



### Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from Disney.

### Win a Disney cruise

TRAVEL advisors can embark on 'Magic Ahoy!', a virtual voyage with Disney Cruise Line to learn all about the brand's offerings, as well as go in the running to win prizes.

Participants will learn all about Disney Cruise Line's rotational dining, onboard entertainment, private island, and more.

There are three levels to work through, and upon completion, advisors will go in the draw to win a stateroom for them and a guest on a Disney voyage from Sydney.

The competition ends 18 Nov - see the **back page** for details.

## Australia's "huge demand" for Anne

### EXCLUSIVE

CUNARD Line has seen massive demand from Australia for its new ship *Queen Anne*, Commercial Director Katrina McAlpine (pictured) has told *Cruise Weekly*.

*Queen Anne* sailed on her inaugural cruise three months ago (CW 04 Jun), and Australians have been a fixture on board since day one, McAlpine said.

"We've seen massive demand from here, we've seen a really big uptake on her inaugural world cruise, [and] the very first *Queen Anne* sailing, we had a really big portion of Australian guests," the Cunard head enthused.

"There's been incredible support from travel advisors down here, incredible passion and excitement around it, and lots of great comments and feedback that's coming back from both new-to-Cunard and pasts



guests as well."

McAlpine said Cunard's mission would now be to take some of the popular new experiences aboard *Queen Anne* and replicate them aboard the cruise line's other ships.

"There's a few dining experiences, like the Aji Wa Japanese restaurant, we've got an incredible Indian restaurant, and we've got an al fresco Mediterranean dining restaurant as well," she explained.

Australians are heavily booking Europe, both aboard *Queen Anne* and Cunard's other ships, while

Alaska is also proving popular as ever Down Under.

"Europe is a key destination for Australia and New Zealand travellers, whether it's cruise or land-based," McAlpine said.

"Alaska has been incredible for us; [it is] probably our fastest-growing trade for us at the moment," she added.

Cunard will also be closely monitoring the response to its Caribbean season, which is a new venture for the line.

"We've never actively promoted a Caribbean full season like that," McAlpine explained.

"We've had some Caribbean sailings, but often they're over Christmas for a long departure from Europe.

"We're really excited to see how the market responds to those [new Caribbean cruises] as we sort of continue to promote and build the awareness." MS



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**WHEN** we think of aliens, we think of outer space, but did you know extraterrestrial life has also been linked to the deep sea?

Scientists from Boston University recently discovered that rocks on the seafloor of the Pacific Ocean produce oxygen without sunlight - a finding that could impact both deep-sea ecosystems and the search for extraterrestrial life.

The fact that the ancient sea rocks are producing "dark oxygen" at the bottom of the ocean, where there is no light, is a shocking discovery.

The fascinating implication being that, if photosynthesis isn't required to make oxygen, then other planets with oceans and metal-rich rocks "could sustain a more evolved biosphere than we've thought possible in the past", according to Boston University researcher, Jeffrey Marlow.

## Two local legends set sail



**CARNIVAL** Australia recently hosted an informal farewell bash for two legends of the cruise industry Down Under, who are setting sail for broader seas.

Gathering at the Pyrmont Bridge Hotel in Sydney, team members past and present turned out to pay tribute to the departing Princess Cruises Senior Vice President Asia Pacific Stuart Allison and Carnival Corp Vice President Sales and Partnerships, Ryan Taibel (pictured above).

Carnival veteran Allison will be remaining within the company, as he was recently confirmed to be returning to his UK homeland and taking up a role as Chief

Commercial Officer with P&O Cruises UK (**CW** 31 Jul).

Taibel was announced to be exiting his role around two months ago, as Carnival Corp reassesses its sales and marketing structure (**CW** 12 Jun).

The evening included plaudits sent in from Carnival's former Chairwoman Ann Sherry, who expressed her thanks for the enthusiasm and commitment provided by both.

"You both really made a difference and your contribution won't be forgotten by me or anyone else who had the good fortune to work with you," she commented. *ML*

## Perry at AFGG 2025

**HURTIGRUTEN** Managing Director Damian Perry will co-host next year's A Force For Good (AFGG), alongside the event's founder Helene Taylor.

Perry will be joined by other cruise representatives, including Uniworld Boutique River Cruises Managing Director Alice Ager; Gai Tyrrell representing Avalon Waterways; Ponant special advisor Chris Hall; and Regent Seven Seas Cruises Vice President Sales & General Manager Lisa Pile.

The event will take place in Sydney on 07 Mar 2025, and in Auckland on 14 Mar - buy tickets **HERE**.

## Coral promising

**CORAL** Expeditions is seeing record booking levels for the Kimberley next year, including a significant bounce in domestic demand.

The cruise line is also recording a "promising" return of international travellers from North America, the United Kingdom, Europe, and more.

# Discover the all new *River Cruise Special Report*



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# THE *MAGIC AHOY!* VIRTUAL CRUISE IS NOW SAILING AND IT HOLDS YOUR CHANCE TO **WIN** A STATEROOM ONBOARD A DISNEY WONDER VOYAGE IN 2025!



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SAILING FROM  
AUSTRALIA!

**What is *Magic Ahoy!* all about?** This virtual cruise gives you the opportunity to explore Disney Cruise Line at your leisure. You can dip in, have a break, come back later, or complete all the training in one go – it is completely up to you. You'll learn all about our infamous Rotational Dining, onboard entertainment, Disney's Private Island, and more! This training covers all five ships in our fleet, including *Disney Wonder*, the ship sailing from Australia and New Zealand.

There are 3 Levels to complete – once you have reached Level 3, you'll be entered into the draw to win a Stateroom for you and a Guest onboard a Disney Cruise Line sailing from Sydney!

The competition runs between 26 August and 18 November 2024, with spot prizes to be won throughout the incentive, and an **exclusive *Magic Ahoy!* pin\*** once you collect all the Mickey Stamps.

Don't delay and **download *Magic Ahoy!* from the app store today!** *Magic Ahoy!* has launched, and with this mega prize up for grabs, you won't want to miss out!

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