has developed new resources specifically to support the planned Australian national travel and cruise industry Day of Action next Tue 25 Jan (**CW** yesterday).

CLIA MD Joel Katz wrote to members yesterday, noting that with the passing of yet another month with no progress on a resumption, "it's not surprising that our cruise community is angry and frustrated with our elected officials as we approach the two-year anniversary of the cruise ban".

The Day of Action will involve groups of travel agents, suppliers, tour operators and other local businesses impacted by the cruising impasse gathering at MP's offices across the country, with the initiative being coordinated through the fast-growing Aussie Travel Action Group (ATAG) which has already amassed more than 1,300 members in the five days since it was established.

Participants will gather in groups of up to 20 at electoral offices between 11am and 1pm on Tue 25 Jan, sharing their personal stories of how the cruise and travel bans are impacting their lives and businesses.

"As agents and suppliers converge on MP offices...it is an opportunity to share your personal stories and highlight the urgent need for action from our governments to lift the ban and

CLIA
A Model for Responsible Sailing

Enhance new health measures and constructive engagement with governments are facilitating a carefully controlled resumption of cruising in the majority of key cruise markets around the world, including Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, US, UK, parts of Europe, the Caribbean, and Canada.

Almost six million guests have successfully sailed on hundreds of cruises since restart.

Worldwide, CLIA ocean-going cruise lines have committed to extensive new health protocols in response to COVID-19 as part of a global, science-led Member Policy.

- Global, science-led health protocols
- Vaccination and 100% testing of all passengers and crew before boarding
- Strict measures to allow a carefully phased resumption
- Health protocols that go well beyond most other sectors
- Local cruising for locals only
- Cruise lines support the industry's robust Covid protocols if it means they can get back to sea.

support the devastated travel industry," Katz said in his CLIA member update.

To support the initiative, CLIA has created special downloadable resources to assist with MP meetings, including the organisation's Model for Responsible Sailing (**CLICK HERE**) and a flyer highlighting "Careful steps forward" which notes that more than 18,000 Australians rely on the cruise industry for their livelihood and deserve a pathway forward (**CLICK HERE**).

Katz noted that in Australia currently tens of thousands of COVID-19 cases are emerging each day in land-based settings, with few of the health requirements that are now an intrinsic part of cruising.

"It's now clear the incidence of COVID-19 is far lower on cruise ships than on land...the number

Seabourn targets female decision makers

SEABOURN Cruise Line has launched a new "This Is Your Moment" marketing campaign which focuses on empowered and affluent travel decision makers.

The company noted that women over 50 make 87% of travel decisions and hold US\$19 trillion in assets, with the agency behind the campaign

saying it aims to "speak to women authentically and resonate with their passions, either for themselves or with their partners, as they enter midlife and beyond".

The initiative comes as Seabourn itself enters a new chapter in its history, with the upcoming launches of its first purpose-built expedition ships.

CAREFUL STEPS FORWARD
More than 18,000 Australians rely on the cruise industry for their livelihoods and deserve a pathway forward

The cost of the cruise suspension to Australian jobs

A framework for resumption

Cruise lines globally have committed to extensive new health protocols in response to COVID-19. Developed with the help of leading medical experts internationally, these measures are among the most stringent to be found anywhere in the travel industry and are designed to uphold health and safety as the highest priority.

They include vaccination requirements and 100% testing of all passengers and crew - with a negative result required prior to boarding - as well as extensive protocols covering crew quarantine, disembarkation, sanitation, health monitoring and response procedures.

These measures are already in place and working successfully in dozens of countries worldwide. While no sailing is imminent from Canada 19, it is now clear the incidence of cases is far lower on cruise ships than on land.

With vaccination requirements, 100% testing and new health protocols in place, CLIA envisages a phased and carefully controlled resumption of cruising that begins initially with domestic sailings for Australian residents only, within an Australian bubble.

This would mean no international arrivals. It would also mean no passenger would be able to cruise to a destination that would otherwise be able to visit by land or air. At the appropriate time, this could be expanded to include a home-Tasman bubble or other regional sailings.

Careful steps forward - domestic first

of cases detected at sea is just a small fraction of passengers and crew on board and a tiny portion of the millions of people who have sailed successfully since operations resumed," he said.

The Day of Action will also utilise resources developed by the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) as part of its Mobilisation Toolkit, in support of its proposed Travel Sector Skills Retention and Recovery Package, with organisers stressing that they want to support the high level lobbying efforts being undertaken with Governments by AFTA, CLIA and the Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO).

Anyone impacted by the ban is being urged to take part in the Day of Action, with more details and full guidance available through the ATAG Facebook Group by **CLICKING HERE**.

Lindblad refinance

LINDBLAD Expeditions has announced a proposed private offering of "senior secured notes" worth US\$340 million.

The proceeds are intended to prepay in full all of the cruise line's outstanding borrowings and terminate its existing credit agreement.

The notes would be due for redemption in 2027.

RCI brings the Wonder



ROYAL Caribbean International has unveiled a lineup of more than 20 dining venues aboard its new *Wonder of the Seas* which is scheduled to debut in Mar.

The plethora of options is headlined by the new Mason Jar Southern Restaurant and Bar (pictured), alongside Giovanni's Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar, American sports bar favourites at

Playmakers Sports Bar & Arcade and New England-inspired dishes at Hooked Seafood.

Onboard favourites include Izumi, Chops Grille and 150 Central Park, along with familiar brands like Starbucks and Johnny Rockets, with *Wonder* to initially operate from Fort Lauderdale in Mar and Apr before heading to the Mediterranean.

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Celebrity incentive

CREATIVE Cruising is offering the opportunity for a top selling travel advisor to win a twin Veranda cabin aboard an upcoming 2022/23 *Celebrity Eclipse* local sailing.

The offer is available to agents who make any *Celebrity Cruises* international bookings through Creative Cruising, with the prize going to the advisor who deposits the most bookings between 15 Dec 2021 and 14 Feb 2022.

A range of special offers are available for clients over the European season, with savings of up to \$1,600 on packages incorporating wholesale rates - more on 1300 362 599.

Atlas doubles up in Antarctica

FLEDGLING expedition operator Atlas Ocean Voyages has announced it will deploy two vessels in Antarctica for the 2022-23 season.

The recently launched *World Navigator* will be joined by sister ship *World Traveller*, together offering a choice of 20 voyages ranging from nine- to twenty-night trips between Nov 2022 and Mar 2023.

The vessels are part of a planned five-strong fleet which will also see the addition of *World Seeker*, *World Adventurer* and *World Discoverer* by the end of 2023.

In the USA Atlas is currently promoting an offer of 20% savings plus up to US\$2,000 when booking with a travel advisor.



A **CRUISE** ship is definitely a more comfortable way to explore the south seas, but a so-called "real life aquaman" has done it differently after surviving a 27-hour swim following the Tongan tsunami this week.

57-year old Lisala Folau says he was swept out to sea after attempting to escape the huge waves by climbing a tree on his sparsely-populated home island of Atata, the location of the Royal Sunset Island Resort.

"I just floated, bashed around by the big waves that kept coming," he told Tongan media agency *Broadcom Broadcasting*.

At one point a police boat passed by but he was unable to attract the attention of officers, and slowly managed to swim about 8km to the main island of Tongatapu, ultimately making landfall at about 10pm on Sun.

Royal on sale now

ROYAL Caribbean International is offering complimentary upgrades, savings of up to 30% and up to US\$600 onboard credit per stateroom as part of a newly launched January Long Weekend Sale which is in market until next Wed, Australia Day 26 Jan.

"With Royal setting sail in Australia from Oct...what better way to celebrate than booking an action-packed getaway on a Royal Caribbean Quantum Class ship?" the company said, with plans to deploy *Quantum of the Seas* and *Ovation of the Seas* locally.