

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 09 Sept 2014

Today's issue of CW

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

New chairman at CDU

FORMER Port of Melbourne ceo Stephen Bradford has been appointed as the new chairman of Cruise Down Under (CDU).

Bradford's appointment came following the 2014 CDU annual general meeting and industry conference in Perth last week.

He holds over 40 years worth of experience in the ports, tourism & logistics industries in a number of senior roles including as former boss of Great Southern Rail.

Scenic on thick ice

A VARIETY of new itineraries and off-ship excursions feature in the 2016 Scenic Tours guide to Antarctica, which was launched to the trade yesterday.

A third private charter has been added to the schedule, with the touring firm utilising Ponant ships *Le Boreal* and *Le Lyréal*, the line's brand new vessel joining in Apr.

South Georgia and the Chilean Fjords have been added as new destinations on small ship cruises.

South American extensions and combination tours also feature in the guide, with guests able to spend three nights at Iguazu Falls on the 'Taste of Brazil' itinerary.

Tours incorporating Peru also now include a visit to the floating islands of Lake Titicaca.

GM shock at season axing

THE sudden cancellation of Portuscale Cruises' Australian season could have been avoided if Geelong had a dedicated berth for cruise ships, according to the city's mayor Darryn Lyons.

"Here was an international cruise line committed to coming to Geelong but without a dedicated cruise ship terminal we have missed a great opportunity," he commented.

"The City of Greater Geelong and Port of Geelong worked very hard to find a temporary compromise that would enable Portuscale to visit Geelong this year but clearly this was not the best case scenario."

Lyons claims Portuscale Cruises was forced to wait until the temporary arrangements were finalised before it could publicly launch its Australian cruise program.

"If we had a purpose-built pier capable of processing international passengers and provisioning liners visiting Geelong, it's likely Portuscale could have begun its national marketing campaign much earlier," he added.

The council's business case found that Geelong could attract up to 25 ships per year by 2025 if it built the proposed Yarra Street Pier, which would deliver 522 new jobs and \$80 million in the first 10 years of operation.

Meanwhile, it has been revealed that the former general manager of Portuscale Cruises in Australia,

Rosalea Ryan, found out about the local season's cancellation through the media.

The withdrawal of *MV Funchal* cruises out of Geelong and Newcastle was first reported by *Cruise Weekly* (CW 04 Sep) after a tip-off from a travel agent.

Ryan worked unpaid for the company for nine months, while also employed as a sub-editor at Fairfax, before withdrawing from her Portuscale duties in Jul after the death of her mother, which she advised on the line's website.

She told the *Geelong Advertiser* she was "absolutely disgusted" by the "horrendous outcome".

Ryan became involved with the project after meeting Portuscale ceo Rui Alegre through her research for a book about the line's former vessel, *MV Azores*, the world's oldest cruise ship in operation, which joins the Cruise & Maritime Voyages fleet next year (CW 01 Jul).

Mayor Lyons yesterday released an email on Twitter from Alegre expressing his regret at ditching the Australian cruises.

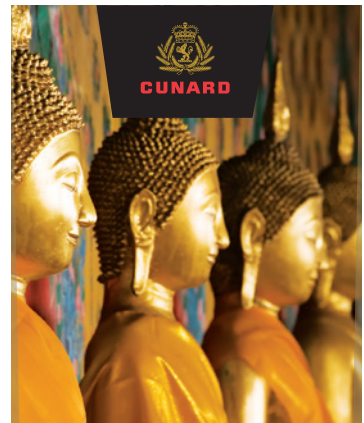
"I would hope that one day Portuscale will return to Australia and hopefully Geelong will continue to be an option," Alegre wrote.

Alegre said he was "still looking at options" for the *Funchal*.

The Southern Hemisphere 2015 cruises have since been replaced with itineraries in West Africa's Cape Verde archipelago.

Anthem will rock you

SMASH-HIT Broadway musical 'We Will Rock You', based on the music of British rock group Queen, will be among the line-up of entertainment available aboard *Anthem of the Seas* upon its debut in Apr next year, Royal Caribbean has announced.



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Touchdowns at sea

AHEAD of the kickoff this past weekend of the new NFL season, Princess Cruises has been busy confirming new partnerships with a number of league franchises.

In the last few days, the line has announced new individual tie-ups with the Seattle Seahawks, Houston Texans, Chicago Bears and San Francisco 49ers.

The four cities are important markets for Princess Cruises, with the line launching sweepstakes promotions to each team's fans.

These will include competitions to win cruises to Alaska, Mexico or to the Caribbean, departing from the team's respective city.

While onboard, passengers will also be able to keep tabs on their teams, with Princess screening the games of each team, among others, on its outdoor screen.

Ships will also host football-themed "viewing parties" onboard to celebrate each week.

The practice is not new, with Norwegian Cruise Lines recently expanding an existing agreement with the Miami Dolphins; Carnival Cruise Lines holds links with the Dallas Cowboys and Celebrity Cruises earlier this year did a deal with the New England Patriots.

APT launch Mekong deals

A NEW itinerary, increased departures, price freezes and a fly-free deal are on offer for APT's new Mekong 2015/16 program, which also sees the launch of the 62-suite *RV AmaDara* (CW 10 Apr), joining sister ship *AmaLotus*.

The new 28-day itinerary combines Vietnam and Cambodia with a trip to China, as well as delving deeper into Laos and Thailand, with extended cruising on the Upper Mekong and more detailed land journeys.

'Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia Discovery' includes immersive local experiences in Thailand's Golden Triangle; a five-night Upper Mekong river cruise through Laos aboard the *Mekong Sun*; three-day cruise to Ha Long Bay; two-night Saigon tour; seven-night Lower Mekong cruise and two nights in Siem Reap.

Celebrity chef Luke Nguyen, who will host a 20-day trip departing 26 Jun 2015, has also designed exclusive dining experiences such as a "signature banquet" for all passengers and a degustation dinner with matching wines that APT pax can enjoy at Xu Restaurant in Ho Chi Minh City.

APT is offering 2015/16 departures at 2014 prices across 40 of its departures, including the 12-day lead-in tour, 'Vietnam and Cambodia Highlights'.

For bookings on any holiday to Asia of 12 days or longer, a 'Fly Free, including taxes' deal is available; or alternatively save up to \$3,000 per couple with APT's 'Business Class' deal, which starts at \$2,995pp including air taxes.

Additionally, APT is offering a choice of three 'SuperDeals' on all bookings made before 31 Mar next year.

Or book APT's 8-day Luxury Mekong River Cruise, as well as flights from Australia, and receive an air credit of up to \$500pp.

APT's new 94-page Vietnam and Cambodia 2015/16 brochure, featuring 11 itineraries, is out now - see www.aptouring.com.au.

New Azamara perks

CHANGES are in the air for the Azamara Club Cruises 'Le Club Voyage' loyalty program, with a range of new rewards to be added, and some to be removed.

Due to come into effect from 01 Jan next year, the line will be ending benefits such as sparkling wine upon arrival, free laundry service, onboard wine tasting events, free internet and rewards for attaining a higher program tier.

In their place, a new onshore concierge program titled Le Club Voyage Ambassador will be rolled out, along with priority check-in & the chance to earn free nights.

Further, opportunities for pax to upgrade to a higher cabin category, if available, at a reduced price, will be introduced.

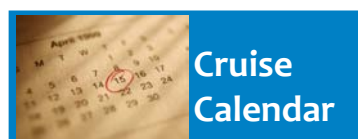
For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Extra comm on DTWC

AGENTS can earn commission of 17% on select Hurtigruten voyages as part of a limited offer from Discover the World Cruising.

Hurtigruten Classic Norway Voyages North and South cruises departing between 01 Jan-31 Mar next year are eligible for the deal.

Further early booking savings of 25% off voyage fares can be combined if booked by 30 Sep.



The *Cruise Weekly* cruise calendar details upcoming port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	11 Sep
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	12 Sep
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	15 Sep
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	10 Sep
FREMANTLE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	14 Sep
GERALDTON	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	15 Sep
DARWIN	
<i>Oceanic Discoverer</i>	12 Sep

NG Orion webinar

LINDBLAD Expeditions will host an informative webinar covering details of the 2015 voyages on *National Geographic Orion*.

The ship will operate 15 unique itineraries in 2015, with multiple departures on some.

Details of the onboard lecture program and the topics canvassed by experts across the season will also be covered in the webinar.

The webinar will be hosted on 18 Sep at 9am AEST - [CLICK HERE](#).

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THIS is a story that could bring a tear to a glass eye, is still no less of a head-scratcher, but is a pertinent example of a husband's true love for his wife.

Mark Fosselman, of Mississippi has disembarked Carnival Cruise Lines' vessel *Carnival Elation* after taking the same four and five night cruise to Mexico on 33 consecutive occasions.

The Mississippi-based man had embarked on the adventure as a way of healing from the recent passing of his wife Becky, as the two had once travelled together on the same cruise itinerary.

Carnival Cruise Lines said that it is believed nobody had ever before undertaken such a feat.

Boarding the ship in Apr this year just after Becky's death, Mark said the ship provided him with good memories of her.

Upon finally leaving the ship, *Elation's* crew held a special farewell reception for Mark, complete with a banner made especially for the occasion.

EVERYBODY is getting right behind the ice-bucket challenge at the moment, even the travel and tourism industry.

Scenic Tours was the latest to take part, but instead by helping *Getaway* presenter Livinia Nixon and cameraman Gilbert Farkas, having been nominated by long-time host Catriona Rowntree.

The act took place during filming of an upcoming segment aboard *Scenic Emerald*, with the ship's butlers on hand to help - view a clip by [CLICKING HERE](#).

MSC Yacht Club deals

MSC Cruises has cut the price of its upscale MSC Yacht Club class on a range of departures available in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, South America and Europe.

Benefits available to travellers in MSC Yacht Club include beverages all included, access to the Top Sail Lounge, private pool & solarium, private elevator to the Aurea Spa, priority embarkation and more.

MEANWHILE, earlybird deals released by MSC Cruises recently have been extended, with sales valid until the end of this month.

Deals now in the market include \$100 off the price of the Bella Experience and \$150pp off the Fantastica Experience, on top of great deals on Grand Voyages.

New Carnival recruit

CARNIVAL Australia has hired Carl Stephens as its new Training and Engagement Manager, to be based in the North Sydney office.

Stephens brings extensive cruise experience to his role and has held numerous roles for different lines.

Concordia still luring

ENTERPRISING tour operators are still making money out of the wrecked *Costa Concordia*...for the time being at least.

According to the *Telegraph* in the UK, tourists are able to view the hull at its final resting place in Genoa, Italy, while wreckers take the ship apart piece by piece.

Tours to view the wreck are priced from €10 euros (AU\$13.80) per head, leave every day from Genoa harbour & run for an hour.

It is expected the task to totally dismantle the ship will take at least two years to complete.

Agents get Indochina immersed



TRAVELMARVEL and Malaysia Airlines recently hosted this group of incentive-winning agents to an experience of Indochina taking in highlights of the region.

The core component of the trip was a seven-night river cruise along the Mekong, travelling on the stylish *RV La Marguerite* from Saigon to Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Each day, agents hopped off the vessel to explore a variety of local villages and meet residents, partaking in a rickshaw ride in Tan

Chau and visiting floating villages.

Book-ending the cruise were a number of attractions in each city, which started with two nights at the Grand Hotel in Saigon and a visit to the Cu Chi Tunnels.

Upon alighting from the vessel in Siem Reap, the group hung their hats at the Shinta Mani Resort for two nights and visited the Angkor Archaeological Park, tried quad-biking and witnessed an Aspara dance performance.

Pictured above in the back row from left is Tara Porter, Flight Centre MLC Centre; Jess Zacker, Flight Centre Unley Road; Sarah Wainwright, eCruise & Travel; Thera Lynch, Flight Centre Castle Hill; Simone Kerley, TravelMarvel; Carmel Johnstone, Mordialloc Travel and Lian Scott, TravelManagers Peregian Beach.

Front Row: Dana Wissemann, Flight Centre Harbour Town and Alisha Dopfer from TravelMarvel.

Fitzsimons sail selling

ONLY a small number of cabins remain available for a unique trip to Papua New Guinea aboard *True North* and accompanied by war researcher Peter Fitzsimons.

The 10-night adventure will allow passengers to gain a unique insight to the region and its role in wartime activities from the best-selling author and columnist.

Prices for the voyage start from \$15,695ppts ex Cairns on 03 Dec.

First NW passage trip

SILVERSEA Expeditions has reported a successful inaugural journey through the Northwest Passage from Kangerlussuaq in Greenland to Nome, Alaska.

The 23-day voyage was operated by the 132-pax *Silver Explorer*, with an icebreaker engaged to help it navigate through part.

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