

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 09 Dec 2014

Promotions at RCCL

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises Ltd has promoted from within, naming current Celebrity Cruises ceo Michael Bayley as the new president and ceo of the flagship Royal Caribbean Int'l brand. Bayley replaces Adam Goldstein, who was himself promoted in Apr to president and coo of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd overall. Assuming control of Celebrity Cruises will be current RCI vp operations Lisa Lutoff-Perlo.

Voyager back and dazzling

THIRTEEN days after a US\$80m top-to-toe revitalisation, Royal Caribbean International mega-liner *Voyager of the Seas* returned to Sydney yesterday to begin its third Australasian summer season. Significant changes have been made to the ship's former layout following a five-week drydock in Singapore (**CW** 23 Oct).

Most noticeable is the addition of Australia's first FlowRider surf simulator at sea, located at the aft of the top deck.

Three new dining outlets make their debut in Australian waters in the form of RCI signature outlet Chop's Grille steakhouse, which is complemented by Izumi Japanese Cuisine and fine Italian fare served at Giovanni's Table.

Loyalty guests can exclusively enjoy a new Diamond Lounge, while a new retro R Bar and 3D cinema add to the enhancements.

For the first time in Australian waters, *Voyager* brings with it the new-to-RCI virtual balcony concept, giving pax occupying interior cabins the equivalent of an ocean view, via an LED screen.

Curiously though, the screens are located on the side of the cabin, projecting an image that is inconsistent with the feel of the movement of the ship itself.

Many popular features remain such as the ice-skating rink, sports court, rock climbing wall, Johnny Rockets burger diner and more.

"We are committed to giving our Australian guests the very best when they sail with us," RCI commercial director Australia and Southeast Asia Sean Treacy said.

For coverage of a special one-night trade sailing which took place last night, see **page three**.

Instant Scenic points

A BONUS \$150 worth of Rewards points which can be spent instantly will be awarded by Scenic Tours in a new promotion on French luxury river cruises.

Announced this morning, the new incentive applies for new bookings made by 31 Jan and deposited within two weeks.

However unlike normal, agents will receive their Rewards points instantly upon deposit receipt instead of when guests depart.

In addition to the bonus, two points for every nett dollar booked on the cruise component will then follow as per normal.

Wastin' away on NCL

LEGENDARY crooner Jimmy Buffett has signed a deal with Norwegian Cruise Line to debut his famous Margaritaville brand restaurant on *Norwegian Escape*.

Margaritaville will join the ship's complimentary dining options and will progressively be rolled out across the Norwegian fleet.

The '5 O'Clock Somewhere Bar' concept will also be added as part of the agreement with Buffett.

In addition to outlets onboard, branded land-based food and beverage venues will be constructed on the line's private islands in Belize and the Bahamas.

Nominations closing

TEN days remain for agencies in Australia and New Zealand to get their nominations in for the 2014 CLIA Cruise Industry Awards, to take place at The Star on 28 Feb.

Nominations for Agency and Network Promotion of the Year categories close on 19 Dec - see www.cruising.org.au to nominate.

CLIA Australasia gm Brett Jardine said the rewards were a great way for the industry to recognise outstanding work.



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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of cruise news plus photos from a one-night trade sailing on *Voyager of the Seas*.

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GRANTED there were no adults onboard at the time, but the cast in the Royal Caribbean International Dreamworks character parade are probably not normally awake this late.

As part of the one-night trade showcase sailing last night on the refreshed *Voyager of the Seas*, industry guests were treated to a sample of everything the line has to offer, including the Dreamworks partnership.

The parade, which started at the somewhat unconventional time of 11:15pm, had all the favourites including Shrek, Fiona & the animals from *Madagascar*.

Clearly however, Puss in Boots is not used to being papped and may have been caught at the wrong end of his normal day.



Long Carnival cruises

CARNIVAL Cruise Lines will cater to travellers seeking sailings of more than a week, unveiling a suite of longer cruises from seven homeports across the US.

Sailings of 10-14 days have been added to the schedules of six ships from Oct 2015 to Feb 2016 from ports including Long Beach, New Orleans, Port Canaveral, San Juan and more.

The extended cruises will allow pax to visit longer-range ports in the Caribbean, Bermuda, Mexican Riviera & the Bahamas including Martinique, Grenada and for the first time, Tobago.

Carnival says feedback from the trade & passengers has been cited as a catalyst for the changes.

Silversea wave incentive

LUXURY small-ship line Silversea has launched a trade industry incentive to help agents close lingering leads before the end of the year.

The 'Silver Wave' promotion is offering all new bookings made by 31 Dec with a complimentary category upgrade plus onboard credit of up to US\$1,000 per suite.

Credits can be used on spa treatments, specialty restaurants, shore excursions or put toward all other onboard purchases.

The promotion is valid on 31 selected voyages departing next year across both expedition and luxury small-ship cruises.

RSVP for Astor tour

AGENTS in Western Australia are being invited to take a tour of the facilities onboard Cruise & Maritime Voyages' *MS Astor* upon its arrival into Perth this Sat.

Astor returns to Fremantle for its second summer operating circumnavigation itineraries and cruises to Indonesia from WA.

Booking deadline is 10am WST today (1pm AEST) - to sign up, email Brad Elborough on be.comm@yahoo.com.au.

Norovirus on Princess

PRINCESS Cruises says it has implemented deep cleaning and sanitisation procedures on the *Dawn Princess* following a recent outbreak of gastro bug Norovirus. A small number of cases were reported on a current NZ voyage.

Eligible voyages run for between 7-14 days and include sailings in Asia, the Mediterranean, Alaska, Caribbean and Kimberley Coast.

"Now is the time for savvy, value-conscious travellers to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity and experience a luxury cruise holiday in just about every corner of the globe," Silversea gm and director of sales Australasia Karen Christensen said.

New celebrities at sea

CELEBRITY Cruises ceo Michael Bayley says the line's double ship order (**CW** breaking news Fri) will bring guests closer to the world's most interesting destinations.

"On this stunning new ship we will bring our guests even closer to the must-see destinations of the world, while indulging them onboard in the most luxurious accommodations, the finest culinary experiences, and the best hospitality delivered by our dedicated staff," Bayley said.

The two vessels will cater to 2,900 pax each and will be built by the STX France shipyard for delivery in 2018 and 2022 pending financing arrangements.



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	09 Dec
<i>Sun Princess</i>	09 Dec
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	10 Dec
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	11 Dec
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	13 Dec
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	14 Dec
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	14 Dec
<i>Celebrity Century</i>	15 Dec

MELBOURNE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	11 Dec
<i>Sun Princess</i>	14 Dec

BRISBANE	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	12 Dec
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	13 Dec

FREMANTLE	
<i>Astor</i>	13 Dec

CAIRNS	
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	14 Dec

DARWIN	
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	10 Dec

HOBART	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	11 Dec
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	13 Dec

BURNIE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	12 Dec
<i>Sun Princess</i>	13 Dec

WELLINGTON	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	12 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	13 Dec

NAPIER	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	11 Dec
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	15 Dec

AKAROA	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	13 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	14 Dec

AUCKLAND	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	09 Dec
<i>Sea Princess</i>	09 Dec
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	10 Dec
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	13 Dec

TAURANGA	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	10 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	11 Dec
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	14 Dec

PORT CHALMERS	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	09 Dec
<i>Sea Princess</i>	14 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	15 Dec

BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	10 Dec
<i>Sea Princess</i>	15 Dec

CAMPBELL ISLAND	
<i>Silver Discoverer</i>	09 Dec

SNARES ISLAND	
<i>Silver Discoverer</i>	15 Dec



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CRUISE WEEKLY



Tuesday 09 Dec 2014

Cruise agents hang ten on the revitalised *Voyager of the Seas*

AUSTRALIA welcomed some of the world's most innovative cruise ship features yesterday as Royal Caribbean International showcased the WOW factor of its new look *Voyager of the Seas*.

Hundreds of excited agents boarded the 3,400-passenger vessel for one night at sea aboard the ship, to test out the facilities, features and improvements installed in a five-week, US\$80m makeover in Singapore.

Crowds quickly rushed to the showpiece attraction - a FlowRider surfing simulator - which provided plenty of entertaining wipeouts.

After trying it out for themselves, onlookers were then blown away as international Flowboarding superstar and RCI ambassador Adam Wildman demonstrated the skills which have taken him to sit among the world's elite participants of the exciting sport.

A special demonstration ice-skating performance also starred in the afternoon's schedule, with the ship's resident professional skaters impressing with their skills, prior to a rousing performance by X-Factor contestant Nathaniel Willemse.

Later, agents dressed for dinner and were treated to the ship's new dining options including Giovanni's Table (Italian), Izumi Japanese Cuisine and Chop's Grille steakhouse.

After dinner, it was time to enjoy the evening activities, which kicked off with an up-close-and-personal fireworks display on Sydney Harbour.

Movies were available to view at the 3D cinema, skaters hit the ice-skating rink while others opted to hit the nightclub's dancefloor.

Voyager of the Seas will tonight kick off the rest of its four-month season in Australia, departing next on an 11-night sailing to New Zealand.

For many more photos from the one-night trade sailing, **CLICK HERE**.



ABOVE: Royal Caribbean Int'l Asia-Pacific regional vice-president Gavin Smith & brand new PR recruit Anna Bathgate, who had quite a first day learning all about her new role.

RIGHT: Alex the Lion from *Madagascar* was one of the many Dreamworks characters on parade.



LEFT: Melissa Warren from Holidays of Australia found herself an unwitting star of an ice-skating demonstration.

RIGHT: Despite remaining upright for an impressive period, Tash Robertson from Flight Centre Erina B became a wipeout victim while enjoying the FlowRider.



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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Editors: Bruce Piper and Matt Lennon info@cruiseweekly.com.au

Contributors: Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Louise Wallace

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Katrina Ford ads@cruiseweekly.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

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