



Cruise Weekly today

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

Atlas appoints

FLEDGLING expedition cruise operator Atlas Ocean Voyages has named Carlos Garzon as its Senior Vice President of Business Development.

Other appointments include Chief Financial Officer Christine Borrack and Vice President of Guest Services Andrew Moris, all named in the lead-up to the Jul 2021 launch of the line's first vessel, *World Navigator*.

The 196-passenger ship is currently under construction and will undertake her inaugural season with a series of seven to 24-night itineraries in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

CLIA slams NSW support for cruise bashing

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has blasted the Government of NSW's support for last Sun night's *Cruising - The Perfect Storm* documentary on the Seven Network (**CW** 12 Oct), after a number of industry viewers pointed out the show was "developed with the assistance of Screen NSW".

The closing credits of the two-hour anti-cruise program confirmed the relationship with the Government agency, with CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz saying the matter "may be of particular interest to NSW agents, who we know are experiencing incredible hardship due to the travel ban and cruise suspension".

"At a time when tens of thousands of NSW jobs are at stake and so many travel agents are suffering, it was particularly disappointing to see that Seven's

sensationalistic and misleading program was developed with the support of Screen NSW," he said.

"Cruising is worth more than \$3 billion a year to the NSW economy and supports more than 10,000 NSW jobs.

"CLIA will be reaching out to the NSW Government to express our disappointment that the agency whose role is to support arts and culture in NSW has been involved with the development of this production, and we encourage others to do the same."

The heavily slanted report traced every possible cruise disaster and mishap imaginable, from the sinking of *Titanic* and *Lusitania*, norovirus outbreaks, pollution, overtourism, the *Costa Concordia* disaster and death of Diane Brimble and graphic & emotional scenes from passengers impacted by coronavirus on various Princess

ships, without a single reference to the Government of NSW's inquiry into *Ruby Princess*, which effectively exonerated the line.

On a brighter note, viewership figures for the program showed it was seen by about 650,000 Australians - a fraction of that for the much more positive *Morning Show* segment featuring *TD's* Bruce Piper, which had a viewership of more than five million after being broadcast multiple times and posted on the program's website - **VIEW HERE**.

CW was told by Screen NSW the state govt does not have a focus on any specific genre or industry, with the production receiving funding under its working title of *The Future of Cruising*.

"Screen NSW was not a party to the production...the production company and the broadcaster have editorial control of the program," a spokesperson said.

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TEXAS-BASED engineer Roland Heersink has developed an electric-capable boat which folds flat for transit and storage. Yet to reach production, the AquaNaut 270 is designed with two deep canoe-like hulls joined together side-by-side via two metal crossbeams.

The AquaNaut 270 seats two passengers, with space between the hulls serving as a storage space, or as a bench seat for another passenger.

According to Heersink, the AquaNaut 270 can be folded or unfolded in 10 minutes without any tools.

Creative bonus

CREATIVE Cruising has announced extra point-of-sale commission on Celebrity Cruises bookings deposited from 12 Oct to 30 Nov.

To support the offer, the wholesaler has launched a range of tailor-made Celebrity holidays.

Agents will have the extra commission applied at the point of sale, valid for all Celebrity bookings made through Creative during the campaign period, with no maximum booking limit.

The bonus is also combinable with a range of current in-market promotions including savings of up to \$750pp and a free classic beverage package. More info on 1300 362 599.

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NCL team stepping out



THE Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) team took a stroll this week down to the Sydney Opera House as part of the hugely successful Walk for Wellness Challenge (**CW** 21 Sep).

The trek continued through Sydney's spectacular harbourside Botanical Gardens, with the 21-strong group walking a combined total of over 45km.

"We've been fortunate to be able to go for a walk in celebration of the health and wellbeing of our valued travel partners and add another 45 kilometres to the Walk for Wellness total at the same time," said NCL VP and MD Ben Angell.

Walk for Wellness utilises a free mobile phone application

encouraging NCL's travel partners to get active and track their steps while completing a range of fun weekly challenges.

MEANWHILE, NCL's current *Spirit* Summer Sale offers cruisers the chance to save up to \$800 on *Norwegian Spirit's* 2021-22 inaugural Australasian season.

With savings available from now until 04 Nov, guests will also receive two choices from Norwegian's Free at Sea offer, which includes a free beverage package, free shore excursion credit, free specialty dining package, free wi-fi package or the third and fourth guest sail at a reduced rate, available on select sailings.

Find additional information and terms and conditions for the guest special offers [HERE](#).

Azamara special

CRUISE Traveller is promoting a close-to-home Dec 2021 Azamara package, with savings of up to \$14,000 per couple.

The Perth-Sydney itinerary is on offer with a fly free, stay free and transfer free deal for bookings confirmed by 31 Oct, with the trip including "dress circle" seats to witness Sydney's New Year's Eve fireworks - [CLICK HERE](#) for info.

Iona delivered

P&O Cruises UK has officially welcomed its new ship *Iona* to its fleet, in what President Pat Ludlow has labelled a "positive signal for the future".

Iona was handed over at an official ceremony at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Germany last week.

Carnival trends up

CARNIVAL Corporation has revealed that its bookings for the second half of next year are at the "higher end of the historical range".

Delivering a business update this week, Carnival Chief Executive Officer Arnold Donald said in the three weeks to 20 Sep, 60% of sales were fresh bookings rather than from future cruise credits.

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