



Cruise Weekly today

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

TasPorts names CEO

TASPORTS has endorsed interim chief executive officer Allan Gray as its new full-time chief executive, on a deal which will see him serve through to 01 Dec 2027.

Chair Greg McCann said TasPorts' board was pleased to retain a leader of Gray's calibre, with the interim having initially stepped in following the departure of Anthony Donald (**CW** 16 Mar).

"Based on Gray's performance leading the organisation, the Board determined that retaining him provides the strongest outcome and is in the best interests of TasPorts," he said.

HAL introduces new Farewell Dinner

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is debuting a new 'Farewell Dinner' experience in its ships' dining rooms, designed to serve as a fitting finale to every cruise.

Held on the last evening of each voyage, the Farewell Dinner features classic cruise dining with a special menu that is inspired by HAL's culinary heritage.

The special menu will feature dishes including sweet potato, salad, and antipasto to start; mushroom risotto, braised lamb shank, and beef wellington for mains; and apple crisp, baked Alaska, and pistachio chocolate cheesecake for dessert.

A highlight of the evening will be the traditional 'Gelang Sipaku Gelang' song, a beloved HAL tradition that brings guests and crew members together in a joyful farewell.

The moment will serve as a fitting send-off, celebrating the

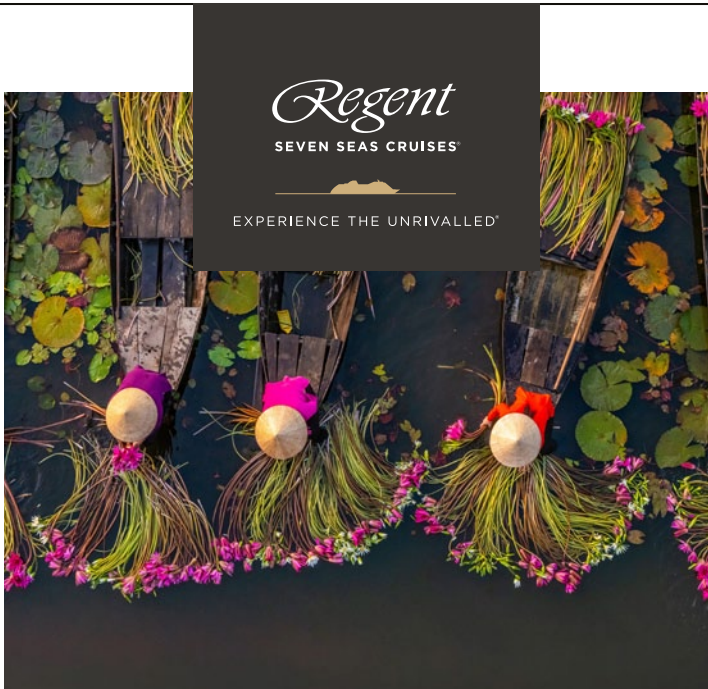


voyage and the connections made that guests will remember after they leave the ship.

As the cruise director reflects on memorable moments from the cruise, *Home to Rotterdam* will play, the exclusive sail away

soundtrack created for HAL.

The evening will also honour the culinary team, who will make their way around the dining room, giving guests the chance to meet the people behind the meals they enjoyed on board. *MS*



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Take a Hurti mate

HURTIGRUTEN has launched a new 'Travel With A Mate' deal, which allows pax to bring along a travelling companion for 50% off.

Until 19 Jul, travellers can book a second guest on select 2026 and 2027 Original and Signature voyages for 50% off, encouraging travellers to embrace and share their Nordic adventure.

The deal is combinable with Hurtigruten's \$250 per person low deposit offer.

Virgin is on sale

VIRGIN Voyages is offering up to \$400 onboard credit on almost all of its voyages for next year, for a limited time.

The onboard credit amount varies by cabin category, with those in a Sea Terrace meta category offered \$100 per cabin, while those in a Rockstar meta category get US\$400 per cabin.

Applicable to base, essential, and premium fares, the onboard credit offer is not combinable with Insider, Sea View, Mega Rockstar, or Lock It In Rates.

The campaign runs from 19-30 Jun.

MEANWHILE, Virgin is also offering free balcony upgrades and up to 70% off a second sailor, with the deal applying to all voyages that are on sale.

\$1.5m raised for seafarers



SEVEN NSW charities and non-profits have been named recipients of the Seafarer Welfare Fund, which is in its third year of supporting frontline services for local seafarers.

The announcement was made on Fri at the annual Mission to Seafarers Parliamentary Lunch.

This year's recipients of the funding include the Mission to Seafarers Eden, Mission to Seafarers Port Kembla, Mission to Seafarers Sydney, Apostleship of the Sea Sydney, Tas Bull Seafarers Foundation, Hunter Workers Rehabilitation & Counselling Service, and the Mission to Seafarers Newcastle.

A collective \$1.5 million has been donated to the Seafarer Welfare Fund since it was established in 2024.

Contributing parties initially agreed to provide an annual combined total of \$500,000 to the fund for the benefit of successful seafarer welfare organisations that demonstrate how they can enhance seafarer welfare in NSW.

Port Authority of NSW chief executive officer John McKenna said global conflicts are increasing pressure on seafarers, reinforcing the need for strong welfare support when in port. *MS*

Pictured are Mission to Seafarers chair Robert Dunn, NSW Ports chief executive officer Marika Calfas, Port Authority of NSW chief exec John McKenna, Port of Newcastle executive manager marine & operations Glen Hayward, and NSW Ports chair Christine Bartlett.

Aurora's new VP

KAREN Kuttner-Dimitry has joined Aurora Expeditions as vice president affinity sales, North America, reporting to the cruise line's head of global sales David Tanguay.

She joins Aurora following 22 years at National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions, most recently serving as its VP affinity and charter sales.

During her time at Lindblad Expeditions, she was pivotal in developing the affinity and non-traditional markets, as well as the cruise line's charter business, cementing both as vital revenue channels.

"Karen brings an exceptional combination of expedition experience, commercial leadership and deep affinity market expertise," Tanguay said on Dimitry's appointment.

"Her understanding of purpose-led travel, special-interest groups and partner-led growth will be invaluable as we continue to strengthen Aurora's position in North America," he added.



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PORTHOLE

A NEW futuristic-looking vessel has been spotted buzzing around Sydney, but don't be alarmed, they aren't some sort of secret spy crafts or government marine project.

NZ company Vessev has unveiled its VS – 9 electric boat on Sydney's waterways, with its VS-12 model set to come to our shores in the near future.

Its hydrofoiling technology not only makes the vessel three times more efficient than a regular boat, but it will also reduce noise pollution around the harbour.

The VS-9 is currently in operation on Perth's Swan River, as well as the Derwent River in Hobart.



Ride like the wind



TRAVEL the World (TTW) has launched two new fly-stay-cruise packages to French Polynesia with Windstar Cruises next year.

The two itineraries on offer include the seven-night 'Tantalizing Tuamotu Islands & Beautiful Bora Bora' voyage, departing on 15 Apr 2027 aboard *Star Breeze* from \$5,599pp; and the seven-night 'Dreams of Tahiti' trip, departing 26 Apr 2027, aboard *Wind Star* from \$6,199pp.

Both packages include return

economy airfares from Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane with Air Tahiti Nui, a pre-cruise stay at InterContinental Tahiti Resort & Spa, private transfers between the hotel and port, and a bonus credit of US\$100pp.

An all-inclusive upgrade, featuring drinks, wi-fi, and gratuities is also available from \$976 per person.

Allocations for these packages are available on a first-come, first-served basis. *JB*

Coral's EOFY sale

CORAL Expeditions has launched an end of financial year sale, with a call for passengers to 'Explore More of Our Home Shores'.

Savings of up to 30% are available on premium stateroom categories across a selection of Australian expeditions, as well as a small number of nearby international itineraries.

On sale now until the end of the month, the campaign features select departures travelling between Oct 2026 and Apr 2027, with Coral offering greater value available across a range of itineraries.

Solo travellers also save 20% on select voyages.

Among the cruises featured in the sale are a selection of immersive coastal and regional expeditions, including 'Coastal Adventures: The Great Barrier Reef', which is now available from \$3,843pp, with savings of 30%.

Also on sale is the 'Abrolhos Islands & The Coral Coast', now available from \$15,393pp, also with savings of 30%.



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