





cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Wednesday 8th September 2021

Tehan pushing for cruise resumption

AUSTRALIA'S Minister for Tourism Dan Tehan has confirmed he is "very keen to see cruising up and running again" as quickly as possible, with the 80% vaccination marker laid out in National Cabinet's four-stage plan seen as a key threshold to allowing a resumption.

Speaking to about 50 people from across the travel and cruise sector yesterday in a webinar (pictured) convened by Dave Sharma, Member of Parliament for Wentworth, Tehan noted the barriers in place.

"What we need is to get the approval of the individual states and territories and approval of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)...to get cruise ships up and running, above the current 100-passenger limit," the Minister said.

"I can't give you a firm date, but my hope would be once we hit



that 80% vaccination rate across the nation then we should be in a position to look very seriously at getting international cruising happening again here above that 100 number," he added.

"Ultimately, in the end, the AHPPC will have a say in it...I can't speak for them as you could understand," Tehan said, but noted that from his point of view he was keen for a restart.

"We keep pressing the case as to why now, with the knowledge of COVID and the COVID-safe environment that you can put in place, and particularly with regard to vaccination certification, there's no reason why we shouldn't be looking and planning for the resumption of international cruising once we hit that 80% vaccination rate.

"We understand how important cruising is to this nation and we want to get that international cruising back as soon as we possibly can."

Cruise Weekly today

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

Walk this Way!

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's Walk for Wellness has hit new peaks of popularity, with almost 600 registrations within a week causing the company to announce a new target of 1,000 total enrollments.

This year's challenge will run for the month of Oct, coinciding with a number of mental health events, including World Mental Health Day on 10 Oct.

The initiative encourages travel advisors to get active and track their steps towards a combined goal of 100,000km via a free mobile application, while taking part in fun weekly challenges - register HERE.





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NOLA gets the Glory

CARNIVAL Cruise Line will use Carnival Glory to house first responders to Hurricane Ida in New Orleans.

The cruise line has been provisioning Glory for the past few days so it can accommodate up to 2,600 hospital workers, first responders, utility workers and other emergency personnel.

The result will be the cancellation of Glory's schedule of Caribbean cruises from New Orleans, which now won't begin until 19 Sep.

Glory's return to New Orleans had already been delayed because of the hurricane, with her instead diverting to Mexican waters.

Many New Orleans hotels are full as tens of thousands of electricity linemen, related contractors, medical workers and various others arrive.

Ponant gets polar



PONANT'S Le Commandant Charcot has reached the North Pole for the first time (pictured).

The cruise line's first LNGpowered hybrid exploration vessel reached the point Mon evening AEST at 6:38pm.

Captain Etienne Garcia was at the helm, piloting the first French ship and first LNG-propelled vessel to reach the North Pole.

"I am hugely proud to have been at the helm of the very first French ship to reach the geographic North Pole, it is the ultimate achievement of a collective adventure started by Ponant many years ago," said Garcia.

"I am very grateful to the crew and all the staff on board that have contributed to making this possible."

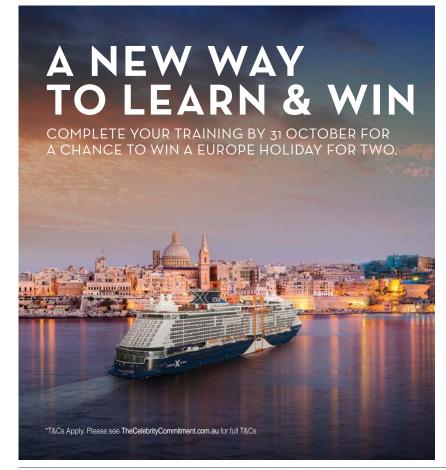
The feat occurred on the day Ponant announced the appointment of Andrew Daddo as its first brand ambassador for Australia (CW yesterday).

Crystal sells Esprit

CRYSTAL Cruises has confirmed the sale of its 62-passenger adventure yacht Crystal Esprit to an unnamed buyer, with the cruise line saying the vessel "does not fit into future plans".

The all-suite Esprit, which has its own submarine, has been a "wonderful part of the Crystal fleet, offering a boutique yachting experience unmatched in the industry, earning the devotion of discerning travellers...since her debut in 2015," Crystal said.

"However as we have been evaluating our focus postpandemic, the single, small yacht concept does not fit into future plans...as we continue to concentrate on the successful deployment of our Crystal ocean, river and expedition fleets, as well as exploring newbuilds for expansion".



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RESIDENTS of Cambridge in the United Kingdom were horrified recently to witness giant piles of poo floating in a local river.

Fortunately, they were just models launched by climate activists Little Blue Dot to highlight river pollution.

Dubbed Sewage Sat, the stunt's intent was to highlight the amount of untreated human waste pumped into waterways.

Joining the poo pile models were canoers, sporting signs such as "boaters against floaters" and "stop the poonami", with figures suggesting a rise in the number of water pollution incidents.

P&O's Aussie Adventure



P&O Cruises Australia's Pacific Adventure (pictured) has emerged from dry dock showcasing its new identity, as the cruise line's fleet transformation continues.

The latest addition to P&O Australia's three-ship fleet, Adventure's new personality includes a sweeping Crux bow livery and a host of exciting onboard features.

With a dedicated team of designers carrying out the dry dock project, additions include a host of diverse dining experiences developed by Australian restaurateur Luke Mangan and Melbourne-based chef Johnny Di Francesco.

P&O's popular restaurant trio the Italian fan-favourite Angelo's, sultry Pan-Asian-inspired Dragon Lady and contemporary Australian dining outlet The Waterfront - were also installed, as was international marketplace The Pantry, offering classic, comforting and modern food outlets.

Adventure's many public spaces now boast the P&O signature look, with the introduction of vibrant night-time venues the Adventure Hotel and the Blue Room, which feature live music from some of Australia's leading musicians.

When cruising is approved to resume, Adventure is planned to be homeported in Sydney.

P&O Australia President Sture Myrmell said Adventure's addition to the fleet was a landmark event for the cruise



Australia is falling behind

LAST week's extension of Australia's cruise suspension is another devastating blow for our industry, and puts us further behind the rest of the world in implementing future plans.

Yet again, the Australian Government has announced an extension of its cruise ban without committing to any framework for future operations.

Our industry and the cruising public have again been left in limbo, while the jobs of more than 18,000 Australians remain in doubt.

Elsewhere, more than a million passengers have sailed successfully in countries where cruising has resumed.

Across Europe, the United States, the Caribbean and parts of Asia, cruise lines are already operating with stringent new health protocols in place.

There's no reason why we can't achieve similar success in our own region.

Now that Australian governments have agreed on a four-phase plan for reopening, we need to ensure cruising can be part of this.

CLIA has outlined its own fourphase pathway (CLICK HERE) to cruising's revival, so we need governments to break the cycle of inaction.



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