



Cairns prepares for bumper year ahead

RECENTLY completed dredging work and continued upgrades being carried out on Wharf 1 of the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal could lead to 13 maiden cruise ship visits to the city in 2020, according to a spokeswoman for Ports North.

"A couple of early arrivals will be dependent on completion of the wharf upgrades, which will improve the capacity to berth these larger ships," she told *The Cairns Post* today.

She added that the sharp rise in debut visits was directly attributable to \$127m in dredging works which now allow larger cruise ships to dock at the port.

"The project has deepened and widened our shipping channel to accommodate larger cruise ships up to 300 metres in length," the spokeswoman said.

Cunard's *Queen Elizabeth* is scheduled to visit the port for



Credit: Ports-North Facebook.

the first time on 28 Feb, while *MSC Magnifica*, *Golden Princess*, *Carnival Splendor*, *Pacific Adventure* and *Sapphire Princess* are all expected to make maiden voyages to Cairns this year.

Ports North also noted that P&O's 290m *Arcadia* and Costa Crociere's 294m *Costa Deliziosa* were also possible visitors to the renovated port this year.

Cairns is hoping to benefit from a significant rise in cruise ship arrivals, anticipated to reach 150 cruise visits annually by 2031.

The optimistic projections follows P&O's recent decision to base its 2,500-passenger *Pacific Explorer* vessel in Cairns for the 2021 summer season.

Former Cairns Mayor Kevin Byrne has been a vocal advocate for the cruise sector in the city, telling local media last month Cairns should be "marketing and promoting the hell" out of its recent infrastructure upgrade.

Pictured: Regent's *Seven Seas Voyager* becomes the first ship to dock in Cairns for 2020.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Grandiosa impact

MSC Cruises has confirmed its *Grandiosa* vessel collided with the end of a quay in Palermo, Italy on 31 Dec.

The cruise line told *Cruise Weekly* it was still investigating why the ship deviated while manoeuvring along the quayside, but insists that despite the impact the ship is "fully reliable and safe to sail".

"There was never any risk for guests or crew on board, and there was no impact for the environment," the line said in a statement.

Grandiosa required some minor repair work and was delayed by only 45 minutes as a result of the collision.

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A dressing down

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has further clarified that its dress code prohibits clothing or accessories that may offend fellow passengers.

The cruise line's Brand Ambassador John Heald used his Facebook page to affirm the company's position, revealing Carnival's FAQ section had been updated to include a guide on accepted attire on board, which should not include nudity, profanity, sexual innuendo, promote negative ethnic or racial ideas, or violence of any form.

Flying Clipper grounded



STAR Clippers founder and President Mikael Krafft has conceded the cruise line currently finds itself in a "legally, complex situation" with Croatian shipyard Brodosplit, with the two companies still locked in a dispute regarding the planned delivery of the 330-passenger *Flying Clipper*.

Krafft told **Cruise Weekly** that Star Clippers had faced "continuous delays" of the vessel, which it had hoped to take delivery of last year to no avail.

Recent media reports in Croatia have also suggested the Brodosplit shipyard may have sold the ship to an undisclosed new owner, a claim Krafft declined to confirm or deny.

"For the moment, discussions are ongoing between Star Clippers' lawyers and the shipyard's lawyers, therefore we are unable to comment further at this stage, nor speculate on a future possible delivery date," Krafft said.

"Any developments will be

announced at the appropriate time," he added.

Initial delays in the construction of *Flying Clipper* were cited by the shipyard as being attributed to its "extremely complicated" design, leading to a reported cancellation of the contract by Star Clippers early last year.

Flying Clipper, initially expected to launch to the market in 2017, was previously billed by the cruise line as the "world's largest sailing ship" and a near replica of *France II* built by Chantiers et Ateliers de la Gironde and launched in 1912.

Construction costs are estimated to be \$100 million.

Shore power first

THE Port of Southampton is on track to be the first to supply cruise ship shore power in the UK in 2020, the Associated British Ports claims.

Shore power can reduce the time vessels need to run their engines while docked in port.

Endeavor gets sold

GENTING Hong Kong has announced that its subsidiary Crystal Endeavor SAS plans to sell and lease back its soon-to-launch *Crystal Endeavor* ship.

In a submission to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the company said the vessel would be sold for €350m (A\$600 million) to the French-based SNC Endeavor Leasing, with the agreement intended to raise funds to "substantially finance the construction costs for the three vessels" it currently has on order.

Crystal Endeavor SAS has also agreed to terms with the purchaser on a Share Purchase Option, giving it the right to purchase all of the shares in SNC Endeavor Leasing.

Crystal Endeavor floated out of the MV Werften shipbuilding company in Straslund, Germany yesterday (**CW** 02 Jan) and is scheduled to make her maiden voyage from Tokyo, Japan on 10 Aug.



YOU may think it would be hard to lose a bright red truck-sized navigation buoy, but this particular one in question was mysteriously "displaced" from its spot in Charleston, South Carolina two years ago, and has only just turned up.

The buoy washed up on New Year's Eve nearly 500km away, much to the surprise of beachgoers at New Smyrna Beach, who gathered to get a close-up view of the long-lost buoy before it makes its voyage home via crane.



Paul lines them up

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has unveiled its 2020 line-up of special guests, including entertainers such as cabaret singer Minda Larsen, musical duo Marc Otway and Abi Uttley, and French magician Nicolas del Pozo.

Guests will also hear from a range of experts, including museum director, scientist, and explorer Edwin Sobey, author and scholar professor John E. Hay, and photographer Douglas Peebles.