



## Hobart terminal welcomes first ship

Tasport's brand new Macquarie Wharf last night received its first visitors since its \$7 million revamp as a multi-purpose facility.

**CRUISE Weekly** was aboard Princess Cruises' *Sea Princess* as it pulled into the squeaky clean Macquarie Wharf No 2 cruise ship and Antarctic and Southern Ocean logistics

terminal around 9pm last night.

After staying overnight, passengers were officially welcomed this morning with a celebration of live music and drinks for almost 1,900 passengers.

Minister for Tourism Scott Bacon and Minister for Infrastructure David O'Byrne were also on hand to present Captain William Kent with a traditional plaque to commemorate the special event.

The modernised facility, completed earlier this year, has been divided into three sections for cruise ship amenities, cargo handling, and office space.

New features include a toilet block and seating for passengers, visitor information services manned by Hobart City Council, currency exchange, gift shop, duty-free jewel store, a food and coffee stall, as well as a new roof, entry ramp and road works to manage cruise ship traffic.

"The multi-purpose redevelopment of Macquarie Wharf 2 strongly enhances Hobart's reputation as a tourism port and the gateway for Antarctic and Southern Ocean research," said Tasport's general manager commercial & trade, Kevin Moore.

"It will generate economic benefits for port users, the tourism industry and the greater Tasmanian community, and we have already had great feedback from cruise line operators and their agents."

The *Sea Princess*, which departs this evening to return to Sydney on Sat, was the first of 36 ships scheduled to visit Hobart this season.

### Connect on Sydney Harbour

**FREE** wireless internet connectivity has been installed on Captain Cook Cruises' flagship vessel *MV Sydney 2000* to encourage guests to share their onboard experiences quickly and to ensure the company maintains the latest state-of-the-art fleet.

Passengers can connect to the service using a password provided onboard after completing a four question multiple choice customer survey.

## Cruise Holidays opens in NSW

**SYDNEY** based retail and business travel firm The Travel Authority Group will operate three outlets in Sydney and the Central Coast for Cruise Holidays, who this week announced its expansion into the state.

Outlets of The Cruise Authority will be positioned in Terrigal as well as Crows Nest and Newport, all north of the Sydney CBD.

Cruise Holidays Australia managing director Les Farrar said last month the group was looking for suitable partners to expand its local presence outside its Queensland heartland, notably in Sydney (**CW** 12 Sep) and welcomed the new cruise specialist locations.

The Travel Authority managing director Peter Hosper welcomed the addition of a dedicated cruise website and the development of a cruise booking engine with live availability.

"Cruise Holidays provides us with an all round cruise solution, including product, marketing and technology. This will allow us to build our cruise business without a significant up front cost and without losing focus on the other aspects of our business, which are also important to us.

"We are confident our customers will find the new site a valuable resource," Hosper added.

### All the latest cruise news

Today's trade issue of **CW** features four pages of all the latest cruise information.

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### Cruise News & Views...

Brett Jardine - General Manager

## Cruise360 Australasia

FOR everyone engaged with the cruise industry, you will now be aware Cruise360 is heading to Sydney in Feb 2014.

For the last four years, we have taken a delegation to Cruise360 in Florida and Vancouver where retail agents from across Australia and NZ have had the opportunity to learn more about the very mature North American market.

Cruise360 has evolved into a highly anticipated event for retail agents in North America and 2014 marks the 10th year of delivery. Over this period the event has grown into the world largest cruise conference focused on retail agents and now runs for five days!

The globalisation of CLIA coinciding with the ten year anniversary has presented a great opportunity for us to deliver our own Cruise360 and we look forward to support from all sectors of the cruise industry.

Our goal is to deliver an event where participants will hear from leaders within the local cruise industry as well as other special guest speakers that are directly and indirectly involved.

As has been reported elsewhere, there will also be a trade show (sold out) where suppliers will be keen to showcase their latest offerings. CLIA members receive a 30% discount on registration for Cruise360 Sydney by visiting the website at [www.cruise360.com.au](http://www.cruise360.com.au).

### Cruise360 North America

For CLIA members there is also an open invitation for you to attend Cruise360 Fort Lauderdale in Apr where CLIA USA has extended their VIP rates to us. If you are keen to attend, please contact our office for instructions on how to register for this by email at [info@crusing.org.au](mailto:info@crusing.org.au).

## Costa launch 'slow cruise' concept

The new Costa neoCollection will focus on longer stays and intimate group tours in less visited destinations.

**COSTA** Cruises plans to debut a more leisurely style of cruising from Feb 2014 on two of its smaller vessels, the 624-pax *Costa neoRiviera* and the 789-pax *Costa neoRomantica*.

Itineraries feature ports that bigger ships cannot access, with many overnight stopovers that extend to part of the next day, allowing for maximum time on shore.

The new product also includes excursions for groups of up to 25 passengers and a new food and wine offering based on each destination.

The Costa neoCollection kicks off with the *neoRiviera* (ex-Grand Mistral) on a 62-day Grand African Tour departing from Dubai on 09 Feb, followed by 12-day Mediterranean cruises departing from Savona.

The African voyage, which can be divided into separate segments from Dubai to Cape Town or Cape Town to Savona, gets off the beaten track to the coastline of India, the

Seychelles, Maldives, Mauritius and Reunion Island, then circumnavigates the continent via Mozambique, South Africa, Namibia, Senegal, Cape Verde, the Canaries and Morocco.

Also, starting 01 Jun, *Costa neoRomantica* will offer the new style of cruise from Amsterdam to Northern Europe, Norway and the Baltic, as well as "intimate" seaside villages along the Amalfi Coast, Corsica and Sicily's west coast.

Before departure, clients have their itinerary personalised by booking the tours that best match their interests, and once onboard, a concierge assists them in choosing other activities, such as the recently introduced 'dinner under the stars'.

## Eastern Med off HAL's radar

**HOLLAND** America Line has made the call to redeploy its *MS Noordam* to operate in the central and western Mediterranean for the northern spring and summer seasons in 2014 due to ongoing concerns about safety in Egypt.

Passengers already booked on HAL voyages in the region may amend their booking to any 11-14 day itinerary in the same category at no extra charge, while a comparable voyage will be offered to those sailing for longer periods.

"We sincerely regret impacting the travel plans of those guests already booked and are committed to making the process of rebooking to another sailing as smooth as possible. All guests may choose to receive a full refund if they elect not to rebook," HAL said.

**MEANWHILE**, the ongoing bushfires in the NSW Blue Mountains this week forced HAL to cancel its planned shore excursion to the region for passengers aboard the *Volendam*.

Alternative tours were arranged, with Carnival Australia and Royal Caribbean Int'l saying they will be assessing the situation as to how it may affect other ships visiting Sydney.

## Windstar getting closer to Aus

**STAR** *Pride*, one of three vessels acquired recently, will be deployed to operate the first season of Southeast Asia & Arabia cruises for Windstar Cruises next year, the company said.

Ports in Thailand, Vietnam, India & Malaysia will be among those to be visited, with the first sailing scheduled for 30 Oct next year.

Highlighted trips include a 14-day Treasures of Southeast Asia, which cruises to Hong Kong from Singapore via Vietnam, along with an 18-day Wonders of Arabia which transits the Suez Canal and visits Luxor, Aqaba, Salalah & Petra.

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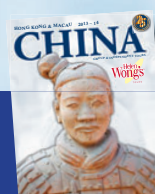
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### Two new Travelmarvel ports

**BURMA** and China have both been added as part of Travelmarvel's expanded destination range for the 2014/15 season.

The APT sister-brand has unveiled its new Asia brochure featuring the new destinations and a host of itineraries making their debuts across the 68-page guide.

Two premium journeys in Burma make up the initial offering, along with a number of tours incorporating Yangtze river cruising in China.

Popular demand for Mekong river sailings aboard the *RV La Marguerite* has seen the firm double departures to 40 for the season.

Additionally, junk cruising on Halong Bay has been extended from one to two nights.

"Our sightseeing program combines well known icons with unique off the beaten track experiences, while at the same time allowing enough free time for guests to explore on their own," Travelmarvel general manager David Cox said of the new season.

A range of Fly Free offers have been released in line with the brochure's release, valid on bookings of any Vietnam cruise itinerary of 12 days or more in duration departing between Jun 2014 and Apr 2015.

For more information, phone 1300 300 036.

### Enhancements to CruiseMatch

**ROYAL** Caribbean International will this weekend install enhancements to its online CruiseMatch booking system which will improve the site's speed and ease-of-use.

Once live, the system will allow agents to locate best fares tailored to clients using details such as date of birth, loyalty card number, returning only suitable options & automatically applying promotions to the booking.

Eligible onboard credits, discounts & coupons available to clients will also be applied.

A training module on the new upgrades has been designed and is now available for viewing on [www.cruisingforexcellence.com.au](http://www.cruisingforexcellence.com.au).

The updates are scheduled to be installed this weekend, which will see Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises bookings unable to be processed from midday this Sat 26 Oct until 11:15am Mon 28 Oct due to the required system maintenance.

Outages apply both to websites and local call centres for the company's three brands.

Royal Caribbean apologises to travel agents and their clients for any inconvenience caused over this period, but adds that the times stated above should be used as a guide only.

More details available by **CLICKING HERE**.

### Cruise Shipping Miami dates

**THE** 30th anniversary of preeminent North American cruise industry conference and tradeshow Cruise Shipping Miami will take place from 10-13 Mar next year.

Supported by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), the show will be held at the Miami Convention Centre and will offer networking and business sessions with organisations working in all sectors of the international cruise industry ranging from ship design to amusements and technology.

New for 2014 will be the Cruise Trends Theatre, where exhibitors can showcase any innovations impacting the cruise industry.

A separate Grand Tasting Pavilion will be a similar outlet for the Food & Beverage sector to promote their wares to F&B buyers.

Representatives from ports and destinations will also be on hand promoting their facilities in the hope to secure visitation by cruise lines.

UBM Cruise Shipping Portfolio's Daniel Read said: "For the exhibition we're adding new pavilions and creating additional opportunities for buyers and suppliers to interact".

The preliminary lineup for the conference will cover Shipbuilding, Operations & Technology, Destinations & Ports & Product Development.



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\*Emirates will be launching one-stop flights to Kiev from 16th January 2014.

**Hello Tomorrow** 

# CRUISE

WEEKLY

Thursday 24 October 2013



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## Corks popped for a day of Silversea luxury



**FOUR** lucky travel agents recently spent a day experiencing life in the lap of luxury as winners of an industry incentive conducted by Silversea Cruises.

To be eligible for the prize, entrants had to book clients on a 2013 Silversea voyage within the 12 Jun-07 Aug entry window, along with a paragraph on what luxury meant to them.

Flown to Sydney courtesy of Virgin Australia and Velocity Frequent Flyer, the day of elite living began with a boat cruise on Sydney Harbour aboard *La Dolce Vita*, a magnificent Italian wooden speedboat.

Next up was a casual champagne soiree with members of the Silversea Cruises team, ahead of a sumptuous evening meal at the acclaimed

Café Sydney, which overlooks the Opera House.

When all was said and done, the competition winners retired to their suites for the night at the Park Hyatt Sydney Hotel.

**Pictured** above from left is Pat Cox, Silversea; Karen Christensen, Silversea; Timothy Beckensall, Wings Away Travel; Melissa Demetriadis, Flight Centre Southgate; Cathy Tees, Silversea; Macailla Seaver, American Express; Terri Dillon, Go See Touring and Kim Salt from Silversea.

## Quantum of the Seas update

**ROYAL** Caribbean International has released an update video detailing the progress at the Meyer-Werft shipyard in Germany as to the construction of *Quantum of the Seas*.

The latest video offers insights from line president and ceo Adam Goldstein, shipyard and design bosses & showcases the complexity of the project but is an exciting look into ship design as recognisable pieces of the new ship's frame are gradually put in place.

Head to the **Cruise Weekly** website to view the video, or alternatively, **CLICK HERE**.

## P&O opens a kindergarten

**BUILT** using \$50,000 raised through its Pacific Partnership with the Save The Children charitable organisation, P&O Cruises has opened a brand new kindergarten in Vanuatu.

The two-room building accommodates up to 30 children from the Talwa community in Pangli, South Pentecost and features play equipment, a sand pit, water tank and toilets.

## Solstice arrives back in Sydney

**CELEBRITY** Cruises mega-liner *Celebrity Solstice* yesterday docked in Sydney to kick off its second Australian cruise deployment.

The 2,850-passenger vessel features eight dining venues, glass-blowing studio and a floor to ceiling wine cellar holding 2,800 bottles and is expecting 45,000 guests in its latest season.

## CCC Northern Fiji sailing dates

**DEPARTURES** for Captain Cook Cruises' two new seven-night Northern Fiji Discovery Cruises have been released, starting next year.

The Four Cultures Discovery Cruise will be the first sailing to entirely circumnavigate the island of Vanua Levu and showcases aspects of the Polynesian, Micronesian, Fijian and Indian culture, departing on 07 Jan, 04 Mar, 06 May, 01 Jul, 02 Sep and 04 Nov 2014.

Captain Cook Cruises' second new voyage is the Colonial Fiji Discovery Cruise which looks at the region's history, art and culture, with pax able to stand right on the int'l date line.

This voyage departs 04 Feb, 01 Apr, 03 Jun, 05 Aug, 07 Oct and 02 Dec, with both cruises operated by the line's *MV Reef Endeavour*.



**A BRITISH** collector has spent £900,000 in purchasing the very violin played by Wallace Hartley, who was the band leader aboard doomed ocean liner *Titanic*, which went down with 1,500 souls on 15 Apr 1912.

Hartley and his seven band members all perished in the disaster but prior, played on as passengers scrambled into lifeboats, with his body recovered ten days afterward.

The violin, inside its case, was strapped to his body at the time.

After Hartley's fiancée Maria passed away in 1939, the violin was donated to her Salvation Army band and gradually moved on to its current owner.

The item and its case was sold by auction house Henry Aldridge and Son, despite some critics doubting its authenticity, saying it couldn't have survived for such a length of time in sea water.

Despite this, the auction house said it had received interest from buyers worldwide.

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