



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Quadrant spends big

QUADRANT Private Equity, Owner of Cruise Whitsunday, has merged Rottnest Express into the Experience Australia Group.

The move aims to accelerate the business of Rottnest Express' ferry, whale watching and day tours and expand its focus on the tourist market in WA, the firm said in a statement.

"The growth in tourism in Western Australia and Australia is exciting for our industry and Experience Australia Group will play a key role in connecting tourists to a broad range of world-class opportunities across Australia" said Scott Bailey, chairman, Rottnest Express.

Experience Australia Group also owns Great Southern Rail.

Autumn NZ cruises rise

A **GROWING** number of cruise visitors are opting to visit New Zealand in autumn, stats released today by New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment show.

The *Regional and Seasonal Dispersal* report revealed the share of summer arrivals has declined from 66.7% in 2008/09 to 55% in 2015/16, largely driven by a growth in cruise transit passengers in autumn.

Autumn had a 19.6% share of cruise transit pax, beaten by spring at 23.9% but well ahead of winter, which sat at 1.1%.

Compared to air arrivals, the cruise market is heavily seasonal, with more than half of cruise passengers arriving in the summer season, as opposed to just over a third of international holidaymakers arriving by air.

Cruise pax arrivals have also been rising on average by 13.2%

from 2008/09 to reach 163,400 in 2015/16, the equivalent to around 5% of total int'l visitors for the same period.

Much of the growth has been between 2010 to 2013 and 2015 to 2016 as in 2014, cruise transit passengers dipped to 119,800, down from 143,100 in 2013.

To read the report, **CLICK HERE**.

Viking to Egypt

A **NEW** Viking River Cruises itinerary has been unveiled, giving travellers the chance to experience the wonders of Egypt.

The 12-day Pathways of the Pharaohs itinerary includes visits to the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx as well as a journey down the Nile for four nights from Luxor to Aswan.

Sailings commence in Jan and are priced from \$6,849pp.

Call 1300 845 464 for more info

FTM Aqua's NZ PSA

AQUA Expeditions has confirmed the appointment Francis Travel Marketing as its PSA in New Zealand.

FTM currently represents Regent Seven Seas, Oceania Cruises, Carnival, Holland America Line, Windstar Cruises, Pandaw River Expeditions, Ponant and others in New Zealand.

Gillard on Seabourn

FORMER Prime Minister Julia Gillard will board *Seabourn Encore* on 10 Nov next year, where she will deliver inspirational talks as part of the Seabourn Conversations series.

Gillard is the latest addition to the star-studded lineup which includes award-winning lyricist Tim Rice, the Queen's former personal chef Darren McGrady, investigative reporter Michael Moss and *Boston Globe's* editor at large Walter Robinson.

The SilverSea logo features a stylized, white, geometric icon resembling a compass rose or a ship's wheel to the left of the brand name "SILVERSEA" in a white, serif, all-caps font. The background is a photograph of two elephants walking across a savanna at sunset.

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Celebrity has the Edge



THE first piece of steel for *Celebrity Edge* was cut at the STX France shipyard yesterday, bringing the vessel one step closer to its 2018 delivery.

Celebrity Cruises also announced *Edge's* sister ship, due to sail in 2020, will be named *Celebrity Beyond*.

Lisa Lutoff-Perlo, Celebrity ceo and president, said more details on the ship would be revealed

soon & travellers & trade partners "will not be disappointed".

Pictured at a ceremony to mark the occasion are from left: Jean-Yves Jaouen, operations svp; Harri Kulovaara, EVP new build and innovation; Richard D. Fain, chairman and ceo of Royal Caribbean Cruises; Lisa Lutoff-Perlo, Celebrity Cruises president and ceo and Laurent Castaing, gm STX France.

NCL opts for godfather

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has once again chosen a male to christen one of its ships, announcing Chinese pop artist Wang Leehom will be godfather of *Norwegian Joy*.

Leehom will also serve as brand ambassador for NCL China and promote the line to Chinese consumers through television and radio ads and on social media.

He'll become the first Chinese godfather of any cruise ship brand and the second godfather of a NCL vessel, following in the footsteps of rapper Pitbull, who was last year named godfather of *Norwegian Escape* (CW 08 Oct 15).

Leehom is a Chinese-American



singer songwriter, music producer, actor, and film director.

"*Norwegian Joy's* godfather, Wang Leehom, is a highly accomplished artist and family man that we are proud to partner with in China and beyond and is the perfect ambassador for our new premium vessel *Norwegian Joy*," a spokesperson told CW.

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings China President David Herrera and Leehom are **pictured**.

Crystal Amsterdam

CRYSTAL River Cruises opened its first office in Amsterdam yesterday, with chief executive officer Edie Rodriguez on hand to cut the ribbon.

"Establishing a presence for Crystal River Cruises in Amsterdam is a natural fit, as the city's vibrant culture and central locale complement the spirit of our luxury itineraries perfectly," Rodriguez said.

The new premises will provide additional assistance for the line's expanding river cruise operations.

Amadeus earlybird

AMADEUS River Cruises' 15% earlybird discount on all 2017 river cruises has been extended until 10 Dec.

Agent will also earn \$200 per person on any itinerary and cabin type for 2017 cruises.

McLachlan Tours is the exclusive wholesaler for Amadeus River Cruises within Australia.

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Get an update on all the latest cruise news in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**

Build-A-Bear roars success

CARNIVAL Cruise Lines' newly fitted out Build-A-Bear Workshop at Sea on *Carnival Legend* is kicking goals, with local vice pres Jennifer Vandekreeke saying the product has been well received in Australasian waters by families.

On board *Legend* last week for a test run of the Build-A-Bear do-it-yourself activity, Vandekreeke said the uptake of the product since debuting last month had been "very encouraging".

She said Carnival's partnership with Build-A-Bear, inked back in Jul, was a strategy adopted by the line as it "looked for activities to raise the quality of experience for the guests and for kids".

"Australians are amongst the most outgoing of our passengers.

"They love participating in all our on board games and sports, so we've decided to expand our entertainment range even further, joining with some leading companies to bring even more exciting and engaging experiences on board our ships," she said.

Carnival has a long-running alliance with games giant Hasbro, which involves giant versions of classic board games such as Sorry!, Yahtzee and Connect 4 brought to life through audience participation in The Game Show aboard its vessels.

Building on the Hasbro tie-up, Carnival will offer passengers the opportunity to participate in additional takes of Trivial Pursuit, Guess Who, Cranium and Cluedo.

"Australians are engaging with this kind of activity at twice the

rate of our American guests, so these partnerships are clearly a win for us", she commented.

The Build-A-Bear Workshop is a miniature version of the retail stores found in shopping centres, and running in Camp Ocean.

Kids have the chance to pick a teddy bear or other animal from a rack, then have it stuffed and decked out in a variety of clothes, shoes and accessories - all as ancillary revenue for Carnival.

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* on *Legend*, Vandekreeke said the line previously had a similar product, however the Build-A-Bear Workshops were a step up.

Camp Ocean itself recently underwent a refurbishment on its positioning cruise from Hawaii to Australia, which has seen the space at the bow of *Legend* - in Australasian waters for the summer season - receive new carpets, a fresh lick of paint and all new toys.

Other new entertainment options to come include inflatable Bocce courts and 80s 'Rock and Glow' theme nights.

Also coming soon to *Carnival Spirit* will be Creative Cove - a program of family events on each sailing, such as arts and crafts, jewellery making, professional painting classes and more.

This time next year, Carnival will introduce the cruise line's version of Lip Sync Battle on local ships.

Carnival's Australia-based vessel *Carnival Spirit* will be retrofitted with the Build-A-Bear Workshops by the end of Apr next year.

First call to Harvest Caye



GUESTS sailing on *Norwegian Jewel* from New Orleans last week were the first to test out Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings' new resort-style destination, Harvest Caye.

Located in Southern Belize, the island features private luxury beach villas, a sprawling pool, zip line and offers eco-activities and wildlife programs.

"We have worked closely with the government of Belize to ensure that this spectacular destination was authentic for our guests, provided economic opportunities for the local

community and preserved and protected Belize's incredible natural beauty," said Frank Del Rio, president and chief executive officer of NCLH.

"We're overjoyed with the results of this four year development project, and we look forward to seeing Harvest Caye and Southern Belize grow as we delight the many guests that will call on the destination."

For photos of the new port of call, see *Cruise Weekly's* [Facebook](#) page.

OOE and RCGS pact

ONE Ocean Expeditions (OOE) and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) will collaborate to introduce a new range of educational and adventure travel programs.

Halifax pax numbers

THE Port of Halifax in Nova Scotia, Canada saw a 7% increase in passenger numbers in 2016, stats released yesterday show.

A total of 238,217 guests arrived on 136 vessels and the busiest day was 11 Oct, when five ships called into the port.

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Amsterdam move?

AMSTERDAM councillors have thrown their support behind calls to move the city's primary cruise terminal from its current location close to Amsterdam central station, *NL Times* is reporting.

Alderman Kasja Ollongren argued moving the terminal would help with overcrowding and described the combined impact of the arrival of cruise pax as "a great nuisance".



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	22 Nov
<i>Noordam</i>	22 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	24 Nov
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	26 Nov
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	26 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	27 Nov
<i>Emerald Princess</i>	28 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	28 Nov
MELBOURNE	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	23 Nov
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	26 Nov
<i>Sea Princess</i>	27 Nov
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	28 Nov
CAIRNS	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	23 Nov
DARWIN	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	26 Nov
HOBART	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	23 Nov
AUCKLAND	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	23 Nov
<i>Emerald Princess</i>	24 Nov

Carnival shows off US itineraries



AGENTS in Sydney were last week given a peek at the 2017/18 Carnival brochure, featuring seven best-selling Caribbean, Mexican and Alaskan itineraries.

The brochure is focussed on cruises which are most popular with Aussies travelling to the US.

Highlights include seven-night roundtrip cruises to Mexico from Los Angeles on *Carnival Miracle*, stopping at Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan along the way.

Pictured at the launch of the brochure are the Carnival Cruise Line team: Heather Pryde, Mark

Richards, Wendy Collins, Anton Loeb, Jennifer Vandekreeke, Lance Dye, Kristen Versitano and Shane Gibbons.

Hurti expedition sale

TEMPO Holidays is running a Global Expedition Sale on select Hurtigruten expeditions booked by 31 Dec.

Savings of up to \$1,800 per couple are available on trips including the 18-day Penguins, Patagonia & Poetry.

To see the full range of product on sale, **CLICK HERE**.

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Coral's Tassie season

CORAL Expeditions last week returned to Tasmania for a second season, operating 16 departures through to Feb.

Holding just 44 passengers, *Coral Expeditions I* is operating seven-night Hobart return sailings on a flexible itinerary.

To book, or for more info, visit www.coralexpeditions.com.



IT'S always great to take a momento home from a cruise, but one cruise fanatic may have taken things a little far.

It seems someone has made it their goal to nab as many freebies on *Pacific Dawn* as possible, posting an assorted lot of menus, bags and door hangers on eBay for just \$8.

"The door hanger is always popular with teenagers, and the clock setting notices, meant for sailing between international waters and moving into different time zones, would also be handy for daylight savings changes," the item description reads.

The condition is "used" and the buyer is offering 30-day returns.

The tempting pack of goodies is **pictured**.



Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication. An industry-focused PDF edition of *Cruise Weekly* is published every Tue and Thu, and there's also a consumer-facing email newsletter published each Wed - sign up free at www.cruiseweekly.com.au.

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Part of the Travel Daily group of publications

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