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### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features five pages of all the latest cruise news including a photo page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**, plus a front cover wrap from **Silversea**.

### Silversea's sweet upgrade offer

**NOW** is the perfect time for agents to book their clients on a Silversea voyage, with the cruise line launching an enticing suite upgrade deal on its global itineraries in 2024.

Travellers can enjoy a two-category suite upgrade on Ocean-going voyages or a one-category suite upgrade on Expedition voyages, as well as splurge with a US\$1,000 shipboard credit per suite, and take advantage of 15% reduced deposits.

See the **cover page** for more.

## Pacific nations unite around cruising

A **SUSTAINABLE** cruise sector was firmly on the agenda in French Polynesia last week, where more than 140 delegates from countries across the South Pacific gathered for the Second South Pacific Cruise Forum.

The event was hosted by the South Pacific Cruise Alliance and the French Polynesian government, and focused on the development of a well-managed cruise sector that delivers meaningful benefits to local communities across the region.

Moetai Brotherson, President of French Polynesia, opened the conference with a presentation which noted that the islands of the Pacific are naturally a key destination for cruise visitation.

"Our ancestors did not arrive by foot, they arrived on double-hulled canoes," Brotherson said.

"There is no better way to discover our islands than by sea,



this is a strong belief of mine."

He noted the strong common values of Pacific communities as they seek to foster cruise tourism, based on creating jobs, delivering community benefits and protecting the environment, saying "we have to develop this industry in a sustainable way for the good of our populations."

Cruise line attendees included representatives of Windstar, Ponant, Norwegian Cruise

Line Holdings and Lindblad Expeditions who outlined their latest sustainability efforts.

South Pacific Cruise Alliance President, Bud Gilroy, said partnerships were key for destinations seeking to develop their cruise potential.

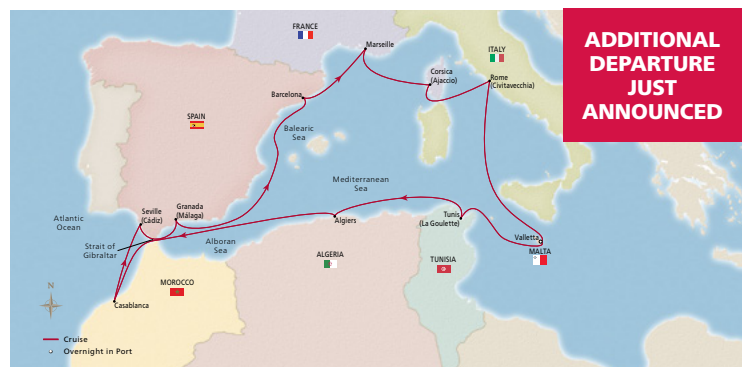
"We are stronger together; if we share and collaborate, we can extend the benefits of cruising and bring more visitors to communities across the Pacific." *BP*

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## D'Aoust has left AQV

**AMERICAN** Queen Voyages (AQV) President Cindy D'Aoust has left the company just over a year after being appointed to the top job (**CW** 29 Sep 2022).

The move is part of a restructure within the line's parent company Hornblower Group, which also purchased Australia's Journey Beyond about 18 months ago.

This week Hornblower Group President Adam Peakes, who was promoted from being CFO to his new role earlier in the month, said "we have made the strategic decision to realign our focus to further integrate American Queen Voyages with Hornblower Group into one unified entity, and as a result, Cindy D'Aoust is no longer with the company".

He thanked the former CLIA global chief for her contribution, saying "we wish her well in her future endeavours".

"We are fortunate to have a talented team leading Hornblower Group in partnership with AQV that will further build on our world-class business capabilities with their divisional expertise to deliver on the company's commitment to excellence for our guests, agents and partners," Peakes said.

Last year Journey Beyond chief Chris Tallent was named head of Hornblower's Overnight Division, which incorporates AQV, with Journey Beyond at the same time becoming the US-based line's local representative (**CW** 23 Feb).

That saw AQV launch a new flagship Australian brochure for the 2024 program (**CW** 10 Jul) supported by a dedicated local support team based in Adelaide.

Journey Beyond wasn't able to comment on D'Aoust's departure or the new structure before **Cruise Weekly's** deadline today. *BP*

### MSC cans Red Sea

**MSC** Cruises has announced the cancellation of its full winter schedule of Red Sea cruises, due to the proximity of some ports to Israel.

The decision to scrap itineraries in the region between Nov to Apr, which were set to be operated by *MSC Orchestra*, was also made in light of restrictions and travel advisories issued for neighbouring countries.

The line has also tweaked the grand voyages for *MSC Virtuosa*, *MSC Opera* and *MSC Splendida*, while the winter season of Red Sea cruises on *MSC Sinfonia*, which included Haifa, were also canned.

Passengers booked on the affected cruises will be given the option to rebook on a new sailing or receive a full refund.

MSC is yet to say where *MSC Orchestra* will be redeployed.

### VV is on the way

**VIRGIN** Voyages is sailing closer to its Aussie debut, with *Resilient Lady's* 44-day repositioning journey from her current homeport of Athens, Greece to her new home in Melbourne now underway.

The luxury ship will enter Australian waters via Darwin, visiting Cairns, Airlie Beach and Sydney, before settling into Port Melbourne to operate her first season Down Under.

### Savour France

**VIKING** is offering savings of up to \$4,600 per couple on its France river journeys in 2024 and 2025, including the eight-day Lyon & Provence itinerary, which focuses on the region's fine wine and cuisine.

Travellers can take advantage of the deal by booking before 30 Nov **HERE**.



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## HAL announces lucky incentive winner



**CHRISTIE** Gowan from TravelManagers has been named the winner of Holland America Line's (HAL) 2023 Europe Competition, and is off to enjoy a seven-day cruise roundtrip from Rotterdam.

Gowan, who's pictured with HAL Key Account Manager, Qld, Christine Oliver, has won the cruise for two aboard HAL's Pinnacle-class *Rotterdam*, along

with a \$2,000 air credit, a \$500 Visa Gift Card and a Standard Have It All cruise package.

To enter the competition travel advisors had to respond to a brief question in under 50 words, with Carnival Australia VP of Sales & Partnerships, Ryan Taibel, saying "our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all participants and all our agent partners for their hard work and dedication". *BP*

## FBI probes attack aboard *Carnival Magic*

**A GLASSING** incident aboard Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Magic* is being probed by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, while the alleged attacker has been banned for life from cruising with Carnival.

An altercation reportedly erupted in the ship's theatre,

with the victim receiving treatment from the onboard medical team and the assailant confined to his stateroom for the remainder of the cruise.

The ship was on the return leg of an eight day cruise to Canada and New England out of Norfolk, Virginia.

## Ruby ruling released

**THE** Australian Federal Court has ruled in favour of passengers who filed a class action against Carnival Australia following a COVID-19 outbreak onboard *Ruby Princess* in 2020 (*CW* breaking news), but says the lead plaintiff has already been adequately compensated by the cruise company.

The parent company of Princess Cruises was found to have been negligent in going ahead with the cruise, which took place in Mar 2020 as the pandemic was taking hold around the world.

The ill-fated voyage, which set off from Sydney for a 13-night trip around New Zealand, resulted in the death of 28 passengers, with 600 others testing positive for the virus.

The situation prompted a formal investigation by NSW Police, which the cruise line willingly participated in (*CW* 16 Apr 2020), leading to findings that government failings likely played a role in the disaster (*CW* 25 Aug 2021).

While delivering the verdict this morning, Justice Angus Stewart said it was "doubtful it was possible (for the *Ruby Princess*) to provide cruising...that was safe, relaxing and pleasurable" when it departed in Mar 2020.

Justice Stewart pointed out that given there had already been outbreaks on other Carnival ships before the cruise in question, the company's decision to press



on with the sailing "carried a significant risk...and yet they proceeded regardless".

The court also found that Carnival Australia made "misleading representations" that the cruise would be "reasonably safe" in communications with passengers prior to departing.

According to the judgment that was handed down, the company should have warned passengers about the increased risk of contracting COVID-19, as well as implemented screenings and physical distancing, and isolated the ill passengers onboard from 11 Mar onwards.

Carnival Australia released a statement saying the company has "seen the judgment and are considering it in detail".

"The pandemic was a difficult time in Australia's history, and we understand how heartbreaking it was for those affected," the cruise line stated, adding that it will not be making any further comment.

The matter is scheduled to undergo a further case management hearing and final orders on 10 Nov. *JM*



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Wed 25th October 2023

# NCL's Walk for Wellness: Week 3

**NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE'S** fourth Annual Walk for Wellness participants stepped it up a notch over the weekend and smashed the second distance goal of the challenge - an epic 200,000km!

The milestone saw NCL boost its donations to Mood Active to an awesome \$10,000, with the organisers describing the achievement as "simply step-tacular". As part of the third weekly challenge of the world

record industry-wide mental health event, participants were invited to Think International Cuisine in celebration of World Food Day.

Congratulations to Week 3's winners, Angie Reilly from Flight Centre and Leanne Johnston from TravelManagers WA - their entries are featured here.

This week, it's showtime! Snap a photo, TikTok or Insta Reel of something that has entertained you on one of your walks. Get your creative juices flowing and submit a showstopper to win!

**NCLH** staff members really got their steps up by participating in the Cancer Council's Seven Bridges Walk over the weekend, braving Sydney's 30-degree heat.



**NCL'S** VP & Managing Director, Ben Angell, enjoying the beautiful weather in Sydney on his daily walk.



**NCL'S** Business Development Specialist, Sam Morgan, went on a stroll in Warners Bay with Tamsin Catto and Lani Symons Vaughan from MTA Mobile Travel Agents.

**NCL'S** Trade Marketing Manager, Jacinta Baker, stepped it up with a game of tennis this week with Matthew Hayes from Oceania and Regent Seven Seas Cruises.



**WENDY** Walker joined NCL's netball team this week to take home a win.



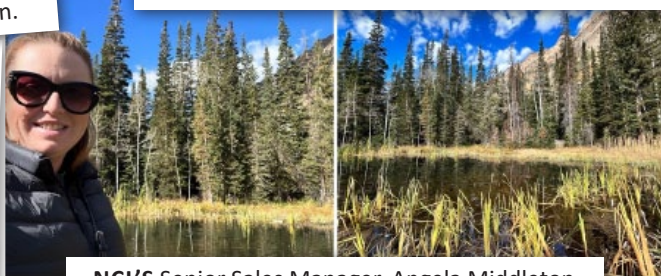
**WEEK 3** First Prize Winner: Angie Reilly from Flight Centre was dreaming about dining at Teppanyaki on board NCL while eating a local lunch.



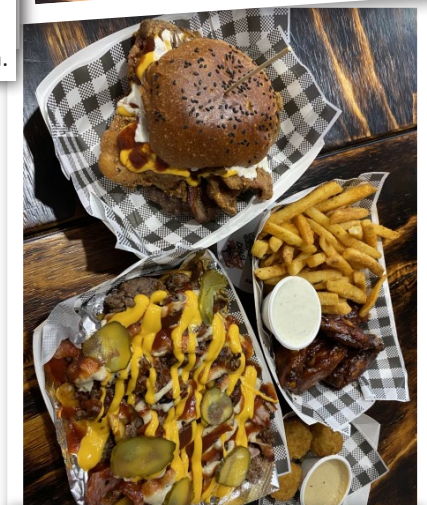
**NCL'S** BDM Chris Catanzariti enjoyed the water views on his Friday walk!



**HELLOWORLD'S** Shelley Edwards enjoyed a lunchtime walk with the office dog.



**NCL'S** Senior Sales Manager, Angela Middleton, got her steps up while on holiday in Salt Lake City.



**WEEK 3** Second Prize Winner: Leanne Johnston from TravelManagers WA enjoyed an American BBQ feast, similar to Cadillac Diner on board NCL, after attending NCL's Zumba Class.



**PEOPLE** who are easily offended may want to steer clear of cruise ships, Carnival Cruise Line has suggested.

Despite offering family-friendly voyages, the major cruise line said it makes no guarantee that every aspect of the journey will be G-rated - particularly when it comes to its dress code and onboard entertainment offerings.

Carnival's Brand Ambassador John Heald pointed out in a Facebook post that even the cruise lines' all-ages comedy shows aren't designed to be completely family-friendly.

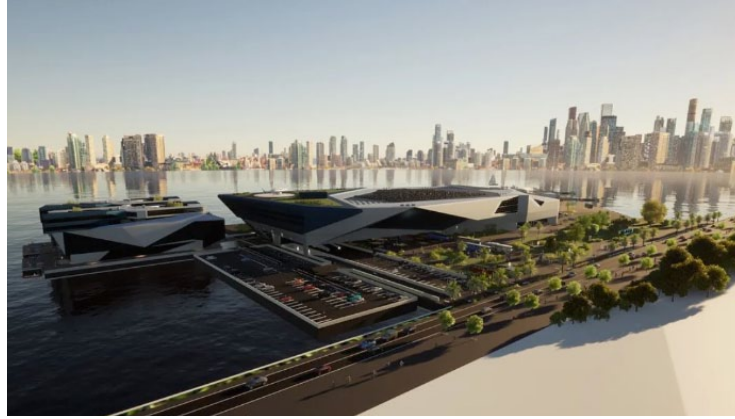
"If you're going to a comedy show on the ship, and in your mind, you're thinking I might be offended, I probably will be offended or anything similar, please don't sit in the front few rows," Heald warned.

The post inspired hundreds of responses, with many users voicing agreement, including one who said "if people can't handle comedy, they just shouldn't go".

In a follow-up post, Heald highlighted the unique challenge faced by comedians performing "in today's immediately offended world".

Carnival has also emphasised that its guests don't always dress in attire that is "suitable for all ages", saying that, short of outright nudity, it doesn't crack down on skimpy attire.

## Meyer floats new concept



**MEYER** Group, which is responsible for some of the world's biggest cruise ships, has unveiled a world-first concept: floating cruise terminals.

The concept emerged from the group's new Finland-based venture, Meyer Floating Solutions, which specialises in developing and manufacturing floating real estate.

The futuristic cruise terminals offer a sustainable alternative for port expansion, which, if made a reality, could help the cruise sector achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The modular design ranges from simple pier systems to more

complex terminals, and allows for fast assembly with reduced environmental impact.

The terminals can be easily transported and relocated, and have the ability to accommodate multiple ships at the same time, including the largest in the world.

"Our floating cruise terminals offer a dynamic solution for ports seeking seamless expansion options, ensuring the safety and confidence of both public and private investors," Meyer Floating Solutions CEO Kaj Casen said.

**Pictured:** Meyer Floating Solutions' render of the Floating Cruise Terminals. *JM*



## South Pacific Opportunities

I **HAVE** just returned from Tahiti where I was delighted to be an invited speaker at the 2nd South Pacific Cruise Forum - a fantastic opportunity to represent Australia, alongside CLIA, and participate in discussions which explored the future of cruise across the region.

The wide-ranging topics covered how we balance the economics of cruise with environmental and cultural sustainability.

This includes the different models of cruising, itineraries and the port infrastructure required.

I was on three panel sessions which covered the state of the cruise industry in Australia and gave me an opportunity to talk about the Economic Impact Assessment figures, which were released back here at the same time I was on the podium.

With an audience that included cruise line executives, national tourism associations and operators, it was the perfect platform to share the record numbers our industry was experiencing - \$5.63B economic output, 18,225 jobs and the increased passenger, crew and cruise line expenditure showed that the industry is well and truly back in business.

There were also some wonderful networking opportunities with senior executives from Ponant, NCL, Lindblad and Windstar.

We enjoyed a private inspection of the fascinating new Museum of Tahiti and a Presidential Palace reception, where we rubbed shoulders with the President of French Polynesia illustrating just how important cruise is to future of the Pacific region.

