

IFR CRUISE UPDATE

I thought it about time I provided you with an update on our IFR Cruises.

First of all there are still vacancies available on the Coffee Cruises on Thu, Fri and Sunday, 3, 4 and 6 Oct. I personally think the Friday Coffee Cruise for \$20.00 per head is great. At 10.00 seven major RAN ships pass Bradleys Head and fire a 21 gun salute. Should be good to witness. There is also still time to book yourself and/or family to witness the IFR Fireworks, Laser and Light Show on Saturday Evening of 5 Oct. Either call Australian Cruise Group on 02 8296 7296 or visit their website at www.australiancruisegroup.com.au, Scroll down and click on Official Cruises of the FNSA.

The site currently states the Luncheon and Fireworks Dinner Cruises are "SOLD OUT". This is true for the Luncheon Cruise but I am advised you MAY still have time to book the Fireworks Dinner Cruise.

I particularly want to talk about the "IFR LUNCHEON CRUISE" which is sold out to 1,560 Naval Veterans and their friends and families. Congratulations.

IMPORTANT DEPARTURE INSTRUCTIONS

You may not be aware that due to the size and security for this major harbour event it has become necessary to "Lock Down" the main harbour into Exclusion Zones. We have recently found out that ALL Commercial Vessels MUST BE within their "special" Exclusion Zone" located in the main harbour by 1030.

This Navy/Maritime instruction NOW requires ALL of our Chartered Vessels to Depart from Darling Harbour wharfs NO later than 1010. To meet this Security Instruction I MUST advise you, that ALL guests are advised to be at Darling Harbour wharf No's 5 and 6 earlier than previously advised, say 0930 or shortly thereafter. ALL vessels will depart sharply by 1015 at the LATEST. I sincerely regret latecomers will be left on the wharf and their payment forfeited if you do not make the boarding time of 1000.

Those that have previously booked for any of these Cruises will shortly be contacted by the Australian Cruise Group. Those who have only paid a deposit will be requested to pay the "Final Amount in Full". On receipt of final payment, you will be issued with a travel voucher and advised the name of the vessel you will be travelling on and the wharf/jetty of departure. On arrival at Wharfs 5 and 6 Darling Harbour your travel voucher will be exchanged for a Boarding Pass. All boarding passes will be colour coded to the vessel for which they are valid. The Australian Cruise Group has six (6) vessels departing from their King St Wharf No's 5 and 6. The Company will also have six (6) reception areas issuing colour coded boarding passes. One colour for each vessel.

As an example you will receive your travel voucher after final payment. If you (and your party) are allocated to MV FUSION say, boarding pass Red, you will proceed to the reception desk for MV Fusion which will also be colour coded Red. You will exchange your

travel voucher for a Red Boarding Pass, the Staff will then direct you to the appropriate wharf/vessel

This Service will be available from 0900 on Sat 5 Oct; however boarding will not commence until closer to 1000.

On the day, PLEASE make sure, you know the name of your vessel. The Booking Office for Australian Cruise Group is opposite Darling Harbour, wharf No 5 and directly in front of the Sydney Showboat II.

Those travelling by public transport (highly recommended) can walk to King St Wharf either directly from Wynyard Park down Erskine St or down King St, and across the overpass which will bring you out at the Aquarium. Walk right past the Darling Harbour Wharfs until you come to No's 5 and 6.

It may be HOT on Oct 5 so make sure you bring sufficient water and wear a hat. Soon after arriving onboard liquid refreshments will be available.

See you onboard and HAVE A GREAT DAY. ONLY HAPPENS EVERY 100 YEARS

**Ken Swain
President**