



Cruise Weekly today

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

P&O “not sustainable” in Australia

EXCLUSIVE

CARNIVAL Cruise Line President Christine Duffy has told *Cruise Weekly* the decision to integrate the P&O Cruises Australia brand into the flagship line assures the best opportunity for the company to continue sailing Down Under.

Duffy told *CW* yesterday’s “difficult” decision was not made lightly, however the environment in which Carnival Corp operates in Down Under made continuing to run P&O Australia unfeasible.

“We want to build on that history and heritage as we move forward by bringing new innovations and experiences over time...that’s just not possible in the backdrop that we operate here in Australia,” she said.

“For a brand as a standalone with three ships, it’s not sustainable,” Duffy added.

The Carnival President cited the range of challenges presented to



the company post-pandemic as the reason for P&O’s shuttering.

“We have challenges with cost across the board, fuel costs are up, currency is down, and across the supply chain, ports are increasing prices,” she explained.

“We really had to figure out what was the best way for us to be more efficient, to leverage the scale the Carnival Cruise Line brand has.

“We were certainly hoping costs may come down over time, but we’re not seeing evidence of

that, and so we believe that this is the best way for us to be able to continue the commitment and the passion that we have as a company for this market.”

Duffy also referenced regulatory challenges Down Under as hampering the company’s ability to easily do business in Australia.

“More regulation creates more risk and more cost, and so those are big headwinds for us, and it also creates a lot of uncertainty for the operation in the future,” she added. *MS*

Neonyx rep’d in Oz

NEONYX, a new cruise line that seeks to “present a new era of Mediterranean cruising”, has announced AVIAREPS Australia as its GSA.

Based in Piraeus, the brand aims to transform the cruise experience into an “extraordinary voyage of music festival, culture and scenery”.

Neonyx will offer sailings around Mykonos and Santorini aboard its 3,470-pax ship, *Goddess of the Night*, with its maiden voyage scheduled to depart 15 Jul.

Described as a “floating dance music festival”, each itinerary will feature a line-up of international DJs, cabaret shows, acrobatics, and more.



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THE worlds of cruise and aviation converged last week, in a most unfortunate way.

Of the 163 people on board a United Airlines flight from Canada to Texas, 75 of them were returning from a cruise, and of those, 30 became violently ill mid-flight.

According to reports, the sick cruisers experienced stomach flu-like symptoms, including vomiting and nausea.

Upon landing in Houston, the plane was met by emergency responders, who examined some of the spewing passengers but determined that none required urgent medical attention.

Unfortunately, United needed to temporarily pull the Boeing 737 Max from service in order to carry out a deep clean, resulting in the cancellation of two flights that were due to be operated by the plane.

The US carrier released a statement to *Business Insider* saying that “several passengers who had been on the same cruise and did not feel well were on United Flight 1528”.

The airline added it was “actively coordinating with health authorities to address the situation”.

While it’s certainly not the first case of mass illness onboard a plane, it may be the first one that’s been linked to a cruise...and hopefully the last!

Little to chair CLIA board

NEW Carnival Corporation Country Manager Peter Little has been elected Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Chair in Australasia, taking over from Norwegian Cruise Line Vice President & MD Ben Angell.

Little is a 15-year veteran of Carnival Corporation in Australia, and was yesterday promoted to his new position full-time, in the wake of the announcement of P&O Cruises Australia’s phasing out (**CW** yesterday).

He had been leading Carnival Corporation in the interim following the departure of former President Marguerite Fitzgerald last year (**CW** 22 Aug 2023).

Little (**pictured**) will lead an Executive Committee which also comprises Angell, Stuart Allison (Princess Cruises SVP), Lynne Clarke (MSC Cruises Chair), Deb Corbett (Ponant GM Sales & Marketing), Andrew Millmore (Travel the World Group Executive Chair), Gavin Smith (Royal Caribbean Group VP & MD), and Jason Worth (Oceania Cruises VP, International Sales).

CLIA MD Joel Katz said Little will provide important stewardship at a time when the resurgent cruise industry is working hard to cement its long-term success.

“Peter is a respected industry leader who has been integral to the strength of the Australian cruise sector for many years.

“He has shouldered responsibility for a very broad and complex range of maritime operations throughout his career and commands a great deal of admiration from across the cruise fraternity,” Katz said.



Katz also thanked Angell for his dedication to CLIA over recent years and paid tribute to his work as Chair during a period of positive renewal.

MEANWHILE, CLIA and industry leaders have paid tribute to one of Australia’s cruise pioneers, Sarina Bratton, as she steps down from the Association’s board after almost three decades.

Bratton is a past CLIA Chair, and founder of its precursor, the International Cruise Council of Australasia, which she helped establish in 1996.

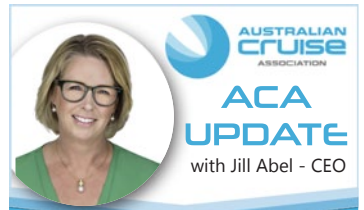
She founded Orion Expedition Cruises and Norwegian Capricorn Line, in addition to holding senior roles at Ponant and Cunard Line.

Bratton is also a recipient of CLIA’s Hall of Fame award, and a Member of the Order of Australia for her services to tourism, particularly the cruise industry.

Regional leaders of key CLIA lines thanked Bratton at its recent annual general meeting.

Katz described Bratton as a “standard-bearer” for the Australian cruise industry.

“She is a genuine pioneer of cruising in this part of the world, a highly-respected businesswoman, and the first woman to be a cruise line founder,” he said. *MS*



Reflecting on P&O

I WANT to begin today’s column with an acknowledgment of the major announcement yesterday by Carnival Corporation that they will sunset the P&O brand in Australia in 2025.

The 90-year-old brand is an icon in this market, and I would like to honour the important role it has played in building the thriving cruise industry we have in this region today.

Changes like this of course allow for organisations to continue to perform in a robust manner and respond to evolving market requirements.

We will continue to work as an organisation to advocate for the industry that is a major contributor to Australia’s visitor economy.

We are delighted that Carnival Cruise Line (CCL) is committed to continuing their strong presence in this region, and we look forward to working closely alongside Peter Little in his position as Country Manager for CCL, as well as in his new role as Chair of CLIA Australia.

CCL will undoubtedly be well represented at our annual ACA conference in Adelaide in Sep.

Prior to that time, we are continuing to work with destinations to grow the shore-based offerings for cruise passengers and develop strong itineraries to disperse guests into our regions.

This includes visits to Western Australia for Tourism WA’s Cruise Exchange, our board meeting in Cairns in Jul, the Destination Southern Tasmania showcase in early Aug, not to mention numerous destination familiarisations.