

# A five night sojourn on Oriana

By John & Kerry Treacy



lunch, with a splendid choice of hot and cold food and delicious desserts, was being served in the Conservatory.

As we waited for delivery of our suite cases to our cabin it gave us the opportunity to give Oriana a look over. Christened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1995, the A\$400 million Oriana carries a name familiar to many Australians who remember P&O's Oriana, which served as a popular liner for immigrants and cruise passengers between 1960 and 1986.

Oriana has three swimming pools, including one of the largest at sea, as well as five Jacuzzis, six lounges, 11 bars, a four story atrium, a theatre with revolving stage, casino, three restaurants, pizzeria, nightclub, gymnasium, jogging track, library and spa sanctuary. We discovered some of the 3000 works of art on board – more than in London's National Gallery and an indoor four story waterfall. The cosy Tiffany Court atrium has a piano that sits at the top floor of the atrium underneath a Tiffany glass dome. Coffee served in the Tiffany bar is excellent. The forward observation lounge, the Crows Nest, is perched high atop the ship. It is a great room by day to sit and relax and tops for pre dinner drinks. Anderson's is another room for quiet conversations and a drink. The Library contains some 3000 titles and besides the library on the portside is Thackery's, a room with comfortable wing chairs and sofas for reading and desks for writing. Also adjoining the Library is Crichton's, an exceptionally large card and games room. Another special room is Curzon which is fitted with many crystal chandeliers. The art auctions and piano recitals take place in this room. One of the most popular rooms on Oriana is the Lords Tavern which has a great atmosphere and just the place for a pint or two or three. All these rooms are attractively decorated and have their own character. Eye catching is the Theatre Royal with its rows of crimson red velvet seats. It is truly an outstanding theatre with an excellent sound system.

It was evident that a large number of passengers were on an extended cruise and life was extremely calm without the usual hustle and bustle of some cruises.

We had the chance to unpack and attend the general emergency life drill before joining our travelling group on the rear deck for drinks as we sailed out of Sydney. It was a beautiful afternoon with the sun setting as we ventured towards Sydney Heads for our five night journey to Adelaide via Burnie and Melbourne.



**W**e were on our way on a mid morning flight to Sydney to join one of the world's most popular and famous super liners, the British ship Oriana. The ship was in the process of visiting some 41 ports in 20 countries on four continents during this 100-day world cruise.

A quick cab ride took us to the overseas terminal in Sydney at Circular Quay and we were through the check in and on board the ship before we knew it. The usual photograph was taken as we walked to the gangway and a white gloved steward took us to our cabin and informed us that buffet



The open deck aft is also the venue for the specialist evening restaurant, the Terrace Grill. We were to experience this wonderful dining setting whilst cruising out of Melbourne a few nights later. On our first night we attended the Peninsula Restaurant with our group for a most enjoyable meal. This restaurant was to be our home for the few nights of the voyage. We received excellent service and attention from our wait staff. They set out to make our short visit memorable and enjoyable.

There were 101 things to do on our first day at sea – opportunities included :- a port talk, cookery demonstration, an orientation tour of the ship, beginners line dancing class, handicraft class, deck quoits competition, a Rotarian get together, bridge, shuffleboard, flower demonstration, table tennis competition, introduction to pilates, a discussion on hair, an introduction to Oxy-Jet - the world's newest facial that replaces botox, dance class, poolside trivia, a general interest talk on an expedition to Guyana, South America, art class, corsage class and a sing-along – all this before lunch. After lunch there was the art preview in preparation for the art auctions, more bridge, a cricket match at the sports nets, an Australian opal seminar, more deck quoits and shuffleboard, dance