

## " Opera on the Harbour ' – Aida by Verdi - Sydney - 2015

*" Thank you to you both for your excellent organisational skills  
and all those little extras* Glenda & Blair L, Brisbane

Our large group flew in from Melbourne, country NSW, Queensland, NZ and Perth. Two arrived by train. We gathered at our charming, old world five star hotel in its fabulous central city location and from there walked to dinner in a harbourside Italian restaurant where we'd engaged a renowned accordionist to entertain. It was a great night..and several declared they'd have been happy just with that!

Throughout the 5 days in Sydney, we enjoyed several outings together....The morning harbour cruise was much enjoyed and lunch in the private dining room at Doyles, overlooking Watson's Bay was great too. The Barracks museum and big morning tea were a hit but the opera was the pinnacle...On



an almost balmy evening we arrived by coach, were met by Opera Australia staff and escorted down to the stage for our exclusive and surprise 'understage' tour ...'fascinating! The Aida performance was world class and the setting breath-taking. Everyone was quite overcome by the experience and to think the whole stage, seating and restaurant/bar structures arrive and are erected in just over 3-weeks. Everyone had free time to make their own fun in Sydney and people did many and varied things...May Gibb's House, Sky Tower, the Rocks, Sydney Museum, the Gardens and Art Gallery.

It was like a little European holiday..but only hours from home.

### **JUST A FEW OF THE MANY GLOWING TESTIMONIALS.....**

*Dear Jennifer and Stewart a thousand thank yous for a wonderful trip to Sydney.. We couldn't fault a thing ..Here's hoping I will be well enough next year to go again. A wonderful group and marvellous organising. Thanks again from Claire and Joyce*

*Hi Jennifer and Stewart. How can I thank you both enough for all the wonderful work you did to make our few days in Sydney so very enjoyable. It far exceeded my expectations and opened my eyes to how I should be enjoying my life. The whole experience was enjoyable and I am really looking forward to my Italy trip with you in August. Please keep 2 spots for me for Opera on Sydney Harbour for next year when bookings open. Thankyou sincerely, Margaret*

*Hi Jennifer & Stewart, Thanks for a wonderful Sydney holiday. We always enjoy being with you both & the group you select to take. We realise you anticipate our needs & provide for them in a timely way. We appreciate the special extras you provide & the fun we have as a group. Please book us in for next year. `very sorry we cannot be with you in turkey. Regards Terry & Carmel*

*Thanks for a great few days in Sydney, it was a great success. Di.*

*Dear Jennifer and Stewart, Thank you both sooo much for giving us all such an amazing 'Sydney Experience'. I realise how much effort and organisation goes into your trips and that is why they are such an outstanding success. Everything running smoothly and happily along, ( as far as we can see!) AIDA was unforgettable, such a spectacle. It leaves the New York Met for dead! I feel so proud that OZ can put on such a show. We are fortunate indeed that we have you to suggest and create these trips for us, and I, for one, am extremely grateful.*

*The Italian dinner was such fun, as was Doyles and the experience at the Barracks left a great impression on me. Our soiree and farewell dinner was a total delight. As I left Alison in the taxi she said 'Muriel, I enjoyed every minute!' That says it all. Many thanks again for adding such a new and*

wonderful dimension to my later years. Fond wishes and continued success to you both. Muriel

Hi Jennifer & Stewart, Thank you so much for last week in Sydney. What a wonderful time we all had! Unfortunately, back to reality now! Julie.

Dear Jennifer and Stewart. I now know how true the saying is "It is not what you know. but who you know". You must have a very powerful contact to be able to organise the weather for last week. Thank you so much for organising such a wonderful 4 days. We enjoyed everything so much . Your company as leaders is soooooo good and congratulations for the well run program. Kind Regards Margaret and John

Dear Jennifer and Stewart, Now that we have hit home and come back to reality the memories of your wonderful trip remains. We so enjoyed every moment, the organisation, the friendship, the singing and the whole atmosphere. We are looking forward to coming next year and meeting you again. What wonderful weather forecasters you are !! Best wishes for your next trip. Regards Vale & Frank

Hi Jennifer, After joining your group of Opera lovers to Aida I would like to say thankyou to both you & Stewart, for a wonderful 5 days. Kind regards, Janet G

Dear Jennifer and Stewart, I am gradually coming down to earth from the high of our wonderful Sydney Tour. Thank you both for organising it and for including me – I loved it! Can you believe our good fortune with the weather – this time last week we were all sitting outdoors on Sydney Harbour on a balmy evening about to have a magnificent experience and wasn't it great! Now the most fearful storm is wreaking havoc! Thank you again and I hope you can both have a well-earned break. Best wishes to you both, Wendy.

Hi Jennifer and Stewart, Thank you for a great sojourn in Sydney! It was a great few days. You both bring a special something that is not evident in other tours – 'loved the music. Everything worked so well and I cannot believe you even have a say in the weather! I am hoping that I can do another tour with you. Thank you again Christine

Dear Jennifer & Stewart, Thank you once again for organising our wonderful few days in Sydney. Aida was an amazing spectacle which we will never forget...the music..the performance..the site construction and the unique backdrop. The accommodation overlooking circular quay, the Italian Restaurant and the talented accordionist, the food, the Harbour cruises, the transport arrangements all worked perfectly.

Your own operatic contributions were unexpected and enjoyed immensely. Your care and consideration of all of your 'ducklings' was greatly appreciated. We look forward to travelling with you sometime in the future...perhaps to next year's Opera on the Harbour. Regards from Susan and Graham