

Cruise Weekly today

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

Carnival a top place to work

CARNIVAL Australia has been named one of the top ten workplaces in Australia in this year's Great Place to Work benchmarking program.

The survey in the "medium-sized businesses" category saw 94% of the Carnival Australia team rate the company as a great place to work, up five points on the previous poll two years ago when Carnival came in the top 20.

Carnival Australia Chief Executive Sture Myrmell said he had never been more proud of his employees than when he saw the results.

"In so many respects the survey is a well-deserved accolade for the entire Carnival Australia team who have all stood by each other with courage, resilience, professionalism and, very importantly, optimism for what we know will be a brighter future," he said.

"In spite of such a challenging period, our team has never lost sight of the objective of resuming cruise operations as soon as we can, always placing our guests at the centre of everything we do."

Royal Caribbean "tremendous strides"

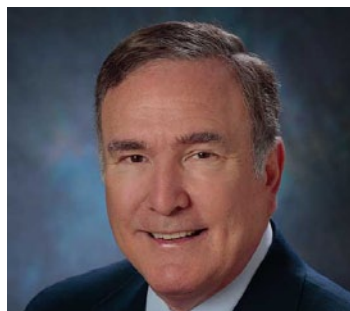
ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) says it is encouraged by a "significant improvement in demand and pricing environments for cruises," as it reported a US\$1.3 billion loss for the three months to 30 Jun.

RCG said it had made "tremendous strides in resuming service both in the United States and globally," with 29 ships already in operation across its five brands: Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises, Silversea Cruises, TUI Cruises and Hapag-Lloyd Cruises.

That will further increase to 36 by the end of the month, with the RCG anticipating having 80% of its capacity in service by the end of the year.

"We're thrilled to be back on the water at accelerated speed in the US and elsewhere," said Chief Executive Officer & Chairperson Richard Fain (pictured).

"After 16 months of being at a virtual standstill and another painful financial result this quarter, the flywheel is clearly picking up momentum."



Fain said he was encouraged by the booking outlook, especially for 2022 and beyond, adding "since the pandemic began, our objective has been to make our ships safer than Main Street, and today, we are proving that ambitious goal is achievable".

Overall booking volumes have improved, with Fain saying the return of cruising had been faster than anyone expected.

"We are watching the impact of the Delta variant and other likely variants, but overall we remain optimistic in our mounting trajectory going forward."

"People also book their cruises long in advance, so we are concentrating on maintaining our

price levels while growing our load factors," he added.

However RCG has seen a modest impact from the Delta outbreaks on closer-in bookings.

After raising about US\$13 billion in stock offerings, bonds and loans since the suspension of operations in Mar 2020, the group now has current liquidity of around US\$5 billion, with customer deposits having increased by more than US\$500 billion during the reporting period to US\$2.4 billion.

Upcoming newbuild deliveries include the expected handover of *Silver Dawn* to the Silversea fleet in the fourth quarter of 2021, while next year scheduled arrivals will include *Wonder of the Seas* and *Celebrity Beyond*.

RCG Chief Financial Officer Jason Liberty told investors on a conference call the overall Group expected to be "cash flow positive" within the next six months, but warned that the remainder of 2021 would continue to be "painful" in terms of the company's finances.

Windstar appoints

WINDSTAR Cruises has named Stijn Creupelandt as its new VP of Hotel Operations and Product Development.

Miami-based Creupelandt was most recently the Director of Hotel Services at Seabourn Cruise Line.

Norwegian 'great cruise comeback' panel

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) will host a live stream Q&A with CEO Frank Del Rio and Norwegian CEO Harry Sommer directly from the Port of Seattle tomorrow morning.

"The Great Cruise Comeback" event will be part of the

celebration of Norwegian's return to service, with *Norwegian Encore* departing on her inaugural Alaska season as the first of the company's 17 vessels to return to US cruising.

Former FDA chief Scott Gottlieb will also be on the panel.



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Auctions with Honey



A **LARGE** collection of P&O-themed teddy bears (**pictured** and **inset**) is being auctioned off for charity by cruise influencer Cruising With Honey.

Each bear has a starting price, and bids are made in dollar increments on Cruising With Honey's Facebook page.

All money raised will go to children's hospice Bear Cottage.

"I was inspired to pay it forward when a friend gave me some cruise bears that were part of a

deceased estate," Cruising With Honey's Honey Beram told **Cruise Weekly**.

"I'm hoping to also spread this joy by giving members of my cruising community the opportunity to take a piece of cruise home and donate to a very worthwhile cause."

The auctions close at 8pm AEST on Tue - **CLICK HERE**.

Cruise of the month

MSC Cruises' cruise of the month is a 17-night Mediterranean sailing on board **MSC Lirica**.

The cruise line is offering a saving of up to \$1,224 per person with included Easy Plus Drinks Package.

For further details call 1300 028 302.

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Unique opportunity

UNIQUE Cruises and Back-Roads Touring are inviting travel advisors to attend a four-part training series featuring their recently released tour cruise programs in France, Ireland, Italy and Scotland (**CW** 13 Jul).

Each niche tour cruise itinerary presents a unique and off-the-beaten-path European product.

To be held over four consecutive Tues, the sessions will be recorded for registered advisors who cannot attend.

The first training session takes place on 24 Aug at 10:30 am - **CLICK HERE** to register.

Better latte than never

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has expanded its Starbucks partnership to offer the coffeehouse chain's roast across its entire fleet.

Starbucks' offering will also be available on Norwegian's private island destinations, with the full rollout to be completed by the end of 2022.

Norwegian will have licensed Starbucks stores on 10 of its ships, while others will serve the brand in "We Proudly Serve" cafes that don't include the brand's name.



A **MALAYSIAN** man has been rescued at sea after trying to swim to Mecca (**pictured**).

The man has been taken to hospital after his second attempt in two weeks to swim to Islam's holiest city.

Before that, the man was barred from boarding a ferry due to coronavirus travel restrictions.

"At about 4.55 pm yesterday, the Beach Street police station received a call from a member of the public that a man was found floating in the sea near the Tanjung City Marina jetty," the *Malay Mail* reported.

Footage of the man floating at sea has since gone viral on social media.

Unfortunately, if the man had bothered to look at a map, he'd have realised Mecca is not on the ocean, but in a valley, located about 100 kilometres from the Red Sea.



49%

will book trips well into the future - more than 8 weeks out

Source: nib Travel Brands Survey, May 2021, N=1044, Australian respondents - booking prior to departure date.

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