

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise news.



On location in
Fiordland, NZ

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you courtesy of Holland America Line, aboard **MS Noordam** as she cruises across the Tasman.

HAL'S MS Noordam carries about 1,900 passengers, in classic style with a wide array of onboard activities, dining options and entertainment.

Named for the North Star, the ship is currently on the latter half of a 14-day Auckland-Sydney itinerary. After visiting several NZ ports the ship is now cruising through some of the country's spectacular South Island fjords.

Our itinerary includes several days at sea, providing plenty of opportunity to take in the shipboard activities, or enjoy the vessel's lavish art collection.

The ship was launched in 2006 before undergoing a full refit in 2019, and offers six grades of accommodation, including suites, verandah, ocean view and inside staterooms.

On our voyage the ship's extensive spa and fitness centre is proving very popular, while guests are also making the most of the opportunity to enjoy the wide variety of entertainment throughout the day and evening in venues like the Explorer's Lounge, Billboard Onboard, the World Stage and the Rolling Stone Lounge.

Aurora pioneers new tech



AURORA Expeditions is trialling two first-of-their-kind sustainability technologies.

The line has partnered with CounterCurrent (**CW** 25 Oct) to install dual rooftop sensors that deliver real-time weather and ocean-current data.

Powered by artificial intelligence, the system recommends more efficient routing.

During the *Douglas Mawson* shakedown voyage (**CW** 27 Nov), the bridge team adopted its first optimised path from Sydney to Hobart, using favourable currents to cut fuel consumption.

"For us as a business, most of our emissions come from fuel consumption, so if we can reduce fuel, that has an impact," said Sasha Buch, Aurora Expeditions Sustainability Manager.

The cruise line has also collaborated with Cleaner Seas on microplastic-filtration technology. New filters fitted to onboard

laundry machines capture microscopic fibres, preventing them from entering sensitive polar waters.

Fleetwide deployment for both initiatives are planned pending results from the upcoming 2025/26 Antarctic season. **MV**

Pictured: Shane Keating, CounterCurrent founder and CEO, and Buch.

Clifford leads loyalty

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has appointed Kathy Clifford as head of its new free-to-join loyalty program, World360 Rewards, which lets members earn points across cruise aviation, land touring, hotels, and more.

At the same time, Clifford - who is based in Brisbane - will continue in the role of Supplier Relationship Manager, which she has held since Mar 2024.

Carnahan on APAC

ROYAL Caribbean Group's VP, Business and Commercial Development Preston Carnahan, will take on destination development for the APAC region.

The announcement follows the departure of Ana Karina Santini, AVP International Destination Development, from the line following a 14-year tenure.



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 **AMAWATERWAYS**



Asia's largest fleet

FOUR state-owned enterprises in China are consolidating to operate what has become the largest fleet in Asia, led by China Tourism Group and industry partners.

Huaxia International Cruise will control the cruise operations of the four entities, which will continue to operate independently: China Tourism Group, China Cosco Shipping, China Merchants Group and China State Shipbuilding Corporation.

Between them, the four companies run five cruise ships carrying more than 16,000 passengers, Chinese news website Caixin reported.

Huaxia manages ships including *Adora Magic City*, *Adora Mediterranea*, *Piano Land*, *Nanhai Dream* and the upcoming *Adora Flora City*, which is under construction.

Silversea brings double delight to Mel

MELBOURNE was the setting for an historic first for the Silversea brand over the weekend, with *Silver Nova* and *Silver Moon* making a spectacular arrival in port on the same day.

The special moment saw Ports Victoria, Visit Victoria and the City of Port Phillip collaborate with Silversea on a portside activation at Station Pier, featuring street art and festive tunes.

In attendance to mark the moment on board was APAC Managing Director Adam Radwanski and Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Nicholas Reece.

While *Silver Nova* is no stranger to Australian shores - having made her debut last year - the Muse-class *Silver Moon* is undertaking her first local season this summer, providing a range of sailings between Australia and New Zealand.

The ultra-luxury *Moon* has



capacity for 596 passengers with a roughly 1:1.4 crew to guest ratio, personal butler service, and the signature S.A.L.T kitchen and restaurant, reflecting the unique culinary character of each destination the ship visits.

Meanwhile, *Silver Nova* returns after a successful debut season last year, representing the latest class from Silversea in its bid to better cater to a younger skew of

luxury cruise customer.

She has now departed Melbourne to undertake a 12-night voyage to Auckland, calling at Hobart, Dunedin, Lyttelton, Wellington, and Napier.

The Silversea ship meeting on Sun was also an injection of confidence for Melbourne, which has endured well-documented struggles with attracting cruise lines in recent years. *AB*

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DISNEY Cruise Line brought its magic to the streets of New York City during the 99th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Fri.

The line's 'Magic Meets the Seas' float featured a new signature song and a *Disney Destiny*-themed performance, featuring beloved characters such as Mickey and Minnie Mouse, as well as villains Cruella de Vil and Maleficent.

New for this year was the massive Buzz Lightyear balloon, which floated above the crowd to celebrate *Toy Story's* 30th anniversary, alongside the Spider-Man balloon, which debuted last Thanksgiving.

The crowd was entertained by a choreographic takeover set to the tune of *This is Your Destiny*, written for the heroes-and-villains themed *Disney Destiny*.

Holland America Line also featured in the parade, with an Alaska-themed float that starred singer-songwriter and Alaska native Jewel, who performed her hit *You Were Meant For Me* during the television broadcast in front of Macy's Herald Square flagship.



CCL & Bondi breathe life



SYDNEY'S Bondi lifeguards have delivered vital life-saving training to local communities in Vanuatu as part of Carnival Cruise Line's (CCL) program to support South Pacific destinations.

The team, who star on TV show *Bondi Rescue*, spent a week in Vanuatu, visiting Mystery Island, the nearby community of Aneityum, and Port Vila, to teach more than 100 Ni-Vanuatu on how to spot a rip, safely rescue someone in distress, and administer CPR and First Aid.

"This program teaches people how to stay calm in a potentially life-threatening situation in the water," said Bondi lifeguard and founder of the Float to Survive program, Bruce "Hoppy" Hopkins. "They're taught simple yet vital skills that can save lives."

"It was fantastic to see how much the participants learned and improved their skills in just a few days," he added.

Carnival also launched a learn to swim program for Port Vila children this year, with more

than 200 young students taught valuable skills.

Vanuatu has the fourth highest drowning rate in the world, according to the World Health Organization, with most children not taught to swim.

"Our guests love Vanuatu, and the warm welcome they receive, so we hope they'll be delighted to see how this project is improving the wellbeing of the local community," commented Carnival's Vice President External Affairs Sandy Olsen. *JM*

Victory expeditions

OCEAN expedition company, Adventure Canada, has announced 2027 voyages aboard its new ship, *Ocean Victory*, with local rep Cruise Traveller now offering Aussies up 25% earlybird savings.

The modern 175-guest ship is set to offer two brand-new sailings as part of its 2027 program in the Arctic and North Atlantic, including a 13-night 'East Greenland: Stories of Ice and Light' expedition, which departs 20 Jul from Reykjavik, Iceland.

From 17 May 2027, the newbuild will also offer an eight-night circumnavigation voyage of Ireland - a roundtrip from Glasgow, Scotland, designed to immerse guests in Celtic lore and legend.

Until 28 Jan 2026, Cruise Traveller is offering a 25% saving on *Ocean Victory's* eight northern summer voyages between May and Sep 2027.

Including the saving, fares start from US\$6,519 (A\$9,958) ppts for eight nights - more information, **CLICK HERE**.

CRUISE WEEKLY On Board: MS Noordam



Lido Market

From salads to sushi, sandwiches to roasts, and everything in between, exotic and local cuisine of all types is on offer aboard *Noordam*. The Lido Market is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, with a huge array of options catering to all tastes. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options are also available, alongside freshly baked bread and pastries, pizza and pasta made to order, tacos, carvery, fresh fish and, of course, plenty of sweet desserts.