

2/25/13 - Day 50 – Fremantle, Australia: The Amsterdam left Albany, Australia yesterday and arrived in Fremantle, Australia about 4pm today. Fremantle is one of Australia's older cities being founded in the early 1800's at the mouth of the Swan River. Fremantle is a suburb of the larger city of Perth that lies about 12 miles inland on the Swan River. The city shares with several other Australian cities the history of being the destination for some of the criminals transported from England as part of England's "Justice" system and strategic goal of keeping other nations (like France) from claiming Australia as a colony. The location of Fremantle on the Southwest coast of Australia is shown in the map on the right.



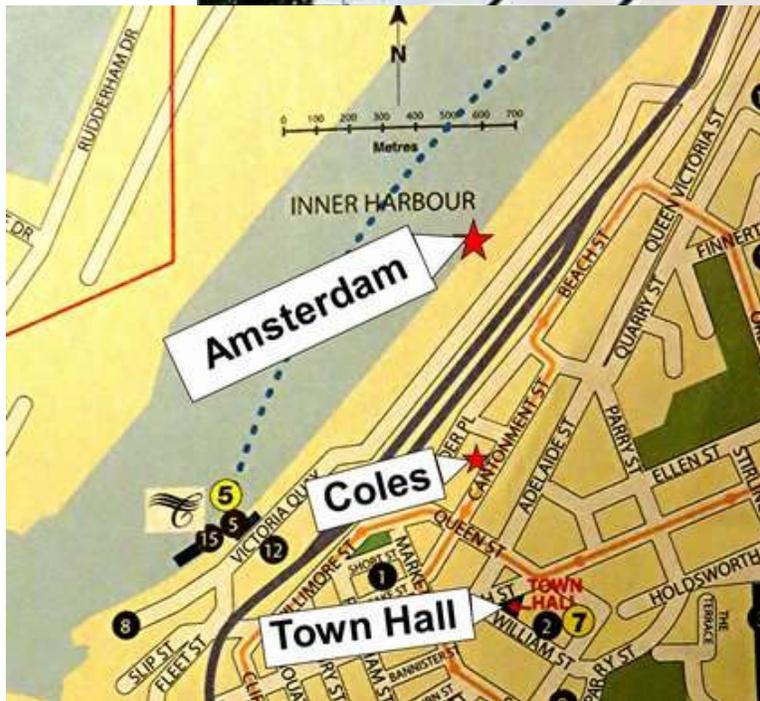
About 3pm the Amsterdam was still a few miles out to sea. The high rise skyscrapers of Perth became visible in the distance and offered a sharp contrast to the low lying buildings of the suburb towns of Cottesloe and Fremantle along the coastline, as shown in the picture below.



The harbor at Fremantle is in the mouth of the Swan River that flows from Perth to the coast. As we entered the harbor an unusual ship came into view, as shown in the picture on the right. The Amsterdam travel guide, Barbara, was on the PA system describing the harbor and she said the ship was a stock carrier. It was designed to carry live cattle and sheep.



Before the Amsterdam docked we were able to get a photograph of Fremantle showing a couple key landmarks of the town. The photo below shows the downtown store, Coles supermarket, which is near and dear to most cruise passengers hearts and at the top-left is the ANZAC (Australia New Zealand Army Corp) memorial on the edge of town.



By 4pm the Amsterdam was docked at the passenger terminal in Fremantle. The location of the Amsterdam and some sites we later visited in Fremantle is shown in the map on the left.

As soon as the Amsterdam was cleared by the local officials we got together with our friends, Roy and Gayle and filed off the ship, through the terminal and onto the streets of Fremantle. Fremantle is a small town that we love and

have explored on prior visits. This was Roy and Gayle's first visit to Fremantle and today we just wanted to take them into the downtown area around the Town Hall and then visit to the Coles super market to pick up some incidentals.

We were walking down Cantonment Street when we came across some local teenagers demonstrating varying levels of acrobatic skill with skateboards. It was a rather noisy affair so we crossed the street and took the picture below to capture the moment. The colorful graffiti on the brick wall of the warehouse behind the boys looked probably contained some message but it was lost on us.

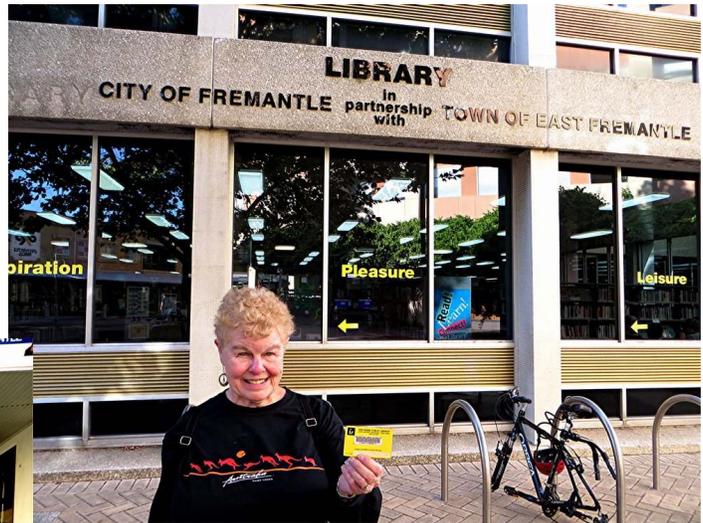


On the same street was a nicely restored Chevy pickup truck out of the 1950s.



We turned left down Queen Street and soon the wonderful old Town Hall was in sight. We shopped around the souvenir stores in the plaza around the Town Hall. Roy discovered a barber shop and decided to get a haircut. While he was doing that we looked for a good place for Barbara to document the visit of her library card to Fremantle.

We found a nice sign for the Fremantle City Library and settled on that for the obligatory library card photo. We ended up with the picture shown on the right.



Roy finished his haircut and we took a little walk around the inviting nearby streets, as shown on the left.



An unusual event took place when “Map Boy” (shown on the right in red shirt) experienced a moment of confusion. The fact that the Southern Hemisphere sun is north of us and shadows lean toward the south was confusing his usually reliable organic GPS. Luckily, Barbara’s reverse-logic direction finding technique was the perfect solution to the problem. We were soon on our way to Cole’s supermarket to pick up some soft drinks and look over their wine selection.





While in the Cole's supermarket we met fellow Amsterdam passengers, Lee and Lorraine, shown on the left. They are from North Dakota and we happily added them to Orlin's growing list of North Dakota friends. A few weeks ago the claim was made that he had only met one person from North Dakota in his entire life. Since that time he had met three other folks from North Dakota.

North Dakota has a population only the size of a good sized city, like Detroit, Michigan with about 700,000 people. The probability of meeting up with North Dakota folks is unfortunately not too large but Orlin was beating the odds these last few weeks.

We picked up a 15 can carton of Sprite Zero for the price of \$17.20 AU. That's \$18.10 USD or about \$1.20 per can which seemed kind of pricey but less than the \$2 per can we pay on the Amsterdam. The wine we were interested in was selling for \$16 to \$20 per 750ml bottle which seemed fairly reasonable.

This last bit of shopping finished up our trip into Fremantle for the day so we returned to the Amsterdam for the night. The Amsterdam remained docked in Fremantle overnight as part of the two day visit. Tomorrow we have a tour to Perth scheduled with Cruise Specialists and we are looking forward to that.