



Cruise Weekly today

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

New Queen in town

TOWNSVILLE is set to welcome its biggest-ever cruise ship, Cunard Line's *Queen Elizabeth*, following the city's major port expansion.

The ship's arrival marks the start of a record season for Townsville, which will welcome almost 30 vessels this year.

The \$251 million expansion allows Townsville to capitalise on the surging popularity of cruising, the port's GM Customer Operations & Safety Drew Penny told the ABC.

"There are a lot more ships in the region visiting places like Airlie Beach, Cairns and Port Douglas, and without that wider channel we were missing out," he said.

"This has taken our channel from being one of the smallest in the country to one where we can now welcome these large ships into our port."

The influx of travellers has been touted as a win for the local economy, but local business owners told the ABC the state of downtown Townsville is "embarrassing".

"They are certainly quite shocked at how quiet our CBD is, how many shops are closed or empty," one business owner told the ABC.

Cruise360 tix on sale



TICKETS have gone on sale for Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) expanded Cruise360 in Brisbane.

The two-day conference will take place in Aug, with CLIA today releasing a super earlybird rate from \$340 for tickets sold by the end of next month.

The super earlybird tickets are available only to CLIA travel advisor members.

Cruise360 2025 will be held at the Royal International Convention Centre Brisbane on 27-28 Aug, involving a packed program of speakers and panel discussions, an extensive exhibition of cruise lines and destinations, and an industry cocktail evening on 27 Aug.

CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz (**pictured**) said this year's event will celebrate a thriving cruise sector, bringing together advisors and other travel professionals, cruise

line representatives, ports & destinations, travel industry suppliers and other partners.

Cruise360 is supported by headline sponsor Visit Qatar, along with CLIA cruise lines, executive partners and other sponsors - **CLICK HERE** to book tickets and for further details. *MS*

Yee-haw Princess

PRINCESS Cruises and the Academy of Country Music (ACM) are bringing the rising stars of the genre to the seas, aboard *Regal Princess* sailings from Galveston.

Kameron Marlowe, Drew Baldridge, and Tigirlily Gold are among the artists who will be featured in a new ACM Live from the Red Barrel Lounge Series, on Caribbean cruises in Feb and Mar, with Princess to feature six rising acts in total for the series.

A new Celebrity

LILLIAN Canedo has started a new position as Trade Marketing Manager at Celebrity Cruises.

Canedo formerly worked for a number of years with Princess Cruises.



Explore Europe with Holland America Line.

Make a booking during our Start your Journey sale and WIN 10 days *Athens & Adriatic Allure* August departure cruise for you and one guest.



T&Cs apply. Visit GoHAL for full competition details.



READY, SET, PICK YOUR PERK - AROUND THE GREEK ISLES -

For more information, contact 1300 749 875 or email reservations@windstar.com.au





Cruise lines step up

CRUISE lines are offering increased flexibility to travellers affected by the Southern California wildfires, which are continuing to cause widespread destruction of homes and businesses.

Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) has waived cancellation fees for those booked on voyages departing in Jan and Feb, as well as providing 100% future cruise credits.

"Our hearts and thoughts are with all of those impacted by the wildfires affecting the greater Los Angeles region," NCL shared on its website.

"While we currently do not have any ships sailing from the region, it is affecting many of our guests that call the area home," NCL added.

The cruise line has also committed \$50,000 to the American Red Cross to aid disaster relief efforts.

Princess Cruises has also introduced a fee-free cancellation policy for passengers who were scheduled to embark from the Port of Los Angeles this month.

Travellers booked on any Princess sailing departing Los Angeles this year will also get future cruise credits equal to the full amount of their paid fare, with the line providing refunds for pre-purchased additional items, such as shore excursions, as well.

FOCL says ice to see you



AN AUSTRALIAN travel agent famil on board Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines (FOCL) has just returned from the Arctic.

The famil, jointly hosted with Cruise Traveller, took a group of 10 advisors, featuring a number of Australians, to Norway.

The group, hosted by Cruise Traveller Business Development Manager Laura Stone, sailed on a 10-night round trip voyage from the UK aboard *Balmoral*.

Stone said the journey left the group feeling like it had stepped into another world.

"We were fortunate enough to view the amazing Northern lights from *Balmoral's* deck where we experienced a wonderful, 90-minute show.

"We could not have timed it better as we were in the spa when the green lady appeared."

The group named feeding reindeer in the Arctic Circle as one of the trip's highlights.

"Offering them snacks, you feel a connection to these beautiful

animals and learn about ancient Sami traditions," Stone said.

"The serene silence and the jaw-dropping scenery enhanced the experience further.

"Meeting husky dogs and going dog sledding in Northern Norway was another unforgettable adventure we enjoyed."

Other highlights included a visit to Molde, where the group travelled along the Atlantic Ocean Road, which included a trip over the Storseisundet Bridge. *MS*

Pictured are Pam White, FOCL; Jenna Johnson, Phil Hoffman Travel; Rachel Rhind, Travel Associates; Kelly Bowater, TravelManagers; Maria Vasili, Bay Travel & Cruise; David Wright Travel Prospects; Julia Miles-Cassin, Cruise World; Guy Sharp, *Balmoral* Hotel Manager; Vikas Dang, Holidaysify; Laura Stone, Cruise Traveller; Bronwyn Bakewell, Private Travel; Deborah Bradford, Private Travel; Raika Naidoo, Capital Travel; and Julie Morgan-Hughes, ATG Brokers. *MS*

Deserving Annes

CUNARD Line is inviting Australians to nominate remarkable women named Anne for a royal treatment experience aboard its new ship *Queen Anne*, as the vessel prepares to make her debut in local waters.

The 'Deserving Annes' campaign will honour four women named Anne who have made meaningful contributions to their families or society, with those selected to be treated to a sumptuous experience aboard *Queen Anne* from 28 Feb-01 Mar.

The Annes will enjoy personal butler service, champagne breakfast, spa and wellness treatments, private dining, an evening performance complete with cocktails, and one-night luxury accommodation.

"*Queen Anne* represents the epitome of luxury, elegance, and celebration," President Katie McAlister said.

"What better way to mark her maiden arrival in Australia than by recognising women who embody those qualities through their incredible contributions," she enthused.

"We are delighted to have a chance to recognise and celebrate inspiring women who embody the spirit of Cunard," McAlister added.

Nominations are open **HERE** until 5pm AEDT 06 Feb, with winners to be revealed 13 Feb.



UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: Join Our Mentoring Program and Ignite Your Success!

TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

**WHAT TIME CAN
DO FOR YOU...**

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Strategic career planning
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture & processes

For more information visit - www.travelindustrymentor.com.au



A ROYAL Caribbean Captain is set to retire after an incredible 50 years with the cruise line.

Johnny Faevelen, who began his career with Royal Caribbean in 1975 at 20 years old, said the time had finally come to hang up his Captain's hat.

First starting as an ordinary seaman, Faevelen worked his way up the ranks over the next two decades, becoming a quartermaster, before earning the coveted title of Captain.

Faevelen has been the Master of Oasis-class ships since 2010, when he was appointed as Captain of *Allure of the Seas*; since then, he's also been the Captain of *Harmony* and *Symphony of the Seas*.

"It is with mixed feelings I have handed in my resignation," Faevelen wrote in a heartfelt Facebook post, saying he will now dedicate more time to his family.

A gong for the 'Gong



WOLLONGONG (pictured) is a "no-brainer" choice for the state's latest cruise terminal, according to Mayor Tania Brown.

The city's council is advocating for the Government of New South Wales to build a new cruise terminal at Port Kembla, with Brown leading the charge.

"As well as benefitting local businesses by significantly enhancing our visitor economy, there are three overwhelming reasons for this - location, infrastructure and the 'Wollongong' experience," she wrote in an op-ed in the *Bulli & Clifton Times*.

Brown pointed out Wollongong's proximity to Sydney Airport and the soon-to-open

Western Sydney Airport, offering easy access for the 80% of passengers who currently travel by air to hop on board a cruise.

"We're in good company with both London's port of Southampton and Rome's port of Civitavecchia examples of other international cruise terminals located at least one hour's drive from their capital," she noted.

There is also demonstrated support in Wollongong for the cruise industry, with the city dubbed 'The Friendly Port' in post-visit survey results.

Royal Caribbean Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith is also on the record saying he would "move the Royal Caribbean fleet there tomorrow". *JM*

Tobago cancels

CRUISE ships are skipping Tobago over the region's state of emergency, declared due to an increase in murders associated with gang violence.

Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Jade* and Costa Cruises' *Costa Fortuna* both cancelled their calls to Tobago in recent weeks, according to the *Trinidad & Tobago Express*.

The island is set to receive fewer cruise ship calls this year than last, with Tourism Secretary Tashia Burris indicating there has been some fallout in the local tourism industry since the announcement of the SOE.

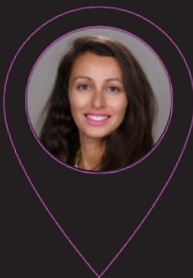
Holland America Line's *Volendam* is the next major ship scheduled to call Tobago.

Hong Kong is back

HONG Kong's cruise sector is showing signs of robust recovery, according to Secretary for Tourism Rosanna Law Shuk Pui.

She said the government is committed to spearheading Hong Kong's cruise appeal.

SPEAKERS



Nicola Veltman
CEO,
1000 Mile Travel



Steve Labroski
CEO,
itravel



Wendy Wu
Founder,
Wendy Wu Tours

HOME EX
HOME AGENT
VIRTUAL
EXPERIENCE

REGISTER FREE



cruiseweekly.com.au
cruiseweekly.co.nz

Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman
Deputy Editor - Matt Lennox
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury,
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Publisher - Damian Francis
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller
info@cruiseweekly.com.au

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Advertising - Laura Aghajanian &
Dante Muranty
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

HEAD OF OPERATIONS &
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Anna Piper

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

Cruise Weekly is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.

