

## At Sea – Day 55 Nov. 21:

Sunrise came early today at about 4:30am. By the time we got up and on deck the sun was already well up in the sky, as shown on the right. There were broken clouds and the air was balmy so it seemed like it would be a good day at sea.



We went to the Good Morning Amsterdam TV show hosted by Cruise Director Gene Young and Hostess Adele. This morning their guests were the Aussie Boys who entertained us with some good Australian songs in the Queens Lounge on 17 Nov, the day after we left Sydney, Australia. We learned that the young singing group had formed just a few months ago, in June 2011. They had engaged professional help in setting up their choreography, song selection and management. We really enjoyed their show the



other night on the Amsterdam and from our perspective they appear to have a winning combination of talent and energy to go a long way in the entertainment business. The trio gave a light hearted and informative interview on the show this morning. The picture on the left shows the Aussie Boys from left to right, Leland, Andrew and Zack.

The sea got a bit rough as the day progressed. The Amsterdam was rolling but it was not uncomfortable. Under these conditions the elevators act like giant pendulums and some muffled banging could be heard from the elevator shafts when we passed by.

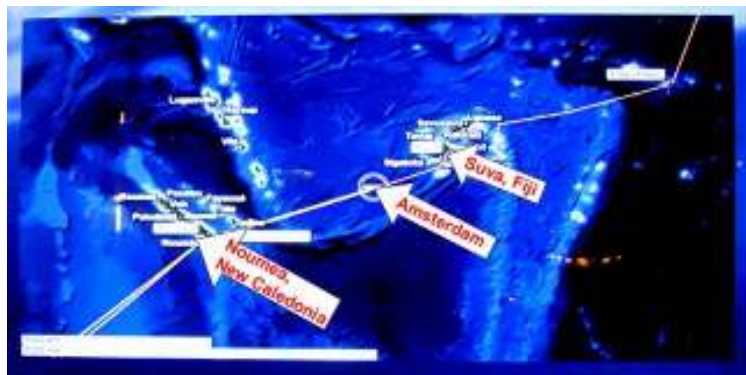
At 10am Barbara went to the Queen's Lounge to hear Barbara Haenni's presentation on the sights and sounds of Pago Pago, American Samoa. We have a tour scheduled with Cruise Critic friend, Pauline, so our agenda is already set for that port. Hopefully, they have recovered from the devastating tsunami that hit Pago Pago in 2009.

Barbara left the port lecture early so she could get a good seat in the Culinary Center where Chef Geary, shown on the right, was preparing to demonstrate how to make salad dressings. His show got underway at 11am and he gave instructions on how to make three different salad dressings, Thousand Island, Creamy French Honey and Radda Vinaigrette. Preparing these dressings looked so easy that Barbara is considering making her own when we return home. Unfortunately these resolutions often get lost in the shock of returning to the home front reality.



At 2pm the clocks on the ship were advanced one hour to 3pm as we passed into a new time zone. If it was 3pm it must be time for the pearl stringing demonstration by Jane Gordon to start. Jane, shown on the left, demonstrated the knot tying and stringing operation needed for a string of pearls. Jane offered follow-up sessions but it isn't likely that professional pearl stringers will suffer any competition from this audience.

About 4pm we checked the TV screen on Deck 5 to see the ship's position on the run to our next port of call in Fiji. We were well past the half way point as can be seen in the picture on the right.



At dinner tonight we learned that the clocks would be advanced another hour during the night as we proceeded to the east. Luckily, for us passengers this loss of night hours doesn't matter a lot but the stewards miss that sleep time.

The Amsterdam proceeded through the night in moderate rolling seas. Tomorrow we arrive in Suva, Fiji about 8:30am. We have a tour scheduled with Cruise Specialists and are looking forward to that.