

# Long Weekend in Sydney, NSW 4 - 7 May 2018

## Friday 4 May 2018

Today we departed Canberra for a few days in Sydney. Maree needs two more QF sectors to maintain her gold QFF status and it is cheaper to fly to Sydney and back rather than pay the renewal fee for the Qantas Club membership. So, we decided if we were going to Sydney, we would make it a long weekend. I booked our accommodation at the Hyatt Regency in Sussex Street which is in Darling Harbour.

Our flight up to Sydney was uneventful and our travel to the hotel by taxi from the airport was reasonably priced. When compared with:

A) using the train service from Sydney Domestic to Central and then on to Town Hall and then the 500 metre walk to the hotel; and

B) a taxi from the airport direct to the hotel front door,

the taxi was worth the few dollars extra. Taxi fare was \$65.00 and at the time of day we were travelling the fare would not have been a lot cheaper if we travelled by train.



View from the hotel room

After checking in, and checking out the view from our room, we went for a leisurely walk around Darling Harbour and stopped at Nick's for lunch. We remembered eating at Nick's for an evening meal on a previous occasion and the food was very good. After a relaxing lunch we decided we would book in for dinner tonight as their seafood menu looked very nice. After lunch we decided we would take the ferry all the way to Watson's Bay and return. There is a city ferry terminal at Barangaroo, only a short walk from our hotel in Darling Harbour.



Panoramic view from our room

As an old fella now, I have the ACT Senior's Card which gives me access to the NSW Gold Opal travel card. This means that all my public transport travel in the Sydney network is capped at \$2.50 per day. Excellent value and well worth having. Maree doesn't get old until July this year and then we will apply for her NSW Gold travel card and then we can both reap the benefits.

After our two-hour ferry trip from Barangaroo to Watson's bay and return, we took a leisurely walk back to the hotel to relax before heading out to dinner.

At Nick's for dinner now and we have been fortunate to score a table at the front of the restaurant which makes Maree happy as she can people watch. We weren't overly hungry as lunch, although we ordered a snack, was quite filling. So, we ordered garlic bread for the entrée and Maree ordered the mussels as a main in a white wine and cream sauce. I ordered the main of salt and pepper baby squid. Both dishes were delicious and so much so that I helped Maree with her sauce by soaking up the large plain bread rolls in the delicious sauce she had left over after devouring all her mussels. We were really surprised how large the servings were and for the prices charged. Perhaps we are used to Canberra prices which are also high, but servings are small.

We pondered on whether to have dessert so we thought we would have a break for 15 minutes and consider ordering the sticky date pudding. Well after relaxing with our wine we called the waiter over and said we would order the pudding. While he was taking our order we asked where he was from (obvious accent) and he said France. We told him that we are



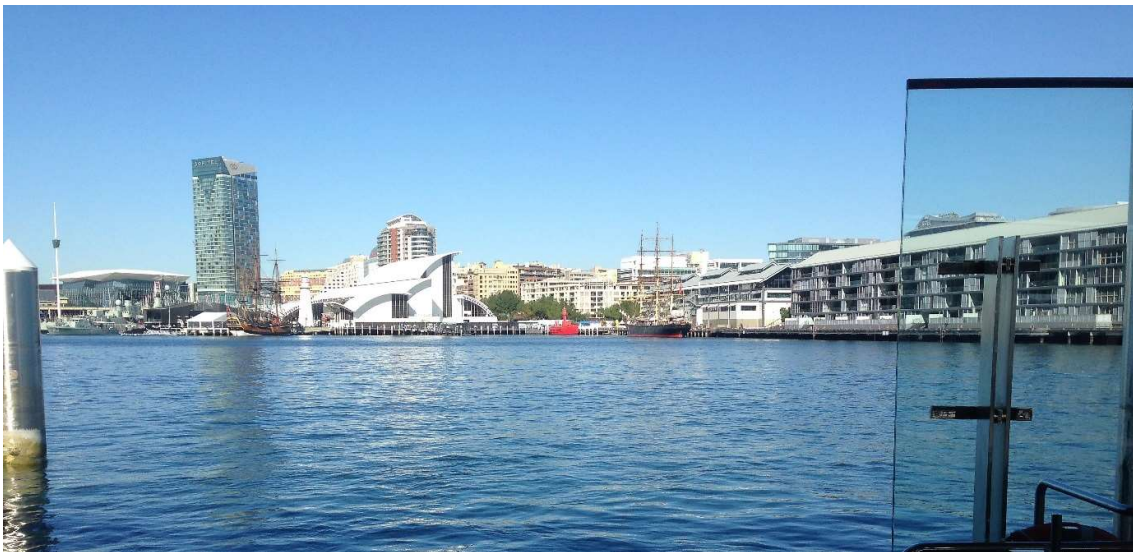
going to France in August and what places would he recommend. He said Paris. I told him we were making Paris a base for 12 days before heading off to the south of France for four days to visit a couple we met on our cruise last year around the Greek Islands. Maree told the waiter that we are going to Maxim's Restaurant for her birthday celebration. He said "where is that"? I said "isn't it a famous restaurant"? He said he had never heard of it. Perhaps it is because he lives in Paris. I guess we are the same; someone overseas finds one of our restaurants famous and we haven't necessarily heard of it. Oh well not to worry and the three of us had a laugh about the experience.

After a very enjoying meal and evening we headed back to the hotel for a good night's rest.

### **Saturday 5 May 2018**

After a very leisurely start this morning, we headed off to Nick's for breakfast; well brunch as it was 11:00am.

Maree had the muesli and I decided to go for the eggs benedict with fresh salmon. Both great meals and of course the servings were again quite large, especially Maree's Bircher muesli.



Darling Harbour from Barangaroo Ferry Terminal



Sydney Harbour Bridge

From here we decided we would take the ferry to Circular Quay and make our way to the Rocks to wander around the markets. The markets are large and spread out over quite a large area. We didn't buy anything but did stop to sample the local coffee; or Maree did and of course the people watching.

After wandering around for a couple of hours we decided to return to the hotel so Maree could rest her knee before we start out again later this afternoon. We are having a very enjoyable and relaxing stay in Darling Harbour.

This evening we went across the pedestrian bridge and wandered around the shops before stopping for dinner at the Sushi Bay Restaurant. We had some great food, but that was expected as the Japanese really know how to prepare food, especially sushi and sashimi. While the restaurant employed Koreans there were Japanese chefs preparing the fresh dishes. Another wonderful evening.

We are now relaxing back at the hotel with a glass of wine.

### **Sunday 6 May 2018**

Today we decided to go to Manly for the day. Once again we decided to use the ferries to spend time relaxing on the harbour. The ferries are the best way to get to areas located on the harbour.



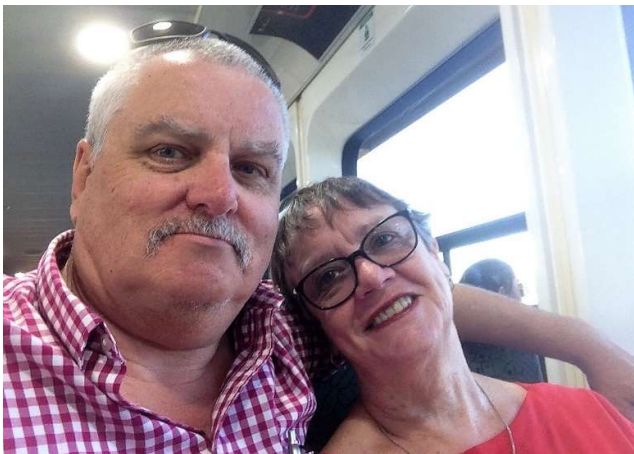
Sydney Opera House on the way to Manly.

We spent a few hours wandering around Manly, the markets and spent time on the beach. The weather is perfect and so much so that there were a lot of people on the beach and sunbathing, as you can see in the images. Following a nice lunch, we decided it was time to get the ferry back to Circular Quay so Maree could rest her knee. She has been doing exceptionally well with the walking and is not in any discomfort from the knee replacement surgery she had in January. She is getting a little pain now but that is from the muscles that haven't been used a great deal since the operation. Applying ice for a short period of time is alleviating the pain and she is ready for the next adventure. The walking this weekend has been a good test for her for the upcoming holiday in July and August. So, all is looking good for the walks we want to do in France, Italy, and Switzerland.





Manly Beach



Maree and Steve on the Manly Ferry



Sydney Heads



Sydney Skyline



Sydney Harbour Bridge and Ferry

Tonight, we decided that we would go back to Nick's for a seafood dinner. The seafood, as mentioned the other day, is prepared well and is very tasty. We decided to have a dozen oysters mornay, to share of course, then followed by a serve of Moreton Bay bugs for Maree and the salt and pepper baby squid for me. Once again, the food could not be faulted. Maree thoroughly enjoyed her bugs as I did the squid.



Maree with the four Balmain Bugs - Just look at the smile on her face.



Steve's salt and pepper baby squid

We decided not to venture onto dessert as we knew it would be too much and would have tainted the evening meal. We had the same waiter as the other night and of course he remembered us and the "Maxim's of Paris Restaurant" discussion. We had another laugh about it all.

Well dinner is over and we are taking a leisurely stroll back to the hotel. Tomorrow, we leave for home and see what the boy has been up to while we have been away.

Cheers

Steve and Maree