

## Viking food gong

**AMERICA'S Food & Wine** magazine has named Viking as Best Cruise Line in its inaugural Global Tastemaker Awards.

The publisher cited Viking for its "inventive culinary programs across its river, ocean and expedition voyages".



**SEABIRDS** can sometimes be a bit of a pest for cruise ships, so perhaps an initiative announced by the UK's Blackpool Zoo may be of interest to operators.

The attraction has announced a recruitment drive for so-called "human seagull deterrents" - people who will be paid to dress up in giant bird costumes to frighten away the nuisance creatures.

Officials said the birds were persistently stealing food from visitors as well as animal enclosures, with successful candidates to join the zoo's visitor services team.

The job ad notes that those who take on the roles would need an outgoing personality and also "be comfortable wearing a bird costume".



## Cruise honours Ramsgate



**SYDNEY'S** Ramsgate Travel Service last week celebrated 40 years in business, and the cruise sector was out in force to mark the milestone of one of Australia's long-standing sellers of luxury cruise product.

Founded in 1983 by the late legendary Rosemary Peart, the business is now owned by Justine Sealey who recounted the highs and lows over the decades.

Ramsgate was a founding member of the Cruiseco consortium, and Sealey was in the first group of consultants accredited by the fledgling International Cruise Council of Australia (now CLIA) when it was formed in the 1990s.

The agency was also one of the first Australian travel outlets to host cruise expos when it booked out Sharks Leagues Club for events in 1996 and 1998.

The birthday celebration on the shores of the Georges River saw about 100 of Ramsgate's top clients treated to a special lunch along with presentations from a host of key partners including Oceania, Regent, Viking, Silversea, Abercrombie &

Kent, APT, Back-Roads Touring, Uniworld and Crystal.

Sealey is **pictured** above with Crystal Cruises VP Tony Archbold and Abercrombie & Kent's Debra Fox and Beth Ellicott.

More in today's **Travel Daily**.



**CHRIS** Hall from Ponant with Ramsgate's Justine Sealey.



**VIKING'S** Ramon Drew was one of the day's presenters.

## Coral all at sea over solar eclipse

**CORAL** Expeditions was in prime position for optimal viewing of last week's solar eclipse, with three of the line's vessels placing themselves to experience it at sea.

A total of 320 guests from around the world experienced the hybrid eclipse along the "line of totality" in the North West Coast, enjoying the view from the remote Scott and Seringapatam Reefs, as well as the opportunity to come ashore at Sandy Island.

*Coral Adventurer's* 120 guests were all loyal past passengers of the brand's Xplorer's Club, with the voyage delivered in partnership with *Australian Geographic*.

*Coral Discovery* was in position at Ah Chong Island in Montebello Islands Marine Park off the northwest coast of WA, with 70 guests on board as part of a charter organised in conjunction with NASA.

Meanwhile *Coral Geographer* hosted 120 American charter guests for the eclipse as part of a 14-night Wilderness Travel expedition.

## Anderson on leave

**CRYSTAL** Cruises CEO Jack Anderson is taking leave for personal reasons, but is expected to be aboard the inaugural post-pandemic voyages of *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* later this year, according to a report in *Seatrade Cruise News*.