

## Queens honour Queen's 60-year reign

Cunard brought together its three ships to host the largest Diamond Jubilee celebration outside of London.

**THE** *Queen Mary 2*, *Queen Victoria* and *Queen Elizabeth* met in Southampton for the first time on Tuesday (05 Jun) in a tribute to Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It was the first time that the Cunard fleet has been seen arriving and departing together in a three-ship formation at their homeport in England.



The ships approached the port soon after dawn, sailing in single file up Southampton Water where they were welcomed by a flotilla of small boats.

QM2 then revealed a massive "Congratulations Ma'am" banner near the funnel (pictured above) while all three ships' whistles sounded in salute.

The celebrations, believed to be the largest Diamond Jubilee event outside of London, culminated in an evening spectacular of fireworks and special effects.

Peter Shanks, president of Cunard Line, said the company wanted to mark the occasion "in a way that gives everyone, especially our guests, a truly remarkable day that they will feel proud to talk about for years to come".

He said Queen Elizabeth II had long been associated with Cunard, as the only person to have attended the naming of all three "Elizabeths", beginning in 1938 with the original *Queen Elizabeth*, then in 1967 when she launched *Queen Elizabeth 2* and 2010 when she named the new *Queen Elizabeth*.

### Orion Kimberley bonus

**ORION** Expedition Cruises is offering an exclusive package for a series of Kimberley sailings departing 01, 11, 21 and 31 Aug and 10 Sep 2012, including complimentary return flights to/from Darwin and Broome from all major Australian capital cities.

There's a 10% saving on brochure fares for twin share and 35% off for sole occupancy and the deal also includes one night pre and post accom and a complimentary Bungle Bungle sightseeing flight.

More information on 1300 361 012.

### CroisiEurope in Italy too

**PETER** Marshall of Cruise Abroad has taken exception to claims by Uniworld Boutique River Cruises that it's the "only major river cruise line to offer an itinerary in Italy" (*CW* 31 May), with Marshall pointing out that CroisiEurope has operated in Italy for 12 years.

Cruise Abroad represents CroisiEurope which operates a fleet of 27 ships on 15 European rivers including the Po River and Venice Lagoon.

"There's been a verbal battle going on between some competing European river cruise companies, with all sorts of misleading statements being made," he said, with Cruise Abroad already recording "quite substantial and growing" sales of Italian itineraries.

### ALL THE CRUISE NEWS

Today's Right Royal issue of *Cruise Weekly* features four pages of news.

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## Spotlight on NEW Member Cruise Line - Quark Expeditions

AS announced last week, the latest cruise line to throw their support behind our thriving industry is Quark Expeditions.

As the name suggests, Quark does not operate traditional cruise ships or luxury liners capable of carrying many thousands of guests. Expedition cruising is more about the itinerary or the experience off the ship as opposed to on board activity.

The focus of Quark Expeditions is the Polar Regions (both the Arctic and Antarctic) of the world where itineraries operate during the spring and summer. In the Arctic that's June to September, and in Antarctica, November to March.

With vessels carrying fewer than 130 passengers, Quark's fleet of ships feature ice-strengthened hulls for navigation in ice-packed polar waters and are all equipped with Zodiacs (inflatable landing craft) for shore transfers/landing – the heart of expedition cruising.

Two ships in the Quark fleet (*Kapitan Dranitsyn* and *50 Years of Victory*) are actual icebreakers – enormously powerful ships, carrying the highest ice rating in the world and each equipped with helicopters for aerial sightseeing.

Quark's expedition vessels are known as "Polar Adventure Ships," built for polar sailing and their crew boast decades of experience navigating icy waters.

When perusing potential itineraries it is easy to see that Quark's ships will get your clients to some of the most isolated and breathtaking wilderness areas in the world.

For more details go to [www.quarkexpeditions.com](http://www.quarkexpeditions.com) or contact the ICCA and we will connect you with Quark's Australian based representative.

## Royal Rewards Blitz hits local agents

Launching a global event yesterday, Royal Caribbean staff visited 355 travel agents in Australia and New Zealand to deliver three new incentives.

THE world's largest 'travel agent appreciation day' saw RCL's top executives and employees visit more than 7,000 agencies in 25 countries.

The single-day global event, which started in Auckland at 9am on Wednesday (06 Jun), was staged by the company to show its gratitude to its worldwide network of agents.

The local office had 35 staff on the road – triple the usual size of its field sales team – from sales, marketing, revenue management, finance, reservations, customer relations, air/sea planning, operations and even human resources.

Each person visited up to 20 agents, totalling 355 agents across NSW, Victoria, Queensland, SA, WA and New Zealand.

Additionally, the reservations team called other agents that could not be personally visited.

RCL also emailed three special offers to its entire agent database.

The 'Royal Rewards' offered to all agents in Australia and New Zealand included exclusive rates on three selected cruises aboard *Rhapsody of the Seas* and *Voyager of the Seas*, with savings of up to \$600; a 'Royal Bingo' competition to win a cruise; and up to \$100 bonus commission (per cabin) for new bookings on any RCL cruise departing after 14 Jun 2012.

RCCL Australia's commercial manager Adam Armstrong told **CW** that his team was warmly welcomed by consultants in both countries.

"It was a privilege to kick off the global blitz in our part of the world," Armstrong said.

### Jewel takes long way home

**P&O CRUISES** has advised that *Pacific Jewel* is taking a longer route home on its current South Pacific voyage due to the severe weather which has been experienced on the east coast of NSW this week.

Avoiding the weather and high seas means the ship's arrival into Sydney will be delayed by 24 hours to Sat morning.

Passengers currently on board are being assisted in relation to onward bookings and those due to embark on the J218 Fiji Adventure are also being contacted.

"Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get on the road to say 'thank you' and deliver the three Royal Rewards to our valued agent partners.


"They are all excited about the big summer cruise season ahead," he said.

Armstrong visited agents in Sydney's Potts Point, Rose Bay and Vaucluse, while managing director Gavin Smith met with agents in Cammeray and Northbridge.

National sales manager Peter McCormack flew to South Australia for the day to see agents in the Adelaide area.

In the US, RCL chairman Richard Fain and CEO Adam Goldstein dropped in on agents in Florida.

Other agents were visited in countries including the UK, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Scandinavia, Spain, Italy, France, China, Japan, Singapore, Mexico, Brazil and Canada.




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## Star Clippers extends discount

**STAR** Clippers has extended its early booking discounts of up to 35% through until 31 Jul for many sailings in Costa Rica, the Caribbean, Panama Canal and for trans-Atlantic crossings.

The biggest savings are for cruises between Nov and Jan, with a typical discounted fare being \$2425 including all meals and port charges for a seven night cruise from St Maarten or Puerto Caldera.

For the 2013 European cruise season which kicks off next Apr early booking discounts of up to 35% will apply for bookings made before 01 Feb 2013 for voyages in the Mediterranean and the Baltic.

*Royal Clipper* and *Star Clipper* will operate a total of 15 European sailings visiting the French and Italian Rivas, the Greek Islands, Turkey, the Croatian coast, Morocco, Spain and Portugal, while *Star Flyer* will operate in the Baltic, Scandinavia, Portugal, Spain and Morocco - details 1300 362 599.

## Athena launches 2013/14

**CLASSIC** International Cruises has confirmed its tenth consecutive annual season in Australia, with the program including its first ever line voyage from England to Australia.

The new 44-night cruise will depart Tilbury in the UK on 29 Sep 2013 and voyage to Perth, providing the earliest ever start for a summer season in Australia for the cruise line.

CIC md Grant Hunter suggested that Australians can combine the new line voyage with the northward sailing from Perth on 15 Apr 2013 to England at the end of this coming season, cruising on *Athena* via the Suez canal and spend the summer in England or Europe before returning via South Africa.

The 2013/14 debut cruise will arrive in Perth on 12 Nov 2013, and passengers who combine both line voyages can save at least \$1860, with combo fares starting at \$10,995 for both trips including 84 nights on board as well as all meals and entertainment.

Hunter confirmed that the 2013/14 WA season would include an 18-day maintenance drydock for *Athena* in Asia in November 2013, with full details of the program to be released later this year.

Destinations on the new southbound line voyage will include France, Spain, Portugal, St Vincent, Ascension, St Helena, South Africa, Reunion Island and Mauritius.

*Athena* carries 580 passengers and features traditional wooden deck chairs, a pool fitness centre, five bars and lounges, casino, library, cinema and two restaurants; and all 277 cabins feature a bath.

See [www.classicintcruises.com](http://www.classicintcruises.com).



**DISNEY** Cruise Lines set a record last weekend in New York, when the *Disney Magic* arrived in the Big Apple sporting the world's biggest bumper sticker.

The massive sticker, pictured below, measures 11 x 50 feet - bigger than a city bus - and says 'Disney + NYC = Magic'.

The stunt was to mark the beginning of Disney's first-ever cruise holidays based out of Manhattan.



## Savona expansion starts

**COSTA** Cruises has this week officially kicked off a project to double its terminal capacity in Savona, with the creation of a new €9m passenger facility.

The building site will operate for 15 months, with the new satellite terminal expected to open its doors for business in September 2013.

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## Abercrombie & Kent

### CRUISE MANAGER

An exciting opportunity to lead the fast growing Cruise Division of international travel company, Abercrombie & Kent, based in their South Melbourne head office. This opportunity is for a Cruise Manager of the highest calibre who will be able to lead and manage a small team.

The successful candidate will display a mature attitude with leadership skills, be hands-on and able to work in a high pressure environment. Ability to prepare Cruise Proposals, build relationships with our cruise partners and display attention to detail are essential, together with an excellent grasp of the English language. Lateral and creative thinking are a must with a passion for creating exciting shore experiences. The position will involve travel within Australia and overseas.

Knowledge of the cruise industry is essential.

This opportunity is well suited to a self-motivated high achiever who enjoys working in a small team environment.

Email your CV to Linda Richardson at [lrichardson@abercrombiekent.com.au](mailto:lrichardson@abercrombiekent.com.au) or send to Level 3, 290 Coventry Street, South Melbourne VIC 3205, by no later than Friday 15 June.

## Viking launches Australian contact centre



**ABOVE:** Viking River Cruises has officially launched a new contact centre in Sydney, reflecting its ongoing strong commitment to servicing the Australian and New Zealand travel markets.

MD Teresia Fors said the establishment of the new operation followed the successful launch of Viking's 2013 itineraries "which have been designed to suit the needs of the discerning Australian and New Zealand.

"The local contact centre has been created to provide the utmost in customer service at an exciting period of growth and development for Viking River Cruises," she said.

The toll-free number remains the same: 1800 829 138 in Australia and 0800 447 913 in New Zealand, and the office will be open to take calls Mon-Fri 9am-6pm AEST.

Pictured above in the new contact centre are, back row from left: Paul Egan, Zvonimir Krunes, Linda Pezzano, Natalie Vincent, Lauren Scarcella, and Scott Potter.

Front row from left: Josipa Barisic, Alexis Terrey, a very colourful Teresia Fors, Adriana Petkov, and Ivana Krunes.

## US Queen on the way

**AMERICAN** Cruise Lines has announced that its brand new *Queen of the Mississippi* paddlewheeler has been officially certified six weeks of schedule, and is now en route to New Orleans where her first cruise will depart early in August.

The ship carries 150 guests and will cruise as far north as St Paul, Minnesota on the Mississippi and as far east as Pittsburgh Pennsylvania on the Ohio River.

## Variety Gay Aegean Life

**VARIETY** Cruises has announced a special 'Gay lifestyle cruise' in the Greek Cyclades, with the one-off eight day voyage departing Athens on 24 Aug 2012 aboard the 49-passenger *Panorama II* sail cruiser.

Fares start at \$1590ppts plus \$221 per person additional in port charges, including meals, an English speaking cruise escort and use of fishing equipment.

For more information call Discover the World Marketing on 02 9959 3696.

## DescaradA revamps website

**DESCARADA** Luxury Charters has launched a new website to reflect the fabulously upgraded *Descarada 2*.

The site includes a new gallery highlighting imagery of the vessel and a promotional video, showcasing *Descarada 2* and its operations in Queensland's Whitsundays.

The 33m vessel has four ensuite cabins with a maximum capacity of 12 guests who are looked after by a permanent crew of four with activities such as jet-skiing, snorkelling, bushwalking and of course amazing cuisine.

DescaradA is one of the many tourism operators which feature in the newly launched Tourism Australia tablet application which debuted on Mon in Shanghai.

The App can be downloaded from the iTunes or Android stores by searching 'There's Nothing Like Australia'.

See [www.descarada.com.au](http://www.descarada.com.au).

## Transit of Venus at sea

**PASSENGERS** aboard P&O Cruises' *Pacific Dawn*, *Pacific Pearl* and *Pacific Jewel* enjoyed a fabulous view of the Transit of Venus yesterday, via specially issued solar glasses.

All three ships are in the Pacific, sailing near New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Fiji, with *Pacific Dawn* Cruise Director Paul Hancox saying the astronomical phenomenon was a very special and unique occasion.

"The event was a great success and another once in a lifetime memory that P&O Cruises has created," he said.

Cruisers also remembered Captain James Cook who was sent to the South Seas to view the Transit of Venus in 1769, before extending his voyage to land at Botany Bay in 1770.

## Oasis 'Hairspray' on stage

**ROYAL** Caribbean International will partner with the Tony Awards to include a live broadcast from the middle of the Caribbean, where *Oasis of the Seas'* cast of the *Hairspray* musical will perform a "show-stopping number" in the ship's Opal Theatre on 10 Jun.

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