



President's Report -Margaret Cornell

It is now time for me to look back over the year and to thank all members for their contributions. The fellowship and friendship that now reflects in all areas of the club comes from the high level of attendance and the continued willingness and participation of all our members. These qualities have brought about the success of our club.

Your committee has been on a steep learning curve since the time of its inception in June 2003 and what we have learned will benefit us in the Probud year ahead. As always, we encourage you to bring forward ideas and suggestions that you would like to be considered. We welcome your input. You can use the Suggestion Box for this purpose.

May I thank you all for the privilege of presiding and representing the Probud Club of Templestowe Valley over this last year, and I look forward to continuing and participating in the fellowship and friendship for many years to come.

"All things are possible until they are proved impossible – even the impossible may only be so as of now"

Pearl S. Buck, 1892-1972 American Writer and Missionary

Secretary's Report -Doug Hayne

2006 Election

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday March 20th and induction of office bearers for 2006 will take place

The office bearers were all the only nominees and so will be inducted by acclamation from the members present.

The office bearers for 2006 will be:

President – Peter Fishley.

Vice President – Helen Armstrong

Secretary – Ian Gault.

Treasurer – Jacob Kereseboom

Membership – Lorraine Cooper

Speakers – Beverley McDowell

Activities John Mugridge.

Welfare – Val Reid.

These offices will be handed over at this meeting and will take effect as of 1st April 2006

Risk Management at Our Functions

Further to Ian Gault's excellent presentation last month, the committee have asked him to develop a Risk Management Plan for club functions.

Ian will present this to the committee for implementation in the next month or so.

This month's meeting – The AGM

This month's meeting, Our AGM, is on **Monday March 20th** at the Bulleen & Templestowe Community Centre, Ted Ajani Reserve 284 Thompsons Rd., Lower Templestowe (Opposite Sunhill Road. Melway 32 K7). The hall will open at 9.00 am for bookings for activities. The meeting will commence at 9.45. As all offices had single nominations there will be no elections this year.

Annual Membership fees of \$20.00 are due for 2006 and payable by the end of March 2006. There will be members available to collect your membership fees separately to the normal \$2.00 hall fee Please tender the correct amount if possible

Lunch will be at the Manningham Club as usual.

The Manningham Club have offered a \$100.00 voucher for the club if we use their venue for 11 out of 12 months this year.

The committee have decided to continue using the club for our luncheon as long as the members are happy with this arrangement.

If we do receive the voucher, the incoming committee will decide how this will be used.

This month's speaker

Les Bull from the Southern and Southe Eastern Integrated Transport Authority (SEITA) will speak about and show a view from a helicopter, of the current work on the Eastern Link.

Treasurer's Report -Lorraine Cooper.

If you have any questions about our finances, please feel free to talk with me at the meeting

Last Month's Events.

Week-end at Portarlington

Forty Three Probudians met at noon at the Grand Hotel on Wednesday 22nd February for a briefing on our two days of enjoyment.

Members of the local bowling club showed great patience in teaching us the fine art of Bowling during the afternoon. Many of our group showed great potential for future Masters Games.

Happy Hour was at 5.p.m. in the park followed by a tasty Barbecue.

Lots of frivolity was had with serious games of Bocce.

Back at the Hotel we enjoyed fellowship with coffee and cake followed by the exciting game of Beetle with lots of serious competition and laughter.

On Thursday the walkers left at 9.am. for a beach walk with lunch pack sunscreen water etc. Half way along we settled under a shady tree for a well-earned lunch. Our usual camera crew took the group's photo. Some enjoyed the local scenery by walking to the end of the pier others rested flat on their backs preparing for the return walk total 19 Kilometers.

The 11 golfers enjoyed a great day of competition and friendship followed by lunch in the clubhouse. Many stories were told, and prizes given when they returned to join us at the hotel.

Other activities enjoyed during the two days were, swimming, shopping, sightseeing an visiting old friends.

Happy Hour and Dinner were catered for by the friendly and capable staff at the Hotel and was a great success. Margaret & James and Lynn & John thank you all for coming and for your response to all the arranged activities. We really appreciated your generosity in the lovely surprise that was presented to us, We certainly will enjoy our night out.

Walk leaders. Margaret & Lynn James and John

Golf (Home and Away).-John Mugridge

Portarlington visit. Thanks to the walking group invitation, we had a great time on the course, on a warm but pleasant day, which gave a spread of success. Winner was John Mugridge with 40 pts and runner up Barb Green with 36 pts. Best 9 holes went to Jenny Kereseboom and nearest the pins went to Jenny, John and Denis J Wheeler. After two fine efforts the encouragement awards went to Ross Chapman and Wendy Fishley.

17th February. Winner Denis J Wheeler with 40pts and runner up, Mike Bindon on 39pts.

3rd March. Winner Norm Edwards with 42pts and runner up, John Mugridge with 41 pts

Mont DeLancey Visit 10th February

Twenty seven members and friends traveled by car to Wandin for a tour of this interesting and historic homestead with it's chapel and gardens and had a great lunch. Thanks to volunteer workers for making this a great day

BBQ on 16th February

Forty One people had another splendid evening of good food, drinks and of course lots of chatter.

Tramboat Cruise Monday 27th February

Forty Two members and friends jumped on the Tramboat and off we went at precisely 6.30pm as scheduled. A glorious sunny evening sailing into the bay and great fish and chips at Williamstown. Back up river to the magnificent sight of the lights of Melbourne in the twilight, under the bridges with centimeters to spare above the upper deck. A look at the spectacular torches outside Crown and danced our way back to Victoria Harbour. Another great Tramboat experience for mostly second third and fourth time attendees.

Genealogy Group –John Mugridge

The visit to the Victorian State Library proved most informative and interesting. They have extensive resources which assisted Denis Wheeler in finding one of his relatives We WILL do it again later in the year.

Upcoming Trips and Events

Barbie at Birrarung 16th March

Meet there around 5pm BYO everything. Be there for our last daylight savings time BBQ

TV World and The Briars Monday 27th March \$41.00

Book and Pay at the March Meeting

Morning tea, Lunch, entrance fees and bus included. Travel by bus to the Mornington Peninsular to visit TV world .Media Museum at Moorooduc. A large collection of media memorabilia relating to the press, radio and TV as well as popular music. Two course lunch served at a local hotel before moving on to Mt Martha to visit the historic Briars Homestead Historic Park and Wetlands. This is an estate that was established in 1840 situated on 30HA of wetlands with more than 120 bird species, kangaroos and wallabies. Meet at the hall at 9.00am sharp.

Walking Group 2nd & 4th Wednesday of Month

Lyn Hudgson & Margaret Campbell).

Margaret & Lynn will be stepping back from leading the walk group after our last walk in June 2006 Anyone interested in taking on the position please see Margaret or Lynn for information. Margaret 94311958 Lynn 98440662.

All new members are very welcome on our walks. No bookings or apologies are needed.

March 8th /22nd. 9.a.m. Yarra flats.

After crossing Banksia St. Bridge turn left at the first set of traffic lights. The Boulevard . Then turn left again into Yarra Flats parking area - Melway. 32 C6

BYO refreshments - Shelter available.

For all information regarding walks get a orange walk timetable which is available at meetings or see the notice board.

Contact Marg Campbell 94311958 or Lyn Hudgson 98440662

Theatre – Pat McInerney, Yvonne Boyall, Norma Green

Crazy for You - Whitehorse Musical Theatre Company, Besen Centre, 87-89 Station Street, Burwood. Thursday 18th May at 8.00pm. Payment due at March meeting \$22.00

Australian Pops Orchestra, Concert Hall, Sunday 23rd July. 2.00pm Matinee – theme "Music from the Movies". \$45.00 in the stalls. Payment due at or before May meeting.

Games group - Marion Cummins

Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Cost \$3.00 Templestowe Uniting Church Hall - Enter from Wood St. Bring own drink glasses and nibbles Tea and Coffee provided. Prizes to be won. See Marion or ring 98505852 or place your name on the notice board

Book Reading Group (Helga Braun)

Meetings 3rd Tuesday of month –Helga Braun -98502144

Verity Moore's Scrapbook Group

The scrap book is available for take home loan. See Verity if you would like to borrow it. It also on our web site.

Book Exchange.

Pat will be away for the March meeting so there will be no one in attendance. Pat will be there as usual at the April meeting.

Fine Dining -Hugh Cornell

We are continuing our dining program in 2006 and hope you continue to enjoy good meals and fellowship. It is up to your group whether you have lunch or dinner, when and where you go. Just enjoy!!

Hugh would appreciate feedback on restaurants, in order to pass on to others and so that details can be entered in the Events Register. See him if you are interested in dining out with other members of our Probus Club so that he can add your name to the list .-Your leader will be in touch.

Group 1	Group 2
Laurine \$ Wayne Eames (Leaders)	Lorraine & Ray Cooper (Leaders)
Heather & Mike Bindon	Ron & Lyn McBain
Di & Doug Gibson	Adrian Eltringham & Yvonne Boyall

Genealogy Group –John Mugridge

At 10 am on 14th March we will visit Blackburn family History Centre at the Church of Jesus of Latter Day Saints at 55 Whitehorse Rd.(enter from Frederick St. Melway 47. Their specialty is Australasian resources. Numbers are not limited but please call John if you wish to attend.

Museums

The Holocaust Museum 16th March is fully booked as are the June Fitzroy and Lanes & Arcades walks.

We can take four more for the May 11th Kenneth Park tour..

To book, see Wendy or call her on 9848 3749.

Golf – John Mugridge

Golf Clinic Will be held at the Eastern Golf Club at 9.00am on Monday 27th March, when the skill will be, DRIVING FROM THE TEE, Please contact Mike Bindon or put your name on the list.

Autumn Cup, Corowa. Lyn advises that its all systems go for our April/May visit with Laurine Eames looking after the walkers. Venues for the Spring Cup scheduled for the 24th-26th September are now being considered, Note The Golf activities leaders are Lyn Crosbie 9850 1801 and Michael Bindon 9846 2173 for your points of contact. The years calender has also been announced and published in this issue.

Gown of the Year –26th July \$32.00

Please re confirm your booking and pay at the March meeting.

Live Band at our May 27th Dance.-7.30 to 11.30pm

We have booked Dianna Mayne and her six or perhaps seven piece band for the dance. Dianna has told us they can provide any type of music we wish to ask for on the night. Old time, Jazz, R&R and specials such as Macarina, Hokey Pokie, Boot Scootin’ etc. Entry will be around \$20.00 if we get 40 dancers. BYO everything. Book at March meeting.

Fellowship Tea Roster -Alan and Judy Baker.

The tea roster does not obligate anyone; it is just a guide to help spread the load. Supplies are arranged. You need to be at the hall at around 9.30am to set up and help serve at fellowship then clean up afterwards, please bring two tea towels to dry the dishes. There is an A4 sheet headed “Tea Roster Duties” in the cupboard under the sink, explaining what has to be done. If you are unable to attend on the roistered day, please phone Alan or Judy (98505641).

March	Philip Mithen - Pauline Mugridge
April	Diane & Hugh McIntosh
May	Margaret & Ron McGregor
June	Maureen O’Brien & Ruth Ogier

Activity Groups

Contacts for Activities		
Leader	JohnMugridge	9841 9005
Theatre	Norma Green	94313843
Trips & Events	Elaine Hayne	9841 8645
Day Walks	Lyn Hudgson	9844 0662
Golf	Lyn Crosbie	98501801
Exhibitions	Wendy Fishley	9848 3749
Games Group	Marion Cummins	98505852
Dine Out	Hugh Cornell	9846 2395
Book Swap	Pat Edwards	
Scrapbook Group	Verity Moore	98416373
Genealogy	John Mugridge	98419005
Book Group	Helga Braun	98502144

Your committee

President - Margaret Cornell Phone: 9846 2395 margcorn@hotmail.com	
Vice President/Membership Peter Fishley Phone: 9848 3749 fishley@mel.quik.com.au	Secretary / Newsletter Doug Hayne Phone: 9841 8645 Mob: 04 07778635 dhayne@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer - Lorraine Cooper Phone 9850 4483 raylovr@bigpond.com	Past President Kerry McInerney Phone: 9850 4998 kmcinerney@vtown.com.au
Welfare Officer Val Reid Phone : 98503161 jv Reid@melbpc.org.au	Speaker Officer Gwen Young Phone 9848 6523 gwen@bigpond.net.au
Activities Officer John Mugridge Phone: 9841 9005 mugridges@optusnet.com.au	Asst. Secretary Ian Gault 98507881 tluag@optusnet.com.au

Member Welfare Reports -Val Reid

Transport to meetings: If you have transport difficulties getting to the meetings please contact our new welfare officer Val who may be able to arrange a lift. Val can be contacted on 98503161
Apologies: If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact Peter Fishley or have someone pass your apologies to Peter or call him directly on 9848 3749. *Val*

Other Items

Suggestion Box

Please put your thoughts into the for consideration at the next committee meeting

Newsletter deadline April issue

Midnight Sunday 3rd April..

Our Web Site

Have a ;look at the site at:

http://www.users.bigpond.com/doug_hayne/index.htm

And remember the password “our first date” <mmmyyyy>

Free Firewood to Good Homes.

The ex president's huge gum tree has had to be lopped due to falling branches.

All members, their relatives, friends, associates or even enemies are welcome to share in this windfall.

Each log has been personally blessed by "himself"

Please contact Kerry McInerney on 9850-4998 if you are interested in this FREE gift.-

As the Irish might say, *"An old dog sleeps near the fire, but never burns himself"* Kerry McInerney

Probus Club of Templestowe Valley - Events List - 2006			
Date	Event	Time	Leader
MARCH			
Tue Mar 14 th	Games Group. Templestowe Uniting Church Hall	7.30 pm	Marion Cummins
Tue Mar 14 th	Genealogy Blackburn Family History Centre 55 Whitehors Rd.	10.00am	John Mugridge
Thu Mar 16 th	BBQ at Birrarung Park – Last for daylight saving	5.00pm	Elaine Hayne
Thu Mar 16 th	Holocaust Museum Elsternwick - Booked Out	10.00am	Wendy Fishley
Fri Mar 17 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Mon Mar 20-31st	Fellowship Meeting (AGM)	9.45am	The President
Tue Mar 21 st	Book Club	7.30 pm	Helga Braun
Wed Mar 22 nd	Walking Group Yarra Flats	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Mon Mar 27 th	Scrapbook Workshop	10.00am	Verity Moore
Mon Mar 27 th	TV World – “The Briars” Historic Farm-	9.00 am	Elaine Hayne
Tue Mar -28 th	Games Group. Templestowe Uniting Church Hall	7.30 pm	Marion Cummins
APRIL			
Mon Apr 10 th	Fellowship Meeting	9.45am	The New President
Tue Apr 11 th	Games Group. Templestowe Uniting Church Hall	7.30 pm	Marion Cummins
Wed Apr 12 th	Walking Group Finns to Ruffey Lake	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Fri Apr 14 th	Good Friday - Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Tue Apr 18 th	Book Club	7.30 pm	Helga Braun
Mon Apr 24th	Scrapbook Workshop	10.00am	Verity Moore
Tue Apr-25 th	Games Group. Templestowe Uniting Church Hall	7.30 pm	Marion Cummins
Wed Apr26 th	Walking Group Day out Albert Park	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Fri Apr 28th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Sat Apr 29 th - Mon May 15 th	Vietnam Trip		Harvey World Travel Bulleen
Sun Apr 30 th to Tue May 2 nd	Corowa Golf Trip		John Mugridge
MAY			
Mon May 8 th	Fellowship Meeting	9.45am	The President
Wed May10th	Walking Group Warrandyte Circuit	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Thu May 11 th	Kenneth Park – Collins St. Landmarks –Block Arcade to Spring St.	10.00am	Wendy Fishley
Fri May 12 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Tue May 16th	Book Club	7.30 pm	Helga Braun
Thu May 18th	Crazy for You - Whitehorse Musical Theatre Company.	8 pm	Norma Green
Mon May 22nd	Scrapbook Workshop	10.00am	Verity Moore
Wed May 24 th	Walking Group Warrandyte Circuit	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Fri May 26 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Sat May 27th	Saturday Dance. Note change of date.	7.30 pm	Elaine Hayne
JUNE			
Fri Jun 9 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Mon Jun 19 th	Fellowship Meeting	9.45am	The President
Mon Jun 26 th	Fitzroy with Kenneth Park (Fully Booked)	10.00am	Wendy Fishley
Mon Jun 26 th	Scrapbook Workshop	10.00am	Verity Moore
Tue June 20 th	Christmas in June Valley Vineyard	10.00am	Elaine Hayne
Fri Jun 23 rd	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
JULY			
Fri Jul 7 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Mon Jul 10 th	Fellowship Meeting	9.45am	The President
Thu Jul 13 th	Kenneth Park Walk through East Melbourne	10.00am	Wendy Fishley
Wed Jul 19 th	Point Nepean Quarantine Station		Elaine Hayne
Fri Jul 21 st	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Sun Jul 23 rd	Australian Pops Orchestra , Matinee Concert Hall Melbourne	2 PM	June or Lois
Mon Jul 24th	Scrapbook Workshop	10.00am	Verity Moore
Wed Jul 26 th	Gown of the Year at Rembrants		Helen Armstrong
AUGUST			
Fri Aug 4 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Mon Aug 14 th	Fellowship Meeting	9.45am	The President
Fri Aug 18 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Thu Aug 24 th	State Library – Kenneth Park	10.00am	Wendy Fishley
Fri 25 th Aug	Chateau Tabilk Winery & Cruise	TBA	Elaine Hayne
Mon Aug 28 th	Scrapbook Workshop	10.00am	Verity Moore

Probus Club of Templestowe Valley - Events List - 2006			
Date	Event	Time	Leader
SEPTEMBER			
Fri Sep 1 st	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Wed Sep 6 th	Variety on Parade Warburton	TBA	Elaine Hayne
Mon Sep 11 th	Fellowship Meeting	9.45am	The President
Fri Sep 15 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Wed Sep 20 th	MCG Tour	TBA	Elaine Hayne
Sun Sep 24 th -26 th	Golf Spring Cup Venue TBA	TBA	Lyn Crosbie
Fri Sep 29 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
OCTOBER			
Mon Oct 9 th	Fellowship Meeting	9.45am	The President
Fri Oct 13 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
TBA	Tramboat Upstream Trip	7.00pm	Elaine Hayne
Mon Oct 30 th	Scrapbook Workshop	10.00am	Verity Moore
Fri Oct 27 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
NOVEMBER			
Fri Nov 10 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Mon Nov 13 th	Fellowship Meeting	9.45am	The President
Fri Nov 24 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Mon Nov 27 th	Scrapbook Workshop	10.00am	Verity Moore
TBA	Mornington races Bus & Lunch		Elaine Hayne
DECEMBER			
Fri Dec 8 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Mon Dec 11 th	Fellowship Meeting	9.45am	The President
Fri Dec 22 nd	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	Lyn Crosbie
Mon Dec 4 th	Scrapbook Workshop	10.00am	Verity Moore

A Trip on The QE2 *George and Andrea Thomas*

George always wanted to visit Pearl Harbour so when we received a promotion for the QE 2 2006 World Cruise we started to look at it more seriously.

We have cruised before once on the QE2 from Tahiti to Sydney and in 2004 we did a 2 week cruise on the Marco Polo through the Norwegian Fiords and the Baltic Capitals so cruising again really appealed to us.

We decided to fly to London on New Years Eve and left from Southampton aboard the stately old lady Queen Elizabeth 2.

On arrival at Southampton we were photographed and handed our photo ID Cards which we would use throughout our journey. Once on board we were greeted by a team of porters and shown to our stateroom..

Before sailing we were instructed on safety requirements and shown how to wear the safety vests and where our meeting place or muster station would be in the event of an emergency. (I'm pleased to report the crew does safety checks and drills constantly)

On board the QE2 there are 4 formal dining rooms, an informal smorgasbord area and a small buffet area. An English Pub (which serves traditional English meals on sea days) and numerous bars, lounges, dance floors and casino

The entertainment was unlimited, through the day the first thing to organize was our tours in the various port destinations – of course one didn't have to take an organized tour but each morning there was a lecture or film referring to the next few port destinations. These were very informative, especially if it referred to a port which we weren't

familiar with. I was especially fascinated with the Panama Canal and found my history and geography in this region was sadly lacking.

There were also prominent authors on board giving lectures and book signing. One was Mary Higgins-Clark a murder/mystery writer who was

very entertaining – she held 4 lectures, another was Douglas R Burgess a maritime historian who also spoke 3 or 4 times. Another lecturer was Dr John McMichan who spoke firstly about the avoidance of illness during travel (I must say the Cunard line is very strict as regards avoidance of contagious disease and cleanliness) then he spoke on oesteo and arthritis then another was on sleep disorders.

The activities onboard included line-dancing and ballroom dancing lessons, bingo and quizzes, bridge and all manner of card games, shuffle-board, tennis, golf putting and a driving net, there was a fully equipped gym yoga, Pilates and all manner of fitness classes an indoor pool and outdoor pool 2 Jacuzzi and I'm sure I've missed some!!

Afternoon tea was a very social event served at 4pm every day. The Queens Room was transformed with round coffee tables each set with 4 place settings each checked by the head matre'd for correct alignment of spoons cake folks and the like, then at 4pm precisely the grand piano would start up the "Teddy Bears Picnic" and waiters

would appear from every exit each resplendent in perfect uniform – down to the white gloves!!(The waiters were rostered from each of the dining rooms – no-one escaped their duty-it was rather fun if you were served by your dining room staff) Ribbon sandwiches and tiny cakes were served with earl grey tea – if requested!! On one such occasion we met a lovely couple from New York whom we stayed talking to until 6pm and it was time to dress for dinner.

Dinner on sea days was a formal affair – sometimes precluded with cocktails with the Captain and staff. After dinner there was always lots of music and dancing. The variety was amazing with every taste catered for. Opera, jazz, chamber music, there was a harpist on board, and my favorite, music from Broadway shows. The QE2 singers and dancers were amazing putting on a different show every week, if you were lucky you could catch them rehearsing in the Grand Lounge of an afternoon.

A program was delivered to the stateroom each evening so planning for the following day began shortly after dinner. The days can be as busy or as quiet as your taste required.

Our journey started at Southampton on 3rd January 2006. Our first port of call was New York on 9th Jan after we made the transatlantic crossing. This was a very formal 5 days as tradition demanded, and I'm pleased to say it was a moderate sea all the way.

To arrive in New York in early January was quite spectacular, being winter it was quite dark, and as we turned the corner and the statue of Liberty was illuminated and the buildings of Manhattan twinkled with lights everyone oohed!!! It will be the last time an ocean liner docks at Manhattan future ships will dock further away.

The Christmas lights were still sparkling in Rockefeller centre and Ground Zero was quite moving!!!

Next port was Fort Lauderdale, Florida with only minor damage from the recent hurricanes; we traveled on an airboat to see alligators up close and personal.

Curacao was next before we traveled down the Panama Canal to the Pacific Ocean. What an engineering feat that is! I was thoroughly entranced with its operation. The Canal was opened in 1914 and handed to the Panamians on 1999. Thirty ships travel the Canal daily – the cost is estimated on the vessel type and size. (The Queen Mary is too large) The cost for the QE2 was US\$250,000; it takes an average of 8 – 10 hours to travel the length

Our next stop was Acapulco to see the cliff divers and some of the old movie stars homes.

Los Angeles was the start of the next “section” and any of you who have recently traveled to USA and through immigration at LA will sympathize with some of our fellow passengers who didn't get off the ship until early afternoon. Immigration in LA was a logistical nightmare for Cunard who learned – it seems at the last minute- that the whole of the ships company – all 2500 people – had to go through immigration before anyone could leave the ship. Fortunately, we had a shore excursion and got priority so left only 2 hours late!! Our excursion took us to Malibu and Santa Monica then on to Rodeo Drive, where I saw the Lladro Gallery – all 2 floors of it!!

We sailed for 3 days before arriving in Honolulu and the Pearl Harbour Memorial. After leaving Honolulu we island hopped through the Pacific to Pago Pago in Western Samoa, Lautoka, Fiji and Noumea New Caledonia before arriving in Auckland N.Z which included a spectacular sail through the islands of New Zealand to Auckland Harbour. Here, we sailed an Americas Cup yacht, then it was a short sail to Tauranga for the Waimangu Volcanic Valley and Rotorua. A further day's sail took us to Wellington then 3 days to Sydney.

These days shipping has to be moored by 7am in Sydney Harbour and it was a very proud arrival as our new friends exclaimed at the magnificent Opera House and The Harbour Bridge as we approached at sunrise.

I took my family to see the lovely QE2 as she sat at Station Pier Port Melbourne and swelled with pride that the old Station Pier and surrounds have been “done up” and first appearances of Melbourne equaled all the ports I have seen..

Probus Club of Templestowe Valley Inc.

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 Accreditation No. 2219
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TO