

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news including a photo page from **CLIA Australasia**.

Odell to continue

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings senior vp and md for Asia Pacific, Steve Odell, has confirmed he plans to remain on the executive committee of CLIA after he steps down as chair in May.

"We've had two years of incredible change within CLIA and I feel proud to have led the association over this period," he said on Sat.

"In May we will be electing a new executive committee and chair and I look forward to continuing as a committee member to support the new chair when that happens."

Change of chief for Royal Caribbean

ROYAL Caribbean has named a new head for its local operations after the surprise announcement that Adam Armstrong is planning to leave his role as associate vice president and managing director for Australia and New Zealand (**CW** breaking news).

He will depart in Aug to pursue other interests, the company announced this morning, and will be replaced by Susan Bonner who is currently based in Miami as vice president of revenue management and onboard revenue Celebrity Cruises.

Armstrong has been with the business since 2009 when Royal Caribbean opened its local office in Sydney, having joined as commercial manager.

RCL Cruises senior vice president international Gavin Smith said Armstrong's contribution to the company had been tremendous.



"From just one ship in 2009 to six of the country's largest and most modern cruise ships in 2018, including the game-changing *Ovation of the Seas*, Adam has been a significant figure in shaping both the company and the modern Australasian cruise industry.

"We wish him well in his future endeavours," Smith said.

Armstrong (**pictured** at the CLIA cruise industry awards on Sat with Royal Caribbean's director of marketing and sales Kathryn Valk) said he had been privileged to work with some of the world's best cruise brands.

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*3% bonus commission is per booking for Norwegian Jewel cruises departing between 10 - 20 Feb 18 and 12 Nov 18 - 13 Feb 19. Valid for Australia and New Zealand retail agencies only. Additional commission will automatically be applied to the reservation at time of booking. Booking window: 01 - 28 February 18. Bonus commission is based on the cruise voyage fare only. Government taxes, port expenses & fees, onboard service charges and/or gratuities are additional. Offer is open to bookings made via the NCL Sydney office only, valid on bookings confirmed via Reservations, Norwegian Central and other external systems. Not available via third parties. Combinable with all promotions except interline rates, other bonus commission offers, Net and special partner fares.

CRUISE



Tuesday 27th February 2018



Ever wanted to know what a Crystal river cruise is like? Find out from an agent in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read
travelBulletin

Bicton takes five in a row at CLIAs

MORE than 500 top achievers and industry leaders gathered for the biggest night on Australia's cruise calendar on Sat when Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia hosted its 17th annual awards.

Hosted by television presenter Natalie Barr, the event took place at Sydney's Star Event Centre where 20 winners from across Australia and New Zealand were honoured in 16 categories for their achievements in 2017.

Bicton Travel claimed the top award for the seventh time, being named Gold Cruise Agency of the Year, Australia, for the fifth year in a row.

The Perth agency was joined by Cruiseabout Kew (Vic) which was given the silver accolade and Phil Hoffmann Travel (SA) which took out the bronze.

Other major Australian awards



went to Kathy Pavlidis of Cruiseabout Kew who was named Cruise Consultant of the Year and Clean Cruising which was named Online Agency of the Year.

Sarah Fenton of MTA - Mobile Travel Agents won Australian Mobile Agent of the Year, while Kye Duffy of Our Vacation Centre

took the Rising Star Award.

Pictured are: Bicton Travel sales manager Barry Downs, owner Carole Smethurst; Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection md Fiona Dalton and Lee Van Dongen of Cruisefinder.com.au.

See more coverage on **page three** and **page four**.

Lindblad Exp to Russian Arctic

LINDBLAD Expeditions has released three new itineraries to the Russian Arctic in 2019.

The additions include the 22-day Across the Bering Sea: From Katmai to Kamchatka, departing 18 Jun and 21 Jul and the 13-day Life & Legend on the Bering Sea, sailing on 09 Jul and 04 Sep.

Also new is the 13-day Exploring Russia's Far East & Wrangel Island, departing 11 and 23 Aug.

The voyages will be aboard the 102-guest *National Geographic Orion*.

Lindblad said the expeditions would "give a different glimpse into life in the remote Russian Far East & Bering Sea".

Prices lead in at \$20,290 per person twin share in a category one cabin.

Le Boat sales boost

THIS year is shaping up as a year of sales resurgence for European self-guided boat operator Le Boat with forward demand matching highs achieved in the Australian market in 2015.

Global sales topped 102,000 passengers in 2017, with ambitions for a 50% growth in sales over the next five years from the Australian market - which currently contributes 5% of passenger sales per year.

Visiting from France, Line Abadie, distribution director, Le Boat urged agents to "grab

the sales opportunity," with only 30% of Le Boat's bookings currently coming via the trade.

"We want to drive more via the trade," she said.

"Our main barrier to sale is that the trade doesn't know the product all too well as we're not mass market, but we think we can introduce the product to the travel agent further by going through our trade partners."

Le Boat is distributed via Infinity Holidays, Entire Travel Connection and is within some Intrepid programs.

PTMs explore Cunard's Queen Mary II

A DOZEN of TravelManagers' personal travel managers (PTMs) were invited to jump on board Cunard's *Queen Mary II* while the ship was moored at Melbourne's Station Pier earlier this month.

"I was blown away by how spacious, modern, light, bright, classy, elegant and stunning the *Queen Mary II* was: not old-fashioned, dated or stuffy like you might have expected," Nicole Edgar, representative for Narre Warren South in Victoria said.

Pictured are: Joanne Haines, Leanne Pearman, Andrea Friend, Leonie Wilcock, Simone Fraser, Lisa King, Phil Kimberlee, Catherine Rumble, Carli Hester, Tanya Barker, Frances Cochrane & Nicole Edgar.



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17th Annual Cruise Industry Awards

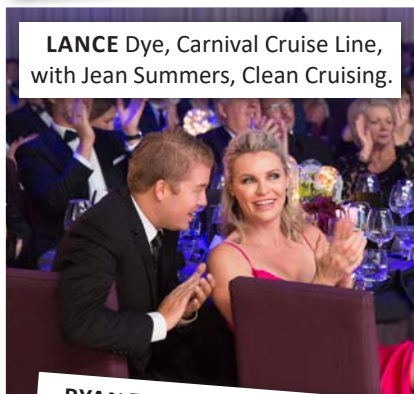
IT WAS the “night of nights” on the cruise calendar on Sat, as 500 members and partners of the Australian and New Zealand industry gathered at the Star Event Centre Sydney to celebrate the achievements of the entire Australasian cruise industry.

The Cruise Industry Awards are all about recognising and rewarding the outstanding accomplishments of member agents who have had a big year of cruise and done their part to contribute to the incredible growth of the industry.

CLIA Australasia & Asia managing director Joel Katz said: “We’d like to congratulate all the winners, finalists and also offer a special round of applause to all those who were nominated. With so much great work right across the Australasian cruise industry in 2017, these awards are as important as ever and we’re thrilled to have the opportunity to shine a light on so many talented and passionate individuals”.



NATALIE Barr, MC of the CLIA's.



LANCE Dye, Carnival Cruise Line, with Jean Summers, Clean Cruising.

RYAN Taibel, P&O Cruises, and Gerard Murphy, Bon Voyage – Gold Agency of the Year New Zealand.



FIONA Dalton, Uniworld Boutique River Cruises, and the Bicton Travel team with Carole Smethurst who took out the top gong Gold Agency of the Year Australia.



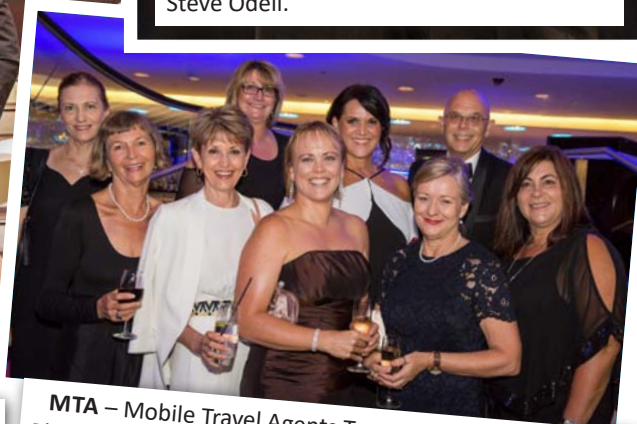
STUNNING entertainment by Burn the Floor.



INSTAGRAM Prize Competition winner Emma Sullivan from Weston Cruise & Travel with Julie King, Dubai Tourism, and Tim Harrowell, Emirates.



TED Blamey, winner of the Hall of Fame award, and CLIA Australasia's Chairman, Steve Odell.



MTA – Mobile Travel Agents Team, who picked up the Plan a Cruise Month Award, and Sarah Fenton (front row in the middle), who won Mobile Travel Agent of the Year.



CHRISTA Kinnear, Phil Hoffmann Travel (right).



TONY Archbold, Holland America/Seabourn, Jennifer Vandekreeke, Carnival Cruise Line and chair of CLIA's Trade Relations Committee and Benjamin Allen, Amadeus.

CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Mortimer sells fast

AURORA Expeditions has revealed its early booking offers which launched four weeks ago for its new ship, *Greg Mortimer*, are almost fully booked.

CLICK HERE for more.

Eclipse ops team

SCENIC has made four key operational appointments for *Scenic Eclipse*, ahead of its maiden voyage on 31 Aug.

Hans Heger will become gm ops, Scenic Discovery Yachts, while Guillermo Muro will look after menu development as culinary director.

Frederik Ekelund has been named hotel director and Sonja Altmann as ops mgr.

CLIA celebrates achievers



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia chair Steve Odell paid tribute to industry achievers at the 17th annual cruise awards on Sat, noting their efforts in a period of spectacular growth.

"This has been another milestone year for the Australian and New Zealand cruise industry, we've witnessed double digit growth," Odell said.

"Between Australia and New Zealand, more than 1.4 million cruisers – that's incredible."

Among other Australian winners were Clean Cruising for Agency Promotion of the Year and Phil Hoffmann Travel for Network Promotion of the Year.

John & Kerry Treacy of Worldwide Cruising News won in the Media category.

The full contingent of Australian and New Zealand winners is **pictured above**, while **inset** is MTA's Sarah Fenton, called to the stage as Australian Mobile Travel Agent

of the Year.

Below is Cruiseabout Kew's Kathy Pavlidis who won Australian Cruise Consultant of the Year, pictured with P&O Cruises vice president sales and marketing Australia and New Zealand Ryan Taibel.



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	27 Feb
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	01 Mar
<i>Noordam</i>	01 Mar
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	02 Mar
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	02 Mar
<i>Costa Luminosa</i>	03 Mar
<i>Sun Princess</i>	04 Mar
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	05 Mar
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	05 Mar

MELBOURNE

<i>Diamond Princess</i>	28 Feb
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	01 Mar
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	02 Mar
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	03 Mar
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	05 Mar

BRISBANE

<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	28 Feb
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	02 Mar
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	03 Mar
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	03 Mar

CAIRNS

<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	01 Mar
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DARWIN

<i>Silver Whisper</i>	02 Mar
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	02 Mar
<i>Regatta</i>	05 Mar

FREMANTLE

<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	01 Mar
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	05 Mar

ADELAIDE

<i>Pacific Eden</i>	27 Feb
<i>Astor</i>	28 Feb
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	01 Mar

HOBART

<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	27 Feb
<i>Astor</i>	03 Mar
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	03 Mar
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	05 Mar

AUCKLAND

<i>Sun Princess</i>	28 Feb
<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	02 Mar



AN UNUSUAL amount of Blue Suede Shoes and hair styling gel are expected to grace Royal Caribbean's *Radiance of the Sea* sailing out of Sydney on 06 Nov.

The special "Cruise N Groove: Elvis Presley" themed departure will invite some of the world's best Elvis impersonators on board for a seven-night cruise of the South Pacific.

Guests will be treated to over 30 live acts during the cruise from Rock 'n' Roll King Elvis Presley's best tribute artists.

Passengers will also be able to kick up their heels at a "Viva Las Vegas" Glitz & Glamour themed party, a "Blue Hawaii" Luau themed event or take part in a "Young Elvis" Rising Star or Elvis and Priscilla look-a-like comp.

The departure even has lovebirds covered, with a Las Vegas Renewal of vows ceremony available.

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