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CRUISE Weekly today

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Carnival cleared by maritime regulator

THE Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) found no deficiencies during yesterday's inspection of Carnival Cruise Line's (CCL) *Carnival Encounter* (pictured), after the regulatory agency boarded her following whistleblower concerns regarding poor crew conditions onboard.

Investigators boarded *Encounter* as she was docked in Darwin to inquire into claims crews were forced to live in overcrowded conditions, and have limited access to safe drinking water, among other allegations.

CCL promised its cooperation with AMSA in a statement provided to **Cruise Weekly** yesterday, saying it had "nothing to hide", while criticising the Maritime Union of Australia, which it has been in a months-long dispute with.

"As we stated emphatically at the time, Carnival has nothing



to hide; the outcome of AMSA's inspection - with no follow-up action required - reinforces that fact," a CCL spokesperson said.

"As we have said before, the Maritime Union of Australia is making blatant claims to launch a membership drive and apparently likes to use vulgar and lame tactics to get attention.

"The Maritime Union continues to use our crew as props in an ongoing attempt to increase its membership - their claims should be viewed in that context."

Last month, the Maritime Union alleged that crews on the cruise line's ships were exploited, and earned just a fraction of the national minimum wage.

CCL described these claims as "unfounded", saying its wages met and often exceeded International Maritime Organization labour standards.

Encounter has since departed Darwin, continuing on her one-way trip from Brisbane to Singapore, where she will enter dry dock. *MS*

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More entertainment changes at NCL

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) will close two of its Broadway-style shows, *Jersey Boys* and *Beetlejuice* (pictured), which will end their run by Apr.

Jersey Boys' final show on *Norwegian Bliss* will take place during this week's ex-Los Angeles cruise, while *Beetlejuice*'s final showing aboard *Norwegian Viva* will come during her seven-day cruise departing Texas on 21 Mar.

An NCL spokesperson told *Cruise Weekly* the ending of the two shows will take place alongside the further roll-out of *The Choir of Man* and *Syd Norman's Presents: Rumours*, based on the acclaimed Fleetwood Mac album.

"As part of our regular business operations to refine onboard offerings, we've been updating our entertainment lineup across our fleet," the spokesperson said.

"We remain committed to



providing the best vacations for our guests with the flexibility to curate their experience with the amenities that they care for most," they added.

"Our team is focused not only on delivering high-quality theatre productions...but also more robust daily activities for guests to enjoy."

The cruise line has ended other Broadway musical adaptations in

recent years, including *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*, *Six*, *Footloose*, and *Kinky Boots*.

NCL has in the past denied it is fully moving away from Broadway-style entertainment (**CW** 25 Mar), with chief international sales & marketing officer Jason Kimmel saying the cruise line is making a "strategic realignment" to incorporate more in-house productions. *MS*

ATIA AAC refresh

HELLOWORLD Travel general manager cruise Steve Brady is among three new members of the Australian Travel Industry Association's (ATIA) refreshed Accreditation Advisory Committee, which will help shape the sector's direction.

Brady is joined on the Committee by Chimu Adventures co-founder & managing director Chad Carey, who has been reappointed for a second term, helping to ensure ATIA accreditation is the industry's gold standard.

Other new appointees include Stuba regional head of sales Rebecca Day, Frank Ford Travel owner/director Kylene Ellerton, and Aurora Travel Services managing director Judy Tanner.

Scott Darlow and Gina Norman have also been reappointed for a second term alongside Carey.

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Tuesday 10th February 2026



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IF YOU have a spare US\$30 million (approximately A\$42.6 million) lying around and always dreamt of living it up like a pop star, private island Bond Cay is now up for sale, previously owned by a group of investors, including Colombian songstress Shakira and Pink Floyd's Roger Waters.

When the group first bought the Caribbean property in 2006 for US\$16 million (approximately A\$22.8 million), Bond Cay was meant to be turned into a luxury development with a boutique hotel, apartment complexes, private beaches, and a high-end artists' retreat.

Unfortunately, the dream never came to fruition and the island is back on the market - and currently one of the Bahamas' most expensive private island listings.

Could we possibly see a cruise line get its hands on it?

Explorer arrives in WA



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises' (RSSC) *Seven Seas Explorer* (pictured) has sailed into Perth for her maiden visit to WA.

Explorer is currently sailing her 'Australia Uncovered' itinerary from Sydney to Singapore.

She docked in Perth late last week, and has since departed for Bali, before the cruise wraps up in the Lion City.

Explorer is sailing with 746 guests accommodated in 373 suites across 10 decks.

Onboard amenities range from the Sports Deck, which features

a golf net, putting green, paddle tennis court, and bocce court, to the Culinary Arts Kitchen, where passengers can join chef-led cooking masterclasses.

Explorer's opulent flagship restaurant Compass Rose is the largest at sea, while the Serene Spa & Wellness Center promises to deliver complete rest and relaxation for those in need of respite at the end of the day.

RSSC will later this month host an exclusive in-person trade event for the launch of its wave season - more details [HERE](#). MS

Bolette refresh

FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines' *Bolette* has set sail following her successful dry dock.

The cruise line's flagship has welcomed guests back on board, following the completion of more than two weeks of work in Falmouth in South West England.

Bolette entered the facility on 18 Jan for scheduled maintenance and technical inspections, as well as guest-focused enhancements.

This included the refurbishing of interiors in The Observatory and The Ocean Bar, new carpeting in the main dining room, and revitalised guest corridors and stairwells.

Bolette's speciality Colours & Tastes venue has also undergone a complete interior transformation, with Fred. Olsen's flagship restaurant currently being refreshed across the entire fleet.

The redesigned space now features refined textures and warm tones, creating a more elevated and intimate dining settings, as its new food offering prepares to roll out.



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