



Views from the GM

AS THE 2014 Cruise Industry Awards wound down for the evening, CLIA Australasia general manager Brett Jardine shared his thoughts with *Cruise Weekly* on the success both of the awards and the preceding Cruise3sixty. To view the video, [CLICK HERE](#).

Industry shines at awards

A RECORD year for the cruise industry both in Australia and around the world was capped off on Sat night with the 2014 CLIA Cruise Industry Awards in Sydney, described as the "biggest yet".

Nineteen categories recognising the industry's best in Australia and New Zealand were bestowed on deserving recipients at the 2014 CLIA Cruise Industry Awards extravaganza on Sat night.

Held at The Star in Sydney, the event included entertainment & a chance to reflect and celebrate the successes of the year prior.

For the fourth time in five years, Bicton Travel claimed the Gold Agency of the Year Australia title, which agency founder Carol Smethurst dedicated to her "fantastic staff at home".

Silver went to Cruise Express Balmain, while the podium was completed by Phil Hoffmann Travel Glenelg with the Bronze.

Ozcrusing took out the gong for Online Agency of the Year - Australia, while Agency Promotion of the Year went to Holiday & Cruise Centre Ballarat

Britannia Godmother

QUEEN Elizabeth II has been selected to officially name *Britannia*, the newest member of the P&O Cruises World Cruising fleet in a ceremony on 10 Mar.

The 3,600-passenger ship built especially for the British market bears the same name as the Queen's former royal yacht.

for its "Brand the Bus" campaign.

Individual recognitions to agents were also distributed, with Cruise Consultant of the Year going to Martine Hero of Clean Cruising who praised her team and boss Dan Russell for her opportunities.

In a category new for 2014, Wendy Allen from MTA - Mobile Travel Agents became the first winner of Home Based/Mobile Agent of the Year, while Ashleigh Fountain of Ozcrusing took out the Rising Star of the Year award.

Respected trade journalist Ian McMahon became the latest elite industry identity to join the CLIA Hall of Fame, telling the audience he hoped he had "reported on the industry with integrity".

CLIA chairman Gavin Smith also delivered a moving posthumous tribute and award to the late Shannon Currie, who passed away suddenly in Jan.

Currie played a pivotal role in the development and rise of the cruise industry in NZ during his time as P&O Cruises New Zealand manager and CLIA advisor.

The recognition was accepted on behalf of Currie's family by long-time friend and colleague Joe O'Sullivan of Cruise World.

See **page 3** for a selection of photos from the Awards night.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of news plus a page of photos from the **CLIA Cruise Awards** last weekend.

Masters on Quantum

REGISTRATIONS are now open for CLIA Ambassador accredited agents to attend the 2015 CLIA Masters Conference, taking place in 2015 on *Quantum of the Seas*.

Hosted by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, the training exercise is aimed at helping agents attain their CLIA Masters certification.

Agents wishing to enrol must be accredited at Ambassador level and be currently employed by a CLIA member agency.

The annual training trip will once again be hosted by Masters trainer Scott Koepf, maintaining his perfect attendance record.

Places on the trip are priced at \$2,300pp twin share including the five-night Asian sailing - for more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Duffy off and running

FORMER CLIA president and ceo Christine Duffy will appear in her new role as Carnival Cruise Lines president in a new panel discussion to take place at Cruise Shipping Miami this month.

The panel session will look at the Caribbean and the future of how the world's most popular cruising region is being shaped.

Also on the panel will be Royal Caribbean president and ceo Michael Bayley, Norwegian Cruise Line president and coo Drew Madsen and MSC Cruises president Richard Sasso.

Cruise Shipping Miami takes place at the Miami Beach Convention Centre on 16-19 Mar.

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SIAH partners with Princess

COMBINED air/land/cruise packages will be released to the market under a new partnership formed between Princess Cruises and Singapore Airlines Holidays.

The tie-up applies to a range of Princess voyages travelling between Australia and Singapore which will see SQ provide a one-way airfare either side of a cruise.

NCL also eyeing China

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has formed an exploratory team to evaluate the potential of sending one of its newbuild ships to sail in China upon taking delivery.

According to ceo Frank Del Rio, the team has been tasked with performing financial research and is due to report back next year.

The line is expecting delivery of a 4,200-passenger vessel in 2018 and a second the following year.



DESIGNERS of the signage adorning all of the sales booth exhibits at Cruise360 probably won't be welcome anytime soon on Norwegian Cruise Lines.

For yes, that is how the line's name is spelt, not with the extra "l" as pictured below.



The event saw 45 suppliers ranging from cruise lines to hotel groups, technology providers and everything in between set up their booths and networking with agents throughout the day.

Props must go to World's Leading Cruise Lines for their user-friendly quad-desk stand.

However, a special mention goes to Scenic Tours, which designed an exhibit resembling a French street, complete with cafe tables and chairs and even its own gelato stand.

Princess Cruises head of sales Brett Wendorf praised the new partnership with SIA Holidays.

"Cruising in Asia is about to witness substantial growth, and with our beautiful *Sapphire Princess* based out of Singapore, we see working with an Asian specialist operator and wholesaler as a way to provide the industry and travellers with innovative and dynamic product."

Milestones for both are being celebrated in 2015, with Princess marking its 50th anniversary and Singapore chalking up five decades since receiving its independence from Malaysia.

A new brochure produced by SIA Holidays operator Wendy Wu Tours and detailing the packages available has also been released.

Travel deals include a Fremantle to Singapore cruise on *Dawn Princess* departing 25 Jul, visiting Bali, Phuket, Penang, Langkawi and Kuala Lumpur before arriving in Singapore for a four night stay.

For details, phone 1300 728 998 or visit www.siaholidays.com.au.

SeaDreams welcomes

EVENTS at sea firm SeaDreams has welcomed the push by P&O Cruises into conferences, saying the move will help fill a shortage of event cruise specialists.

"It's great to finally see a major cruise line recognise the value of the MICE sector to their onboard operations," SeaDreams' events manager Matt Halloran said.

RCCL to sell Splendour

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises Ltd has moved to further consolidate its fleet, announcing a plan to sell *Splendour of the Seas* to German line TUI Cruises.

The eighteen-year old ship will leave the RCI fleet in a little over a year from now, upon which time it will be leased to low-cost cruise operator Thomson Cruises.

TUI Cruises - which itself is half-owned by Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd - currently operates three vessels dubbed *Mein Schiff* and has five more scheduled for delivery over the next five years.

"The ship's sale is in line with our strategic objective of divesting ourselves of older hardware," chairman Richard Fain said.

In the meantime, no scheduled sailings on the 1,830-passenger ship will be impacted, with the final departure now scheduled for 04 Apr next year.

Lindblad renovations

LINDBLAD Expeditions has carried out a significant upgrade to *National Geographic Sea Lion* and *National Geographic Sea Bird*, two vessels operating in the northern hemisphere.

Works included a renovation of passenger cabins, with furniture replaced including installation of aged cherry-box beds, leather headboards, new linen, windows and lighting.

Public facilities boosted include a redesign of the lounge and bar to include additional seating, new library and dining area.

New tables, chairs, ceiling panels and dimmed lighting have been installed in the dining area, with wine bar replaced and a new display on the areas visited.

NG Sea Lion currently operates in the Baja California region of Mexico, with *NG Sea Bird* sailing in Costa Rica and Panama.

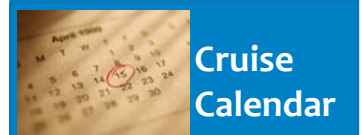
Cunard Anzac tribute

AGENTS are being invited to the OPT at Circular Quay to leave a red poppy in a special Anzac tribute set up by *Queen Elizabeth*, which arrived in Sydney today.

The two-metre high monument is in the shape of "100" to mark the upcoming Anzac Centenary & offers space for 11,500 poppies and is available to 6pm tomorrow.

After visiting Auckland, *QE* will head back to Europe via Gallipoli with the monument onboard.

Gold coin donations raised from the monument will go to Legacy.



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	03 Mar
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	03 Mar
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	05 Mar
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	05 Mar
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	06 Mar
<i>Sun Princess</i>	06 Mar
<i>Aurora</i>	06 Mar
<i>Oosterdam</i>	07 Mar
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	08 Mar
MELBOURNE	
<i>Aurora</i>	03 Mar
<i>Oosterdam</i>	04 Mar
<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	05 Mar
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	07 Mar
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	09 Mar
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	03 Mar
<i>Sea Princess</i>	04 Mar
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	06 Mar
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	07 Mar
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	07 Mar
<i>Queen Victoria</i>	09 Mar
FREMANTLE	
<i>Astor</i>	06 Mar
ADELAIDE	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	05 Mar
<i>Diamon Princess</i>	06 Mar
<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	08 Mar
DARWIN	
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	03 Mar
<i>L'Austral</i>	04 Mar
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	05 Mar
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	06 Mar
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	06 Mar
HOBART	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	03 Mar
BURNIE	
<i>Aurora</i>	04 Mar
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	09 Mar
YORKEYS KNOB	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	08 Mar
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	09 Mar
ALBANY	
<i>Astor</i>	04 Mar

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CLIA Awards brings out industry stars

DOLLED up to the nines, the cruise industry's movers and shakers across Australia and New Zealand strutted their stuff at the 2014 CLIA Cruise Industry Awards held last Sat night at The Star in Sydney.

Hosts Hamish McLachlan and Melanie Vallejo steered the ship through 19 award categories and some star-studded entertainment.

The evening opened with a fairytale about the blossoming cruise industry read by Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry, backed by a dance performance featuring managers from many of its seven brands.

Later, Royal Caribbean Int'l sales manager Vic/Tas Cameron Maddox showed off his hidden singing voice, delivering a slightly modified-for-cruise version of 'Pure

Imagination', famous from the original *Willy Wonka*.

However, the musical highlight was a spellbinding performance from Sabrina Batshon & Kat Jade, famous from Channel 9 singing series *The Voice*, who blew everyone away with a trio of powerful pop covers.

Once all was said and done, it was time to enjoy the occasion with the official after-party sponsored by Traveltek - for more photos from the night, [CLICK HERE](#).



ABOVE: Tim Harrowell, Emirates; Andrew Macfarlane, Magellan Travel Group; Jodie Collins, Dubai Tourism and Jayson Westbury, AFTA.



ABOVE: The Avalon Waterways team attending the night consisted of Bec Clark, Adam Mussolum, Mary-Ann Pontifex, Peter Douglas, Jessica Evans, Corinne Lloyd and Jessica Tsigaros.



RIGHT: Sharon Hando and Justin Montgomery from Travel the World with Josie Bielmeier, Tauck.



BELOW: Kristi Gomm and Ben Carnegie of InPlace Recruitment flank Steve Farrelly from Rocky Mountaineer and his wife Rena.



LEFT: Paul Millan, Traveltek and his partner Lisa Marshall.



BELOW: Anthony Cooper, Holland America Line & Seabourn with Helen Courias, Princess Cruises.

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