

Sunday 26 February 2012 - At Sea on way to Papua New Guinea 14° overcast GMT +9

We had a full table in the restaurant last night but Hilly was suffering and Rick had started another sore throat. The Comedian and Impressionist Mark Walker was so funny, his take off's of Billy Connelly and Rolf Harris were hilarious.

To help fill up the ship the Australian's were offered up to 50% discount on their fare. A message was conveyed over the speaker system requesting that passenger's dress appropriately for the dress code of that evening. Reflecting on yesterday our guide said there wasn't a pure Japanese race and he thinks he originated from Mongolia. To metabolise alcohol you need two enzymes and the Mongolians only possess one. Our guide said that he only had this one enzyme and cannot drink alcohol and he also has a lot of fatty tissue under his eyelids that he shares with the Mongolians to protect them from the cold.

I have quite an eclectic taste in music but am not keen on jazz or Gershwin. Tonight was Motown night with black singer Vernon Lewis, I just love soul music and was up and dancing with the rest of them. I didn't want the night to end so we ended up in the disco. It was full of Australian's who just don't appreciate Kings of Leon and Wheatus. Rick and I had to dance on our own but he had to take his jacket off as he got very hot. Since he has been in charge of his own laundry he only irons the front bit and it's a good job it was dark so they couldn't see his creases. What a good night!

Monday 27 February 2012 - Pacific Ocean on way to Papua New Guinea 23° few clouds GMT +10

Today was just great, one of those day's that cruising is all about. Clocks forward another hour. After my big panic the other day the sweet little cabin steward next door has taken to reminding me of the clock/time status. Rick once again sat in my seat at Bridge and once again he couldn't do a thing right. We're bonding well with Celia and Clive, they are not good at the bidding but very good at playing. Clive's going to try out the silly seat tomorrow to see if it has the same effect on him. What a difference a day makes – it was a lovely day, a comfortable 23°. Straight after Bridge we were out there soaking up the sun and enjoying the relaxed atmosphere. There was great excitement when we sailed passed a whale. Shortly after there was a request for blood donors with O Negative or Positive to go to the Medical Centre as they had an emergency. I've just finished a really good book “Shantaram” by Gregory David Roberts. Russell Crowe and Johnny Depp also loved the book and a film of it starring Johnny Depp should be completed sometime this year. We did the pay extra Orchid Restaurant again tonight, it's good to have something spicy and tasty. Then it was off to the 60 and 70's party on the back deck. It was a balmy night and we danced the night away, it certainly is my era. Did you notice I said “we”?



Rick with Hilly



Lisa and David who does not like having his picture taken

Tuesday 28 February 2012 - Pacific Ocean on way to Papua New Guinea 27° windy GMT +10

Clive tried out my seat at bridge today and seems to have broken the spell but Rick is playing as if he were still sitting there. “A man overboard” training session took place during the morning. Big news today is the disaster to strike the Costa Allegra after the fire, and that it is said to be running adrift in

pirate infested waters. Someone said that last year pirates started to climb up the side of a Saga cruise ship. The passengers were asked to return to their rooms but some of the older passengers who fought in the war weren't going to have that and started to throw deck furniture at the pirates. Pirates have guns so this is not advisable. During the interesting Pearl lecture the Captain announced that we have had to make a detour because a crew member is critically ill and needs to be hospitalised. All the back of the ship had to be evacuated as a helicopter was coming to take the patient to a U.S. Air military base in Guam. It was quite a difficult manoeuvre as the patient had to be hoisted up – a real live Helicopter Rescue. We were told in no uncertain terms not to take any photographs as this could distract the pilot who may then decide to abort the operation. We are all speculating as to what is wrong with the crew member. I think there has been a knife fight and that's maybe why they were asking for blood donors yesterday. The Captain has made another announcement to inform us that tugs have been sent out to the Costa Allegra to tow it back to port and he expects the media will exaggerate the situation. We sat in the "Virtual Planetarium" that was produced by using some sophisticated software. The talk covered some of the myths behind the constellations. It was a bit heavy going for us and we didn't stay long enough to look and hold a selection of Meteorites which included a rare piece from Mars.



Rick keeping himself busy on a sea day

Wednesday 1 March 2012 - Pacific Ocean on way to Papua New Guinea 27° windy GMT +10

We understand that the Costa Allegra has now decided to head for the Seychelles. I expect the passengers have quite a few stories to tell. Arcadia has decided not to go to the Seychelles because of political unrest and they now have an extra sea day. It's still a force 7 wind and they have put sick bags on the stairways, We're determined to try and beat the sea sickness and am thinking maybe it has affected us more this time because we are on a higher deck. Rick is getting good at painting my toenails but he is panicking because he needs to take the washing out and he said they will all be picking on him saying he is hogging the machines. I am so angry that Unite are threatening to disrupt the Olympics, don't they realise that we want to show the world that we are a nation to be reckoned with and also we need the revenue. Haven't seen

Hilly and Stu for a few nights but she let us know this morning that they are both poorly. Rick has managed to shake off the throat. Lisa is doing well in the table-tennis competition and seems to always make the semi-final and has once won the final. Like me, Clive, who used to be a Marine Engineer, thinks that the latest casualty is as a result of a fight. He said that living in close confinement there are usually lots of fights. The worst he saw was when they took on some temporary Glaswegian staff who fought dirty and frequently.

You must be missing my jokes and emails by now,. Here is a good one.:

One day I had lunch with some friends. Jim, a short, balding golfer type about 80 years old, came along with them – all in all – a pleasant bunch. When the menus were presented we ordered salads, sandwiches and soups, except for Jim who said, “Ice Cream, please. Two scoops of chocolate please” . I wasn't sure my ears heard right, and the others were aghast. “Along with heated apple pie” Jim added completely unabashed. We tried to act quite nonchalant, as if people did this all the time ... But when our orders were brought out, I didn't enjoy mine. I couldn't take my eyes off Jim as his pie a-la-mode went down. The other guys couldn't believe it. They ate their lunches silently and grinned.

The next time I went out to eat, I called and invited Jim. I lunched on white meat and tuna. He ordered a parfait. I smiled. He asked if he amused me. I answered “Yes, you do, but you also confuse me . How come you order rich desserts, while I feel I must be sensible? He laughed and said “I'm tasting all that is possible. I try to eat the food I need, and I do the things I should. But life's so short my friend, I hate missing out on something good. This year I realised how old I was. (He grinned) I haven't been this old before. So, before I die, I've got to try those things that for years I have ignored. I haven't smelled all the flowers yet. There are too many trout streams I haven't fished. There's more fudge sundaes to wolf down and kites to be flown overhead. There are too many golf courses I haven't played. I've not laughed at all the jokes. I've missed a lot of sporting events and potato chips and cokes. I want to wade again in the water and feel ocean spray on my face. I want to sit in a country church once more and thank God for his grace, I want peanut butter every day spread on my morning toast. I want un-timed long distance calls to the folk I love the most. I haven't cried at all the movies yet, or walked in the morning rain. I need to feel the wind on my face. I want to be in love again. So if I choose to have dessert instead of having dinner then should I die before night fall, I'd say I died a winner, because I missed out on nothing, I had that final chocolate mousse before my life expired”

With that , I called the waitress over. “I changed my mind,” I said. “I want what he is having, only add some more whipped cream!”

So when we get back home alcoholics, fat and wrinkled you know we have been following the above advice!

Hey, good news the Captain says the wind is going to drop later this evening.

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