

Seabourn new VP

SEABOURN Cruise Line has named Steve Smotrys as Vice President, Global Sales.

A seasoned cruise industry executive, prior to joining Seabourn, Smotrys served as Cunard Vice President Sales & Trade Marketing North America.

He has spent 20 years at Carnival Corporation, joining Princess Cruises in 2000.

Carnival Corp canx

CARNIVAL Corporation's AIDA Cruises and Costa Cruises brands have cancelled sailings in Europe amid a coronavirus surge.

AIDA will cancel cruises for the month of Nov, while Costa has cancelled cruises aboard *Costa Deliziosa*, *Costa Diadema*, *Costa Favolosa* and *Costa Firenze*.

Webjet: "poor job" at cruise

EXCLUSIVE

WEBJET Chief Executive Officer John Gucsic says the decision to close down the company's Cruise Sale Finder division early in the pandemic (**CW** 01 Apr) was relatively easy because "we'd done a poor job in our cruise division for a significant period".

The move was announced in the lead-up to Webjet's successful capital raising in Apr, as the company made wide-ranging adjustments to its operations and scrambled to deal with the impacts of plummeting demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an interview at The Travel Industry Hub this week, Gucsic told **Cruise Weekly** the Webjet cruise operations were still a "raw, sore point with me".

"It was borderline profitable and declining in relevance to our Online Republic business," he said, adding that "it was

a relatively small part of the operation through our own lack of performance".

However he also noted that in his view the negative publicity around what had happened in cruising in the very early stages of the pandemic would mean it would take a significant time for the sector to rebound.

"The thing about being confined in a cruise ship where there could be an outbreak meant in my view a longer recovery period - that made it a relatively easy decision to close the cruise business," the Webjet chief said.

Webjet's now shuttered cruise operations ceased taking bookings on 01 Apr but existing reservations continued to be supported through until the beginning of this month.

However following a transition, Webjet bookings are now being supported by cruise lines directly.

Chimu doco

CHIMU Adventures has released its first-ever documentary, *Calm to Chaos*, which details how the cruise line and the travel industry at large has dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 40-minute film takes viewers behind the scenes of the pandemic as it unfolded from the point of view of the travel industry, as Chimu set about organising the repatriation of hundreds of stranded travellers from South America, and battered down red tape both in Australia and overseas to make it happen.

To view the documentary, **CLICK HERE**.

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THE NIMBYs are out in force again - and this time they're attempting to kibosh a proposal to allow jet skis north of Perth's Swan River's Windan Bridge.

Western Australia's Department of Transport is planning a two-year trial which would allow personal water crafts such as jet skis as far upstream as East Perth.

Such vessels are currently prohibited from operating in these reaches but the Department is considering allowing it based on its ability to monitor vessels via CCTV, and to be more equitable.

The 5 knot speed limit would be kept for all craft, but the proposal has still alarmed kayak and paddling groups, who believe it will be dangerous for other river users.

Perth Paddlers club committee member Rob Jenkinson went one step further, saying personal water craft were "getting out of control".

ACL debuts new season



AMERICAN Cruise Line (ACL) has debuted its mightiest Mississippi season ever for 2021, which will see it introduce two new modern riverboats, *American Jazz* (pictured) and *American Melody*.

A total of 15 new shore excursions and new onboard enrichment programs is available, as American's fleet plies the mighty River from late Feb through Dec 2021 between St. Paul and New Orleans.

A brand new eight-day Music Cities cruise will also debut between Nashville and Memphis from Jul to Sep, stopping in Clarksville, Dover, and Paducah, and also cruising Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake.

American has expanded its shoreside options for the season by introducing 100% private transportation aboard new luxury cruise coaches, which follow the riverboats from port-to-port.

The cruise line is also offering one-night complimentary pre-cruise packages from every Mississippi River departure port

in 2021, new extended pre-and post-cruise packages, and luxury Four Seasons pre-cruise packages in select cities along the Mississippi.

Hans Swans in

SWAN Hellenic has appointed Hans Heger as Vice President Hotel Operations.

The luxury cruise hospitality expert brings his experienced insight and a "track record as innovator" to Swan Hellenic, having previously worked with Scenic Luxury Tours & Cruises and Silversea Cruises.

Heger's experience also extends to shore-based operations such as Abercrombie & Kent and Club Med.

Swan Hellenic Chief Executive Officer Andrea Zito said Heger brings "outstanding high-end hospitality expertise and creative flair to our vision for an entirely unique guest experience."

Hey now, you're a..

LINDBLAD Expeditions is hosting its first ever All-Stars Edition of its Outdoor Photo/Video, Travel Imaging Conference (OPTIC), held online from 22-23 Nov.

The cruise line has hosted six of the events on prior occasions, and is this year ramping it up and taking it online - more **HERE**.



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