



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### RCI sales recruits

**STRONG** sales performance has prompted Royal Caribbean to bolster its sales team specifically to target and service key industry accounts.

Two of the new members - Roberta Chaplin and Catherine Marshall - have been deployed to focus on the Flight Centre Travel Group and Helloworld Group accounts respectively, both of whom bring strong business development skills.

Chaplin began her travel industry career at Flight Centre where she worked as a Team Leader at Ignite Travel Group, whereas Marshall is a highly experienced account manager from stints with Express Travel Group, NIB Travel Insurance and TravelCube Pacific.

Separately, Alex Doyle and Ruby Edwards will focus on digital partnerships and digital trade sales for RCI, with both boasting extensive backgrounds and individual successes in their respective areas of focus.

Originally from the UK, Doyle brings experience in data science to her new role, having managed online media for Orotan in her prior role.

Edwards has enjoyed mega success in digital marketing, having co-founded the global online media company 'Shit You Should Care About', which has garnered 3.5m followers.

## Auckland to review fee hike



**THE** Port of Auckland will review the level and duration of its price increase, following severe backlash from the cruise industry, Chief Executive Officer Roger Gray has revealed.

Speaking at yesterday's New Zealand Cruise Association Conference (pictured), Gray said the Port had heard the industry's message, and will be evaluating the hike, which was announced earlier this year.

"We published a five-year pricing projection, at your request, to allow you to book it into the booking cycle," Gray explained to attendees.

"There's been quite a lot of sticker shock of the magnitude of those increases, and we've heard the message, and we'll be reviewing that level of increase and the duration."

Gray said the first price increase, scheduled for Oct, will still go ahead; however future hikes will be assessed, in an effort to keep both Auckland and NZ as an attractive cruise destination.

"We were as surprised as you

around the consultation from customs on the visa, and so we do acknowledge that we've got to do our part in helping the industry stay here in New Zealand," he added.

Carnival Corporation Chief Strategy & External Affairs Officer, Teresa Lloyd, responding to a question from **CW**, described the growing cost of cruising in New Zealand as "crippling".

"We are seeing tens, hundreds, 700% increases, and it doesn't matter how small the base fee is for the charge, when you're doubling, tripling, quadrupling a fee, it is crippling," she said.

"Because of the way Australian consumer law works, we have to sell an all-inclusive price, so if you put up fees and charges, we've already sold the ticket - we [eat] that cost.

"Every single increase, no one's even coming in close to something like inflation, that's how out of whack it is...it's not unique to New Zealand, but it is particularly acute in New Zealand," Lloyd added. *MS*

### Exclusive Explora

**EXPLORA** Journeys has unveiled a suite of exclusive experiences which will be available to guests cruising the Caribbean during the 2025/26 northern winter season.

Experiences include learning about Martinican rum culture, with tasting opportunities; a three-course beach meal at Rosewood Le Guanahani and a Mayan purification ceremony while exploring the ancient pyramids and palaces of Uxmal.

In Cozumel, travellers can also enjoy a scenic flight over the Caribbean Sea and gain early access to the Chichén Itza ruins.

The luxury line will have both *Explora I* and *Explora II* sailing the Caribbean until Mar 2025, with the newer of the two ships arriving a month earlier than its predecessor.

### S.Korea ship blaze

**THREE** people were injured on a cruise ship in South Korea when a fire broke out while the vessel was docked in Jeju Island on Wed.

*Adora Mediterranea* was carrying more than 3,100 guests and crew at the time, and was scheduled to depart later that day for Fukuoka.

The Jeju Coast Guard reported that the alarm was raised as smoke was seen emerging from the ship, with fire crews arriving to quickly extinguish the blaze.

Three of the ship's crew were treated for smoke inhalation, and the cause of the fire is being investigated.

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## Stay Updated

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**NEW** Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA) Chief Executive Jacqui Lloyd didn't necessarily come from a cruise family, but she does now.

Lloyd revealed to attendees of NZCA's annual conference yesterday her mother is now a volunteer within the cruise sector, greeting passengers disembarking in Picton, in New Zealand's Marlborough District.

"[She] welcomes cruise passengers when they come off the shuttles and directs them in the different ways," Lloyd confessed.

"She also does look good in pink," Lloyd quipped.

## McDonough Aroya

**CRUISE** Saudi has recruited Australian cruise expert, Sammi McDonough, to help launch its brand-new Arabian cruise line, Aroya Cruises (**CW** 17 May).

McDonough, who will work from the company's Jeddah office in Saudi Arabia, has taken up the position of Senior Manager of Entertainment, overseeing the development and execution of a diverse range of onboard activities, performances, and events.

She will draw on her extensive industry experience, including as the Entertainment Director at Princess Cruises, and Manager of Guest Experience at Carnival Australia.

## 'The World To You' hits MEL



**MORE** than 50 agents from Helloworld's branded and non-branded agent groups gathered in Melbourne recently for a 'micro famil', experiencing some of the city's best tourist attractions while learning more about leading touring and cruise brands.

Known as 'The World To You', the collective features Ponant, Journey Beyond, Bunnik Tours and AmaWaterways, with each brand updating agents on their latest offerings.

Agents attending on the day

## NCL tres bien!

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) and The Travel Corporation's European Rendezvous event has seen strong early demand, with those interested encouraged to secure their spot now.

More European Rendezvous have been added from Aug to Nov in Newcastle, Castle Hill, and the Gold Coast.

Nearly 2,000 registrations have been made in the first week - **CLICK HERE** for more.

represented Helloworld, Express Travel Group, MTA Travel Group and Magellan Travel Group.

Starting their day at Eureka 89, agents enjoyed mimosas over some captivating views of the city beneath them, hearing from Bunnik and Ama before heading for a cruise along the Yarra River, backed by a two-course lunch.

From there, the group enjoyed another entertaining ride to the top of Eureka 89 for an afternoon wine and cheese pairing occasion, where Ponant and Journey Beyond hosted presentations.

A major prize draw was then conducted as the brands gave away a \$2,000 package loaded with accommodation, dining and attractions vouchers.

Agents walked away after a memorable day learning about The World To You and reinforcing the brands' commitment to trade.

**Pictured** above during the lunch cruise is Annabelle Brown, Ponant; Kim Vaughan, AmaWaterways; Sally-Anne Matthews, Bunnik Tours; Ines Iniesta, Journey Beyond and Zoe Franklin, Bunnik Tours.

## Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	21 Aug
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	16 Aug
<i>Scenic Eclipse II</i>	18 Aug
<i>The World</i>	19 Aug
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	19 Aug
<i>Coral Geographer</i>	20 Aug
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	21 Aug
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	16 Aug
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	19 Aug
BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	16 Aug

## Riverside famils

**RIVERSIDE** Luxury Cruises has joined travel agent content platform Jerne to add available famil trip opportunities where agents can apply to attend.

Travel advisors are invited to register on the Jerne platform, with those banking annual sales of US\$1.5 million or more earning preferred access to Riverside famils in Europe.

## Sailing Rudi's way

**AMAWATERWAYS** has introduced a new 'Best of the Danube' round-trip cruise from Budapest, which the line says is the personal favourite of President, Rudi Schreiner.

The line has scheduled nearly 30 departures of the itinerary in 2025 and 2026 including early season Feb/Mar sailings.