

## Day 49, (Friday, 11/07/08) At Sea

The day started with temperatures in the low 70s with calm sea and broken clouds. We are sailing towards New Caledonia in the Coral Sea with 5000 feet of water under the keel.

The first order of business today was for Orlin to get a haircut. A reservation had been made with Mila for 8am. That task was accomplished at a cost of \$25. We were now ready to go for the Cruise Critic lunch in the dining room that had been scheduled by MaryAnn for 12:30 today.

There were no grand announcements at the Cruise Critic lunch today. It was just a chance to get better acquainted with other folks who are fond of cruising and sharing their experiences. MaryAnn had arranged to have Cruise Critic people at 5 different tables in the dining room. A group had to leave early to have a tour of the Amsterdam Navigation Bridge. We were too slow with the camera to catch those Bridge bound folks but we were able to photograph the ones who remained.



Left to right: Nick (foxpaw), Sally (croozer), MaryLou (lusyrsgirl), Sue (landandwater), MaryAnn (wowzo)

Sally and Sue came aboard the Amsterdam in Sydney in separate parties and joined our group for the first time today. This lunch, soon after leaving Sydney, was a great way for new passengers to meet fellow Cruise Critic folks and expand their acquaintances. Earlier in the day Sue had introduced herself as Barbara was admiring some of the on-sale jewelry. She had been following our blog since the start of the cruise in Seattle and recognized Barbara from pictures on the blog. Sue is knowledgeable about the technology of blogging and appreciated the system that our son, Steve, had set up for us. MaryLou had done the Harbour Bridge Climb while the Amsterdam was in Sydney. We haven't had a chance to discuss her experience but knowing MaryLou that must have been a fun group to climb with.



Carol and Larry (webecruisinnow)

Larry was in our Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb group. He was the last person attached to the bridge cable in our group and made sure none of us "chickened" out as we climbed up. While we climbed the bridge Carol was up on the bridge pylon taking pictures of the event.



Opposite across the table from the front:

Rosemary & Bob (rozo'sbeau), Carney & Kay (katyb), Ken & Lois (tabk & sotl)





Left to right: Dora & Ron (friends of aussieoz), Jean & Doug (aussieoz)

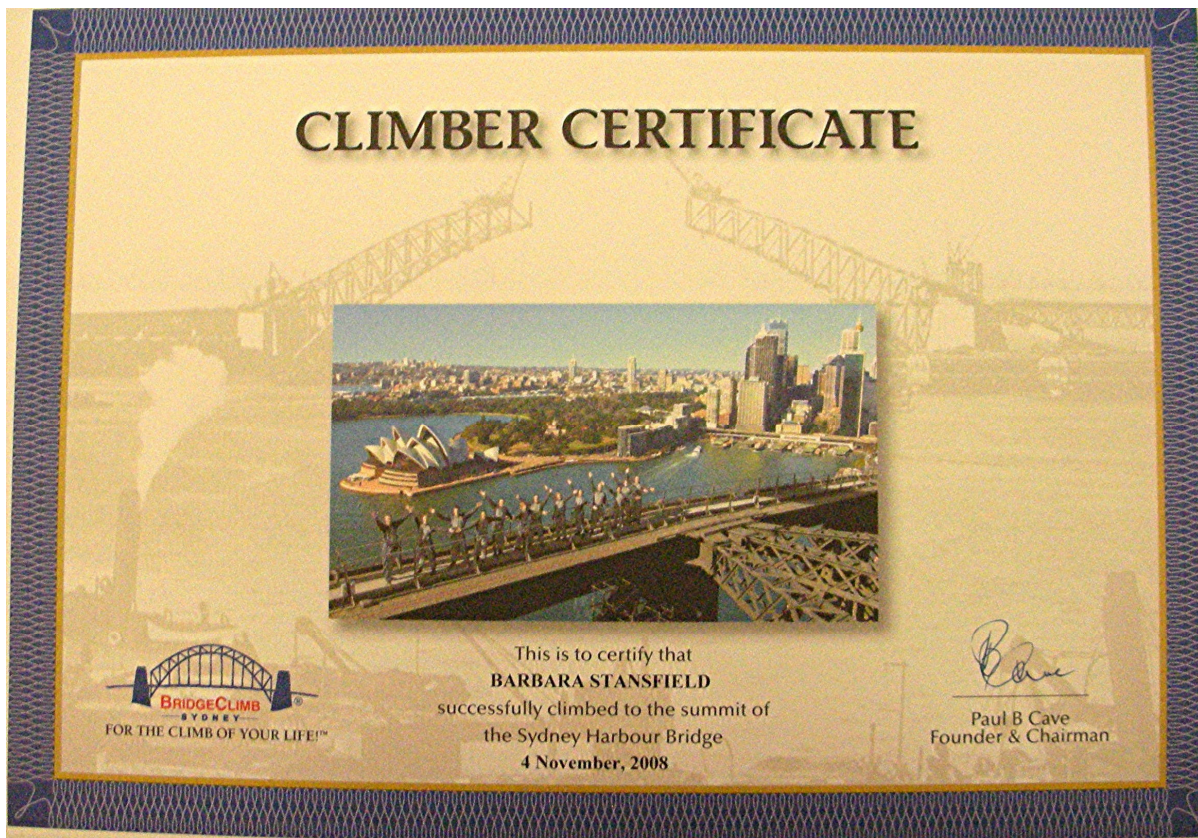


Left to right: Marjorie & Lyle (70 +), Barbara and Orlin (tenncruisers)  
This was the table that lost Cruise Critic folks to the Amsterdam Navigation Bridge tour during lunch.



In the evening we went to Bob and Esther's stateroom. Joan was also there and had brought some white Australian wine she had found in Perth last week. Like us, Bob and Esther had taken the Harbour Bridge Climb while in Sydney so we were getting together to celebrate our survival. We lined up with our Bridge Climb Certificates and had Joan take a picture of us holding our certificates.

The certificates are kind of classy and here is a close-up view to show what one looks like.





We had several round of drinks and then it was time to continue the celebration over dinner in the Pinnacle Grill. We had reserved a table for the five of us so when we arrived everything was set up and looking great. We knew a steward named Agus who was working in the Pinnacle Grill. We had met him on the 2007 Grand World Voyage. He was not available to serve at our table but he stopped by to say hello and we got this picture with him to remember the occasion.



We had a five course meal that was delicious and helped us finish off the celebration of the Harbour Bridge Climb in good style.

Towards the end of the meal we got this picture of the five of us.



It was a great day at sea and we are looking forward to the visit in New Caledonia tomorrow.