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# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 02 Dec 2014

## Cruise Weekly today

*Cruise Weekly* today features three pages of news & photos from the cruising industry plus a full front page from **JITO**.

## Uniworld sales mgr

**DAVID** Doyle has joined the team at Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection in the role of NSW/ACT sales manager.

Doyle brings recent experience in a training role at Qantas along with history with TravelManagers and Travelforce Pty Ltd to his new position at the Travel Corp brand.

## Seabourn signs new order

**UPMARKET** small-ship cruise line Seabourn has opted to fulfil an existing contracted option from Italian shipbuilding giant Fincantieri for a second new ship.

The "ultra-luxury" vessel will be the fifth in the line's fleet and will offer capacity for 604 passengers in a double occupancy "all-suite" layout, with the design to follow that of the Odyssey-class fleet.

The option comes as part of a two-ship contract signed with Fincantieri and announced a little over a year ago (*CW* 22 Oct 2013).

Seabourn president Richard D Meadows said there had been considerable excitement since the announcement for the first ship.

"We're very pleased that the demand for our brand has allowed us to add a second new ultra-luxury ship to our expanding fleet."

"These two new ships will offer the understated elegance we are known for, as well as new amenities, innovations and modern design features that embody the hallmarks of Seabourn," Meadows added.

Interiors of the new vessel will be designed by Adam D Tihany, who is currently entrusted with the onboard look of sister brand Holland America Line's newest vessel *MS Koningsdam*.

Both of Seabourn's ships in the pipeline are un-named at present and both will offer a staff to guest ratio of nearly 1:1.

"We are very glad that Seabourn decided to 'double' its trust in us, especially considering that our partnership is very young and getting stronger quickly," Fincantieri chief executive officer Giuseppe Bono commented.

## Screams on Voyager

**RISING** Australian singer and songwriter Nathaniel Willemse will welcome guests onboard Royal Caribbean's revitalised *Voyager of the Seas* next week as it returns for its 2015/16 season.

Willemse will perform for 100 winners selected in the line's Facebook Party at Sea contest during a one-night preview sailing on Mon, with *X Factor* finalist Reigan Derry as a supporting act.

## APT invites Counsellors onboard



**A GROUP** of Travel Counsellors recently headed off to Europe to experience the sophistication of an APT European river cruise.

Over eight days, the cruise from Amsterdam to Basel offered endless postcard views along the riverbank as the vessel passed through villages along the Rhine.

Plenty of top shore excursions were also enjoyed, such as visits to medieval castles, museums

and wine tasting experiences.

Onboard the ship, the group was treated to the Captain's Gala welcome dinner and the Captain's Cocktail party on the first evening.

Escorted by Astrid Adams from APT, the Travel Counsellors group included Cheryl Bentley, Heidi Winkley, Julie Moore, Liz Van Boxel, Michaela Roberts, Samantha Slattery and Tina Millington, all **pictured** above.

## APT adds Bordeaux

**RESPONDING** to pax demand, APT has announced it will add the popular French wine region of Bordeaux to its France river cruising program for 2016.

The company will reposition its 74-suite *AmaDolce* from the Danube to the Garonne and Dordogne rivers in early 2016, with itinerary details to feature in its next Europe preview brochure.

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## China cruise alliance

**SEVEN** cities in China operating eight cruise terminals are set to jointly promote the cruise sector by forming an alliance.

Similar to existing alliances held between Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Oman; MedCruise & Cruise Baltic, the new Chinese grouping will collaborate over development, management and operation of cruise terminals in the country.

The seven alliance member cities include Tianjin, Xiamen, Shanghai, Qingdao, Zhoushan, Sanya and Hong Kong.

## Coast takes pitch on road

**CONSULTATIONS** about the proposed Gold Coast Integrated Resort and Cruise Ship Terminal will hit the road in coming days, with management seeking further engagement with local residents.

The project's Community Relations team will take a Mobile Community Information Centre to various Gold Coast locations, starting in coming days.

"The initiative is centred on reaching more members of the community, and enable them to readily access Project information and provide feedback directly to the team," the organisation said.

In addition to the mobile centre, the project's central engagement hub will remain open daily at Broadwater Parkland in Southport.

More details on opening times and locations will be advised.

ASF Consortium local project director Tim Poole says the team has already met with and received feedback from more than 1,000 community members.

**MEANWHILE**, Poole added that the consortium has met with local training providers with views to ensuring the majority of the project is delivered through the

employment of local workers.

Should the green light from the Qld Government be received, Poole said the developers had implemented a requirement for 80% of construction workers to be sourced from the local area.

Developers say the project will offer "at least 5,000 direct and indirect local jobs per year for 10 years during the construction phase & over 15,000 permanent jobs for the ongoing operation of the project".

## Expedition experts

**MARINE** conservationist and underwater film-maker Valerie Taylor will rejoin Lindblad Expeditions next year as part of its Global Perspectives Speakers Program on a number of voyages.

In addition to Taylor, Lindblad's lineup of speakers aboard the *National Geographic Orion* for next year will include Seychelles advocate Sir James Mancham; orangutan expert Birutė Galdikas and film-maker Lawrence Blair.

Aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* will be Polar explorer Eric Larsen; Ice Maiden discoverer Johan Reinhard, deep-sea diver Don Walsh and many more.

**MEANWHILE**, a series of new expeditions in South America and the South Pacific have been announced for 2015/16, all in the latest Explorations brochure.

New voyages will explore the Panama Canal and Peru, Chile, Patagonia and the Chilean Fiords.

In the South Pacific, the *National Geographic Orion* will operate six individual voyages as it travels from Palau to Easter Island via the Solomon Islands, Fiji, the Cook Islands and Tahiti.



## PORTHOLE

**A HALLOWEEN** themed cruise in the Bahamas earlier this month became a tad too scary after the ship made contact with an underwater object, forcing an emergency evacuation.

The alarm sounded when the *Bahamas Celebration*, operated by Celebration Cruise Line, began tilting heavily port side, followed by a power blackout.

"At first you kind of thought, maybe this is a Halloween joke and this is supposed to be funny," one passenger remarked.

At the time of the incident, all of the passengers were dressed in their Halloween costumes and were enjoying a zombie-themed onboard party.

The ship returned to port in Grand Bahamas Island, with pax put up in resorts while damage to the ship was assessed.

Celebration cancelled the remainder of the voyage, ferrying stranded passengers back to Miami the following day.

## WWI France cruise

**EUROPEAN** Waterways has released a series of World War One Commemorative Cruises to take passengers through the battlefields of France in Apr 2015.

Sailing on hotel barge *La Belle Epoque*, departures have been scheduled for 05, 12, 19 & 26 Apr.

Guests will travel through the battlefields of Northern France between Lille & Compiègne and also between Villers-Bretonneux and Compiègne over six nights.



## Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	02 Dec
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	04 Dec
<i>Oosterdam</i>	05 Dec
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	06 Dec
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	07 Dec
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	08 Dec
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	08 Dec
MELBOURNE	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	06 Dec
BRISBANE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	05 Dec
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	06 Dec
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	06 Dec
CAIRNS	
<i>Celebrity Century</i>	05 Dec
PORT DOUGLAS	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	08 Dec
DARWIN	
<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	02 Dec
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	05 Dec
AUCKLAND	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	02 Dec
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	03 Dec
TAURANGA	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	03 Dec
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	04 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	08 Dec
WELLINGTON	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	05 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	06 Dec
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	07 Dec
NAPIER	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	04 Dec
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	05 Dec
AKAROA	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	05 Dec
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	06 Dec
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	08 Dec

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## Koningsdam on sale

**MAIDEN** voyages of Holland America Line's newest vessel *MS Koningsdam* are now on sale, with the ship to operate its first season in the Mediterranean.

The inaugural sailing will be a seven-day cruise, with the rest of the season made up of a series of 12-day itineraries, before the ship moves to the Baltic for summer.

*Koningsdam's* first voyage will depart Rome on 20 Feb 2016, visiting Dubrovnik, Kerkira, Katakolon and Naples.

## New Variety cruises

**FOUR** new itineraries have been introduced by Variety Cruises in the Mediterranean, Red Sea and the Canary Islands.

The line, which is represented in Australia by Discover the World, has released an eight-day Aegean Mosaic voyage from Athens to Istanbul (or v.v) alongside a pair of seven-day voyages from Aqaba to Suez (or v.v) and roundtrip sailings from Hurghada, Egypt.

Country director for Discover the World Jeannie Foster said the line was looking for something new to add to its range.

Further, departures through to Mar 2016 have been released for an eight-day sailing to the Canary Islands, with embarkation offered from Gran Canaria and Tenerife.

The Canary Islands Discovery cruises sail aboard mega-yacht *Harmony V*, which accommodates 49 passengers in 25 staterooms.

## Full moon cruising

**MONTHLY** full moon parties similar to that in Thailand will be hosted by Resorts World Bimini, starting from this coming Sat.

Voyages will depart from Miami, Florida on the Sat closest to the full moon date, with a three-hour cruise followed by a shore party.

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## Cruise Ambassadors celebrated



**TEN** years since pioneering the concept, Airlie Beach recently held a gala event at the Abell Point Marina, paying special tribute to its inaugural volunteer Cruise Ship Ambassadors.

The army of Ambassadors greet passengers from each cruise ship on its arrival with a welcoming smile, ensuring visitors have all of the information they seek and are pointed in the right direction to maximise their time in the town.

Over its first decade, the program has seen the number of volunteers swell from around a dozen to more than 50 now.

"With Australia taking on a strong position in facilitating cruise ship growth, the Whitsundays has gained a competitive edge through the successful inception of Australia's first Cruise Ship Ambassador Program," said Whitsundays Marketing and Development Limited Executive Director Jeff Aquilina.

The celebration saw a plaque unveiled at the marina, along with the presentation of 40 trophies to current Ambassadors.

Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry sent her congratulations

on behalf of all passengers to have experienced the service.

"This continued effort is key to the consistently positive passenger feedback which places Airlie Beach in the top Australian destinations year after year as rated by our passengers. Undoubtedly we'll be celebrating the 20 year anniversary in 2024 and that other destinations follow the fantastic example that was founded here," Sherry added.

Dignitaries at the event included Rick Hamilton from Tourism & Events Queensland, Racheal Klitscher from The Whitsundays and The Mackay Region, local Mayor Jenifer Whitney and more.

The group of celebrated Ambassadors are pictured above.

## Princess settling in

**PRINCESS** Cruises has begun its inaugural season homeporting a ship in Singapore, with the line's *Sapphire Princess* beginning the first of two confirmed seasons.

The vessel will operate a total of 25 itineraries in its first season, visiting nine countries over 16 sailings from the Lion City port.