

Cruise Weekly today

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

Kingswell promoted

RACHEL Kingswell (pictured) has been appointed as Flight Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) global head of product, luxury brands, promoting her from general manager of the Travel Associates network.

Kingswell will help shape product strategy across the group's luxury portfolio, including Luxury Travel Collection and her former brand, Travel Associates.

The newly created role is a pivotal step in FCTG's ambition to double its global luxury travel business by 2032.

Kingswell will transition into the role once a successor for the Travel Associates GM position is appointed, with that search now underway.

She led Travel Associates as general manager for five years, and has worked for FCTG for almost 25 years.

"Leading Travel Associates has been the greatest privilege of my career," she enthused.

"I'm taking all of that with me into this new role, and I couldn't be more excited to help shape where our luxury brands go next as we work toward FCTG's global ambition," she added.



Putting Oz back on course



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has called for a more stable and competitive policy environment in Australia, warning that the region is losing cruise ships despite continued strong demand.

Speaking at the opening of Cruise360 Australasia, CLIA Australasia executive director Joel Katz said Australia and New Zealand had "lost cruise ships to other parts of the world", with rising costs and regulatory uncertainty threatening the region's competitiveness.

"Our industry's warnings about a complex and uncertain regulatory environment, and rising costs, have been proven right," he told attendees.

"Our region has been losing competitiveness, and we need to turn that around."

Katz said that as an industry, the major goal was to "put Australia back on course".

"We have all worked hard to make this one of the most important cruise markets in the world, and we deserve to have that work backed."

Katz also said he wanted the conference to be about putting travel advisors "on course for success in a new era of cruising", with its theme 'Future Ready.

Client Ready. Cruise Ready', to shape every aspect of the two-day program.

"We want you to walk out of this conference with fresh inspiration and new ideas to fuel your success - so that you can hit the ground running," Katz said.

"And if there's any question about the success we have in mind, we only need to look at the strength of the industry that unites us here today."

Globally, the health of the cruise sector looks strong, with cruise passenger numbers hitting a new record of 37.2 million last year, with the sector on track to set another record of around 38 million this year.

"By the end of this decade, CLIA forecasts we'll reach a high of 42 million guests," Katz noted.

"That's a strong trajectory of consistent, sustainable growth.

"At the same time, cruise lines are stepping up with more investment and more innovation than ever; we now have an extraordinary pipeline of new ships and new cruising concepts ahead of us," he noted.

"There are now 89 new cruise ships scheduled for launch between now and 2039, with a combined value of almost 100 billion US dollars." AB/JM

Robinson's a Legend

ROYAL Caribbean has named the godmother for its new ship *Legend of the Seas*: retired United States Air Force general Lori Robinson.

She was the first female officer in the history of the US Armed Forces to command a major Unified Combatant Command when she governed the US Northern Command.

Alongside Royal Caribbean leaders, crew and cruisers, Robinson will celebrate the ship's arrival to the United States during a special naming ceremony on 11 Nov, Veteran's Day, in Fort Lauderdale.

Legend will deliver a range of Caribbean vacations during her first season.

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Silversea's suite news

SILVERSEA is refining its suite collection into four categories, which will cover its 17 types of accommodation.

Villa, Residence, Veranda, and Oceanview categories will each offer guests distinct comforts and inclusions.

The top two categories - Villa and Residence - will also gain new sets of benefits.

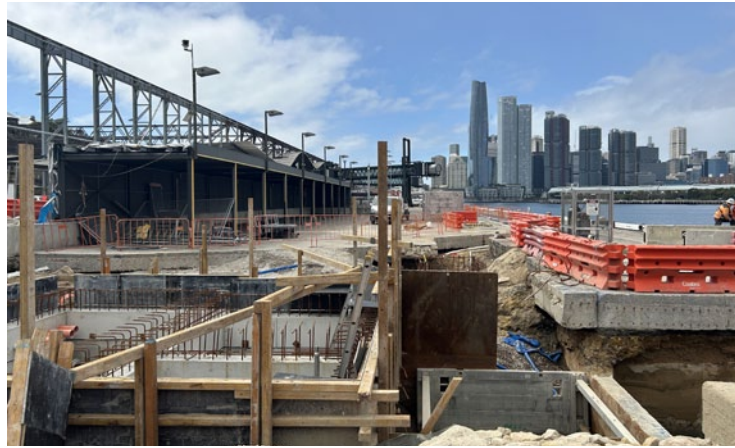
Passengers who are staying in Residence suites will receive priority embarkation and early access to reservations.

Meanwhile, those staying in Villa suites will enjoy a signature arrival experience via private transfer, priority embarkation, early suite access and a welcome escort; a private consultation with the ship's chef, sommelier and spa manager; signature onboard and in-suite perks; dedicated trip-planning support; exclusive benefits on expeditions; and more.

New perks will kick in from next year.

"Whether that's with early access to spa and dining reservations or dedicated time with the ship's head sommelier, we're strengthening the personalised service that has always defined Silversea, while maintaining and expanding on the inclusions guests know and love," president Bert Hernandez said.

White Bay's power play



WHITE Bay Cruise Terminal's shore power project has reached a major engineering milestone, with the installation of the project's onshore power supply (OPS) system (**pictured**).

The installation of the two-storey structure marks one of the project's most complex engineering milestones completed to date, since construction began around 12 months ago (**CW** 11 Aug 2025).

It will serve as the electrical heart of the shore power system, converting 33,000 volts of electricity from the local power grid to a compatible voltage and frequency for visiting cruise ships.

Providing a shore power connection enables cruise vessels to turn off their onboard diesel engines while at port, reducing carbon emissions by more than 4,000 tonnes each year.

Port Authority of NSW chief executive officer John McKenna

said the milestone highlighted the scale and complexity of the Australian-first project.

"The OPS is the powerhouse of the entire shore power system at White Bay, with the 10 shipping containers housing an intricate network of transformers, converters and switchgear to provide the electricity needed for visiting cruise ships," he said.

"With that now installed, our teams are focused on securing power to the site from Rozelle and completing the complex underground electrical cabling, seawater cooling system and the wharf-side cable management system, which is necessary to bring shore power direct to the cruise ship."

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of the year, with vessels set to begin testing and connecting to shore power during the 2026-27 summer cruise season. **MS**

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of **Cruise Lines International Association**, which is hosting its annual **Cruise360** conference in Sydney.

ALMOST 900 people are expected to attend this year's sold-out Cruise360 conference in Sydney, which kicks off its jam-packed schedule today.

The event takes place at the ICC Sydney across the next two days, marking the largest industry gathering ever held.

Cruise Weekly is once again the official media partner for the conference - stay tuned for all the updates across the next two days, and keep your eyes out on Mon for a special Cruise360 issue.

Canada is snow joke

APT and Travelmarvel have launched a Canada sale, giving travellers the chance to secure savings on a range of itineraries departing next year.

Available for a limited time, the sales feature offers across some of Canada's most spectacular destinations, with both sales running from 15 to 30 Sep or until sold out - **CLICK HERE** for more.



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IN ADDITION to the once-in-a-lifetime highlights and sights of the Nile Valley, attendees on Uniworld Boutique River Cruises fam in Egypt also paid witness to a proposal.

Julia Brunato from MTA's marketing team was accompanied by her partner Rex, who popped the question in the middle of the cruise.

During a beautiful Aswan sunset over a high tea at Mandarin Oriental's iconic Old Cataract hotel, Rex dropped to one knee and presented a stunning blue sapphire engagement ring - of course, Julia said yes (pictured).



WA's south ready for cruise



THE cruise season for Western Australia's Great Southern region is one month from kicking off, with the first vessel, Princess Cruises' *Crown Princess*, soon to arrive in Albany.

From mid-Oct, thousands of cruise passengers will begin arriving on 15 ships to both Albany and Esperance, continuing through to Apr.

A first-ever overnight stay in Albany will be among the highlights of the schedule, with Coral Expeditions' *Coral Geographer* to remain in port

from 28-29 Oct.

Keith Wilks, chief executive officer of the local Southern Ports enterprise, said hosting a vessel and her passengers overnight will provide a boost for the local and regional economy.

Holland America Line's *Noordam* will be the only other visit before the end of the year, before visitation ramps up in early 2027.

This season's total calls are down from 2025/26, when 18 ships called the two ports, such as *Viking Orion* (pictured). *MS*

Lindblad's big stakes

LINDBLAD Expedition Holdings has acquired a majority ownership of White Desert, a luxury Antarctic company, and Echo Charlie, a new aviation travel brand.

Marking the largest transaction in the company's history, Lindblad Expeditions paid approximately US\$61 million (A\$86 million) for the 60% stake, plus around US\$6 million (A\$8.5 million) for cash on the balance sheet.

Lindblad Expeditions will help White Desert to expand its camps and guest experiences and strengthen its logistical capabilities, while also supporting the development and growth of Echo Charlie, which offers flights to remote airstrips aboard a fully restored DC-3.

Patrick Woodhead will serve as chairman of White Desert and CEO of Echo Charlie, while also joining Lindblad Expeditions as strategic innovation advisor.

White Desert and Echo Charlie continue to operate as stand-alone offerings.



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

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