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cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Thursday 17th Aug 2023

## Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a cover wrap from **Norwegian Cruise Line** and a full page from Viking.

## NCL flash sale

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's (NCL) flash sale ends today, offering up to 35% off sailings, a beverage package, and more. For more information, visit the cover page of today's Cruise Weekly.

## Only two weeks left

THERE is only two weeks left to win \$10,000 thanks to Viking's 'The Heart of Exploring' promotion.

For more information on how to win, head to page 3 of today's Cruise Weekly.

# AmaWaterways to launch in ANZ

**RIVER** cruise juggernaut AmaWaterways will next month establish an Australian office and begin selling its full portfolio in the region, Cruise Weekly can exclusively reveal.

The move was confirmed by AmaWaterways Director Gary Murphy (pictured), who yesterday told CW the company's long-time partner and shareholder, Australian Pacific Holdings (APH), has "chosen not to charter our ships past 2024".

APT Travel Group, a subsidiary of APH, has represented the AmaWaterways product in Australia for many years, under a long-standing exclusive partnership initiated in 2005 when founder Geoff McGeary invested in the company alongside Brendan Vacations and co-founders Rudi Schreiner and Kristin Karst.

In 2017 private equity giant



Certares became the fourth investor in AmaWaterways, and in 2021 a restructure of the shareholdings saw APH's stake diluted to about 8%.

Murphy will visit Australia in Sep to set up the new office, which will be modelled on AmaWaterways' trade-friendly British model.

"All of our business will be coming via the travel advisor community," he said, adding that the change will also see the full AmaWaterways product range offered in Australia.

"We'll still offer the very popular Magnificent Europe itinerary, but we also have lots of seven-day cruises that line up perfectly with other seven-day cruises," he said.

AmaWaterways also has new ships on the Nile and the Mekong, and "we're really excited about 2024 when we will become the first river cruise line to operate two vessels on the Magdalena River in Colombia" with the Mar launch of the 60-passenger AmaMagdalena, followed by AmaMelodia in Jun.

Murphy confirmed that all pricing will be in Australian dollars, adding "we are prepared to start taking business early next month".

He foreshadowed the establishment of a full team to service Australian travel advisors including a local call centre.

APT declined the opportunity to comment on the move.





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ALMOST 100,000 rubber ducks plunged into the Chicago River yesterday.

However, rather than the mass-pollution event of the millennium, the ducks took the dive as part of the Chicago Ducky Derby, to raise money for the Special Olympics.

The annual event sees rubber ducks, all of which have been "adopted" by a sponsor, crash into the River and race to the finish line

The winner of this year's Derby won a new SUV, while other prizes up for grabs included an all-inclusive trip to the Riviera Maya, cash, and more.

## A Grand-eur new spa

**NEW** and exclusive Serene Spa & Wellness treatments will be able to be enjoyed aboard Regent Seven Seas Cruises' Seven Seas Grandeur when she sets sail in Nov.

The new experience will utilise the restorative power of an amber & quartz crystal bed, and an advanced treatment table for a Zero Gravity Wellness Massage.

A new Tahitian Hydration Ritual treatment has also been created exclusively for those staying in the palatial 413m2 Regent suite, which can be enjoyed in the accommodation's private spa.

## New Flashback cruise



**HUMAN** Nature, John Paul Young, Marcia Hines, The Sweet, and more have been announced among the lineup for Choose Your Cruise's new Flashback voyage.

Sailing from 30 Oct to 09 Nov 2024 on board Carnival Cruise Line's Carnival Luminosa, Flashback will depart from Sydney, stopping at Noumea, Lifou, and Mare.

More than 30 artists and DJs will perform throughout the eightnight festival at sea.

Other line-up highlights include American guitarist Al McKay, who is a former member of Earth, Wind & Fire; Bjorn Again, a musical tribute act mimicking ABBA; and the Boney M. Xperience.

"We are thrilled to introduce Flashback as our latest cruise brand, offering a one-of-a-kind journey into the music and memories that have shaped our lives," Chooe Your Cruise Chief **Executive Officer Mick Manov** said.

"With an incredible line-up of artists, stunning destinations, and the vibrant energy of a throwback party, this cruise promises to be an unmatched experience for music enthusiasts and travellers alike."

## An iron-clad speaker

**AUSTRALIAN** triathlete Craig Alexander (pictured) will keynote the Australian Cruise Association (ACA) conference breakfast on 01 Sep.

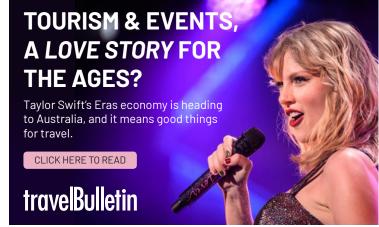
The session will be the final event on the annual conference's program, before the members break for the Association's AGM.

"Craig embodies the theme of our conference this year, 'Full Steam Ahead'," ACA Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel said.

"His incredible passion and commitment to his field will undoubtedly be an inspiration."

The breakfast will be held at conference host Novotel Wollongong Northbeach.





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RIVER PRICING IN 23 RIVER PRICING IN 2023

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