

MEDIA RELEASE



Aurora Expeditions CEO Monique Ponfoort Announces Departure On A High

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (23/02/2022) – Aurora Expeditions has today announced the departure of CEO Monique Ponfoort.

“Given our strong position, the talented teams driving our plans forward, and our successful return to operations, I feel that now is the best time to announce my plans to step away to pursue a new challenge,” commented Ponfoort.

Having joined the company in 2020 at the height of the global pandemic, Ponfoort was instrumental in providing positive leadership in a challenging time within the industry.

Her commitment to environmentally responsible travel has been showcased via the company’s innovation and leadership in the expedition travel category. During her time with Aurora, Ponfoort accelerated meaningful changes for the brand including the launch of its ‘Sustainability In Action’ Program. Ponfoort also spearheaded the business’ global growth in key source markets, and the development of key global industry partnerships such as Virtuoso as well as QANTAS.

Monique’s commitment to delivering enhanced Health & Safety protocols has been the number one priority for the business, which focused on a safe return to Aurora’s operations in Antarctica in January 2022 and is now into its fifth voyage of the season.

“I have achieved the goals I had set out for Aurora Expeditions when I joined the business in 2020, and I am confident that the company is well positioned to continue its growth. Personally, I am excited and ready for a new challenge, and I wish the Aurora team every success for the future. I will very much miss working with such a talented and passionate team and highly valued trade partners,” added Ponfoort.

“We wish to personally thank Monique for her valued contribution and leadership of Aurora Expeditions during this difficult time and getting us back to what we do best – extraordinary expeditions – as well as helping us prepare for the imminent launch of our second expedition ship, the *Sylvia Earle*,” said Chairman Neville Buch.

Monique will be staying with the business to assist Aurora Expeditions with managing it through a transitional period.

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Notes to Editors

About Aurora Expeditions

Aurora Expeditions is an award-winning, Australian owned expedition company celebrating its 30th anniversary year. A pioneer in Polar Expeditions, Aurora is committed to environmentally responsible travel, we are committed to preserving the beauty and majesty that mother nature possesses, and we take real actions for the care of the planet.

Founded on the guiding principles of adventure and endless exploration, the small ship experience is intimate and friendly, and Aurora Expeditions takes guests on perspective-altering experiences to some of the most remote and incredible places on earth.

Aurora's two purpose-built ships, the *Greg Mortimer* and our brand-new small expedition ship the *Sylvia Earle*, are both designed for global discovery. The new ship is named after acclaimed marine biologist, oceanographer, explorer and conservationist Dr. Sylvia Earle.

As part of Aurora's ongoing commitment to ensure that we are doing small ship expedition travel in the safest and most enjoyable way possible, every aspect of Aurora Expeditions' Health and Safety program has been reviewed. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/why-travel-with-us/health-safety/>

For more information, visit www.auroraexpeditions.com.au.