

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 25 Nov 2014

## Princess pax o/board

**SEARCH** efforts are ongoing for an 84-year-old passenger who fell overboard from the *Sun Princess*, which was due to dock in Sydney after a 13-day New Zealand cruise.

Princess Cruises has confirmed the ship's arrival will be delayed while it retraces its path, with air & sea search assistance underway.



**MOVEMBER** will see multitudes of males growing mo's to raise funds for the Movember Foundation's programs and to encourage community awareness and support around men's health.

Amadeus IT Pacific men are putting out the challenge to the travel industry to raise funds for the cause. The person who raises the most money will win a **Shaving Brush Travel Kit**.

It's not too late to join - register at [au.movember.com](http://au.movember.com) (add your company name after your name and choose to join the **Amadeus IT Pacific** team).

Email your before and after pics and progress updates to [mocomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:mocomp@traveldaily.com.au) and we will showcase them on **Facebook** and in *Cruise Weekly*.

Get involved as an Amadeus Mo Bro! Click **HERE** to learn more about the program.

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## RCCL launch China brand

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruise Lines has dove head-first into the cruise market in China, announcing plans for a new joint venture brand in partnership with Chinese travel industry brand Ctrip.com.

Dubbed SkySea Cruises, the line will make its debut mid next year with an initial fleet of one ship, however it is anticipated that fleet numbers will grow over time.

The launch vessel is likely to be the former *Celebrity Century*, which was acquired by Ctrip.com earlier this year (**CW** 04 Sep).

*Celebrity Century* is currently operating its final season under *Celebrity Cruises* stewardship in Australian waters before being transferred to its new owners.

Sales and marketing activity introducing the new brand has begun, however no details on set itineraries has been released.

Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines

and Ctrip.com will each own 35% of SkySea Cruises, with the remaining 30% owned by the line's management and a private equity firm.

RCCL chairman & chief executive Richard D. Fain said the company was looking forward to working to build a national line for China.

His comments were echoed by SkySea Cruises chairman and chief executive Min Fan, who said he expected the new brand to be "an integral part of China's fast-growing cruise market".

"Our partnership with Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd will allow us to bring the very best cruise vacations tailor-made for Chinese travellers," Min added.

## Carnival China MoU

**ITALIAN** shipbuilding giant Fincantieri has signed its own Memorandum of Understanding with Carnival Corporation to look into the potential viability of a new cruise ship brand in China.

It follows a similar MoU signed last month between Carnival and China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) (**CW** 16 Oct) to construct ships in the country.

The MoU will explore the viability of a three-way joint venture to be set up to serve the developing Chinese cruise market. According to the Chinese Ministry of Transport, China is tipped to reach 4.5 million cruise passengers annually by 2020.

## Aranui waive solo fee

**FREIGHTER** line Aranui Cruises has removed its solo supplement on a number of 2015 voyages around the islands of Tahiti aimed at attracting more single cruisers.

Savings of up to \$3,000 are now available on six voyages from Apr to Aug aboard the *Aranui 3*.



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## Rama award winner

**CELEBRITY** Cruises commercial director Asia-Pacific Kelvin Tan has been presented with the 2014 Rama Rebbapragada Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Cruise Industry.

The annual award is in honour of the long-serving RCI stalwart.

## Cruise Weekly today

*Cruise Weekly* today features three pages of the latest cruise news & photos, plus a full page from **Lindblad Expeditions**.

*Our chefs' world-class credentials are revealed on every plate.*



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## Evergreen to SE Asia

**MEKONG** river cruising aboard the recently launched *Mekong Navigator* will form the spine of a new program to Southeast Asia produced by Evergreen Tours.

The tour and cruise operator has been allocated 10 exclusive charters of the *Mekong Navigator* between My Tho and Kampong Cham during 2016 and 2017.

An overnight cruise on Halong Bay on a chartered Bhaya Classic Junk is among itinerary highlights.

Evergreen's 16-day Highlights of Vietnam & Cambodia itinerary is priced from \$5,795ppts.

Earlybird booking bonuses such as free return flights, are available from now until 31 Mar.

**MEANWHILE**, parent company Scenic Tours last week confirmed it would launch a brand new all-suite luxury vessel on the Mekong in 2016, dubbed *Scenic Spirit*.

## One year to go for P&O

**TODAY** marks one year to the day when P&O Cruises Australia formally introduce and add its two new ships *Pacific Eden* and *Pacific Aria* to its local fleet.

The line's five vessels, joined by *Pacific Pearl*, *Pacific Dawn* and *Pacific Jewel*, will be orchestrated together in a highly public ballet on Sydney Harbour, firmly shining the spotlight on the line.

Standing out from its fleetmates in their retained navy blue hull, *Pacific Eden* and *Pacific Aria* will also be the centrepieces of P&O Cruises' new 'Like no place on Earth' marketing branding, which highlights the brand's evolution.

Inside, the five vessels will boast distinctly different offerings including four new restaurants in place of the buffet concept long synonymous with cruising.

In its place comes The Pantry, a multi-station food court offering

a variety of cuisines; pan-Asian dining at Dragon Lady; modern Australian cuisine at Waterfront and fine Italian at Angelo's.

A reworked contemporary pool area with abundant flora will also welcome guests at the ships' aft, as will a redesigned atrium area.

Existing popular features including Luke Mangan's Salt Grill, the P&OEdge activity range & more remains.

## Cruise health advice

**TRAVEL** medical assistance and health information service Travelvax has posted a checklist of recommended precautions for cruise travellers to be wary of prior to setting sail on a cruise.

The advisory comes after the latest outbreak of the contagious norovirus on a ship last week, although only a small minority of those onboard were affected.

It advises travellers to take care also while on shore excursions in countries where minimum health standards may not match that onboard the ship or at home.

"You couldn't say that these day trips hold no chance of being infected," said Travelvax Australia medical director Dr Eddy Bajrovic.

"That's especially so when it comes to common diseases like flu, Hepatitis A, measles, and the many bugs that cause traveller's diarrhoea. They are mainly spread by contaminated food or drinks and, like travellers everywhere, cruise passengers like to sample the local fare when they go ashore," Bajrovic added.

Norovirus is a viral bug caught often through contaminated food, water or person-to-person, but often, those who contract it make a full recovery after a few days.

To minimise the chances of landing norovirus, Travelvax says cruisers should see their doctor at least four weeks before departure, sanitise hands regularly onboard, use sun protection and ensure they hold valid travel insurance.

**CLICK HERE** for more info.

Cruise Calendar	
This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.	
SYDNEY	
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	25 Nov
<i>Sun Princess</i>	25 Nov
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	26 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	27 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	28 Nov
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	29 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	01 Dec
<i>Celebrity Century</i>	01 Dec
MELBOURNE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	28 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	30 Nov
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	26 Nov
<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	26 Nov
FREMANTLE	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	28 Nov
PORT DOUGLAS	
<i>Volendam</i>	27 Nov
CAIRNS	
<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	29 Nov
DARWIN	
<i>Voyages of the Seas</i>	30 Nov
<i>Volendam</i>	01 Dec
HOBART	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	25 Nov
WELLINGTON	
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	25 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	27 Nov
<i>Oosterdam</i>	28 Nov
TAURANGA	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	29 Nov
<i>Oosterdam</i>	30 Nov
NAPIER	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	28 Nov
<i>Oosterdam</i>	29 Nov
PORT CHALMERS	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	25 Nov
<i>Oosterdam</i>	25 Nov
AKAROA	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	26 Nov
<i>Oosterdam</i>	26 Nov
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	28 Nov
PICTON	
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	26 Nov
<i>Oosterdam</i>	27 Nov
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	30 Nov
<i>Oosterdam</i>	01 Dec

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**SCOTTISH** Highland cruising could be set for a popularity hike after all sorts of mysterious sightings have been reported at the region's famed lochs.

Locals in the region barely bat an eyelid these days amid claims of 'Nessie' sightings, but after 18 months of calm, a recent spate of crackpot theories and claims have quite literally surfaced.

The Woodland Trust charity has come out to set the record straight, saying that recently claims have been nothing more than "deadfall" logs washing in from nearby Urquhart Bay.

Many of the logs are long and thin, and have created shapes that some may confuse to be the loch's mythical inhabitant Nessie.

## Tempo 10% percent off

**TEMPO** Holidays has cut 10% from the price of all European and Asian river cruises departing until 31 Mar next year.

Voyages depart from several cities across both continents, with the discount applicable to Rhine, Main, Danube, Seine Mekong and Irrawaddy Rivers, plus more.

Phone 1300 362 844 for details.

## Crystal cruise credits

**SHIPBOARD** credits are available to passengers of Crystal Cruise booking Verandah and Penthouse cabins before 05 Dec.

Up to US\$1,500 onboard credit per stateroom is available on selected worldwide voyages in Europe, North America, Panama and the Mediterranean departing in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The offers are part of the line's 25th anniversary celebrations.

## Advertising, Production & Sales Coordinator - Epping, NSW

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The Travel Daily Group is looking for the service of a proactive Advertising, Production & Sales Coordinator to work in their close knit team in Epping, NSW.

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If you have two to three years' experience in advertising and desktop publishing and want to be a part of a growing organisation, this could be your next long term role.

To apply, email your confidential CV with Cover Letter to [jobs@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:jobs@traveldaily.com.au) before Friday 5th December 2014.



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## Jetstar moves into open waters



**FRESH** from the addition earlier this year of cruise inventory onto the Qantas website powered by Cruise Guru (**TD** 21 Jan), QF's low-cost offshoot Jetstar has followed suit, yesterday launching its own white-label cruising operation.

Unveiled aboard P&O Cruises' *Pacific Jewel*, the new tie-up sees 13,000 cruise itineraries now available to book through the Jetstar website, with real-time booking and instant confirmation.

To celebrate the launch of Jetstar Cruises, P&O Cruises quickly released a range of special offers on the platform including a four-night P&OSeaBreak to Moreton Island ex Sydney for \$549ppts.

For the Western Australia market, a 12-night sailing from Fremantle to Indonesia departing 22 Mar 2015 aboard *Pacific Jewel* is also on sale from \$1,199ppts.

Both include a free upgrade from interior to oceanview cabin if booked by midnight on 26 Nov.

Jetstar head of product Carly Povey told **Cruise Weekly** the new cruise link represented Jetstar's commitment to becoming an all-round travel retailer of choice.

"If you look at the demographic of the Jetstar customer, they like

to travel and plan independently, they really like to try new things. They like new adventures.

"A lot of them have been travelling with us for ten years so it's about time we gave them something different to do within that. We really see this as a way to open up cruising to part of the market that has never before thought it was possible."

Further promotions to celebrate the launch will be rolled out in coming weeks to the Jetstar email database and online as part of an agreed marketing plan through the first quarter of next year.

Additionally, it is anticipated that combined cruise plus airfare packages will be rolled out in the first quarter of next year.

Cruise Guru joint managing director Justin Montgomery said discussions with Jetstar had been taking place over 12 months, with the tie-up complementing Jetstar's extensive flight network.

"This is about our proven technology, our proven capability and about a great fit with Jetstar."

**Pictured** above from left is Carly Povey, Jetstar; Justin Montgomery, Cruise Guru and Tammy Marshall, P&O Cruises.



# YOUR INVITATION TO EXPLORE



## Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic invites our industry partners and their guests to join us for our 2015 brochure launch and information evening!

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**We look forward to you joining us**

**9th December MODA Events, Hamilton, Brisbane, QLD**

**11th December Hayden Orpheum, Cremorne, Sydney, NSW**

**Events are at 2pm and 6pm.**

Light refreshments will be provided.



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