



Cruise Weekly today

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

Lindblad has Hart

STEVIE Hart has joined Lindblad Expeditions as its new key account manager for Australia and New Zealand, effective today.

Working alongside Rosie Loxley in Sydney, Hart will lead the company's engagement and strategic partnerships across NSW, the ACT, Queensland and NZ, while Loxley will continue to focus on Victoria, Tasmania, SA and WA.

Hart has a proven track record in the luxury hospitality sector, most recently serving as portfolio business development manager for several IHG properties, including the InterContinental Hayman Island and its Sydney flagship.

New tech delivering Aurora fuel savings

EXCLUSIVE

AURORA Expeditions is set to expand CounterCurrent's maritime technology across its entire fleet, after a successful trial season in Antarctica aboard its new ship *Douglas Mawson*.

The AI-driven ocean forecasting system, often described as a 'Google Maps for the Sea' (CW 01 Dec), is designed to decarbonise the shipping industry through real-time vessel-specific route optimisation to help ships reduce fuel consumption and emissions.

CounterCurrent's founder is UNSW Professor Shane Keating, who first detailed his goal to change the way ships sail in CW two years ago (CW 07 Jun 2024).

Speaking exclusively to CW last week, Keating said the initial results appear to show a 2% fuel saving by *Douglas Mawson* during last season.

"Over the season, that is quite



significant...it's top of the class on our first try," he explained.

"What we saw was that there were days where it was closer to 10%, even 16%."

Keating will now head to Scotland to install the next generation of technology on board the line's two other ships, *Greg Mortimer* and *Sylvia Earle*.

The next generation

incorporates feedback gathered during Aurora's Antarctic season.

"This isn't a 'better mousetrap', this is a whole new way of doing things," Keating declared.

"Our mission is to change the way the ships cross the ocean," he added. MS

Pictured: Keating with Aurora Expeditions sustainability manager Sasha Buch.

TRADE WEBINAR | BUILT FOR YOU

THURSDAY 21 MAY 2026

12:00PM AEST

Join us for a focused 30-minute insight-driven session where you'll gain the tools, highlights and selling stories to confidently position this exciting new collection to your clients.

Plus, you'll receive access to an exclusive event-only offer to [apply to your bookings.](#)

REGISTER NOW

CONSUMER WEBINAR DESIGNED FOR YOUR CLIENTS

THURSDAY 21 MAY 2026

2:00PM AEST

This dedicated session is crafted to spark desire amongst your clients and drive bookings, making it the perfect opportunity for you to follow up and convert interest into sales.

[Clients who attend will be eligible for an exclusive event-only offer, available for you to secure on their behalf.](#)

REGISTER YOUR CLIENTS

Regent
SEVEN SEAS CRUISES

EXPERIENCE THE UNRIVALLED

2028-2029
VOYAGE COLLECTION
WEBINARS

PRESENTED BY



LISA PILE
Vice President Sales & General Manager,
Asia Pacific
Regent Seven Seas Cruises®

What would you do
with **\$310,000**

*Average annual commission of our top 50 in 2024.



TravelManagers
As individual as you are
join.travelmanagers.com.au

Celestyal now preferred with FCTG

CELESTYAL Cruises has signed on as a preferred supplier of Flight Centre Travel Group, making it easier for Aussies to book a voyage with the line through the travel giant's leisure network, which includes Flight Centre, Cruiseabout, Travel Associates, and Ignite.

The agreement was finalised by Celestyal's director of business development Asia Pacific Jarrod Zurvas and country manager Brenton Reidy, who have been working on growing the line's partners Down Under.

"Becoming a preferred supplier of FCTG is the cornerstone of a number of growth strategies and represents a pivotal milestone in our growth trajectory as we continue our quest to become a household name in cruising globally," Zurvas said.

"Now that we're in FCTG's system, have more visibility in



a national travel retail network of expert agents with our latest brochures and promotions, and can offer staff ongoing training, it's easier for agents to book their clients on Celestyal cruises."

FCTG cruise & touring partnerships manager Rachael Lochhead said of the move: "Australians love to cruise so adding Celestyal to our portfolio strengthens our offering for travellers who are looking for unique itineraries, authentic Greek island experiences, and a

great value proposition."

To celebrate the partnership, Celestyal is offering exclusive incentives to guests who book one of its seven- or 14-night cruises through a Flight Centre agent, including a free shore excursion and five-course dinner for two at Grill Seekers.

Flight Centre stores that sell the most cruises between now and 15 Jun will also have the opportunity to win a dinner for the whole store, coffee machine, or bar fridge filled with drinks. *JM*

Hondius saga over

THE disembarkation of Oceanwide Expeditions' hantavirus-hit *Hondius* has begun in earnest, the cruise line has confirmed, with the ship's Australian guests among the last to leave.

Hondius' passengers have disembarked in Tenerife, despite earlier attempts by the government of Spain to prevent the ship's arrival.

An Australian Government-supported flight is expected to fly four Australians from Tenerife to Perth.

Authorities said they were not showing symptoms on board, and that once they are home, quarantine will be managed by the government.

No one remaining on board *Hondius* was displaying signs of infection, with the ship to sail to Rotterdam once disembarkation is complete.

Beethoven along the Rhine

Celebrating Beethoven in his anniversary year, from Amsterdam to Basel

5-12 May 2027

An exceptional Rhine cruise celebrating Beethoven's genius through the landscapes and cities linked to his life and music. Travelling aboard an exclusively chartered small ship, enjoy private concerts by world-class musicians in historic venues, including Beethoven's birthplace in Bonn, all expertly curated and fully inclusive.

martinrandall.com/about/agent
07 3518 6190
tradesupport@martinrandall.com



**MARTIN
RANDALL
TRAVEL**

LEADING EXPERTS IN CULTURAL TOURS

Expert Speaker: *Professor Laura Tunbridge*



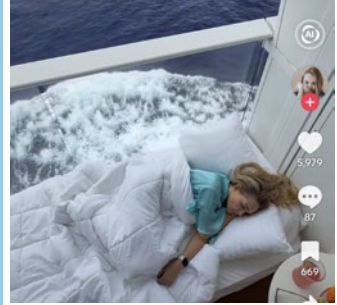


Poesia takes on Panama

NO MATTER how fun moving your mattress to your balcony may look, it is strictly prohibited aboard almost all cruise ships, one passenger has been reminded.

TikTok user @Victoriasway, who went viral for the dreamy visual she captured of herself napping on her balcony, has been sternly reminded by commenters that this practice is not just banned, it's also rather unhygienic.

Cruise lines also consider it a major fire hazard, as the balcony is typically out of range of stateroom sprinklers.



MSC Cruises has announced that *MSC Poesia*, which recently underwent a refurbishment (**CW** 16 Apr), has successfully transited through the Panama Canal ahead of her inaugural Alaska season.

The milestone occurred during the ship's 18-night Grand Voyage from Miami to Seattle.

Considered a highlight of the itinerary, the transit offers guests a rare experience to witness one of the world's greatest engineering achievements while sailing between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

After kicking off from Miami and making her way through the Caribbean and Central

America, *Poesia* is now in Seattle, where she will begin her Alaska itineraries today.

Following the Alaska season, the ship will reposition to offer round trip Caribbean sailings from Miami during winter 2026/27, visiting destinations including Jamaica, Colombia, Costa Rica, Aruba, Curacao, and Belize, before returning to Alaska for her summer 2027 season.

The newly refreshed ship, which now features a brand-new MSC Yacht Club, will again transit the Panama Canal on an 18-night Grand Voyage sailing between 08 Apr and 26 Apr 2027 ahead of her second Alaska season. *JM*

No drinks for you

BAHAMAS-BOUND

cruise ships are set to face a temporary alcohol ban on Tue, enacted by the government to maintain public order during the country's general election.

The sale and distribution of alcohol throughout the Bahamas will be banned on Tue from 8am to 6pm local time, and will apply to destinations on the mainland such as Nassau and Grand Bahama, as well as private island resorts such as Royal Caribbean's Perfect Day at CocoCay and Norwegian Cruise Line's Great Stirrup Cay.

Passengers will still be able to purchase and consume alcohol while on board a ship docked in the Bahamas.

Royal Caribbean's *Wonder of the Seas*, *Oasis of the Seas* and *Utopia of the Seas* are all scheduled to dock in the Bahamas on election day, with guests who have purchased certain alcohol packages to receive a partial refund.

Ships from MSC Cruises and Princess Cruises will also dock in the Bahamas on 12 May.



OUT NOW:

River Cruise SPECIAL REPORT

» CLICK HERE TO READ