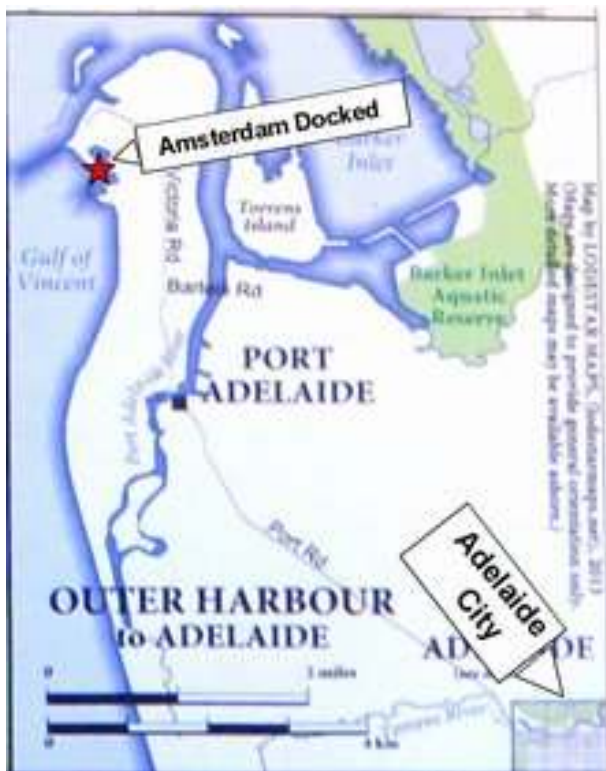


2/20/13 - Day 45 – Adelaide, Australia (the koala fix): Adelaide Australia is located on the south coast of Australia as shown in the map on the right.

The Amsterdam arrived in the port of Adelaide, Australia about 10am and docked in the outer harbor on the Gulf of Vincent, as shown below. The harbor was very open and not as busy as most harbors we visit. The harbor is about 10 miles from Adelaide city which is located on the southern coast of the Australian state of South Australia (SA). As we were told many times, South Australia is the driest state in the driest continent in the world. However, from what we saw while there was plenty of agriculture



and greenery. It was certainly not a barren place and was much like areas around San Diego, California that we are familiar with.

The feature which immediately caught our eye was that the dock area near the ship was packed with new cars, as shown below. The cars were apparently being imported into Australia. This was similar to what we saw in Auckland, New Zealand back on February 6 and 7.

It was a bright sunny day but a bit hazy because of smoke being blown in from a large bush fire in the state of Victoria, south east of Adelaide.





There was a nice welcoming band on the balcony of the passenger terminal playing traditional Aussie tunes, as shown on the left.

The Amsterdam, Promenade Deck was lined up with the passenger terminal balcony so many passengers gathered there to enjoy and wave to the

welcoming band a short distance away. Our friend, Karen, was there with her red hat finery on display, as shown on the right. Karen is active in the Red Hat Society of fun loving outgoing ladies and because she started a Red Hat unit in the Seattle area she also carries the title "Kween Karen". She had arranged to meet with a group of Australian Red Hatters for a day of fun in Adelaide.



We were looking forward to a tour that had been arranged by Pauline Hall. It was billed as a tour of the Barosso Valley with an emphasis on wine tasting. However, our main interest was the



Cleland Wildlife Park that would come later. There was a hope for enough koalas there to tamp down Barbara's insatiable love for the little furry animals. The okay to go ashore was announced about 10:30am and we left the ship with Pauline in a group of 11 fellow passengers. On the dock we met our driver/guide Tom, as shown with Pauline in the picture on the left.



We loaded into Tom's comfy van and were quickly on our way through the outskirts of Adelaide and surrounding countryside. The following are some pictures taken while on our way to the winery in the heart of the Barossa wine producing region.

This strange image below was created by piles of salt



produced in sea water evaporation ponds outside of Adelaide. The hot and dry climate is ideal for the salt producing industry.

There were some roses for the flower industry in the picture below.



As we approached the Barossa region, grape vineyards shown below were in the fields we passed.



We arrived at the Peter Lehmann Winery and were ushered into a nicely decorated wine tasting room. We were served a selection of white and red wines along with an explanation of what we might look for in the taste of the wine. We are not wine connoisseurs but we thought they all tasted fine. The price per bottle ranged from \$19 USD to \$110 USD but our unrefined palates could not detect much difference.



After the wine tasting session we were taken to a dining room and served a delicious light lunch that consisted of bread, cheese, olives, and cold cuts of meat. Of course, wine was also available.

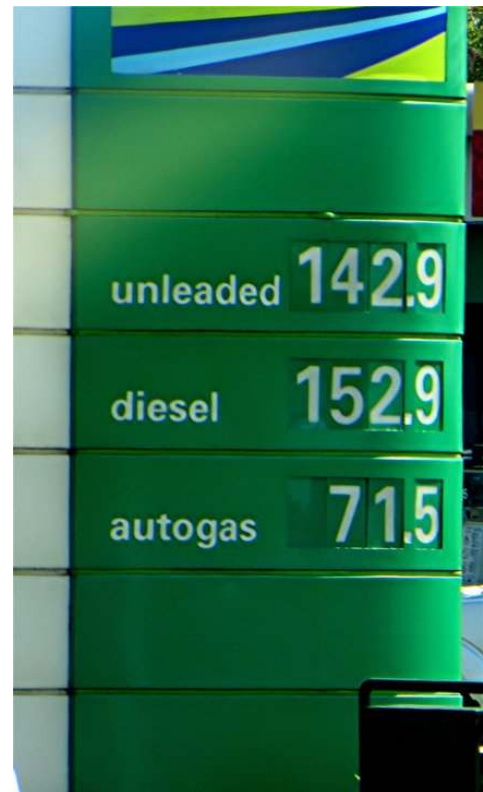


Afterwards there was time to browse around the beautiful landscaped grounds of the winery. The huge palm trees were our favorite feature.

When our visit to the Peter Lehmann Winery was completed we headed for the Cleland Animal Park. The Cleland Wildlife Park is located on the slopes of Mount Lofty, a major peak in the Mount Lofty Range.

Along the way we were able to get a good photograph of prices

posted at a gas station, as shown on the right. The price of regular unleaded gas at \$1.429 AU per liter is equivalent to \$1.50 USD per liter. Assuming 4 liters per gallon this price is equivalent to \$6 USD per gallon. The autogas, which is primarily liquefied propane, has a price about half that of gasoline but your vehicle has to be specifically adapted to using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for this fuel to be useful. Autogas has lower energy content per liter compared with gasoline so vehicles using autogas get fewer miles per gallon. However, with the 50% lower price per liter of autogas it has a slight price advantage in terms of miles per dollar.



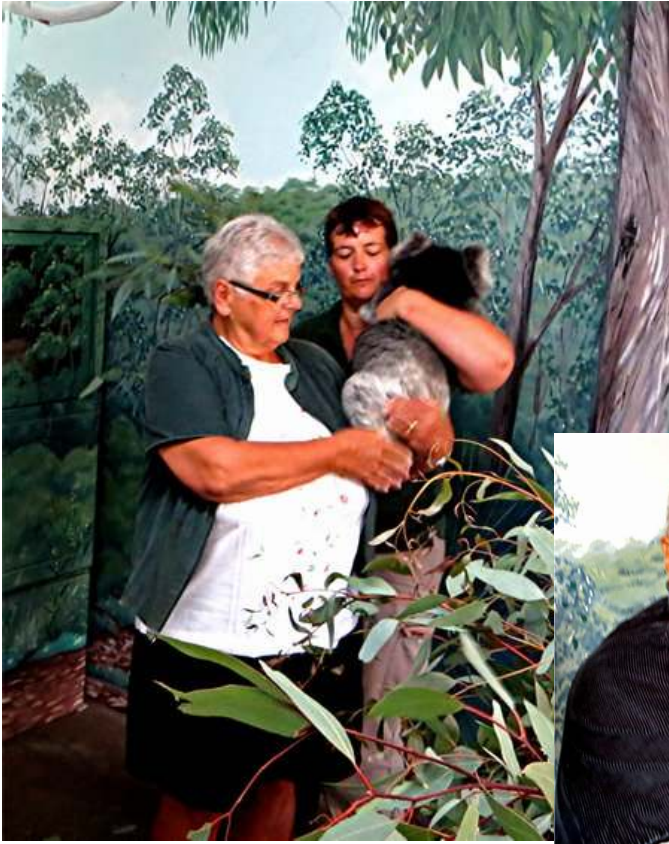
The drive to the Cleland Wildlife Park took about 45 minutes of climbing up winding mountain roads. There was a moment of excitement when someone saw two wild kangaroos in the forest beside the road and called out. They were too far away to get a good photo but we got the silhouettes shown on the right. They appeared to be a little larger than kangaroos we were to see later in the Cleland Wildlife Park.



We arrived at the Cleland Wildlife Park. Barbara made sure that the staff knew of her need for a “Koala Cuddling Fix”. A helpful lady selling the entrance tickets suggested that we hustle to the koala enclosure because there had been several busloads of tourists through the park today so they might retire their tired star koala early.

The folks in our group interested in a koala picture quickly made their way to the koala photo taking facility and got in line. Fortunately we got their in time. We were the last people to get a koala cuddling picture before the little animal got a rest break. The result of our good fortune is shown in the picture on the right. Our koala was named, Bel, and was as soft and furry as she looked. It was interesting that the attendant would give Bel a few eucalyptus tree leaves before each photo to put a smile on her face.





Here is Aldona getting set up for her picture taken with Bel.

Our tour organizer, Pauline, and husband Mike also got a cuddling picture with Bel, as shown below.



After the frantic rush to get the cuddling picture we could relax and take a more leisurely tour around the different enclosures in the park. They had a koala collection that was much livelier than the one we saw during the wildlife park tour in Hobart a few days ago. Here are a couple koala pictures we got.



There were plenty of other animals in the park besides koalas so we set out to see a few of them. Here on the right is the lone kookaburra that we saw.



Of course, the kangaroos were in abundance and we got several photos of them, as shown below.



As shown on the left there were emus mixed in with the kangaroos.

These brave ladies were getting up close and personal with this emu.

Here is what the feathers look like when up close to an emu, as shown below.



As our tour of the Cleland Wildlife Park wound down some of our group gathered at the entrance courtyard to talk about the experience.



We soon boarded the van and headed out to Mount Lofty Peak for a birds eye look at Adelaide. Along the way we got some photos of signs warning of Australian animals that may be crossing the road, as shown below. These are signs that we won't be seeing in other countries.





We soon came to the Mount Lofty summit where there is a large observation platform looking out over the Torrens River Valley, Gulf of Vincent and the Adelaide urban area. Unfortunately, as shown below, the view was essentially obscured by smoke drifting in from bush fires in Victoria State near the city of Melbourne.



On the other hand, the nearby Piccadilly Valley provided a much clearer image of productive forests and farmland, as shown on the right.



We left the Mount Lofty observation area and drove to a little village with the name of Hahndorf. This town was settled by German immigrants in the 1800s. While the population is now much more diverse the town still retains the architectural charm and culture of the original German inhabitants. The town has enhanced those features to capitalize on the tourist market. It was getting late but we stopped for a few minutes to walk around and take some pictures, as shown here.



The maple trees in Hahndorf were starting to change color and we were reminded that the Aussies are going into their fall season of the year.

We headed back to Adelaide and drove through the center of town to the port area. Tom pointed out to us that Adelaide was laid out with a very uniform grid system of streets and the city is surrounded by a broad park area filled with trees. In addition there are a multitude of tree filled parks scattered throughout the city. Tom made the point that Adelaide has more trees per square meter than any other city in the world. That was a very sweeping statement but it might be true based on the number of trees we saw in the city today. We didn't stop for photos while driving through the main part of town, however, this photo we got of buses lined up on the street suggests that their public transportation system is extensive. We were surprised to learn that it was possible to take

a public transit bus all the way from Adelaide out to the Cleland Wildlife Park where we were today. Near the outskirts of Adelaide Tom stopped the van and we got this photo of the city showing the stadium and a lot of construction cranes.



We hustled back to the cruise passenger terminal from that last stop. All day we had been looking but did not see a good spot to record the visit of Barbara's library card to Adelaide. Luckily, while passing through the passenger terminal we spotted a "South Australia" sign and thought that would be just right to cover the entire visit to Adelaide and South Australia.



We got back on board the Amsterdam by about 6pm. There was a very popular "Aussie Outback BBQ" taking place on the LIDO pool deck so we made our way to that special occasion rather than going to the main dining room. The menu emphasized Australian foods like lamb chops, bbq shrimp and beer can chicken. All was very good after a day of touring Australian countryside.



There was a great Aussie band playing traditional Australian songs to keep us entertained at the BBQ. The name of the band was "The Old Gum Tree-O" (Get it? --- a trio--A little Aussie humor there).

The all aboard time tonight was 10:30pm but we were safely in our room well before that. The Amsterdam got underway about 11pm for the short 15 mile cruise to the anchorage at Kangaroo

Island. Tomorrow we will be exploring that interesting little Australian island community.