

class, a presentation on P&O – the beginning of a great company 1837-1914, a massage workshop, discussion on metabolism, a golf chipping competition – all this before the late afternoon snowball jackpot bingo session. If you were a little peckish afternoon tea was served in the Peninsula Restaurant and the Conservatory – scones and jam, sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee. Showing at the movie theatre was *The Weather Man* and *Bewitched*.

If you did make it back to your cabin and turned on the TV there were 13 channels to find a program of your liking, including two news channels and five movie outlets. If you missed going to the port talks all you need to do is tune to Channel 11 for a continuous replay. After a day of activities like that there was no time for the afternoon nap. We had just enough time to shower and dress for a top class evening. Firstly pre-dinner drinks and then another fine meal in the restaurant.

The evening entertainment was a visit to the Theatre Royal to see the Oriana Company present "Red Hot and Fosse" – the story of Bob Fosse – in the world of dance and choreography he ranked along side the likes of Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. This legendary hooper was responsible for many of the greatest moments in movie musicals, the Broadway stage and London Musical Theatre. . If you have seen *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *Kiss me Kate*, *Sweet Charity*, marvelled at *Hey Big Spender*, *Steamed Heat*, *I'm a Brass Band*, *All that Jazz* and *Razzle Dazzle* plus many more that was the work of Bob Fosse. It was a magnificent presentation and thoroughly enjoyed by the packed audience. It was getting late and we had a big day planned for our stopover at Burnie the next day, but we had time for a stroll on deck to capture some fresh air.

It was an early start for an organised tour of northern Tasmania. Our group travelled to Stanley and took the chair lift to the top of the Nut, a volcanic rock, to take in outstanding views of the surroundings. The tour then continued along the coast to Woolnorth, an historic farming property and one of Tasmania's wind farms, for lunch before a short drive to Cape Grim, located on the northwest tip of Tasmania and known as the "end of the world" by the locals. Our return took us to the Lactos Tasmanian Cheese Factory before returning to the ship. [More on this exciting day out in the next issue]

For those who stayed onboard there were many similar events to those of the previous day. Now it was time to shower and prepare for another interesting evening. Firstly, pre-dinner drinks, then another fine meal in the restaurant followed by participation in the syndicate quiz - unfortunately we didn't win.

Next day we awoke for arrival into Melbourne. I took the opportunity to catch up with friends in the city, a regular complimentary bus service was provided from the pier and an inner city stop near Myers store. On board another full day of activities for the stay at homes. The afternoon movie was *Cinderella Man* starring Russell Crowe. As mentioned earlier our group chose to have dinner at the Terrace Grill for which there is a small surcharge per person. It was a great idea to dine under the stars as we journeyed through Port Phillip Bay. Our after dinner entertainment was the comedy musical speciality act of Steve Stevens. It was a first class performance. Before bed some fresh air on deck, meeting many others who had the same idea.

Our last day was at sea and after breakfast it was a group cricket match. This time it turned out to be great fun. The day was spent checking out the shops, looking at the cruise books on sale in the library, attending the art auction, a tour of the bridge and galley and finding time for a short nap. During the world cruise Oriana will use some 24,000 bottles of champagne and wine, 96 tonnes of meat, 333,000 eggs and 32,000 litres of ice cream.



On this final night on board our group was invited by a delightful couple from England, Jim and Sylvia Paul, to join them for pre-dinner drinks and canapés in their balcony suite.

They were the perfect hosts and told us they were enjoying the cruise. In recent times they had discovered cruising and were on board for the complete 100 night journey.

We then attended our farewell dinner in the Peninsula Restaurant. Our waiters presented us with our dinner menus before saying our goodbyes and adjourning to the Theatre Royal for another musical presentation. This time "Wicked Wacky Broadway", a journey through the wonderfully wicked and wacky world of the modern American musical with excerpts from *Hairspray*, *The Producers*, *Wicked* and the newest hit *Monty Pythons Spamalot*.

On this short cruise we managed to cram in so many activities. The Oriana is a top class ship.

A very easy ship to move around, lots of space both inside and out, especially plenty of deck space with a great promenade deck to take in the fresh ocean breezes, watch a dolphin or two at play or to take a leisurely stroll. The food was excellent with a great choice and of the highest quality with the portions on offer very generous.

Each day there were so many activities on offer that you have the choice to participate in as many as you wished, or just vegetate in a quiet corner or by the pool.

The cabins were of a good size with comfortable beds and adequate bathroom. There was ample hanging space and plenty of coat hangers.

Overall the crew were friendly and helpful and provided excellent service.

Following our experience, we understand why so many people book long journeys on this ship and return regularly. Our second cruise was on the first Oriana and we have always remembered that cruise of the South Pacific. Now the new Oriana has given us so many new memories, obtained in such a short time, that we already want to return for a longer cruise. **JT/KT**



Meet Captain Charlie Carr – He was born on the 17 June 1956 in Wigan. He first went to sea in September 1974 as a Cadet with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA). Captain Carr remained with the RFA until 1996, when he joined P&O Cruises as a Navigator, his first ship being the Oriana. He worked his way up the ranks, sailing on the original *Star Princess*, *Arcadia* and *Oriana* in the process.



He was promoted to Staff Captain in October 2002 while he was on board Oriana, and took his first command on Oriana on 7 February 2006. Charlie has two children, Emily and Amy and lives in Bedfordshire. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, reading, classical music (Mozart in particular), and has a keen interest in motorcycles.

On completion of her current 100-night world voyage, Oriana will be based in the UK, offering cruises in Europe and the Caribbean. Every year, P&O Cruises in the UK deploys at least two ships on the ever-popular world cruise circuit, a program keenly sought by Australians seeking a classic cruise experience on both short and long sectors.

In 2007, P&O Cruises' UK super liners Aurora, Oriana and Artemis will again offer Australians the indulgence of world cruising, with Oriana and sister Aurora both arriving Down Under in February 2007. Fares for world cruise sectors in 2007, including all main meals and entertainment and a 45 per cent early booking discount are available from:

A\$4287 per person, twin share, on Oriana for 16 nights from Sydney-Hong Kong departing Sydney 17 February 2007.

A\$5184 per person, twin share, on Oriana for 20 nights from San Francisco to Sydney, departing 27 January 2007

A\$9182 per person, twin share, on Oriana for 37 nights from Sydney to Dubai, departing 17 February 2007 with a special spending credit.

A\$2846 per person, twin share, on Aurora, for 11 nights from Sydney to Singapore, departing 27 February 2007

Next Issue we introduce you to Susan Jones, the Executive Purser on Oriana and one of only two women who have made it to this position in the Cruise Industry.

