

**This Week @Foxland**  
**26 February 2011**



## THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

I live vicariously through my friends cruising the world and then after what seems to be an absolute age, it's my [our] turn. And that time has come and this is the **last** newsletter before we take off for the 2011 Ying and Yang Adventure. Or as **Lord of the Seas** christened it 'the chalk and cheese cruise'.

### KEY DATES [TO TRACK OUR JOURNEY] ...

10 March	Fly Perth – Singapore – Tokyo – Los Angeles – Miami – arriving 10th March. Transfer to Hilton Beach Resort Hotel Ft Lauderdale
12 March <b>The Chalk</b>	7 day Cruise on Oasis of the Seas – Nassau – St Thomas – St Marteen. Transfer to Hilton Beach Resort Hotel Ft Lauderdale 19 <sup>th</sup> March
21 March <b>The Cheese</b>	14 day Cruise on Seabourn Legend – Madeira – Malaga
3 April	Fly Malaga – Madrid – Alicante. Transfer to Villa Aston for family reunion with Verdun, Gill, Val & Jim.
5 April	Happy Birthday Robyn [ <i>happy birthday Adam tomorrow</i> ]
8 April	Fly Alicante – Madrid – Dubai – Perth – arriving 9 <sup>th</sup> April

Of course there are all sorts of little extras booked along the way – baseball – underwater scooters – segway rides – all of which you can read about in *about* six weeks time.

**Update on our Seabourn tickets:** Bobi received and forwarded them the day before the last newsletter – so 2 weeks ago. To date we have them tracked to Melbourne, 2 days ago, but nothing since. Being a psychic of note [recently] I fully expect to see them on Monday ! or maybe Tuesday !

### I WENT TO THE DOCTOR RECENTLY ...

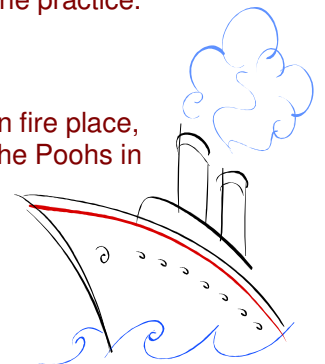
I usually go and see Serge, notwithstanding the fact that he hasn't been looking very well lately and he doesn't have a great sense of humour, and he doesn't have large dollops of tolerance when you don't follow his instructions, but I usually go and see Serge anyway.

This time however, I just booked to go and see any doctor because I wanted to get it over with and I had some time that day and I got in to see Andrew. Andrew is the kiddie doctor in the practice.

Imagine if you will;

- Modern Offices but Andrews room is decked out like a Victorian parlour. Imitation fire place, heavy velour drapes, dark green wallpaper, big bookcases and about 200 Winnie the Poohs in assorted shapes and guises.

*Just offer me a lollipop and see what happens buster !!*



- So I tell him that my wife is worried about a couple of things on my forehead [not very masculine to admit it was me] and he rapidly dispenses with any concerns and tells me that I'm looking pretty good for an outside worker. [I knew that].
- Then he asks if I snore? – **yes, apparently** – Do I ever stop breathing? – **how would I know, I haven't died yet** – did I know that there may be a connection between weight, snoring and sleep apnea – **really, I can be overweight and it's got nothing to do with lack of exercise or eating ?**
- Before I know it I am signed up to join a 'Sleep Studies' group, as was the 7 year old before me and probably the 12 year old after me.
- Business concluded I am dispatched with my letter to the specialist, that had the following introductory passage;

*Many thanks for seeing Allan Fox, aged 57 years for an opinion and management. He is an overweight, hypertensive male diabetic 58 years old tomorrow who snores.*

My advice Andrew is to stick to the children. They are obviously less sensitive than we older types.

**And he didn't even wish me a happy birthday !**

## **GOODBYE MIKE ...**

In 2004 on the Aurora we had the pleasure of listening to Mike Craig speak, literally every sea day. He talked about his time as a comedy writer at the BBC and regaled the audience with anecdotes involving a host of UK comedians, household names like Morecambe & Wise and Les Dawson.

During his last show Mike invited the audience to feel free to stop him if they saw him around the ship, and to buy him a drink. On the last night that was exactly what I did. He was a lovely man.

A couple of years ago Mike succumbed to Alzheimer's and reading his web site today I note that he passed away last October. <http://www.mikecraigcomedyman.co.uk/> Follow the Stop Press News to read some of the messages sent to Susan [wife].

Goodbye Mike – a genuinely funny man.

## **UNSUBSCRIBE ...**

One afternoon I returned home and had [about] 35 emails from various travel companies – mostly cruises but flights ran a close second. I usually get through them fairly quickly, particularly as I'm not looking for anything at the moment BUT it occurred to me that ..

*"If I go away and leave this as it is, I can expect to have around 1000 emails in my inbox when I return. As a minimum"*

So I have been 'unsubscribing' from almost every newsletter that I get. Some are really simple – click button, thank you you're off the list. Some just don't want you to go – please answer a quick survey - are you sure – take 5 minutes to reconsider – please stay. And there are some just go around in bloody circles - and you are never off the hook - it's a conspiracy.

Next, I am going to get the suitcases out of storage – brush the dust off – start to pull together the electronic bits and pieces and chargers – a generally get ready. So, think of us on our travels – we will think of you every day – sorry, promised Robyn not to tell porky pies [cockney rhyming slang].

## **Ciao friends**

### **Allan & Robyn**

*The World is 70% water ... how much have you travelled if you haven't cruised ??*

