

Cruise Weekly today

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

P&O vax mandate

P&O Cruises Australia announced its plan for a vaccination-only restart policy during Fri's CLIA Cruise Forum (**CW** breaking news Fri).

P&O Australia President Sture Myrmell believes the policy, which is applicable to guests as well as crews, will provide reassurance for authorities when working with the industry to develop protocols for the resumption of domestic cruises.

Myrmell said governments around the country were linking society's return to normal with sufficient vaccination numbers.

Guests will be provided with further detail on the policy once there is an agreed restart date for domestic cruising.

"Our research shows that the vast majority of our guests want to cruise with other vaccinated Australians," Myrmell said.

"P&O's vaccination policy is an indication that everything possible is being done to support the resumption of cruising in a way that provides further reassurance for our guests and the authorities that public health and wellbeing are our top priority."

Aus cruise restart in Dec?

WITH an extension to Australia's human biosecurity emergency period likely to be handed down mid-next month, Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) focus has shifted to navigating the order, rather than blocking it, with a view to a potential cruise restart from Dec.

CLIA Australasia Chair Gavin Smith said at Fri's Cruise Forum (**CW** 27 Aug) the Association is attempting to negotiate an exemption to the period.

"Since the last extension and the launch of the Australian Government's four-phase plan, [CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz] has committed to trying to navigate ourselves into that plan as an industry to interpret how we can have a carefully managed phased return...we think we can do that in Dec," Smith said.

"When we see that very likely extension in mid-Sep, it could be on a rolling 30-day basis rather than 90 days, or there is an exemption process for cruise lines, or individual ships could apply for exemptions."

Smith said everyone in the industry had a job to do, and there was no sense in getting distracted by border closures or division based on brand.

"We all have a common goal, which is the return of the industry...we need to sit together now and agree with this

framework to restart" he said.

"We've got to agree to quarantine issues, crew vaccination, testing, ventilation, isolation, evacuation, health reporting, there are a lot of issues, simple things like mask-wearing, social distancing, load factors, our advocacy is for those discussions to start now."

Smith said the risks of failing to execute as such on a federal level were ships being deployed elsewhere, and different states starting at different times.

The CLIA Australasia Chair pointed to similar fears expressed by Qantas Airways Chief Executive Officer Alan Joyce regarding flights to the United Kingdom having to potentially depart from Darwin due to the difficulty of accessing Western Australia.

Both circumstances put the cruise industry in great jeopardy, Smith warned.

When pressed by the discussion's moderator, **Cruise Weekly's** Bruce Piper, on some of the challenges he had faced since arriving in the role, Smith said getting in front of public health officials on a regular basis to present the industry's story was of particular difficulty.

CLIA had been well-accustomed to working with government departments, but the Association has faced difficulties in scoring time together with public health, and had brought aboard health experts to help with such.

Ritz not happening

THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection has delayed its inaugural sailing for the fifth time, citing shipyard issues due to COVID-19 (**CW** 07 Apr).

"While we are eager to welcome guests onboard *Evrima*, we have had to reevaluate the timing of our first voyage given the rapidly changing circumstances," said the cruise line's Chief Executive Douglas Prothero.

"We remain excited to set sail in the spring and thank our guests for their understanding and patience as we continue to navigate this unprecedented global environment."

Carnival NSM

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has appointed Mark Richards as its National Sales Manager.

In the newly formed role, Richards will be responsible for leading Carnival's dedicated trade sales team in Australia, along with managing key relationships with travel advisors to continue to support them and help them grow their cruise business.

Richards joined the Carnival sales team in October 2013 following five years with Creative Holidays, and during this time, has enjoyed great success with his agents in Queensland, along with managing the Flight Centre national account.



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JET skier Lindsay Warner is on a mission to become the first person to ride around Australia.

The 63-year-old from South Australia is nearing the completion of a five-month jet ski trip around the country.

His excursion would break the world record of 7,404 kilometres set by South African jet skier Marinus Du Plessis in 2018.

He started his journey in Exmouth in Mar 2020, but it was cut short and delayed in Esperance until Apr 2021 by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Warner is also hoping to raise awareness for men's health.

Oceania resumes sailing



OCEANIA Cruises is the latest line to recommence operations, with *Marina* yesterday welcoming guests (pictured) for the first time in 524 days.

Marina also became the first vessel to depart the port of Copenhagen since the onset of

the COVID-19 pandemic, with Oceania Chief Executive Officer Bob Binder saying "today is one of those days we will all remember for a lifetime as we reunite with our shipboard families and our guests to start exploring the world once again".

Oceania is operating with a 100% vaccination mandate for all guests and crews, under a phased plan for a healthy return to service, creating "one of the safest vacation experiences in the world".

Marina's return to service will be followed by *Riviera* in Greece on 18 Oct, and then *Insignia*, which will depart Miami on 21 Dec for the epic Around the World in 180 Days voyage.

Aurora PR role

AURORA Expeditions has appointed Svetlana Monastyrsky as its new Public Relations Manager.

Monastyrsky joins the cruise line after two and a half years with Destination NSW, prior to which she worked as a Senior Account Manager at Gate 7.

Summers back in NZCA chair

DEBBIE Summers has been re-elected as the Chair of the New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA), continuing the role she has held for six years running.

The incoming NZCA Board also elected Destination Marlborough's Jacqui Lloyd as Deputy Chair, while the organisation's new Treasurer is David Kriel from Napier Port.

Also on the NZCA Board are Oscar Nathan from Tourism Bay of Plenty, Avinash Murthy of Ports of Auckland, Kevin Winders from Port Otago, Sean Marsh of Te Puia, Douglas Colaco of ISS McKay and Tansy Tompkins who represents Tourism NZ on the Board.

Summers has also been re-elected to the Board of Tourism Industry Aotearoa, where she represents the Water Transport & Cruise sectors.

Viking doubles up

VIKING has announced its 2023-24 World Cruise will operate as two departures, with both *Viking Sky* and *Viking Neptune* to sail the same itinerary.

Sky will depart Fort Lauderdale on 20 Dec 2023, followed three days later by sister ship *Neptune*, with both vessels to operate the identical itinerary in parallel.

The double delight follows strong demand for the 2021 and 2022 World Cruises, both selling out in record time.

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