



Jubilee delayed

MEYER Werft has notified Carnival Cruise Line the delivery of *Carnival Jubilee* will be delayed.

The cruise line notified guests booked on *Jubilee's* first six voyages their booking has been cancelled.

Jubilee's first cruise will now be the 23 Dec 2023 embarkation from Galveston, with the original Oct delivery date now scuppered.

Jubilee's inaugural cruise was meant to sail from Southampton to Galveston, but Meyer Werft has noted supply chain logistics and related matters will rule out the original Oct delivery.

"This is disappointing news, but with the notification from the shipyard, we are advising our guests as quickly as we can," said Carnival President Christine Duffy.

"We appreciate their understanding as we work to deliver another spectacular ship".

RCI's Wonder christened

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) officially welcomed *Wonder of the Seas* on the weekend.

RCI executives and teams, alongside travel advisors, partners, and more, came together on board the world's new largest cruise ship to celebrate the occasion in *Wonder's* AquaTheater.

The celebration in Port Canaveral has also honoured a mother from Pennsylvania as godmother of *Wonder*, selected from thousands of TikTok videos submitted as part of a US-wide search (**CW** 21 Nov).

Godmother Marie McCrae bestowed a blessing of safekeeping on *Wonder*, her crew, and her passengers.

Helping the godmother on the day were Royal Caribbean Group President & Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty, RCI President & Chief Executive Officer Michael Bayley, and McCrae's daughter Allie, who nominated her for the role.

"*Wonder of the Seas* exemplifies Royal Caribbean Group's focus on unparalleled innovation, sustainable cruise ship design and our commitment to delivering world-class, memorable vacations," Liberty said.

"This milestone represents the culmination of millions of hours of work, from the most innovative minds in the industry, to deliver the world's latest wonder."

McCrae said carrying out her role as Godmother and being a part of such an important moment for RCI was an honour.

"Having my family by my side to celebrate this incredible ship was yet another memory we've made together - and with our new Royal Caribbean family - that I'll never forget."

New to RCI's Oasis-class, *Wonder* features a total of eight 'neighbourhoods', including the new Suite Neighborhood, which welcomes Suite-class guests to an elevated Suite Sun Deck with a plunge pool and bar, the Ultimate Family Suite and more.

The ship also features the first Mason Jar Southern Restaurant & Bar, which serves up Southern staples and classics with a twist for brunch, dinner and late at night; and a new, underwater-themed play area for kids, *Wonder* Playscape, with slides, climbing walls, and more.

Wonder is now sailing seven-night Eastern and Western Caribbean cruises from Port Canaveral to Caribbean destinations, such as St. Thomas, Mexico, and RCI's private island destination, Perfect Day at CocoCay in The Bahamas.

Cruise Weekly today

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

NCL Take 3 shorex

GUESTS aboard Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) *Norwegian Spirit's* inaugural Australian cruises will be able to "Take 3 for the Sea", as part of a complimentary beach clean-up shore excursion in Eden.

As the first Norwegian ship to sail Australian waters for three years, *Spirit's* maiden call to Eden on 23 Dec will allow guests to roll up their sleeves to help the community on the complimentary beach clean-up excursion, under the guidance of an expert from environmental organisation Take 3 for the Sea.

Norwegian has partnered with Take 3 for the Sea to support reaching its ambitious goal of removing 50 million pieces of plastic from the environment by 2025.

Eden will be the first port of call during *Spirit's* 12-day Christmas cruise, with the town selected as the perfect location to launch the special shore excursion, allowing guests an opportunity to give back to the rural community during the Christmas season, while contributing to its ongoing rejuvenation as a tourism and cruise destination.

Vice President & Managing Director APAC Ben Angell said Norwegian is elated to expand its partnership with Take 3 for the Sea (**CW** 09 Sep) to include the shore excursion.



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A MARRIAGE proposal gone awry made a splash on social media last week, after a man in Florida Keys dropped the engagement ring overboard!

Scott Clyne thought it would be a good idea to pop the question on a boat in the Florida Keys, but instead of a romantic sunset moment, he and his now-fiance, Suzie Tucker, ended up with a hilarious story to tell.

Just as Clyne was about to present the ring, he lost his grip and dropped it into the water - the video, captured by his friends, shows Clyne diving headfirst after the ring without a moment's hesitation.

Tucker was in hysterics when Clyne emerged seconds later with the ring box in hand.

Both Clyne and the ring were unharmed, and she said yes - all-in-all, a good ending!

Clyne posted the video on his Facebook profile, describing the incident as "100% my luck" - [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the chaos unfold.



Celebrity's new sales stars



CELEBRITY Cruises this morning unveiled a restructure to its local sales team, with the move said to provide broader coverage across Australia and New Zealand.

Four new roles have been created, along with dedicated teams to support key account partners and the broader retail travel agency network.

Cameron Mannix continues to lead the team as Director of Sales for Celebrity Cruises in Australia and NZ, overseeing trade operations and strategy.

"Our sales team are the backbone of *The Celebrity Commitment*, devoted to rebuilding the local cruise industry alongside our valued trade partners," he said.

"The new sales team structure is designed to better support our partners to achieve even more success in 2023 and beyond, because when our travel partners win, we all win together."

Trevor Thwaites reports to Mannix as Celebrity's Head of Sales (*CW* 14 Sep), focusing on nurturing and developing the brand's retail and wholesale

networks and relationships.

On-the-ground support for front line agents in Australia and NZ will be provided by the expanded strategic sales team of Jessica Jones (NSW), Hannah Taylor (Vic, Tas, SA and NZ), and Maggie Silva, newly appointed as Strategic Sales Manager for Qld and WA.

To better support the OTA segment and packaging agents, Fiona Heron has been promoted to Senior Sales Manager, with the support of Chantelle Sobkowski in the newly created Sales Executive position to provide added assistance to NZ retail agents.

Oscar Ley has been appointed as Celebrity's dedicated Trade Marketing Executive.

Tim Jones, Celebrity Cruises VP and MD for Australia, NZ and APAC, said "the recent appointments and expansion of our sales team demonstrates our ongoing commitment to our valued trade partners in Australia and New Zealand".

Pictured above are Trevor Thwaites, Fiona Heron, Maggie Silva, Hannah Taylor, Jessica Jones and Cameron Mannix.

Swan Hellenic seeks space at sea

SWAN Hellenic has partnered up with the SETI Institute to provide its guests with expert insights into the history and latest discoveries in astronomy, astrophysics, astrobiology and planetary science, and the quest to find other forms of life within and beyond our solar system.

The partnership will see SETI Institute experts join Swan Hellenic's 2023 cultural expedition cruises, including Dr Simon Steel, a PhD Astronomer and Astrophysicist, who is planning to accompany *SH Vega* on cultural expedition cruises of Antarctica, the British Isles and Iceland.

Additionally, Bill Diamond, the President and CEO of the SETI Institute, is expected to accompany Swan Hellenic's Arctic Odyssey cruise aboard *SH Diana* in Jun.

Guests aboard these cruises will be able to watch never-before-seen presentations on explorations around Earth and beyond, with SETI Institute equipment, including an advanced telescope, installed on board.

"The presence of the SETI Institute's eminent scientists on board our cultural expedition cruises, imparting their expert knowledge of astrobiology, geology, physics, chemistry and astronomy, completes another facet of the quest to take our guests to see what others don't," Swan Hellenic CEO Andrea Zito said.