

Day 45 (Monday, 11/03/08) At Sea

The day started with temperatures in the mid 60s, overcast sky, winds of about 35 mph and rather rough sea. We were cruising in the Tasman Sea on the way from Melbourne to Sydney, Australia with about 250 feet of water under the keel of the Amsterdam. Barbara got up and walked on the Promenade deck for about an hour while Orlin caught some extra sleep.

We spent the day writing the blog entry for Melbourne, attending a lecture by Dr. Wolff and just relaxing. Yesterday, while our tour stopped at Grant's Reserve in the Dandenong Mountains, a passenger in the tour bus ahead of us fell and was injured. The injured person was Dr. Wolff's wife Carol. Today he announced that she had broken her ankle. She now has a cast on her ankle but cannot walk with it. She will be getting a walking cast when we get to Honolulu. The topic of Dr. Wolff's lecture today was the life of General Douglas MacArthur. His life was portrayed as one of tremendous accomplishments but also mistakes and character flaws that undermined the goals he set for himself in later life. Most of us in the audience were of an age that was familiar with MacArthur and Dr. Wolff's lecture reminded us of his glory days and the fact that as he predicted in his farewell speech he simply seemed to "fade away" from our consciousness.

At dinner tonight we had a special Indonesian plate prepared at the request of our dinner mates who are familiar with Indonesian food. Our head waiter, Janar, arranged for the chef to prepare the spicy rice and beef dish called Nasi Goreng. Janar even served us when the food arrived from the kitchen. It was spicy but just right and very flavorful. Our tastes are probably evolving to appreciate some of the spices we find in Southeast Asia and Indonesia. It was very enjoyable.

We are supposed to arrive in Sydney tomorrow about 6am so we plan to be up and ready to leave the ship as soon as possible. We love this next port and have lots of activities planned. The posts of the blog for Sydney may not get on-line until we are back at sea.

