



Brazier to head Ambassador Australia

AMBASSADOR Cruise Line (ACL) has announced its first local appointment, Dean Brazier (pictured) as Head of Sales & Marketing.

Based out of Adelaide, he holds more than 30 years' experience in the industry, and previously led CMV locally.

This role will see Brazier work closely with travel advisors, wholesalers, trade partners, and tour operators, where he will help develop and grow their business.

"It is wonderful to be part of reigniting the cruise industry here in Australia, working with Ambassador to introduce a premium-value and distinctive product that upholds traditional cruise values," he said.

"I am really looking forward to working with local agents and partners in market as we prepare for the arrival of Ambassador Cruise Line's ship *Ambience*".



Chief Executive Officer Christian Verhounig added his pride in the ACL fleet and offering, and said he is delighted the cruise line will be entering the Australian Market after a successful inaugural season in the United Kingdom.

ACL is currently sailing for the British market from its home port of Tilbury, and will sail into

Australian waters from 2024, when *Ambience* arrives in Sydney (CW 23 May).

The ship will come Down Under as part of her Grand Round the World Cruise, in Feb 2024.

ACL is the first cruise line to launch in the United Kingdom in a decade, emerging from the ashes of Cruise & Maritime Voyages (CMV) (CW 14 May 2021), which was liquidated during the pandemic.

Itineraries cruise across the Mediterranean, the Arctic, the British Isles, the Canary Islands and more, from Tilbury.

ACL will also introduce cruises from Newcastle, Dundee, Liverpool, Belfast, Bristol and Falmouth next year.

The cruise line has two ships in its fleet - *Ambience*, which began sailing in Apr, and *Ambition*, which will sail on her inaugural season in May.

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news.

Grand skips Newy

PRINCESS Cruises' *Grand Princess* has skipped her stop in Newcastle, after reporting "slightly elevated" COVID cases.

Grand will now dock and debark her passengers in Melbourne tomorrow, after Princess scuppered the ship's Newcastle call, in consultation with HNE Health.

"The decision was made in consultation with NSW Health as the Newcastle and greater Hunter Valley region is managing the current rise in community transmissions including the demand on its local hospitals and healthcare services," Princess told CW.





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NEW across-the-pond friends have been made, after a mini-boat launched by a school in the United States has been found by children in Ireland. The boat was released from New Jersey in the North Atlantic Ocean last Apr, and has finally been found by children in Cork.

The vessel, which was equipped with a GPS tracker, also included letters written by the 35 sixth graders.

The two schools then organised a Zoom call between each other.

The Irish students are currently in the process of repainting the boat, designing a new sail, and packing her with items representative of their lives, after which she will be re-floated.

A tracker will be equipped to allow the students to follow its progress, and hopefully, find more friends somewhere else in the world - maybe Australia?

Viking's new deal

VIKING'S deal of the week is a Portugal's River of Gold cruise, with savings of up to \$2,000.

The 10-day cruisetour travels from Lisbon to Porto, and is now on sale from \$4,495 per person twin share.

For more information on the cruise, [CLICK HERE](#).

World up for auction



GIANT former Dream Cruises ship *World Dream* (pictured) is set to be sold via a sealed-tender auction in Singapore.

World has been placed on the auction block eight months after Dream Cruises ceased all operations, and the ship was arrested by KFW IPEX-Bank (**CW** 01 Mar).

The High Court of Singapore has ordered the sale, with bids due to the Sheriff of Singapore's office by 21 Dec.

Estimates within the industry cite *World* to be worth in the region of USD\$650 million, with a strong possibility Singapore-based Resorts World Cruises (RWC) is interested (**CW** 19 May), which itself is a phoenix company of Dream.

RWC launched in May, and is chartering *Genting Dream* from her Chinese lessors (**CW** 13 Jul).

World has been looked after by a 127-strong crew that has maintained the ship in a "ready condition for deployment",

according to the Sheriff.

Maintenance and housekeeping activities have been ongoing, with *World's* air-conditioning system being kept running to ensure proper ventilation and to keep a low-humidity environment in the common interior spaces and passenger cabins.

The sale will leave *Explorer Dream* as the former cruise line's only unsold ship.

Explorer is currently laid up off Port Klang in Malaysia.

Cunard '24 out

CUNARD Line has launched its new 2024 summer season, offering almost 200 voyages to more than 90 destinations.

The season will be the first *Queen Anne* joins the fleet, with cruises for Apr 2024 to Jan 2025 on sale on 07 Dec for Cunard World Club members.

The program goes on general sale the next day.

Guests will be able to make the most of more time in port thanks to several late evening departures and overnight stays, in destinations such as Reykjavik, Tromso, Rotterdam and Quebec.

Queen Anne will set sail on 03 May 2024 for her seven-night maiden voyage to A Coruna and Lisbon.

She will then depart for a 14-night voyage in the Canary Islands before travelling around the British Isles, taking in highlights in Scotland and Ireland, as well as Cunard's founding homeport, Liverpool.

Queen Anne will sail from Southampton for the majority of her inaugural season.

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Eclipse Starlink

SPACEX'S Starlink premium wi-fi service is now available on Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Eclipse*.

The ship, which is sailing in Australia this season, will offer her guests high-speed, low-latency connectivity.

Eclipse's first local sailing to offer Starlink was the 03 Nov, 12-night New Zealand itinerary from Sydney.

Celebrity parent company Royal Caribbean Group announced the deployment of Starlink across all its brands earlier this year.

Another SH ship in limbo?

HELSINKI Shipyard has started a tender to free another Swan Hellenic (SH) ship from her limbo.

The incomplete expedition vessel is being built for the cruise line, which is working with Russian leasing company GTLK, which is currently under sanction and therefore will



be forced to default on the ship. SH in Jun bought its second ship *Vega* (pictured) outright, after encountering the same situation with Helsinki and GTLK (**CW** 28 Jun).

The contracts initially called for the vessels to operate under long-term charters to SH, after being delivered to GTLK.

"Helsinki Shipyard Oy seeks to obtain the best fair market value for the vessel and reserves the right to reject any and all bids," the company said.

Bids are due on 09 Dec, with the winner to be announced three days later.

SH ordered *Diana* in Oct 2020 as a larger version of the first two vessels, also built by the Helsinki Shipyard.

Diana is scheduled for delivery early next year, with her first voyage intended to cruise at the end of Mar from Piraeus.

She is scheduled to operate in the Mediterranean, before repositioning to Northern Europe and the Arctic later in the year.

SH recently appointed former Dream Cruises local head Brigita Devries as its local General Manager (**CW** 26 Oct).



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

It's deadline day

THE last-minute submissions are flowing in, but there's still time if you haven't already nominated for CLIA's 20th Cruise Industry Awards.

Today is the last day to make submissions, so get your nomination in before 11.59pm to be in the running.

Every entrant is a strong contender this year and no effort is too humble.

We're not simply celebrating sales – this year's awards are all about recognising the strength and resilience of our travel agent community at a time when everyone has worked so hard for our industry's revival.

We're looking for CLIA travel agents who deserve to be celebrated for their efforts.

We want to hear about outstanding agents, inventive cruise promotions, creative Cruise Month campaigns, or the rising star in your team.

In all there are 18 categories up for awards this year – our first since 2020 – including 11 categories open to self-nomination or peer nomination.

Winners will be announced at a gala celebration on 11 Mar at the Big Top, Luna Park Sydney.

Nominations are open to all CLIA members – **CLICK HERE** for full details and to nominate.



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