

CLUB "PACIFIC CRUISE", 26th JUNE – 5th JULY 2010.

After a day of queues at the airport and ship boarding registration we set sail in the late afternoon. To squeeze under the Harbour Bridge the mast above the bridge was lowered and we headed for the open seas. There were 2 days of smooth sailing to the Isle of Pines and this allowed us to settle in to some serious card playing and enjoy the plentiful food on offer. Every night there was live entertainment to keep us amused.

The Isle of Pines is a beautiful Island with crystal clear water, clean sandy beaches and approximately 2,000 inhabitants. Many of us enjoyed the snorkelling about the coral reefs. It was then off to Lifou to enjoy a tour of the island and to do some more snorkelling.

Overnight we sailed to Noumea, the Administrative Capital of New Caledonia. Again the weather was perfect and we all enjoyed the various tours on offer and some shopping before sailing to the uninhabited Devine Island/Emerald Bay. This island is located at the Northern end of New Caledonia near Poum. We spent some hours relaxing on the beach, swimming and snorkelling.

We were impressed with the efficient way the crew transported us to the shore at The Isle of Pines, Lifou and Emerald Bay using tenders. Amazingly no one was lost into the water.

It was then off back to Sydney with the weather turning a bit nasty, causing 4 to 6 metre swells. Whilst this was fun for some it was a bit uncomfortable for others.

We all had a great time on the cruise, although unfortunately some of us suffered from Norovirus and required sometime in the sick bay and isolation.

A cause for concern was the "Snooper" with us who reported on all our misdemeanours and faux pas. I always thought that what happened on tour stayed on tour!!!!

Finally, a special thanks to Jill Croom who put in many hours to organise the cruise for us.

Photos and commentary by Val & Ian Dale, Bill Dair & Ellen Stokes.

(Read the "Snooper's" comments at the end!)



Group Photo on board the P & O liner 'Pacific Jewel'.



Ian & Val atop the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Prior to boarding the 'Pacific Jewel'.

As part of this magnificent cruise to New Caledonia, Jill our erstwhile organiser, managed to swing a private cocktail party especially for our group. It was a great way to be welcomed aboard and to catch up with all the members of our gang, many of whom had travelled up to Sydney independently.



Tricia, Ian & Val.



David & Pam.



Rene & Keith.



Brenda, Pat & Alan.



Nadia, George & Leo.



Julie, Jill, David, Alan, Charles & Leo.



Janet, Barbara, John & Janice.



Lyn, David, Freda & Alan in the lounge.



Brian, Val, Keith, Margaret, Ian & Margaret.



Ellen, Leo, George, Freda, Nadia, Lyn, Jan & Rene.



Charles and `his ladies` at dinner.



The Isle of Pines.



The Pacific Jewel moored off the Isle of Pines.



Val & Ian enjoying the beach & surf.

On the Isle of Pines some members took a bus trip organised by the locals. The island measured 32 square miles and is occupied by the Kounies, which are local Melanesians. There are about 2,200 on the island and some 2 to 300 families who employ 20 to 50 Europeans. They subsist on an economy of mainly tourism with agriculture - yams, tomatoes, bananas and some lettuce - AND wonderful seafood, including lagoon fish, lobsters and crayfish. Sounds idyllic.! However, other foodstuff has to be sent in from the mainland every fortnight.

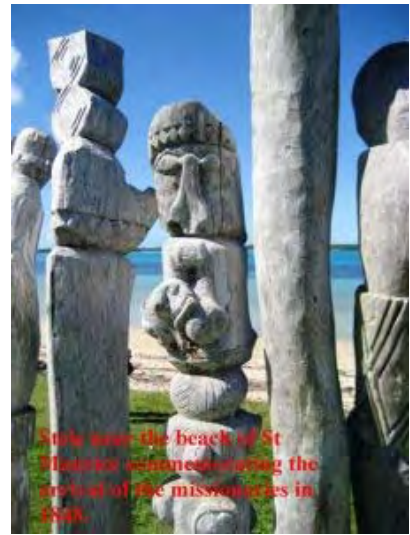
Our Melanesian Encounter took place on Lifou where we learned of the form of local government and sampled the special food prepared for weddings and other festive occasions.



Charles and 'local friend'.



Alan and 'strange friend?'



Stele near the beach of St Maurice commemorating the arrival of the missionaries in 1844.



Bill in the tradition of the 'Chiefs'.



Janice tries the Chief's hat too!



MASTERCHEF - Lifou style

Cooking Lifou style.



Tricia enjoying a rest and drink.



Janice and Bill setting off for an island tour.



Boarding the transfer tender.



A beautiful day on the beach.



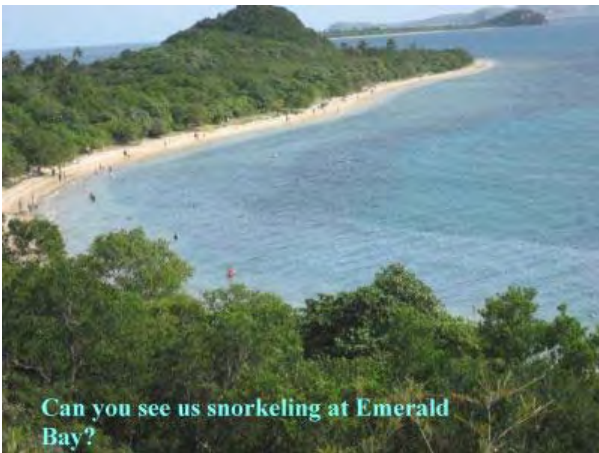
Some visitors

Julie, Rene and Ellen.



At Emerald Bay 2-7-2010

Ellen at Emerald Bay.



Can you see us snorkeling at Emerald Bay?

View of Emerald Bay.



Janice watching on whilst Tricia `snorkels`.



A local on a Firogan
(fishing boat)

An island fishing boat.



Some locals

Local island children posing for the camera.



Cards in the lounge.



Leo & Jill organising the cards.



Rene satisfying her sweet tooth'!



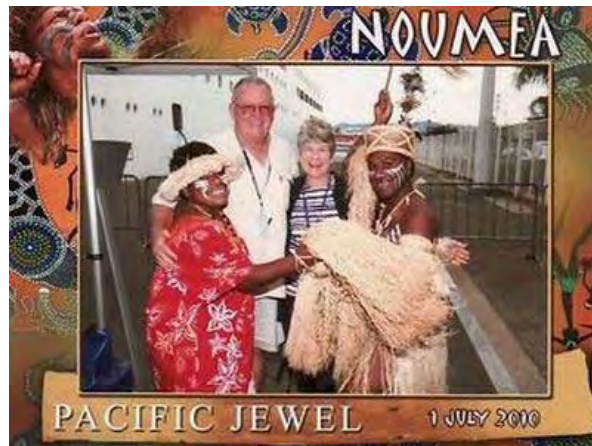
Jill and Margaret.



Brenda and Pat.

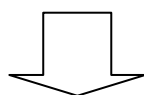


Brian, David, John and John.



For Ian and Val - a paradise cruise to remember.

Now read on for the "Snooper's" observations during the trip!



This is the Captain speaking.....

I presenta to you the Chronicles accordinga toa the Probusa Cruisa ona the PACIFICA JEWELA....

Ex Sydney

26 June 2010

If you are not mentioned here it only means that your deeds were probably of a nature which may result in litigation .

On boarding the Pelchens were deemed a security risk due to “Mace” in their case. A search by surly security staff revealed nothing.

The Gormans and Taylors may however have taken something questionable but refreshing on board without incident but

..... those naughty Jacksons were not so lucky and had 2 bottles of wine confiscated.

Janet J also punched the wrong numbers into the safe and had to enlist the aid of the crew to gain access.

Helen Brown was the first to succumb to the virus on board and spent several days in quarantine as well as on an IV drip. When it first struck she commented that it was “just morning sickness !”

Brian however, being let loose, was quite able to go to the top deck to check out the lycra whilst he insisted he was exercising.

Barbara Mathews was observed allowing strange men to sniff her wrists after visiting the duty free perfume shop.

We don't know why but Ros White was desperate to borrow ear plugs on day two. She slept ok after that.

Bryan Boyd was not able to make the “Do You Wanna Dance” show. Could it have been the Plum wine taking its toll.

Bill Dair was apparently snoring when he was tapped on the shoulder by Janice. Bill was heard to tell someone "I thought I had got lucky!"

Ellen Stokes at La Luna restaurant took a liking to the exquisite tea cups. We tried to obtain one for her but the staff would not play ball. So Ellen you can get them from –steelite.com- part of the O! Luna range of tableware.

Which Trish, Barbara and Janice were spotted cuddling with Ian and John.

Whales , dolphins and flying fish spotted on third day.

Jill Croom and Julie Kent were not content with the amount of water in the South Pacific they had to flood their en suite by ripping the plug mechanism from the wash basin.

Most people on board found that the humidity in the tropics had started to shrink their clothes.

Seen in La Luna restaurant was one Ian trying the seeds on the table setting only to find that they were for decoration and aroma, not for eating. Ever tried raw cardamon seeds ?

Pat Taylor was served cold calamari. Alan complained so the waiter took them away and replaced them. Alan said out loud that it was probably the same plate just heated up. Waiter heard and said NO,NO,NO sir we never do that. Sprung !!!!

Taylors again whilst on Melanesian Encounter tour. Alan's intelligent question of the tour guide whilst examining a well "What is the well used for ?" Answer from guide- "Water"

Sandra Fry had a fruit cocktail which had 5 different shots of alcohol. It took 1 ½ hours to finish. It is believed she floated to her cabin and slept soundly. Charles Gorman said that is normal if you are unconscious!

One card player was found with one wrong card belonging to a different pack. It was the Joker and he was very, very reluctant to change it for the correct card still in the box. We will call him "Reluctant Brown".

Noumea , Lemon Beach with topless ladies on the sand (rocks).One Janet who shall remain nameless suggested that they had to go topless as no one would want to look at their faces.

Lemon beach, John Bridgeland also looking. Terry asked “why has John got a stiff neck ?” John Mathews – “A stiff what?”

Someone who has a husband with a walker apparently was caught out playing with thirteen cards. Is that how she gets the good scores.

Val Dale saw an exquisite silver necklace in Noumea for 180,000 francs. Thought she would get it as only \$180. Whoops , conversion actually \$1800 !!! It is still in the shop.

One couple played tag with the medical centre. It is now called the Brown Jewel Memorial Medical Centre.

At Noumea aquarium Val and others spent some time looking at the Flat Slipper Lobster which looks like a rock. After 5 minutes it was determined that it really was a rock. Then another rock moved and gave them all a fright.

We tried to get rid of Jill at the aquarium but failed. She misplaced the bus and was spotted on the roadside looking distressed as the bus drove by. Janet and Julie spoiled the fun by alerting the guide who stopped to pick her up.

Stopped for lunch at a restaurant in Noumea. Walking upstairs the place smelt of stale beer. Comments were heard that it smelt like a brewery which in fact it was, making boutique beer.

Rene Gale standing on the pontoon for the return to the ship had her cruise card and room key whipped from around her neck by the wind. It landed in the water and promptly sank. Her new hero was a tattooed hunk who threw himself off the pontoon and dived a couple of times to retrieve them. What a guy!

Ian Jackson was complaining of a sore spot on the side of his nose which was steadily getting worse as the days went on. Eventually he examined his glasses and found that the nose pad was missing and the metal frame was digging into his nose.

Helen Brown lost her camera in Noumea. If anything is going to happen it will happen to the Browns.

Val reprimanded by security for touching a bag which appeared stuck in the x-ray machine as it was stopped to examine another bag.

David Cotton told one of the dancers (attractive blonde) on the tender boat that she had the longest legs that he had ever seen. He said the rest of her was OK too !!!!

Emerald Bay. Terry asked crew where was the best place to snorkel. Told – “in the water”.

Trying to orient himself Bill asked crew person (little English) where is the stern ? No reply. Well where is the back ?? No reply. Where are the propellers ? Answer – underneath !!!!!

Lifou , Terry was climbing a near vertical ladder after snorkelling and still wearing his mask and snorkel when the man above him stopped suddenly, Terry didn't so gave him an instant colonoscopy with his snorkel !!!!

Staff holding a trivia quiz night on board. Freda talking loudly (as if), told by staff to be quiet. Freda “I will do what I want to do , the little p****”, did she get sprung ?

Whose bracelet was charged to Rene's bill together with other goods ?

Could Julie's bug be the result of some liaison between Brian Brown and herself ?

Photograph of a lovely couple getting on board in Noumea , Brenda Gorman and Ian Jackson. MMmmm !!!!!!!

Julie and Jill worried about intruders onto their balcony. Evidence a long hair and a cigarette butt. They wish !

On the way home , Hostie asked Pat Taylor which seat she was sitting in. Pats reply was “ Oh F n E”. A passenger nearby started laughing at her & asked her to speak more politely to the hostie. To her credit Pat didn't understand what he was talking about.

Now for something more topical.

Following the poor result for the Nigerian team in the World Cup they have decided to refund all money spent by their supporters in getting to South Africa.

All you need to do is forward your claim together with your bank account details and PIN numbers to the Nigerian address which can be given to you on request.....

Please be advised that no correspondence will be entered into and none of the above relates to any person or persons known to the author or to those who submitted items for publication.....

This isa the Captain a sayinga farewell anda gooda luck !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!