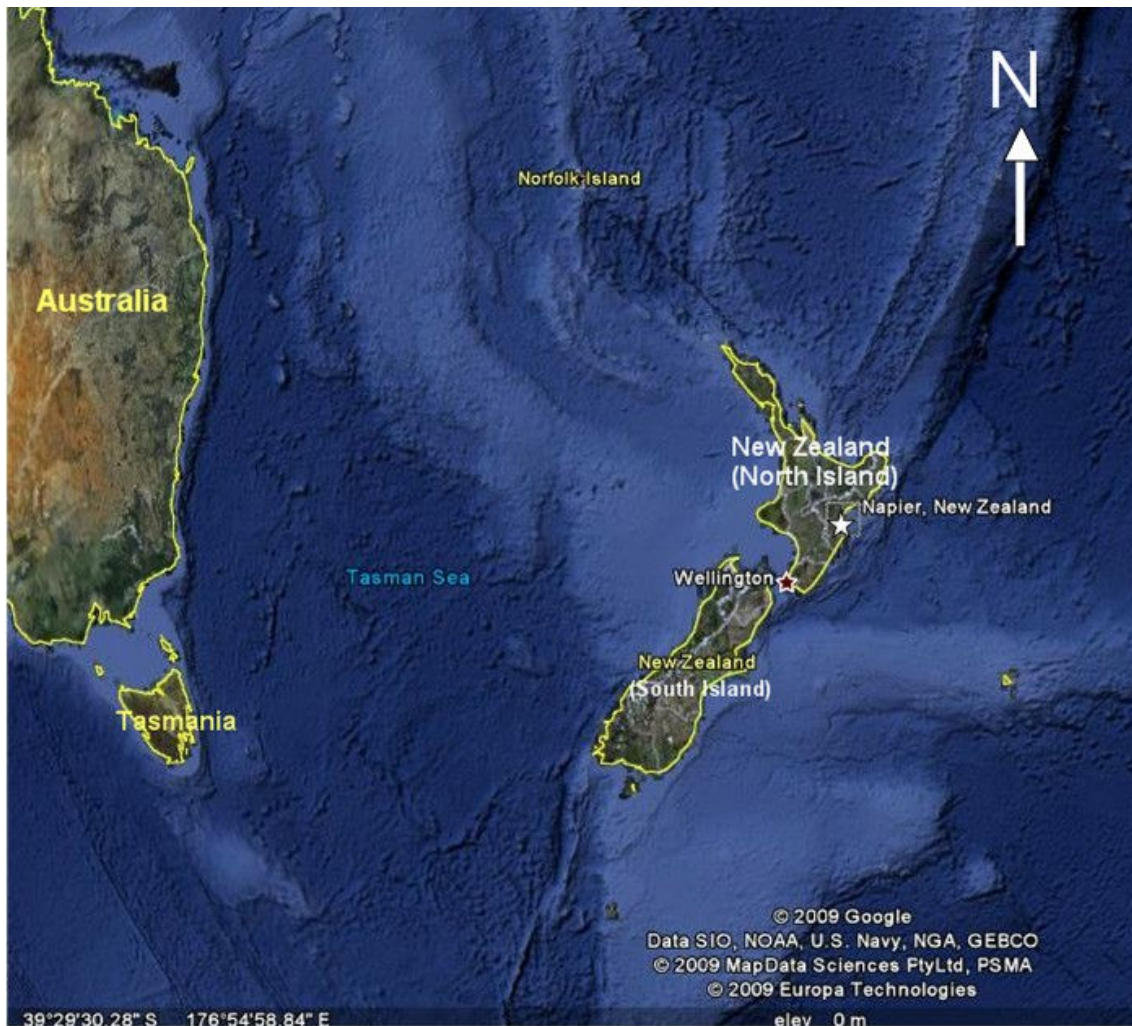


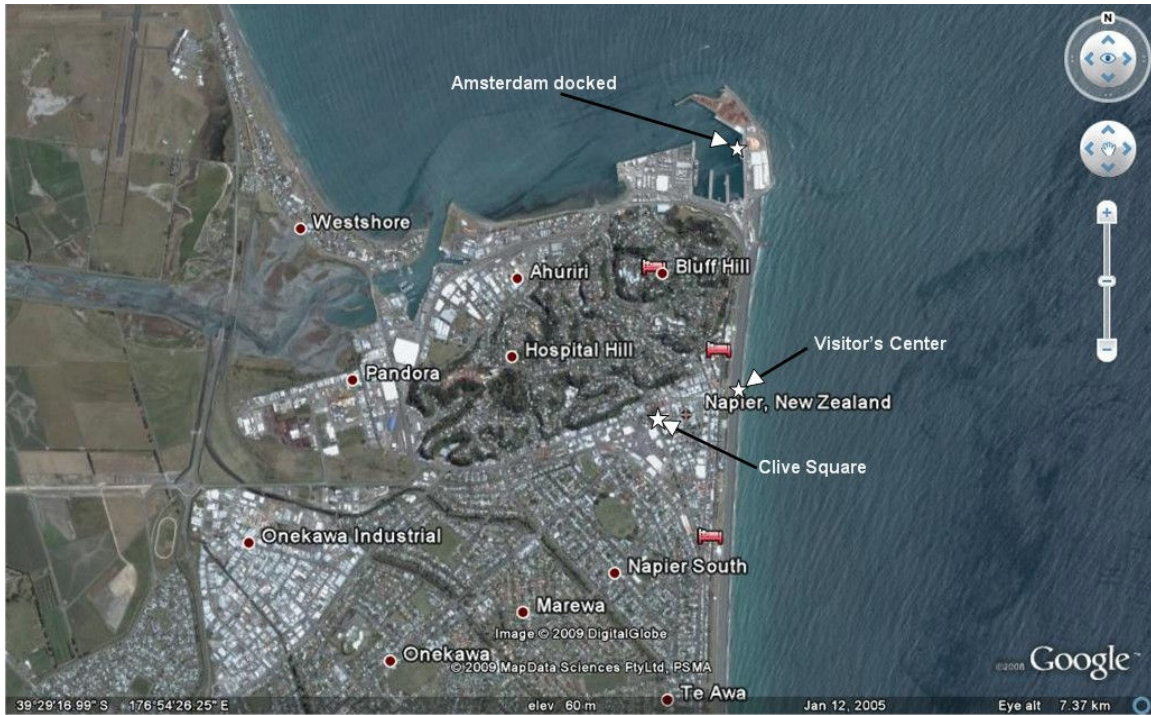
**Day 48 – Napier, New Zealand–Monuments–Art Deco–Old Cars–13 Nov. 09:** The day started with moderate sea, with bright sunshine and temperature of 60 degrees F. The Amsterdam was entering the harbor at Napier, New Zealand. The Amsterdam was several miles off the beach at Napier but we could see the sun glinting off the windows of the houses along the shoreline, as shown on the right.



The modified Google Earth map below shows where Napier is located on the North Island of New Zealand.



By 8am the Amsterdam was safely moored in the Napier Harbor. Napier Harbor and the location of the Amsterdam are shown in the modified Google Earth image below.



The Visitor's Center and Clive Square in Napier are also shown on the map above to help orient the location of places we saw while there.

The docks in Napier are located between the water and some high cliffs with nearly all space taken by shipping containers or timber products, as shown below.



The most impressive sight was the large number of logs piled on the pier and the huge pile of sawdust behind the pile of logs. Our guides have told us about the importance of timber product exports in New Zealand and we have seen evidence of the large volume of logs ready for export at every port. We have been told that the logs are from pine trees that are planted, grown and harvested as part of a long range 30 to 40 years cycle from planting to harvest. Most of the timber products are going to China for the paper and furniture business.



About 8:30 the announcement was made that the authorities had cleared the Amsterdam and we were free to go ashore. At 9 am we got our stuff together and left the ship. A complimentary shuttle bus took us to the Visitor's Center in Napier where we could get any assistance we needed to tour around town. We got maps at the Visitor's Center and prepared to take a leisurely walk around Napier. We had to be back to the ship by 2pm so we didn't have a lot of time to waste. The Amsterdam Tour Guide had told us about some of the monuments and the fact that the city considers itself the center of Art Deco

architecture in New Zealand. Those were some of the things we wanted to take a look at while we were in Napier.

The Napier street map below shows the location of the Visitor's Center and some of the sights that we saw during our walk around the small town.



The Marine Parade is the main street that parallels the beach in Napier. We decided to walk the length of Marian Parade to take in the monuments along beach.

We headed south through the Sunken Gardens. We were told that these were once the city tennis courts but they were relocated and the Sunken Gardens became part of the City Beach area. The people of New Zealand pride themselves on their beautiful botanical gardens and the Sunken Garden of Napier carried out that tradition. Some examples of what we saw are shown on the right and below.



We were visiting New Zealand in their springtime and the flowers were wonderful.

We left the Sunken Gardens and proceeded down Marine Parade Street in search of the Millennium Sculpture. It was a wonderful day for a walk and the Marine Parade Street was a real pleasure to see. As we headed south the beach was on our left, there was a line of large Norfolk Pine along the street and nicely maintained beach houses occupied the landward side of the street as shown below.



It was easy to find the Millennium Sculpture which is beautiful in its simplicity as shown on the right.

This monument was erected in Napier to celebrate the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century on January 1 in the year



2000. It consists of large metal arch which pierces a reflective metal disk and holds it at the middle of the arch, as shown above. Looking closely at the disk a person can see the reflection of the Norfolk Pine s along Marine Parade Street. There is a large angular black stone that is part of the monument and it is located between the arch and Marine Parade Street. The stone is positioned so that a straight line drawn on the surface of the earth from the stone and passing under the center of the disk will intersect the horizon at exactly the same place that the sun raised in Napier on January 1, 2000. This seemed like a wonderful amalgam of art, history and technology.

After successfully finding the Millennium Sculpture we walked further along Marine Parade to where the map showed we should find the “Spirit of Napier” Sculpture. This was an enjoyable stroll and not much of a challenge as the monument is quite large and could be seen from a distance between the street and the ocean. We arrived at the Spirit of Napier and found it to be an elaborate fountain with a central pillar holding statue of a person reaching for the sky, as shown below.



There was no inscription with lofty words to describe the message of the sculpture but the name and the appearance probably says all that is needed. The figure on top of the column looks both content and confident and looking to the future.

Having seen a couple of the Napier Monuments on the beach we thought we would now take in the central part of town.

We turned around and headed north along Marine Parade Street. Some typical houses along the street are shown on the right and below.



While these homes looked modest their location on the beach could have their prices pushing half a million dollars. This real estate sign we saw for a three bedroom single garage home with a view of the sea was listed at \$530,000 NZD (\$414,000 USD).

A photograph of a real estate sign for PGG Wrightson in Napier. The sign features a website address, a headline, a price, a list of features, and a contact person's name and phone numbers. The sign also includes a small photo of the property and a small photo of the agent.

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We had a street map like the one shown above and used it in an attempt to find the city library on the way to town center. If the library had a suitable sign identifying the town we could get the obligatory picture of Barbara's library card visiting this fine city. Orlin applied all his map reading skill as we worked our way off of the familiar straight lines of Marine Parade and into the streets of Napier. Walking and crossing streets while distracted by map reading can be hazardous to your health, particularly for an addled senior in a left hand traffic country, like New Zealand.



On the subject of dodging cars, we saw a traffic sign during our wanderings that might reveal some sort of difference between the New Zealand and US culture. Traffic signs in the US make definite statements about the regulations



regarding speed. A sign we saw today, shown on the left, merely made the suggestion that the car speed be maintained at 40 km/h or less as a courtesy to other citizens. Success of this sign places a heavy reliance on people having real concern about how their actions might impact other inhabitants. Perhaps on a related note, there are virtually no plastic bottles or fast food wrappings and other refuse along the streets of the New Zealand

cities we have visited. They seem to care about how their actions affect others so maybe the "Suggested Speed" sign works.

Fortunately we survived the traffic challenge and arrived at what appeared to be a wonderful small town Library. We got the desired photo as shown below.



We went inside the library and had a

delightful conversation with one of the librarians about the services they offer the community. They are basically a full service library similar to the one we have at home.

We proceeded on into Napier in the general direction of Clive Square, which was described to us earlier as a wonderful park in the center of the city. We came upon a mall

like street that seemed to be a compromise between a pedestrian mall and a regular city street. The traffic was severely limited by the narrow one way street with sharp turns that threaded its way through pavement that was mostly reserved for pedestrian traffic. A view of the street is shown on the right. The traffic was light so it really seemed like a pedestrian mall and we enjoyed not having to worry about dodging cars.



While browsing in the stores along the mall we noticed that the visit of our cruise ship to Napier had been noticed by the local merchant who placed a sign out for us, as shown on the right. On another street we saw a similar sign shown below. Starting with the folks in the Visitor's Center and all the New Zealanders we met they have been most hospitable and friendly to us. While signs like these are obviously put out to attract us as customers, our interpretation of personal contacts tells us they really like us as visitors and we feel the same regard for them as our hosts.



We passed through the semi-pedestrian mall and found Clive Square. It was indeed as pretty as it had been described to us. We took some pictures of the flowers and trees in Clive Square and they are shown below.





Clive Square was as beautiful as we had hoped. The flowers of spring were in full bloom and we enjoyed the moment.

We now headed to the older part of town where the art deco style of building could be found. We had no trouble find art deco buildings and some of the photos we took are shown below.



The city of Napier was devastated by a severe earthquake in 1931 that killed many people and leveled the city. There was a huge rebuilding effort and this art deco style building on the right proudly advertises that it was built in that recovery effort back in 1933.



We found examples of art deco buildings everywhere we looked so Napier may indeed be the center of art deco style in New Zealand.

In the port talks prior to arriving in Napier, Barbara Haeni, had made a special effort to describe the ancient Maori legend about “Pania of the Reef”. Pania was a Maori maiden who was in love with a Maori man but was lured out to sea by the singing of sea people. Pania swam out to the sea people. When she attempted to return to her lover the sea people turned her into the reef that still exists beyond the breakwater of Napier. In 1954 the city of Napier had a statue of Pania made and it was placed in one of the gardens along the beachfront.

Before we went back to the ship we wanted to see the Pania of the Reef statue. We walked across Marine Parade Street and along the beach until we finally came to the Pania statue. A smile came to our lips when we saw that our table mate, Karen, had arrived at the statue before us with several Red Hat Society ladies who had gathered to show her around Napier today. Karen, a true Red Hatter could not be satisfied with simply looking at the statue. She was instead, sitting on the statue’s lap and had placed a jaunty red hat on Pania, as shown on the right.



Karen's Red Hat companions and we got a good laugh out of this little ceremony by our irrepressible friend. Having communicated sufficiently with Pania, Karen climbed down. We wished her and her New Zealand friends well as they went on with their tour of Napier. Just for the record, here is what Pania of the Reef looks like without the red hat, as shown on the right.



Having accomplished our limited touring goals in Napier we caught the shuttle bus at the Visitor's Center and returned to the Amsterdam. There was a nice surprise when we arrived at the dock. It turned out that a New Zealand antique car club had coordinated with local officials and maybe the Amsterdam to have several of their beautifully restored cars driven out and displayed by the gangway of the ship. They had even dressed in

1930s style clothes that were in vogue when the cars were new. There was a large crowd of passengers examining the cars and talking with the owners who had restored them. Many of the passengers had bought similar cars in their youth so there was a particularly strong connection with the exhibit that had been so generously presented. Here are some photos of the cars and people enjoying the display of antique cars.







Everyone was taking pictures and one of the Antique Car Club members had brought a fur stole for ladies to wear and pose with them. Barbara joined in the fun and posed with her stylish new (1930s) fur, as shown below. Even Captain Eversen was taking the opportunity to photograph these immaculate old cars. He can be seen focusing his camera in the background.



There was a festive air about the whole occasion and were even able to get Captain Eversen to pose with Orlin for this photo shown on the left.

One evening when the hotel manager, Henk Mensink, had dinner at our table he had told about his love of cars and plans to participate in a race held in Germany. As shown on the right, he couldn't resist this display of antique cars and had joined Captain Eversen in the photography frenzy that had erupted around on the pier.



It was getting time for the Amsterdam to leave the dock and most people had torn themselves away from the cars and gone on board the ship. We were watching the final moments of the

display from our verandah when we noticed that two of the stewards had taken advantage of a few moments break and were snapping pictures of the antique cars, as shown at the bottom of the picture on the right.



We continued to watch as the preparations continued for the Amsterdam to leave Napier. The antique cars left one by one until only two remained. Finally the ship pulled away from the dock and we were on our way as the ship's whistle gave mighty blasts. Keeping up the good humor of the occasion, one of the guys in the antique cars came back with the old "uuuuga uuuuga" horn in response to the Amsterdam's whistle.

As the ship eased away from the dock passengers were waving from the decks and the few people left on the dock were also waving. The lady in the fur coat kept up the waving as long as there were people on the ship waving back.



This brought a memorable day in Napier, New Zealand to a close on a happy note. Our New Zealand hosts, not only the antique car folks but people we met in town, had been so gracious that they had set a new standard for us when interacting with foreign visitors.

The Amsterdam sailed out of the Napier Harbor about 3pm and set a course north to Tauranga, New Zealand. We should arrive there about 7am tomorrow. We have a tour scheduled in Tauranga that Karen has organized. The focus will be on Maori culture and we are looking forward to it.