

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news.

Unforgettable news

UNFORGETTABLE Travel Company has appointed a global group marketing director, Erin Johnson, who will join the boutique small-ship cruise and tour firm in Oct.

Bringing 20 years' experience, Johnson will be a part of Unforgettable's executive team in the UK, reporting to co-founder Graham Carter.

She will lead Unforgettable's global marketing strategy across all brands, including Unforgettable Croatia, which operates small-ship cruises.

Uniworld is no mystery



UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has added eight new itineraries and a new Mystery Journey to its 2028 program.

New additions to the season include many longer, specialised combination-style journeys, a number of which make use of multiple rivers.

One of the highlights of the program is the 'Amsterdam to the Black Sea' 30-day journey, which travels through nine countries aboard *Helen* and *Clara*, two of the three new ships Uniworld is set to introduce during the season (**CW** 22 Jul).

The itinerary travels from Amsterdam (**pictured**) to Bucharest, connecting three of Uniworld's most expansive European itineraries, and travelling through the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal.

Another highlight is the 'Danube East & West' 18-day journey, also aboard *Helen* and *Clara*.

Connecting Vienna and Bucharest across seven countries, this journey combines Central Europe's capital cities with lesser-explored destinations along the Lower Danube.

Uniworld is also putting a fresh spin on its guest-favourite Mystery Cruise concept in 2028, which will take the element of surprise beyond the river.

The 11-day trip comes with just two clues: guests will arrive in Luxembourg and depart from Zurich, while the itinerary will remain under wraps.

President and chief executive officer Ellen Bettridge said Uniworld is seeing "huge demand" for the programs on its newbuilds, which have been open for sale for only a few weeks.

Uniworld earlier this year announced three new vessels to launch in 2028, introducing *Helen* and *Clara*, as well as *Mekong Mystique*, to bring its fleet to a total of 22 ships.

"Today we announce eight brand-new itineraries that will give our guests the opportunity to see more, travel farther and experience some of our favourite destinations in entirely new ways," Bettridge enthused.

"That could mean journeying from Amsterdam all the way to the Black Sea, or experiencing the traditions and flavours of destinations like France or along the Moselle River at Christmas time," she added.

"For guests who loved our Mystery Cruise, we're doing something a little different this time with our new Mystery Journey, because sometimes the best part of travel is not knowing exactly what comes next." *MS*



On location in
Brisbane

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of the Australian Cruise Association, which is this week hosting its annual conference in Brisbane.

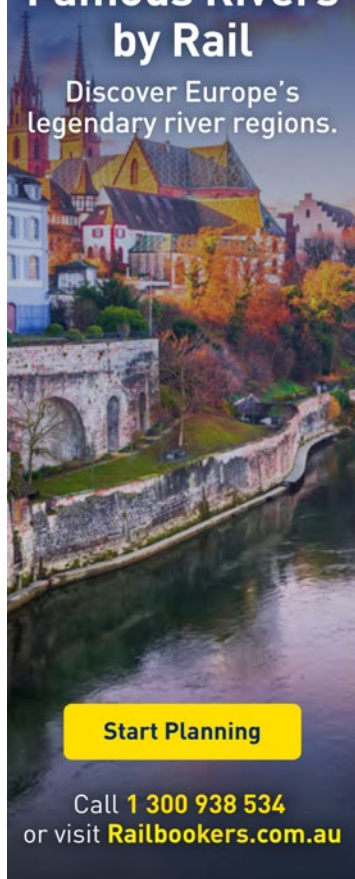
TODAY sees the plenary day for this year's Australian Cruise Association kick off in Brisbane.

Focusing on the theme 'Building Value Beyond the Berth', delegates will hear from ACA CEO Jill Abel and special guest, CLIA CEO Bud Darr, among others - more on **p2**.

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Celestyal gets cold

CELESTYAL Cruises has unveiled new winter sailings on board *Celestyal Journey* for her 2027/28 season.

The new program will comprise four seven-night 'Mediterranean Mosaics' voyages between Athens and Istanbul, with consecutive departures able to be combined to create 14-night 'Three Continents Explorer' voyages round-trip from either Athens or Istanbul.

Celestyal's announcement follows the recent launch of its first dedicated western Mediterranean program on board *Celestyal Discovery*, which will operate during the winter 2026/27 and 2027/28 seasons (**CW** 15 Jul).

The changes also fully confirm the cancellation of Celestyal's Middle Eastern program, after its ships earlier this year were trapped in the Arabian Gulf following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz (**CW** 29 May).

"Our recently unveiled western Mediterranean program on *Celestyal Discovery* marked an exciting new chapter for the brand, and this new winter season on *Celestyal Journey* continues that momentum by offering even more choice across the wider Mediterranean," vice president of marketing PR and customer experience Janet Parton said.

Cruise leaders lunch in Sydney



THE Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and Business Sydney hosted a lunch event yesterday with CLIA global president and CEO Charles 'Bud' Darr, ahead of the Australian Cruise Association conference.

Celebrating the start of the summer cruise season, more than 120 business and governance leaders gathered for the occasion at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney.

Taking to the stage, Darr told attendees that, while Australia "has so much going for it", there is a need to look beyond just "maintaining the status quo".

He said the country's "enormous" cruise potential was tempered by "extremely high" operational costs.

"I'd really like to see Australia get their share of the growth and their share of the 1.8 million jobs worldwide that our industry creates," he added.

Guests also heard from CLIA Australasia executive director Joel Katz, who said: "Over the coming

months, we'll see some incredible ships arriving [in] our waters to join the ships that are based here year-round."

"Cruise tourism is worth 7.3 billion dollars to the Australian economy, and supports more than 22,000 Australian jobs.

"But we can't take that success for granted," he warned.

"Other countries are increasingly recognising the economic benefits that cruise can deliver, and are competing for ships, for visitors, and for investment."

Katz explained that state and territory governments must work with their federal counterparts to ensure the country has "sensible, practical, and predictable policies and regulations that keep us competitive, and ensure that these incredible ships keep returning to Australia". *JM*

Pictured: Peter Little, Carnival Group SVP and country manager and CLIA chair; Karen Jones, Destination NSW CEO; Darr; Katz; and Paul Nicolaou, Business Sydney executive director.

Nunes checks out

MARTINE Nunes has announced her departure from Oceania Cruises after 11 years, the last three spent as the line's business development manager - Australia.

In a Facebook post, Nunes (**pictured**) revealed she is exiting sales and pivoting into an operational role, where she will work with shore operators in the cruise sector across Australian ports.

Nunes said her former role at Oceania will be advertised shortly as BDM for NSW & ACT.

"The thing I will miss deeply and the most as I take on this new career leap is the travel agent community," she wrote.

"The support and uplifting nature we have - it's unique and unexplainable to those people who have not been fortunate to work in our industry," Nunes added.

The cruise expert has been a fixture in the travel industry for more than 33 years, with her previous roles including stints at Norwegian Cruise Line, Beyond Travel, Silversea Cruises, MSC Cruises, Creative Holidays and more.



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A WOMAN in New York was reunited with her class ring after 28 years, thanks to a pair of metal-detecting hobbyists who uncovered it while treasure hunting at the Great Sacandaga Lake in NY.

Michael Siegle and Dylan LaPor found the Red Creek High School ring from the class of 1988 under a rock, and were able to return the piece of jewellery to its rightful owner after contacting the school.

Kim Rasbeck said she had lost the ring during a day out on the lake with friends nearly 30 years ago, and offered to pay the men for returning it.

The metal-detecting duo refused to accept her money, and said they enjoyed reuniting people with their lost items.

"That's what we do out here," Siegle said.

"Find rings, give them back, and anything else along the way is just a bonus."

Princess swings at Alaska



PRINCESS Cruises has been bringing Alaska to travel advisors, recently wrapping up its national roadshow showcasing the destination.

The cruise line welcomed almost 300 advisors across Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney, Perth, and Melbourne at events hosted in partnership with Visit Seattle and State of Washington Tourism.

Events combined destination training, networking, and axe throwing, giving advisors a taste of Alaska.

They also supported the cruise

line's current booking incentive for the destination, which will see 10 advisors join a co-hosted fam to the destination in May, featuring accommodation in Seattle and a seven-night sailing aboard *Star Princess*.

"We were pleased to partner with Princess Cruises on these exciting and engaging training events; educating advisors is an important part of marketing Seattle as the gateway to Alaska cruising," Visit Seattle and Washington Tourism account director Millie Browne said. *MS*

Sailing onto screens

THE Port Authority of NSW facilitated 37 film and photography productions last financial year, helping to showcase the state to audiences around the world.

The latest major item it supported was Netflix's *Extraction* franchise, with one of the authority's marine pilots guiding a commercial vessel into Port Kembla Harbour to create part of the film's maritime backdrop.

"From major feature films and international television dramas to advertising campaigns, filmmakers continue to choose NSW because of its spectacular locations, skilled workforce, government incentives, and world-class infrastructure," Port Authority CEO John McKenna said.

"Port Authority is uniquely positioned to support these productions by providing access to working waterfront locations, operational expertise and maritime infrastructure that help bring stories to life on screen."

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Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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