

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 07 Jul 2016

Cruise Weekly today

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

PNG, Solomons benefit from cruise

A NEW study on the economic impact of cruising on Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands has been released, finding cruise tourism brought \$5.9m into the PNG economy last year.

Commissioned by Carnival Australia, the Australian government and World Bank Group member IFC, the research also found cruise tourism could grow five-fold in the Solomon Islands to \$3.3 million by 2017.

Carnival Australia executive chairman Ann Sherry said the report confirms the "long value chain of cruising, which reaches deep into the Pacific Islands to deliver economic opportunity".

Tauck Australia expands

TAUCK has opened a dedicated call centre in Sydney, meaning Australian travel agents with queries no longer need to call or email the USA.

The company, which operates a range of river cruise, small ship ocean cruise and touring itineraries across the globe, is operating the call centre from within the CBD offices of its long-time local representative Travel the World.

Tauck has also appointed Nick Coward as its new national sales manager for the Australian market, with the new role seeing him relocate with his family from Vancouver to Sydney.

Coward is highly experienced, having worked with a range of brands in the UK and North America including Contiki, Kuoni, BA Holidays and Trafalgar.

He also knows the Tauck brand intimately, with his most recent

role working as a Tauck Cruise Director leading a team of guides aboard the company's European river boats.

"Nick has worked domestically and internationally, he's worked with travel agents and with our guests, and he has 'inside' experience with Tauck as well as broader experience across the travel industry," according to Tauck vice president for global sales, Steve Spivak.

Tauck's increasing focus on the Australian market was reflected in a move earlier this year to begin pricing its brochured and online itineraries in Australian dollars, guaranteeing fares at time of deposit and eliminating exchange rate fluctuations.

The company has also held its first Australian Tauck Academy certification program and established an Australian Partner Advisory Board.

NCL beverage policy

FROM 15 Jul, guests sailing with Norwegian Cruise Lines will be prohibited from bringing any beverages on ships as carry-on or checked luggage.

The cruise line has made the change to speed up the embarkation process, saying guests who attempt to smuggle alcoholic beverages on board in beverage containers slow down the process.

Liquor, beer and non-alcoholic drinks such as water, soda and juices are included in the policy, but purified or distilled water in factory-sealed containers for use with medical devices or for the reconstitution of infant formula are exempt, along with wine bottles for personal consumption.

NCL said the modified policy will bring it in line with "other travel industry procedures for transporting beverages and allow security personnel to focus on other screening efforts".

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I Love Cruising debut

THERE'S a new home-based cruise agency on the block, which promises a 100% commission guarantee to its Personal Cruise Consultants and full personalised training and ongoing support.

Dubbed I Love Cruising, the new venture is backed by Donna and Brian Meads-Barlow of Donna Barlow Travel Group in Sydney.

Unlike competing models, no prior agency experience is required to join 'I Love Cruising' with the only prerequisite to become a PCC is a love for cruise, says marketing manager Tim Faircloth to *Cruise Weekly*.

"The only thing we require is a genuine passion for cruise," enthused Faircloth, who has taken some 40 cruises in the past, "And I can't teach someone that... the rest I can."

Aimed at people from all walks of life, the affordable start-up package includes full training,

with members to also complete CLIA accreditation on sign-up.

The user-friendly website www.ilovecruising.com.au, developed in partnership with Traveltek, has been designed to provide PCCs with passive income for every online booking made.

Each PCC who signs on is also guaranteed a personalised profile page which serves as a point of contact as well as a platform in which they can advertise their own cruise deals.

Major cruise lines featured on the site include P&O, Carnival, Princess, Holland America Line, Seabourn, Cunard, Norwegian Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, Azamara and MSC.

Pictured at the launch are from left Paul Millan, regional director Asia-Pacific, Traveltek; Donna and Brian Meads-Barlow of Donna Barlow Travel and Tim Faircloth, marketing mgr, I Love Cruising.



Crystal Clear Choices

CRYSTAL Cruises is adding perks for bookings made between 01 Jul and 31 Aug under its new Crystal Clear Choices promotion.

Guests will get to choose from cruise fare savings of up to \$1,000 per stateroom, up to \$1,500 per stateroom in air credits for air travel booked through Crystal's air department; or up to \$2,000 per stateroom in shipboard credits on sailings from Oct 2016 to Dec 2017.

Travellers Choice on Scenic



TRAVELLERS Choice's top agents – all Gold Choice Award winners – have just returned from their prize winners' trip – an eight day journey along the Rhone on board *Scenic Sapphire*.

The group travelled along the Rhone from the Roman town of Tarascon north to Chalon-sur-Saône with a pre-night in Nice on the French Riviera.

They enjoyed a range of activities from exploring medieval castles, learning how to cook their favourite French cuisine on board and an exclusive concert at the Pope's Palace in Avignon to wine tasting in Beaujolais.

Even the "spectacularly

inclement" weather experienced during some of the trip added to the unforgettable experience.

Pictured are the Gold Choice winners from left Emma Davie, Scenic; Chip Popescu, Select World Travel; Michelle Everson, Jamison Travel; Christian Hunter, Travellers Choice, Mark Brady, Ballina Cruise & Travel; Brian Slater, Maria Slater Travel; Phil Dalley, Travel Makers; John Hancock, City Beach Travel & Cruise; Denise Falsay, Discover Travel & Cruise and Tania Allen, Oliver Travel.

MSC Seaview to come

MSC Cruises has announced the second of its Seaside-generation smart cruise ships which is set to hit the seas in mid-2018 will be named *MSC Seaview*.

She will sail the Western Mediterranean stopping in at Genoa, Marseille and Barcelona during her inaugural season.

Sales for the ship opened yesterday for MSC Voyagers Club members and will open for remaining guests on 18 Jul.

The ship is currently being built by Italy-based Fincantieri and will feature a 360° promenade with glass balustrades that runs around the entire ship featuring bars, restaurants and shops.

Her maiden voyage departs Genoa, Italy 10 Jun 2018.

MS Spitsbergen debut

BENTOURS in partnership with Hurtigruten is celebrating the debut of the 335-passenger luxury vessel *MS Spitsbergen* which was baptised in a ceremony in Svolvær yesterday.

The ship will sail parallel to *MS Lofoten* along the Norwegian coast for part of the year.

CEO of Cox & Kings Australia Damian Perry said it was "incredibly exciting to see Hurtigruten expand the fleet, which will no doubt meet the ever growing demand of Australians seeking expedition cruising and cultural experiences in Scandinavia".



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P&O's \$1 deposit

ONE dollar is all that is needed to book selected P&O cruises during the line's \$1 deposit sale which lasts until 31 Aug.

The offer is valid on certain sailings departing after 05 Dec and includes free upgrades to an ocean view room and on board credit ranging from \$100 to \$600 per room.

Past guests will receive bonuses including a complimentary meal in Salt Grill by Luke Mangan.

The line is also offering on board credit of up to \$150 for cruises departing before 04 Dec.

P&O backs the bunnies in Cairns



THESE P&O Cruises sales staff and travel agents enjoyed some rugby league action in Cairns last weekend as part of the line's first NRL game day sponsorship.

There was strong P&O presence during the round 17 fixture between the South Sydney Rabbitohs and the North Queensland Cowboys with one lucky league fan winning a cruise as part of a giveaway.

The support at the Cairns game comes just months before the cruise line will base its first ship in the regional port.

Pictured above at the match are Mike Seck, Flight Centre Earlville; Tommy Barrow, Flight

Centre Smithfield; Jill Faircloth, Endeavour Travel and Cruise; Mercedes Gonzalez, Mercedes Gonzalez Travel; Andrew Bowes, Cairns Business and Leisure Travel; Richard Waugh, P&O; Andrew Thwaites, P&O and Ryan Taibel, P&O Director of Sales.

Honour for MacLeod

THE Californian city of Santa Clarita, home of Princess Cruises, has honoured "Love Boat" captain Gavin McLeod for his long-time role as the line's global ambassador by declaring 06 Jul as 'Gavin MacLeod Princess Cruises Ambassador Day'.



THE rare and elusive 'ghost fish' (pictured below) has been caught live on camera this week for the first time.

The tiny, 10 centimetre creature which lives down at two kilometres below the ocean surface is said to bear a strong resemblance to Falcor, the dragon from *The NeverEnding Story*.

The footage of the pale, gelatinous fish captured this week was taken by *Okeanos Explorer*, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship.

You can check out the alien-like creature in action [HERE](#).



Regional Cruise Growth

Great news for our regional members recently with the announcement that the Port of Newcastle will receive funding from a joint Federal /State Government initiative.

A total of \$800,000 has been committed for the upgrade of the mooring bollards at the Newcastle cruise ship berth which will increase capacity to receive larger ships. Larger ships also means more passengers which benefits the local Hunter region economy overall.

In his announcement of the funding contribution, NSW State Tourism Minister, Stuart Ayres noted the importance of improving the quality of regional tourism infrastructure and products which will in turn contribute to increasing growth in visitor numbers.

This increased capacity for the Port of Newcastle is critically important given that it is predicted that by 2020, 62% of cruise vessels in the Australian market are expected to be over 270m in length.

Other cruise centres are also planning to meet this increasing need. A \$100m "mega ship" facility is in the planning stages by the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL) to meet the worldwide trend to superliners. Elsewhere in Queensland, a Demand Study Update has been commissioned in Cairns to look at the emerging changes in the cruise industry again including increased vessel length.

And in Tasmania, significant upgrades are being undertaken to improve capacity at the ports of Hobart and Burnie with both projects slated for completion by October for the 2016/7 cruise season when 89 cruise vessels are booked to arrive.

Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication. An industry-focused PDF edition of Cruise Weekly is published every Tue and Thu, and there's also a consumer-facing email newsletter published each Wed - sign up free at www.cruiseweekly.com.au.

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