



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Orion's Matt Mitcham on course for Olympic Gold

Part-time Orion Expedition Cruises' employee Matthew Mitcham will be missing from work for the next few weeks as he completes full time training preparation for his bid to win a gold medal at the Beijing Olympics Games.

Matt, one of nine divers in the Australian team - which is ranked second in the world to the Chinese - has been selected to represent Australia in the 3 metre springboard and 10 metre platform individual events.

Returning to competitive diving after time off, Matt dominated the 2008 National Championships winning the 1, 3 and 10 metre events and recently showed international form by collecting gold in the 10 metre platform event at a World Cup event in Fort Lauderdale.

Awarded four perfect 10's by the judges on his fourth dive, his performance was particularly impressive as Matt beat two of the top Chinese divers likely to challenge him for gold at the Olympic Games.

Sarina Bratton, Founder and Managing Director of Orion Expedition Cruises, a former National Championship diver herself and mother of elite diver 15 year old Bianca Bratton, is a mentor to Matthew. Along with his coach, Chava Sobrino, Sarina had faith in him and supported him when he decided to resurrect his diving career.

Says Sarina of Matt "He is one of the most talented divers I have ever seen. Talent however only gets you so far. It is hard work combined with good attitude, mental strength and determination that will see him on that winner's dais".

Matt's in full time training now and not coming back to work until after the Olympics - hopefully with a medal around his neck!

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For updates on Matt Mitcham's Olympic progress see www.orionexpeditions.com

Ranked #2 expedition cruise ship in the world in the current Berlitz Cruise Guide, Orion is the world's latest purpose-built luxury expedition cruise ship, featuring an unmatched range of onboard facilities.

With 75 crew and a maximum of just 100 passengers Orion offers the highest staff to guest ratio and guest to public space ratio of any ship based in Australian waters.

Further information on Orion Expedition Cruises can be obtained by visiting the website www.orionexpeditions.com

For reservations or to obtain a brochure call Orion Expedition Cruises: 61-2 9033 8777 (Sydney callers) 1300 361 012 (regional and interstate) or your travel agent. Email: info@orioncruises.com.au

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