



Port of Cairns closer to upgrade

The Queensland Government has taken action on the improvements planned for FNQ cruise facilities and access to Trinity Inlet.

THE State's Coordinator-General has declared the proposed upgrade of the Port of Cairns a significant project.

The proposal to improve shipping access to Trinity Inlet will now be subjected to a rigorous environmental assessment, with the public invited to comment on the project's draft terms of reference.

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeney yesterday said, if approved, the upgrades would benefit the cruise industry as well as the local economy.

"The Cairns Shipping Development Project proposed by Ports North will widen and deepen the existing shipping channels and swing basins to accommodate mega class cruise shipping vessels," Seeney said.

"This would be a real boost for Cairns tourism."

The construction is expected to take one year.

However, Seeney said the environmental assessment and Commonwealth approvals were a critical factor.

"The project involves dredging and spoil disposal and therefore the co-operation and timely responses from relevant Commonwealth agencies will be very important to complement our own streamlined approval approaches," he said.

Carnival Australia was first to welcome the decision to move ahead with the process.

CEO Ann Sherry commented that it signified the importance of addressing infrastructure gaps, which posed the biggest risk to cruising's continued growth.

"The Government's declaration puts Cairns and the far north on track to achieve the economic benefits of cruise ship visits to the region and its many visitor attractions," she said.

Panama expansion going well

FIVE years into the Panama Canal expansion project and authorities have reported that the work is around 45% complete.

The news is part of the Canal Expansion five Year update, released this month, which informed readers that "the program is moving forward at a good pace".

According to the report, to date three of the four dry excavation projects have been completed and the fourth project reached 67% at the end of August, whilst the dredging of the Pacific and Atlantic entrances, and of the Gatun Lake are advancing as scheduled with progress reaching 92%, 98% and 78% respectively.

American safaris in Alaska

FROM May to Sept 2013 InnerSea Discoveries + American Safari Cruises will sail seven boats across 11 different itineraries from 7- to 21-nights long, from Alaskan homeports including Ketchikan, Juneau and Sitka.

Joining the fleet in August 2013, the 88-guest *Safari Legacy* will sail two 11-night cruises between Seattle, WA and Juneau.

See innerseadiscoveries.com.

ALL THE CRUISE NEWS

Today's trade issue of *Cruise Weekly* features four pages jam packed with all the latest cruise news.



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Brett Jardine - General Manager, ICCA

Small Ship Cruising

Within the cruise industry we all know there are many different types of cruise holidays but are you getting this message through to your clients.

Consumers thrive on making a purchase that offers great value.

The words 'cruising' and 'great value' go hand in hand but it is important to note that value does not come down to price alone.

For some, a large ship experience at a lower price point is good value, for others a small ship cruise experience at a higher price point is good value.

How do you determine where your client fits – QUALIFY them!

Small ship "cruise passengers" tend to dream of visiting more off the beaten track destinations and look for a fulfilling experience at such places.

How many clients have you offered a cruise holiday to, only to be told "no thanks, a cruise is not for me"?

I'll bet most of these people only consider a cruise to be a large ship with thousands of people and really have no idea of (a) what a large ship experience really can offer or (b) that there are other possibilities such as a small ship experience that will in fact meet their holiday expectations in every respect.

In many areas small ship cruising provides a very different experience from what clients expect of a cruise holiday.

A few of the following points may help you to define such an experience with clients in the future.

Smaller more intimate ships; focus on the destination rather than the ship; potentially flexible itineraries; fewer but like-minded passengers; more personal experience (with other guests and crew); usually informal (more likely casual rather than glamour) and in most cases single open seat dining.

I'm sure you can find plenty of clients that will see some value in an option like this!!

Carnival profit beats expectations

Despite fears of the 'Costa effect', Carnival Corp has reported its Q3 net income was the same as last year.

THE company made a profit of US\$1.33 billion in the 2012 third quarter, almost equal to US\$1.34 billion in the corresponding period in 2011.

Revenues for this third quarter were US\$4.7 billion compared to \$5.1 billion for the prior year.

According to the latest financial announcement, Carnival managed to make more money from its passengers.

"The significant efforts of our brand management teams were successful in partially mitigating the decline in cruise ticket prices," said chairman and CEO Micky Arison.

Onboard revenue yields (constant dollars excluding Costa) improved 3% during the quarter.

There was also a 3% reduction in cruise costs (constant dollars excluding fuel) as well as a 6% reduction in fuel consumption on a unit basis.

Arison noted that the company repurchased two million shares valued at US\$67 million, demonstrating a continued commitment to returning excess free cash flow to shareholders.

The reporting of the better-than-expected profits on Tuesday sent shares in New York 3%

higher.

In the future, Carnival plans to focus on emerging markets, including the shifting of *Costa Atlantica* to Singapore and then Shanghai.

The statement said: "For 2013, the company will capitalise on the increasing popularity of cruising in Asia with the deployment of a second Costa ship in China and the launch of a new Princess Cruises program for the Japanese market."

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Azamara Club Cruises' 2014

AZAMARA Club Cruises' 2014 season will feature 72 new voyages onboard *Azamara Journey* and *Azamara Quest*, ranging in length from four- to 17-nights.

The line-up will see the cruise line offer more late night and overnight stays in port, as well as showcase 240 destinations in 66 countries (including a record 45 maiden port calls) through Europe, the Far East, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Western US Coast.

See azamaracruises.com.au for details.

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Inplace competition winners

CONGRATULATIONS to the two lucky winners of last week's inPlace competition, Kylie Brooks of Harvey World Travel in Maitland and Cory Edmondson of Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

Aussie cruising in France

FRENCH Travel Connection has released its most wide-ranging and detailed Australian focused guide to France's waterways.

Spread over 50 pages, the guide includes self-drive canal boating, crewed canal barging and river cruising in France, as part of the company's just-launched 2013 France brochure.

The guide canvasses information on key waterway regions and what guests can expect, as well as itinerary maps, vessel floor-plans, an expanded range of vessels and a large variety of itineraries right across France.

In addition, the new waterways program includes a range of value-add deals, including a deal where travellers who book a one-week self-drive canal boat plus bike hire will receive free bike hire for a second traveller.

See www.frenchtravel.com.au.

Breakaway with fitness

WHEN she launches in Apr next year *Norwegian Breakaway* will dazzle guests with its array of relaxation and fitness offerings, according to the cruise line.

The vessel will debut a combined spa and fitness area which will span two decks, and encompass more than 23,000 square feet.

Designed to offer a respite from the hustle and bustle of New York, *Breakaway's* Mandara Spa and thermal suite will feature the first-ever salt room at sea, as well as unobstructed views of the ocean, 22 treatment rooms, 13 heated loungers, vitality pool, whirlpools, sauna, solarium and steam room, along with a full-service salon and barber shop.

Breakaway will also offer acupuncture, teeth whitening and cosmetic medical treatments, performed by a licensed medi-spa doctor, such as Botox.

For guests who love to keep active at sea, the vessel will offer a range of innovative fitness options including the first-ever Nexersys interactive fight training modules at sea, offering guests the opportunity to engage in high-intensity, interval training against an avatar, as well as a boxing Fight Klub, and the first ever Black Light Spinning class at sea.

Pullman Bilbao turnaround

SPANISH cruise line Pullmantour has announced that it will feature four turnaround calls from Bilbao in 2013.

The turnarounds will be part of its Corazón de Europa itinerary.

Costa reduces staterooms

COSTA Cruises is hoping to quell guest and agent confusion by simplifying its stateroom category types to four: Classic, Premium, Samsara and Suites.

Speaking to press Costa's Scott Knutson said "With the enhanced cabin categorisation plan our guests can select new added-value benefits, while our travel partners have higher available earning potential".

In terms of the cabin types, each will offer varying levels of amenities, with Classic including standard sized cabins on lower decks, whilst Premium will be on upper decks and include a range of extras such as confirmed dining times, Samsara will be located near the spa and will offer unlimited spa access, whilst Suites will be the highest level stateroom and offer extras such as priority boarding.

WIN A 7 NIGHT COSTA CRUISE FOR 2!




Over part of September and October, **Cruise Weekly** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a 7 night cruise, courtesy of **Costa Cruises**. This amazing prize is valued at over \$4,000 and includes a 7 night cruise on board *Costa Victoria* from Singapore to Malaysia and Thailand in an Ocean-view Premium twin cabin.

Costa Cruises has been operating for over 60 years and offers the best in Italian style, hospitality and cuisine. Relax in the sun, shop up a storm in designer fashion boutiques, or be treated to exclusive entertainment, including the world's most renowned Michael Jackson impersonator!

To win this dream holiday, send in the most creative response in 50 words or less to the question below.

Why do you want to win this dream holiday on Costa Cruises?

Email your answer to costa@cruiseweekly.com.au

Visit www.costacruises.com.au for more info.

[Click here for Terms and Conditions](#)

The Captain to the rescue

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises Fiji has vowed to continue its Crowns of Thorns Removal program to control the population outbreak of the starfish and keep the coral reefs healthy.

The program has been running for seven years and is about controlling the population of Crown of Thorns Starfish so that they don't eat all the living coral tissue and destroy the reef.

The Captain Cook program monitors and helps control population outbreaks.

"Our in house Marine Biologist monitors the outbreaks of Crown of Thorns starfish via a sustainable catch per unit effort," said Jackie Charlton, CEO, Captain Cook Cruises Fiji.

"The coral growth which will keep up with the rate of Crown of Thorns is 0.1 and the CPUE obtained by our Marine Biologist during one month of diving off Tivua Island was 0.23, well above the sustainable value.

"We run a similar program at Sacred Islands in the Mamanuca and at other reefs in the Yasawas that we visit," she added.

AmaWaterways Christmas

AMAWATERWAYS is hosting two 2012 Christmas itineraries, including a 10-night Christmas Time Cruise along the Danube which starts with two-nights in Prague, and a 12-night Christmas on the Rhine voyage which kicks off with two nights in Switzerland.

Russian ambassador cruise

RUSSIAN Travel Centre has secured Tony Brenton, Britain's Ambassador to Russia from 2004 to 2008 as a guest lecturer on its Lower Volga Cruise in September 2013.

Taking place on the 100-guest *Volga Dream*, the 13-day voyage takes guests to Kazan (capital of the Tatarstan Republic), Samara and its Space Museum, Volgograd [once Stalingrad] and Astrakhan and the fortress of Ivan the Terrible.

See www.eetbtravel.com for details.

Get into the Aussie Spirit

CARNIVAL Cruise Lines Australia has released a new 2012-2014 *Carnival Spirit* brochure just in time for the arrival of *Spirit* in Sydney next month.

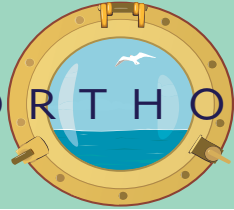
The brochure is available to order now via brochure flow, see www.carnival.com.au.

VIP Crystal in Monte Carlo

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced four new VIP Adventures for guests to choose from during next year's Monaco Grand Prix.

Three options offer different ways to watch the race: from either the driver/team-prep paddock area, a private residence above the renowned Casino, or the best of the fan grandstands near the start/finish line.

A fourth new excursion brings guests to the official Formula One VIP party.



P O R T H O L E

YOU wouldn't need any cruise holiday photos, you would remember them all. Imagine the liberty of not having to be concerned with snapping every memorable moment on a cruise holiday.

For one Welsh man, Aurelien Hayman, that is not a dream, but a reality.

Hayman remembers everyday of his life in great detail due to being one of only a handful of people worldwide with hyperthymesia.

Described as highly superior autobiographical memory, hyperthymesia means that Hayman can remember exactly what happened on any given day of his life, including what the weather was like, what he was wearing and what songs he was listening to.

In a recent interview, when asked about 01 October 2006, Hayman recalled it was overcast, he was listening to the Killers' song *When You Were Young* and had just been rejected by a girl.

Staying active at sea

ROYAL Caribbean's latest video offering takes visitors on a tour of the fitness equipment and opportunities available onboard its fleet of vessels.

The video is titled *Staying Active at Sea: Royal Caribbean Offers Fun Fitness Variety* and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Rice expands his RCCL role

BRIAN Rice has been appointed the vice chairman and cfo of Royal Caribbean Cruises.

Rice comes to the role having spent 20 years with the company, most recently as its executive vp and cfo, and his expanded role will see him oversee the finance function of RCCL, and take on responsibility for the company's supply chain department, as well as focusing more on strategic issues.



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* Offer ends 5 Oct 2012 unless sold out prior. Price is per person twin-share, includes port charges, onboard gratuities & passenger insurance & is subject to availability. Airfare not included. Free cabin upgrade only applies to Costa Victoria cruises departing & returning to Singapore between 7 Nov 2012 - 2 Jan 2013, applies to twin-share adult fare only & is subject to availability. Contact Costa Cruises Preferred Sales Agent or call centre for full booking conditions.

For booking, please contact Costa Cruises Preferred Sales Agent **1800 041 903** aus_booking@costa.it

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PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710

Phone: 1300 799 220 Fax: 1300 799 221

Publisher/Managing Editor: Bruce Piper

Editor: Louise Goldsbury

Assistant Editor: Amanda Collins

Contributors: Roderick Eime, Chantel Long and Guy Dundas

Email: info@cruiseweekly.com.au

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Advertising and Marketing: Christie-Lee Lachance, Lisa Martin and Magda Herdzik

Email: advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper

Email: accounts@traveldaily.com.au



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