

A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO OUR TRAVEL FAMILY

The APT Travel Group has the safety and wellbeing of our guests, employees, travel industry partners and crew as our highest concern during this challenging time.

Like all businesses we have been watching the evolving COVID-19 situation and the impact it is having not only on our travel industry, but all industries, communities and people across the world.

As a company with more than 90 years of history, we have overcome major challenges in our time, but this is unlike anything we have seen before.

Our focus has always been and continues to be on our valued guests and our employees, who are the heart of our business. We are saddened to see our people, along with our industry and all of Australia, struggling at this time of uncertainty.

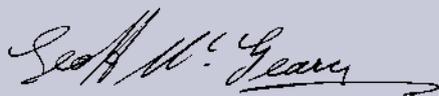
I'd like to thank our wonderful team of employees across the business who have been working tirelessly over these past weeks in what are very challenging circumstances. Thank you also to our loyal customers and travel partners, who continue to show their commitment and support of our longstanding business.

The travel industry is a vital and vibrant component of our society and it will weather this storm – we will get through it. The APT Travel Group has a strong and well respected history of delivering inspirational travel experiences to our valued travellers and we look forward to a time when we can do this again.

We will recover and people will travel again. We need to, it is an enriching part of all our lives, and the APT Travel Group will be here when that time comes.

On behalf of my family and the entire APT Travel Group, we wish you and your family health and wellbeing at this time.

Kindest regards,



Geoff McGeary, OAM



Robert and Geoff McGeary, and Lou Tandy (nee McGeary)



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a cover page from APT.

APT trade support

APT has thanked its partners across the travel sector "who continue to show their commitment and support of our longstanding business".

Founder Geoff McGeary said the company had overcome major challenges in its more than 90 year history, "but this is unlike anything we have seen before."

"We will weather this storm... we will recover and people will travel again," McGeary said.

"We need to, it is an enriching part of all our lives & the APT Travel Group will be here when that time comes".

More on the **cover page**.

Sydney cruise terminal delayed again

NO FURTHER work is being done on a proposed new Sydney cruise terminal in Botany Bay due to the COVID-19 crisis, with NSW Transport and Ports Minister, Andrew Constance, confirming the project has been "put on hold with all industry and community engagement suspended".

Constance said the project was no longer a priority for the government or the cruise sector, with any plans delayed for up to 18 months.

Significant uncertainty about post-coronavirus demand for cruising has contributed to the change of heart, while Royal Caribbean Cruises, which previously indicated its willingness to help fund a terminal, has also been heavily hit financially, according to a *Nine Publishing* report.

A detailed business case for a possible cruise terminal between



Yarra Bay and Molineaux Point had been under development by the NSW Ports Authority for some months (*CW* 18 Sep 2019), with the project strenuously opposed by local activists and the NSW Labor opposition.

The "Save the Bay Coalition" is claiming credit for the move, saying it had written to officials urging them to cancel the project.

The anti-cruise group has also

pledged to "investigate the cosy relationship between the cruise industry and Federal/ NSW politicians and decision makers" as well as undertaking a social media campaign to share information about the unfolding *Ruby Princess* investigation.

The option of a cruise terminal at Garden Island shared with the Navy, has repeatedly been ruled out by the Federal Government.



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As we enter uncharted waters during this challenging time, all of us at NCL would like to thank you for your continued and valued support.

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ANY sort of sailing on Melbourne's Yarra River has historically not been commonplace, but that may all be about to change.

Certain areas of the Yarra foreshore have been revitalised in recent years, with the development of Southbank, and attractions like floating bars.

However, gondolas, commuter ferries and a meditation space could all soon transform the riverfront, after prominent Victorians were quizzed on what may make the Yarra more enticing a place to be.

The poll from the *Herald Sun* has also seen suggestions such as a public pool (pictured) at Enterprize Park on Flinders Street and William, and a new bridge.



Three more delay return



HOLLAND America Line, Princess Cruises and Seabourn have all delayed their return to cruising until at least 30 Jun.

The cruise lines announced the moves earlier this morning, with Holland America also cancelling all Land + Sea Journeys, and all Alaska sailings for the summer season on *Maasdam*, *Noordam* (pictured), *Oosterdam*, *Volendam* and *Westerdam*.

Princess however will modify its Alaska season, cancelling all Princess Alaska Gulf cruises and cruisetours, but will continue

round-trip sailings from Seattle to Alaska on *Emerald Princess* and *Ruby Princess*.

Ruby Commission

A SPECIAL Commission of Inquiry will be conducted into *Ruby Princess*, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has announced this morning (**CW** breaking news).

Leading barrister Bret Walker will be Commissioner for the inquiry, which will report back in three to four months.

Eight crew on *Black Watch* with COVID-19

COVID-19 has been confirmed in eight crew of Fred. Olsen Cruises' *Black Watch*, with six more tests still to return results.

The ship, moored in the Firth of Forth in Scotland, has no guests on board, and is operating under the current guidance from Public Health England, a spokesperson for the cruise line added.

"Each crew member is occupying their own cabin, each with a balcony," they said.

"There are no social gatherings on board...crew are only leaving their cabins to perform essential duties, which includes bridge watch, engine watch and the preparation of food.

"Those who have received a positive diagnosis or who are feeling unwell are not undertaking any duties."



Animal Instinct

AS PART of our quest to celebrate the wonderful initiatives being undertaken by our members during this time of major change, I am delighted to share Taronga Zoo's new Taronga.TV with you.

With the gates now officially closed to these popular attractions, a new virtual site has been created so that the teams at Taronga and Western Plains Zoos can still share the antics of their wonderful inhabitants. I particularly enjoyed the Zookeeper Talks and looking at the 24-7 Live Cams for the Sumatran tigers, Asian elephants, playful seals and meerkats.

The site also allows you to take a front row seat at the usually well-attended shows and hear from the Vet staff as they share insights into the conservation programs.

Both zoos, Taronga Zoo Sydney which is Australia's largest zoo and Taronga Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo are firm favourites on cruise itineraries. Taronga.TV will allow for passengers to be able to still enjoy these wonderful attractions and put them on their must-see list when cruising begins again.

We will continue to share these member highlights with you as inspiration for a time when we will all take to the high seas again.

Europe bracing

EUROPE is bracing for cruise ship arrivals, with the European Commission last week issuing additional advice on how national governments can set up ports to process up to 8,000 cruise ship passengers due to disembark in the continent this week.

The advice also instructs on meeting quarantine criteria.