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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Royal Caribbean International**.

Royal One Big Sale

ROYAL Caribbean International is running a One Big Sale promotion, offering savings of up to 50% off a second guest and up to \$1,000 to spend at sea.

See **front page** for more info.

Dream appoints

DREAM Cruises has announced the appointment of Melanie Carrazza to the role of Sales Manager – Victoria and Tasmania.

Carrazza joins the “Dream Team” after spending 15 years with Cathay Pacific.

Sydney Ports CEO hails cooperation

AUSTRALIAN Cruise Association (ACA) Chairman, Grant Gilfillan, last night paid tribute to the new spirit of collaboration in the local sector, saying improved relationships between stakeholders were key to progressing cruise infrastructure developments.

Speaking at a festive function hosted by the ACA at the Sydney Ports Authority office overlooking the Harbour, Gilfillan, who is CEO of the organisation, particularly highlighted cooperation with Cruise Lines International Association Australasia MD Joel Katz and Chairman Sture Myrmell of Carnival Australia.

“Our relationship has come just so far in the last 12 months... your approach to things has really helped us enormously,” he said.

Gilfillan hinted at significant progress with the industry’s strategic business case for



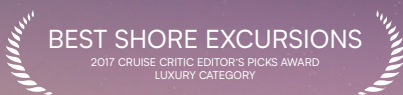
facilities in Sydney (**CW** 31 Jul), saying he had been in discussions with the relevant state govt Minister just yesterday.

“I can’t talk about what happened because the government doesn’t want me to make announcements...but it was a big day for something that went

up,” he beamed.

“Things are going to move - and that is because as an industry we have come together for the first time,” Gilfillan said, hailing the approach of ACA CEO Jill Abel.

He’s **pictured** above right with Joel Katz, CLIA Australasia and Jill Abel, ACA General Manager.



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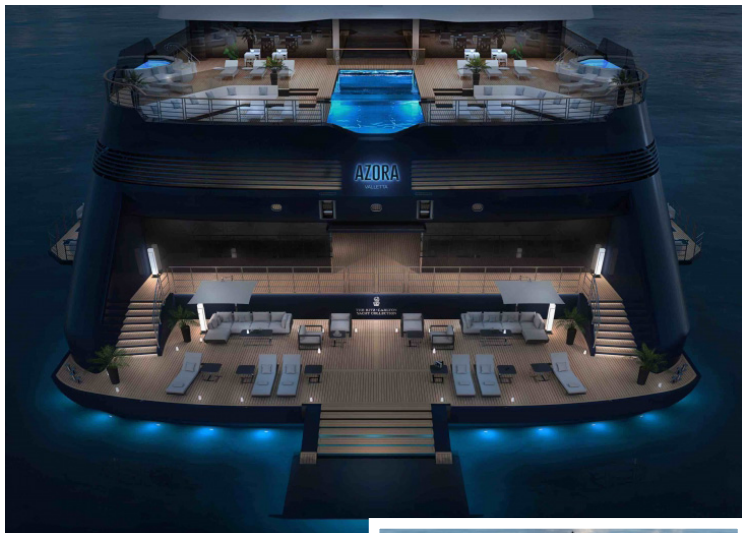
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Unpack the results of the latest cruise survey. Read more in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*

Ritz-Carlton unveils Azora



THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection has revealed *Azora* as the name of its inaugural yacht.

The handle, derived from the Spanish word for blue, was chosen by the cruise line to “evoke the beauty of the sky and the ocean”.

“We wanted to select a name that embodies the wanderlust of a luxury journey at sea and inspires travellers to dream of their next destination,” said The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection Chief Executive Officer Doug Prothero.

“To the mind, the colour blue also suggests a distinct sense of peace and clarity, emotions we hope to stir in our guests during their journey with us,” he added.



The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection previously stated the vessel would enter service in Feb 2020, with the brand aiming to differentiate itself from larger cruise operators by emphasising a smaller, intimate experience.

The 298-passenger *Azora* measures 210 metres in length and will offer 149 suites with private balconies.

Australia one of the first to enjoy *Insignia*

OCEANIA Cruises has confirmed that Australia will be one of the first countries to experience *Insignia*'s new onboard features when she arrives in Sydney in Mar.

Insignia emerges from a major refurbishment today as part of the company's fleet-wide OceaniaNEXT initiative and is the first of the company's R-class ships to undergo the “better than new” enhancement.

“*Insignia* will boast 342 brand new designer suites and staterooms, and stunning new decor in her restaurants lounges and bars inspired by Oceania's 450 ports of call,” said the cruise line's Senior Vice President and Managing Director Asia Pacific Steve Odell.



Celebrity names *Edge*



A NAMING event ceremony was recently held for Celebrity Cruises' new 2,918-passenger *Celebrity Edge* - the first new ship for the brand in six years.

The event saw 3,000 guests gather to commemorate the official naming of the vessel, with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai present to wish *Edge* luck on her many journeys ahead.

“I am so very proud to have Malala Yousafzai as godmother of *Celebrity Edge*,” said Royal Caribbean Cruises Chairman and CEO Richard D. Fain.

“Malala embodies our commitment to opening the world through education and gender equality,” he added.

Celebrity Edge will make her inaugural sailing in the Caribbean from 09 Dec.

CW signs on again as CLIA award sponsor

CRUISE Weekly and sister publication *Travel Daily* have again been chosen as media partners for the upcoming Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia Cruise Industry Awards.

“We are thrilled once again to partner with **CruiSE Weekly** and **Travel Daily**...we are looking forward to working with them to recognise the important role that our travel agent members play in the continued success of the industry,” said CLIA Australasia and Asia Managing Director Joel Katz.

The awards will be held in Sydney on 23 Feb and will debut new award categories and a refreshed nomination process (**CW** 09 Nov).

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MSC adds shows

MSC Cruises has revealed the details for two Cirque du Soleil at Sea shows that are being created for its upcoming vessel *MSC Bellissima*.

SYMA – Sail beyond Imagination and VARELIA – Love in Full Colour will be available exclusively on board *Bellissima* which is scheduled to launch Mar 2019.

MSC Cruises will have eight exclusive Cirque du Soleil shows available by 2020.

FACE-2-FACE: Leon Hill

Regional Sales Manager Viking Cruises.



1. What is the favourite part of the job?

I think the biggest motivator is promoting a product that I am passionate about. Viking Cruises is an amazing product for anyone that loves to immerse themselves in culture, while travelling with like-minded people, staying in elegant accommodations.

2. Most common assumption people make about your job?

That I have free time. There is never enough time to showcase Viking to everyone whilst on the road as well as keep up on office duties. I would love a clone!

3. What is the key to building great relationships with agents?

I think being passionate about your product is key, if you

believe in the product that will shine through. I honestly have never represented a product that ticked so many boxes for so many people.

4. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

Knowledge. There is so much information out there and so many travel options it is difficult to keep up. Updates and training sessions will keep you one step ahead of Google.

5. Celebrity you'd like to cruise with?

Daniel Ricciardo – I love his tenacity and constant upbeat attitude.

Cunard's new spa

TRAVELLERS on board Cunard's newly refurbished *Queen Elizabeth* and *Queen Victoria* will be the first to experience the brand's new holistic spa, Mareel Wellness and Beauty, when it launches this month.

The new space will offer a "sanctuary of calm", where guests can enjoy a couple's suite for seaweed bathing rituals, a meditation room with "acoustic resonance" lounges, a reconfigured fitness centre and studio space, plus new sound therapy facilities in every treatment room.

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

P&O's drought gift

QUEENSLAND farmers Glenda and Des Gray, pictured, were among the 140 farmers and family members sailing on P&O's two "drought relief" cruises as part of the line's support of Rural Aid's Buy-A-Bale campaign & the Salvation Army's chaplains.

One group enjoyed a two-night sailing on *Pacific Dawn* from Brisbane to the Whitsundays, with another group departing Sydney to Moreton Island on board *Pacific Explorer*.



THERE'S no such thing as spreading too much kindness, as P&O can attest.

The cruise line will next week welcome 14-year-old Campbell Remess on board *Pacific Jewel*, where he will be named the line's "Homegrown Hero" for his work in establishing Kindness Cruises, a service that gives deserving people the chance to enjoy "the soothing benefits of a cruise".

Remess, pictured, has also hand-made more than 2,000 teddies to give to sick children.

A well-earned title, fur-sure.



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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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Every Thu we publish our consumer newsletter - *Travel & Cruise Weekly* - sign up free at www.travelandcruiseweekly.com.au.

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