

Day 41 (Thursday, 10/30/08) At Sea, Cruise Critic Lunch

At daybreak the temperature was 56 F and the sea was moderate. A strong wind was blowing across the Promenade Deck so after a brief try at walking we retreated back to our room. During the day islands or parts of the Australian mainland were visible low on the port side of the ship as we rounded the southwest corner of Australia and proceeded in the Indian Ocean east toward Melbourne. In his navigation report Captain van Zaane said we were 35 miles from the mainland and we had 8000 feet of water under the keel. We will be crossing a geographic feature called "The Great Australian Bight". If you look at the Australian continent the south coast on the western end looks like a huge "bite" has been taken out of it. The appearance of having been bitten is not where it got its name. The curve in the middle of a slack rope is called a "bight". The southwestern coast of Australia has a curve similar to a slack rope and that is the reason it is called "The Great Australian Bight".

The ship's retail shops held a 75% off sale of Australian souvenirs on the Lido Pool deck from 10am to 2pm. Barbara took the bait and had a good time rummaging through the offerings that were made available. The participation of the passengers was enthusiastic.



Diana (lusyrsrgirl) was particularly proud of what she had found as MaryAnn (wowzo), further back, looks on hopefully.

MaryAnn had organized a luncheon for about 25 of the Cruise Critic participants. We met at 12:30 and were seated at four tables in the dining room. During the meal we snapped photos of the tables as shown below.



Left to right: Larry & Carol (webecruisinnow), Di & Barry (friends of Larry and Carol), Nick (foxpaw), MaryAnn (wowzo)



Left to right: Chet & Anne (travelinggg), Ken & Lois (tabK & sotl), Hennie, MaryLou (lusyrsgirl), Cita (2dreamers)



Left to right: Ed & Roxanne (arzz), Jean & Doug (ausieoz), Karen & Scott (cavediving)



Left to right: Barbara & Orlin (tenncruisers), Diana (lusyrsgirl), Marjorie & Lyle (70 +), Trudy

MaryAnn passed around a paper for people to record the address of any blogs or other Internet threads that they were posting. This info will be made available so when we get home we can peruse what other participants of this cruise have been writing about their adventure.

These luncheons have been fun and help to get us better acquainted with the names and people whom we see posting on Cruise Critic from time to time.

At 2pm we went to the next lecture in the series on Australian history by Dr. Wolff. The subject of this talk was the World War I battle of Gallipoli, in 1915. Gallipoli was a place in Turkey located at the entrance to Dardanelles. The area around Gallipoli had been used by Turkey to close the Dardanelles to Russian shipping out of the Black Sea. Russia was an ally of Britain in WW I and British colonial troops were employed in an effort to prevent closure of the Dardanelles. This was the first time Australia and New Zealand had sent a significant contingent of troops in support of Britain in a war. This contingent was known as Anzac which is an acronym standing for Australia New Zealand Army Corps. The contribution by Australia and New Zealand raised the profile of these two countries from an otherwise forgotten part of the world. The Anzac troops fought heroically but unfortunately, through a series of command blunders, they suffered a huge number of casualties at the hands of the Turks. The British and Anzac troops ended up withdrawing from Gallipoli. The staggering loss of life by the Anzac led to construction of memorials to Gallipoli, like the one we saw in Fremantle, and a national Anzac day of remembrance throughout Australia on April 25th each year.

The dress for dinner was formal. After dinner we went to the Queen's Lounge where we saw an excellent show put on by the Amsterdam Singers and Dancers. They had super "Las Vegas" quality costumes and the singing and dancing kept us entertained for the solid hour.

We had to set the clocks ahead tonight because we are moving in an easterly direction. The difference in time between here and Oak Ridge is now 9 hours by the sun. In other words when it is 12 noon here it is 9pm in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. However, on the calendar we are one day ahead most of the time. If we think any more about this issue we will get a headache.

We retired for the night and with the gentle rocking motion of the ship we had no problem falling asleep.