



**AUSTRALIAN
CRUISE**
ASSOCIATION

2026
CONFERENCE

**Building Value
Beyond the Berth**
2 - 4 September
Brisbane, Queensland



TOURISM
& EVENTS
Queensland

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Luis Ajamil

Chief Executive Officer
Bermello Ajamil

Luis is Principal at Woolpert, the leading cruise port, waterfront planning, and design firm through the acquisition Bermello, Ajamil & Partners. He is based in Miami, where most of the cruise lines are headquartered which provided the perfect launch point to help ports and destinations expand into the cruise industry which is the fastest segment of shipping and tourism. Woolpert has offices throughout Australia providing a range of planning, architecture, engineering, and geospatial services.

Carole Biencourt

Vice President Onboard Revenue
Holland America Line and Seabourn

With a career spanning over 40 years, Carole has held roles in Finance, Revenue Management and in her current role, oversees Onboard Revenue, Future Cruises and Shore Excursions. While Carole has moved around the business over her seasoned tenure, her passion for both brands and creating exceptional guest experiences remains constant. She is an avid traveler, having visited all 7 continents and enjoys her role managing our shorex program and meeting with our tour operators from around the world.



Charles "Bud" Darr

Chief Executive Officer
Cruise Lines International Association

Bud oversees CLIA's international operations as the industry advances policies and practices that support safe, healthy, and sustainable cruise operations. Bud drives CLIA's agenda as the global peak body for cruising and helps bring together the world's cruise lines and industry partners around a shared voice for the sector. Bud brings deep maritime, legal, regulatory, and policy experience from senior roles across the cruise sector, including Executive Vice President for Maritime Policy and Government Affairs at MSC Group.



Stefano Torresi

Director of Port Operations
Viking Cruises

Stefano brings nearly two decades of cruise experience, half of which was spent overseeing port operations in Italy, France and Spain for several major cruise lines. Stefano was involved in the complex "Costa Concordia removal project" on Giglio Island, Italy where he was responsible for the project's fleet operation and logistics. In 2016, he joined the new born CostaMed, a Port Agency owned equally by Costa Cruises and Medov Srl, where he oversaw the company's startup phase and later its consolidation.





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Day 1 Wednesday 2 September

9:30am Registration Desk opens - Marriott Hotel Brisbane

Networking Program

12:30pm - 4:00pm Nyanda Cultural Tour

1:00pm - 3:00pm Story Bridge Adventure Climb

1:00pm - 3:15pm Brisbane River Kayak Tour

1:00pm - 4:00pm Brisbane International Cruise Terminal Tour

1:00pm - 4:00pm Best of Brisbane Walking Tour

2:30pm Introduction to Cruise Workshop (for guests new to the cruise industry)

4:30pm Registration Desk closes

6:00pm Welcome Event - Iris Rooftop



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Day 2 Thursday 3 September

- 9.00am Official Welcome
- 10.00am State of the Industry
- 11.00am Morning Tea
- 11.30am Session 1
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 2.00pm Session 2
- 3.00pm Afternoon Tea
- 3.30pm Session 3
- 4.50pm 2027 Conference and AGM announced
- 5.00pm Conference Day 2 Close
- 6.30pm Gala Dinner - Howard Smith Wharves Rivershed



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Day 3 Friday 4 September

8.00am Breakfast with Guest Speaker - Marriott Hotel Brisbane

9.30am AGM (ACA Members only)

10.30am Member Workshop

12.00pm Conference concludes

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