

Diamond Princess Cruise to South Australia

9th- 16th November 2024

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(Written Report: Keith Wilshier)

(Expand photos using your browser ZOOM feature or with your fingers in the normal way on your phone or tablet.)



Diamond Princess arriving in Adelaide South Australia.

Embarkation of the Diamond Princess at Station Pier Port Melbourne was delayed several hours due to deep cleaning of the ship. This was required, as they experienced gastroenteritis and covid on board during their previous passage from New Zealand to Melbourne. Sadly, John and Margaret Vickers had to pull out of the cruise at the last minute, as Margaret had a mild heart attack and had to go to hospital. We wished her well and a fast recovery. Our group now of 20 arrived at the pier in dribs and drabs during the afternoon, dropped off our luggage at the drop points and proceeded to join the long queues for check-in. We had dinner pre-booked for our group at 5.20pm in the main International Dining Room on the ship which was due to depart Station Pier at 6pm. Not much time to unpack and organise our cabins. As it turned out, some of us had dinner early, then proceeded to our cabins for an early night, while others partied on with drinks in one of the ships bars. We got away a little late heading for Phillip Island. The weather was calm but overcast. To fill in time I noticed around mid-night that we had travelled halfway to King Island before turning and heading for Rhyll on Phillip Island where we dropped anchor at ~7am.

Day 2 – Phillip Island

Everyone did their own thing for breakfast. Some went to the International Dining room with waiter service, while others used the faster buffet dining area on deck 14. Most of us had either a tour

booked or wanted to get ashore for a decent coffee, and maybe lunch, and some stayed aboard for a relaxing day. We were ferried ashore using several of the ships 80 passenger lifeboats. Upon arrival ashore we were welcomed by an excellent jazz band, Rotary Club tourist advisors and free shuttle buses to Cowes. All very friendly and efficient. Those booked on tours boarded buses at Rhyll, and the ships late departure from Phillip Island at 11pm was due to the late evening tour to see the penguins.



Our first view of Diamond Princess at Station Pier.



Our 7-day Cruise Destinations.



Ferry Captain Wooden Carving – Rhyll Wharf



Anchored off Rhyll, Phillip Island
– Taken from Cowes.



Mural – Thompson Ave (main street) Cowes.



Not many in the Pool – a bit Rolly and Cool!

Day 3 – At Sea

Most of us were in our cabins, and sound asleep when we departed Phillip Island. The wind had freshened a little and when we re-entered Bass Strait there was a noticeable change of the ships motion. A Southern Ocean SW swell made wandering about the corridors and the ship in general more challenging. The day was spent eating, relaxing, and in the morning, Princess Cruises had organised a Veteran's Day and Remembrance Day Service in the main Princess Theatre on deck 7 at 11am. Most of us attended, and it was beautifully done. In the evening, after a formal dress dinner, we attended Showtime – with Nathan Foley in Concert in the Princess Theatre. It was also great to meet up with Rosemary and Robin Bray on-board. They had booked independently, much earlier than our group.



At Sea - somewhere off the Victorian Coast.



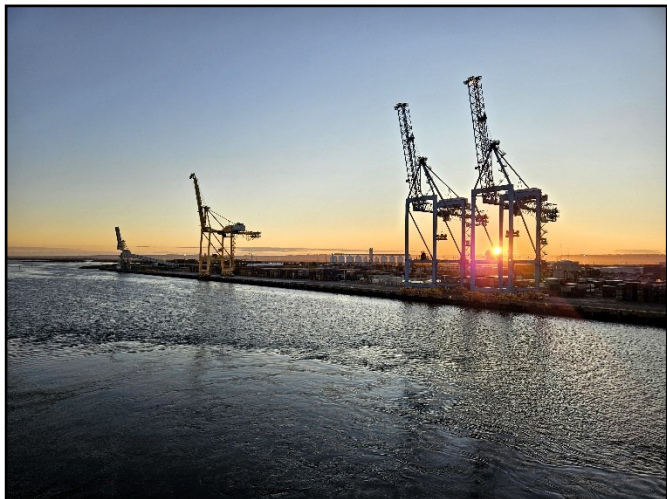
At Sea - somewhere off the Victorian Coast.



Our Group after the First Formal Dress Dinner in the International Dining Room.

Day 4 – Adelaide

This was a big day for our group. Most of us had either planned to spend the day with friends in Adelaide, go on organised tours from the ship, or independently travel into Adelaide to visit the Botanical Gardens or further afield to e.g. Hahndorf. The Outer Harbour Railway Station was directly adjacent to the Adelaide Passenger Terminal making for easy transfer to the city and was very cost effective. We all managed to find our way back to the ship in time for dinner with plenty of stories to tell. Many more people joined the cruise in Adelaide. After dinner some attended the 'Top Fun! 80s Hypnosis Spectacular', relaxed in the Wheelhouse Bar, or simply had an early night. While we slept, the ship covered the 170nm to Port Lincoln and was alongside the wharf early.



Arriving Adelaide Passenger Terminal



Glass Sculptures by Dale Chihuly,
Botanic Gardens Adelaide

Day 5 – Port Lincoln

Again, some of our group had organised shore excursions from the ship and others were happy to do their own thing, wandering the tourist areas of Port Lincoln or shared the cost of a taxi to take them to more distant tourist destinations around town. We also had the unfortunate news today that Gwen McKean has gastro and is confined to her cabin. We empathised with Gwen, and wished her a fast Recovery. Port Lincoln is renowned for its massive seafood industries, and some of us could barely wait to sample the Coffin Bay oysters.



The main Shipping Wharf (for Wheat)- Port Lincoln



Tasman Terrace – Port Lincoln



Matthew Flinders Named Port Lincoln in 1802



Matthew Flinders with his cat Trim



Makybe Diva



Paul and Alan enjoying Oysters and Prawns



Keith and Jenny with 1 Doz. Oysters – Pt Lincoln YC



Coffin Bay Oysters - Yum



The Old Mill Lookout.



"Hecla" SA's last true Wooden Trading Ketch.

Day 6 – Kangaroo Island

We anchored off the small township of Penneshaw on Kangaroo Island by 7am, and as most of our group had previously booked shore excursions for Kangaroo Island, we had an early breakfast then prepared to go ashore by 9am. The most popular tour was the "Best of Kangaroo Island" from 7.30am to 4.30pm. When we arrived at the small jetty in Penneshaw, the breakwater nearby was white with guano from hundreds of Noddy Terns and Cormorants nesting in the rocks. We boarded our bus and set out for Seal Bay Conservation Park to visit Australian Sea Lions on the beach – Male Sea Lions can be dangerous, so the guide kept us at a safe distance. Apparently, this group of Sea Lions have adopted this beach location for life.



Cormorants and Terns love this breakwater.



Beach at Seal Bay



Mother Sea Lion and Calf



Enjoying the sunshine and looking for mum.

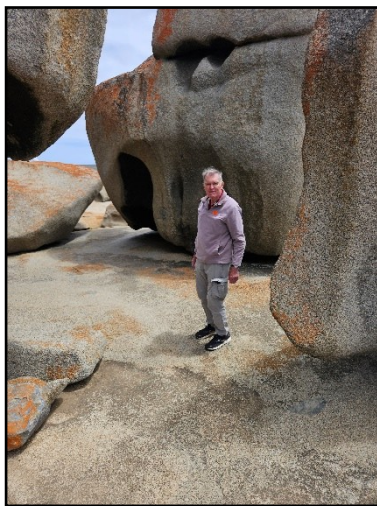


Joy, Found Mum



Remarkable Rocks.

Next stop was Remarkable Rocks at Kirkpatrick Point then on to Admirals Arch at the most SW point of the Island. The Island is over 140km long x 40km wide, so getting between points of interest took time. Remarkable Rocks are indeed remarkable. How they were formed is a complicated story of geology. Admirals Arch again a remarkable natural arch, and home to a colony of long nosed fur seals. We visited the Discovery Parks Caravan Park for lunch near the Flinders Chase National Park Visitors Centre then made our way back towards Penneshaw stopping off at Clifford's Honey Factory on the way. We arrived back aboard the ship before 5pm just in time for our last formal dinner.



Peter amongst the rocks



Paul and Allan on the Rocks



Jim inside a massive natural cave.



Jackie and Jenny in a Rock.



Some remarkable shapes indeed.



Admirals Arch with Long Nosed Fur Seals below.

Day 7 – At Sea heading for Home

We departed Kangaroo Island as soon as everyone had returned aboard. The trip home was calm. Some of us attended the “Culinary Demonstration” by the Exec Chef and the Director of Restaurant Operations in the Princess Theatre at 10am. This was great, and we all had a good laugh. Spent the rest of the day relaxing and packing. At dinner that night we presented our waiters with a small gift for their service and friendship, and I was presented with a lovely book “Coastal Eyre by Joseph Puglisi” by our group and I thank everyone profusely.



Burnt area Regrowth with remaining dead trees.



Typical Southern Coast view.



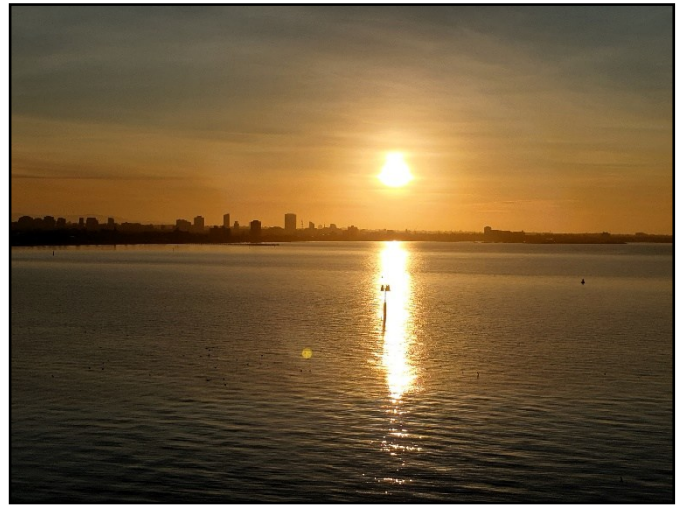
Some of our crew relaxing in the Wheelhouse Bar



Our Table Waiters receiving a Tip.



Val presenting Keith with the book "Coastal Eyre".



Back in Melbourne.



Preparing to come along side at Station Pier.

Day 8 – Home

Tied-up at 6.30am and all off the ship by about 10.30am.

[Photos of our group on the cruise are shown below]



Jackie & Jim



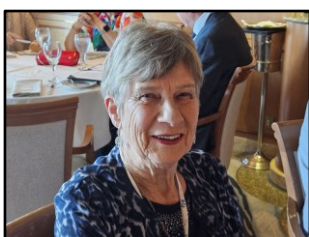
Philomena & Trevor



Pam & David



Alan & Paul



Val



Eleanor



Susan & Tony



Gwen & Allan



Jenny & Keith



Peter



John



Ellen & Mary
