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CLIA takes out NTIA training award

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has been named the top travel industry training institution in Australia, taking out the category in last Sat's National Travel Industry Awards (NTIAs).

The organisation was up against stiff competition, with other finalists in the category including CTM Academy, the Helloworld Travel Academy and TAFE Qld.

The award was accepted by CLIA Head of International Training Development, Peter Kollar and CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz (**pictured**), who said the win was "pretty amazing".

"It really demonstrates that the industry has come together, it's a tribute to everybody in the travel sector and all those cruise specialist travel agents who love the CLIA training," Katz added.

Kollar noted training and upskilling the cruise expertise of



travel advisors was intrinsic to CLIA's organisational DNA.

"All our team have different roles, but they all contribute to professional development, everyone's in on it.

"We're all about developing community and we love it - and we get support from our

community back and that's the most important thing," he said.

About 1,200 people from across the industry attended the NTIAs at Sydney's International Convention Centre - more from the industry's night of nights on pages **2** and **3** of today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a cover page from **Royal Caribbean International**.

Join the Royal Caribbean Club

ROYAL Caribbean International is inviting travel advisors to sign up for its new Club Royal travel partner portal, which was previously known as Homeport.

The move comes in the lead-up to the highly anticipated arrival of *Quantum of the Seas* and *Ovation of the Seas* in Australia, with both mega-ships to operate their first post-pandemic seasons out of Brisbane and Sydney in the coming weeks

For more information and to sign up see the **cover page**.

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MICHAEL Middleton from MyCruises was understandably excited about taking out two categories in Sat's NTIAs (see p3), and while the company has bounced back from COVID-19 it appears he is personally still a little affected.

Interviewed on-camera by CW's own Adam Bishop (also known as the travel industry's Ryan Seacrest) after receiving one of the awards, Middleton was asked if the MyCruises team might be tempted to carry him on their shoulders to celebrate the triumph.

"I wouldn't go that far...I'm actually having trouble with the old waistline after COVID," was his honest response.

Double NTIA win for Norwegian team

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has been honoured for its strong commitment to the travel trade, taking out two key categories at the National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) ceremony in Sydney last Sat night.

The first win came in the newly introduced Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign - Supplier category, with Norwegian (pictured) recognised for the pandemic-inspired 'Walk for Wellness' mental health initiative, which is now in its third year.

NCL National Sales Manager Damian Borg said the concept was developed in the early stages of COVID-19, and "wasn't about sales, it wasn't about branding, it was about creating an atmosphere and an environment for the industry to engage and bring the industry together".

"The camaraderie, the conversations we started with



people who were doing it tough at home in lockdown, via a simple app and a walking challenge... honestly I'm lost for words".

Minutes later, the overjoyed team was on the stage again, this time taking out the Most Outstanding Industry Support - Cruise NTIA award.

Ben Angell, Norwegian SVP Asia Pacific, said "we were thrilled to be a finalist, such a high calibre

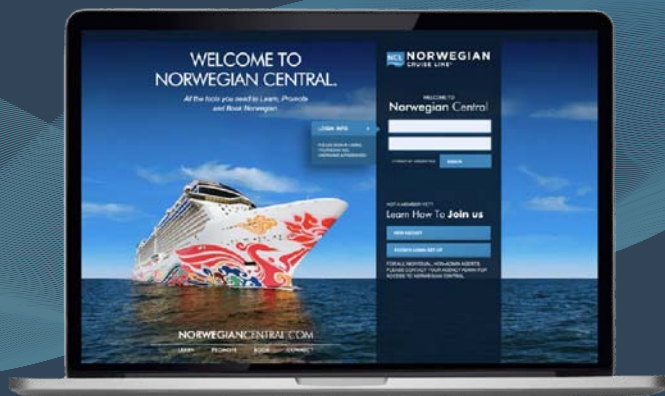
of finalists tonight, to walk away with two awards is outstanding".

"Both awards aren't really about NCL, they are about the trade partners we are here to support.

"We are delighted to be a part of this community...the travel agents have shown how resilient they are," he said.

"This is the beginning of the next phase and it's going to be a very positive one".

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Creative Cruising wins big



THE team from Creative Cruising just couldn't wipe the smiles from their faces after being named Most Outstanding Wholesaler at the 2022 National Travel Industry Awards last Sat.

GM Caroline Hitchen said she was absolutely thrilled at taking out the award after "such a hard couple of years".

"Thanks to the whole team at Creative Cruising alongside our

network of travel agency partners who have supported our business through exceptionally difficult times," she said.

Pointing to the crystal trophy which will now be adorning the Creative Cruises boardroom, the wholesaler's Sales & Marketing Executive Viktoryia Shliashko added that "we've worked very hard over the last couple of years, and I think maybe it shows!"

Ponant 'Explore to Inspire' returns in Nov

PONANT this morning announced a new round of its popular 'Explore to Inspire' roadshow series, with registrations now open for the events which will take place across Australia and New Zealand next month.

The move follows an extremely successful first round of events which saw more than 2,300 attendees register to take part in gatherings across six major Australian cities earlier this year.

The series will make its Auckland debut on 15 Nov, followed by Wellington and Christchurch and then crossing the Tasman to Canberra, the Gold Coast and Noosa with the aim of allowing travel agents and their clients to immerse themselves in Ponant's luxury expeditions and small ship voyages across the globe.

The new roadshow series events are open for registration now by **CLICKING HERE**.

MyCruises on the podium - twice!



IGNITE Travel Group's MyCruises had a huge night on Sat at the National Travel Industry Awards, taking out the Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign - Agency category and also the Most Outstanding Online Travel Agency categories.

The marketing campaign gong was for the company's launch of its River Collection program, with General Manager Michael Middleton saying he was really pleased at the recognition.

"Obviously it's been a challenging couple of years, but for us it was a great opportunity

to launch a new brand, launch a new product, and it's gone really well," he said.

Later in the evening the news that MyCruises had also taken out the OTA category was icing on the cake.

Middleton paid tribute to his team, saying "we've got an amazing group of people, they love what they do, we're so passionate about what we do".

"Our suppliers as well, they've been with us every step along the way...we're super happy, super proud of what we've achieved."

Hurtigruten appoints

AMBER Wilson has been confirmed as the new Sales Director for Hurtigruten Expeditions, joining the cruise line after her former role with Rocky Mountaineer.

Also new to the group is former APT Travel Group and IHG Hotels marketer Marisa Jones, who becomes Hutigruten Expeditions Marketing Manager Asia Pacific.

Silversea session

SILVERSEA Cruises is giving trade partners an "insider's look at *Silver Endeavour*" in a webinar presented by Conrad Combrink, Vice President Expeditions, Destination and Itinerary Management.

Endeavour formerly sailed as *Crystal Endeavor* prior to the former Crystal Cruises collapse.