

**Day 42 – At Sea – Formal Night – Scott Talley - 7 Nov. 09:** The day started with overcast sky, moderate sea and rollers coming in from the south. The ship’s stabilizers did a good job of minimizing roll of the ship so we have avoided sea sickness so far.

We spent the morning working on the blog covering our visit to Port Arthur Prison yesterday. We attended the port lecture by Barbara, the port guide. She covered Christchurch and Wellington, New Zealand. We are really looking forward to all of the ports in New Zealand.

At 1pm we attended a lecture by Trish on the subject of Tips and Tricks for taking better photos. She had a lot of good suggestions for positioning the subject of a photo in a more interesting way than simply a “snapshot”. Probably the most useful thing she did was describe the meaning of the “Macro” setting on a digital camera. Macro is the setting you need to focus the camera on something only 3 inches away from the camera. She made it bonehead simple by saying that the Macro setting is the one with the Tulip icon on the digital camera buttons. We always wondered what that was for and now we know.

At 2pm all the ship’s clocks were advanced one hour to conform to the new time zone we have moved into. We will be slowly losing the hours we added on a few weeks ago as we traveled west.

Tonight there was formal dress for dinner. We put ourselves together and went down to dinner. We were happy to learn that we would be having an officer host at our table tonight. Soon Scott Talley arrived in his brilliant white formal uniform. Scott is the Information Technology (IT) Officer on the Amsterdam and among other things keeps the Internet connection operating. He had joined the Amsterdam this previous August so this was his first extended cruise on board. We told him how pleased we were with the Internet Service we use with the blog. It is so much more user friendly that it was on the Amsterdam just 2 years ago in 2007. Before we finished the meal we slowed Romli down enough to have him take a picture of our table with Scott, as shown on the right.

Left to right: George, Judy, Phyllis, Louise, Scott, Karen, Orlin and Barbara.





The sun was shining in from the back window and ruined Scott's image on the photo above so we got a second photo with a better view of this handsome young officer, as shown on the left.

Scott has lived in a lot of different places and worked on different cruise lines so there was a lot to talk about. We really appreciated Scott taking the time out of his day to sit down with us and get acquainted at this dinner hour. It seemed too soon that the meal was over and we all said goodbye to him. At least we can now recognize him and say hello when we meet around the ship in the next few weeks of the cruise.

Since we were dressed in our formal clothes we had to have another picture taken. One of the stewards took this picture of Karen and us as we made our way out of the dining room.



When we got back to our room we had a nice surprise waiting for us.

The stewards had left a pillow gift from Holland America on our bed. It was a set of Dutch ceramic coasters by Royal Goedewaagen Holland from the Amata collection in the Art Deco style. A picture of Barbara holding one of these beautiful coasters is shown on the right.



This closed out our Day 42 of the cruise. Tomorrow will be another day at sea as we come closer to New Zealand and the cruise through Milford Sound.