

Cruise Weekly today

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

More Genting losses

GENTING Hong Kong reported a net loss of US\$238.3 million during the six months period ended 30 Jun, narrowed from a first half 2020 loss of US\$742.6 million.

The group's current liabilities exceeded its current assets by US\$658.7 million, with its borrowing amounting to US\$3.863 billion.

Genting said it continues to seek new sources of funding in view of the uncertainties in its recovery.

"The Group will have sufficient cash flows to meet its operating requirements, investing activities and financial obligations for at least 12 months from 30 Jun".

Government denies boarding again

THE cruise industry is once again calling for talks to end the cycle of inaction over its future, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) MD Australasia Joel Katz has said.

In responding to yesterday's extension of the human biosecurity emergency period to 17 Dec, Katz warned Australia is being left behind as other countries rebuild their cruising and tourism economies.

Australia has become the only major cruise destination in the world where governments have made no progress on plans for revival, with Katz saying discussions were needed to finalise a pathway forward.

"Our discussions with government agencies have gone nowhere and our letters to the most senior levels of government have gone unanswered," said Katz.

"Other countries have not only created detailed plans to uphold safety on cruise ships in response to the pandemic, but have already resumed cruising in a responsible way.

"More than a million passengers have sailed successfully in countries where cruising has resumed – with strict health protocols in place – but in Australia our calls for detailed discussions with health authorities have been ignored."

Katz said the cruise industry has presented some of the most stringent COVID-19 measures to be found anywhere in world tourism, developed with the support of medical experts and health authorities internationally.

"CLIA has outlined its own four-phase pathway to cruising's revival, so we need governments to break the cycle of inaction and discuss how to put plans in

place now so that we're ready as conditions improve and vaccination rates rise."

"The livelihoods of thousands of Australians have been devastated while cruising has been suspended...these people deserve clarity and a plan for the future, so we can begin to rebuild and revive economic opportunities for communities around our coasts."

The three-month extension maintains the pattern of quarterly additions to the human biosecurity emergency period, with the old adjunct previously set to expire in two weeks time (**CW** 11 Jun).

Minister for Health Greg Hunt announced the extension despite the fact 80% of Australians could be vaccinated and out of lockdown by mid-Dec, which he said was in line with "medical advice".

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Fred goes int'l

FRED. Olsen Cruise Line has announced a number of international sunshine sailings allowing Brits to escape the looming northern winter.

Including extra savings of up to £100pp, the sailings depart between Oct and Feb, and are available from Liverpool, Dover and Southampton.

Last month, Fred. Olsen became the first British cruise line to sail internationally with its journey to Iceland, which is now followed by an extensive program of overseas sailings on board *Bolette* and *Borealis*.

Highlights include a 13-night Discovering Spain with Mallorca cruise aboard *Bolette*, departing from Dover on 05 Oct, and *Borealis*' 15-night Exploring the Azores & Portugal' sailing, departing from Liverpool on 18 Oct.

ACL's new *Melody*

AMERICAN Cruise Lines' (ACL) *American Melody* is set to debut the company's longest river cruise tomorrow.

Guests will celebrate Labor Day exploring the lower Mississippi as they embark along ACL's 22-Day Complete Mississippi River Cruise.

The cruise had originally been scheduled to operate from New Orleans, but due to Hurricane Ida, guests will embark in Natchez.

On the quest for feedback



VIKING is seeking feedback from travel advisors on its Marketing Centre and suggestions for how it can best serve the trade community.

The cruise line launched its Marketing Centre in Jan 2020 to make it easier for advisors to sell cruises to their clients by allowing the seamless customisation of Viking's marketing materials, with an individual agency's contact details (*CW* 23 Jan 2020).

As a thank you for taking part, advisors who complete the survey will go into the running to win one of 10 prizes in an 11,000 Rewards by Viking points giveaway.

The survey will be open for feedback until next Fri, and for additional information agents should speak to their state commercial manager.

MEANWHILE, Viking has also announced the winners of its recent trade incentive

aimed at encouraging advisors to download assets from the Marketing Centre to promote the cruise line via their own channels.

All advisors who downloaded marketing collateral and shared it with their clients, went in the draw to win one of 10 \$50 gift cards.

The winners are Mary Buckley (Helloworld), Jolee Gallagher (Main Beach Travel), Maureen Halbert (Helloworld), Renee Hopping (Houston & Turner Travel Associates), Kate Molesworth (Cartier World Travel), Monique Monsees (Cherrybrook Travel), Julie O'Grady (Exclusively Cruising), Kymberly Rohrsheim (Travel & Cruise Professionals), Philip Vidler (Internet Travel & Cruise), and Sonya Wheatley (Port Macquarie Travel).

Pictured are MD ANZ Michelle Black, Commercial Manager Kim Vaughan and National Sales Manager Keira Smith.

Heritage 2022-23

HERITAGE Expeditions has announced its 2022-23 season aboard the new ship *Heritage Adventurer*.

The season includes two new voyages, including the maiden voyage of the new *Adventurer*, which will be a circumnavigation of Japan's second-largest island Hokkaido.

Heritage's Southern Program will see the cruise line visit Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, combining the best of the company's Melanesia voyages into one 17-day adventure.

Other expedition cruises include Russia's Ring of Fire, Siberia's Forgotten Coast, Jewel of the Russian Far East, Chukotka, Indonesian Explorer, Galapagos of the Southern Ocean, Birding Down Under, Beyond Fiordland, Forgotten Islands of the South Pacific, and In the Wake of Scott & Shackleton.

While *Adventurer* was being prepared for the upcoming season, Heritage was reviewing its COVID-19 protocols, Commercial Director Aaron Russ said.

"As one of the few cruise companies who have been able to successfully and safely operate in spite of COVID-19, Heritage Expeditions has a proven track record," he added.

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Oceania sale

OCEANIA Cruises has unveiled its exclusive Upgrade Sale, open until Wed.

For bookings on selected itineraries between Feb 2022 through to Jul 2022, guests can now enjoy a four-category stateroom upgrade at no additional cost, when booking one of the newly released itineraries to the French and Italian rivers, the islands of Greece, and Tahiti.

Also included in the Exclusive Upgrade Sale are 20 destination-immersive sailings exploring close-to-home gems in the South Pacific, as well as enticing locales throughout Europe.

For more information call Oceania on 1300 355 200.

Princess' decade in Japan



PRINCESS Cruises will mark 10 years sailing from Japan in 2023, and will do so in style, with *Diamond Princess* sailing from Tokyo (pictured) and Kyoto.

The cruise line yesterday announced its 2023 Japan cruises and cruisetours, which will see *Diamond* call on 38 destinations,

all of which are now on sale.

Princess is offering 13- or 14-day Highlights of Japan cruisetours for travellers with more time to explore the country.

The itinerary features a multi-night land tour combined with the cruise, for more time to experience the wonders of both Tokyo and Kyoto.

"More guests choose Princess for Japan than any other cruise line to experience its rich culture, cuisine, and the treasured island nation's natural wonders where ancient traditions and fast-paced modernity flourish in harmony," said Sales & Marketing Director, Nick Ferguson.

"With a number of itineraries spanning from the southern tropical islands of Okinawa to the northernmost island of Hokkaido, the Japan 2023 program offers Aussies fantastic fly-cruise experiences including the top-rated Spring Flowers of Japan nine-day voyage.

"Our Japan-built ship has been designed with the destination in mind, featuring unique entertainment, Japanese culinary delights, and the largest Japanese bath at sea, Izumi."



AS COVID shuts down travel, the number of boat breakdowns is soaring, but sometimes even the most experienced skippers get it wrong.

VMR Whitsunday recently rescued a boat off Shaw Island, after its skipper's well-intended use of GPS went awry.

The boat was making its way home from the Lindemans when the skipper of almost 20 years experience relied on a waypoint to steer back to Mackay and ran aground on a rock.

VMR Whitsundays President Mal Friday, whose organisation has helped almost 500 people this year, said the boat was "high and dry".

"There (were) warning markers in the area but he didn't see the marker or didn't register what it was."

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Wonder-ful news

ROYAL Caribbean International's *Wonder of the Seas* began her series of sea trials earlier this week.

The fifth vessel in the Oasis-class, *Wonder* is a sister ship to *Oasis of the Seas*, *Allure of the Seas*, *Harmony of the Seas* and *Symphony of the Seas*.

Set to be the world's largest cruise ship upon her launch, *Wonder* remains under construction at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in France, gearing up for its debut in Mar 2022.