

From Prague to Paris and Beyond

Having recently returned from our European holiday, featuring fourteen days cruising the mighty Rhine and Danube Rivers, Val and I would like to share some of the memories of our trip of a lifetime.

For those travellers who hate to live each day out of a suitcase, this type of trip is for you – unpack your case upon boarding the cruise ship and then repack it fourteen days later, at the end.

Our trip started in the ancient cobblestoned city of Prague, for three days. Then, a bus trip to Budapest, where we joined the recently launched “Amadesa Diamond”.

On the bus trip we realised the difference in the size of Australia and Europe, having passed through three countries in a matter of hours. No borders checks needed, since the formation of the European Union.

Arriving at the ship, one myth was quickly dispelled – the Danube is **not** blue.

When cruising these two rivers, one tends to forget that they are actually a water highway. Right across Europe, from the North Sea

to the Black Sea, over 80,000 ships use these rivers each year, including 110 regular cruise ships. Our ship had three captains, a crew of 43, who sign up for ten months. The four engines use 100 litres of diesel per hour.

The commercial ships and barges move 200 million tons of goods each year on the Rhine and 130 million on the Danube. During our fourteen days on board, we passed through 68 locks and under 600 bridges on our way to Amsterdam.

The service on board was impeccable and the meals out of this world. Hot & cold breakfasts, 4-course lunches and similar for dinner; not forgetting morning and afternoon teas.

To feed us they needed 11,000 eggs, 400Kg of potatoes, 600Kg flour, 800Kg fruit & veg, 250Kg fish, 450Kg meat, 90Kg bacon, 150Kg sugar, 600 litres milk, and 40Kg cheese.

Our cruise was during the early European summer, with temperatures around 27 to 30 degrees. Daily stops at different towns made for conducted tours of places of interest.

From Amsterdam we travelled by bus to Paris, passing through World War 1 battlefields.

In Paris, our motel was on the banks of the Seine – only a short distance from the Eiffel Tower. We also took in the Champs Elysees, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame and the Louvre.

Leaving Paris, we travelled by train to London, (under the Channel), spending four days, five nights doing the usual tourist thing.

On the theatre scene, we caught up with “The Lion King” at the Lyceum, with seats in the upper circle, (four storeys high).

There were 42 shows being staged in the West End. “Phantom” (22 yrs), “Les Mis” (24 yrs) and, of course, “The Mouse Trap” (52 yrs).

We also visited Covent Garden, in the hope we may have seen Chris and Rob Davies re-enacting their roles in “My Fair Lady” – no luck! But Chris, you might be interested to know that there are ladies still selling flowers there.

We also did our bit for the economy; popped into the gift shop, in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, and Harrods, and spent some Sterling there, just in case they were both feeling the pinch. Our movement around London was curtailed during our stay – there was a 48-hour strike by the underground staff. Imagine the chaos in a city of 20 million people!

Would we do the trip again, if we had the chance – **YES**.

If anyone is interested in a similar cruise, why not pop in to see Frank and his friendly staff, at JetSet? next door to the Post Office, in Mornington.

Why Computers Sometimes Crash!

To really appreciate this, read it to yourself, aloud.

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port, and the bus is interrupted as a very last resort, and the access of your memory makes your floppy disk abort, then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash, and your data are corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash, then your situations hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house, says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol, that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall....

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss, so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse, then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang, 'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang.

When the copy on your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk, and the macro code instructions are causing unnecessary risk, then you'll have to flash the memory, and you'll want to RAM your ROM and then quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your Mum!

Well, that certainly clears things up for me. How about you?

Thank you, Bill Gates, for bringing all this into our lives!

“Return To The Forbidden Planet”

Cast List:

Captain Tempest .	Scott Charlesworth	Female Crew . .	Naomi Woodward
Dr Prospero	Ross Charlesworth	Female Crew . .	Sarah Leeder
Science Officer . . .	Sarah Charlesworth	Female Crew . .	Cathy Wood
Miranda	Bethany Stewart	Female Crew . .	Geraldine Gordon
Ariel	Carey LeBas	Female Crew . .	Jess Wynn
Cookie	Michael Laity	Female Crew . .	Natalie Pharaoh
Air Hostess	Michelle Schepers	Female Crew . .	Clair Murphy
Air Hostess	Aly Cooper	Nanny	Jane Copeland
Male Crew	Anthony Doig	Child	Nicholas Robertson
Male Crew	David Copeland	Child	Summer Bulka
Male Crew	Adrian Bermingham	Teacher	Karina James
Male Crew	Tim Barbon	Teacher	Sarah Nesbitt
Male Crew	Zak Jordan	Student	Alex Race-Lyons
Male Crew	Jason Angus	Student	Lea Marquet
Male Crew	Josh Shipp	Student	Rebecca Wright
Youth Crew	Ryan Whelehan	Student	Grace Stevens
Youth Crew	Aliyah Stotyn	Student	Georgia Stevens
Youth Crew	Lauren Stewart	Student	Emily Metcalfe
Youth Crew	Skye Bulka	Student	Maverick Newman

Great Truths

That Little Children Have Learned:

- No matter how hard you try, you can't baptise cats
- When your Mum is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair
- Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato
- You can't trust dogs to watch your food
- You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk
- The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap

That Adults Have Learned:

- Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree
- Wrinkles don't hurt
- Families are like fudge . . . mostly sweet with a few nuts
- Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside
- Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre, not the toy

About Growing Old:

- Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional
- When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there
- You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster
- It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions
- Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone

A Member's Travels

Jaime Laity has returned to Australia for a short 5-week period after two years away, working as a nanny in the UK.

In UK she suffered from miserable winters, (snow/sleet, etc.), scorching summers, where temperatures soared to mid-thirties; (the sort of things she doesn't normally have to put up with at home.

As one does whilst overseas, she toured when time permitted. Canary Islands, Italy, France, Ireland, Scotland, etc. What a Life! Jaime has always wanted to live in the UK and was mortified when her boss told her and his family that he was being promoted and despatched to New York to live and work. Jaime had to make a **big** decision. Her boss wants her to accompany them and work for them in New York. She knew that, if they went without her, she couldn't remain in UK and work. So, off to New York she is going.

While she has been home we held an open week-end so that many of her old friends could catch up with her. More than a hundred people turned up and it was great to see.

She will be leaving for Los Angeles on 13 September, then on to New York. Jaime says that she will probably be in New York for the next couple of years, and hopes then, to go back to UK - to university, to study Midwifery.

By the way she has been talking, I don't think that she will return to Australia to live - she claims that she really feels at home in the UK. It looks like her parents will have to travel overseas if they want to see her!

On behalf of Jaime and her family: thanks to all those who came to the open week-end.

Happy Birthday
To

September

Skye Bulka
Laurene Chalmers
David Copeland
Anthony Doig
Sandra Escorcio
Lorraine Pollerd
Jean Riley
Lorraine Williams
Naomi Woodward

October

Emma Bennett
Scott Charlesworth
Olivia Doig
Sarah Doig
Michael Laity
Alma Moore
Joan Winkley

The Four Stages of Life

- 1. You believe in Santa Claus*
- 2. You don't believe in Santa Claus*
- 3. You are Santa Claus*
- 4. You look like Santa Claus*

OTHER COMPANIES PERFORMANCES

PANORAMA

"TONY"	
October 3 \$32.	Tony Awards - Reunion Concert Bookings: 97841060

ASTRAL

"KISS ME KATE"	
Sep 4-13	Director: Gabe Noonan Music Drctr: Bernadette Mether
"CABARET 2009"	
Oct 31	Bookings: 59863111

SPP

"FAWLTY TOWERS"	
Nov 5-15	Director: Alan Tonkin Bookings: 59822777

FTG

"NOT NOW DARLING"	
Nov 20 to Dec 6	Director: Rob Davies Bookings: 97753857

PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

“RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET”	
November 13-21	Director: Natalie Pharaoh Musical Drctr: Sarah Charlesworth Choreography: Amy Sullivan
December 6	Christmas Concert
May 2010	“GIGI” Director: Jean Riley

CEF Bookings:

Val & Myles Sharpe
Tel. 5975 6868

Praying For Leroy

“Anyone with needs to be prayed over, come forward to the front,” the Preacher says.

Leroy gets in line and, when it’s his turn, the Preacher asks:

“Leroy, what do you want me to pray about for you?”

Leroy replies: “Preacher, I need you to pray for my hearing.” The Preacher puts one finger in Leroy’s ear, places the other hand on his head and prays and prays; he prays a blue streak for Leroy, (blue streak means ‘very strongly).

After a few minutes, the Preacher removes his hands, stands back and asks, “Leroy, how is your hearing now?”

Leroy says, “I don’t know, Reverend, it ain’t till next Tuesday.”

President's Page

It's August 25th as I am composing this note, and my son has reminded me that there's 121 sleeps to Christmas! Mingled with the delightful anticipation of everything that is Christmas, is also amazement at how much has been packed into the preceding 244 days! CEF has staged a World Premiere, ("Cafe Latte"), had the joy of the "D'Lovelies" concert, participated in, (and provided manpower), for the inaugural Peninsula Arts Fair and produced a most entertaining One-Act Play Season; this latter included planning and participating in our first "Access For All" event.

Drew Lane, through CEF has been asked to organise the performance of a number from "Cafe Latte" at the Music Theatre Guild Awards in December. Additionally, "Return To The Forbidden Planet" has been cast, with rehearsals well under way.

Off-Stage, activity has also been intense; with numerous working bees at Hastings, The Studio, (which is our office/archive and library space) and our (temporary) Mt Eliza costume store. More of that elsewhere in this issue.

The marvellous aspect to all these activities has been the number of members who have happily assisted in bringing plans to fruition. So, with "Forbidden Planet" and the Christmas Concert, (which raises money for the District Hamper Appeal) yet to be presented, our membership can anticipate some marvellous theatre and, we encourage you to volunteer to assist where you can.

The Committee is presently in the process of reading scripts and scores for plays and musicals, submitted by prospective directors, with decisions to be made shortly. One of the pleasures is to be able to welcome new directors, production teams and performers to the company, and to offer current members a wide range of styles and opportunities to suit interests.

Congratulations to Mary Wyte on her first foray into the exciting world of directing! The One-Act Plays were most entertaining and, despite an abnormal number of hurdles, (what a baptism of fire Mary!), the audiences were admiring and appreciative. Thankyou to her production support team and terrific cast members, whose talent, enthusiasm and good humour shone through.

Till next time, all the best and warmest regards,

Val

Working Bees:

Fantastic efforts from all who attended.

At Hastings, the team were terrific! The Williams family and Mary Wyte cleaned the costume area, (spider nests, rat skeletons, etcomigod!).

All the other sheds have new padlocks and look GREAT! Mark Reynes, the Rees family, Darren, Mario, Tim, Rhys were terrific!

At The Studio; plenty of hard work has obviously been done, that's for sure, with more to come. On my last trip I opened the door, dropped more boxes in there, shut the door ...and RAN!

So, many thanks to all of you, Cheers, *Val*

Access For All

Our first attempt at staging a programme under the auspices of AFA was a great success.

The minor difficulties envisaged due to the particular venue and car-parking situation were overcome without too much trauma.

The advice and assistance of Astral & SPP members, experienced with AFA, was greatly appreciated and contributed significantly to a successful day.

All three one-act plays were enjoyed by the audience, who provided many congratulatory comments. And for this, we thank the director, cast, back-stage crew and all others who helped on the day.

Cheers,
Val

St. Peter's Annual Parish Fete

(Saturday, 17 October 2009)

This year CEF are organising the "Lucky Boxes and Bottles" stall.

Donations will be appreciated; so get busy putting items in boxes, bottles, or just wrapping things in cellophane, or any other type of wrapping paper.

"Lucky" tickets will be sold at \$1 & \$2, so your prizes need to be of these values. Containers of cosmetics, shampoo, shaving cream, soaps, etc. would be great just as they are - maybe you have some new ones in your cupboards that you won't be using!

Sweets in their original wrappings are OK - no loose, homemade, or unwrapped ones please, (health regulations).

Donations can be left with Val & Myles from now on, at:

1028 Nepean Highway, Mornington

For more information, ring us on 5975 6868.

Val and Myles

Vale, Paul Fisher-White

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Paul and send our sincere sympathy to Janice and the family.

Paul and Jan performed in opera, choirs and many musicals with local theatre companies. They were cast members for most of the operettas. Long time members will remember Paul's excellent portrayal of The Mikado.

LIFE MEMBERS

(AS APPOINTED)

COMMITTEE 2009/2010**EXECUTIVE:**

Val Hardie			
President	59770347		
Alan Williams			
Vice-President	59777512		
Bob Laity			
Secretary	59756671		
Val Hardie			
Min. Secretary	59770347		
Dennis Green			
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Myles Sharpe	59756868		
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 Jean Alers*
 Paul Mason
 Virginia Reid
 Andre Mills*
 Len Green*
 Jeanne Green*
 Moira Robinson
 Wynne Higgins*
 Val Hardie
 Val Sharpe
 Neville Bond

*Deceased

Committee meetings are held on the second Monday each month, at various venues.

Should you wish to bring matters to the attention of the committee, contact any of the above members.

SPOTLIGHT

The Newsletter for Members and Friends

Of

MORNINGTON

C. E. F. PLAYERS



If undelivered, please return,
to
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