



Cruise Weekly today
Cruise Weekly today has two pages of news.

NSW Police to probe *Ruby Princess*

CARNIVAL Australia remains firmly in the mainstream media spotlight during the COVID-19 crisis, with an ongoing focus on the spread of coronavirus from cruise ships prompting a formal investigation by NSW Police.

Commissioner Mick Fuller (pictured) announced the probe yesterday, saying "there seems to be absolute discrepancies between the information provided by Carnival and what I would see as the benchmark for the laws that the Federal Government and the State Government put in place in terms of protecting Australians from cruise ships when coronavirus had started."

"The only way I can get to the bottom of whether our national biosecurity laws and our state laws were broken is through a criminal investigation," he said.

Carnival Australia President, Sture Myrmell and local Princess



Cruises chief, Stuart Allison, have both insisted that procedures in place at the time were followed "to the letter" (CW 03 Apr), while Federal Home Affairs Minister, Peter Dutton has accused cruise lines of "lying".

In the meantime documents including transcripts of radio communications between the *Ruby Princess* and shoreside

health authorities have emerged, and sensational tabloid-style exposés on TV last night raised questions about the role of NSW Health and Border Force.

MEANWHILE a major operation on Sydney Harbour on the weekend saw police supervise the controlled departure of five Royal Caribbean Cruises ships from local waters, described as "the largest maritime operation the city has seen outside wartime".

Crew members were transferred between *Celebrity Solstice*, *Voyager of the Seas*, *Ovation of the Seas*, *Spectrum of the Seas* and *Radiance of the Seas* as the ships were restocked for journeys to their home ports, in compliance with an Australian Border Force order that all cruise ships should leave before 15 Jun.

Ruby Princess has relocated to Port Kembla where unwell crew are being evacuated and cared for.

No sign of Sherry

ANN Sherry, who continues to be listed as Chairman on the website of the beleaguered Carnival Australia, stepped down from the high profile role 12 months ago, according to her LinkedIn profile.

The change was highlighted in today's *Financial Review*, which also noted Sherry's biographies for the various board roles she holds now indicate she was "formerly" Chairman of Carnival Australia.

Sherry, who was CEO of Carnival Australia between 2007 and 2015, was honoured for her contribution to the sector at the recent Cruise Lines International Association Awards (CW 17 Feb).



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Not so Resolute?

VENEZUELAN patrol boat *Naiguata* sunk late last month after ramming the beleaguered *RCGS Resolute*, which *Naiguata* was supposedly attempting to seize.

In a press release from operators Columbia Cruise Services (CCS), *Resolute* was conducting routine engine maintenance off the coast of La Tortuga Island in the Caribbean Sea, with no passengers aboard, when *Naiguata* attempted to arrest it for violating the country's territorial waters.

"While the Master was in contact with the head office, gun shots were fired and, shortly thereafter, the navy vessel approached the starboard side at speed... and purposely collided with the *RCGS Resolute*," CCS' statement read.

While the ice-strengthened hull of the *Resolute* was unaffected, *Naiguata* sank, at which point CCS contends its ship remained on the scene, attempting to aid those on board the navy ship, who failed to reply.

Venezuelan authorities have disputed this version of events, claiming *Resolute* fled the collision site "in a cowardly and criminal manner," and "didn't try to rescue the crew of the sinking ship."

As late as Jan, *Resolute* was impounded in Buenos Aires, over money owed by the ship's now defunct former operator, One Ocean Expeditions (CW 10 Jan).

Dining afloat: Crystal Dining Room



SHIP: *Scenic Azure*, cruising along the Douro River.

WHILE all of Scenic's space-ships sailing European waterways feature a locally inspired restaurant called Crystal Dining Room, it's the array of Portuguese dishes on board *Scenic Azure* that really tickle the tastebuds.

The venue offers a range of both traditional local menu options and international cuisine, however it's the venue's signature dish - octopus served "lagareiro-style" - that you just can't go past.

Cooked in olive oil, garlic and green turnips, the seafood specialty is served on a bed of sweet potato puree and is truly Portuguese heaven.

The restaurant itself features modern decor with a local twist - peppered around the room are ceramic sardines, well-known local art pieces that form an intrinsic part of Portuguese culture.

WINE: Crystal Dining Room offers a variety of premium local Portuguese and port wines that combine pairing great wines with delicious handcrafted cuisine.

INCLUDED IN FARE: Yes.

RESERVATIONS: Not required.

DRESS: Smart casual.

HOURS: The Crystal Dining Room is open for breakfast from 7am to 9am; lunch 12.30pm to 2pm; and dinner from 7pm to 9pm.

Greg Mortimer guests tested for COVID-19

PASSENGERS aboard the *Greg Mortimer* were tested for COVID-19 by the Uruguayan Ministry of Health on the weekend.

The counselling team has also set up a Facebook group, where they are posting videos to help passengers cope with the situation.



SHE'S been retired for over 50 years, but *Queen Mary* may be brought out of retirement to help in the COVID-19 outbreak.

No, we're not talking of a monarch, but of the former Cunard ocean liner which has remained docked in Long Beach, California, since the late 1960s, and has since served as a hotel.

However, with the outbreak of coronavirus, the City of Long Beach is discussing how to convert the ship into a medical facility in anticipation of a surge in COVID-19 patients.

"The City is coordinating plans regarding care facilities and more to ensure that we remain prepared to serve the needs of our community," Long Beach officials said in a statement.

"The *Queen Mary* remains in consideration, and we will have a plan to announce in the future."

It wouldn't be the first time *Queen Mary* has served in a global catastrophe - the 'Grey Ghost', as she was nicknamed, was converted into a troopship during World War II, when she ferried Allied soldiers.

Coral in Miami

CORAL Princess docked Miami yesterday with two dead and 12 testing positive for COVID-19, after the ship was initially refused permission to dock in Fort Lauderdale.