



Cruise ban could perhaps lift sooner?

A 'TOURISM Round Table' hosted by *The Advertiser* in Adelaide has heard about hope for a cruise restart as soon as this month from Minister for Tourism Dan Tehan, who said "no one would be happier than me" to see international ships return to Australian waters.

The Round Table heard that an acceptance from all states could see the ban lifted this month, despite the current human biosecurity emergency period prohibiting international cruise ships until Apr (**CW** 14 Feb).

The event was convened to find solutions to the hurdles facing the COVID-ravaged travel sector, and among a number of tourism stakeholders, was also attended by Minister for Finance Simon Birmingham, who preceded Tehan as Tourism Minister.

Ignite Travel CEO Ryan Thomas, one of six tourism industry



representatives in attendance at the Round Table, said major cruise lines would largely bypass Australia regardless of any sudden lifting of the ban, as they needed to make deployment decisions well in advance.

Birmingham backed the resumption of the cruise industry, but reminded attendees leadership was needed from the states and territories, which control their ports themselves.

Tehan and Birmingham said the

90-minute discussion, which took place at Keith Murdoch House, would be relayed to PM Scott Morrison and the cabinet.

Pictured are Luxury Escapes Chief Executive Officer Adam Schwab; Holidays of Australia & The World Managing Director Ben Mead; itravel Penrith owner Belle Goldie; Phil Hoffmann Travel MD Phil Hoffmann; Birmingham; Tehan; Thomas; and Council of Australian Tour Operators Chair Dennis Bunnik.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Jervis Bay calls?

NEW South Wales Minister for Regional Transport Sam Farraway has said the state has not been engaged by Ponant regarding a future call in Jervis Bay - a port it published as part of its Treasures of the South Australian Coast & Tasmania itinerary.

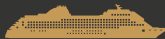
However, Farraway did not rule out any chance of a future cruise ship call in the region, pointing out vessel entry to the region had occurred in the past under an emergency only, and no pax had disembarked.

Farraway also highlighted a *Draft Plan* proposing the investigation of future sustainable cruise calls.

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PORTHOLE

ONE of P&O Cruises Australia's favourite captains Nick Boon is set to retire after a 42-year career at sea.

Captain Boon is currently in command of *Pacific Adventure* as the ship awaits the restart of operations in Australia.

On popular Christmas cruises, Captain Boon loved nothing better on Christmas Eve than to be reading Yuletide stories to his younger guests as they experienced the joys of the holiday season at sea.

Boon was also with P&O for some landmark events including *Dawn's* inaugural cruise to Papua New Guinea in 2013 and 2015's Five-Ship Spectacular.

Silversea christens *Origin*



SILVERSEA Cruises has christened *Silver Origin* with an expedition-inspired ceremony in the Galapagos Islands.

The cruise line named Johanna Carrion as *Origin's* Godmother, with guests taking to the water on the ship's Zodiacs to raise a glass of champagne to Silversea's newest ship.

A tradition of Royal Caribbean Group, a bagpipe performance (pictured) initiated the naming ceremony, which was also the company's new President & Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty's first christening in his role.

"My heartfelt congratulations to the Silversea team on this milestone," Liberty said.

The new CEO co-hosted the event with Silversea officials, such as President & Chief Executive Officer Roberto Martinoli; Chief Commercial Officer Barbara Muckermann; and Vice President Ecuador Fernando Delgado.

The ceremony also saw *Origin* blessed by Bishop Patricio Bonilla.

"It was a very proud moment to officially welcome *Silver Origin* to



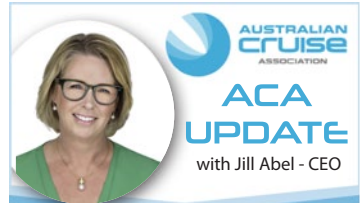
our fleet," Martinoli added.

Silversea's first destination-specific ship, the 100-guest *Origin* will welcome travellers year-round to the Galapagos, and was built with its environment in mind.

The all-suite, all-balcony *Origin* incorporates state-of-the-art technology, including advanced propulsion, and a dynamic positioning system that protects the delicate seabed.

All suites feature a freshwater purification system that reduces plastic bottle usage.

Silversea will host in-person events around Australia later this month in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne - for more information, [CLICK HERE](#).



AUSTRALIAN CRUISE ASSOCIATION
ACA UPDATE
with Jill Abel - CEO

Good news for cruise

GOOD news this week that Virgin Voyages' third ship *Resilient Lady* will be including Australia in her itinerary planning (CW 28 Feb).

There is already a bookable 15-night Singapore, Bali and Australia cruise in late 2023.

Ports of call include Darwin, Cairns, Airlie Beach and Sydney.

This means more good news for Cairns which late last week hosted the launch of a new locally built \$7 million marine science and tourism pontoon, Reef Magic, by ACA member, Experience Co.

The pontoon is looking to be operational by mid-Mar of this year on Moore Reef - about 45km from Cairns.

It will offer scuba diving, snorkelling and helmet diving and is sure to be a drawcard for cruise passengers who want to spend a day on the Great Barrier Reef.

Attractions like this are great for the domestic market but only when international travellers return, will they start to really reap the benefits.

On the other side of the country, funding has been confirmed for a new multi-million-dollar wharf at the Port of Dampier which will welcome cruise ships as well as bulk carriers and container ships.

The new infrastructure will enhance this important regional port in Australia which offers cruise passengers opportunities for day trips out to the Dampier Archipelago or tour the nearby national parks.

Russia calls canned

MSC Cruises and Sea Cloud Cruises have both suspended calls to St. Petersburg.

The Baltic summer itineraries operated by MSC this year will instead call on ports in Stockholm, Helsinki or Tallinn.

The decision affects itineraries aboard *MSC Grandiosa*, *MSC Poesia*, *MSC Preziosa* and *MSC Virtuosa*.

Meanwhile, Sea Cloud's new vessel, *Sea Cloud Spirit*, which had four calls scheduled to St. Petersburg, will now have its itineraries reworked.

Guests booked on these itineraries have already been informed of the decision, Sea Cloud said.