



Angell spreads wings as CLIA Chair

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) Vice President & Managing Director Asia-Pacific Ben Angell (pictured) has been elected as the new local Chair of Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

He takes on the role from former Chair, Royal Caribbean Cruises local Vice President & MD Gavin Smith, whose two-year term has concluded.

Angell was elected at CLIA's annual general meeting which took place in Sydney yesterday, with MD Joel Katz saying Angell was an "accomplished industry leader who would offer invaluable experience at a time when the cruise sector was working to establish a new course for its future".

"Angell has been a key leader in our industry for many years and has been highly successful in various executive roles, not



only within cruising but across the wider tourism and leisure sectors," Katz said.

"He will provide important stewardship for our industry as we work to strengthen our recovery, rebuild confidence in cruising and confront other challenges ahead of us."

Katz also paid tribute to the outgoing Smith, hailing his leadership of CLIA through unprecedented times.

"Smith is an authoritative

and longstanding leader in our industry, and his Chairmanship has spanned the most difficult period of our history".

"He has been an invaluable part of our industry's response to the pandemic, and has helped steer our sector through a difficult environment into revival."

Angell said he was honoured to take on the role, saying "I look forward to working closely with CLIA and our partners in the industry as we drive towards a future that's brighter than ever".

He will lead an Executive Committee comprising of Smith, Stuart Allison from Princess Cruises; Sarina Bratton from Ponant; Lynne Clarke of MSC Cruises; Carnival Corporation's Marguerite Fitzgerald; Andrew Millmore from Travel The World; and Steve Odell from Oceania Cruises/Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Eden to be briefed

THE Eden community is set to be briefed on the return of cruise ships to the town at an information session tonight.

Cruise Eden will provide details related to the restart of the industry, and answer community questions.

The public briefing will be held at Eden Visitor Information Centre from 5.30pm, with Cruise Eden Coordinator Debbie Meers telling the *Bega District News* the orientation will allow the community to hear from a number of industry representatives, including Australian Cruise Association CEO Jill Abel - see **page 3**.



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Carnival: travel enthusiasm is back

A CARNIVAL Cruise Line study with the University of Florida has found a shift in traveller priorities for the upcoming cruise season, with passengers caring more about the “with” rather than “where” when planning a vacation.

The social listening study of 21.3 million travel planners found about one in five mentions of a summer vacation include a reference to “doing everything together” and “spending quality time with loved ones”.

This compared to about one in 10 mentions of a summer vacation hinting at a tropical, sunny, or beach locale, and outside of these key travel terms, destination specifics are sparse.

Online travel chatter also indicates a desire for trips jam-packed with multiple stops, attractions, and activities, meaning a large opportunity for



travel advisors booking cruises.

“Bringing loved ones together for a fun-filled, stress-free vacation is what we do, so we are happy to find that today’s traveller is craving just that,” said the cruise line’s President Christine Duffy.

“On a Carnival cruise, we take care of all of the details – transportation, dining, entertainment, and much more – so that our guests can focus on what’s really important – quality time with those they love.

“From bucket list vacations and long weekend getaways to milestone celebrations and multi-generational reunions, our cruises are about creating memorable vacations together.”

Duffy said the cruise line is eager to continue welcoming its guests back on board, as Carnival recently welcomed its two millionth passenger since its restart last week in Port Canaveral aboard *Carnival Freedom*.

“We are so pleased to have sailed two million guests since our restart, providing much-needed vacations featuring our signature fun to an array of destinations in the Caribbean, The Bahamas, the Mexican Riviera, Alaska and Europe, all the while providing an economic boost to those destinations and providing our crew members with opportunities to support their families,” Duffy said.

Setting the standard

MSC Cruises’ *MSC World Europa* will set new standards for environmental sustainability at sea, with the liquefied natural gas-powered ship to become the first contemporary vessel to incorporate fuel cell technology with the potential to deliver significant carbon dioxide emission reductions.

World Europa will feature brand new solid oxide fuel cell technology powered by LNG, and developed by MSC, Chantiers de l’Atlantique and Bloom Energy.

The 150-kilowatt SOFC demonstrator will generate auxiliary power to deliver efficiency gains and significant CO2 emissions reductions compared to traditional engines, and will potentially enable hybrid propulsion in the future.



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Return to Cruise

AS THE industry ramps back up, our cruise workshops are proving a huge opportunity for members to share what they have been doing to support the return of cruise and prepare for the future.

Two weeks ago, we had around 40 operators in attendance at our event in Darwin. Many had been working in the industry for some time but it was great to see some new faces too, including the highly creative team behind the Darwin Distilling Company. Check out their Darwin Gin (with the giant croc label) and the exotic and very tasty Salty Plum gin. I have no doubt this will grow to be a popular shore excursion!

We were also hosted by Ethical Adventures on a tour to the breathtakingly beautiful Litchfield National Park - another must-do for cruise passengers looking to explore beyond the urban gateways to gain a greater sense of place.

This week it's off to Eden as we look forward to the return of cruise to this important regional port, which made extensive infrastructure investment just prior to the borders closing including the wharf extension and the wonderful welcome centre.

We look forward to continuing the roadshow to Tasmania, South Australia, and WA ensuring we have made it right around Australia prior to the Oct kick-off for "wave season."

AQV blows over the Windy City



AMERICAN Queen Voyages' (AQV) *Ocean Navigator* has been welcomed to Chicago's Navy Pier, her maiden arrival at the destination.

Through an exclusive partnership with sister company City Experiences, AQV is the only cruise line to dock at the pier overnight.

Sister ship *Ocean Voyager* will also call on Navy Pier for the first time on 08 Jun, as the two vessels navigate the locks of the St. Lawrence Seaway and all five Great Lakes.

All cruises include a pre-sailing hotel night, and when in Chicago, offer a water-led architecture tour of the city.

"Travellers are ready to make up for lost time and are eager to deeply discover North America now - and Chicago is a stunning backdrop to embark on that journey," said AQV Chief Commercial Officer Isis Ruiz.

"*Navigator's* arrival at Navy Pier is a fitting way to celebrate tourism in Chicago, exploring

the city's bounty of culture and history.

"We look forward to an exciting season showcasing the many treasures across the Great Lakes."

Regional leaders welcomed AQV to town, and according to Choose Chicago Chief Executive Officer Lynn Osmond, the occasion marked the United States' third-most populous city's arrival as a "cruise destination".

"Chicago's tourism industry plays a large role contributing to the vibrancy of the city, and we are thrilled to have partners like American Queen Voyages who offer extraordinary experiences for our locals and tourists alike," she said.

Pictured are AQV Vice President Vessel Operations Bill Annand; *Navigator* Captain Gary Kerr, Osmond, Navy Pier President & Chief Executive Officer Marilyn Gardner, The Magnificent Mile Association President & Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Bares and City Experiences Chief Operating Officer Dan Russell.



VIRGIN Voyages' "no kids" policy has children calling "b*llsh*t".

At least that is the story being told in Virgin's new television commercial, promoting the virtues of a childless cruise in a post-pandemic time when we could probably all do with a break from certain family members.

The campaign, which can be viewed **HERE**, is styled as a sentimental 1980s ballad against the injustice that is Virgin's no kids rule.

Despite the fairly convincing #KidsAgainstVirginVoyages ad, Virgin founder Richard Branson reassured the cruise line's passengers he was in no danger of a backflip on his vision, that even his own grandchildren would have to wait until they turn 18 to board *Scarlet Lady* and her sisters.

Deal of the week

VIKING'S river deal of the week is a Grand European Cruise between Amsterdam and Budapest.

The 15-day sailing is now on sale, priced from \$3,995 per person twin share on selected departures for new bookings made before the end of next month.

The journey winds its way through four countries along the Rhine, Main, and Danube rivers - phone 138 747.