



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

New development in Scenic case

THE High Court of Australia has ruled that a passenger impacted by high water levels on a Scenic European river cruise in 2013 is entitled to compensation for “disappointment and distress” (**CW** 07 Apr 2015).

It’s the latest development in the long-running case, where Somerville Legal has been pursuing damages on behalf of an estimated 1,500 Scenic and Evergreen passengers whose river cruises did not operate as planned.

David Moore, who is the lead plaintiff in a class action, had previously been awarded a full refund as well as \$2,000 in compensation - however this extra payment had been knocked back in an earlier appeal by Scenic.

The latest ruling last Fri overturned that appeal, with the court “making clear that the other group members in the representative proceedings are now also able to bring forward their own claims on the same basis,” according to a statement from the law firm.

The proceedings against Scenic will continue before Justice Garling in the Supreme Court of NSW to determine the amount of compensation to which the company’s passengers will be entitled.

White Island class action against RCI

THE cruise sector is bracing itself for yet another mainstream media battering, with ABC’s *Four Corners* program to tonight feature details of a class action against Royal Caribbean International (RCI) in relation to the 2019 White Island eruption (**CW** 10 Dec 2019).

Stacks Goudkamp has been hired by the group of passengers and their family members to pursue legal action against RCI for alleged negligence, breach of contract and breach of Australian consumer law.

In the program, plaintiffs will allege they were told “absolutely nothing” about the risks of an eruption, with *Four Corners* detailing “chaos and disorganisation” in the hours that followed the eruption.

New Zealand’s volcano monitoring service GNS Science had raised the alert level for White Island from one to two in the weeks before the eruption, which is the highest level it can be when it is not erupting.

“At the very least, RCI, which held itself out to be responsible for this tour, should have been monitoring this, and communicating with participants as to the risk, and giving them the choice, an informed choice to decide not to go because of this risk,” proposes Stacks Goudkamp lawyer Rita Yousef.

The program will also detail a delay in information about the eruption from the cruise line to guests, with some passengers alleging they only found out by turning on the television, and others maintaining RCI told them



very little about the incident in the hours following.

RCI has since provided care and support to passengers, their families and the crew, the

company said, with the New Zealand Government warning investigations into the tragedy could take more than a year.

Pictured: *Ovation of the Seas*.

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CRUISE lines are working furiously on measures to ensure on-board safety once the COVID-19 crisis is over, with a new trademark application by Royal Caribbean Cruises (RCL) indicating some of the company's post-coronavirus thinking.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office has accepted a new application from Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd (RCL) seeking to register the word "SEAFACE" under the description of "sanitary masks for virus isolation purposes".

The registration was lodged on 08 Apr and is currently awaiting examination.

If the trademark is approved and RCL decides to implement it, SEAFACE masks will be used by all of the company's brands including Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises, Azamara, Silversea Cruises, Tui Cruises and Pullmantur.

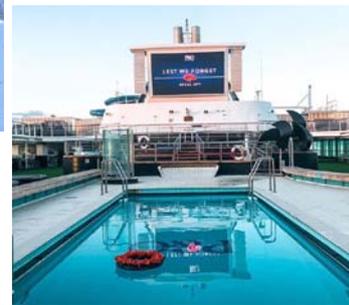
Lest we forget



THE ANZAC tradition has been remembered on Sat on board the P&O Cruises Australia fleet with dawn services at sea (**pictured and inset**).

Officers and crew aboard *Pacific Aria*, *Pacific Dawn* and *Pacific Explorer*, which are all currently off the Filipino coast, took part in the tribute, paying their respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their nations.

P&O Australia Entertainment Director Zoltina-J Medwik-Daley



organised the services, which typically take place on board sailings occurring during ANZAC Day.

Mortimer update

AURORA Expeditions has successfully disembarked all *Greg Mortimer* passengers, just over two weeks after Australians and New Zealanders were the first to be repatriated (**CW** 08 Apr).

However, two Aussies remain in hospital in Uruguay, with one in a critical condition and the other stable.

Aurora has pledged to continue to work with the families of these passengers to ensure their safe return to Australia.

No passenger was charged for their return flight.

Spirited reaction

TOURISM Greater Geelong and The Bellarine Executive Director Brett Ince has lauded TT-Line's decision to operate the Spirit of Tasmania from Geelong from 2022.

"What we're most looking forward to is welcoming the thousands of visitors regionally, interstate, internationally and across Bass Strait that use the ferry and showing off what Geelong and the Bellarine have to offer," he said.

Victorian Ports Corporation Melbourne (VPCM) added the relocation of TT-Line marked new potential.

"With the certainty that has been generated by this announcement, VPCM now has the opportunity to market valuable infrastructure, close to the city centre and well within reach of Victoria's tourist hotspots," VPCM said.

"Our cruise customers have already shown an interest in what this berth and terminal availability will mean for them in the future and we are confident that this iconic destination will attract other interested parties as well."

Construction back

A NUMBER of shipyards have gradually begun to return to work, with Fincantieri and Chantiers de l'Atlantique resuming working on 20 and 27 Apr respectively.

Fincantieri is currently in-build for *Enchanted Princess*, while *MSC Virtuosa* is being constructed at Chantiers de l'Atlantique.

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