



Cruise Weekly today

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

MRPS train offer

COMPLIMENTARY train trips from Melbourne to Echuca are now included on Murray River Paddlesteamers' (MRPS) overnight Murray cruises.

The move has been prompted by recent hikes in fuel prices.

MRPS has also announced savings for couples and solos on this year's winter cruises when booking before 30 Apr.

A saving of 10% and a cut in the solo surcharge have been announced for MRPS's three-, four-, and seven-night cruises this winter aboard *Emmylou*.

Those who journey with MRPS in Jul will also receive free entry to Moama Lights.

Another icon has begun

ROYAL Caribbean International's next iconic adventure has begun, with the cruise line's second Icon-class ship officially underway.

Arriving in 2025, the start of the vessel's production was marked in Turku on Tue, where her first piece of steel was cut.

Both the Royal Caribbean and Meyer Turku teams dedicated to building the ship were in attendance at the traditional ceremony (**pictured**).

The soon-to-be-named ship will follow the debut of the eponymous *Icon of the Seas* in Jan 2024, which herself marked the milestone of floating on water for the first time late last month (**CW 25 Jan**).

After the debut of the second Icon-class ship, there will be one more vessel in the project to



follow, in 2026.

More details about the second ship, including her name, will be revealed at a later date.

It has been an encouraging month for Royal Caribbean Group (RCG), which in addition to its latest construction milestone, returned to a positive adjusted EBITDA (USD\$711.6 million) and operating cash flow (**CW 08 Feb**).

Despite reporting a loss for the year, President & Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty noted RCG is experiencing a record-breaking wave season, with a booked position approaching previous record highs and at higher prices.



On location aboard **Regatta**

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Oceania Cruises, as *Regatta* arrives in New Zealand tomorrow.

SCENIC cruising is on the agenda, with *Regatta's* guests privileged to be able to experience the majesty of New Zealand's South Island sounds from the ship's comfort and convenience.

Tomorrow after arriving in New Zealand after an exceptionally smooth cruise from Australia we will spend the day experiencing the stunning vistas of Doubtful Sound, Milford Sound and Dusky Sound, before making our way to Dunedin to experience our first NZ port.

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First Chinese ship

CHINA'S first home-grown cruise ship is almost 90% finished, according to its maker, Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding.

It is China's first foray into manufacturing large cruise ships, and has been in the works since Oct 2019.

AU Cruise Calendar



Current ports of call in Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>Island Princess</i>	18 Feb
<i>Arcadia</i>	19 Feb
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	20 Feb
MELBOURNE	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	17 Feb
<i>Viking Mars</i>	18 Feb
PENNESHAW	
<i>MS Zuiderdam</i>	17 Feb
PORT ADELAIDE	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	20 Feb
BRISBANE	
<i>Viking Neptune</i>	18 Feb
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	19 Feb
<i>Coral Princess</i>	20 Feb
CAIRNS	
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	20 Feb
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	20 Feb
FREMANTLE	
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	18 Feb
GERALDTON	
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	20 Feb
HOBART	
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	18 Feb
BELL BAY	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	17 Feb
BURNIE	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	18 Feb
PORT ARTHUR	
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	19 Feb
COLES BAY	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	19 Feb
DARWIN	
<i>Europa 2</i>	19 Feb

Tassie team aboard *Regatta*



THIS group of Hobart agents enjoyed a tour and lunch aboard Oceania Cruises' *Regatta* during her visit to the Tasmanian capital earlier this week (**CW** 15 Feb).

Hosted by Oceania BDM Au/NZ for home-based networks, Martine Nunes and Ryan McPherson, BDM for Vic, NSW, ACT and Tas, guests were given a product and training update before a four-course meal in the ship's Grand Dining Room - complete with wines chosen by one of *Regatta's* expert on-board sommeliers - wrapping up with a signature Oceania dessert.

The educational program continues next week when the ship arrives in New Zealand, with Nunes joining *Regatta* in

Christchurch to host more agent inspections.

Pictured are Scott Daley, Helloworld Salamanca; Lee-Anne Levett, The Travel Studio; Angela Bowerman, TravelManagers; Stacey McVilly, The Travel Studio; Martine Nunes, Oceania; and RACT Travel's Christine Benbow, Lisa Jackson, Jacqui Webb and Crystal Venus.

Taylor joins A&K

CELEBRITY Cruises Strategic Sales Manager, Hannah Taylor, has commenced a new role as Regional Sales Manager for Abercrombie & Kent Australia. She's also held former roles with Wendy Wu and Uniworld.



Sales Centre Team Leader APAC - Melbourne

We are looking for a Sales Centre Team Leader to join us on our journey.

As Sales Team Leader, you'll be responsible for the day-to-day management of the sales team, including communicating sales targets and creating performance plans with each consultant.

You will drive performance and development using SMART target setting, coaching and motivation. Ensure objectives, sales standards, processes, and structures are appropriate and embedded throughout the team.

The APAC head office is in Melbourne and this role is best placed in Melbourne or within an agreed territory.

To learn more visit

<https://www.hurtigruten.com/group/people/>

A Lyttle-ton battle

THE port town of Lyttelton in New Zealand is "overrun and overwhelmed" by cruise ships, residents told local news website *Stuff*.

Locals said they are worried about the long-term impact of cruise ships on their town, including overcrowding.

NZ Cruise Calendar



Current ports of call in New Zealand.

CHRISTCHURCH	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	17 Feb
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	18 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	19 Feb
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	20 Feb
WELLINGTON	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	17 Feb
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	17 Feb
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	19 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	20 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	20 Feb
<i>Viking Orion</i>	20 Feb
DUNEDIN	
<i>Noordam</i>	18 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	18 Feb
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	19 Feb
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	19 Feb
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	20 Feb
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	20 Feb
FIORDLAND	
<i>Noordam</i>	17 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	17 Feb
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	18 Feb
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	19 Feb
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	20 Feb
KAIKOURA	
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	18 Feb
NAPIER	
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	18 Feb
<i>Viking Orion</i>	19 Feb
PICTON	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	18 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	19 Feb
<i>Noordam</i>	20 Feb
STEWART ISLAND	
<i>National Geo Orion</i>	19 Feb
TAURANGA	
<i>Viking Orion</i>	18 Feb
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	19 Feb



AN ANTARCTIC rower has earned 10 Guinness World Records, including becoming the first person to row the Southern Ocean.

The 31-year-old Austrian woman, Lisa Farthofer, rowed more than 400 nautical miles from 11-17 Jan.

Farthofer and her expedition crew aimed to retrace the footsteps of the voyage of the James Caird from 1914-1917, which journeyed from Elephant Island to South Georgia.

Other records earned by the team include first human-powered expedition in the Southern Ocean.



Aurora Greenland Explorer

AURORA Expeditions will in Aug expand its boundaries in East Greenland, heading farther north along the country's coast on its East Greenland Explorer expedition.

Depending on weather and ice conditions, the expedition will explore Greenland's northernmost tip aboard *Greg Mortimer*, which will depart Reykjavik on the 14-day itinerary on 15 Aug.

Greg Mortimer will sail through spectacular scenery to Germania Land and on to Crown Prince Christian Land in Northeast Greenland National Park, the world's largest national park, an area rarely visited by expedition ships.

Northeast Greenland is home to the world's only military dog sled patrol, the Sirius Dog Sled Patrol, while the region is also renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, amazing icescapes and wildlife.

The Expedition Team will use



their expertise to design day-to-day activities, exploring on land or cruising along spectacular fjords, making the best use of the prevailing conditions and wildlife opportunities.

The East Greenland Explorer is priced from \$18,715.50 per person for an Aurora Stateroom Twin Share, saving 10% when booked and deposited before the end of the month.

The expedition price includes overnight accommodation with en suite and breakfast prior to the expedition; a Golden Circle and Geothermal Energy tour before embarkation; all meals, snacks, tea, and coffee during the voyage; beer, wine and soft drinks with dinner; all shore excursions and Zodiac cruises; all lectures; transfers; and more.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

Viking publishes jellyfish paper

VIKING'S expedition team has published its first scientific paper, from its inaugural Antarctic season last year.

The essay follows *Viking Octantis'* submarine encounters with the rare giant phantom jelly, which has been sighted just 126 times in a century.

Viking has become the first cruise line to publish a scientific paper, which details the submarine's direct observations of the phantom jellyfish, of which three total sightings were made off the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula early last year.

Including stills and video photography, the paper has been published **HERE** in *Polar Research*, the scientific journal of the Norwegian Polar Institute.

"In creating 'the thinking person's expedition', it was our intention that every voyage should provide opportunities for scientific discovery," Chair Torstein Hagen said.



Regional Sales Managers

Exciting opportunity to join our growing team!
We are on the hunt for two exceptional Regional Sales Managers to join us on our journey.

As Regional Sales Manager, you'll be responsible for maximising the sales potential within your designated area by cultivating strong relationships with existing customers, driving brand awareness, and identifying new customer prospects across existing and new distribution networks. You will be required to be the face of the brand in your region and represent the Hurtigruten brand to the travel industry and the public.

Victoria and Queensland based opportunities available.

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<https://www.hurtigruten.com/group/people/>



On Board: Oceania Regatta

The Library

Travel books, biographies, historical references and a huge array of fiction and non-fiction books grace the shelves of Regatta's library, alongside comfortable lounges and easy chairs in which to enjoy them.

Books can be borrowed at any time under an honour system. The calm, quiet atmosphere provides the ideal setting to enjoy Regatta's shipboard serenity.



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