



### IMO nominations

WITH the four year term of International Maritime Organization secretary-general Koji Sekimizu expiring at the end of the year, six candidates have been nominated as his successor.

The new secretary-general will be elected at the 114th session of the IMO Council, which will meet in early Jul, with nominees from Cyprus, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines and Denmark.

### Scenic facing class action

**SYDNEY-BASED** law firm Somerville Legal is inviting Scenic and Evergreen Tours passengers affected by torrential rain and flooding during European departures in Apr and May 2013 to join a Supreme Court class action seeking compensation.

Somerville claims that even though Scenic knew the cruises were likely to be affected by the adverse conditions, the company

“allowed passengers to travel all the way from Australia without giving them any information about the likely disruptions”.

Rather than a river cruise, the trips became a “bus holiday,” the law firm said.

Some passengers were offered compensation in the form of a \$1,000 future cruise discount, while others have apparently received \$2,500 after taking Scenic to various state-based consumer tribunals.

“Those who have accepted these offers have not been asked to give any release to Scenic... accordingly they are entitled to join our class action, despite having accepted these offers,” the law firm added.

Somerville Legal founding partner Tim Somerville and his wife have first-hand knowledge of the disruption as they were on one of the affected departures.

Last year, the firm lodged a formal Statement of Claim, with the case funded by a litigation lender which will receive a percentage of any settlement.

The class action relates to any Scenic or Evergreen departure between 10 May and 14 Jun 2013 on cruises to and from Amsterdam or Budapest as well as in southern France.

Scenic is defending the claim, saying its standard conditions allow it to vary itineraries.

A “substantive hearing” of the case is scheduled for Apr 2016.

### Brisbane cruise plan

**THE** Port of Brisbane has confirmed plans to set aside about 20 hectares on the northern side of the Brisbane River to allow for the construction of a new facility to cater for mega-cruise ships.

Spokesperson Peter Keyte said the proposal was still in its early stages, and was subject to public comment and government approval.

It would be up to the state government to decide who would build the facility and how it would be financed, he added.

Currently, only ships smaller than 270m in length can dock at the Hamilton Portside terminal because of a lack of room to manoeuvre, with bigger vessels forced to dock at the Fisherman Island grain terminal.

“Fisherman Island is a heavy industrial area and cruise ship passengers and ships don’t mix,” Keyte was quoted as saying in the *Courier Mail* yesterday.

The proposed new location is ideal given its proximity to Brisbane Airport and the Air Train.

Keyte said the site would be included in upcoming planned amendments to the Brisbane Port Land Use Plan.

Thirty-five large ships docked at Fisherman’s Island in 2014.

### Travel agent to christen Anthem

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises Ltd has announced 27-year-old Emma Wilby from Sunderland in the UK as the godmother of the line’s new vessel *Anthem of the Seas*.

Wilby (pictured below) who is a Kinross, Scotland-based travel agent with the Thomson group, was selected after a competition run by Royal Caribbean.

“We are delighted to welcome Emma Wilby into the Royal Caribbean family,” said RCCL chairman Richard Fain.

“Emma is among many

submissions from truly talented travel agents across the UK - and the judging was very difficult.

“We thank all travel agents, who we value and are honouring by naming a fellow travel agent as the Godmother of our newest ship,” Fain added.

Wilby will be treated to a full makeover and the *Anthem* christening will appropriately see her sing *God Save The Queen* before an audience of dignitaries during the ceremony in Southampton later this month.

*Anthem of the Seas* will have capacity for 4,180 passengers and like sister ship *Quantum of the Seas*, features a host of innovations such as bumper cars, the North Star aerial gondola, a skydiving simulator and virtual balcony cabins.

After an inaugural season in Southampton, *Anthem* will reposition to its new homeport in Cape Liberty, New Jersey.



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## New Loire paddlewheeler



**FRENCH** river cruise operator CroisiEurope has launched its first vessel on the Loire River, featuring a new paddlewheel design which enables it to sail in the waterway's shallow waters.

As well as the paddlewheel, the 96-passenger *Loire Princesse* (pictured above) also has a conventional propulsion system, with CroisiEurope's Lucas Schmitter describing her as a "landmark in shipbuilding".

The ship will operate six and eight day round-trip voyages from Nantes, and is the first vessel with overnight accommodation to be deployed on the Loire which frequently experiences periods of

low water levels.

CroisiEurope has a second vessel of a similar design currently under construction in Saint-Nazaire - the 80-passenger *Elbe Princesse*, which will debut next year offering itineraries on the Elbe and Moldau rivers between Berlin and Prague.

The addition of the *Loire Princesse* means CroisiEurope now has 43 ships in its fleet.

A further four ships are also in the pipeline for CroisiEurope, to debut in the 2016/17 season, including the 60-passenger *RV Princesse Apsara* which will join the line's four other vessels sailing on the Mekong River.

## Haimark appoints

**SMALL** ship cruise specialist Haimark Lines has appointed former Hurtigruten ceo Hans Rood as its new president.

Rood was most recently executive vice president commercial for FleetPro Passenger Ship Management, and his career has also included roles with KLM, Royal Caribbean, Cunard and Holland America Line.

"His strong management, travel industry and cruise orientation, coupled with his award-winning development of sales strategies, branding and global sales and marketing efforts, make him uniquely suited to ensure the rapid growth of our distinctive Haimark river and ocean cruise programs in the Far East, Amazon, Great Lakes and Central and South America," said Haimark managing partner Tom Markwell.

The company's operations include coastal cruise operator Haimark Line in the Americas and Haimark Limited on the Mekong.

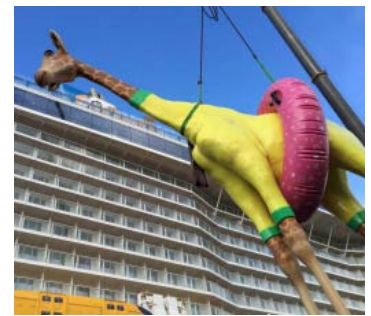
## Giant giraffe for Anthem of the Seas

**ROYAL** Caribbean's *Anthem of the Seas* will boast a unique artwork on deck in the form of a gigantic sculpture of a giraffe wearing a swimsuit.

The piece by French artist Jean-Francois Fourtou (pictured) was hoisted aboard the ship last week during the final fitout of RCI's second Quantum-class liner.

The giraffe shows Fourtou's "sense of humour and taste for incongruity," the line said.

Artwork aboard sister ship *Quantum of the Seas* includes an enormous purple polar bear.



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## Tangled on stage

DISNEY Cruise Line has announced the debut of an original stage show based on the animated film "Tangled," a version of the fairytale Rapunzel.

Disney Magic will feature the new production from Nov this year, with elaborate costumes, puppetry and three new songs created exclusively for the show bringing it to life.

## Japan gets its Diamond back

PRINCESS Cruises has confirmed it will once again operate a full season of cruises in Japan next year, with a series of departures from Tokyo and Kobe.

Options will include full circumnavigations of the country as well as port calls in Korea, Taiwan and Russia, while Princess will add Land & Sea Vacation packages, complementing the cruises with Japanese shore experiences in Kyoto and Tokyo.

Diamond Princess will operate in Japan from Apr to Oct, with bookings to open next week and departures including four and five night short voyages as well as Grand Japan cruises ranging from 14 to 20 nights.

Several departures will also incorporate visits to Japanese festivals, with certain sailings including late evening port departures, allowing guests to participate in lantern processions, dance performances and to view fireworks displays.

"Japan is steeped in tradition and lore, with ancient sites, hallowed temples and natural

wonders throughout the island chain," said Princess Cruises president Jan Swartz.

"The ideal way to explore this fascinating country is by sea and Princess offers travellers unmatched options for discovering its many jewels."

The multi-day land tour package options will be available as add-ons to most voyages, with Kyoto trips taking in Nijo Castle, popular Japanese gardens and the Golden Pavilion (Kinkakuji Temple).

Toyko tours will explore the country's capital as well as visiting Mount Fuji, Lake Ashi and Togendai, the company said.

Diamond Princess offers a range of innovations for the Japanese market including a traditional Izumi bath, the Kai Sushi restaurant, noodle stations, origami classes and traditional Japanese fare at the buffet.

## FBI probes ship deaths

THE deaths of a couple aboard Holland America Line's Ryndam in the Caribbean late last week is being investigated by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, with HAL describing the incident as a murder-suicide.

The ship departed Tampa, Florida on 29 Mar for a two week Caribbean voyage, with the deaths discovered when the Ryndam docked in Puerto Rico.

## QE Cambodia tragedy

A PASSENGER aboard Cunard's Queen Elizabeth died late last week after falling into the sea while transferring to the ship from a tender in Sihanoukville, Cambodia.

Crew members managed to rescue the woman however she died from her injuries that evening.



JACK Sparrow would be fairly disappointed at the efforts of the crew members aboard a replica pirate ship off the northeastern coast of the US over the weekend.

Those on board the Liana's Ransom (pictured below) were forced to issue a mayday call after losing power near Maine, with the coastguard responding and launching lifeboats for the nine crew to jump into.

Rough seas meant they had to abandon the ship, but fortunately the Jolly Roger will be able to be hoisted again because the vessel was later towed to a shipyard for repairs.

However, the incident would definitely have fulfilled the promise of the Liana's Ransom website, which touts charters of the vessel as "a swashbuckling adventure" which might even see guests walk the plank.



## Norwegian appoints

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line vice president Meg Lee has been named as the company's interim chief marketing officer.

Reporting to president Andy Stuart, she replaces Maria Miller who has left after a restructure.

## Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	09 Apr
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	12 Apr
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	11 Apr
CAIRNS	
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	10 Apr
NEWCASTLE	
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	7 Apr
BUSSELTON	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	13 Apr
ALBANY	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	12 Apr
AUCKLAND	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	07 Apr
<i>Sun Princess</i>	10 Apr
WELLINGTON	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	07 Apr
<i>Sea Princess</i>	08 Apr
<i>Oosterdam</i>	08 Apr
NAPIER	
<i>Oosterdam</i>	07 Apr
<i>Sea Princess</i>	07 Apr
<i>Sun Princess</i>	08 Apr
AKAROA	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	09 Apr
<i>Oosterdam</i>	10 Apr

## Arden sings for AW

CANADIAN musician and singer Jann Arden has christened the newest Avalon Waterways "Suite Ship" river vessel - *Avalon Tranquility II* - at a ceremony in the French town of Strasbourg.

As the vessel's Godmother, Arden cut the rope to release a bottle of Moet & Chandon to smash against the ship's hull.

*Avalon Tranquility II* offers capacity for 128-passengers & is 97% sold out on all 2015 sailings.

It has been deployed on sailings in the Netherlands, France, Germany and Switzerland.

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