



Cruise Weekly today

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

NT cruise backpedal

THE Government of the NT has lifted its cruise ship headcount to 150.

Last month's Government decision allowed no more than 100 people on board a ship, including crew members - a decision slammed by the NT tourism industry (CW 29 Mar).

Tourism Top End General Manager Glen Hingley told NT News his organisation was grateful the NT Chief Health Officer Hugh Heggie reconsidered.

"We hope it is not too late for these expedition ship companies to reconsider Darwin as their key port for their Northern Australia expeditions," Hingley said.

"The Top End, for many decades, has relied upon multiple Australian operated small expedition shipping companies, and it has supported small businesses and employment well beyond just tourism and hospitality.

"We are in close contact with our TTE member expedition ship companies, and they are relieved at this change from NT Health."

No change has yet been made to the "two-at-a-time" rule.

The Day the (cruise) Music Died

EXCLUSIVE

CRUISECO'S long-running partnership with music cruise specialists Choose Your Cruise (CYC) is over, after a decade of jointly welcoming thousands of music lovers aboard the highly successful series of festivals at sea.

Having operated together since 2011, the annual events have included the popular Bravo, Cruise n Groove, Cruisin' Country, and Rock the Boat voyages, generally involving full charters of Royal Caribbean International (RCI) vessels.

The change follows the recent acquisition of CruiseCO by Helloworld (CW 24 Feb), with an update to members of the consortium yesterday advising "CruiseCO will no longer wholesale Music Cruises in 2022".

"We have had a long association with CYC but we couldn't come to an agreement that worked for both CYC and CruiseCO," Helloworld told travel agents.

In addition, the previously planned 2021 Music Super Cruise has been postponed for another 12 months due to the ongoing uncertainty relating to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Previously, CruiseCO and CYC had planned a major collaboration on the Super Cruise, which involved a seven night charter of RCI's *Ovation of the Seas* playing host to both the Cruisin' Country and Rock the



Boat roster of top musicians (CW 31 Jul 2020).

The itinerary had been planned to operate from Sydney from 23-30 Nov this year, and had also been opened up for sale through all travel agencies in Australia (CW 21 Sep 2020), rather than just CruiseCO members.

CruiseCO's update said that CYC had "come to the difficult decision to postpone Super Cruise 2021 to 2022, with a new sailing date set for 09 Nov 2022" (pictured).

Ovation will still be used for the ex-Sydney voyage, and all headline performers and the majority of musicians from the original line-up will return.

All currently booked passengers

on Super Cruise 2021 will automatically transfer to the new date, and if clients are unable to travel, a Future Cruise Credit for 2023 can be issued upon request.

During the process of transferring existing bookings onto the new sailing, no new booking requests for 2022 will be processed, but pre-registrations can be lodged by **CLICKING HERE**.

With CruiseCO splitting from CYC, all client funds have been transferred to CYC who also have access to client booking data and the manifests.

CYC will be able to handle all questions regarding current and future client bookings via phone on 08 8277 3444 or email to sales@chooseyourcruise.com.au.

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MSC ramps up return

MSC Cruises has announced plans to sail more than half its fleet this coming northern summer.

The line plans to have at least 10 ships sailing by Aug, up from the three either currently returned or set to return.

Over the next three months, nine more ships will return to operation, in addition to *MSC Grandiosa*, which has been sailing since mid-last year (CW 04 Aug 2020).

The plan includes six ships sailing in the Mediterranean (three in the Eastern Mediterranean and three in the Western Mediterranean), and four vessels deployed to Northern Europe.

Most cruises will be open to travellers from any country.

CEO Gianni Onorato said MSC's return to service plans would soon grow larger.

MacKenzie entertains a job



P&O Cruises Senior Entertainment Host Fiona MacKenzie (pictured) has been officially signed off to vaccinate against coronavirus.

MacKenzie completed a number of shifts with St. Johns Ambulance in order to be allowed to vaccinate without supervision.

"I never thought an entertainer like me would ever be in this position, but it feels great to help our nation," MacKenzie enthused.

"Not long now till I can get back to sailing with P&O cruises and entertaining our guests.

"Until then, I'll be vac-seeing you soon!"

CLIA meets with CDC

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) earlier this week met with the government of the United States, as well as the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

Along with a number of its cruise line members, CLIA conducted a listening session regarding the industry's concerns with the Conditional Sailing Order (CSO), which involved the Association calling for the CSO to be replaced or significantly revised.

CLIA said the CDC committed to working with the industry, seaport partners and others in the interagency team "to address the changes in the science, including the impact of vaccines, that will move us toward our shared goal of responsibly resuming operations this summer."

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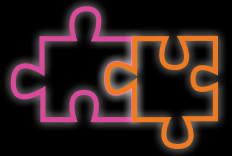
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PORTHOLE

AN IDEA to install artificial islands in the Murray River (pictured) to protect dwindling turtle populations is set to become a reality.

Foxes have long been a big issue for declining juvenile turtle populations, and following years of research, the man-made floating structures will be used in an effort to protect Murray River-based turtle species, including the Murray River turtle and the eastern long-necked turtle.



Whitsundays cruise

INTENTIONALLY Different Travel has launched new catamaran sailing holidays in the Whitsunday Islands.

The six-day sail program utilises a French-designed-and-built 12-metre catamaran, which takes up to six pax, with inclusions such as breakfast, fuel, marine park fees, airport transfers and more.

Containing three cabins, full size bathrooms, and plentiful space inside & on deck, guests can also utilise a Book the Chef option, which will see an internationally trained chef prepare all meals.

I'm your Venus



VIKING has taken delivery of its newest ocean ship, *Viking Venus* (pictured).

To be officially named in the United Kingdom on 17 May, the delivery ceremony took place at Fincantieri's shipyard in Ancona, Italy.

Venus will now make her way to the United Kingdom, where she will be named by her ceremonial godmother, British journalist and broadcaster Anne Diamond.

"We are especially proud to welcome our newest ship to the fleet this year," said Viking Chairman Torstein Hagen.

"Many of us have stayed close to home for months, so this is an especially important milestone as we begin to get back into the world again.

"We look forward to celebrating the naming of *Viking Venus* by her esteemed godmother, Anne Diamond, and to welcoming our UK guests back on board next month."

The news follows Viking's recent announcement it is restarting

operations with a collection of new itineraries in Bermuda, and Iceland beginning in May (**CW** 08 Apr), in addition to its United Kingdom-based restart.

Oceania incentive

OCEANIA Cruises has announced a bonus commission incentive for Australian travel partners. For a limited time only, travel advisors can earn upfront bonus commission in the form of gift cards for introducing new guests to Oceania.

The promotion sees advisors who book a new-to-brand customer on any Oceania voyage departing next year or the year after receive a \$150 Visa gift card.

Open to retail and wholesale advisors, the incentive will run until the end of the month.

The promotion is not applicable for group booking transfers, and all deposits must be made by 07 May.



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