

Memories of Norfolk Island



It's a long time since we have seen the sun set over the ocean and after the welcome BBQ I climbed up the hill behind the site to take this picture that includes a Norfolk Pine.



On Saturday's Discover our World Tour - this looks down on the restored British settlement of Government and Military buildings and beyond to the uninhabited Nepean & Philip Islands. The back of the current Government House is on the right and the Golf Course is on the left.



On Saturday afternoon we took to the water in a glass bottomed boat to observe the coral reef and fish life below us in Emily Bay - there was plenty to see and the Master was very knowledgeable.



Sunday was a free day, we went to the markets, got to know the town and where the interesting shops and cafes were. On the way Angie and I walked through the Queen Victoria Gardens where we were taken by a collection of animal sculptures made from driftwood.



On Monday evening we returned to Quality Row, Kingston and to Number 9, the surveyors residence, for a Murder Mystery Dinner for which we all had to don costumes. Loads of laughs as we read our parts between courses. Who done it? Well it was a big surprise to me!! Nobody guessed it but Rodd won a bottle of wine for the "best reading role". Happily he shared it with some of us later in the week.



Tuesday night's Progressive Dinner. After 2 tours in the daytime of Colleen McCullough's House and A Taste of Norfolk, where we saw chickens, ducks and swans running around paddocks, along with Sean the Sheep and bees making honey, we joined a second busload of visitors for the Progressive Dinner to 3 different properties on the island. They were all good, but the picture shows the scene where the Tahitian Princess, Alice had us rolling in the aisles with her stories - she was hilarious and the Kingfish salad starter was terrific too.



Wednesday morning was free time so Rodd Vic and Derek went off to play around - sorry, a round of golf! In the afternoon we all walked around the Cemetery on the Convict Kingston Tour after seeing the old prison, barracks & hospital, such as it was back during the 1st & 2nd Convict Settlements. It was most interesting reading the old gravestones especially those from the original 8 settlers.



Thursday our last tour day! We started it with a Bushwalk through the National Park, walking for around an hour to Captain Cook's Monument and Lookout. That's the picture of us all there with our guide Mr David Buffet. The picture above is of our final activity at the Thursday Night Fish Fry with entertainment from a really good singing guitarist by the name of Bong, who got us all singing along at the end of the night and the Baunti Beauties Dancers who are good enough to compete in a Pacific Island Dancing Competition.

What a great week! We certainly packed a lot in, but still left some things to do there if we ever go again, like relaxing on the beach or swimming in Emily Bay or snorkelling around the reef!



John Penhallow



NORFOLK ISLAND