

# CRUISE



## WEEKLY



Tuesday 23 Jun 2015

### Vale Cpt John Foley

**CRUISE** Down Under has informed of the passing yesterday morning of Captain John Foley, recently of Australian Reef Pilots after a courageous cancer battle.

Foley was a lifelong ambassador for cruising and instrumental in growing the industry in Brisbane.



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## Choice conference on Eden

**MEMBER** shareholder agency consortia Travellers Choice will become the first Australian company to hold a conference onboard the forthcoming P&O Cruises vessel *Pacific Eden*.

Immediately following the firm's Annual Shareholders Conference in Melbourne, the group's cruise experts will hold the Travellers Choice Cruise Forum - a series of plenary sessions on land & at sea.

At the time, *Eden* will be midway through its maiden voyage under P&O colours following what is set to be a spectacular welcome to the fleet alongside *Pacific Aria*.

The Cruise Forum will begin on 22 Nov with a day at the Pullman

Melbourne Albert Park before the group heads to the dock to board *Pacific Eden* the following day.

P&O's two new vessels will be the only ships in its fleet offering dedicated conference space, both ships part of the company's new P&O Conferences division.

Sessions will take place in Eden's conference room, with delegates also partaking in a ship inspection and enjoying a hosted lunch prior to disembarking before departure.

"Cruise is such a key element of the Australian travel industry and our Forum is designed to ensure that Travellers Choice members collectively retain a keen focus on the sector," Travellers Choice marketing manager Robyn Mitchell commented.

### MSC Next-Gen begins

**THE** future is approaching for MSC Cruises on two fronts, with bookings opening today for MSC Club members on its upcoming 4,500-pax vessel *MSC Meraviglia*.

The vessel is under construction at the STX France shipyard and will be delivered in May 2017, launching operations first on the Western Mediterranean.

Non-members will be able to make bookings from 05 Jul.

**MEANWHILE**, the first steel has been cut on the first ship in MSC's second next-generation fleet renewal - *MSC Seaside* - being built at the Fincantieri shipyard.

The European line has four ships in total on order by 2022, with *Seaside* due for delivery late 2017.

### Noordam Aus-bound

**HOLLAND** America Line has confirmed it will deploy its vessel *MS Noordam* to Sydney over the coming 2016/2017 wave season as replacement to *MS Oosterdam*.

As revealed by **Cruise Weekly** two years ago, *MS Noordam* will operate nine roundtrip cruises and six one-way voyages over a period of six months.

She will arrive in Sydney for the first time on 25 Oct and bidding farewell six months later, in Apr.

Among the features onboard will be the return of B.B. King's Blues Club and its eight-piece show band and the addition of LED screens in the show lounge.

### Harmony finds water

**SOON** to become the world's biggest cruise ship, Royal Caribbean's *Harmony of the Seas* has been floated for the first time.

Currently under construction at the STX France shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, *Harmony's* building dock was flooded, and the ship floated.

*Harmony* was then guided by four pilots onboard and eight tugs moved to a secondary dock for outfitting and final construction.

The vessel - third in the Oasis-class family - is due to be delivered to RCI in May next year.

It will be the first ship in the Royal Caribbean International fleet to offer waterslides.



### Cruise Calendar

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

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| SYDNEY                  |        |
| <i>Pacific Pearl</i>    | 23 Jun |
| <i>Dawn Princess</i>    | 23 Jun |
| <i>Pacific Pearl</i>    | 27 Jun |
| BRISBANE                |        |
| <i>Pacific Pearl</i>    | 25 Jun |
| <i>Dawn Princess</i>    | 25 Jun |
| <i>Pacific Dawn</i>     | 27 Jun |
| <i>Pacific Jewel</i>    | 28 Jun |
| DARWIN                  |        |
| <i>Coral Princess</i>   | 26 Jun |
| <i>MV Nat Geo Orion</i> | 27 Jun |
| YORKEYS KNOB            |        |
| <i>Pacific Jewel</i>    | 24 Jun |
| PORT DOUGLAS            |        |
| <i>Pacific Jewel</i>    | 25 Jun |

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### Saint Laurent locked

**GREAT** Lakes Cruise Company vessel *Saint Laurent* has managed to be refloated after colliding with the Eisenhower Lock in upstate New York late last week.

The ship was stuck for 42 hours after making contact with the lock, however seaway officials say it has been removed, with all pax onboard safely disembarked.

Nineteen passengers and three crew were injured in the collision, with the ship carrying 274 pax at the time of the incident.

The ship has now been towed to a nearby shipyard for repairs.

### Carnival Int'l pricing

**TRAVEL** the World has released a new cruise program for Carnival Cruise Line's Carnival Journeys collection of longer itineraries.

Voyages of 9-15 days in length are now available for departures from Vancouver, Miami, New York and California to destinations including the Caribbean, Mexican Riviera, Hawaii & Central America.

## Rebrand for Coral Princess

**KIMBERLEY** and Great Barrier Reef Cruise operator Coral Princess Cruises has undergone a major rebrand, adopting the new name of Coral Expeditions effective as of yesterday, 22 Jun.

The company says the amended name, changed for the first

time in 32 years, will ensure the company stays true to its ethos as a small-ship operator while "updating the company image to reflect its evolution".

It comes ahead of the line's planned introduction of cruises along the Tasmanian coast, due to begin in Nov this year.

Since its formation in 1984, the line has grown from one vessel to a three-strong expedition fleet, and each vessel will progressively be refurbished and rechristened under the Coral Expeditions title and alongside a new logo.

*Coral Princess' I* and *II* will become *Coral Expeditions I* and *II* while *Oceanic Discoverer* will be renamed *Coral Discoverer*.

"Coral Expeditions recognises that we are now best known for our coastal expedition itineraries taking small groups of 44 to 72 passengers to remote regions and cultures in Asia-Pacific," Group general manager Mark Fifield said.

### Ships win in Venice

**PRO-CRUISE** businessman Luigi Brugnaro has won mayoral office in Venice in a runoff election after former Mayor Giorgio Orsoni resigned amid a corruption saga.

The move is a setback for environmentalists keen to see cruise ships banned from transiting the city's fragile lagoon.

Brugnaro's win is now likely to see talks with Rome resume over new routes navigating the lagoon for ships visiting the city.

It follows the reversal of a ban earlier this year (**CW** 15 Jan) which forced ships to avoid the Guidecca Channel and St Mark's Square.

### Talking up Seabourn

**APPLE** co-founder & computer genius Steve Wozniak features as one of several headline names acting as onboard guest speakers for small ship line Seabourn for sailings in late 2015 to early 2016.

Stars lined up to take part in the Seabourn Conversations program include journalist Dan Rather, Forbes Media chairman and editor Steve Forbes and more.

Australian sailor Captain Peter Martin and cultural historian Warren Fahey will also take part.

### Viking opens up 2017

**FOUR** new itineraries have been developed by Viking Ocean Cruises as part of the official release of its 2017 sailing season onboard the *Viking Star*.

New sailings include a 15-day Rome to Istanbul; 15-day Bergen to the Bosphorus and a 22-day Barcelona to Stockholm voyage.

Two forthcoming ships, *Viking Sea* and *Viking Sky*, are also both now open for reservations.

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BALCONY: \$2034pp

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### Solstice starts count

**THE** shortest day of the year yesterday also served as the start of the four-month countdown until Celebrity Cruises returns to Aussie shores for next season.

*Celebrity Solstice* will return to Australia for the 2015/16 wave season on 21 Oct, operating voyages of 8-18 nights duration, while *Celebrity Millennium* will also make two visits as part of its winter season in Asia.

### Sea Cloud Aus seller

**UPMARKET** tour operator Abercrombie & Kent has signed a deal with Sea Cloud Cruises to bring the line to its product range.

Voyages on the tall ship windjammers in Europe, Central America and more are now available to book through the Melbourne-based tour firm.

### Local eating onboard

**AZAMARA** Club Cruises has rolled out a new initiative entitled 'Cruise Global, Eat Local', in which passengers can partake in dining options recommended by locals.

The new dining program on the small ship line has begun with the current European summer and features 35 restaurants available as a guide onboard.

Ports featured include Marseille, Santorini, La Gomera, Sorrento, Barcelona and many more.

Dining experiences can be paired with transport bundled with a shore tour or direct transport, or guests can also make their own way as all are within a short distance of the ports.

### Fred catches Noro

**BRITISH** line Fred Olsen Cruise Lines was forced to cancel its entire 20 Jun departure from Southampton on the *Balmoral* due to a norovirus outbreak.

The ship will instead undergo a deep clean and sanitisation.

### Avalon shines for Aussie agents



**STILL** exuding new ship smell, Avalon Waterways was keen to get Aussies among the first trade partners to experience its newest European Suite Ship.

This group were flown to France to sample *Avalon Tapestry II*, the line's tenth Suite Ship and its first on French waterways.

Over an eight-day voyage from Paris to Normandy on the Seine River, the group explored the picturesque scenery of northern France, treated to fine dining onboard, entertainment and a wide variety of shore excursions.

Not long after the Mar debut of *Avalon Tapestry II*, the line took the covers off its second new ship for 2015 in *Avalon Tranquility II* in Strasbourg (CW 07 Apr).

**Pictured** above enjoying the

splendour of *Avalon Tapestry II* is the group, which consisted of Jodie Quick, Meridian Travel; Vandongen, Bicton Travel; Kellie Woodward, Travel Associates Reis and James; Leanne Nunn, Macleay Valley Travel; Amanda Foo, Corporate Traveller; John La Bella, TravelManagers; Corinne Bowes, iTravel Hurstville; Christine Gowan, Globenet Travel; Susanne Nuttall, Travel by Wyndham; Jacqueline Vincent, MTA Travel; Melanie Wynne, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Craig Stepnell, Cruiseabout Ballarat; Mike King, Flight Centre Groups; Rachael Hackney, Travel Associates Chisholm and Turner; Emily Turner, Travel Plus; Tahnee Smith, helloworld Mackay and Russell Windebank, Avalon Waterways.



**THINGS** can very easily get ugly, and often do, at any launch of an exciting new store or sale event.

P&O Cruises got more than it bargained for yesterday when crowd control was required to prevent any hostilities as the line opened its first Pandora jewellery store on *Pacific Jewel*.

Staff working at the line's first Pandora outlet (CW 07 May) onboard were said to be "stunned" by the overwhelming reception by passengers.

A number of charms were raffled off to help manage the crowd flowing into the store, and possibly to prevent all-out retail anarchy.

The popular jewellery brand will open stores across all three (soon to be five) ships in the P&O fleet in coming months.

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