







cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Wednesday 6th Nov 2024

# Ponant passes up on Paspaley Pearl

THE planned partnership between expedition cruise line Ponant and Paspaley Pearl will no longer proceed, with the highly touted luxury yacht experience north of Australia now cancelled.

A statement issued by Ponant Asia-Pacific CEO Deb Corbett confirmed the news which has already been shared with affected travel agent partners.

"Ponant regrets to inform its valued customers and travel partners that the proposed cruise program to operate on Paspaley Pearl is not proceeding with Ponant as the cruise operator.

"However, Ponant remains dedicated to exploring the Kimberley, Australia's Far North, Papua New Guinea and East Indonesia, with over 40 explorations on Ponant's Le Soleal and Le Jacques Cartier over the next two years," it continued. A statement from Paspaley

Pearl sourced by Cruise Weekly said the company was "very disappointed to learn that the upcoming voyages on the Paspaley Pearl, operated by Ponant have been cancelled.

"We do not have any further details at this time."

A dedicated website promoting Paspaley Pearl by Ponant has been taken offline and replaced with a message that includes: "To discuss alternate Ponant itineraries and experiences, please call 1300 737 178 to speak to one of our cruise consultants or visit au.ponant.com."

In her statement, Corbett said

affected agents are being looked after, with commissions protected and clients offered the option of either a full refund or an additional saving to rebook onto another sailing across Ponant's global fleet of 13 ships.

"Guests holding reservations have been advised that they will receive a full refund or alternatively, guests can receive a travel credit with an additional 15% saving to choose a cruise on Ponant's fleet across the globe, which is combinable with the Ponant Bonus Savings and Ponant Yacht Club benefits for members of the club," Corbett said.

Affected travellers have until 31 Dec 2025 to make their decision.

Travellers looking to maintain their Kimberley expedition with Ponant are being accommodated on numerous departures operated by Ponant's Le Soleal and Le Jacques Cartier. ML

### Cruise Weekly today

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

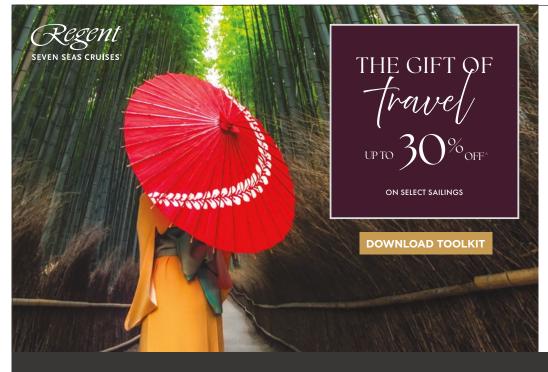
### Extension cancelled

**CROOKED** Compass Founder Lisa Pagotto says she received no further information why her land and sea itinerary involving Paspaley Pearl was cancelled.

Speaking to CW, Pagotto said she received a phone call advising the deployment has been cancelled but was not provided with any additional detail on the change.

Pagotto's tour brand recently unveiled a new 16-day tour in Papua New Guinea (CW 16 Oct), which featured a land segment followed by an expedition on Paspaley Pearl.

The sailing was not a charter, with Crooked Compass offering an optional land extension to a scheduled departure.





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## Williams is gone

STEWART Williams, longtime Celestyal Cruises Regional Manager, has departed the company, as announced to trade partners (CW breaking new yesterday).

Williams led Celestyal in Australia for just over six years, with the cruise line thanking him for his contributions.

Celestyal told trade partners it will continue to support them, as the line finalises its new local structure.

"Our team is dedicated to maintaining the high standards you expect from us, and we appreciate your patience during this transition period."

Williams' departure leaves **Business Development** Manager Mary Williams as Celestyal Cruises' sole Australian employee, with trade partners encouraged to contact her for all needs.

## Seward grant to be put to good use

**SEWARD** has outlined big plans for a US\$47.5 million grant to connect calling cruise ships to shore power (CW 01 Oct).

The project is hoped to be completed by the end of 2026, reducing fossil fuel emissions, and making Seward (pictured) the second Alaskan city after Juneau to install shore power.

The federally funded project will also lower electricity costs for ratepayers, in a state whose cruise industry has come under scrutiny of late (CW 21 Oct).

The grant covers 90% of the cost of the project, with the rest to be funded by real estate developer The Seward Company, as well as Royal Caribbean Group as part of a major regional investment.

"This will be the most advanced shore power system to ever be installed in Alaska," said Jason Davis, President of infrastructure development company Turnagain.



"For a community this size, the system will constantly analyse and store power, saving energy and money for the City of Seward, all while making it a better place to visit and live."

Seward City Manager Kat Sorensen described the grant as a "game changer".

"It allows the city to implement shore power technology that will

drastically reduce emissions from cruise ships in our coastal Alaska community," she said.

"The strong collaboration that our community has with the Royal Caribbean Group has allowed this project to progress with an intentional focus on our community's needs as it supports visitors to Seward for years to come," Sorensen added. MS





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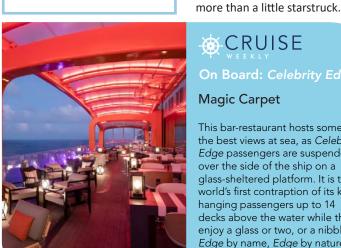
**ROYAL** Caribbean's Reddit thread has been highly active lately as cruise fans speculate the possible names of its two upcoming Icon-class ships.

Of course, we know about Icon of the Seas and Star of the Seas, but what will be the names of the next two?

Some suggestions from the social media masses have been more serious such as Imperial of the Seas, Serenity of the Seas or Triumph of the Seas.

Then there are the more entertaining ones such as Emoji of the Seas, Shortcut of the Seas and even Boaty McBoatface of the Seas - of course.

Other humorous suggestions include Elevator Wait of the Seas, Prepaid Gratuity of the Seas, The Bees Knees of the Seas, Washy Washy of the Seas, Ginormous of the Seas and even Titanic of the Seas.



## **⊗** CRUISE

On Board: Celebrity Edge

in the winning jockey's victory.

met horse trainer Sheila Laxon

onboard P&O Cruises' annual

Laxon was in need of a rider

for one of her stallions, a horse

As the story goes, Dolan knew

Laxon when he saw her and was

known as Knight's Choice.

According to an Instagram story,

race-winning jockey Robbie Dolan

journey to the race two years ago.

### Magic Carpet

This bar-restaurant hosts some of the best views at sea, as Celebrity Edge passengers are suspended over the side of the ship on a glass-sheltered platform. It is the world's first contraption of its kind, hanging passengers up to 14 decks above the water while they enjoy a glass or two, or a nibble. Edge by name, Edge by nature!





P&O Cruises has been taking "She was there, and I thought, passengers to the Melbourne Cup 'wow, it's Sheila Laxon - I'd better for many years, but yesterday grab a selfie'," he recalled. the line took its involvement up a The connection was made then and there and ended up sparking notch by playing an integral part

> the formula which led to a win in the 'race that stops the nation'. "Now, three years later, who'd have thought we'd win a Melbourne Cup together?" Dolan

continued in his now-famous tale.

P&O Cruises' annual journey to the Melbourne Cup has featured a lineage of legendary identities from the 'sport of kings' and this week's sailing was no exception.

Onboard this year were three Melbourne Cup-winning jockeys including Peter Cook, Jim Cassidy and Corey Brown, the trio holding five wins between them and thousands of total race wins across Australia and the world.

Next year, Carnival Cruise Line will continue the Melbourne Cup pilgrimage, with Carnival Adventure and Carnival Splendor to provide nearly 10% of the event's total attendance.

It may be the perfect way to cap 90 years of creating memories for million of cruise travellers as the brand prepares to wind down. ML



#### Celebrating ACA members

NOT only has cruise season

I would like to take this efforts as they play a critical part in our greater ACA community, which

Starting with the SA Tourism Awards held last weekend, Sealink - The Murray Princess

announced as finalists for their Queensland and the Northern Territory finalists yet to be announced), we look forward to celebrating more wins in the

Finalists include Captain Cook

We would also like to taking out the most popular ocean cruise operator category at the NTIAs last week.



**CRUISE** 

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