

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **AA Appointments**.

Gilfillan reappointed to NSW Ports

GRANT Gilfillan, ceo of the Port Authority of NSW, has been re-appointed in the role for a further three year term.

Gilfillan has led the state's ports sector since 2008 when he was appointed as ceo of Sydney Ports Corporation, with Port Authority of NSW chairman Nicholas Whitlam saying he had shown "outstanding leadership" during the amalgamation of the ports corporations looking after Sydney, Port Kembla and Newcastle.

The Port Authority of NSW also has responsibility for Port Botany and the ports in Eden and Yamba.

Biosecurity trial for NZ

THE NZ govt has announced a trial biosecurity scheme for cruise lines, aimed at speeding disembarkations for passengers.

Beginning Nov, the trial creates a new accreditation scheme in which cruise lines must demonstrate appropriate systems to reduce biosecurity risks.

The new measures will allow NZ Border Clearance Services to reduce their inspections, allowing faster movement of passengers.

The move has been welcomed by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia, which worked closely with the NZ govt on developing the trial.

"Our cruise line members recognise NZ's unique flora and fauna and follow strict procedures to ensure they are protected," said CLIA Australasia Chairman Steve Odell.

"CLIA welcomes the opportunity to demonstrate that its members'

procedures minimise the level of biosecurity risk for NZ."

Odell said CLIA hoped a positive outcome from the trial would be taken into account in the next government review of the border clearance levy, which was launched earlier this year.

The introduction of the trial coincides with the start of a record NZ cruise season.

"Eighteen CLIA member cruise lines will have a record 33 ships cruising NZ waters over the coming months," Odell said.

"Between them, the ships will make more than 600 calls to New Zealand ports, so we are looking forward to delivering the economic benefits of cruise tourism to communities around the country."

Odell said he expected most member cruise lines which visited NZ regularly would seek accreditation.

Cruise Critic Awards

CARNIVAL, Disney, Seabourn, AmaWaterways and Viking are among the big winners in this year's Cruise Critic Editors' Picks Awards, announced last night.

Carnival Cruise Line won 'best new ship' for its *Carnival Vista*, with judges praising features including its onboard water park, brewery and 14 restaurants.


Disney Cruise Line was named 'best dining' and 'best for families', with editors highlighting its service, dining venues and venues for all ages.

AmaWaterways was named 'best river cruise line' for catering to a range of travellers including families and active cruisers, while Viking River Cruises was awarded for 'best itineraries'.

Seabourn was named the inaugural 'best luxury cruise line' for its service, itineraries and sophisticated touches, while Viking Ocean Cruises was named 'best value for money'.



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Crystal ramps up Europe

RESERVATIONS have opened overnight for the maiden voyages of Crystal River Cruises two new ships, *Crystal Debussy* and *Crystal Ravel*, which are set to launch in Europe in 2018.

Originally designed to sail on the Seine between Paris and Normandy and the Garonne & Dordogne Rivers from next year, Crystal shifted focus for *Crystal Debussy* and *Crystal Ravel* back in late Jul, electing instead to step-up its presence in Central Europe.

The delay into French waters saw *Crystal Debussy* and *Crystal Ravel* redesigned, with an extra 25 metres added to each vessel allowing a swimming pool to be introduced (CW 02 Aug).

Crystal Debussy will commence service on 09 Apr 2018, offering a mix of seven- & 10-day voyages on the Rhine and Moselle Rivers between Amsterdam and Basel.

Itineraries include the Tulips & Windmills, Legendary Rhine and

Splendours of the Rhine.

One month later, *Crystal Ravel* will enter operation (on 10 May 2018), sailing the Rhine, Moselle, Main and Danube Rivers.

Ravel will embark from Vienna, Budapest and Basel, with calls in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and Switzerland on its seven-day Danube Serenade and 14-day Majestic Europe sailings.

Crystal ceo Edie Rodriguez said traveller enthusiasm for the river cruise product has been "tremendous" since launching *Crystal Mozart* earlier this year.

"We're delighted to introduce even more choice for guests to enjoy the acclaimed Crystal Experience aboard a river voyage, and to further expand our offerings to meet travellers wishes and interests," she added.

Debussy and *Ravel* will join sister Rhine Class vessels, *Crystal Bach* and *Crystal Mahler*, which will enter service in 2017.

EK to Fort Lauderdale

EMIRATES has announced it will commence new daily flights between Dubai & the US cruise hub of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Int'l Airport, effective 15 Dec.

EK will operate the route using Boeing 777-200LR aircraft.

For Perth-based travellers flying via Dubai, EK's new FLL service requires a 14hr 20min transit on the outbound journey and a 7hr 20min transit on the inbound leg.

Coral cruise & stay

CORAL Expeditions is offering a cruise and stay package with its Great Barrier Reef sailings from Oct to Dec, 2016.

Bookings for its three-, four- and seven-night cruises will receive a two-night stay at the Reef House in Palm Cove, north of the embarkation port of Cairns.

Cruises on *Coral Expeditions II* include private beach escapes, snorkelling and diving, fish feeding and rainforest walks.

Antarctic semi-circum

ECLIPSE Travel is offering savings of up to \$13,865 per person on its 32-day semi-circumnavigation cruise of Antarctica.

The biennial expedition from New Zealand will set sail on 15 Feb and is priced at AU\$30,390 per person twin share.

Murray Aus Day

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has announced a four-night Australia Day cruise on the Murray River in 2017, with activities including two up, thong throwing and a Captain's Australia Day dinner.

Travelling aboard *Murray Princess* between Mannum and Swan Reach, SA, it departs 23 Jan and is priced from \$1,076pp.

Myanmar themes

EIGHT classical musicians will set sail aboard *The Strand Cruise* on the Irrawaddy next year as part of a music theme cruise through Myanmar, 13-17 Feb.

The cruise will host a string quartet and performances on oboe, clarinet, bassoon and flute.

White Bay ferry stop

FROM 04 Nov, Captain Cook Cruises will add the new departure point of King Street Wharf No.1 (Barangaroo) for its White Bay Cruise Ship Terminal City Ferry.

The new point will decrease ferry travel time by up to 15 minutes and is in response to the opening of the Wynyard Walk.

White Bay Cruise Ship Terminal Ferry will run every 15 to 20 minutes with a travel time of 10 minutes, compared to up to 25 minutes from Circular Quay.



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CRUISE

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Thursday 13 Oct 2016

2-for-1 Galapagos

WORLD Journeys is offering two-for-one sailings on its remaining 2016 Galapagos sailings when booked in full by 20 Dec.

The deal encompass four to eight day departures on board *Yacht La Pinta*, *Isabela II* and the new *Santa Cruz II*.

Cruise pricing leads in from \$4,130pp for four-day Eastern Islands on board *Yacht La Pinta*.

For more information phone 1800 155 044.

InterCity acquisition

NEW Zealand passenger transport and tourism company InterCity Group has purchased Auckland Hop-on Hop-off Explorer Bus.

From 01 Nov, InterCity will own the Explorer busses, which connect 14 Auckland attractions.

"Auckland is a key part of our sightseeing tour network, and we're excited to have a product that is ideal for a wide range of visitors, including the many cruise ship passengers who want to explore the city," said InterCity Group ceo John Thorburn.

RCI godmother finals

THREE finalists have been selected by Royal Caribbean International for the search for an inspiring educator to be *Harmony of the Seas'* godmother.

In the running is Brittany Affolter, manager, teacher leadership development, Teach for America Miami-Dade; Katherine O'Fallon, magnet coordinator, New River Middle School and Anike Sakariyawo physical science teacher, Miami Norland Senior High School.

The winner will be announced on 24 Oct and will take part in the naming ceremony on 10 Nov - see www.local10.com/godmother.

Scenic on w/end today

CHANNEL Nine's *Weekend Today* program will detail the highlights of cruising the Seine in France with Scenic over the next month.

Watch presenter David Whitehill explore Paris, Rouen, the Somme Battlefields, Normandy, Honfleur, and Vernon on Sat 15, 22, 29 Oct & 05 Nov from 9:50am.

Silversea previews *Silver Muse*



TODAY Silversea Cruises showcased its new *Silver Muse* at an event in Sydney, where the company's new general manager Asia-Pacific, Amber Wilson highlighted the features of the 596-guest vessel which debuts in Apr next year.

"*Silver Muse* takes ultra-luxury cruising to a completely new level," she said, with the all-suite vessel offering butler service, private balconies for all guests and a huge array of dining options.

Wilson told **CW** the ship is also expected to have strong appeal for Australian guests, with more

upper-category accommodation (Grand, Owner's, Royal and Silver Suites) than any other vessel in the Silversea fleet.

The ship also has 62 interconnecting cabins, serving the growing demand for intergenerational travel and eight restaurants.

Silversea also today unveiled its 2018 itineraries which span all seven continents and 1,000 destinations - 300 of them new to the cruise line.

Wilson is **pictured** above right with Silversea marketing manager Leanne Fonagy.

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Seabourn special

SEABOURN has a variety of specials on offer for select 2017 sailings booked before 15 Nov. Hot deals include complimentary upgrades, up to US\$1,000 on board spending money per suite, 50% reduced deposits and savings of up to 15% on combination cruises. Fares start from \$4,299pp twin share for a seven-day *Seabourn Odyssey* cruise from Athens to Istanbul departing 26 Aug. Phone 13 24 02 for more.

South African Sojourn

ECRUISE.TRAVEL'S popular South African Sojourn itinerary has just been released for 2018. Book by 30 Nov 2016 to receive a free upgrade on *Queen Mary 2* and up to US\$480 on board credit, plus a free three-night stop in Dubai and a sea plan etour. The trip departs Jan 2018 from the Four Seasons Johannesburg and includes a five-night stay at Kirkmans Kamp in Kruger and a three-night stay in Cape Town before cruising to Australia on board *Queen Mary 2*. The journey leads in at \$14,799pp twin share, with many inclusions like a one-way flight from Australia with Emirates and domestic airfares in South Africa.

New Oceania sailings for Winter 2017-18

OCEANIA Cruises has revealed over 30 new itineraries for its winter 2017-18 season on board its *Regatta, Marina, Riviera, and Sirena* ships. The sailings range in length from nine to 34 days with highlights of the new voyages including *Sirena's* in-depth exploration of South America with an inaugural Amazon sailing from Miami to Rio de Janeiro, and a 35-day journey from San Diego to Rio de Janeiro which includes coastal Mexico, the Panama Canal and Devil's Island. **CLICK HERE** for more information on the sailings.

ACA Update

Jill Abel - CEO

Cruise season compels excellence

THE arrival of *Celebrity Solstice* from the USA last weekend officially marked the beginning of the "Cruise Season" as we start to see international vessels coming down to homeport in Australia for the spring/summer months. ACA's members are looking forward to another exciting season as we welcome eight new ships including Royal Caribbean's *Ovation of the Seas* - the largest ship to ever cruise Australian waters. Welcoming this Quantum class vessel, which carries nearly 5,000 passengers, will bring with it opportunities for our members to really show their capabilities. Once the ship enters our waters, the vital work of our members truly begins in creating a successful experience for the crew and passengers. From piloting and berthing through to disembarkation security, delivering a fabulous passenger experience on shore and then ensuring the provadores load the requisite food and beverages back on board - this behind the scenes work is critical for every visit. But it's not just about quantity, we also need to look from the supply side at how our members perform with luxury vessels such as the *Seabourn Encore, Crystal Symphony* and *Azamara Journey*. While not high in guest numbers, their passengers are looking for bespoke experiences from the moment they arrive. The pressure is on but I am confident ACA's members will deliver yet again as they continue to perform a critical role in the Australian cruise industry.



PIZZA delivery has now taken to the water, or, to be more precise, to a canoe. Dominos Pizza in the village of Loose, in south east England is trying out a rather unique delivery by canoe service. During the trial, pizza will be transported along the River Loose by wetsuit-wearing "pizza buoys" all within the space of 22 minutes. To avoid any disappointment, the floatation of the pizza boxes has been "thoroughly tested" to make sure each one arrives safe and dry. A pizza buoy is pictured.

WIN A CRUISE ON BOARD NORWEGIAN JEWEL

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NCL NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE *Feel Free™*

Over the next month, Norwegian Cruise Line and *Cruise Weekly* are giving agents the chance to win a balcony stateroom for two on board *Norwegian Jewel's* 5-day Tasmania Sampler Cruise. All you have to do is answer each question correctly and have the most creative final answer. Send answers to ncl@criseweekly.com.au

Norwegian Cruise Line's unique Feel Free™ style of cruising offers freedom and flexibility never before seen in Australia. From November 2017 *Norwegian Jewel* will be calling Australia home, so now you can experience premium-contemporary freestyle cruising right from your doorstep.

5. Name one free offer included in Norwegian's Free at Sea offer?
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