

At Sea – Day 45 Nov. 11:

The Amsterdam proceeded on an easterly course during the night on the way to Melbourne, Australia. There was a slight roll and pitch of the ship but there was no problem sleeping or moving about. The outside temperature was in the mid 50s so most people are wearing clothes for cool weather.

This was Veteran's Day in the US and Remembrance Day in many other nations in recognition of past and present military personnel. The Amsterdam gave each of us an

enameled lapel pin in the form of a red poppy, as shown on the right. The red poppy has long been associated with Veteran's Day and is symbolic of the poppies referred to in the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by John McCrae after the death of a friend in World War I. A little after 11am Captain Eversen came on the PA system and recognized the importance of Veteran's Day by carrying out two minutes of silence by all on board starting at 11:11 am on November 11, 2011 (11:11am 11/11/11). There was also a service in observance of Veteran's Day in the Queen's Lounge after the two minutes of silence.



Barbara went to the "Good Morning Amsterdam" TV show where Cruise Director, Gene Young and Hostess Adele interviewed Amy Cronhelm, as shown in the picture on the right. Amy along with her sister, Liza, designs jewelry that is hand crafted and marketed by the company known as Wild Jewels. She has jewelry on sale in the Signature Shop of the Amsterdam. Part of the profit from sales goes to support building and operation of a library in the town of Ileret located on the Northern Frontier of Kenya, Africa.



Barbara's enduring interest in libraries (and jewelry) led us to a later conversation with Amy at her Signature Shop jewelry display. We obtained pictures taken during construction of a recently completed library and two are shown here to provide some context about onsite conditions.



Amy described how during her visits to the site she used a sledge hammer to help break the rock boulders used in construction.

Amy, her mother and sister administer a charitable organization, The Michael Cronhelm Foundation, which carries on the work of her brother who tragically died of cancer. Persons interested in learning more about the foundation can obtain information from the website: www.michaelcronhelmfoundation.org .



At 11 am the regular Cruise Specialists International (CSI) “Chat Time” took place in the Explorer’s Lounge. These sessions are hosted on every day at sea by CSI “Ambassadors” Lucia and Henk Barnhoorn. Today’s topics ranged from dates for the ending of World War II in various nations to different perspectives on what happened during the reported on-board fire back on November 8 as the Amsterdam approached the harbor of Fremantle. There was the usual lively exchange of opinions, observations and questions that has kept us coming back for more. The group was a little smaller today than at previous times. Some members of the cast of characters who showed up today are seen in the following snapshots.

L to R: Barbara, Lucia, Larry



Tricia, Henk

L to R: Georgina, Roy, Steven



Alex, (Lucia’s favorite nephew on-board) and Lucia

In the afternoon we took a look at the progress the Amsterdam was making towards Melbourne. The TV screen showed that we were sailing across the “Great Australian Bight”. For those who have lost sleep at night wondering about this strange name, here is an explanation. In the English language the curve at the middle of a slack piece of rope is called the “bight”. The term has also been applied to a shoreline, like the southern coast of Australia, that shows a similar curve. Our handy TV screen showed that the Amsterdam was about half way across the Great Australian Bight from Fremantle to our destination at Melbourne, as shown below.



The clocks were turned ahead one hour at 2pm this afternoon as we travel eastward. Suddenly at 2pm it became 3pm on the Amsterdam. This policy avoids robbing people of an hour's sleep that would happen if the change were made in the middle of the night and it is welcomed by the crew when the workday is shortened by an hour. The passengers don't really suffer a lot as dinner comes an hour sooner than normal.

The dress for dinner tonight was formal so the menu was packed with lots of goodies like lobster and escargot. After dinner we were entertained by the Amsterdam Singers and Dancers and so closed out another day of our voyage.