



A concise history of

Skål International Cairns



"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." Mark Twain



THE HISTORY OF THE SKÅL CLUB OF CAIRNS

***To fellow Skålleagues wherever they be,
Good Health, Long Life, Prosperity,
SKÅL!***

The Toast used by Skål International Cairns 1984 – 2002

FOREWORD

Our home since the Cairns SKÅL Club was formed is Northern Australia's top tropical tourist destination, sitting right on the Great Barrier Reef and amidst World Heritage Rainforest.

Since the early 1920's our fellow Australians started to find this tourist destination and the explosion of international visitors commenced in the late 1970's and early 1980's with the advent of more modern transport. Word got out of our big game fishing exploits, of ultra modern fast cruise boats and their luxurious pontoons perched right on the reef for diving and snorkelling. Not forgetting the Daintree Rainforest and Cape Tribulation, our naturally air conditioned green pastures of Atherton Tableland, the unique geology and geography of our accessible outback, and gateway to Cooktown and the wildness which is Cape York.

The completion of Cairns International Airport in 1985 was the catalyst for a tourism boom and related infrastructure for Cairns and nearby Port Douglas, which has continued to this day. Tropical North Queensland is now in the forefront of the Australian tourism industry. It was only natural that such a destination should witness the birth of a SKÅL Club in 1985.

History of far away places always makes enjoyable reading and I am sure that what we offer you now in this publication will be most enjoyable to all.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Sydney Williams

PATRON 1984 – 2003 (deceased)

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL CAIRNS #530

***To fellow Skålleagues everywhere,
Happiness,
Good Health,
Friendship,
Long Life,
SKÅL!***

The Official Toast of Skål International

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Researched & Collated by - Ngaire Rochford, Stephen Olle and Bob McGill

THE HISTORY OF THE SKÅL CLUB OF CAIRNS

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Ron Entsch (Inaugural & Founding President) | Mick Borzi | John Johnston

PAST PRESIDENTS

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Ron Entsch | 1984/85 |
| Ian Urquhart | 1986 |
| Simon Foo | 1987 |
| Graham Gordon | 1988 |
| Denis Buchanan | 1989 |
| Charles Woodward | 1990 |
| Mark Freeman | 1991 |
| Max Plummer Mike | 1992 |
| Burgess Mary | 1993 |
| Messina | 1994 |
| Ian Urquhart | 1995 |
| Lloyd Smith | 1996 |
| Peter Blackburn | 1997 |
| Wally Takao | 1998 |
| Peter Cryan | 1999 |
| Stephen Olle | 2000 |
| Wayne Laphorne | 2001 |
| Charles Woodward | 2002 |
| Bob McGill | 2003 |
| Rob Bastion | 2004 |
| Ian Pike | 2005 |
| Wade Bowen | 2006 |
| Kim Thomas | 2007 |

SKÅLLEAGUES of the YEAR

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Ian Urquhart | 1990 |
| Ngaire Rochford | 1991 |
| Charles Woodward | 1992 |
| Charles Woodward | 1997 |
| Wayne Laphorne | 1998 |
| Peter Blackburn | 1999 |
| Bob McGill | 2000 |
| Stephen Olle | 2001 |
| Wayne Laphorne | 2002 |
| Wade Bowen | 2003 |
| Murray Worthington | 2004 |
| Kim Thomas | 2005 |
| Rosie Douglas | 2006 |

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

Ian Urquhart - National Vice President Australia 1997 and 1998;
National President Australia 1999 and 2000, & International Councillor 2001 and 2002.

**** Awarded *Honorary Member of Distinction***

on occasion of Club's 20th Anniversary, 22nd January 2005.

Bob McGill - National Vice President Australia 2003 and 2004;
National President Australia 2005 and 2006.



THE HISTORY OF SKÅL

From its esteemed beginnings, SKÅL is the only international organisation that brings together all branches of the travel and tourism industry. Indeed it is the world's largest travel and tourism association. Representing the industry's managers and executives, SKÅL members meet at a local, national and international level, in an environment of friendship, to discuss subjects of a common nature and interest. Although SKÅL is not a business association, nor can it be used as a forum to conduct business, it does encourage SKÅL members to conduct business with other SKÅL members and supporters.

The first SKÅL Club was founded in Paris, on 20 December 1932. Travel trade managers had recently been on an 'educational' tour of Scandinavia, and the concept of international friendship gained such popularity that in 1934, the Club achieved international status with the formation of the 'Association Internationale des SKÅL Club' or AISC. This was on the initiative of the first president of the Paris SKÅL Club, the man now considered the 'Father of SKÅL', Florimond Volckaert. Now known as SKÅL International, the association now boasts over 25,000 members, in over 525 Clubs throughout 80 nations on Earth.

The World Congress is an integral part of SKÅL Club ethics. A five day event is hosted in a different country each year and consequently offering members and their companions the opportunity of observing, first hand, the travel and tourism potential of other countries.

As the Scandinavian drinking toast suggests, 'SKÅL' the Club is founded on friendship around the world.

OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

SKÅL has activities in over 525 Clubs in 80 countries throughout the world. The worldwide reason for the Club's being is to bring tourism executives together in an atmosphere that encourages friendship and to share professional concerns.

The SKÅL Club strives to:

- Develop friendship and common purpose between personnel in the travel and tourism industry.
- Foster goodwill and mutual understanding worldwide through international tourism and travel.
- Encourage and assist in the professional development of all, but especially the young people working in, or training for, the travel and tourism industry.

The activities of SKÅL International highlight the following activities — Worldwide movement of SKÅL Club members between various sectors of the tourism industry, and participation in conferences, social events, friendship tours, congresses, assemblies and humanitarian aims.

THE FORMATION OF THE SKÅL CLUB OF CAIRNS *By Les Smith*

A False Start

In a letter to David Morrey-Jones Secretary of the SKÅL Club of Sydney dated the 22nd September 1981, in which he tendered his resignation from the Clubs' Executive Committee because of his imminent move to Cairns to join Bush Pilots Airways, Les Smith wrote the following:

"It is also my intention to explore the possibilities of forming a Club in North Queensland given the opportunity, and in this connection I shall be seeking the National Secretary's advice and assistance."

And in a letter sent on the 14th October to David Morrey-Jones in his capacity of Secretary of the SKÅL Clubs of Australia, Les followed with:

"No doubt you have been eagerly awaiting this. As I surmised, Cairns itself is ripe for a SKÅL Club to be established. There are at least 30 eligible people in Cairns and nearby Mareeba and Innisfail. So I am eager to organise same but need your assistance and advice as to procedures and protocol. Kindly advise together with any forms etc."

In a subsequent telephone conversation David advised that Peter Ryan TAA Manager Townsville and a member of the Canberra SKÅL Club, was about to form a Townsville Club and that he should be consulted to explore the prospects of forming a joint Club with Cairns. David then wrote:

"Dear Les, As requested herewith basic information in regard to setting up a new Northern Queensland SKÅL Club. Of the A.I.S.C. Statutes and By-Laws I have only sent you that section relevant to a Club. Read it through and maybe we will have a chance to discuss it sometime during the Brit Reps Workshop in Townsville on the 14/11. SKÅL and all the best. David. PS - I leave you to talk it over with Peter Ryan of TAA Townsville'

When Peter Ryan was contacted on the 12th January 1982 he agreed to consider the proposal that a joint club be formed with Cairns and this was conveyed to the National Secretary by letter on the next day:

"I have discussed Club formation with Peter Ryan and I now feel, as you do, that one Club for North Queensland is a more viable proposition. I have indicated to Peter that I wish to 'transfer' from Sydney....when the Townsville Club is formed."

But it was not to be!

Evidently Townsville preferred to go it alone, because, later that year it was learnt that they had established their own Club restricting membership to Townsville based persons.

The True Beginning

So, it was not until sometime early in 1983 that the subject was raised again, this time by Ron Entsch, General Manager of Air Queensland who, aware of Les Smiths' involvement with SKÅL suggested that he form a Cairns SKÅL Club.

Stimulated thus, and judging that the time was right, Les wrote the following to Ron Entsch on the 26th October 1983:

"A few months ago you asked me why I had not attempted to start up a SKÅL Club in Cairns. Having been a SKÅL Club member since 1962 and still holding active membership in the Sydney Club, of which was a committee member for a number of years, I came to Cairns with every intention of doing all I could to place Cairns on the International SKÅL map, but right at the start I was advised by the National SKÅL Secretariat that it might be more appropriate to bide our time, or to seek inclusion of potential Cairns members in the gestating Townsville Club – which Peter Ryan of TAA (a member of the Canberra Club) was already setting up. I contacted Peter – who promised to look into this possibility but he evidently did not like the idea, because their eventual constitution expressly excludes membership for other than Townsville based persons.

To organise and start up a club involves a considerable amount of time-consuming work, correspondence, etc: etc., so a question of priorities is involved also. Nevertheless, I am quite prepared to have a go, and indeed I do think Cairns is ready now for a prestigious exclusive travel club, and that we do have the ideal potential membership base.

For a successful, meaningful SKÅL Club, the operative word is 'exclusivity' – to achieve this, membership must be restricted, in total numbers and also numbers within categories; and it must be restricted to persons of managerial status. Another important restriction – which must be imposed – is to the total number permitted from any one organisation so as to avoid any suggestion of a gerrymander, so to speak.

The attached 'Statutes' and By-Laws' extracts, give some indication of what is involved. Basically we need at least 30 suitable persons from a balanced spread of categories. Monthly luncheon meetings should be organised on an informal basis to start with, and eventually, when we are a going concern we can apply to the Brussels HQ of the Association Internationale des SKÅL Clubs (A.I.S.C.) for accreditation. Attached hereto is a suggested membership list."

Cairns was fortunate at that time in having an experienced nucleus of SKÅL expertise to draw upon, all of whom offered enthusiastic support. Other SKÅLleagues based in Cairns

were Noel Screen from the Illawarra Club, Ian Urquhart from Melbourne Club, and Darcy Wiemers from the new Townsville Club. Later in our first year we were joined by Simon Foo a Past President of the Port Moresby Club.

Preparations then began in earnest. A letter was sent to National Secretary David Morrey-Jones on the 28th October, announcing our plans and requesting further guidance in information. This was followed by a telephone conversation with National President Tony Millmore which resulted in the receipt of a lengthy and comprehensive briefing letter from International Councillor Max Kingston.

We could not 'take-off', and seizing the reins enthusiastically Ron Entsch circulated likely candidates on the 15th November 1983:

"This is a brief note to ascertain your interest in and willingness to join a SKÅL Club in Cairns should one be formed. Attached is some brief literature explaining broad outlines. Fundamentally, it is a club for senior management in the travel industry in Cairns to meet in friendship. With Cairns 'coming of age' in 1984 in the international travel scene it is appropriate that the timing to form a SKÅL Club should coincide. If I receive a positive response from at least 20 people a meeting will be convened when the business of legalities will be handled. I would appreciate your response either way.'

The response being overwhelmingly positive the 27th January 1984 was selected for the inaugural luncheon meeting of the proposed club at the Pacific International Hotel and prospective members were notified accordingly.

Convened by Ron Entsch the first meeting of our Club took place on the 27th January 1984 in the presence of DIBB Ray, President of the SKÅL Club of Brisbane, and:

ANDERSON Denis
BLIGHT Maggie
ENTSCH Ron
FARNHAM Dean
FERGUSON Denis
FREEMAN Mark
GALLAGHER Tony
GASCOYNE Grant
GELLWEILER Gordon
HUNT Moss
HYNES Ted
JOHNSON Chris
JOHNSTON John
KAMSLER Paul
McKAUGE Gordon
MILLER Peter
PLUMMER Max
REDDICLIFFE Reg
ROCHFORD Ngarie
SCREEN Noel
SMITH Les
URQUHART Ian
VRENEGOOR Bill
WALKER Bob
WIEMERS Darcy
WOODWARD Charles

A steering committee was elected:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| President - | Ron Entsch |
| Vice President - | Ian Urquhart |
| Secretary - | Les Smith |
| Treasurer - | Noel Screen |
| Committee - | Dean Farnham |
| Auditor - | Ngarie Rochford |

A draft Constitution was adopted and it was agreed that Luncheon Meetings would be held on the first Friday of every month at venues to be selected by the Committee. The SKÅL toast was proposed by Ray Dibb, the incumbent President of the SKÅL Club of Brisbane who also addressed the meeting outlining the history and objectives of the SKÅL movement and offered his personal support and that of his Club.

We were on our way!

With the help of International Councillor Max Kingston and National Secretary David Dickinson the Executive Committee were able to submit a formal application for recognition and accreditation to the A.I.S.C. on the 27th February 1984 by which date the Club held 34 applications for membership in addition to 5 potential Active transferees from other Clubs.

The submission was due to be considered by the A.I.S.C. at their February meeting, but due to the untimely death of Statutes Director Giraudy, had to be deferred until the next meeting scheduled to be held in November 1984. Disappointing as this was, strenuous efforts to maintain interest and momentum were exerted by the Executive Committee under President Ron Entsch. Luncheon meetings were held at various venues – amongst these, because of its unique tropical North Queensland ambience, the Abbott Manor figured prominently. Other venues included the Northern Heritage Hotel, Tuna Lodge (Towers) and the Pacific International Hotel.

At these meetings individual members were called upon to give profiles of themselves. Members' birthdays were publicly noted and humorous fine sessions and other fund raising activities were staged. Attendance at meetings averaged in the mid-twenties and it soon became evident that interest was indeed being maintained and fostered.

Close liaison with the National Committee was maintained by correspondence and personal contact, and by attendance at their meetings. President Ron Entsch attended the Canberra meeting of the 7th March and Secretary Les Smith represented the Club at the Gold Coast meeting on the 5th November.

During this period there were several adjustments, by attrition and addition, to the Membership List. Honorary Membership was conferred upon Sir Sydney Williams OBE, and Mick Borzi OBE, and by our accreditation on the 27th November 1984, the Foundation Membership totalled 37, consisting of 5 Transfer/Actives, 30 Actives and 2 Honorary. (See Foundation Members List)

News of our **acceptance by the A.I.S.C. at their 27th November 1984** meeting was telephoned through to us by the wife of Phil Fogg President of the SKÅL Clubs of

Australia, who was on his way back from Paris carrying our charter scroll with him. We were Club #530 and could drop the 'under formation' suffix.

It had been hoped that it would have been possible for our Charter to be officially presented to us at the Gala Dinner planned for the 7th December, but as newly elected A.I.S.C. Vice President Jimmy James, from the Melbourne Club had expressed his intention to present our Charter in person, which could not be arranged before April 1985, we swallowed our disappointment and set out to enjoy ourselves anyway.

It was a most enjoyable and festive occasion at the old Abbott Manor., followed by a highly successful luncheon meeting at the Toku Baru Restaurant on the 4th January 1985 – there were 25 present.

The 1st Annual General Meeting of the SKÅL Club of Cairns was held at the Pacific International Hotel on the 1st February at which the following were elected to the Executive Committee:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| President - | Ron Entsch |
| Vice President - | Ian Urquhart |
| Secretary - | Les Smith |
| Treasurer - | Noel Screen |
| Committee - | Simon Foo |
| Committee - | Graham Gordon |
| Auditor - | Ngarie Rochford |

The Club Constitution was ratified and the Presidential and Treasurers reports were read. Our colourful pennant, for which Noel Screen was principally responsible for designing was unveiled, and met with general approval.

Ron Entsch's address is given (see Presidential Reports). Members of the Executive expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Ron Entsch for his leadership and drive: There is no doubt that the SKÅL Club of Cairns would not have come into existence without his hand on the helm.

After a highly successful March function at the Freshwater Connection, **our official Charter Presentation by National President Phil Fogg of Newcastle SKÅL Club was staged at a dinner in the Pacific International Hotel on the 19th April 1985.**

Owing to a nationwide Aviation Industry dispute A.I.S.C. V.P. Jimmy James and International Councillor Max Kingston were unable to attend as planned. The following telex was received by Ron Entsch on the 18th April:

"Owing to airline strike tomorrow unable to accept your kind invitation to attend your presentation dinner however my thoughts will be with you especially with friends from wayback, - Les Smith, Ian Urquhart and Noel Screen, wishing you a happy and successful evening SKÅL. Jimmy James, International Vice President AISC"

And similar messages of regret were also received from Max Kingston and Graham Copel President of Melbourne SKÅL Club who had also planned to attend. For the same reason our President Ron Entsch was also unable to be present and so Vice President Ian Urquhart had the honour of accepting our Charter on the Club's behalf in the presence of 24 Club members and visiting SKÅLleagues Secretary Roy Nunes, and Dan Bolton from the Townsville SKÅL Club.

Including guests there were 53 persons who enjoyed an excellent, - a truly memorable evening.

Due to his retirement from business life – after 50 years on the go, Les Smith resigned as Secretary on the 23rd April 1985 and was replaced by Mark Freeman in that office.

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

ANDERSON Denis TAA
BLIGHT Maggie *Cairns Convention & Visitor Bureau*
BLUNDELL Richard *Ansett Airlines*
BORZI Mick *Ansett Airlines*
CARLOS John *Ansett Airlines*
CRYAN Peter *Oasis Inn Motel*
DAVIS Ron (Alderman) *Cairns Port Authority*
ENTSCH Ron *Air Queensland*
EVANS Don *Qld Railways*
FRANHAM Dean *Golden Key Caravan Park*
FERGUSON Denis *Air Queensland*
FOO Simon *Air Niugini*
FREEMAN Mark *National Australia Travel*
GALLAGHER Tony *Abbott Manor*
GELLWEILER Gordon *Howard Smith Patrick Travel*
GORDON Graham *SS Louisa*
HYNES Ted *Inbound Nth Australia*
HYNES Jill *Inbound Nth Australia*
HUNT Moss *Lizard Island Lodge*
HAYLES Blake *Hayles Cairns Cruises*
JOHNSTON John *Hayles Cairns Cruises*
KAMSLER Paul *Pacific International Hotel*
McKAUGE Gordon *Destination Projects*
MEOLI Elvio *N.A.T.A. Travel*
MILLER Peter *Tuna Lodge*
PLUMMER Max *T.A.A.*
REDDICLIFFE Reg *Hayles Cairns Cruises*
ROCHFORD Ngarie *Greyhound Coaches*
SCREEN Noel *Harvey World Travel*
SHELLEY Brian *Air Queensland*
SMITH Les *Air Queensland*
URQUHART Ian *Inbound North Australia*
VRENEGOOR Bill *Natcar & Pacific Car Rentals*
WALKER Bob *Northern Heritage Motel*
WEIMERS Darcy *Q.T.T.C.*
WILLIAMS Sir Sydney (Patron) *Air Queensland*
WOODWARD Charles *Tropic Wings Coaches*

PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

Ron Entsch 1984 – “Under Formation” – Presented 1984 AGM, February 1985

For many years there was talk locally of forming a SKÅL Club but there was no real motivation presumably because there was no one with SKÅL experience to guide the way. Then came the new Cairns International Airport and Qantas flights, which gave real meaning and purpose for the formation of a SKÅL Club.



Coincidentally three august personalities came to town such as Les Smith, Ian Urquhart and Noel Screen, all of whom were long standing members of other Clubs. Thus the nucleus of a Committee was readily available and I was motivated to convene the first meeting on 27 January 1984 at the Pacific International Hotel to assess the level of interest in pressing on with the formation of a Club in Cairns.

I was ably assisted by the President of the Brisbane Club, Ray Dibb, who made a special trip to enthuse and advise all present. Happily there was unanimity amongst the 26 attendees and we finally became accredited on 27 November 1984 with 35 financial members.

It is planned to conduct a formal presentation of our Charter on 19 April 1985 by the Vice-President of SKÅL International Jimmy James who will be accompanied by the National President Phil Fogg and International Counsellor Max Kingston.

The Club has conducted monthly meetings always in the traditional spirit of SKÅL and rotated our luncheon venues with top quality food being provided by the Pacific International Hotel, Abbott Manor and the Northern Heritage Hotel amongst others. On behalf of all members I extend our appreciation for their excellent presentations.

To add an international flavour we experimented successfully with an Indonesian luncheon and the new Committee may consider a blend of ethnic cuisine in the future.

Attendance at meetings has averaged a pleasing 70% which always guarantees an interesting and entertaining luncheon. Gradually each member will give his or her Profile so we will get to know each other better. It is quite noticeable how much more fellowship has been generated amongst the members and this, of course, is fulfilling one of the chief objectives of SKÅL.

In concluding the report, I wish to record my sincere thanks to our hard-working and conscientious Secretary, Les Smith, whose help and guidance has been most valuable. Treasurer Noel Screen has kept the financial scales balanced for which we are all thankful. VP Ian Urquhart and Committeeman Dean Farnham have contributed most willingly and well at our monthly Executive Meetings and my thanks go to them also. The SKÅL Club of Cairns has come alive and I am sure it will have a long and happy life.

Thank you all.

Ron Entsch

PRESIDENT Steering Committee 1984

Ron Entsch 1985 – First Year – Presented 1985 AGM, February 1986

The SKÅL Club of Cairns is now officially one year old and going well. Our first birthday was on November 17th, 1985 – one year since our steering committee met. Thankyou SKÅLleagues, your enthusiasm has certainly ensured our clubs development.

The 1985 year has seen some most successful and certainly very different meetings. Broad grins come to faces and there are some very happy memories when members talk about the various luncheons, 'Silky Oaks', 'Fairstar', 'Meoli's', or 'the Underwater Luncheon'. These luncheons are what SKÅL is all about. Thankyou to the principals that made them possible. We have continually rotated our luncheon venues and will do so again in 1986. We have a wonderful choice here in Cairns.

Due to our choice of meeting places and some very effective public relations work our Club is becoming certainly well known and even notorious, both Australia-wide and overseas. We are certainly creating an impressive record and SKÅLleagues elsewhere are starting to say, 'What is going on in Cairns? - Let's go and have a look.'

Other clubs like our form, although I am not quite sure that 'the wild men of Cairns', the caption under one of the photographs in the last SKÅL Australia magazine is quite the image we are aiming for. However, they know we are here and we can certainly fine tune the image.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to make Les Smith our first Life Member. Les, this was a well-deserved honour and didn't the camel make it a memorable luncheon?

Ten members made our first international trip as a club to Port Moresby in October to help Port Moresby Club celebrate their first 10 years. A most memorable weekend of SKÅL friendship and marvellous hospitality. We must do more of these trips.

We have lost some good members due to various moves. We wish them well and trust they will maintain their links with the SKÅL movement and visit us again in Cairns. We have also welcomed some new members and we now have a total of 38 members. Our constitutional limit is 40 members. It is most important that members remember that 70% attendance at meetings is the lower limit. We should be looking at 100% attendance. Our meetings have been well attended and it is pleasing to see members bringing guests and to see an increasing number of visiting SKÅLleagues.

We have continued to include the 'profile' section in our 'ordinary' club meetings and this is proving a most useful means in our new club for members to get to know each other. The more common ground we find with each other, the more fellowship we enjoy. This fellowship within the travel industry is the prime object of SKÅL. It was very pleasing for me to be present at the Christmas dinner at Abbott Manor in December and wonderful to catch up with you all again. I have now been accepted into the Sydney Club and having been there at the start of the SKÅL Club of Cairns means a great deal to me.

In conclusion I would like to thank very sincerely V.P. Ian Urquhart for taking the reins in my absence and also to Secretary Mark Freeman, Treasurer Noel Screen and Committeemen Simon Foo and Graham Gordon. This team has obviously worked well to make 1985 a great year.

May the SKÅL Club of Cairns continue to be a club that the International SKÅL Movement is proud of, that is enjoyed totally by it's members and that in turn welcomes visiting SKÅLleagues and guests with true tropical hospitality.

Yours in SKÅL

Ron Entsch

PRESIDENT 1985

Ian Urquhart 1986 – Presented 1986 AGM, February 1987

The SKÅL Club of Cairns has now completed its third year (one in formation, and two as a chartered club) and is becoming a close knit body of people who understand and appreciate the meaning of the term SKÅLleague.

We have had most enjoyable and successful meetings in 1986. We have continued with our policy of using various meeting venues, and have endeavoured to 'fine tune' the quality of these locations with the constructive criticism of some of our members.

We have also continued with our 'member profiles', which have proved to be both popular and interesting. We have unfortunately lost several members and have welcomed some excellent new ones, as it to be expected in any developing SKÅL Club.

We have continued to stress the need for SKÅLleagues to follow rules relating to attendance at SKÅL meetings. If you are a member of SKÅL you must abide by the rules. The attendance at the SKÅL Club of Cairns meetings by members has been good and continues to improve. We are all very busy people in one of the most exciting growth locations for the tourist and travel industry in the world. The SKÅL Club of Cairns has a lot to live up to within this framework and I urge you all to take you part in the development of our club.

In conclusion I would like to thank particularly our Secretary, Mark Freeman, Treasurer Jill Hynes who took over so effectively from Noel Screen early in the year and the other members of the committee who have helped run our club so effectively this year. The year 1987 is a big year for SKÅL in Australia. For the first time Australia has been chosen to host the SKÅL International Worldwide Convention. The convention is to be held in Adelaide in November and will be presided over by the first Australian President of SKÅL International, Jimmy James. In Cairns we should put a lot of thought into how Jimmy describes SKÅL -- 'not just a monthly club, but rather part of a National and International organisation of some 28,000 SKÅLleagues throughout the world.' Let 1987 be a year for us to spread our wings. In July 1987 Jimmy James will attend the Cairns meeting.



Thank you all for having me as your President. It is a position that I have considered a great honour and I have endeavoured to carry out the duties of the position to the best of my ability. I wish every one of our members a most enjoyable and successful year in SKÅL in 1987.

Ian W. Urquhart

PRESIDENT 1986



Simon Foo 1987 – Report Unfortunately Lost

Graham Gordon 1988 – Presented 1988 AGM, February 1989

It is with great personal pleasure and satisfaction I report on the activities of the SKÅL Club of Cairns for the 1987 year. It was an honour to have been nominated for President and for this I am grateful.

It was pleasing to follow on from such capable persons on the previous committee and my committee strived to continue with the fellowship and guidance these previous committees had shown.

As in past practice we were honoured to have the Pacific International Hotel as our 'Home Base' for the year and we set out to provide other interesting venues for our monthly meetings on every other month. I feel we certainly achieved this with meetings as diverse as a 'Repast in the Rapids' at Silky Oaks, to 'Rollicking in the Rainforest' at Kuranda to 'Breakfast in Brisbane' with Thai Airways.



We also set out to encourage members to invite other members of the travel industry to attend as guests and indeed to introduce persons to the Club who may meet the entry qualifications and be nominated for membership. Indeed we were able to induct 5 new members into the Club in Herb Layt of Innisfail, Gordon McKauge (an original charter member) Paul Reid of Air Niugini, and formerly a member of Port Moresby, Will Brehaut of Cairns Parkroyal formerly a member of Darwin, and finally without doubt the highlight of the year, Ken Triffitt of Thai Airways who was inducted at 35,000 feet above the Burdekin during that memorable breakfast. We are seeking endorsement of that event as one worthy of mention with International SKÅL, following on from other memorable meetings this club has produced.

We were honoured with a visit from members of Townsville SKÅL early in the year but to date we have not returned that honour to their fair city. Members from many other Clubs were able to meet with us as well from New Zealand, USA, Canada, New Guinea, as well as other parts of Australia.

I believe we have a reputation for a friendly fun-loving club, a favourable endorsement from other clubs. Without the dedication of the executive committee, clubs such as ours could not function, and I must pay tribute to our long-standing Secretary Mark Freeman, who entertained almost all members with his inspired remarks in the meeting notices and who continues to show his dedication to the task. Mark represented the club at the Annual General Meeting of Australian SKÅL Clubs during the year and has such a wonderful understanding of SKÅL I trust one day he will consider handing over the reins of Secretary and stand for President in the future.

Other Members of the Committee performed their tasks well and for this I thank them. Thanks also to Ngarie Rochford who continues to entertain us with the birthday revelations and to those 3 or 4 who earned us some much needed revenue through the 'Sin Sessions'. Thankfully we have our Life Member Les Smith on the ball and he is available to teach other members the words of our SKÅL Toast. Thanks Les, from Gordon McKauge and Charles Woodward.

In closing this has been a pleasurable year for me as President and I now urge the incoming committee to carefully review the new initiatives we have before us, following the Australia AGM, particularly the membership criteria and to carefully preserve the Aims of SKÅL Clubs within the Travel Industry. Thanks must go to the Pacific International Hotel for their capacity to entertain us with these fine luncheons, and I thank you all for the pleasure.

Graham Gordon
PRESIDENT 1987

Denis Buchanan 1989 - Presented 1989 AGM, February 1990

Fellow Club Members of the SKÅL Club of Cairns thank you for permitting me the honour of occupying the position of president during the past year, a year in which I believe we conformed to the statutes set by our founding fathers in what proved to be an atmosphere of good fun and friendship.

Our mandate as SKÅLleagues belonging to an organisation which now functions in eighty-two countries has always been to develop true friendship amongst members of the tourism industry and to promote goodwill and understanding world wide. I believe we have during this year done just that and grown together in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation during a year that most of us in this industry commercially at least, would rather forget.

Our meetings were all well attended and ranged from Baby Bunnies in Ribbons, Dining in the Rainforest at Silky Oaks, Red Noses at the Races, an exercise in togetherness at the Game Fishing Club and a once in a lifetime experience visiting Croydon and Normanton. Not forgetting of course the six occasions on which we were taken care of with skill and style and imagination here at the Pacific International Hotel. Perhaps at this time it might be appropriate to recognise the contribution made by this hotel over the past year. Other suppliers have generously provided facilities and services usually at minimum costs or in some cases at no charge which places upon us a very real obligation to accept these courtesies in the spirit in which they are offered and to behave in a manner that befits a member of an organisation where it is conceded that membership is very much a privilege, is by invitation only and limited to the top echelon in our respective spheres. On your behalf I salute the generosity of all the suppliers who have contributed to our enjoyment during the past year.

Internationally we conformed to the SKÅL axiom of promoting mutual understanding by the attendance of our immediate Past President Graham Gordon, on my behalf, at the International Congress in Vancouver. Graham has extensively reported on this visit and it is the intention of this club to ensure representation at future international congresses as well as National Committee Meetings and wherever possible, other assemblies.

On the subject of international communication, I received a letter from the President of A.I.S.C., Birger Backman which he mailed on the 28 December to all SKÅL Club Presidents, in which he said in part:

'During the past fifty years we have become institutionalised – we have made friendship a commodity. At our annual gathering we are spending more time making rules and determining who are allowed to be friends and on which conditions – do we really need a more and more complex set of statutes and by-laws in order to meet and behave as friends. True friends don't need them.'

In some ways, I agree with our President, but I think that we need a framework to hold such a large organisation together and to ensure its exclusivity and I believe in the main most clubs certainly this one, still functions in the manner originally intended. I totally agree however, with Mr. Backman when in the same letter he describes SKÅL as a 'Society of Friends' and urges us to look to our motives for belonging to SKÅL and ensure that the development of friendship and the promotion of goodwill transcends other commercial and political considerations. I value you fellow SKÅLleagues as friends and take comfort in the knowledge that the members of this club who have left during the past year for other locations have not been lost as friends, but have simply broadened the scope of our friendship.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my executives for their contribution during the year and in particular our hard working secretary. It has been a good year, a fun year and I thank all of you for your contribution.

Denis Buchanan
PRESIDENT 1989

Charles Woodward 1990 - Presented 1990 AGM, February 1991

Dear SKÅLleagues, members of the SKÅL Club of Cairns how quickly the last 12 months have gone and I hope you have all enjoyed the fellowship and goodwill with your peers in the tourism industry as much as I have. It is great to see you all here today, so obviously you are experiencing 'good health and long life' – however here in Cairns the third part of the SKÅL toast 'Prosperity' has certainly become much harder to achieve.



But even with pilot strikes, recessions, floods, and wars, most of us are here because we think it is the greatest place to be. And this greatness is shown in the interesting and varied venues, which we have enjoyed for our luncheons over the last few years. In fact it is getting more and more difficult to discover new and unique locations. Notable this year was the 'Life is a Beach' luncheon, just north of Ellis Beach. The weather was perfect and what an idyllic setting in which to enjoy the good fun and fraternity of a SKÅL meeting. Also the Christmas Party at the Lake Eacham Hotel was such a convivial, traditional night. Everyone entered into the true spirit of the occasion – and it was a fine gesture – the donation of the Xmas cake by Mrs Gandhi. Also we have been hosted by the excellent hotels of Cairns, the Pacific International Hotel where this Club first began, have again done it so well.

A spin-off of the fun and frivolity of our meetings is the awareness of the diversified product of the Cairns region, which we have experienced and which we can impart to the rest of the world in our travels.

The highlight of my year undoubtedly was representing the Cairns Club at the International SKÅL Congress at Colombo in Sri Lanka. There were 700 attendees representing 148 Clubs from all around the World. At the opening ceremony with many members in their national dress, it was apparent how international SKÅL is. Everybody is very friendly and of course we are all united with our common interest in tourism, so it is very easy and interesting to converse. I would recommend the Club continue to send a representative to Munich in 1991 and Cape Town in 1992. Also as can be seen by the numbers (above 700 attendees from 148 Clubs) you do not have to be the official representative in order to attend.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my committee for all their hard work this year, especially the Secretary Graham Gordon, and I apologise for not taking him to lunch on Secretary's day. We are now entering our 7th year and I wish the incoming Committee and members' good health and long life and hopefully prosperity for 1991. SKÅL!

Charles Woodward
PRESIDENT 1990

Mark Freeman 1991 - Presented 1991 AGM, February 1992

Firstly I would like to thank the Club for having me as President for the past twelve months. I have really enjoyed myself.

The SKÅL Club of Cairns has a reputation of holding enjoyable and innovative meetings. I believe that this is a good thing. When I attended recent meetings of the executive of the SKÅL Clubs of Australia I heard the complaint about several other clubs in that they are becoming nothing but luncheon meetings. No longer do the members find the sense of belonging and fraternity – that alma mater feeling – present in their clubs. This is very sad news because that is what SKÅL is all about. SKÅL is those feelings of fellowship – both towards our own members and to all SKÅLleagues everywhere. Cairns seems to be maintaining that very important spirit and this is largely reflected in the meetings. Let me remind you of the last year's extravaganzas.



In March a superb repast at the Crystal Twig. That beef was out of this world. In April we dined at the Cairns International Hotel for luncheon in the round - very much a Tom Jones affair. May at Sassi's with the trip home on the Quicksilver and then as a contrast – lunch on the veranda at the Hilton. The 4th of July could hardly have been better celebrated in Boston when Lloyd and his band went to town. August at home again at the Pacific – and I always get the feeling that this room is home to the Club. We started in this Hotel in this room and it has been our home now for many years – with ample justification. September we did 'On the Beach' in a manner to shoot down Shute's ideas followed by the marathon of meetings – Charlie Woodward's Chillagoe in Style. In November we returned to the Matson for again excellent food and service and then in December to the Ramada for the Christmas extravaganza. What a job Peter and team did. January golf and a memorable barbecue at the Travelodge Palm Cove Resort and our largest January meeting that I can remember. And back again to the Pacific for our AGM that by tradition is always held here.

It is these types of meetings that keep the feeling of SKÅL in Cairns alive and healthy. Not all froth and bubble – the serious is combination with the enjoyment. It can't be done without the active participation of all the members. In the years that I have been on the executive I cannot remember when a member did not willingly agree when asked to help – be it fines; raffles; toasts or one of the many dirty jobs that we all cop from time to time.

And the executive! I doubt if any other Club has the equal of Charles; Max; Graham; Ian; Mary; Will and Ngarie. I thank them very much indeed. This year looks like being a blinder and I know President Max will enjoy himself as much as I have.

Thank you all.

Mark Freeman
PRESIDENT 1991

Max Plummer 1992 - Presented 1992 AGM, February 1993

SKÅLleagues, The SKÅL Club of Cairns is one year older and I thank you all for the privilege of having been the eighth President in our clubs short but eventful history. 1992 will be remembered, not for adventurous meetings, but for the equally adventurous decision to build around the visit of International SKÅL President, Maxwell Kingston, our Pacific Rim Forum.

In June, whilst I was getting stoned at Pebble Beach, the long period of planning was coupled with the assistance of members and culminated in a successful and enjoyable weekend of activities which further enhanced the reputation of our club for innovation and hospitality.



With June the climax, activities for the rest of the year were a bit more restrained. In March we enjoyed the hospitality of the Matson Plaza so much that we went back in July and then again in January this year. April at La Casa gave us a taste of pre-Olympics Spain. For May we stayed in the Mediterranean amongst mountains of pasta at Roma Roulette. In August we were welcomed back to our semi-official home, The Pacific International. The September meeting was held in lovely Palmerston Room at the Colonial Club. October at Holiday Inn was a delight for Port drinkers. November we enjoyed a new venue at Holiday Lodge, and December our

Christmas function was well supported in a very tastefully decorated ballroom at the Radisson Plaza.

Remembering back to our early days of debate over luncheons and the desire to have quality bottled wine available at reasonable prices, a desire met for us by Paul Kamsler. I am sure that you will acknowledge that the SKÅL Club is now enjoying the hospitality of some excellent meeting venues. Paul Kamsler Snr, Will Brehaut, Paul Newman, Kim Kenny, Lloyd Smith, Peter Blackburn, Charles Woodward and Ray Rogers are to be congratulated for their efforts on our behalf.

The highlight of my year was representing our club at the World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. I saw the fraternity of the SKÅL movement at first hand and was imbued with the spirit of its international goodwill. When you recognise the commitment of Graham and Charles to this club, and recognise their attendance at Congresses in Vancouver and Colombo respectively, then perhaps the experience has a lasting effect.

I would urge any of you that have the opportunity to attend a Congress to do so. Istanbul is scheduled this year and Los Angeles next year.

An item on today's agenda is membership! At last years AGM I said that minimum attendance requirements would come under scrutiny, and I was further reminded in Cape Town that membership is by invitation based on quality and professionalism. Reviewing our attendance for the year, on an adjusted membership of 38, our average meeting attendance was 25.4. I personally can think of at least 10 suitable candidates for membership. Should we raise the membership ceiling of 40, or should we expect greater support from our existing members to meet their attendance obligations? You should all be aware that your Committee has a Constitutional responsibility in this matter, but that the prospect of rubbing out a member of our sociable club is contemplated with abhorrence.

To the SKÅlleagues who have entertained us by adroitly extracting fines from the misdemeanants, an onerous task often taken on at short notice, I thank you for your efforts. Our resident Astrologer, Ngaire Rochford continued to research the zodiac and presented in her felicitous manner revealing insights into our personalities, - thank you Ngarie.

Jill has exposed the members to the all Seeing Eye of her camera's lens and recorded for archival history the club activities for another year, thanks Jill. I was fortunate to have resourceful SKÅlleagues to manager the administration and finance responsibilities of the club and a committee which did a lot of work on your behalf especially, organising the Pacific Rim Forum.

I congratulate Mike on his selection as incoming President and wish him a year as enjoyable as mine has been.
SKÅL!

Max Plummer
PRESIDENT 1992

Mike Burgess 1993 - (From the minutes of the 1993 AGM, February 1994)

President Mike Burgess thanked the various Hotels and Resorts for their efforts in hosting our monthly meetings throughout 1993 and mentioned in particular the memorable luncheon at Peeramon Hotel, which was the highlight of our luncheon meetings of the year.

He reported on his attendance at the World Congress in Istanbul and reflected on changes occurring within the movement and reminded members that Cairns Club in particular was founded in friendship and expressed a desire that the club would continue on these lines in the future. Mike thanked the committee and all those who assisted throughout the year.



Mike Burgess
PRESIDENT 1993

Mary Messina 1994 - Presented 1994 AGM, February 1995

SKÅLleagues, 1994 seems for me to have gone by in the blink of an eye. The year had rather a difficult start for me beginning with a baptism of fire at the AGM and then sadly we lost our friend and founding member of our club Elvio Meoli just prior to our first meeting for the year.

We had some memorable meetings during the year: The first one in March was memorable for the 40-degree heat and no air conditioning – I can't even remember what the food was like. For some reason Ian Urquhart felt he should shout everyone a drink. Our April meeting at Rainforestation was most unusual and rather thrilling with Charles' unique form of transport, -- and what about the driver! Mark Freeman entertained us with a most hilarious report on the local elections.



May meeting at Matson's Crystal Twig was one of our best attended luncheons with 42 members and guests. June meeting was most enjoyable at the Hilton Hotel, - the setting was wonderful as was the food and service. The major event of the year was our 2nd Pacific Rim Forum from 23-27 June, - the theme was eco-tourism & SKÅL. Forty eight delegates from Australia & PNG attended and what a wonderful 3 days, - all the events were outstanding. The welcome reception at the Pacific International, The Gala Dinner, The Qantas/Pacific Rim/SKÅL Clubs of Australian Championship Golf Tournament at Paradise Palms Golf Course, the BBQ at the Cairns Game Fishing Club, the farewell evening on Green & Fitzroy Islands.

But the one that all the delegates are still talking about was the luncheon on the beach. What an unforgettable lunch, - our thanks to Charles & Pip Woodward for putting so much effort into the whole thing.

Because of the weather constraints, our August meeting was The Last Great SKÅL Lunch on the Last Great Train Ride, - the longest luncheon meeting in history, - 49 hours. Everyone enjoyed this meeting immensely, - my only regret is that even though I was there in spirit, I was unable to attend in person. Our September meeting was at our home base the Pacific International Hotel with a record 53 attending, and as usual what a memorable feast the Pacific put on for our Club. October Meeting was at Mangrove Jack's where we all had the chance to meet the GM Steve Kirkpatrick and enjoy his hospitality. November's meeting was a farewell to Matson GM Paul Newman at the Crystal Twig and as usual the food was excellent and the wine free flowing.

Our Christmas Meeting, what an event! How are we ever going to top that night? Thanks to Peter Blackburn and the function committee every aspect of the night was outstanding.

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the 55th World Congress in Los Angeles from 27th November to 2nd December. It was great to participate in the Congress and feel a part of this great International organization. It was a pity that the SKÅL Club of Los Angeles did not put enough effort into the organization of such a major event, - I came away thinking about how much the industry in Australia has improved over the last 10 years and how the Americans could learn a thing or two not only from the Australian tourism industry, but especially from North Queensland.

It has been a privilege to have served as President of the Cairns SKÅL Club for the past year and I thank you all very much and wish the incoming President all the best for the coming year and I hope he enjoys the position as much as I did.
Thank you.

Mary Messina
PRESIDENT 1994

Ian Urquhart 1995 - Presented 1995 AGM, February 1996

Thank you Cairns SKÅLleagues for having me as your President in 1995. It has been both enjoyable and memorable.

I believe that we have achieved a lot together, it is most important that we keep the standard of our meetings high in both interest and entertainment. It is worth going over this year's meetings, it is easy to forget. They have been excellent:

Our Annual General Meeting, we held at the Pacific International. We enjoyed the wonderful cuisine of the Jardine Room at the Cairns Colonial Club. We had a memorable cocktail mixing luncheon on the beautiful lawns and under the palms at the Allamanda resort. We sampled the fine food of the Radisson Hotel in their Marina Room. We cruised through the mangroves and the quiet waters of the Cairns Everglades on the 'Terri Too'. The CaterAir luncheon at the airport was full of fun and frivolity. For our Sky Blossom Ball we rode the magnificent Skyrail and enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the Rainforestation team. Holiday Inn displayed their usual warm welcome for the luncheon in the Lakelands room, where we reviewed the video of the Sky Blossom Ball. Matson Plaza looked after us with generosity at the Crystal Twig and we had Christmas Dinner, gambled and partied in an Austrian Casino in the Grand Pacific Ballroom at Pacific International. Our final Luncheon was held at the Game Fishing club. That is a very impressive line up. A particular thank you to our Fines Masters who make it all a lot of fun. Well done every body.



We had many guests who enjoyed our company. We should continue to make carefully selected guests welcome at our meetings. It is good for friendship and it is great for promotion. This year we had many interstate visitors, including the SKÅL National President Mike Lee and also quite a few international visitors.

We have welcomed several new members and we have now got 39 members. We can have 50, and we should constantly be looking for new, interesting, active members. We should look for young members as well to ensure the continuity of what is regarded Australia wide as one of the best SKÅL Clubs. We have become well known and we should be proud of this, - it is good for Cairns and Far North Queensland.

The year as your President I attended the 25th Birthday of the SKÅL Club of Port Moresby, the SKÅL Clubs of Australia A.G.M. in Sydney and National Committee Meetings in Brisbane and Darwin. Wally Takao and I went to the SKÅL International Congress in Granada, Spain. Francesco Costa from Milan is the new world President of SKÅL and his motto for the coming year is 'Tourism is Friendship'.

The 1995 Congress was a wonderful experience. We met a lot of people and had a most enjoyable time. There were 1,700 delegates, 39 from Australia. We should continue to have our President attend this International Congress. We are part of SKÅL International and you really feel it when you take part in one of these gatherings.

I would like to close by thanking this year's committee of Lloyd Smith, Graham Gordon, Peter Blackburn, Liz Hulme, Charlie Woodward and Mary Messina for a great job.

Ian Urquhart
PRESIDENT 1995

Lloyd Smith 1996 - (From the minutes of the 1996 AGM, February 1997)



'President Lloyd Smith presented his report for the year suggesting the Club had a major year in consolidating and with some memorable meetings as per usual. He reported on his attendance at various SKÅL Clubs of Australia meetings which enabled him to greater appreciate the kinship of SKÅL and urged other members to attend these meetings as well if possible, simply as observers.

He reflected on his attendance at the World Congress in Bangkok in November, which was also attended by Ian Urquhart and Wally Takao. He praised the Florimond Volckaert Fund as a worthy instrument of assistance to SKÅL members, which has been evident in our own club.

He indicated this Club's action is assisting victims of the Port Arthur massacre as a worthy project and to date 6 families had taken up the offer of a holiday. This action was also applauded by the SCA meeting as a great initiative.

President Lloyd thanked the committee for their assistance during the year and reminded members to respect their obligations in attending a minimum of 7 meetings within the year. He also suggested that this year's Christmas dinner with entertainment by 'Flabba' as being amongst the best ever staged and congratulated all those who contributed.'

Lloyd Smith
PRESIDENT 1996

Peter Blackburn 1997 - Presented 1997 AGM, February 1998

I would like to thank the SKÅLleagues for their support of my Presidency in 1997. The past year was interesting, memorable and enjoyable. It was my goal to have a fun year and yet not overlook the importance of the networking objective of SKÅL.

During the year we lost (no he didn't die) our great friend, founding SKÅL member and our hard working Secretary to the Gold Coast. Graham Gordon was a stalwart of the SKAL Club of Cairns and will be considerable missed by all. Hopefully he can inject some of the Cairns vitality into the Gold Coast Club.

As well, we were sorry to lose one of our hardworking Committee members to Brisbane, Elizabeth Hulme. There were a number of other transfers intra and interstate, but on the positive side we gained some welcome members who will continue to uphold the traditions of the SKÅL Club of Cairns.

Whilst I do not want to give a recap of every meeting, I would like to comment on the following:

In the presence of the world President, Ian McCubbin and his delightful wife Barbara, we had a memorable evening at Kuranda Rainforestation, which was, as always, made more enjoyable by the congenial hosts Charlie and Pip Woodward. The train trip to Kuranda for the Ball was the 'Cream on the Cake' for Ian, who is ex-British Rail.

Our Christmas party at the Colonial Club Resort was another highlight of the year. This was embellished by the entertainment in the form of the 'Titations' and the 'Tina Turner' look-a-like! Our thanks to Tina Turner alias (Wally Takao) and the Titations – Jill Urquhart, Jackie Cryan, my own lovely wife Norma Blackburn, Vicki Martin, Pip Woodward and their Manager/Choreographer Jill Smith.

In October, as President, I represented Cairns at the World Congress of SKAL in Rio de Janeiro. The most important items to come out of this Congress were the formation of 'Young SKAL' and the proposed change in some categories. The Cairns Club was well represented with the following members attending the World Congress – Charles Woodward, Michael Turner, Ian Urquhart and Annalie Lewis. Whilst Rio is an exciting and vibrant destination, the transportation arrangements left a lot to be desired, as well as the standard of the hotels. With this in mind, we are proposing to make a bid for the World Congress in the Year 2001. This of course, will have to be with your support and we will keep you informed as more information comes to hand.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 1997 Committee: Vice President Wally Takao, Treasurer Peter Cryan, Secretary Graham Gordon, Counsellor Annalie Lewis, and Counsellor Elizabeth Hulme
I thank you all once again for a great year.

Peter Blackburn
PRESIDENT 1997

Wally Takao 1998 - Presented 1998 AGM, February 1999

The SKAL year 1998/99 officially started in style with the first meeting held at Macrossan Restaurant, Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas, to commemorate the incoming President residing in Port Douglas. The exquisite lunch of 5th March 1998 was also attended by fellow gold-freak SKALleagues from Townsville.

Early on, there was an unofficial get together for members from Cairns and Townsville SKÅL clubs in Mission Beach. This was planned in accordance with one of the new committee's objectives to activate the association between the two neighbouring SKÅL Clubs. The highlight of the weekend was a golf tournament between two clubs and Cairns was honoured to be the winner for the inaugural event. An early return match was organised the day following the March meeting in Port Douglas and the enthusiastic Townsville delegates were happy to even the series. The third and deciding match is scheduled for February 1999.

While we are on this subject, I hastily add that I was invited to one of Townsville SKÅL Club's main events in September which was an annual fundraiser in conjunction with the annual Race Day. I fully enjoyed the day although it cost me a lot in bets and raffles.

Also in March 1998, I travelled to Queenstown in New Zealand with three other members of our club to attend the New Zealand and Australian SKÅL Clubs combined National Committee Meeting and AGM. At the meeting our member Ian Urquhart, was re-elected as Vice President of SKÅL Clubs of Australia. Our club's plan to host the 2001 SKÅL World Congress was included in discussions. Following Sydney club's confirmation that they would not compete with Cairns, we were given an official approval as well as unanimous support from all 22 SKÅL Clubs in New Zealand and Australia. An independent working committee for the project was then formed in our club and the committee headed by Ian Urquhart has since been meeting regularly until early November 1998.

The first goal for the committee was a successful lobbying for Cairns at the SKÅL World Congress to be held in Montreal in November 1998. The campaign started with the President's letter to be sent to all 75 SKÅL International Councillors in May, officially



notifying of the club's interest in bidding for the World Congress in the year 2001. Prior to the Montreal Congress, follow-up letters were sent to reinforce this decision encouraging Councillors to support our bid in Montreal. It was, indeed, a hectic week for Ian Urquhart, Charles Woodward and myself who represented our club in Montreal. The Cairns trio supported by 17 more delegates from SKÅL Clubs around Australia did not lose any time in promoting Cairns. Personal delivery of the bidding kits to all Councillors was made one by one. A couple of travel brochures were placed on each table at the conference as well as hand delivered to delegates from around the world. But it was give-away butterfly stickers and illuminated badges both of which carried the 'Cairns for 2001' message that stole the show every night and day. These outstanding efforts led us to have an unexpected meeting with such key figures as an incoming President, a Convention Director and a Secretary General of SKÅL International. The great expectation resulting from these meetings is a probable visit by these key figures to Cairns in May 1999. No doubt, Cairns was recognised as a front runner for the SKÅL Congress year 2001, thanks to all Australia SKÅLleagues' team work.

The April meeting was held at the Oasis Resort accompanied by Easter Bunnies, followed by the lunch at the Japanese restaurant 'Yama' in May to celebrate the first Japanese SKÅL President in Australia. In June, we had the meeting at the Cairns International Hotel, where I inducted Senga Greenwood into the club. It was the first induction of a new member to the club since the AGM. Other plans of the new committee were to increase our membership and we have since inducted Bob McGill, George Humphries, Allen Hammacott, Kevin Fields and Gary Young.

At the same time, three active members were transferred to our club, Paul Newman from Darwin, Geoff Walton from Broome, and Lyle Lewis from the Sunshine Coast. Ted Hynes and Tony Lavutul discontinued their memberships and two active members will soon be transferred to other clubs (Paul Newman and Mike Scott). All in all, the nett increase of five during the year would be considered to be a modest success, if not a great achievement.

The members travelled to Trinity Beach to L'Unico in July and to the Tableland in August to celebrate Swiss 707th Day in Independence at Nick's Restaurant. Most members who attended this festive dinner stayed overnight to enjoy the fireplaces. Also we made a small trip to Palm Cove to have a September meeting at Paperbark Restaurant at Novotel. We planned another longer lunch in October, not longer in duration but longer in table length. Allowing for the size of our club, one long table in the huge Cairns Convention Centre, was not a record but it certainly was something to remember. We travelled to recently opened Thala Beach Resort in November and a photographer took snap shots of our meeting for inclusion in the SKÅL Magazine. It was a belated congratulations to Cairns Colonial Club Resort for its launch of its new foyer when we met at the renovated Homestead Restaurant in January 1999. At last we could please our Past President Lloyd Smith as the hectic schedule since the opening in August, prevented us from organising this meeting earlier.

I hasten to conclude my report by referring to one remaining big event, - our Christmas Party at Holiday Inn in December. The party in the theme of 'The Last Dinner on the Titanic' was indeed, one of the best Christmas parties this club has ever experienced. Peter Blackburn did it again, - a well decorated Titanic room, seven course dinner and fine entertainment which was enjoyed equally by members and guests. We were so fortunate that we could welcome such important guests as an Auditor for SKÅL International, an Immediate Past President of SKÅL Clubs of Australia and a President from Skål Sunshine Coast, at such an enjoyable function. At the party, our Secretary, Wayne Lapthorne, was honoured as the SKÅL member of the year. I should confess the nomination pleased me especially as without his capable assistance, I could not have managed all these matters so efficiently.

Now, no other issues worth mentioning remain except my personal thanks to Ian Urquhart for representing our club at the National Committee Meeting in Illawarra in June. I must add I enjoyed travelling with him to Tasmania in October to attend the second National Committee Meeting. My final curtain is about to fall here at our clubs birthplace with this Annual General Meeting. I hope everything ends well, believing that a well ended year will guarantee many prosperous years to come. Finally, I sincerely wish each member of our club every happiness.

Wally Takao
PRESIDENT 1998

Peter Cryan 1999 - Presented 1999 AGM, February 2000



Well this report is the last presidential report not only for the year 1999, or the decade, or in fact the century, but the Millennium, and it gives me as President a tremendous honour to submit this report.

This was quite an exciting year for Cairns SKAL, for it was the year that we finally received approval to hold the 2002 SKAL International Congress – which is a huge feather in the cap for such a small club and it really should be said in the normal manner ‘And the winner is Cairns’ There are many people to thank for this, who have worked with passion and commitment to win this Congress and for fear of forgetting someone I will not

mention anyone in particular except to say thank you from all of us to the committee responsible for this win.

Once again we had some great meetings this year, one of the memorable ones being Wally’s’ send off at the Mirage in April. I could say how could be forget this luncheon but unfortunately quite a few of us did, as did apparently some of our ladies on the Almaden trip. The less said the better, except to say that it was a great trip apparently, as this was one of the few that I unfortunately missed due to my re-location to Brisbane.

Another memorable evening was the August meeting at the Yungaburra Hotel where we were joined by a large contingent from the Guam SKAL club. Unfortunately they are still waiting for their famous Tablelands breakfast promised to them by our SKAL member of the year Peter Blackburn, and might I take this opportunity to congratulate him on a very deserved win. Regardless of this small change in their dietary plans I know they had a wonderful time (mainly thanks to Peter Blackburn) and they were amazed at how much fun we had at our meetings. Thank God they missed the real fun ones (like Almaden).

I suppose it is fair to say that the Fair Princess was one of our failures but we tried. I hear Yanni’s Greek Taverna went off with a bang, particularly with the announcement there of our win with the 2002 Congress, and Basketball was a feature of our December Christmas meeting thanks to Geoff Donaghy. Steve is always a great supporter of SKAL and he and the Oasis Resort did not let us down with his Leprechauns etc. at the March meeting with it’s St. Patrick’s day theming. Of course it goes without saying that the 3 Internationals, The Pacific International, The Cairns International, and The Hilton International all lived up to their name and produced great meetings. Thanks to all who hosted us throughout the year.

As I alluded to before it was a year in which without any real warning Jackie and I sold the Resort and decided to move to Brisbane to sample the big city life. Unfortunately I did not meet what I believe was my full commitment to the position of President for which I apologise, but when you have a Secretary such as Wayne and a Vice President such as Stephen then in reality it makes very little difference if I am there or not. To Steve, Wayne, Peter, Ian, Gay and Committee I thank you for a great year. You have been a great committee to work with. Even though I was absent from Cairns from April I still managed to attend 6 meetings for the year as well as attending the National Committee Meetings in Perth and on the Sunshine Coast. Let me say that listening to the reports from other clubs we are so far ahead of them in attitude to SKAL, fun and conviviality that it is not funny.

Charlie Woodward attended Stuttgart Skål International Congress as Cairns representative and low and behold it just happened to coincide with the Rugby World Cup in the UK, - thank you Charlie.

As at 31 December 1998 we had 49 active members and as at 31 December 1999 it had risen to 50 compliments of a transfer in. During that time however we did have a neutral turn around with 5 resignations, and 5 transfer outs, counteracted by 10 new members.

I have very little else to say except to thank you all for having me as your President for the year. I would have liked to have been much more active than what I have been, but we sometimes cannot change the direction in which we are headed, so I must live with that regret. I know that you will have a great year coming up, for with the calibre of people like you have running the club in Cairns it will always be a success. All the very best to you all for the New Year, - and of course the new Millennium.

Peter Cryan
PRESIDENT 1999

Stephen Olle 2000 - Presented 2000 AGM, February 2001

Having had the privilege of leading Skål International Cairns into the 21st Century as the 16th President of the Club I would like to thank you all for your support. I would also like to thank Vice President Wayne Laphorne and the committee for their hard work and dedication over the past twelve months.

What a year! We started and finished the year with meetings at some of Cairns finest hotels, - Holiday Inn, Oasis Resort, Matson Plaza, Reef House, Novotel Palm Cove and here today at the Cairns Hilton. In between we celebrated Christmas in the tropics at Freshwater Connection in July, a memorable crossing to Green Island, a golf tournament at the Links Port Douglas and a shady afternoon at Al Capone's Restaurant. Our away trips this year were to Bali in May and to Cooktown at the Sovereign Resort in October. From my perspective these two away trips capture the spirit of Skål in Cairns. A tremendous amount of planning, negotiating, organising and follow up is required for each trip but this is what sets us apart from other Clubs. The willingness of our members to do the hard work required gets the result! Special thanks to Kevin Fields and Bob McGill for the Bali trip and to Mike Sweeney, Charlie Woodward and Geoff Walton for the Cooktown weekend.



On your behalf, together with Bob McGill, we represented you at the Skål Australia National Committee Meeting in Broome in June, Wayne Laphorne represented us at the Skål Oceania conference in Melbourne in February, and I attended the Skål World Congress in Malta in late November. Unfortunately I missed the Christmas Party at the Rihga Colonial Club Resort due to the late changes for the World Congress. The Skål World Congress in Malta was poorly attended due to the change in date and venue from Jerusalem and there is still some confusion about the venue for 2001? We now have a great opportunity to showcase Cairns when we host the 2002 Skål World Congress but a lot of hard work remains.

For the World Congress we had been nominated for Club of the Year against a group of twenty clubs from around the world. We made it to the last six but unfortunately did not go any further with the Los Angeles Club taking out the award for 2000 followed by the Paris and Montreal Clubs. However, as part of our submission we compiled a history of our Club over the past fifteen years and have had it bound into a book form. I thank Ross McFarlane and Gateway Media for their help and Ngaire Rochford and Gaye Scott for all their assistance with this as it took quite a lot of work sifting through old records and photographs. We will now keep adding to this history each year and keep it up to date.

During the past twelve months I have had a wonderful time as President and I am proud of the way that we have all worked together. We have increased our membership, lifted numbers at meetings to record levels and raised the necessary funds to support our 2002 campaign. When you first wear the chains it is daunting to look down and see some of the previous President's names and Peter Cryan was never going to be an easy act to follow. I wish the incoming President every success and look forward to working with everyone again in 2001.

Stephen Olle
PRESIDENT 2000

Wayne Lapthorne 2001 - Presented 2001 AGM, February 2002



I would like to thank all members for their support during my year as President. It has been a privilege to lead the Club in a year that has been exciting, busy and well supported by members and guests.

And what a fantastic year it has been. From the beginning of my term in this Hotel 12 months ago we have enjoyed and experienced a wide range of eating and drinking establishments in the Cairns, Port Douglas and Tablelands regions. To summarize our year, we commenced our lunches at the Oasis Resort in March, played golf and had a fine lunch at Paradise Palms Golf Course in April, and for May experienced the recently renovated Pacific International Hotel.

Also in May a number of members attended a bonus weekend meeting at the Novotel Resort Palm Cove, played Golf (again), and enjoyed the fellowship of a number of Whitsunday Skål members who gate crashed our dinner at the last moment.

The June meeting was held in conjunction with Australia Japan Week in Cairns, and the Cairns International Hotel presenting exquisite Japanese food in Kingsford's Restaurant, made a tremendous effort. At this meeting we were joined by Members from the New Guinea Club and visitors from the Queenstown Club in New Zealand. The PNG Members provided a raffle on the day of Airfares and accommodation in PNG, with the proviso that the proceeds were put on the bar at the end of the meeting, - rumor has it that the lobby bar at the Cairns International had a record-taking day.

July saw us on a perfect North Queensland day overlooking the Coral Sea at Corals Restaurant, Sebel Reef House Palm Cove, and August was the traditional Port Douglas trip, hosted by Sheraton Mirage and ably assisted by Quicksilver Connections with the transport.

September was perhaps the only meeting that was out of sorts with the rest of the year, - held at Kuranda Trading Post in Kuranda and with some members experiencing the Mareeba Wetlands prior to lunch, this meeting was held 3 days after the September 11 tragedy and day prior to Ansett Airlines going into administration.

In October we fronted at the Panaroma Restaurant at Cairns Resort by Outrigger, and November we were hosted at Siroccos Restaurant, Radisson Plaza Hotel at the Pier.

Our gala night Christmas Party at the Sofitel Reef Casino Hotel was a tremendous success. The Skålademy Awards presentations were the highlight of the evening, and I again would congratulate Robbie Bastion for his efforts in making that possible. Last month the Holiday Inn Cairns took us "Around the World in 80 minutes", with a fine selection of foods from around the globe.

All meetings throughout the year were extremely well attended. Another pleasing aspect has been the numbers of members and guests who continue to network well after the meetings have closed. I think this type of interaction is good for our Club as well as the tourism industry in Cairns and Port Douglas.

Also in January, 16 members from Cairns, 2 Members from Townsville, and 28 family and friends took up the fantastic offer to travel to Kuala Lumpur for the Australia Day long weekend. Whilst in KL we attended a bonus meeting with the KL Club. Thanks to Ian Robinson and Malaysia Airlines for arranging this great deal.

In March, I along with Secretary Bob attended the National AGM in Darwin and we also attended the National Committee Meeting on the Gold Coast in August. In October I attended the World Congress in Puerto Rico. Numbers attending this Congress were well down due to the September 11 events, however Cairns was well represented with a total of 9 members attending. This was the 2nd year in a row where the World Congress has been affected by World events. This should make Cairns an extremely attractive and safe venue for later this year.

With regards to the plans for this year's Congress, the Chairman of the sub committee Ian Urquhart, will give a brief update on that a little later on. However your Executive deemed it appropriate that the Club should "Incorporate" to protect us particularly with the Congress this year, so at the June meeting of the Club, a special meeting was held where it was resolved by all members present to proceed. That process was completed in August.

Our membership as of 31 January 2002 stands at 75. During the year we inducted 12 new members, had 2 transfers in, 4 transfer out and 4 resignations. A nett gain of 6 new members.

On membership I would like to remind members that to become a member is not automatic and the final say is Spain's. Criteria for membership is very exact so it is important if you have someone you would like to join, consult in the first instance with Secretary Bob or Ian Urquhart, (International Councilor) for some guidance. It should also be noted that when members leave the industry then membership cannot be guaranteed. Skål is an organization for Travel professionals.

This great year could not have happened without the work of a great committee. Each Committee member contributed in some way at all functions and I am sure this is why all of the meetings ran smoothly.

My thanks go to the committee, - VP Charlie Woodward, Treasurer Mike Sweeney, Committee Members Wade Bowen, Peter Blackburn, Lloyd Smith, Stephen Olle, Ian Pike and Robbie Bastion. However a special mention needs to be made of the work of Secretary Bob McGill. Bob's philosophy is that communication is the key to a good Club and judging by the emails I got over the last 12 months, we have a very good Club. As you probably know the Secretary "runs" the Club and it can be very time consuming. Well done Bob and thanks.

Over the last year I have been proud to be your President. I have had a terrific time. I believe the Club is in great heart as we move towards the World Congress in November 2002. I wish the incoming President and Committee well, and trust 2002 for our industry is everything we expect.

Wayne Laphorne
PRESIDENT 2001

Charles Woodward 2002 - Presented 2002 AGM, February 2003

Fellow SKÅLleagues,

What a momentous year for Skål International Cairns. As well as our usual serious fun lunches, we hosted the World Congress in our fair city in November and it was adjudged by many as "the best World Congress ever." Every member of the club contributed but of special note are:

- (a) Ian Urquhart who led Wally Takao and myself to Montreal & Stuttgart to secure the rights to hold the Congress. Also Wayne Laphorne produced the collateral to make us appear like I.T. wizards in our presentations.
- (b) Bob McGill "The Communicator" who bombarded members and the world with emails and information to boost our delegate numbers. Also primed everybody at the Skål-about Hotel at the airport on arrival.
- (c) Steve Olle who attended Malta, Puerto Rico, Tokyo and Manila to achieve who knows what?
- (d) The crew that took Puerto Rico by storm namely Wayne Laphorne, Steve Olle, Ian Urquhart, Ian Pike, Bob McGill, Ross McFarlane, Ian Crossland, and Geoff Donaghy.
- (e) Wayne Laphorne who controlled our finances so well with Ian Pike and Mark Meggitt, that we now have a problem with what to do with our surplus.
- (f) Wade Bowen, who attended the North American Skål Congress in Mexico and did a terrific job trying to sort out flight itineraries from all over the world.
- (g) Gaye Scott who organised the very successful Race Day promotion as well as the Melbourne Cup at the Congress
- (h) Lloyd Smith and the Reverend Peter Blackburn for organising the opening ceremony and ecumenical service.
- (i) Mike Sweeney and JP McFadden for very professionally organising the congress

- (j) Geoff Donaghy and the Cairns Convention Centre for a great effort, which surely enhanced their reputation as one of the best conference centres in the world.
- (k) Mike Burgess for twisting arms to secure very good sponsorship support and organising the Port Douglas night.
- (l) Finally the many sponsors, the major ones being Quicksilver, Great Adventures, Skyrail, Europcar, Captain Cook Cruises, Tropic Wings, Rainforestation, Southcorp Wines and the combined hotels.



To sum up the congratulatory feed back we received - "your committee managed to stage a well balanced congress wherein the business was achieved, the fun and non-stop events were superb and all in a most professional and efficient manner".

However there are 12 months in a year and at the March meeting at the Cairns International Hotel we had the World President Tony Clegg Butt, Secretary General Jim Power, and representatives from all clubs in Australia. Thank you to all who helped sponsor this event with accommodation and touring. We also had memorable lunches at the Sebel Reef House, Pacific International Hotel, Angsana Resort & Spa, Mercure hotel Harbourside and Holiday Inn Cairns with Peter Blackburn blowing the budget in January.

The Race Day was a great success and should become an annual event and there were also away lunches to Rainforestation for alfresco dining in the Tropical Orchard and Port Douglas Treetops with the usual memorable transfers by Quicksilver if anyone can remember them.

Members committed many transgressions during the year and they were suitably fined by Steve Olle, Ian Pike and Rob Bastion. Also Ngaire regularly performed her birthdays with the stars.

The Christmas Party was a Bachelor and Spinister Ball at the Cairns International and during all the frivolities, Wayne Lapthorne was declared SKÅLleague of the Year.

So thank you all and Skål, it's been a great and memorable year!

Charles Woodward
PRESIDENT 2002

[Bob McGill 2003 - Presented 2003 AGM, February 2004](#)

Dear Skålleagues,

The time has come for me to review my 12 months as your President and report my activities to this AGM.

It has been a very busy and hectic year for our travel and tourism industry and I therefore take this opportunity to thank all members for maintaining an active participation with Skål International Cairns. The role of Skål is to provide a strong networking forum through fellowship, it was therefore my mission and objective as President to optimise every possibility for fellowship so that business relationships and friendships became strong and long lasting.

The cornerstone of our vibrant and popular club has always been our renowned lunch meetings. Apart from ensuring the success of our monthly luncheons - thereby ensuring Skål as a viable and valuable resource for tourism executives, I set myself a number of goals for 2003 /04.

1. Skål International Cairns Tourism & Hospitality Study Bursary.

To integrate our involvement within the local industry and to enhance the profile of our membership as industry leaders, your Committee this year initiated an annual \$1,000 study subsidy for the most outstanding student in TAFE Tourism Certificate IV studies, wanting to continue through Diploma level. The subsidy is paid to TAFE to cover fees and study material and will be recognised by a perpetual plaque to be displayed in the foyer of the TAFE Tourism & Hospitality faculty building. The successful student will address a Skål luncheon, and will be offered work experience in the business of respective Cairns Skålleagues. Skål will receive media recognition and community kudos for investing in the future of our industry. Skålleague Mike Sweeney was instrumental in securing TAFE as our perpetual beneficiary.

2. Skål International Cairns Hospitality Award.

Skål International Cairns is renowned for its fellowship and networking.

Our monthly luncheons are known across the length and breadth of Australia for their openness and informal style. A key ingredient to having achieved this reputation is the standard & variety of luncheon venues we are fortunate to avail upon. Our hosts, member hoteliers, go to exceptional effort to ensure our lunches are different, themed and excellent value for money. Skål luncheons in Cairns are the envy of every organization and it is therefore appropriate that luncheons which receive much acclaim, be officially recognised. With this in mind, I have this year initiated the Skål International Cairns Hospitality Award, for excellence in Food, Fun and Fellowship. The award recipient will be chosen by popular vote of the membership, for lunches /dinners within a Skål year commencing February AGM to January the following year. The inaugural award will be presented at this AGM, with the votes of members having been cast after the January meeting. The recipient will receive a beautiful shield, endorsed with appropriate wording, to hang in their hotel reception or restaurant, for the following 12 months. It will be a prestigious and sort after award, giving proper profile and due recognition to our hotelier members and luncheon hosts.

3. World Skål Club of the Year.

As an enthusiastic Skålleague who has been fortunate to experience many other clubs, I was keen to promote Cairns Club, nationally & internationally, and have our genuine fellowship recognised for the real worth it is. An excellent opportunity to help me attain this goal was presented when we were invited by Skål International to make a submission for World Skål Club of the Year. One of the highlights of the Skål International Congress each year is the announcement of the selection of the World Skål Club of the Year. Clubs submitted by the General Secretariat are examined closely by the Vice Presidents of Skål International and a number of them are selected to go forward for the competition.

Secretary General Jim Power submitted the name of Skål International Cairns, and Vice Presidents Karl Twiggs and Matanyah Hecht selected Skål International Cairns as one of the top three clubs in the world. Skål International Cairns was recognised at the President's Gala Dinner and came third in a very close race behind Northern Ireland and Paris, as World Skål Club of the Year.

It may seem a little disappointing not to have topped the pool, but being recognized in the top 3 is no small achievement for a humble North Queensland Club, against the might and strength of metropolitan clubs around the world.

4. Skål Cairns Website <http://www.cairns.skål.org.au>

To move with the times in this electronic era, the Committee has for some years experimented with improving our communication to members. It is important in our busy business world that communication be fast, simple and convenient. To this end we have this year, thanks mainly to the commitment of Skålleague Murray Worthington, succeeded in perfecting our Skål Cairns website. This on-line data base and newsletter facility will become an important & valuable tool to all members wanting to keep in contact with each other, with Club activities & the Skål network.

5. Skål International – Public Relations.

To ensure the proper and appropriate image of Skål to our industry colleagues and to enhance the value and professional standing of our membership to the broader community, I this year appointed our Vice President Rob Bastion to oversee & coordinate Club PR. Robbie did a superb job in raising the profile of Skål International Cairns and I believe PR should continue as a future role for the Vice Presidential position, allowing the incumbent to prepare a platform for the following year in office.

6. Skål International – Membership Director.

A major international leisure destination and a strong and vibrant club dictate that membership will always require constant monitoring. In recent years our Club membership has grown to truly reflect a realistic cross section of our local industry. The comings and goings, the transfers-in, transfers-out, and constant stream of assessing new applications, has become too burdensome for the Secretary to handle solo. This year I appointed Past President Stephen Olle as Membership Director to assist the Secretary, not only to shuffle paperwork for incoming and outgoing members, but also to ensure static members maintain their attendance record and commitment to Club activity per standing orders. Understanding that work takes priority, it is in the best interest of a healthy and vibrant organization that members network regularly. Cairns Skål by-laws stipulate a minimum attendance of [7] meetings within a [12] month calendar year.

What an outstanding and fun 12 months it has been! - to summarise the year let me take you down memory lane in chronological order:

It all began this time February 6th last year with AGM at Cairns Colonial Club Resort when my election withstood a barrage of onslaught from potential opponents for the Presidency. We were hosted by GM Lloyd Smith in Jardine's Restaurant to the novel theme of fish'n'chips wrapped in newspaper, accompanied by fairy bread. Not really that simple, it was beautiful tempura reef fish with salads & condiments, served with a difference. Our AGM is traditionally one of our smaller meetings due the fact it is "members-only", but none-the-less enjoyed because members always relish the intimacy of the gathering, taking the "mickey" out of each other.

March 6th we were hosted in style at Hilton Cairns by GM Herman Ehrlich who utilised front page news of the Iraq Conflict to partner with the beginnings of the Hilton Foundation. Black Gold –OIL, was the theme for this luncheon with black garbage bags placed on all the seats and 44 gallon drums of oil strategically placed around the room to give effect. Few people can say they have dined silver service at Hilton and been obliged to sit on a garbage bag, -- our members can!

Later in March, 13th to 15th I attended National Committee Meeting on Hamilton Island with Secretary Ian Pike. A most enjoyable and productive series of meetings, hosted by Skål International Whitsundays.

April 3rd seen us gather at Pacific International Hotel to a Mediterranean theme. Our hosts the Kamsler family, Paul Snr, Paul Jnr. and Mark, had the tables dressed with traditional check design tablecloths and we were served the very best of Italian, Greek, and Spanish cuisine, naturally accompanied by suitable wines.



On 1st May we experienced the award winning Spice Market Restaurant at Novotel Resort Palm Cove. Members were treated to a welcome by Caribbean Drum Band, setting the scene for exceptional tucker and beverage. The food was so outstanding the members asked if the chefs could be presented to the gathering to accept public acclamation.

On an exceptional autumn afternoon Tuesday 20th May this club had its first Past President's Reunion Luncheon. In the very pleasant el-fresco surrounds of the restaurant at Sebel Reef House Palm Cove, hosted by GM Tony Marrinan and overlooking a perfect Coral Sea, 25 invited participants of Past Club Presidents, National President and Club Committee enjoyed fine food & beverage. It was particularly pleasing to welcome now non-resident PP's to the luncheon, some travelling interstate as well as from Papua New Guinea, including our inaugural Founding President Ron Entsch. Past Presidents were each given time to recount tales of their Presidency, important for current Committee – the future of our club. We all learnt from the experience, appreciating how our Club has evolved for the better over the years with every President making a positive contribution. I presented all Past Presidents with a medallion of past office and 2 quality gold-trimmed wine goblets as a token of gratitude from members. I also presented a "Certificate of Commendation & Appreciation" to PP Ian Urquhart for his outstanding & dedicated contribution to not only our Cairns Club since inception, but also to Skål Australia as National President and International Councillor.

June 5th and we were recognising Her Majesty The Queen on her birthday, at Oasis Resort Cairns. GM Stephen Olle had the "old girl" seated on her throne with full regalia – knighting, anointing & appointing, and generally being regal & royal. Lot's of fun with good food and beverage.

Rugby League devotees scrambled into Tjapukai on 11th June. Our Skål State-Of-Origin Spectacular was viewed on the BIG screen in the Tjapukai Theatre and footy enthusiasts enjoyed beer, burgers, hot pies and pizza while watching their favourite game of Queensland v's New South Wales.

Saturday June 21st was cause for celebration with Skål International Townsville. I travelled south to join their celebrations for 20 years of Skål in Townsville. A gala dinner and a lot of frivolity, I returned home hung-over, but better for yet another Skål experience.

July 12th and we flicked our monthly luncheon for a chance at the track. On a beautiful winter Saturday afternoon trackside we held our Skål Race Day at Canon Park Race Course. Skålleague Gaye Scott and her small committee organised a great afternoon for punters, - a scrumptious smorgasbord of food, fashions on the field, raffles, live entertainment, and of course – trackside bookies. The Skål Race Day has firmed itself as a fixture in our annual activity calendar, and with improved and dedicated management will become a major event for our local tourism community.

Always a highlight of our annual agenda is our pilgrimage to Port Douglas to play morning golf, dine in style and return to Cairns on-board Quicksilver's Wavepiercer. On 7th August we travelled by various modes to play golf at The Links and then be hosted by GM David Brook at Radisson Tree Tops Resort. Under the canopy of rainforest trees we enjoyed grilled steak and fish, tropical desserts, special wines and mini-bottles of scotch. A "tropical" shirt was provided to every attendee, - a sight to behold when 120 "loud" Skålleagues partook their pub-crawl down Macrossan Street en-route to embark Quicksilver at Marina Mirage.

The next day, Treasurer Wade Bowen and myself flew (with Qantas) to chilly Canberra for the 2nd National Committee Meeting and AGM, 8th -10th August. Whist the temperature was minus 4%, the hospitality and fellowship of Skålleagues from across Australia was suitably warm, as were the glasses of port by the fire place. We were hosted by Skål Canberra at the Hyatt Heritage International and again enjoyed a gala dinner on the Saturday evening. In Canberra, I was elected one of two National Vice-Presidents from a field of five.

In September most minds in Cairns turn to Amateurs Spring Race Carnival. Our Club is no different and on 4th September at Mercure Hotel Harbourside, GM Murray Worthington was first past the post in hosting a luncheon with horse racing theme. A Calcutta was run and Fashions in the Field won by the best & most suitably dressed. Again, fine food and beverage for ALL.

On October 2nd we ventured to Clifton Beach and Paradise Palms Golf Course for a morning of golf and returned to lunch at the clubhouse where we feasted on a tropical seafood buffet overlooking the magnificent fairways of the golf course. GM David Kersley and Golf Operations Manager Garry Burness ensured that we were catered for in true Skål style.

October 8th and I departed for destinations unknown on the sub-continent. I attended 2003 Skål World Congress in Chennai, India, with Lorraine, and 34 other Australians. Our pre-Congress 8 day /7 night experience on-board "Palace-on-Wheels" luxury train excursion through northern India was a highlight of our holiday and I would have no hesitation in recommending same to anyone who wanted to see India in hassle-free comfort. Alas we did not sight a tiger in the wild, - a challenge for any traveller.

The Taj Mahal is truly an incredible monument of architecture and needs to be seen to appreciate its beauty. Another highlight of our trip was had in Nepal, by way of a flight along the Himalayas, again their magnificence and grandeur needing to be directly experienced. Congress itself was a great show.

Indian Skålleagues did a fine job in providing 5 days of business and fellowship. The international opinion is still such that they believe 2002 Cairns Congress reset the benchmarks for future Congresses.

The Rugby World Cup swept the world in November, so it was fitting that November 6th we were hosted at Matson Resort Cairns by GM Mark Slimmer to a Rugby World Cup Luncheon. The ballroom was fully themed with a backdrop of games being played, and we finished the lunch with “heads & tails” with a difference, - a draw of cup team contenders. Great food, good drink and outstanding company.

What can I say about our end of year Gala Christmas Party? OUTSTANDING!!!

A small committee of Wayne Laphorne, Rob Bastion, & Stephen Olle, together with host Lyle Lewis, GM Radisson Plaza Hotel at the Pier, helped me organise a very successful 20th December gala evening for 180 Skålleagues and friends. Words are hard to find, but the memories of a good time will last forever. Food, grog, theme, and entertainment – ALL exceptional - friends sharing fellowship. I was overwhelmed with the support for the SUPER-raffle, to fund the “bells & whistles” on the evening. The very kind sponsorship by members toward in excess of \$30,000 worth of tourism getaways was humbling to myself and most appreciated by the lucky winners.

Our final luncheon for the year was held on January 8th 2004 at Pacific International Hotel in commemoration of 20years since a steering committee got together to discuss the possibility of forming a Skål Club in Cairns. Hosted by the Kamsler family it was a nostalgic meeting with many tales of yesteryear and had an international theme in respect of Skål International. A delicious seafood buffet and a large celebratory cake with Skål logo was feasted to all. This lunch set the stage for our gala celebrations to be had in January 2005, 20years since our Club charter was presented, and was held at Pacific International Hotel because in the early years of our Club this hotel, being the first “international” hotel in Cairns, was regarded as the unofficial home of Skål Cairns.

The average attendance at luncheons this 2003 /04 year has been 93 pax. Often our luncheons exceed 110+ and we need to be careful to plan accordingly and ensure that the venue will meet the demand. Despite the increase in size of attendance, our meetings remain intimate, warm, friendly, informal, and most importantly – lots of fun. Our international slogan is – “Doing Business with Friends”, and our meetings provide no better forum, allowing members to network & “talk shop” in a casual and most relaxed atmosphere.

The Treasurers Report will reflect the undertaking of your Committee to be non-profit. Other than our commitment to TAFE Tourism Study Bursary, our Club raises & retains only sufficient funds to ensure our functions are organised and presented in an impressive style befitted our membership. All functions and activity this year have been conducted well within budget.

On the occasion of our end-of-year celebrations and Gala Christmas Party I presented a number of awards:- 1] Past President Charlie Woodward was recognised as Club Champion 2002, for leading our Club through a very busy, public and formal 2002, the year we hosted Skål World Congress. 2] Rob Bastion was awarded Skålywag 2003 for his efforts in keeping our luncheons light & informal, ensuring we do not take ourselves too seriously and we appreciate Skål for the vehicle it is intended to be. 3] Secretary Ian Pike and Treasurer Wade Bowen were recognized for their attention to the administrative aspects of our Club. 4] I awarded 3 Presidential Commendations - Past President's Peter Blackburn, Stephen Olle and Wayne Laphorne, nicknamed Huey, Duey & Luey, were awarded merit for "Perpetual Commitment" to the ongoing success of our Club. 5] Skålleague of the Year was awarded to Wade Bowen for his work ethic toward our industry and our Club.

Our Club experienced two sad occasions throughout the year:

- Les Smith, Foundation Member, instrumental in the formation of our Club and Inaugural Secretary, Les a retired airline executive passed away in April 2003 at Bargara near Bundaberg. Many current members may not have known Les but we can all be thankful for his efforts 20 years ago to make Skål Cairns a reality. Les together with Ian Urquhart & Noel Screen, each with experience from other Skål Clubs, forged a steering committee with Inaugural President Ron Entsch at the helm, to drive the formation and attain a charter from Skål Headquarters (then in Brussels) for what we know & enjoy today as Skål International Cairns.
- Sir Syd Williams, Club Patron, renowned Australian and Founder of Cairns Amateurs Racing Carnival, died suddenly in May 2003. Sir Syd was highly respected in many forums of our community and was a driving force and great friend of our tourism industry. Sir Syd's achievements and accomplishments were many & varied, drawing acclaim from around Australia and internationally, - he was our first and only Club Patron and will be missed by many.

SKÅL to Les & Syd, --- may they rest in peace!

Giving due respect of Sir Syd's passing, the Committee elected not to immediately seek a replacement for Club Patron, however the agenda is on the table to address after a recognised 12 month mourning period.

On the subject of membership, Skål Cairns is progressing through a very vibrant phase. It is timely that I remind members that acceptance of membership applications is not automatic and the final say is that of Spain. We welcome the attendance of guests and encourage new members, however Skålleagues must be mindful that Skål is bound by an International Constitution which clearly stipulates what positions are eligible for membership. "Tourism" is a diverse industry however the Statutes clearly indicate criteria for membership. Should a Skålleague have a guest seeking membership, please check with the Secretary, President or other Committee to clarify acceptance criteria, so as to avoid embarrassment.

Membership was moderately increased by [4] this year, with a loss of [7] and a gain of [11], our membership currently stands at [77] being mindful that a number of members who left town may still be financial with Cairns Club and have not as yet transferred into another Club.

Russell Birrell, GM Cairns Resort by Outrigger transferred out to Sunshine Coast.
Ron Thynne, GM Country Comfort Outrigger transferred out to Alice Springs
Joe Tsuchida, CEO Daikyo Australia transferred out to Tokyo
Ian Stuchbury, MD ATS transferred out to Gold Coast
Tony Marrinan, GM Sebel Reef House transferred out to Brisbane
Richard Greenhill, Independent Aviation resigned due work commitments
Maggie Blight, AMEX Travel resigned due work commitments
Charles Martin, Cairns Airport Manager QANTAS was inducted
Cam Charlton, Chairman TTNQ was inducted
Stuart Munroe, GM Sheridan Plaza Hotel was inducted
Mercedes Bodman, Sales Manager JalPAK was inducted
Darren Miller, MD Cairns Limousines was inducted.
Phillip Smith, GM Great Adventures & Green Island Resort transferred in
Mark Fifield, Director of Sales Coral Princess transferred in
Tony Briggs, MD Coral Princess transferred in
Carmel Angelino, GM Reflections Port Douglas was inducted
Tricia Batkin, GM Peninsula Hotel Port Douglas was inducted
Jon Perrin, GM Outrigger Palm Cove was inducted

There were a couple of scheduled activities that did not eventuate this year. Due to global threats to our industry from terrorism and SARS, our many tourism personnel were busy preparing their respective businesses for any adverse impact. Luckily, as a destination TTNQ came through better than most. However, a proposed Dinner Dance during our winter months, an Outback Excursion to Chillagoe, and some nostalgic Heritage Hotel Tours had to be postponed. Each of these activities were in full favour by members, but fell short of numbers due to work commitments during a very busy year. I will support the incoming President to resurrect each and bring them to fruition.

This year has been a success due to planning and commitment. For this I acknowledge the support of a quality Executive Committee. All contributed in a positive and enthusiastic manner, allowing full club functions to run smoothly and professionally. I deputised a large Committee, but one in which everyone had a role to play and a duty to perform.

I saw a need to lessen the load on a few long term dedicated members, and to “show the ropes” to some fresh blood. One could not be accomplished without the involvement of the other. Long term committee members served alongside new comers, passing on the experience by word and deed, the little things done correctly over the years, which have made this Club a Great Club of the Skål World. Past Presidents Charles Woodward, Lloyd Smith, Peter Blackburn, Stephen Olle & Wayne Laphorne, with past-Committee Rob Bastion, Ian Pike, Wade Bowen, Mark Meggitt, and Mike Sweeney, served alongside new-comers to Committee – Kim Thomas, Russell Birrell, Rosie Ryan, and Murray Worthington (PP Rotorua Club NZ) to ensure smoothness of operation.

Every Club needs capable and competent administrators, and a special mention is warranted for Secretary Ian Pike and Treasurer Wade Bowen. In real life, Ian is Proprietor and very hands-on operator of his own busy business, and Wade likewise fills a very hands-on and demanding executive role within a large corporate organization. In Skål, their 2003 roles of Secretary & Treasurer required constant and timely attention, and my two right hand men have served your Club well.

Thank you Rosie & Gents, -- many hands made light work!

I'd like to thank my employer Queensland Rail for allowing me the latitude to fulfil the role of President. Whilst at no time did Skål take priority over work responsibilities, the fact that flexibility is understood and permitted within the workplace makes the duties of extracurricular office all the easier. I know QR will benefit from strong business relationships I continue to build through Skål.

Finally but certainly not of least priority, I'd like to sincerely and affectionately thank my wife Lorraine. For your patience and understanding in recent years as I've thrown my enthusiasm and efforts toward Skål matters. For keeping the dinners warm & not locking the door when I returned home late after meetings, and for being my abiding companion and chaperon on those official occasions when partners were expected. Love ya!

The coming Skål year will include January 2005 and the anniversary of receiving our Club Charter, celebrating 20 years of Skål in Cairns. It is a date which deserves much recognition from Club members and I encourage your proactive involvement to commemorate in renowned Skål style. January is a bit of a Clayton's birthday for our Club, it could have been some months earlier in November /December, but it finally came in April 1985. For a number of reasons not least of which was an industry crisis now known as the "pilot strike" causing havoc, our charter was presented on 19th April 1985. However Cairns was actually accredited as Club #530 on 24th November 1984. We have adopted the middle ground and January start of year as our birthday.

Skålleagues, it has been a privilege and honour to be President of this great Club. I am fortunate to have amongst its membership many genuine, strong & enduring friendships. I wish the incoming President and his Committee every success, and wish to all members' prosperity within their respective business enterprises.
Thank you & Skål,

Bob McGill
PRESIDENT 2003

Rob Bastion 2004 - Presented 2004 AGM, February 2005



Dear Skålleagues, Firstly, welcome to the AGM for my 2004/05 year and my sincere apologies for my absence from proceedings, Unfortunately, I still have to work for a living and my work necessitates regular travel. I sincerely appreciate your understanding and support of this during 2004.

Being President of SKÅL International Cairns is certainly a source of great pride and also great fun and I commend all members whose presence in SKÅL Cairns has given this club a wonderful reputation around the country and also around the world. During my tenure I did learn a lot about SKÅL as a global organisation. I learnt of some of the ways they endeavour to improve the businesses and lives of its members and I also witnessed some of its frailties and failings. I witnessed its generosity in times of need and its desire to improve itself as an organisation. All of this is reflected by the members of SKÅL International Cairns 530 and as trite and bland as this may sound, it was indeed a privilege to be your President.

I almost didn't make it of course, considering the fierce coup d'état attempted by the "Gang of Two" - Messrs Smith and Woodward - at the AGM in February 2004. Following intelligence that this may actually happen I was taken offshore and crowned President and delivered my inaugural address via video tape. Strangely, a further plot by the Gang of Two to commence a secret society in Yarrabah has been ominously quiet.

Therefore, it was with great excitement and some trepidation that I presided over my first lunch at the delightful Far Horizons Restaurant at Angsana Resort and Spa in March. Under the watchful eyes of several Past Presidents, I managed to get through my first lunch with a minimum of mistakes and was certainly glad to get that first one under my belt. So relieved, in fact, that I put several more under my belt in the company of Nicholas Mason and entourage after lunch was concluded.

In April, we ventured to the Holiday Inn for an Aussie Fair theme complete with pig on a spit. The Holiday Inn, under the management of Peter Blackburn has been a great friend of SKAL Cairns over many years and we were all sorry to hear of Peter's transfer to Perth. Their gain is definitely our loss and we wish Peter and Norma every success.

In May, we dined in the "Restaurant that Lloyd Built" at the Cairns Colonial Club Resort and enjoyed a rather amusing, if not somewhat painful dining experience for some of us, to celebrate Lloyd's success as a handyman. With faithful assistant, Wayne Lapthorne, Lloyd was lucky to escape serious injury after attempting some death defying acrobatics from the roof of his house. Lloyd has much more success hosting lunches under the roof rather than launching hosts from the roof.

In June, reigning venue champs Oasis Resort prepared us for the forthcoming Olympics with a wonderful re-creation of a somewhat under-prepared Athens. We were especially lucky to have a guest Skålleague who not only hailed from the Athens Club but just so happened to be on the Olympic Organising Committee – how lucky were we? It wasn't until half way through this very funny speech that I knew I had been set up and sucked in wonderfully. A very funny and topical lunch hosted by Stephen Olle.

Our hard-working racing committee had been in the planning stages for some months before our race day meeting at Cannon Park on 17th July. As always this event draws a great crowd of Skålleagues and guests and 2004 was no different. Big thanks to the organising committee, particularly Gaye Scott and Kim Thomas for a top effort.

Whilst I missed the race day I did manage to fly into Cairns on the day of our August lunch and headed straight to the Cairns International from the airport to join the Generals table and dine in the mess hall with members and their guests. Tony Crook and his team had the place well decorated and there were many a war tale being told around the room. My vodka chocolates from Helsinki were a great success.

I was unfortunately away again for the September lunch at Outrigger Palm Cove and missed a lunch that has gone down in history. Right up there with the Kennedy Conspiracy, and Watergate we have our own “phone in the water” incident. It didn’t seem to worry the National President too much as he has since been back for a visit. Evidently, an absolutely wonderful lunch/dinner and full credit to Murray Worthington and his team.

I was back in town for the infamous October Port Douglas lunch and again, our Port Douglas Skålleagues didn’t disappoint. After an early morning game of golf for many members and a beauty treatment for Bobby McGill, the masses descended on Silky Oaks for an afternoon of much merriment. Put together by prominent Port Douglas Skålleagues including Carmel Angelino, Tricia Batkin, George Humphries, Sally Sutherland, and Megan Bell, with assistance from Pete and Pauline Smith and a guest appearance by dwarf Moss Hunt, our afternoon as fairies in the rainforest was one to remember – and I certainly wish I could. As always the return cruise on Quicksilver also gave rise to a number of new tales to tell.

A more sombre but nevertheless fun lunch was had at Tradewinds Esplanade Hotel on 11th November to mark Remembrance Day. Steve Underwood unearthed a number of relics from our armed forces to decorate the dining room and surrounding area. A wonderful afternoon and one we are “lest to forget”

The Christmas spirit along with bubbles & rose petals descended on the ballroom of Hilton Cairns for our Xmas lunch. Using the event to showcase their brand new spa rooms, Herman Ehrlich and team provided a great venue along with equally impressive wines and a menu to match.

The long anticipated event of my presidential year was, however, our 20th Anniversary Celebrations held at the Sofitel Reef Casino Hotel on 22nd January 2005. Judging from comments (and the state of my room the next day), it lived up to expectations. Our night showcased the talents and partying abilities of our members to a number of interstate and international guests. For those lucky enough to win a prize in the raffle, it just topped off an already great night. It would be remiss of me not to thank all the SKÅL members, who not only attended but were so generous with donations for the raffles and for assistance on the night itself. In particular, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Secret Colours Committee of Mr Green (Wayne Laphorne), Mr Red (Bobby McGill) and Mr Purple (Stephen Olle) who made life very easy for Mr Fuchsia (me!). The Skålleague of the Year award was hotly contested but was justly awarded to Murray Worthington.

I would like to commend all venue hosts for being so generous and creative and it is this willingness to go to great lengths that ensures the numbers we have at every lunch. I also commend hosts Murray Worthington, Steve Underwood and the Port Douglas organising committee for the raising of much needed and appreciated funds for charities at their luncheons. I also thank all Skålleagues for their generosity in contributing some \$5000 of club funds to aid the relief of Tsunami victims. It strikes at some of the very core principals of SKAL to assist others in times of need and I do hope this club continues to help those in need.

In terms of events, that wonderful night brought my tenure as President to a close and it a year I will remember with many laughs and a great deal of fondness. I sincerely extend my thanks to a fantastic and hardworking committee including Messrs Olle, Lapthorne, McGill, Thomas, Smith, Woodward, Sweeney, Pike and Bowen. Special mentions to Messrs Smith, Blackburn and Olle for their generous hospitality in providing the venues and hospitality for our Committee meetings. A very, very special mention to our only female committee member, the ever patient Rosie Ryan/Douglas. Rosie, at times battled an over abundance of testosterone with calmness and the odd wry remark but gave a very valuable female view on some of our plans. Thank you Rosie and I hope you are feeling better.

It is easy to extend thanks to these people but I wish to stress to all club members that our club would bear little resemblance to what it is today, without the dedication and work of the above few. I urge all Club members to put your hand up when there are things to be done. It really does make a difference and I cite our Port Douglas lunch as the classic example.

I was fortunate enough in October, through the clubs generosity, to attend the SKÅL World Congress in Durban. My first but hopefully not my last, I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was heartening to see that the attendance from Australia was the one of the largest delegations and impressed upon many global colleagues the strength of SKÅL in Australia at a time when other areas are struggling with membership.

On membership, I extend a warm welcome to all those who joined our ranks during 2004 and I trust you will find your membership rewarding and enjoyable. We have several other nominations about to be ratified by Spain in the next month which will swell our ranks even further. May I say that I have always valued my membership of SKÅL and whilst I do not want to sound elitist or exclusive, I urge all members to offer their support of prospective members with careful and due consideration. SKÅL is not an organisation to be joined just to add another notch to the key ring. Rather it requires commitment as well as other issues to be considered and weighed. Our club is strong and vibrant and that reflects directly on you, our members. Please help in keeping it strong and vibrant.

Lastly, SKÅL International Cairns is at somewhat of a crossroads. Many here today have been a part of the club since its birth 20 years ago – a remarkable fact. We have many achievements attached to our name including a memorable SKÅL World Congress 2002. Our successes have helped drive the club to a notable prominence in SKÅL not only in Australia but also internationally. Now is a critical time in the clubs development. It would be easy to sit back and reflect on our past glory. There have been undercurrents and mutterings of late that concern me and I want to see the club continued as a strong and united one. Now is a time for this club to cement itself as one of the great clubs of the world.

Whilst carefully monitored by Committee our membership continues to grow by natural attraction, a remarkable feat in such a small destination. All members need to work together to ensure the long term viability and continued success of the club and I know we have the people to do just that.

May I wish the incoming President and new Committee for 2005 my warm congratulations and my continued support. It has indeed been a pleasure and an honour to act as your President in 2004

Rob Bastion
PRESIDENT 2004

Ian Pike 2005 - Presented 2005 AGM, February 2006



Greetings SKÅLleagues, Fun, Fun, Fun, is without doubt what I took as my most important task, with or without a microphone for my Presidential year. History will only tell whether or not I was reasonably successful.

Major Highlights of the Year:

1. Opening our own Skål Bar and Meeting Place, Sincere thanks on behalf of the entire Club go to SKÅLleague Steve Underwood and his team for all their input on this great asset.
2. Attending the inaugural Combined Skål Clubs of Queensland Golf Cup in Yeppoon, wonderful to be part of a great weekend of camaraderie and see our own Ronnie Livingston come home with the Cup.
3. Attend both the 2005 National Committee meetings, be given the opportunity to see the Kimberley Region of this great country, and be present when our own Bob McGill was sworn in as National President Skål International Australia in Newcastle.
4. Attend 2005 Skål World Congress in Croatia, how proud do you think I was to be called forward to accept the Certificate as the "Third Best Skål Club in the World".
5. Membership Growth, yet again we have seen good growth in our Membership, our doors literally being "knocked down" by prospective Members, industry peers that are of a very high calibre and have a lot to offer Skål. I congratulate all new Members that have joined us this year.
6. Financial Standing, we are not only recognised throughout the world for the FUN we have but also for the fact that we are a very financially stable Club.

SUMMARY OF LUNCHEON ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY – Matson Resort Cairns - Fortunately having just got in before the "fire sale" and therefore having Tables and Chairs to use and then the Baseball Bat antics and some overfeed Gorilla bought in by SKÅLleague Lloyd I was elected to the Chair with some relief. We had a typical AGM but the FUN then commenced at the Bar, thank goodness!

MARCH – Pacific International Hotel - What a great way to start our 21st year. Returning to what some still say is the "Cairns Home" of Skål we were treated to a World Class lunch of Beef on the Hot Rock.

APRIL – R & R / Tropic Wings / Rainforest Station - A first for Skål Cairns – Rafting with Charlie & his team. What a FUN day we had, finished off with a good old Aussie BBQ

MAY – Cairns Colonial Club - What a FUN filled afternoon we had with the Cairns Colonial Club to help celebrate their “big” Birthday and a great meal to “boot”.

JUNE – Angsana Resort - The FUN filled afternoons continued with the “inside/outside” Beach Party at the wonderful Palm Cove Angsana, many staying till the wee hours!

JULY – Cannon Park Race Day - FUN FUN FUN yet again at our Annual Skål Race Day at Cannon Park Race Course, certain members not remembering how they got home !

AUGUST – Tides / Shangri-La Hotel - Location location location, yet another Birthday and a FUN filled afternoon following another great meal, many many still at the Bar until?

SEPTEMBER – Hilton Cairns - Location location location, and a themeing that did the Hilton proud, lots of FUN and plenty of laughs with National President Bob showing his “Chain” for the first time.

OCTOBER – Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas - Yet again, location location location (inside & out) what a FUN filled day as usual with our Annual pilgrimage to our Northern neighbours, great golf, great lunch, great trip home with Quickie and then more !!.

NOVEMBER – Holiday Inn Cairns - Back in town for yet another great afternoon and a lot of post lunch FUN around the Bar with some of us then off to Tennis whilst others hit the “show” at the Casino until all hours !!.

DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS PARTY / SHANGRI LA HOTEL - Well what do we say! What a FUN filled night from what I remember, apparently some bloke on the microphone that we couldn’t get off but apart from that great venue, great food, great music and great after party!

JANUARY – Tradewinds Esplanade - Apparently a quite afternoon because the microphone wasn’t there!!! But apart from that a FUN filled afternoon was had with great “afters” at our own Skål Bar.

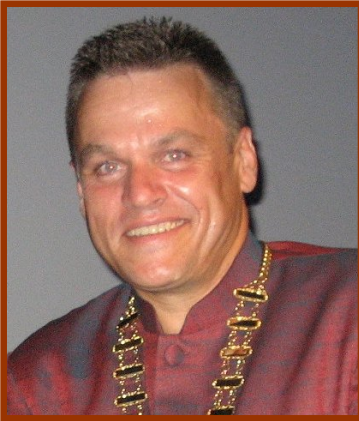
SUMMARY & THANK-YOU - I’m sure we are all well aware we have a GREAT Club and generally are out to have a lot of FUN but please be mindful it only comes because of the hard work of your Executive and the FABULOUS support we receive from all of the above. On behalf of my Executive and the Club I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our “suppliers” for all that they do for the Club throughout the year. Without your support this Club would certainly not be what it is today, thank-you.

Without doubt I personally, together with my wife Bo have had a “hell” of a good time this year, enjoyed every minute of my Presidency and most of all had a lot of FUN along the way. Thank you all sincerely for the opportunity of leading this, (again the Third best Skål Club in the World) wonderful Club. I wish the new incoming President and the Executive all the very best for 2006 and look forward to more great FUN filled times throughout the year.

Ian Pike
PRESIDENT 2005

Wade Bowen 2006 - Presented 2006 AGM, February 2006

2006 has come & gone and I can report that the Skål International Club of Cairns remains in a healthy, strong & viable state. Our membership continues to grow and demand for membership continues to be strong. It is worth adding at this point, that the finances are also in a healthy state (Certainly the clubs airfares costs were well below budget this year!)for the record, 2006 was also the year that Cyclone Larry visited our region, devastating Innisfail/Tully & the southern Atherton Tablelands areas back in March'06!



2006 Committee: It only seems like yesterday that the 2006 Skål Cairns committee was elected (after another close call for President from Skål Cairns Auditor Lloyd Smith), to their respective positions. A quick note to formally thank your hardworking Skål Cairns 2006 committee as follows:-

| | |
|------------------|--|
| <u>VP.</u> | Kim Thomas |
| <u>Secretary</u> | Murray Worthington |
| <u>Treasurer</u> | Rosie Douglas |
| <u>Committee</u> | Wayne Laphorne, Bob McGill, Ron Livingston, Carmel Angelino & Peter Quinn, |
| <u>Auditor</u> | Lloyd Smith |

Thank you to Tony Crook who resigned from the committee mid year, but has always been a great supporter and friend of Skål Cairns over many years.

Membership: Membership numbers continued their upward trend, growing from 83 at year's commencement, to the current membership sitting at 93. We had ten new members approved (per below), one cancelled membership (James Greig), four members transferring out; Bill Calderwood, Steve Underwood, David Capper & Sandra Calabretta & one member transferring in; Jason Patterson.

New members inducted during this term were as follows:- Phillip Bradford/Silky Oaks, Alan Hamilton/Sun Palms Transport, Perry Jones/Ocean Free, Michael O'Leary/Travelscene Edmonton, Max Shepherd/Skyrail, Michael Trout/Blazing Saddles, Andras Barath/Cairns Tour Advice & Booking Centre, Alan Wallish/Passions of Paradise, Brent Bailey/Cairns Resort by Outrigger, & David Wright/Mercure Hotel.

2006 Meetings: Thank you to our members who have hosted some memorable lunches throughout the year. There is no doubt that the Skål tradition of "DOING BUSINESS AMONG FRIENDS" in a healthy environment of good camaraderie and fun works very well here at Skål Cairns and has continued throughout 2006 ! Thank you to our members for embracing the Skål International ideals and maintaining their involvement at our meetings and functions throughout the year.

A recap on the meetings held for the year gone:-

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| March | - | Pacific International Hotel, The Kamsler family & Pacific Int team |
| April | - | Rainforest Habitat, Charlie Woodward & the CAPTA team |
| May | - | Hitlon Hotel, Guy Hutchinson & the Hilton team |
| June | - | Oasis Resort, Stephen Olle & the Oasis crew |
| July | - | 5th Annual Race Day, Kim Thomas, Rosie Douglas & Gaye Scott |
| August | - | Shangri-La Hotel, Ed Brea & his team |
| September | - | Outrigger Beach Club & Spa, Murray Worthington & his team |
| October | - | Salsa Bar, Port Douglas, Carmel Angelino & the Pt Douglas crew |
| November | - | Holiday Inn, Tony Mahon & the Holiday Inn team |
| Bonus Nov | - | Green Island & the Quicksilver Group, Mike Burgess, Emily & Quicksilver Group |
| December | - | Cairns International Hotel, Tony Marrinan & staff |
| January | - | Paradise Palms Country Club, Rosie Douglas & Nathan Young |
| February | - | Tamarind Restaurant/Sofitel AGM Simon McGrath & team |

We had a rotation of fine masters on board at our meetings throughout the year & these duties were admirably shared around by members Ron Livingston, Robbie Bastion, Stephen Olle, Mike Burgess, Wayne Lapthorne, Lloyd Smith, Murray Worthington, Charlie Woodward and Cam Charlton. A great mix of TNQ Travel Industry characters, which certainly guaranteed lots of laughter and some good honest fun throughout the year! As they say: - "do not let the truth get in the road of a good story" seems to be the motto! Ngaire Rochford continued her great job with Skål Birthdays & Horoscopes and as always continues to be a popular part of our monthly meetings! Ngaire is a Skål Cairns foundation member to boot! Thank you.

Thank you to Steve Underwood (transferred to Sydney City) & then Jason Patterson (transferring in from the Skål Capricornia Club mid year), for allowing the club to continue to use the Skål E Bar, at Rydges Esplanade for drinks and committee meetings. There is no doubt, it is a great spot for a cleansing ale (or cider) or six!

Skål/TAFE Bursary: The Skål bursary continued again, with the winner for 2006 being Tasha Colclough. The Skål Cairns/TAFE bursary is awarded to the most outstanding student who completed a certificate in Tourism IV. The bursary allows Skål Cairns to be actively involved in the travel industry & to raise Skald's profile in the community as Industry leaders. A \$1000.00 cheque was also presented to Tasha at the February meeting held at the Pacific International Hotel.

Charity & Community donations: Skål Cairns has worked hard to be a part of the community & to raise our profile throughout the year, with funds collected at the Port Douglas meeting, (artist Tracie Worth donated a painting which was then raffled off) and proceeds were then donated to COUCH (a committee formed to raise funds to have an oncology unit based here in Cairns). Skål Cairns also raised monies to purchase a surf rescue board complete with Skål Logos at the Outrigger Beach Club & Spa meeting. Skål Cairns topped up the raffle monies to purchase the board outright & the rescue board was presented by Secretary Murray to CSLS Club president, Lawrence Green at the January'07 meeting held at Paradise Palms.

Florimond Volckaert Fund: Skål Cairns this year increased our donation from \$500.00 up to \$750.00 for the Florimond Volckaert Fund, fund setup to assist SKÅLleagues throughout the world who are in financial need.

Skål National & International Meetings: The Skål International Club of Cairns is very fortunate to have Bob McGill/National President Skål International Australia as one of our members and Bob has worked hard to keep us all updated throughout the year. I was fortunate to attend the National Committee meeting held in Bunbury/W.A. and hosted by the Skål Margaret River Club in March '06 (seeing Secretary Murray & National President Bob with hair at the 70s fancy dress evening was a highlight!) & I also attended the AGM in August'06 down in chilly Launceston. (seeing Cradle Mountain covered in snow was pretty special I might add!). The Launceston club put on a great show and also in attendance was the then Skål International President - Mr Jan Sunde, along with other Skål Cairns members, Murray Worthington, Bob McGill & Kim Thomas. Then it was off to Pattaya/Thailand in November for the 67th Skål International World Congress, where I was joined by other Cairns Skålleagues, Bob McGill, Stephen Olle & Peter Goulding and their partners. It should be noted however, that while I worked hard for Skål Cairns at congress; attending all forums and meetings, some other Cairns members spent the time to play golf at every opportunity!

Skål Christmas Party 2006: We had a most enjoyable Christmas party, themed "The Arts & Entertainment Awards" held at Skålleague Tony Marrinan's Cairns International Hotel. Special thanks to Tony & the Cairns International team and the Skål Christmas party organising committee - namely Wayne Laphorne, Bob McGill, Robbie Bastion & Ron Livingston; for their efforts in making the "Skål Arts and Entertainment Awards" a successful night out for the Club and a great way to finish the Year !

SKÅLleague of the Year: SKÅLleague of the year 2006 - Rosie Douglas was announced on the night as well as a special recognition award presented to Wayne Laphorne who worked very hard behind the scenes for Skål Cairns. A special plaque was also presented to Murray Worthington & Rosie Douglas for their efforts as Secretary & Treasurer. These two made my job an easy one! Additionally, Murray put in a lot of his own time to update the Skål Cairns by-laws as well as assisted Skål National, with their IT challenges & needs. Skål Cairns purchased our own display banner for functions and meetings this year & it was suitably used as a backdrop for the Christmas Party photos.

I have enjoyed my year as President immensely and in signing off, it has been both an honour and a privilege to represent you as the president of the Skål International Club of Cairns for 2006.

All the very best of wishes to the President and his/her committee team for 2007!

Wade Bowen
PRESIDENT 2006

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES 1984-2006

1984 (*Under Formation*)

President Ron Entsch
Vice President Ian Urquhart
Secretary Les Smith
Treasurer Noel Screen
Committee Dean Farnham

1985

President Ron Entsch
Vice President Ian Urquhart
Secretary Les Smith
Treasurer Noel Screen
Committee Simon Foo
Committee Graham Gordon
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1986

President Ian Urquhart
Vice President Simon Foo
Secretary Mark Freeman
Past President Ron Entsch
Treasurer Jill Hynes
Committee Graham Gordon
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1987

President Simon Foo
Vice President Graham Gordon
Secretary Max Plummer
Treasurer Jill Hynes
Past President Ian Urquhart
Committee Mark Freeman
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1988

President Graham Gordon
Vice President Denis Buchanan
Secretary Mark Freeman
Treasurer Ian Urquhart
Past President Simon Foo
Committee Charles Woodward
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1989

President Denis Buchanan
Vice President Charles Woodward
Secretary Mark Freeman
Treasurer Ian Urquhart
Past President Graham Gordon
Committee Moss Hunt
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1990

President Charles Woodward
Vice President Mark Freeman
Secretary Graham Gordon
Treasurer Ted Hynes
Past President Denis Buchanan
Committee Ian Urquhart
Committee Paul Reid
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1991

President Mark Freeman
Vice President Max Plummer
Secretary Graham Gordon
Treasurer Ian Urquhart
Past President Charles Woodward
Committee Mary Messina
Committee Will Brehaut
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1992

President Max Plummer
Vice President Mike Burgess
Secretary Graham Gordon
Treasurer Mary Messina
Past President Mark Freeman
Committee Charles Woodward
Committee Ian Urquhart
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1993

President Mike Burgess
Vice President Mary Messina
Secretary Graham Gordon
Treasurer Lloyd Smith
Past President Max Plummer
Committee Charles Woodward
Committee Ian Urquhart
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1994

President Mary Messina
Vice President Ian Urquhart
Secretary Graham Gordon
Treasurer Lloyd Smith
Past President Mike Burgess
Committee Charles Woodward
Committee Peter Blackburn
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1995

President Ian Urquhart
Vice President Lloyd Smith
Secretary Graham Gordon
Treasurer Peter Blackburn
Past President Mary Messina
Committee Liz Hulme
Committee Charles Woodward
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1996

President Lloyd Smith
Vice President Peter Blackburn
Secretary Graham Gordon
Treasurer Wally Takao
Past President Ian Urquhart
Committee Elizabeth Hulme
Committee Peter Cryan
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1997

President Peter Blackburn
Vice President Wally Takao
Secretary Graham Gordon
Treasurer Peter Cryan
Past President Lloyd Smith
Committee Mike Scott
**** Committee** Ian Urquhart (** National Vice President Australia)
Committee Annilie Lewis
Auditor Ngarie Rochford

1998

President Wally Takao
Vice President Peter Cryan
Secretary Wayne Laphorne
Treasurer Annili Lewis
Past President Peter Blackburn
Committee Steve Olle
**** Committee** Ian Urquhart (** National Vice President Australia)
Committee Gaye Scott
Committee Brett Gilbert
Auditor Lloyd Smith

1999

President Peter Cryan
Vice President Stephen Olle
Secretary Wayne Lapthorne
Treasurer Gaye Scott
Past President Wally Takao
**** Committee** Ian Urquhart (** National President Australia)
Committee Allen Hammacott
Committee Bob McGill
Committee David Loader
Auditor Lloyd Smith

2000

President Stephen Olle
Vice President Wayne Lapthorne
Secretary Bob McGill
Treasurer Gaye Scott
Past President Peter Cryan
Committee Peter Blackburn
Committee Ian Urquhart (** National President Australia)
Committee Charles Woodward
Committee Allen Hammacott
Committee Mike Sweeney
Committee David Loader
Committee Kevin Fields
Auditor Lloyd Smith

2001

President Wayne Lapthorne
Vice President Charles Woodward
Secretary Bob McGill
Treasurer Mike Sweeney
Past President Stephen Olle
Committee Peter Blackburn
Committee Charles Woodward
Committee Ian Urquhart (** International Councillor Australia)
Committee Rob Bastion
Committee Ian Pike
Auditor Wade Bowen

2002

President Charles Woodward
Vice President Bob McGill
Secretary Mark Meggitt
Treasurer Ian Pike
Past President Wayne Lapthorne
Committee Peter Blackburn
Committee Rob Bastion
Committee Senga Greenwood
Auditor Lloyd Smith

2002 World Congress sub-Committee

Chairman & Logistics Charles Woodward
**** International Councillor Australia** Ian Urquhart
Delegate Boosting & Public Relations Bob McGill
Finance Wayne Lapthorne
Sponsorship & Fund Raising Mike Burgess
Accommodation Peter Blackburn & Stephen Olle
Events Lloyd Smith
Conference Coordinator Geoff Donaghy
Contracted PCO's Mike Sweeney & JP McFadden

2003

President Bob McGill (** National Vice President Australia)
Vice President Rob Bastion
Secretary Ian Pike
Treasurer Wade Bowen
Past President Charles Woodward
Committee Peter Blackburn
Committee Stephen Olle
Committee Wayne Lapthorne
Committee Mike Sweeney
Committee Mark Meggitt
Committee Rosie Ryan
Committee Murray Worthington
Committee Kim Thomas
Committee Russell Birrell
Auditor Lloyd Smith

2004

President Rob Bastion
Vice President Ian Pike
Secretary Wade Bowen
Treasurer Mike Sweeney
Past President Bob McGill (** National Vice President Australia)
Committee Peter Blackburn
Committee Stephen Olle
Committee Wayne Lapthorne
Committee Rosie Ryan /Douglas
Committee Murray Worthington
Committee Kim Thomas
Auditor Lloyd Smith

2005

President Ian Pike
Vice President Wade Bowen
Secretary Kim Thomas
Treasurer Murray Worthington
Past President Rob Bastion
Committee Bob McGill (** National Vice President /President Australia)
Committee Charles Woodward
Committee Wayne Lapthorne
Committee Stephen Olle
Committee Carmel Angelino
Committee Rosie Douglas
Committee Peter Quinn
Committee Tony Crook
Committee Ron Livingston
Auditor Lloyd Smith

2006

President Wade Bowen
Vice President Kim Thomas
Secretary Murray Worthington
Treasurer Rosie Douglas
Past President Ian Pike
Committee Bob McGill (** National President Australia)
Committee Charles Woodward
Committee Carmel Angelino
Committee Peter Quinn
Committee Ron Livingston
Auditor Lloyd Smith

SPECIAL EVENTS, EXCURSIONS & EXPEDITIONS

Foreword:

Since the founding of the Cairns SKÅL Club IN 1984 /5 we have endeavoured to use the natural attributes of Tropical North Queensland to enhance our meetings. As a tourism hub we are fortunate to have at our disposal many different venues and access to out of the way places which we can use for interesting meetings. Since the formation of the Club by the foundation members, each new committee has strived to find new and interesting venues for the monthly meetings. In the early days meetings were held underground, underwater, in mid-air, on rail and on ships. It has become a challenge for each new committee to maintain and improve the events and this produces some spectacular and memorable occasions.

With our location at the Northern gateway to Australia, our proximity to Asia and the frequency of international flights from Cairns International Airport we are also fortunate enough to be able to travel to nearby countries and attend meetings of other SKÅL Clubs. Port Moresby is a favourite with Malaysia, Singapore, Bali, Guam and Japan also being visited by Cairns SKÅLleagues on a regular basis. By using both our tropical location and our proximity to many interesting and diverse cultures we are able to structure each years meeting schedule to include different and varied locations. This creates much interest among existing members as well as our guests and potential members. Our club is always open to visitors and each year sees SKÅLleagues from around the world attend our meetings and together with us enjoy our spirit of adventure and amicâlé!

The following are a series of reports of some of our adventures that have taken place over the lifetime of our club. Although they are now the fabric of legend they form the basis of an exciting future for the members of the SKÅL Club of Cairns.

Stephen Olle
PRESIDENT 2000

1] PORT MORESBY 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - OCTOBER 1985 *Submitted by Ngarie Rochford.*

Participants: Ian Urquhart, Mark Freeman, Noel Screen, Tony Gallagher, Ted Hynes, Jill Hynes, Ngarie Rochford, Don Evans & John O'Brien

We duly presented ourselves at the first Class Lounge at the Qantas airways after check-in at the Air Niugini Airlines desk at 6am sharp and commenced our Niugini experience with a champagne only breakfast. Boarding the plane we were on our way at 7.05am. We were met at the Port Moresby Airport by some of the local SKÅL members who transported us by private cars to the Port Moresby Travelodge.

Shortly after check-in, again members of the Port Moresby SKÅL Club demonstrated their great hospitality and took us on tours of local interest, e.g. to the start of the Kokoda Trail and various vantage points overlooking the city.

A sumptuous feast, music and dancing were features of the evening celebrations and a great time was had by all. Later that evening, the 'powers that be' in charge of the Travelodge were persuaded (though very reluctantly due to the curfew) to open the entrance to the swimming pool, to allow us to take part in competitions of great skill including drinking underwater, and swimming laps of the pool. All competitors were eligible for a liquid prize courtesy of Mark Freeman. Eventually these exercises and the strenuous day's bending of the elbow took its toll on the participants and we straggled off to our respective beds at some time during the early morning.

After about 1 – 2 hours sleep, (or so it seemed) we dragged ourselves out of bed to be transported to a magnificent champagne breakfast, courtesy of the 'Bank Lads'. This was held Barbecue style under the shade of a truly tremendous tree. After a huge meal washed down with copious quantities of the sparkling fluid, we felt quite rejuvenated. To the extent that some of us accepted a gracious offer to take us to some artifact and souvenir shops to get rid of some of our hard earned cash. When we returned to the barbecue venue some time later, it was noted that the remainder of our compatriots appeared to be feeling quite tired again. It could have been all that food.



Our SKÅL brothers delivered us to the Airport and we dozed our way home arriving in Cairns about 7pm, thus ending a most delightful and enjoyable visit. It should be noted that the state of our health could have been worse for wear but for the following words of wisdom given to us by our Secretary Mark Freeman prior to our departure *'HEALTH: Whilst the water should be perfectly safe I always recommend – even in Cairns – that water to be taken sparingly and only when mixed 50/50 or better with a good Scotch. The residents of Port Moresby have been known to have one or two drinks on a hot day and I do recommend a good supply of Vitamin B.'* The SKÅL Club of Port Moresby is to be commended for the hospitality and friendship their members extended to us, let's hope at some future time we will be able to do the same for them.

2] NORMANTON OR BUST - 1989 *Submitted by Mark Freeman*

It was cool, with a fine mist, just thicker than a haze, as the select SKÅLleagues gathered at the side of the DC3 'Gooney Bird'. We clambered aboard the theoretical safest aircraft in the world. Sadly, our travel personnel were also aware that if built today, the Gooney Bird would not be given certification to fly. It is also a fact the supposed safest aircraft ever has had more plane crashes than any other aircraft. So what – who wants to live forever.

The flight started off bouncy at takeoff, and bounced even more as we threaded up the Barron Falls Gorge, climbing all the time to gain the necessary altitude to make it over the top of the range. Made it! So far an hour has passed and we leave the mountains and below is the dry country that forms the start of the outback. Let's have a beer. Why not have a beer? We all had a beer. How fast the country changes, - dry down below, - virtually unpopulated. If we came down here, would anybody find us? Best we have another beer. A third wouldn't go astray. Well the SKÅL Club luncheon seems to be off to a good start. Best we toast it and have another beer.

Croydon is an old gold mining town three hundred miles from anywhere – except Normanton – and that is nowhere. When the gold ran out one hundred years ago, Croydon didn't seem to notice, and just kept going somehow. Maybe it was too far to travel to go anywhere else, or maybe the sleepy, dust-ridden atmosphere just made it too much effort. Even the flies seem to buzz at half pace. One hundred years ago this was going to be the capital of the Gulf Country. They started to build a railway that was to connect from the Gulf to Brisbane. It never happened and all that was accomplished was a train going from nowhere (Normanton) to absolutely nowhere (Croydon). Seeing as how it is there, there may as well be a train. But lest not maintain the line, or update the train. If it was good enough one hundred years ago – why change?

Eskies packed with necessary supplies to soothe the thirst during the trip we gathered aboard the 'Gulflander' for our four-hour train trip to cover the seventy miles. Best we have a beer to fortify us for the dangers ahead. The driver, who sits easily assessable to all for there was no thought of a separate driver's cabin when this train was built, tells us that we have to go slow because of the risk of derailment. Apparently it only derails six times a year or so – which isn't too bad seeing as how it does two trips a week.

You look through the front window and see the narrow gauge rails leading the way. I though rails were supposed to be straight! Not here where one hundred plus temperatures warp metal just for the hell of it. Of course the termites eating out the sleepers don't help. These rails aren't straight. They look more like two strings of spaghetti dragged behind a lame horse. Who cares – time for another beer. Bloody hot isn't it. Maybe another beer would help.



Even the drowsy flies have no trouble keeping up with us. They seem to find our sweating skin the best watering hole for miles around. If the trip over the ground is different, bridges cause a stir. The train slows to a crawl – slower than a crawl – and edges over the timber structures. It makes sense. If you derail here, a four-wheel drive truck would not be able to pull you back on the rails. Another beer, and another. What the hell, who is keeping count!

And we edge into Normanton. Its hard to know that you are coming up on a town. A few shacks, a dog or two, some people walking from nowhere to nowhere, in nowhere. And then you are at the end of the main street. Lines with two story timber fronted hotels, shops much larger than their trade, and government buildings in imposing stone with a staff of one, maybe twice a week.

Another town that didn't recognize it when, one hundred years ago, it lost its reason for existence. This was going to be the main port for all of the area around the Gulf. Sadly there is no reason for a port, and the river dried up anyway. Lunch at the Victory Hotel.

Down on the Gulf shoreline there is a new town – Karumba. Only an hour's drive from Normanton and the location of one of the largest fishing fleets in Australia. They catch some of the best fish in the world and prawns so big and sweet, most of the world wouldn't believe that prawns do taste better than spiny rock lobsters.

Up country from Normanton, are beef cattle, hard, dry, and only a watering hole every few miles. This beef is not tender like those soft flaccid pampered creatures of cooler, wetter climes. This is beef with attitude, with grunt, most of all, beef with taste. And if you get a young one – tender and taste in the same fillet! As everywhere, the locals in the know get the best – and today we get to eat it. Great food washed down with strong wines to match the robust flavours. More beers, jokes, witticism, debaucherous behaviour and generally standard actions for a Cairns SKÅL Club luncheon far from home.

Luncheon finished, and that enjoyable time progressed. Lean back in the chair, legs stretched and mouth in motion. Everyone talking, laughing and sharing the camaraderie and enjoyment in the company of your peers. Oh well, best we get home. The walk back to the station where we are meeting our bus to transfer us to the 'airport' and our flight back to civilisation.

An interesting encounter by Peter on the stairs of the Purple Pub. This broken edifice, ant eaten and aged and painted purple, stands on a corner like an aged hooker, painted flash but showing the scars of long troubled times. As with all old broken ladies, this pub is inhabited by hard, young, slim men, bent by saddle leather from childhood, narrow in the eye and dirty at the heel. Drovers, cattle herders, whatever you call them they are the same all over the world. At the Purple Pub they come in two colours – most with some mixing. The dogs come in yellow, red and blue – sometimes mixed. Their fangs are yellowed and their hide is torn from many encounters with more dogs than there were bones to go around. Good matches these men and dogs. 'I am the champion boxer in Cairns,' the overweight, round SKÅLleague Peter roars from outside the pub. A crowd quickly gathers to watch this impudent voice be silenced, 'And I am the champion boxer in the Gulf' a big, hard, black mountain responds. His voice is like the sound of a rasp dragged over the edge of a wrought iron roof and matches his profile perfectly. Peter looks him up and down, laughs, and says – 'We'll wrestle then' It is more like a dance, no harm done and mostly laughs and stir. They break apart, smile and go back to their business, - one to walk to the bus and the other to walk to the bar.

The airport is more like an open field, just dirt and a tin shed. There waits our 'Gooney Bird', come to save us from too long a dip in dangerous, dusty waters hiding heroes. Home again, home again, jiggery jig! We land at Cairns as the sun sinks, about the same height as when we left, but the world has turned around. Great lunch, great company, great country. Where else can you cover three climates, two seas, desert, Savannah, rainforest, plains and mountains, in just a day, and just to have lunch with friends?

1915 OR 1990

Submitted by Mark Freeman

The chatter of gunfire echoed off the walls and set the camouflage netting above us vibrating from the sudden racket. The men in their formal attire suddenly silent, the ladies in their finery, wide eyed with mouths agape. What a change from the gentle rustle of the ebbing sea on palm fringed shores that had entranced us on the way to the bunker.

A spiral of steam rises in a dark corner – perhaps from the water-cooling jacket of a maxim machine gun. No, from the rich creamy bowl of pumpkin soup awaiting our appetites for entrée. The noise drops and is replaced by the quiet strains of ‘Bless Them All’ in the background and Peter Blackburn announces – ‘SKÅlleagues and Guests; Welcome to the Ramada Palm Cover for our 1915 Christmas Dinner.’

Oh! What a time we had. Find food and finer company. Ham and Turkey and Caviar; Vegetables so fresh they almost galloped down our gullets. Desserts rich enough to make you want to marry them. And then the songs. Fresh from their live performance successes, we were carolled by the Tablelands Repertory Choir with the hits of ‘Oh! What a lovely war.’ ‘Hang out your Washing; Bless them all; Goodbye Goodbye; Look here comes a Whiz Bang; and others, sung with the willing assistance of all in attendance. Their finale, a tenor who sang the most hauntingly beautiful war song of any country, of any war – Lily Marlene. Silence for this.

We relived the horror, and the camaraderie. We thought of those Australians, Germans and British who met in the middle of no mans land on Christmas Eve, 1915. They exchanged humble gifts and sang Silent Night together and knew that on the next day they would try to kill each other, not as hated enemies, but only as foes.

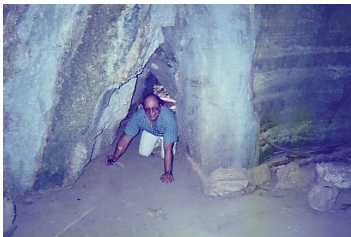
The golfing toads then took over. They had practiced for many minutes to sing New York, New York, in something resembling a barbershop quartet. The president, primed and precocious joined in – and it didn’t matter because the harmony had only been a hope anyway. The gifts, carefully chosen, to match those deep, secret desires we all harboured and hoped no one else had noticed. You can’t fool your friends.

And then we danced. The men folk with emotions eased by alcohol absorbed, leering lecherously at primed and prettied ladies, usually their wives. ‘Move the hand higher, Dear’ and ‘Let’s go and sit down.’

And the end, happy and fulfilled, with just that piquant edge – a memory. Hiding in the back of the head, a realisation that 1915 really wasn’t fun and how much 1915, and the other horrible years had gained us. Freedom and the right to be free; Happiness, and the opportunity to be happy.

WORLD’S FIRST UNDERGROUND SKÅL MEETING - CHILLAGOE OCTOBER 1991

Taken from notes written by Secretary Graham Gordon.



A memorable occasion for our Club was when 28 hardy souls ventured to Chillagoe to partake in the ‘World’s First Underground SKÅL Meeting’ Thanks to great organising by Charles Woodward, our coach was hijacked into Geoff Guest’s property for wayward kids, at Petford, and was an enlightening experience for all of us.

These people really opened our eyes to another world and the experience was rewarding. The tour through Donna Caves at Chillagoe was very interesting and the discovery of a fantastic cavern at our luncheon venue was the ‘icing on the cake’. What a place to toast other SKÅL members less fortunate than us.

The meeting turned into 'The World's Longest SKÅL Meeting' with our return to Cairns at 10.15pm after commencing at 7.30am. However the townships of Almaden and Dimbulah have been enlightened as to the origins of the SKÅL movement. (By the way, we are not sure if these events really are 'The World's First' however it makes good reading and has been submitted to the International Body.)

THE LAST GREAT SKAL LUNCH ON THE LAST GREAT TRAIN RIDE

Submitted by Graham Gordon

The train pulled out of Cairns at 7.15pm with the farewell committee of the Treasurer Lloyd Smith, still trying frantically to collect the meeting fees. As the train proceeded through the suburbs of Cairns the ladies sorted out their sleeping arrangements in the sleeping car while the entertainment committee arranged the eskies in the club car.

Refreshments, courtesy of Quicksilver and Mike Burgess were enjoyed and the meeting was declared open as Mark Freeman boarded the train at Kuranda. He was allocated a berth with a public passenger named Carol who later complained about 'the lunatic she was sharing with'.

The SKÅL toast was given by Phil, our visiting SKÅLleague from Port Moresby. A delicious supper was served courtesy of Holiday Inn and Peter Blackburn and then numerous bottles of Taylors were consumed. There were no secretarial announcements by Graham.

Arrival at Mareeba was at 10pm, tea and coffee was put on by the 'CWA ladies' to whom Charlie donated \$20, only to find out later they were fellow train travellers! The majority then had nightcaps at the Masterton Hotel while Mike Burgess and Jane went up-market and experienced the delights of the Apollo Nite Club. The nightcaps continued till 1am when the train departed. Gradually people went off to sleep or collapsed until 5.10am, when the train pulled into Almaden.

The Mayoral Cow greeted us and with some difficulty everyone walked over to The Railway Hotel for a huge cooked breakfast. Geoff and Peter C introduced 'President Mary' who appeared with not a hair out of place but unable to speak.

The train departed at 6.30am and most had a bit more kip before the champagne corks were popped at 8.30am at Bullock Creek. The meeting adjourned to Thommo's Mt. Surprise Hotel where the President was expected to give the presidential announcements but these were not forthcoming.

The Great Train Ride continued and a luncheon of ham on the bone, marinated chicken and salads was served courtesy of Rainforestation and Pip Woodward.

Next stop was at Einasleigh where John and Sue swam and frightened the crocodiles in the Gorge. In the main street, the World SKÅL Horizontal Bungy Championship was held. One of the largest crowds ever seen in Einasleigh gathered for the event and Sue narrowly beat Barb in the ladies event. Geoff and the 'President' won the mixed doubles

and Charlie, who had built up his weight especially for the event, won the Open Championship.

The train rattled on through the Newcastle Gorge where numerous rock wallabies checked us out. Arrival at Forsayth was 5.30pm and we spread out over every bed in Forsayth.

A welcome shower was had by all especially as Mark's shoes smelt like a couple of dead dingoes. Re-gathering at the Goldfields Pub, Graham Gordon took over the Forsayth Hospital Fund Raising. After numerous raffles, heads and tails competition with prizes donated by Phil & Cathie Parnell and an auction, a total of \$325 was raised which compared with \$625 for the whole year. The new SKÅL Heart Transplant Wing is now under construction.

A barbecue dinner was enjoyed and there were darts and pool competition. Barb was a real hustler and won all games. Ray turned fight promoter and nearly got Peter C's lights extinguished and only with great tact and discretion did Peter C survive. Ron won the hop, step and jump competition on the way home to Paula who obviously was not pleased to see him.

About midnight most had gone off to bed and the single men and loudest snorers (except Ted) returned to the train to sleep. The rest of the ham was killed and Ray instigated a lettuce fight. Gradually Forsayth became quiet until 5.30am when the CWA ladies threw their bags on top of Mark who shocked them by telling them to urinate off.

After a very difficult breakfast to eat, the SKÅLleagues admired the large flock of black cockatoos until Cathie scared the hell out of them. At 8.15am boarded the Tropic Wings Coach with Peter Beven our Coach Captain and drove over corrugated roads to return to Thommo's Mt Surprise Pub, arriving there right on 10am. After a few coldies and a few pies, the coach continued to Undara where we were joined by our guide Beth.

Luckily Beth had Peter to help with the commentary as pointed out the 'white titted wallaroos.' She soon decided that 'this group of recycled teenagers were totally uncontrollable' and were not like any group she had ever experienced. However, she got her own back by getting Steve, Graham, Geoff, Peter B and Sue all stuck in the cave and only John and Barb succeeded in crawling through 'the squeeze'. As the countryside was suffering from drought the group had developed a terrific thirst so the meeting was adjourned back to the Lodge.

Some nice cold ales were enjoyed courtesy of The Cairns Colonial Club, and Lloyd Smith so we did not have anyone succumb to dehydration. A huge barbecue was served by Iwana, and Beth black-boarded our names. The owner Gerry Collins, Guy and the manager joined us for lunch. At this stage we noticed the 'President' was missing and it turned out that she had been left in the freezer at the Goldfields Hotel.

Quite a few Taylors Creek reds and ports were consumed as Ngarie gave her usual brilliant birthday announcements.

The coach continued on to near Innot Hot Springs when a hydraulic line came loose necessitating an unscheduled pit stop. Just as Peter the Coach Captain said 'Brian should be along soon' another Tropic Wings coach came around the corner. We then limped into Innot Hot Springs where the non-mechanics went to the pub while Peter C

got out 'the 38 ml spanner'. The coach was soon on its way and Sergeant-at-Arms Peter C carried out the fines and prizes. Mark now has many aids to enjoyment and Norma now prefers to play cards than look at Peter B.

Later Col suddenly took over the microphone and entertained with song. Soon after, the musical standards dropped as Ron took over the singing. There was a slight problem in that everyone was singing a different song.

Geoff was extremely happy to see Atherton and we continued down the Kuranda Range where Peter B thanked the organisers and Jill thanked the sponsors. The meeting was declared closed at 8pm after an enjoyable 49-hour luncheon.

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL BALI JOINT MEETING WITH VISITING AUSTRALIAN CLUBS – 5th MAY 2000

Submitted by Stephen Olle

On Friday the 5th of May 2000, twenty-eight Australian SKÅL International members and guests gathered at the Holiday Inn Resort Bali Hai for dinner as guests of SKÅL International Bali. Sponsored by Garuda International the Australian SKÅL International members were from Cairns, Townsville and Broome. The dinner was held to foster cultural exchange and understanding between the members and after a concert of Balinese dancing and entertainment SKÅL banners were exchanged between clubs.

A raffle was held for a cash prize and visiting SKÅL International Cairns President Stephen Olle drew his own ticket for first prize. After insisting on a new draw he then drew Kevin Fields, Sales Manager North Queensland Garuda Indonesia, who promptly donated it back to SKÅL International Bali for their nominated charity.

The dinner was followed by a weekend of social and sporting activities through Bali. Golf, shopping and touring were the most popular activities although some SKÅLleagues could not raise enough energy to leave the enchanting pool at the Holiday Inn resort! Some SKÅLleagues stayed on in Bali for a few days and the remainder departed for Australia after a rousing farewell in the Satay Rooftop Bar at the Holiday Inn.

The Australian SKÅL International members enjoyed their weekend tremendously and have issued a reciprocal invitation to the Bali SKÅL International to visit them in Cairns.

SAVANNAH EXCURSION 1999 – *Submitted by Bob McGill*

Our day excursion to the western highlands started with a rendezvous at Cairns Railway Station on a brisk June morning at the sociable hour of 0830.

The train service which does the weekly run to our destination of Almaden, QR's Savannahlander, had left Cairns at the earlier hour of 0600, a departure time not favoured by our Skålleague adventurers.

A group of 40 odd members were in fine spirits as we gathered at the fray. Our plan was to travel from Cairns with Tropic Wings coach up the Kuranda Range to join the train as it had a stopover in Mareeba. A timely and pleasant road trip seen us keep our schedule

and we pulled out of Mareeba Station on our 1950's vintage Rail Motor at 0915 bound for Almaden, - the coach to meet us at rail end.

The obligatory esky had been placed onboard the train and in true Skål fashion it was "cracked" before the train had cleared Mareeba city limits. Ice cold wine and beer were the order of an early day as Skålleagues sat back and enjoyed the clickety-clack journey through the countryside.

A morning tea stop at Dimbulah seen the majority Skålleagues have a coffee chaser and scone between beers. Whilst not open, the Dimbulah Hotel once laid claim to the longest bar in Australia, a time when the region was amass with workers on the tobacco plantations, now long gone.

A short clickety-clack time later and the train arrived at Lappa Junction, a ghost town with only the Espanola Hotel remaining from a gone-by gold rush era. The derelict unlicensed premises is a museum of past artefacts and treasure trove of memories.

Within the hour we arrived at down town Almaden, known for cows roaming the streets and for the coldest beer in the region. By the time of our arrival at 1300 hours, the excursion party had made light work of the on-board esky and it was interesting to see some of the novel methods of detraining from our trusty Rail Motor. Some of the fairer gender of Skålleague, having kept pace with the drinking habits of male Skålleagues, were anxious to detrain by the unorthodox means via the windows, - an exit which delivered some riveting views to observers on the outside and some unladylike plummets to the dusty ground from window height. This behaviour did however set the pace and tone for the remainder of the day.

The Railway Hotel is a pleasant and well kept oasis in the middle of nowhere. We drank ale, played 8-ball pool, surveyed the gardens and enjoyed a delicious smorgasbord in renowned country hospitality, until sometime mid-afternoon someone made the suggestion that we should consider returning to Cairns.

We departed at a time unremembered and wisely called at Dimbulah Hotel en-route to the coast. I recall much singing from the Skål Hymn Book on the trip home, not that the fine voices would have been appreciated by several ladies who had chosen, or maybe choice wasn't an agenda, to avail the overhead luggage racks on the coach for a refreshing 40 winks.

Lucky the Club only partakes of these excursions a couple of times each year, .. but I do look forward to the next outing.

COOKTOWN 2000 – Submitted by Bob McGill

Saturday morning and we convene outside Holiday Inn Cairns. We are heading north on a safari destined for a land of legend, --- Cooktown, --- an outback by the sea township

named after Mrs. Cook youngest son Jimmy. We were travelling by Tropic Wings coach for an overnight experience which would be remembered for many years to come.

Unbeknown to several participants, it became evident there was a first class and a second class ticket. Whilst the economy travellers stocked and organised the eskies unaware of their status, the informed elite of our party quietly snavelled the first class allocation onboard the 4WD coach. The “workers” later boarded the 21 seater conventional vehicle, albeit very comfortable.

The itinerary determined that we would convoy travel the coast road via Daintree River, Cape Tribulation, Bloomfield and Lions Den, to stay overnight at Sovereign Resort Cooktown and return the following day via the inland road.

First stop was lunch in the rainforest, an open-air outdoor location used by Tropic Wings on their day tours. A delicious meal with all the service and amenities of a hotel restaurant. We ventured on, stopping occasionally to take in the panoramic views of the coastal road and walk the beaches, before stopping mid-afternoon at Lions Den, a hotel with a difference in what was once renowned in the 1960 /70's as “hippy” country and the abundance of alternative mind medicine.

Late afternoon we arrived at Sovereign Resort hosted by Skålleague GM Geoff Walton where we were allocated rooms and took personal time to freshen up for the evening's activities. Most took a refreshing swim in the beautiful free-form pool before dressing up in their stepping-out gear.

Tucker was in plentiful supply by way of a delicious roast carvery and seafood smorgasbord. Whilst a professional entertainer was employed and much dancing was partook of, as the night rolled into morning the hillsides of Cooktown were awakened to the sounds of Skål Karaoke.

Sunday, a few hours later a much quieter and hung-over group were boarding coaches in readiness for the return trip to Cairns. The trip as far as Lakeland Downs was subdued, but after a few heart starters and hairs of the dog, the group was again ready to set Skål pace.

The coaches took turn at driving lead and throwing dust at the other in pursuit, until a lunch break was enjoyed at Palmer River Roadhouse, site of a gold rush in the 1800's. A look around, a healthy sandwich washed down with a beer, and we back onboard heading for Mount Carbine Hotel. Another cold beer or ice cream and a photo with a huge Brahman bull before continuing on to Mount Molloy Hotel.

We got home as the sun was setting, - a weekend well spent with friends. Cooktown will never be the same and I look forward to our next Cairns Skål excursion.

KUALA LUMPUR 2001 – Submitted by Bob McGill

Following the global impact of September 11th 2001 on world travel, a decision was made to terminate services by Malaysia Airlines into /out of Cairns. Whilst a blow to

Cairns economy, Skålleagues not ones to dabble on misfortune, took advantage of extra special fare deals on final services to visit fellow Skålleagues in Malaysia and promote Congress 2002.

On Australia Day long weekend 2002, forty seven [47] Cairns & Townsville Skålleagues, partners & friends took part in a 3 night 4 day excursion to Kuala Lumpur to be hosted by KL Club and meet up with members from throughout Malaysia and Singapore.

On the Saturday evening a night of Aussie national recognition was enjoyed by an attendance of 115 Skålleagues & friends, as the Australian delegation led the way with iconic songs like Waltzing Matilda, Still Call Australia Home, and of course the National Anthem.

The weekend was an outstanding interclub success. Many shopping bargains were had and extensive sight seeing undertaken. Some took the opportunity to travel further afield to places like Penang and Georgetown. Paul Kamsler (Snr.) was unfortunate to fall into a typically Asian street side drain and do himself a nasty injury to his leg & hip. Although the injury laid him up for some time after getting infected, Paul recalls the incident with fond memory of a great Skål excursion.

PUERTO RICO, A CARIBBEAN CRUSADE 2001 – *Submitted by Bob McGill*

Skål World Congress 1999 in Stuttgart and Cairns was awarded host of 2002 World Congress. It was the realisation of much campaigning and the beginning of much more. October 2001, World Congress Puerto Rico was held 6 weeks after the devastation of September 11th terrorist attacks, and we knew we had some serious homework to attend if Cairns Congress 2002 was to be a success. A dedicated band of 14 Cairns Skålleagues & partners threw threat and caution to the wind and undertook to attend Puerto Rico to promote our Congress the following year.

International Councillor Ian Urquhart
Wayne & Jean Lapthorne
Bob & Lorraine McGill
Stephen & Jeanette Olle
Peter & Norma Blackburn
Ian & Bo Pike
Geoff Donaghy
Ian Crossland
Ross McFarlane

Most travel was via New York, the crater that had been World Trade Centre still smoking and smelling of death. It was a sad and respectful time to spend in the city that never sleeps, but despite the overpowering sense of shock and the horror of recent events, it was a unique and interesting time to be part of this mighty metropolis. Bob & Lorraine spent a week in the Big Apple, doing all the touristy things before going north for 3 nights at Niagara Falls.

On return to New York they met up with Wayne & Jill Lapthorne for a further couple of restful nights and days filled with activity. Peter & Norma Blackburn had hired a car and were doing a driving holiday and catching up with friends in New England before the 3 couples met at NY Kennedy Airport enroute to Puerto Rico Skål World Congress.

On the ground in the Caribbean and Cairns Skålleagues reunited and were joined by Skålleagues from around Australia eager to assist in the promotion of our “Australian” Congress. Puerto Rico was an excellent Congress despite some logistical problems with transport transfers and value of day tours.

The superb destination and overwhelming hospitality of the local people destined the Congress to succeed. Much promotion was undertaken at all levels of Skål, - Ian Crossland & Ross McFarlane dedicating themselves to the night shift and sleeping by day.

At conclusion of Congress 2001 the real adventure began for the **5 couples**, - a 7 nights /8 day cruise of the Caribbean on a 5 star luxury cruise ship Galaxy, by Celebrity Cruises. The opulence cannot be adequately explained to non-participants. It was dream trip, - a once in a lifetime experience shared with close Skålleague friends. The itinerary took in excursions of a different location /country each day. One could do as much or as little as one cared to. Dining in silver service splendour by evening and world at your doorstep during the day. Day trips were had in St. Thomas, St. Kitts, Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, & Aruba. It was the birthplace of “Trumpster’s”, (Bob, Stephen, Wayne, Ian & Peter) a fraternity of card playing Skålleagues who have since coordinated a monthly card meeting with friends to reminisce the pleasures & fellowship enjoyed onboard Galaxy.

All returned to Australia rested and revitalised, filled with magnificent memories of a dream come true, and anxious to proceed with World Congress 2002 in Cairns.

DELEGATE BOOSTING, WORLD CONGRESS 2002 – Submitted by Bob McGill

The initial phase of delegate boosting for Skål World Congress 2002 was to send a large contingent of Cairns Skålleagues and partners, in October to Congress 2001 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to promote our Congress the following year. This in itself was not an easy task, given the events of September 11th 2001 and having people maintain sufficient confidence to travel internationally only 5 weeks later, mostly via New York. We successfully raised a delegation of 5 couples and 4 singles to attend Puerto Rico to represent our interests and proactively promote 2002 Congress. We were ably assisted by another 16 Skålleagues from elsewhere in Australia.

In Puerto Rico, as we had done for a number of years since winning the privilege to host 2002, our delegation set up an information booth outside the General Assembly and distributed a variety of Australian keepsakes and marketing items to keep Cairns Congress firmly in the mind of international Skålleagues. The “butterfly stickers”, “glowing badges” and “Aussie caps” were but a few items which became much sort after souvenirs by Skålleagues intending to travel to Cairns. We appointed and anointed many International Skålleagues as Aussie Ambassadors to Cairns Congress. This was a lot of fun and well received by the recipients.

It also worked very well because the Ambassadors returned to their home clubs and country, intent on building attendance to Cairns. We returned to Cairns with a commitment from many hundreds of international Skålleagues saying they would meet us next year.

On returning to Australia our delegate boosting began in earnest. Our Congress Committee swung into first gear and we held regular monthly meetings. Never before in Skål history was a host club to be so proactive and intimately involved in directly marketing its own Congress.

In March 2002, an opportunity presented itself when World President Tony Clegg-Butt was in Australia to meet with family and watch the Australian Formula One Grand Prix. Skål International Cairns enticed Tony to visit Cairns for a civic reception at Cairns International Hotel and we were successful in attaining discount air fares and accommodation packages for Australian Skålleagues to attend.

It was pleasing to have every Australian club represented, each of whom were again made Ambassadors, provided detailed information and given “specials” for Australian delegates who attended Congress. The civic reception, attended by local politicians and Cairns Mayor, was an outstanding success and did a lot toward raising the profile of Congress within our own ranks.

Delegate Boosting became a sub-committee known as “Chambers of Congress” whereby we met fortnightly to keep ourselves motivated, on track and fully informed of each others progress. We divided the world into manageable areas, bit size pieces if you like, and assigned them to teams, - America’s North & South, UK, Europe, Asia and South Pacific, Africa, India and Middle East. The Chambers of Congress was a think tank, with white board and world map, where we would meet regularly to discuss strategy and keep ourselves focused as much as keeping the congress in front of our targets. As Congress 2002 approached, Chambers would meet weekly to keep up with the growing interest.

A series of electronic newsletters were professionally compiled and emailed directly to each and every Skålleague worldwide who had an email address, via Secretariat in Spain. This medium of promotion proved immensely successful and popular. The electronic newsletter had a variety of components, a welcome from local people and dignitaries, what to see and do, what to wear and how to be comfortable, where to stay, what to eat, and a whole lot of common sense information. It had a competition to encourage readership whereby a question in each issue answered correctly won an Aussie souvenir. This newsletter was the singularly most potent means of attracting delegates to Congress 2002.

In the 12 months preceding Congress 2002, Skål International Cairns sent delegates to every major regional Skål Conference around the world. If a Cairns person could not attend, there was always an Australian who took our message. Congress Committee 2002 were personally represented in Durban, South Africa (March), Cork, Ireland (March), Adelaide, Australia (April), Maracacaibo, Latin America (April), Guernsey, UK (April), Ixtapa, North America (May), and Manila, Asia (May). We also had handouts for registration kits for all buyers and sellers attending ATE (Australian Tourism Exchange) in Brisbane (May /June), Australia’s largest travel & tourism expo.

Due to adverse events & terrorist activity worldwide, difficulties arose for international visitors wanting to attend. Changing policies and strict surveillance of immigration and customs presented many challenges for a global tourism Congress. A great deal of liaison and correspondence was had between various government departments and

Skål International Cairns, attempting to rationalise and justify the entrance into Cairns, Australia, of visitors of assorted faiths & cultures from many parts of the world.

MANILA 2002 – Submitted by Bob McGill

May 23rd to 26th 2003 seen intrepid Skålleagues Stephen Olle & Bob McGill travel to Skål International Asian Assembly in the Philippines in an effort to attract Skålleagues from that region to Cairns World Congress in November. Stephen & Bob through their respective marketing activities and sales missions had bonded relationships with a number of Skålleagues in Japan and other countries of this part of the world and because of geographic location were encouraged to entice Congress attendance from a sector not traditionally known for World Congress participation.

Stephen & Bob were welcomed like long lost friends and treated like kings during their 3 night 4 day visit. The hospitality extended was exceptional. The Asian Assembly itself was very professionally organised and all official functions were of a very high quality.

At the welcome social Skålleagues were asked to where “National Dress” and after some deliberation Stephen & Bob fronted the event in very vibrant MAMBO shirts. The attire proved a hit with all attendees, the shirts being provided as gifts some lucky internationals.

The following day the boys played the golf tournament on an interesting course built within the walls of the delict fort which once served at the defence for Manila. No prizes to bring home but a great day of fellowship. Each evening after the official functions the local Skål club escorted the Australians and other visiting internationals on a cultural tour of Manila nightlife, - an interesting perspective to this cosmopolitan city.

Whilst the end result was not major, Cairns Congress did eventually attract more Asian registrations than past Congresses had.

SKÅL-ABOUT PUB 2002 – Submitted by Bob McGill



We set up a hospitality booth at Cairns International Airport and met arriving delegates from every inbound flight, domestic and international. We personally provided a meet & greet to all delegates in the arrival lounge of the airport, supplied complimentary luggage trolleys and carried their luggage for them, offered them courtesy beverage of Australian beers, wines and tropical frozen cocktails, chocolates, opal pins, and tropical flower arrangements.

We safely stowed their luggage whilst they enjoyed hospitality and thence provided courtesy transfers to their respective accommodation.

We met every arriving visitor with a smile and Aussie “G’Day”, making them feel welcome in a foreign environment, allaying any apprehensions or travel anxiety. It provided the perfect first impression and set the stage for a week of fellowship and camaraderie. It was a much appreciated and highly successful exercise which received a lot of positive feedback.

CHENNAI 2003 – Submitted by Bob McGill

In the year of the tiger it was fitting that President Bob McGill should attend World Congress 2003 in Chennai, (Madras) India. On a quest to see as much of the sub-continent as possible in a short time, Bob & Lorraine organised planned an itinerary which would offer them the best on offer.

Departing Australia in early October the first stop was Delhi, one of the most populace cities of the world, and one of confronting contradictions, - extremes of rich and poor. Many sights, sounds and smells to be experienced and many cultural highlights, - 3 days was not nearly enough.

From the capital Bob & Lorraine took an 8 day 7 night journey through Rajasthan, North Western India, on one of the world’s luxury train trips The Palace on Wheels. They were joined by Skalleagues Kevin & Margaret Davison of Gold Coast Club.

The Palace On Wheels is a splendid and enchanting royal journey through the bygone era of the erstwhile Maharajas. Though times have changed and the winds have shifted, the Palace On Wheels cruises along in royal style, the kind only the Maharajas of yesteryears could have perpetuated and enjoyed. The exquisite and exclusive Palace On Wheels has luxurious cabins, wall to wall carpeting, a well stocked bar, two dining cars and a very personalized service... in fact, almost everything that could compromise of heaven on earth for seven days!

The journey of a lifetime begins at the Delhi Cantonment station where the guests are accorded a warm, traditional welcome before the Palace on Wheels pulls out into the night for a week-long luxury cruise through fascinating Rajasthan. The first stop of Palace on Wheels is **Jaipur**, one of the most well planned cities of the world of its time. This capital city of Rajasthan, popularly known as the Pink City, was founded by Maharaja Swai Jai Singh II, in 1727 A.D. To explore the city, an air-conditioned coach takes you to **Hawa Mahal** or the Palace of Winds, which is a remarkable five storeyed building along the main street of the old city in pink splendour with semi-octagonal and delicate honey combed sandstone windows. This is followed by a visit to **Amber Fort**, eight kms. away, where rides on caparisoned elephants add to the ambiance. Shop for Jaipur’s famous jewellery, handicrafts, carpets blue pottery and textiles. After lunch at a Palace Hotel, off to the **City Palace**, home of the erstwhile royal family. Right across the road from the City Palace is the **Jantar Mantar**, the largest observatory built by the Sawai Jai Singh II. The Luxury coaches take you back to Palace on Wheels for dinner on board.

In the heart of the Thar Desert lies Jaisalmer, founded by Rawal Jaisal, in 1156 A.D. Here the yellow sandstone fort is an imposing sight, towering magnificently over the city. Discover the painstakingly latticed havelis or mansions with their grand facades. The **Nathmalji-ki-haveli**, **Patwon-ki-haveli** and **Salim Singh-ki-haveli** are fine examples of

the stone carver's skill. Shop for fine pattu shawls, mirror work & embroidered articles, wooden boxes, trinkets, silver jewellery and curios. After lunch on board, close to the Pakistan border go for an exciting camel ride on the sand dunes of **Sam**, before sipping a refreshing cup of tea. Dinner and cultural entertainment programmes at Jaisalmer Resort before the train leaves for Jodhpur at night.

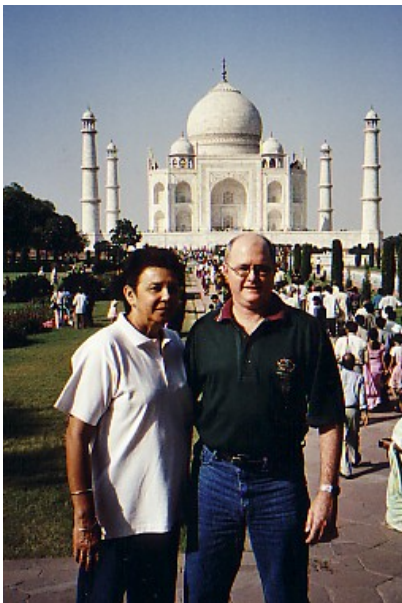
Next morning the Palace on wheels is in Jodhpur, a city ringed by a high stone wall with seven gates and several bastions. This second largest city of Rajasthan, founded by Rao Jodha in 1459 A.D. is known for its rock-solid Mehrangarh Fort.

The grand palaces within- Moti Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Phool Mahal, Sileh Khana and Daulat Khana are impressive examples of architectural excellence. Near the fort complex lays Jaswant Thada, and a group of royal cenotaphs made of white marble. After lunch at a royal Palace hotel, return to the Palace on Wheels. While in Jodhpur shop for the exquisite handcrafted articles including the famous breeches, embroidered shoes, metal curios, silverware, paintings and tie and dye fabrics.

One can almost sense a life of the wilderness, as the Palace on Wheels arrives in Sawai Madhopur, a city named after its founder Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh I. After breakfast a visit is arranged to the **Ranthambhor National Park**, wherein are located the ruins of a 10th century fort. This wildlife sanctuary is considered to be the country's best for observing and photographing the activities of the tiger. The park, covering an area of 392 sq.kms. is home to more than 300 species of birds. The tiger, hyena, ratel, jackal and fox are among those constituting the carnivorous population here.

Upon return to the Palace on Wheels, you leave for Chittaurgarh, when one gets an opportunity to watch the colourful countryside passing by in the daylight. After lunch on board you are in Chittaurgarh. Images of love and valour; scars of battles lost and won, thrice-besieged, Chittaurgarh Fort is all this and more.

Moving legends of honour and pride will echo in your mind enroute to Udaipur, the Lake City, the next morning. It was founded by Maharana Udai Singh of Mewar, after the Sisodia dynasty was driven away by the Mughals, in 1559A.D. Perhaps the two most beautiful sites of Udaipur are the dream-like marble Palaces-the **Jag Niwas** (Lake Palace) and the Jag Mandir, which appear to rise from the blue waters of **Lake Pichhola**. After lunch at **Lake Palace Hotel** a visit to **City Palace** is exhilarating.



Early next morning, the Palace arrives in Bharatpur, the capital of Maharaja Suraj Mal. After breakfast pay a visit to the world famous bird sanctuary, **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**, the nesting place of thousands of Egrets, Siberian Cranes, migratory Water Fowl and other species of birds. Arrive at **Fatehpur Sikri**-the red sandstone Mughal palatial complex. Within the enclosure is a mosque built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar and dedicated to the Sheikh Salim Chisti, a muslim Sufi Saint who blessed him with a son. After lunch move on from the Red Fort and arrive at the **Taj Mahal**, one of the seven wonders of the world. A pristine monument of undying love. It was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved queen

MumtazMahal.

Agra is known for its splendid marble inlay work like the Pietra Dura work on the Taj, leather goods and jewellery. After dinner on board and a good night's sleep, arrive at **Delhi Cantt.** at 6.00 hrs the next morning and let the pleasant memories of the past week linger on your mind for a long, long time.

Following the Palace on Wheels, Kevin & Margaret travelled south whilst Bob & Lorraine went north to Kathmandu, Nepal. 4 days and 4 nights on the roof of the world gave an outstanding insight to Nepalese culture, a melting pot of humanity where many nations have met over the centuries.

Accommodation in Kathmandu was provided to Bob & Lorraine by Ambica Shrestha, a fellow Skålleague who Bob had met in his travels. Ambica (and her now deceased husband Dwarika Das) is the founding proprietor and operator of Dwarika Heritage Resort. Nepal has eight World Heritage sites and has won two Heritage Awards. One for the Medieval City of Bhaktapur and the other for Dwarika Resort.

The magnificence of Dwarika's is its buildings of intricate carved wood and terracotta work that must have taken millions of hours of the best craftsmen in Nepal. Every brick is handmade and every piece of wood work an original. But Dwarika's is also about intimate luxury and the spirit and hospitality of the Nepali people.

A highlight of the Nepal was a flight along the snow capped Himalayan Mountains - the vertical continent, to view what seems to be within touching distance, the very peak of Mount Everest. A truly remarkable experience. Leaving Nepal, Bob & Lorraine again ventured south to India, to the Congress host city of Chennai, once known as Madras. Five days of Skål business and fellowship was immensely enjoyed in the company of many, many new international friends and a contingent of 43 Australians.



DURBAN
2004 – Submitted by

Bob McGill

South African Sojourn 2004 – Bob & Lorraine McGill, and Rob Bastion

Saturday 09th October

CNS /SYD - QF921- 0545 /0845; SYD /JNB - QF63 - 1005 /1610

[Transfer Johannesburg International Airport to Holiday Inn Pretoria Hotel](#)

1 /3 nights

Holiday Inn PRETORIA

Cnr Church and Beatrix Street, Arcadia

PRETORIA, 0007

SOUTH AFRICA

Toll-Free: 080011007

Tel: 27-12-3411571

Fax: 27-12-3410025

Email: HIPretoria@southernsun.com

www.southernsun.com

This superior hotel is located in the capital city, Pretoria and is the ideal choice of diplomats, embassy officials, executives and international travellers who demand high standards of product and service. It is a modern, contemporary hotel with a spectacular glass and steel facade looking onto lush gardens and pool area. The hotel is located in the city centre and is within walking distance of sophisticated shopping centres, cinemas, and theatres. Offering a relaxed and informal atmosphere, the hotel has a good restaurant, stylish bar and attractive outdoor garden with pool area. Pretoria is a city which is well-known for its beauty, cultural and historic background and they offer a vast choice of fascinating places to visit - from the famous Union Buildings to the charm and beauty of the zoo to the highly acclaimed State Theatre.

Sunday 10th October

[Free Time – Orientation with friends Sandy & Lesley Wood, to their home in Johannesburg for lunch.](#)

2 /3 nights

Holiday Inn PRETORIA

Cnr Church and Beatrix Street, Arcadia

PRETORIA, 0007

SOUTH AFRICA

Email: HIPretoria@southernsun.com

Monday 11th October

[½ Day Tour - Pretoria City Tour](#)

[½ Day Tour - Johannesburg and Soweto Tour](#)

3 /3 nights

Holiday Inn PRETORIA

Cnr Church and Beatrix Street, Arcadia

PRETORIA, 0007

SOUTH AFRICA

Email: HIPretoria@southernsun.com

Tuesday 12th October

[Pretoria to Cape Town](#)

Rovos Rail Head Office, P.O. Box 2837, Pretoria 0001, Gauteng, South Africa

Tel: (+27-12) 3158242 / 3236052; Fax: (+27-12) 3230843; www.rovos.com

Transfer Holiday Inn Pretoria Hotel to ROVOS Capital Park Railway Station

15h30 Depart Rovos Rail's private Capital Park Station aboard the Pride of Africa

Rovos Rail operates two classic trains of 20 superbly restored coaches, half of which date back to the 1920s. Each train can accommodate up to 72 passengers in unrivalled spaciousness. A third 13-coach, 42-berth Edwardian train is available on certain sectors. The coaches - which have been collected from the far corners of the country - have been painstakingly rebuilt and refurbished to offer discerning travellers the last word in comfort and style. The use of traditional furnishings and period decor, with top-class craftsmanship evident in fine wood panelling, has ensured an atmosphere of elegance and grandeur. Each one of these carriages, from kitchen cars to sleeper coaches and guards vans, has its own story. Each one has a proud history and has been meticulously restored.

Each of the trains has two 42-seater dining cars to accommodate the maximum complement of 72 passengers in total comfort at one sitting. One of the dining cars is a refurbished Edwardian pillared dining car dating from the 1920s, while the other is a classic luxury dining car of 1936 vintage. The latter is a favourite venue for lunch and offers a superb view from the larger picture windows. Service is friendly and discreet. Each train has one or two lounge cars. Permission was sought and granted by South African Railways to run the Observation Cars at the back of the Trains, enabling enlargement of the windows and the construction of unique open-air balconies. These classic coaches are the perfect place to enjoy a leisurely drink or a cup of tea, get to know the friendly hostesses and fellow travellers and read up more about the route and the many fascinating attractions. The lounge car and onboard gift shop is in the centre of the train.

The rebuilt sleeper coaches contain the most spacious train suites in the world, offering every modern convenience and comfort. The epitome of luxury with handsome wood panelling and period Edwardian features, the air-conditioned suites accommodate two people offering the option of twin or spacious double beds. Each one of these carriages, from kitchen cars to sleeper coaches and guards vans, has its own story. A few dating back to 1911 were constructed in Europe and shipped to South Africa in the first half of this century. Some carriages have carried royalty, while others have ended up serving as restaurants or lying derelict and forgotten on sidings for decades. All are now cherished members of the Rovos Rail fleet of 60 carriages.

The Royal Suites, each of which takes up half a carriage, are named after colourful characters of the Victorian era in South Africa, including Cecil John Rhodes, Barney Barnato and Alfred Beit. Spacious and elegant, the Royal Suites measure 16 sq metres in size (172 sq ft). Each one has its own private lounge area and full bathroom with Victorian bath and separate shower. The Deluxe Suites (11 sq metres/118sq feet,) restored with the same care as the Royals suites also accommodate two passengers in either twin or double beds and have a lounge area and an en suite bathroom and shower. The suites offer guests the space to relax in privacy and the opportunity to travel in comfort and luxury, with fittings and facilities that are of the highest standard. All are equipped with a writing desk and, for valuables, a personal safe. There's also a bar fridge filled with the drinks of the passengers' choice and room service is available 24 hours a day. In the en-suite bathrooms, original fittings are combined with the modern technology of hot showers, hair dryers, heaters and shaver plugs. The train has an onboard water and sewerage system, so showers and toilets may be used at any time.

When you are catering for a full complement of 72 guests within the limited space of a train kitchen car,

achieving a standard that rivals that of a top-class restaurant is a serious challenge. An enthusiastic team of chefs is responsible for overseeing the very important task of ensuring guests every need is catered for, while considerable thought and meticulous planning goes into making up the menus. Unlike many of the great trains of the world, travellers are on board the trains for several days at a time, requiring a much wider selection of meals. There's an accent on fresh local ingredients, and traditional dishes such as game are a specialty. Every morning there's a full breakfast with dishes cooked to order. A selection of cold meats, croissants, pastries, fresh fruit, yoghurts, cereals and preserves make up a tempting breakfast buffet. For lunch and dinner there is a starter and a choice of fish, meat or vegetarian dishes, followed by a tempting dessert and are complemented by a selection of excellent South African wines. All meals are served in one sitting only in the charming Victorian atmosphere of the Dining Cars. Exquisite pillared dining cars are a signature of the Rovos Rail trains. Each one has a proud history and has been meticulously restored from a derelict state. Shangani, which was built in 1924 and was found parked in a siding in Alberton near Johannesburg before its acquisition by Rohan Vos in 1986.

Three of the magnificent teak pillars had been removed and these were faithfully crafted, restoring the Victoria atmosphere.

Many of the passengers aboard the Pride of Africa enjoy the formality of fine china, crisp linen and silver, and dress accordingly. During the day dress is more casual, with cool, comfortable clothes and hats recommended for the excursions, especially in the game reserves where it can be very hot.

The Observation Car seats 32 passengers and is positioned at the rear of the train. At the centre of the train we have, when numbers dictate, a non-smoking Lounge Car, which seats 26 passengers in comfort. In maintaining the spirit of travel of a bygone era, there are no radios or television sets onboard.

For visitors to South Africa, there's no finer way to see the country than on the popular 48-hour weekly journeys between Pretoria and Cape Town. Cape Town offers a blend of cosmopolitan city life, magnificent mountains and superlative wine lands, while the twin cities of Pretoria and Johannesburg form the economic heartland of South Africa and the ideal departure point for Mpumalanga's world-famous Game Reserves.

This 1600-kilometre journey is a perfect illustration of South Africa as a world in one country. Travel the windswept grasslands of the gold rich Highveld to the haunting barrenness of the Great Karoo, the spectacular mountain ranges and scenic wine lands of the Cape to the Mother City of South Africa, Cape Town, cradled by the imposing bulk of Table Mountain, Devils' Peak and Lions Head. Highlights of the north and southbound routes include a visit to the historic village of Matjiesfontein. This authentic, perfectly preserved Victorian Village, which was founded by Mr. Logan as a refreshment stop in 1890, also boasts an impressive museum on the Station platform. A stop is also made in Kimberley with an opportunity to enjoy a city tour, the Mine Museum and visit the world's largest man-made excavation, the 'Big Hole'.

1 1/2 nights – ROVOS

Wednesday 13th October
Enroute Cape Town

10h00 Arrive in Kimberley. Passengers visit the Big Hole, the Diamond Museum and take a tram ride

| | |
|---|---|
| 13h30 | Depart Modder River and proceed overnight via De Aar and Beaufort West for Matjiesfontein |
| 2 /2 nights – ROVOS | |
| Thursday 14th October Enroute Cape Town | |
| 08h15 | Visit the historic village of Matjiesfontein |
| 10h30 | Depart Matjiesfontein and proceed via Touws River, De Doorns and Worcester to Cape Town |
| 18h00 | Arrive Cape Town Station, Platform 24 |
| Transfer ROVOS Cape Town Railway Station to Holiday Inn Cape Town Waterfront Hotel | |
| 1 /1 night – Cape Town | |
| Holiday Inn CAPE TOWN-WATERFRONT 1 Lower Buitengragt, CAPE TOWN, 8001 SOUTH AFRICA Tel: 27-21-4094000 Fax: 27-21-4094444 Email: hicapetownwaterfront@southernsun.com www.southernsun.com | |
| <p>The Holiday Inn Cape Town Waterfront is well established as an affordable, quality hotel for local and overseas travellers. The hotel is situated opposite the entrance to the V & A Waterfront Cape Town's premier leisure complex. The hotel offers easy access to the Table Mountain cable car, beaches, the city centre and many other attractions. The hotel consists of 546 well appointed rooms on 14 floors and provides a friendly, warm atmosphere. All rooms have separate shower, hand held hairdryer, a fully equipped work station, tea & coffee making facilities, television with pay to view video and business channel, electronic safe and electronic key system.</p> <p>Perfectly located at the "Gateway" to Cape Town, a short 20 minute drive from Cape Town's International Airport, with easy access to the Winelands, beaches and the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town's premier leisure complex. The hotel is a short 5 minute walk to the hub of the financial and business district. The pool area offers a stunning backdrop of Table Mountain and is the place to relax after a busy day at the office or a hectic day sightseeing. Alternatively the fitness room is perfect for stress relief and preparing you for Cape Town's nightlife.</p> | |
| Friday 15th October Cape Town to George | |
| <p>This spectacular 550-kilometre 24-hour trip runs between Cape Town and George during the summer months and is rated one of the most beautiful in the world. From the Mother City the train, with the Hex River Mountains as a backdrop, travels through the Tulbagh Valley towards Worcester. Grapes are grown in vast quantities in this area, and apart from several co-operative wine cellars, there are a number of brandy distilleries.</p> <p>The KWV Brandy Distillery is visited on the George to Cape Town leg. The train continues along the Breë River Valley towards Robertson, home of the largest brandy distillery in southern Africa, and then onto Ashton, largest producer in the southern hemisphere of canned fruit, jams and vegetables. On the Cape Town to George leg a stop is made to sample the wines of a local wine estate. Then it is on</p> | |

towards the coast passing through stations such as Merwepoort, and South Africa's third oldest town, Swellendam. Leaving the coast behind the train passes near Mossel Bay, a commercial seaport that enjoyed a boom in the 1990's due to the discovery of offshore oil. George is a quiet inland town, founded in 1811 and named after King George 111.

Transfer Holiday Inn Cape Town Waterfront Hotel to ROVOS Cape Town Railway Station

09h20 Depart from Cape Town Station, Platform 23

15h30 Arrive Ashton for a wine tasting excursion

1 /2 nights – ROVOS

Saturday 16th October

George to Knysna / Cape Town

09h00 Arrive George

09h30 Departure from George to Knysna on the Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe

The 67km stretch between George and Knysna aboard the local Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe run by the Transnet Museum is renowned as one of the most scenic rail journeys of the world.

12h00 Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe arrives in Knysna

12h30 Road transfer Knysna to George

13h30 Depart George on Rovos Rail

2 /2 nights - ROVOS

Sunday 17th October

En-route Cape Town

11h00 Arrive Worcester where guests enjoy a guided tour of KWV Brandy Distillers

17h00 Arrive Platform 24 Cape Town Station

Transfer ROVOS Cape Town Railway Station to Holiday Inn Cape Town Waterfront Hotel

1 /2 nights – Cape Town

Holiday Inn

CAPE TOWN-WATERFRONT

1 Lower Buitengragt, CAPE TOWN, 8001

SOUTH AFRICA

Email: hicapetownwaterfront@southernsun.com

www.southernsun.com

Monday 18th October

Day Tour Cape Town

Cape Town's world-famous landmark, Table Mountain. The summit of Cape Town's Table Mountain is 1086m above sea level. Weather permitting, visitors can reach the summit (via the Kloofnek Rd bus) by cableway. There is a restaurant and souvenir shop on the summit. The mountain is covered by thousands of species of wild flower and is the home of the famous silvertree.

Built in 1860, and still a working harbour, the Victoria and Alfred has been developed into one of South Africa's biggest tourist attractions. Prince Alfred, Queen Victoria's second son, tipped the rock signalling construction of the breakwater. Original buildings have been renovated and new ones built, all in Victorian style. There are museums, boat trips (including the historic Penny Ferry), helicopter flips,

walking tours, restaurants catering to every taste, pubs, a brewery, two shopping centres, hotels, theatres, cinemas (including the five-storey, large-screen Imax Cinema), an outdoor amphitheatre, craft markets, live music and a rich variety of outdoor entertainments.

The unusual is well represented in the Telecommunications Exploratorium, a gemstone Scratch Patch, indoor golf and the Two Oceans Aquarium. An information centre, good security and ample parking contribute to the Waterfronts popularity and your pleasure.

From Cape Town's Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, visitors can take boat trips to Robben Island. A national monument, Robben Island is one of the most significant historical sites in South Africa. First used by the Dutch East India Company (VOC) as a victualling station, it became an asylum and leper colony. Later, it fell under the Army and Navy and, in 1960, under the Department of Correctional Services. It gained notoriety as a gaol for those considered dangerous to the old South African social order including, for more than two decades, President Mandela, the islands most famous former prisoner.

2 /2 nights

Holiday Inn

CAPE TOWN-WATERFRONT

1 Lower Buitengragt, CAPE TOWN, 8001

SOUTH AFRICA

Email: hicapetownwaterfront@southernsun.com

Tuesday 19th October

[Cape Town to Sun City – Palace of the Lost City](#)

Transfer Holiday Cape Town Waterfront Hotel to Cape Town Airport

CPN /NTY – SA8850 – 1055 /1255

1 /3 nights – Sun City

Sun City in South Africa, the world's most unique resort, is a truly unforgettable holiday.

With its African fantasy theme this internationally acclaimed resort will capture your heart and your imagination. Sun City has [four world-class hotels](#) and offers a wide range of activities such as golfing, game viewing, gambling, shopping, water sports, safaris, live entertainment and much more. Depart the Mother City of Cape Town for the magnificent Sun City Complex in the Pilanesberg Region for a wonderful 3-night stay. The Sun City Hotel offers a full variety of entertainment that ranges from slots to safaris. The 340 rooms and suites indeed live up to the high expectation created by the dramatic setting an impressive foyer of this world-class hotel. This hotel offers a great variety of wining and dining experiences. During your stay, enjoy the many leisure facilities available at the complex or go on a game drive at the Pilanesberg National Park. Return to Johannesburg /Pretoria after your fabulous stay.

Wednesday 20th October

[Sun City – Palace of the Lost City](#)

2 /3 nights – Sun City

The Tswana Tribal Land's 5 star Palace of the Lost City is one of the world's finest resorts with extensive entertainment and is surrounded by a 25 hectares of botanical jungle. You can enjoy a range of adventure activities at the Sun City resort. Riding on an elephant, quad biking, clay pigeon shooting, archery and horse-back safaris to name but a few. Experience one of the largest and most advanced water parks in South Africa. The "Roaring Lagoon" produces a 1.2 metre wave every 90 seconds. Sun seekers can also enjoy a variety of breathtaking rides including the "Temple of Courage", a hair-raising 17 metre drop down a 70 metre chute. Definitely not for the faint-hearted.

Thursday 21st October

[Sun City – Palace of the Lost City](#)

3 /3 nights – Sun City

Sun City boasts [two world-class 18-hole golf courses](#) designed by South African golf legend Gary Player. If you're a keen golfer, be sure to have a look at our wide range of [golf tours in South Africa](#).

Friday 22nd October

[Sun City to Pretoria /Pretoria to Durban](#)

Transfer 0700 hours Sun City to Pretoria, ROVOS Capital Park Railway Station

An Unforgettable Journey Into The Heart Of The African Bush. This three-day safari on the most luxurious train in the world includes game drives in two varied and unique game reserves. Experience the diversity of the Kruger Park, or Mkhaya in Swaziland, or Hluhluwe Nature Reserve in Zululand and wind your way from Pretoria to Durban through some of the most spectacular scenery South Africa has to offer.

10h00 The Pride Of Africa departs Rovos Rail's Station in Capital Park

18h30 After descending the spectacular Drakensberg Escarpment the train arrives in Waterval Onder

1 / 2 nights - ROVOS

Saturday 23rd October

[En-route to Durban](#)

07h00 Breakfast is served as the train departs Malelane travelling along the border of the Kruger Park

12h30 Lunch is served as we pass through the Swaziland border en route to Mpaka station

15h00 Arrive Mkhaya Reserve for an afternoon game drive and bush dinner. Shakaland is a traditional Zulu village which was used as the original set of Shaka Zulu, the film. You will be taken upon a fascinating Zulu cultural tour in the afternoon. In the evening there will be a dance spectacular.

20h00 The train departs for the overnight journey to Hluhluwe in Zululand

2 / 2 nights - ROVOS

Sunday 24th October

[En-route to Durban](#)

05h00 Early morning game drive in Hluhluwe Game Reserve, the oldest in Africa it is home of the black and white rhino. It contains more than 65% of the wild rhinos left in Africa, including 1800 white and more than 200 black rhinos.

09h30 Depart for Durban

11h00 Brunch is served in the Dining Car

17h00 Arrive Durban

Transfer Durban Railway Station to Hilton Hotel by Skål International

[Skål World Congress – Welcome Ice-breaker Social – The Sounds of Africa](#)

1 / 5 nights – Hilton Durban

[Hilton Durban](#)

12-14 Walnut Road, Durban, NA ZA 4001

Tel: 27-31-3368100 Fax: 27-31-3368200

www.hilton.durban.com

The 327 room Hilton Durban is a luxury hotel located next to the world famous International Convention Centre. It is within easy reach of the business district, as well as within walking distance of the beaches. All guest rooms enjoy a breathtaking view of the coastline and the city skyline. Three of our nine

meeting rooms open onto a huge terrace, all with panoramic views of Durban. The Clubroom serves the rooms on the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th floors. The Clubroom has full check-in / out facilities, offers breakfasts, teas/coffees throughout the day and a cocktail hour. The Rainbow Terrace Restaurant features a mix of international cuisine with local flavours. The Rivets Bar offers a wide range of entertainment during the week. **HHonors** is the Hilton's international loyalty program, you can earn points and miles for your stay once you become a **HHonors** member.

Monday 25th October

Skål World Congress – Opening Ceremony, International Convention Centre. "SAWUBONA" – The host city presents a spectacular showcase highlighting the cultures of the Rainbow Nation.

Evening - Dine Around

2 /5 nights – Hilton Durban

Hilton Durban

12-14 Walnut Road, Durban, NA ZA 4001

www.hilton.durban.com

Tuesday 26th October

Skål World Congress – General Assembly, Trade Exhibition & Tours

Evening – A night in sub-tropical Africa, Carnival Street Parade.

3 /5 nights – Hilton Durban

Hilton Durban

12-14 Walnut Road, Durban, NA ZA 4001

www.hilton.durban.com

Wednesday 27th October

Skål World Congress – General Assembly, Tourism Forum, & Tours

Evening - President's Gala Dinner

4 /5 nights – Hilton Durban

Hilton Durban

12-14 Walnut Road, Durban, NA ZA 4001

www.hilton.durban.com

Thursday 28th October

Skål World Congress – Golf Tournament, Out-of-Africa Tour and Farewell Beach Party

5 /5 nights – Hilton Durban

Hilton Durban

12-14 Walnut Road, Durban, NA ZA 4001

www.hilton.durban.com

Friday 29th October

Durban to Livingstone /Victoria Falls

Transfer Durban Hilton Hotel to Durban Airport – Skål International

DUR /JNB – Comair BA6202 – 0845 /0955

JNB /VFA – Comair BA6285 – 1125 /1300

Transfer Livingstone Airport to Royal Livingstone Hotel

1 /1 night – Royal Livingstone Hotel

THE ROYAL LIVINGSTONE HOTEL – [One of the Leading Legend Hotels of the World.](#)

www.suninternational.com

Architecturally, the buildings take their cue from African resonances. The Royal Livingstone Hotel, stretches luxuriously along the banks of the Zambezi River. The Hotel consists of a series of 17 colonial-style buildings, with deep verandas, set amidst indigenous trees and plants. The main hotel is a sequence of thatch-roofed buildings, most African in their influence, and incorporates the lounge, restaurant and bar. A classic swimming pool visually links the waters of the river with the terraces of the hotel, with a sweeping timber deck planted in the swirling water of the Zambezi.

The reception area is framed by a classic courtyard featuring a fountain and exuding the aroma of herbs from the interior gardens. Overhead, wooden fans cool the charged atmosphere. The resort's deep, shaded veranda, offers an uninterrupted view of the Zambezi River and is the ideal place to curl up with a book discovered in the well-stocked library. The lounge is filled with original artwork depicting scenes of David Livingstone's great African adventures.

Only footsteps from the Zambezi River and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World - Victoria Falls, the rooms and suites offer a tranquil retreat from the unconstrained beauty of their surroundings. The Royal Livingstone, is a 5-star, 173-roomed luxury hotel. The rooms are two-storey clusters and each cluster comprises approximately 10 en-suite air-conditioned rooms, [offering private balconies and terraces overlooking the falls](#). Interior furnishings accentuate the influences of Africa translated into a cultured sumptuousness that reflects the essence of African Bush life. The Royal Livingstone is located within the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, a World Heritage Site overlooking the mighty Victoria Falls. From the forested banks of the Zambezi River directly in front of the Hotel, guests may admire the fine spray of the Victoria Falls, which is seen like a cloud across the bushveld, throwing rainbows hundreds of feet in the air. Named after the intrepid explorer Dr David Livingstone, the Royal Livingstone Hotel is a serene and gracious refuge from the heat of the African sun and will immerse you in the romance and style of a bygone era. In its cool lounges and shaded verandas, you will encounter the elegance and luxury of an earlier, more courteous age. Accommodation consists of 173 luxurious en-suite guest rooms, all with private verandas which enable guests to enjoy the views that stretches onto the great river and beyond to the Falls. With their comfortable furnishings, all guest rooms are tastefully decorated in the soft earth tones of the bushveld and are a dream of luxury where freshly cut flowers, crisp white linen and large comfortable beds welcome you after a day experiencing yet another Zambezi adventure.

The en-suite bathrooms, with roomy showers and Victorian baths, echo in space whilst wildlife pencil sketches adorn the cool, ivory washed walls reflecting the textures and moods of the Zambezi River. All guest rooms are air-conditioned and offer satellite TV, minibars, mini safes and telephones with

international dialling.

Guests may dine in the Hotel dining room where you will find a combination of old-world savoir-faire and contemporary sophistication. You can choose between dining indoors under softly lit chandeliers, or on the veranda where the cool river breeze gently stirs the night air. Special dinners can be arranged for honeymooners, anniversaries and other special occasions under the star-studded skies. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast or 'alfresco' lunches on the veranda overlooking the rolling lawns and the Zambezi River. Traditional high tea is also served daily in the lounge or out on the veranda overlooking the river. Private lunches can be arranged on Livingstone Island, located right on the lip of the Victoria Falls. As the day fades and the lengthening shadows bring cool relief, you can wonder down to the Livingstone river deck to take in the grand sweep of the watery horizon burnt gold by the sun, whilst sipping a sun downer in Africa's most romantic setting.

All guests staying at the Royal Livingstone enjoy free and unlimited access to the Victoria Falls, which is less than a 5-minute walk away. Swimming pool located just metres away from the Zambezi River's water edge. Royal Beauty Salon and gift shops. All activities, tours and excursions may be booked at the Activity Centre, which is located on site at the hotel. African arts and crafts market located just a 5-minute walk away. Railway and Livingstone Museum located in the Town of Livingstone, located just 5 kilometres away. Host children's activities available at the Happy Hippo Club. Airport transfers available on request.

Flight of Angels is a 40 minute flight in a SafPar helicopter over Victoria Falls offering unsurpassed views of the spectacular scenery below. The helicopter seating is designed so that all passengers have a good view of the Falls.

Saturday 30th October

0900 - Helicopter Flight over Victoria Falls, estimated duration 40 minutes

Livingstone to Pietersburg, to Pretoria.

This two-night adventure begins at Royal Livingstone Hotel when you board a classic aircraft for the two-hour flight over the incomparable Victoria Falls on the mighty Zambezi River to Pietersburg. Here join our world renowned train to travel past tea estates, trout streams, natural woodlands and then alongside some of South Africa's vast citrus estates, through the tangled indigenous forests of Magoebaskloof, with its deep gorges and ancient cliffs where "living fossil " cycads flourish, before arriving in the high-lying land of the primeval Baobab tree and descending the Highveld. The descent between the quaint towns of Waterval Boven and Waterval Onder is one of the most challenging rail tracks in the world as the train winds through many switchbacks and tunnels. Journey on in comfort and style through the lush, sub-tropical Mpumalanga bushveld to Nelspruit and the Crocodile River valley. Follow the edge of the world-famous Kruger Park towards Hoedspruit, the heart of South Africa's celebrated game-viewing paradise for a visit to the Kapama Game Reserve. Pause in Witbank, a rich coal-mining area, where Rovos Rail was founded in 1986, before ascending the breathtaking Drakensberg Escarpment. to journeys end Rovos Rail's gracious station at Capital Park in Pretoria.

12h30 Guests collected from Royal Livingstone Hotel

13h30 Take off from Livingstone Airport

18h00 The Pride of Africa leaves Pietersburg heading in a north-easterly direction

1 /2 nights – ROVOS

Sunday 31st October

[Enroute to Pretoria](#)

05h00 Wake up call for an early game drive in the Kapama Game Reserve

09h30 Brunch at the Rhino Inn followed by a visit to the Cheetah and Wild Dog Project

14h00 Depart Klaserie and enjoy the relaxed meander of the train en route to Nelspruit

2 /2 nights – ROVOS

Monday 01st November

[Enroute to Pretoria](#)

07h00 The train climbs the Drakensberg Escarpment between Waterval Onder and Waterval Boven via a series of tunnels and switchbacks.

13h00 At Rayton, the Pride of Africa, is hauled by a Rovos steam locomotive for the last leg of the journey to Pretoria.

15h00 Arrive at journey's end, the gracious Capital Park Station in Pretoria

Transfer ROVOS Capital Park Railway Station to Johannesburg Hotel

1 /1 night

Holiday Inn Garden Court

JOHANNESBURG-EASTGATE

Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue

PO Box 681

JOHANNESBURG, 2026

SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27-11-6220570

Fax: 27-11-6227994

Email: higcjhbeastgate@southernsun.com

www.southernsun.com

Holiday Inn Garden Court Johannesburg Eastgate. This 157 room Johannesburg hotel, has a prime location in Eastgate, a fast developing business node just 10 minutes drive from Johannesburg International Airport and close to the city centre and major sporting facilities. It is set in an attractive garden setting and is connected by bridge to the Eastgate Shopping Centre Complex - one of the largest in the country. The cosmopolitan Bruma Flea Market and Fisherman's Village Entertainment Complex are within walking distance. All rooms offer every business facility and have a private bathroom with a separate shower and there are non-smoking rooms as well as a room for disabled guests. The Garden Grill, overlooking the pool area serves a hearty breakfast, and in the evening a delicious buffet dinner is available. The attractive bar offers light snacks and drinks. This hotel has a reputation for providing unbeatable value, comfort and friendly service and has become a firm favourite with businessmen, sports teams and their supporters, leisure guests and overseas tourists.

Tuesday 02nd November

[Pretoria Hotel to Thornybush Private Game Reserve – Kruger National Park](#)

[Pick-up 0800 hours – duration 6 hour drive](#)

1 /3 nights – Kruger National Park

Thornybush Private Game Reserve, - Tangala Safari Camp

Tangala Central Reservation Office
PO Box 1705, Hoedspruit, South Africa
Tel +27 (0) 15 793 0321
Fax +27 (0) 15 793 0296
Website: www.tangala.co.za
E-mail: reservations@tangala.co.za

Situated in the famous Thornybush Private Game Reserve, Tangala Authentic Safari Camp offers spacious and comfortable accommodation in African-style rondavels. Activities include morning and evening game drives in open safari vehicles and bushwalks. The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa.

Kruger Park was established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African lowveld. With nearly 2 million hectares the Kruger is home to the [Big Five](#) and an impressive number of species such as Giraffe, Zebra, Kudu, Hippopotamus and many more. Tangala is one of the last remaining authentic experiences in South Africa that have been a legacy of the family for more than 8 generations. This intimate and exclusive private safari camp is situated in the 22,000 acre Thornybush Private Nature Reserve, a prime ecological area abounding in wildlife. Tangala has succeeded in maintaining its earthly appeal after the recent upgrading of facilities, continually striving to recreate the original down to earth hospitality of years gone by when early explorers created a legacy of adventure and discovery. Tangala creates the feel of Africa long forgotten and strives to give all guests the ultimate African bush experience and has striking views of the Drakensberg Mountains.

Adventures Night drives - Take part in the nocturnal activities of Kruger's secretive creatures. Experienced guides drive groups of tourists around in safari vehicles. **Morning drives** - Early bird catches the worm, you leave at around 04.30 in summer and 05.30 in winter, the best time to see lots of wildlife and of course, a magical African sunrise. **Guided bush walks** - Motorists are not allowed to leave their vehicles but trained field guides and backup rifles take groups of up to 8 people out into the bush for a few hours. Track rhino, elephant and lion on foot and learn and observe fascinating facts about the African bush.

Wednesday 03rd November
[Kruger National Park](#)

2 /3 nights
Thornybush Private Game Reserve, - Tangala Safari Camp

Thursday 04th November
[Kruger National Park](#)

3 /3 nights
Thornybush Private Game Reserve, - Tangala Safari Camp

Friday 05th November
[Kruger National Park](#)
[Pick-up 0900 hours – duration 6 hour drive](#)
Transfer Kruger National Park to Johannesburg International Airport

JNB /SYD - QF64 – 1750 /1435 + 1

Saturday 06th November

Arrive Sydney 1435 hours
SYD/CNS – 1910 /2115

A.R.T
I N B O U N D
AFRICAN TRAVEL
s p e c i a l i s t s

ROVOSRAIL
The Pride of Africa



Mediterranean Meanderings 2005

"If you reject the food, ignore the customs, fear the religion and avoid the people, -- you might better stay at home."James Michener.

Friday 14th October

CNS /NRT – QF069 – 1325 /2000 – Qantas Airlines Cairns to Tokyo

Transfer Narita Airport to Holiday Inn Tobu Narita, Tokyo.
Meet with Joe Tsuchida and Hiromi Oobuchi

1 /1 night

Holiday Inn

TOBU NARITA

320-1 TOKYO, CHIBA

NARITA, 286-0106

JAPAN

Tel: 81-476-321234

Fax: 81-476-320617

Email: nrt.room.rsvn@tobuhotel.co.jp

Web: www.tobuhotel.co.jp



Holiday Inn Tobu Narita is located just five minutes from *Narita International Airport*, the gateway to the skies connecting Japan with cities all over the world. It is a cosmopolitan resort hotel with many facilities for the travellers. Located on the first floor is a cheerful coffee shop and tea lounge. In addition, we are able to offer our guests the use of well designed athletic facilities, including an indoor swimming pool, a sauna, spa, and a gymnasium. We make certain that the hospitality at **Holiday Inn Tobu Narita** is of the highest quality. Have a wonderful stay at our hotel, which promises you the best hotel service in Narita.

Saturday 15th October

Transfer Holiday Inn Tobu Narita to Narita Airport, Tokyo.

NRT/FRA – LH711 – 0945 /1425 – Lufthansa Airlines Tokyo to Frankfurt

FRA/ZAG – LH2484 – 1555 /1715 – Operated by Croatian Airlines Frankfurt to Zagreb

Transfer Zagreb Airport to The Hotel Westin Zagreb by Skål International, – Free time and orientation till start of Congress Sunday evening.

1 /1 night

The Westin Zagreb

Kršnjavoga 1,

Zagreb •Croatia

Phone (385) (1) 489 2000

Fax (385) (1) 489 2001

Email: zagreb@westin.com

Web: www.westin.com/zagreb

The Westin Zagreb is a luxury standard hotel located in the heart of the city. Overlooking major cultural and historical attractions, the Westin Zagreb features excellent amenities for both business and leisure travellers alike.



Sunday 16th October

Free time and orientation till start of Congress Sunday evening.

Skål World Congress 2005 – Croatia, Zagreb /Dubrovnik – Day 1

0900-1800 Registration at The Westin
1900-1945 Ecumenical Service at The Westin
2000-2400 Get Together Party at The Westin

Optional Lonjsko Polje Tour - Lonjsko polje (Field of Lonja River) is a unique marshland in Europe, proclaimed a nature park in 1990 and protected ever since. In this area a variety of flora and fauna are preserved in accordance with the traditional way of living in the village. Typical old family houses built of oak-wood belong to European monuments of cultural heritage. The traditional economy with cattle, horses and pigs, the important domestic livestock still exists in the field. With its biological variety and woods in the flooded areas of Lonjsko polje, it represents a special area called "European Amazon". About 270 different kinds of birds live here, 130 of them permanently. Storks are especially numerous and they make their nests on the roofs of the old wooden houses in the villages at the edge of Lonjsko Polje. Čigoč village is distinguished among them and it was proclaimed the first European stork village. It is interesting that there are more storks than people in Čigoč.

Plitvice Lakes National Park - This is the oldest and largest Croatian national park and one of the most famous parks in Europe, listed by UNESCO as one of the most valuable nature reserves in the world. The bio system of the Park is a unique example of an open-air physical-biochemical laboratory. The waters flowing over the limestone and chalk have, over thousands of years, deposited barriers, creating natural dams, which in turn have created a series of beautiful lakes, caves and waterfalls. These geological processes still continue to this day. The forests in the Park are home to bears, wolves and many rare bird species.

Duration: 8 hours

1 /5 nights

The Westin Zagreb

Kršnjavoga 1,
Zagreb «Croatia
Phone (385) (1) 489 2000
Fax (385) (1) 489 2001
Email: zagreb@westin.com
Web: www.westin.com/zagreb



Monday 17th October

Skål World Congress 2005 – Croatia, Zagreb /Dubrovnik – Day 2

0700-0900 Breakfast at The Westin

0900-1030 Free – (Registration Continues till 1800 hours)

1030-1230 Opening Ceremony Lisinski Hall

1230-1400 Lunch in Lisinski Hall

1400-1500 Free

1500-1800 **Zagreb City Tour**

1900-2400 Croatian Wine and Food Festival at Jarun Lake Resort

2 /5 nights

The Westin Zagreb

Kršnjavoga 1,
Zagreb «Croatia
Phone (385) (1) 489 2000
Fax (385) (1) 489 2001
Email: zagreb@westin.com
Web: www.westin.com/zagreb



Tuesday 18th October

Skål World Congress 2005 – Croatia, Zagreb /Dubrovnik – Day 3

0700-0900 Breakfast at The Westin

0900-1800 General Assembly at The Westin (lunch 1300-1400), or

0900-1800 Day Tour with Lunch

1900-2400 Dine Around

The Palace Path of Zaprešić - Six palaces, many sacral monuments, churches and chapels, scenic spots and a bird reserve are the distinctive features of Zaprešić region - the North Western "Gates" of Zagreb County. This region borders with the Krapina-Zagorje County and the Republic of Slovenia. It is situated between the mountains near Zagreb in the east, the river Sutla in the west, the river Sava in the South and the river Krapina in its lowlands region. Novi dvori is one of the most valuable and best-preserved feudal farming complexes in Croatia. Apart from the Jelačić Palace this region is the home of many other beautiful palaces and mansions. If you take a left turn from Zaprešić toward Brdovec you will see Lužnica Mansion, a one-floor baroque building. It was built in the early 18th century and it used to be owned by the Rauch family. The mansion has three wings, and is U-shaped. Angle towers are of cylindrical shape. Above the main entrance overlooking the park there is a large balcony. Façade features different busts in relief. The mansion chapel has a rococo style altar. It is a zero category monument.

Samobor Carnival City - Samobor is a picturesque small town with a centuries-long history and rich cultural heritage. Walking the town will seem like visiting a museum since each house has its own history. The Samobor Carnival is an event with the tradition of more than 170 year. Samobor is one of the most popular excursion destinations in the vicinity of Zagreb and with its attractive surroundings has an envious position in the tourism of North Western Croatia.

3 /5 nights

The Westin Zagreb

Kršnjavoga 1,

Zagreb «Croatia

Phone (385) (1) 489 2000

Fax (385) (1) 489 2001

Email: zagreb@westin.com

Web: www.westin.com/zagreb

Wednesday 19th October

Skål World Congress 2005 – Croatia, Zagreb /Dubrovnik – Day 4

0700-0900 Breakfast at The Westin

0900-1800 Tourism Forum at The Westin (lunch 1300-1400), or

0900-1800 Day Tour with lunch

1900-2400 President's Gala Dinner

Baroque Town Varaždin & Trakošćan Castle - One of the cities within the broader Zagreb region that should not be missed is Varaždin. The whole city of Varaždin is a typical example of Baroque architecture and is therefore called the Baroque city. Its old bfortress is a cultural monument of the



highest category. Close to Varaždin is the most popular and most frequented castle - Trakošćan. Who built it and when is not known, but it is believed that Trakošćan castle is a fortress built in the 14th century. With its beautiful landscape, park-forest and a large artificial lake, the castle is an entity that will amaze every visitor.

4 /5 nights

The Westin Zagreb

Kršnjavoga 1,

Zagreb «Croatia

Phone (385) (1) 489 2000

Fax (385) (1) 489 2001

Email: zagreb@westin.com

Web: www.westin.com/zagreb

Thursday 20th October

[Skål World Congress 2005 – Croatia, Zagreb /Dubrovnik – Day 5](#)

0700-0900 Breakfast at The Westin

0900-1800 Departure to Dubrovnik, Transfer from Airport to Hotel and **City Tour**.

2000-2400 Farewell Party at Hotel Croatia

5 /5 nights

Hotel Croatia Cavtat, Dubrovnik

Frankopanska 10

20210 Cavtat:

Phone (385) (20) 475 555

Fax (385) (20) 478 213

Email: info@hoteli-croatia.hr

Web: www.hoteli-croatia.hr

Friday 21st October

[Free time explore Dubrovnik and region, AVIS self drive Adriatic Coast, o/n Prizba](#)

Panoramic Dubrovnik & City Tour, 0800 hours - Depart the pier on a panoramic drive of Dubrovnik and its Riviera before continuing to Dubrovnik Old Town. The walking tour will commence by entering through the Pile Gate and down the main street called the Stradun. During the guided portion of the tour, you will visit Dominican Monastery with its finest collection of Renaissance paintings in Dubrovnik. Among many local and Italian masters the highlight is a painting by Tizian. Remaining stops will be at the 15th century Rector's Palace that used to be the seat of the Dubrovnik Republic government and the Cathedral, one of the few baroque buildings that contain a very interesting treasury with artefacts in gold and silver. Other fine monuments such as Onofrio's fountain, the Sponza Palace and St. Blaise's Church will be viewed from the outside. Note: Guests must be able to walk approximately 0.5 mile (2 hours) over even and cobblestone surfaces with extended periods of standing and 10 steps into the monastery. Time permitting you will have

approximately 1 hour of leisure in the old city.

Hi Bob

Your car in Croatia has been confirmed, with delivery to Hotel Croatia Cavtat at 0800 on the 21st October. Return car to Zagreb Apt early on the 25th October

Reservation Number 3374-7350-AU-0

Regards Wayne

[1 / 1 night](#)

Riva1 **Hotel in Prizba, Island of Korcula**

Ph 00 385 20 861 260

Web



Saturday 22nd October

[AVIS self drive Adriatic Coast, o/n Split.](#)

[1 / 1 night](#)

Hotel in Split at random

TBA:

Web

Sunday 23rd October

[AVIS self drive Adriatic Coast, o/n Zadar.](#)

[1 / 1 night](#)

Hotel in Zadar at random

TBA:

Web



Monday 24th October

[AVIS self drive Adriatic Coast, via Pula to o/n Zagreb near Airport.](#)

[1 / 1 night](#)

Hotel in Zagreb at random

TBA:

Tuesday 25th October

[Transfer to Zagreb Airport](#)

ZAG/MUC – LH3499 – 0655/0800 – Operated by Augsburg Airlines Zagreb to Munich

MUC/VCE – LH2660 – 0915/1035 – Operated by Air Dolomiti SPA Munich to Venice

Transfer Venice Airport to Venice Sea Port to board **Celebrity Cruises MILLENNIUM** for 14 day /12 night cruise of Mediterranean – Venice /Italy, Dubrovnik /Croatia, (Piraeus) Athens, Corinth /Greece, Santorini /Greece, Naples, Capri, Pompeii /Italy, (Civitavecchia) Rome /Italy, (Livorno) Florence, Pisa, Tuscany /Italy, Villefranche (Nice, Monaco, Monte Carlo) /France, Barcelona /Spain

What do you call a place that offers world-class restaurants, Broadway-style shows, a luxurious spa and amenities that rival the grandest hotel on land? We call her *Millennium*; you'll call her magnificent. To sail on *Millennium*, the first of our Millennium-class of ships, is an experience that cannot be expressed in words. Stride her decks and see for yourself what those who have experienced her already know: *Millennium* is more than a ship; she is a special memory waiting to be had.

Ship Facts: Occupancy: **3450**, Tonnage: 91,000, Length: 965 ft, Beam: 105.6 ft, Draught: 26.3, Cruise speed: 24 knots, Bars /Lounges 10, Casino, Shops, Library, Inaugural Date: Jun 17, 2000 - www.celbritycruises.com

Deluxe Ocean View Stateroom with private veranda, Sky Deck, room area 191 sq ft, veranda area 41 sq ft. Features queen double bed, floor-to-ceiling glass doors and large sitting area, dress table and shower.



Day 1 & 2 - One of the world's most beautiful cities also happens to be one of its most unusual. Venice is actually made up of over 120 islands in the Adriatic Sea. Because the city is connected by canals instead of streets, a good way to see Venice is on a romantic gondola ride. The epicentre of the city is St. Mark's Square, where you'll find the 900-year-old Basilica of St. Mark.



Evening Gondola Serenade, 1730 hours - Depart from the pier by private motor launch with escorts to be transferred to St. Mark's landing area from where you will walk to a Gondola Station. Board the typical sleek, black Venetian craft, to begin your personalised 40-minute trip through some of the magical canals of the city. As your experienced gondolier manoeuvres along the canals, you'll be utilizing a mean of transportation that dates back to the 16th century and was created for these waterways. Pass between stone buildings that seem to rise out of the water and leave a colourful reflection of light dancing on the ripples below. To complete the setting, a singer and accordionist will accompany you. Your return motor launch transfer will pass by the beautiful sights of the city en route back to the ship.

Note: Guests holding late seating dinner reservations should take (5:30 pm departure); guests holding main seating dinner reservations should take (8:00 pm departure). The transfer from the motor launch to the gondola involves a 20-minute walk over cobblestone surfaces. Please note that the tour cannot operate in rainy weather or during extremely high/low tidal conditions. Guests must be able to board the gondola with minimal assistance in order to participate on this tour.

Wednesday 26th October
[Explore Venice - Italy](#)

Day 1 & 2 - Venice is known as La Serenissima, or the Serene Republic. One look around the city will help you understand why. At first you may not recognize the absence of sound that fills your ears. But then it hits you - there are no cars here. As you walk down the middle of the street, you'll marvel at the beauty around every street corner. It seems like the entire city has been lifted straight out of a painting. There is nowhere else in the world where earth and water exist together so freely, with neither element trying to assert its dominance. Couples from all over flock to the world's most romantic city. Of course, the secret is out, and the throngs of tourists do detract from the city's pristine visage. During the summer, Piazza San Marco is teeming with people, so many in fact that it seems like the city will sink into the water that runs through it. In actuality, the city is sinking, at an average of five inches every

twenty years. Unless something is done to keep Venice afloat, the city may join Atlantis at the bottom of the sea. Because Venice's fortunes are tied so closely to the sea, it must be noted that Venice loses some of its charm in the autumn months, when high tides flood some of the best parts of the city, including the city's centre, Piazza San Marco. On the hottest summer days, the water begins to smell, despite the city's best efforts to keep its waterways clean. However, do not let these small inconveniences distract you from all of the good things Venice has to offer. This is the one location in the world where the city itself is the attraction. You can spend an entire day walking around and sitting outside, stopping for lunch or some gelato, and not step foot in a single attraction. You will still be enchanted, having experienced the most picturesque city in the world.

Murano Glassworks, San Giorgio & Gondola Ride, 8am - Board your motor launch, leave the ship gliding across the Venetian lagoon as far as the island of Murano, cruising past the Arsenale, a vast dockyard that was the largest and most efficient industrial complex in Europe during the Venetian Republic. Since 1291, Murano has been celebrated for its glass manufacturing and, although glassmaking is no longer a secret art, the products of Murano are still greatly revered. During your visit to a leading glass factory, observe masters of this delicate craft as they create gorgeous works of art. Browse through the enticing displays of the showrooms and perhaps purchase a memento of your visit to Murano. En route back to Venice on your way to the island of San Giorgio Maggiore, view the exterior of the Church of San Pietro di Castello, the city's Cathedral until the beginning of the 19th Century, and the island of the Lido in the distance. Gliding around the island of St. Elena, enter St. Mark's Basin and delight in a splendid view of St. Mark's Square and the Grand Canal. On this island, located just in front of St. Mark's Square, tour one of Venice's most remarkable churches, San Giorgio Maggiore. Designed in the 16th century by the great architect Andrea Palladio, San Giorgio is a superb example of neo-classical design and a masterpiece of ecclesiastic architecture. Perfectly proportioned, the exterior is made of red brick and white marble. The interior, simply decorated, houses two of Tintoretto's most important pieces: "The Last Supper" and "The Gathering of Manna."

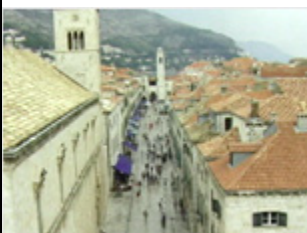


It is time to board the gondola. Riding six per gondola, traverse some of the smaller picturesque canals that are crossed by lovely stone bridges. The scenery speaks for itself on this non-narrated 30 to 35-minute gondola ride, so relax and enjoy the tranquil waters as you glide past the many balconied, waterfront homes. Note: Guests must be able to walk approximately 0.75 mile (2 hours) over uneven and cobblestone surfaces with 20 to 40 steps. A strict dress code is enforced to visit San Giorgio Church. Short pants and tank tops are not acceptable. Photography is not permitted inside the church. On Sundays and church holidays, tour groups are not allowed inside the church during services. However, entry will be allowed on an individual basis to view the interior quietly and reverently.

Thursday 27th October

[Relax on MILLENNIUM or further explore Dubrovnik - Croatia](#)

Day 3 - This charming little town has been resting on the Dalmatian Coast for some 1,300 years. Once you pass through Old Town's stone walls, you will be transported into the breathtaking medieval world of Stari Grad. Marble-paved squares, monasteries and fountains are just a few of the antiquities still standing just as they were over a thousand years ago.



Walking the City Walls of Dubrovnik - Your guide will lead you to Pile Gate where your special exploration of Dubrovnik's Old Town and its wall begins. The old city of Dubrovnik and its walls have been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The ramparts are intact and encircle the old city with a circumference of more than 1.5 miles.

Ascending the stairway (approximately 50 steps) at the Pile Gate, reach the top of the wall where your guide will lead you on a walking tour along its length.

See the Minèeta Fortress, St. John's Fortress, Bokar Fortress and the Maritime Museum. The Maritime Museum presents the historic maritime heritage of the local area with an array of artefacts and documents from antiquity to present day.

Reaching the Stradun, the centre of Old Town, you will have free time (approximately 1 hour) to explore the town independently before boarding your coach for the return transfer to the ship.

Note: Guests must be able to walk approximately 1 mile over uneven and cobblestone surfaces with

approximately 50+ steps. Sturdy, comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, hat and sunscreen protection are recommended.

Lokrum Island Transfer - In 1859 Maximilian Ferdinand of Habsburg, the owner of the island, came to Lokrum. He had a mansion built in the shape of a tower and a marvellous garden laid out, crisscrossed with pathways. The tradition of bringing exotic plants that exists from the time of the Benedictines to that of Maximilian and continues on when in 1959 the Botanical Garden was founded. Most of the plant varieties derive from Australia and South America; of particular interest is the collection of eucalyptuses, cactuses and succulents. In 1964, the island of Lokrum was declared a Managed Nature Reserve and in 1976 a Special Forest Vegetation Reserve. There is a little lake called Mrtvo More (Dead Sea) on the island which is linked to the open sea. On the Lokrum hills, lies a fortress called Forte Royal, built in the shape of a star by the French in 1806, it gives marvellous views of Dubrovnik, the seaside resort of Cavtat and the Islands. Enjoy your day while strolling or swimming in the Adriatic Sea as Lokrum Island is considered to be the most popular beach destination in Dubrovnik.

Note: Lokrum Island does not have a pebble or sandy beach. There are only cliffs and rocks where access into the sea is possible. Swimming in the sea is at the guests' on risk since no lifeguards are available. Depending on where your ship is berthed, the tour duration can vary from 3 to 4 hours in duration.

Friday 28th October

At Sea - Relax on MILLENNIUM – Slow sail past of Mykonos, Greece

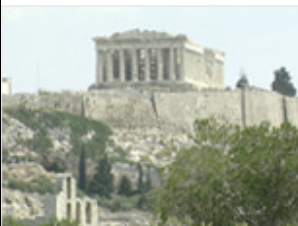
Day 4 – Chill out cruising the Mediterranean en-route to Greece. Few places in the world compare with Mykonos. Here you'll find whitewashed houses clinging to cliffs against a backdrop of indescribably blue sea. Follow a maze of tiny streets, visit one of the world's most superb beaches, or see the mythical birthplace of Apollo, the island of Mykonos.

Saturday 29th October

Explore (Piraeus) Athens & Corinth - Greece

Day 5 - Your adventure in Athens begins five miles southwest in Greece's largest seaport, known as Piraeus. While here, be sure to take notice of what is considered to be one of the greatest contributions from the ancient Age of Pericles, the city's infrastructure, which today we know as a city block. Athens brought the world drama, history, poetry and philosophy - and wait till you see the buildings these subjects were taught in. Once the world's most powerful and civilized city, Athens is now the world's foremost archaeological playground. The towering columns of the Parthenon still stand as an ancient dedication to the virgin goddess Athena, on the Acropolis. Countless classic sculptures and museums packed with historical wonders and Athenian art abound.

Athens Sightseeing & Acropolis - Leaving the quayside, drive to Athens through the suburbs where the coach will enter the city centre from the southwest along Syngrou Avenue. Drive past some of the famous sites such as the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the largest Corinthian style temple in Greece,



taking over 700 years to build. Hadrian's Arch separates the old and new Roman towns. Other sights to see include the National Gardens, the National Library and the Parliament Building, formerly the Royal Palace. The Panathinon Stadium, built in 1895, was the site of the first modern Olympics held in 1896. Visit the Acropolis to see the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Greece, all built in the latter part of the 5th century BC. A winding pathway and approximately 150 steps lead to the top of the famous hill. See the Propylea Entrance, the Erechtheum, the Temple of Wingless Victory and, of course, the crowning glory of Athens,

the incomparable Parthenon. Dedicated to Athena, the patron goddess of Athens, it is Greece's largest and most impressive temple. Note: Guests must be able to walk approximately 1.5 miles over steep inclines, 200 to 300 steps and uneven surfaces. Comfortable walking shoes, a hat and plenty of sunscreen are recommended. Due to new regulations, buses may be required to park some distance from the archaeological site and this may involve additional walking. Please be aware that ongoing restorations work is often carried out at the Acropolis. Time permitting; guests will have approximately 15 minutes for souvenir shopping in the shops below Acropolis. At the conclusion of the tour, guests will have the option of exiting the tour at Constitution Square in Athens for independent shopping and making their own way back to the ship in Piraeus or returning to the port with the coach.

Sunday 30th October

Explore Santorini - Greece

Day 6 - 35.25 degrees north. 25.20 degrees east. Perfection has coordinates. Here on Santorini, you'll find whitewashed houses accented by roofs of the bluest blue - there's no doubt that azure waters of the Aegean have served as creative inspiration. Among the many historic sites on the island is the ancient city of Akrotiri, once buried under a thick blanket of volcanic ash over 3,600 years ago.

Village of Oia, Santorini Island & Wine Tasting - After going ashore by local tender boat to the port of Athinios, your coach will climb 800 feet to the top of the caldera. Your guide will point out the still active volcanic islet in Santorini Bay and discuss the geological upheavals, which gave the island its overwhelming and unique form. Driving through the picturesque scenery and small villages from the southern to the northern end of the island of Santorini, you'll travel across rich, volcanic countryside.

The beautiful village of Oia is perched atop a craggy cliff at the northern most point of the island offering panoramic views of steep plummeting cliffs and nearby small islands surrounded by the deep blue sea. The charm of this lovely traditional and somewhat removed village lies in its very narrow, twisting cobblestone alleyways and steps. Walking through the village one can enjoy the panoramic views, admire the Cycladic architecture for which the town is well known, and visit many of the art galleries.



After your visit to Oia, continue to a local winery for the opportunity to taste Santorini mezes (Greek Snack) and a wine tasting while enjoying the magnificent views. You will visit the bodega where the wine is aged and have the chance to purchase some of the locally produced wines. The tour concludes at the hilltop village of Fira, where you'll have the option of returning directly to the ship or remaining in town to shop or explore independently. From Fira, join the cable car (ticket provided) and descend independently to the old port. A local tender will ferry you back to the ship, which will be anchored offshore.

Volcano Hot Springs, Hike and Swim - Santorini is one of the most spectacular islands in the Mediterranean. It presents the awesome sight of a volcanic crater, partially submerged by the sea. The two islands in the caldera that is now Santorini's harbour, Palea Kameni and Nea Kameni - "the volcano," to the local people are the youngest volcanic lands in Greece. Travel by boat directly from the ship to Erinia Cove, on the volcanic island of Nea Kameni. Step out onto the Daphni lava flow, the oldest lava on the island. The path to the top of the dome is over volcanic sand and lava fragments. Observe large fragments of lava that were ejected in a molten state and cooled very rapidly as they travelled through the air. Upon reaching the summit of the crater at 127 meters, you will have time to relax and enjoy the view of the island of Santorini and the amazing cliff of the caldera.

Following the same route in reverse, return to your boat and sail to the thermal springs of Palea Kameni. The boat will anchor in the deep green sulphur springs and you'll have a chance to swim in the mineral rich, warm waters (max 35°C) of the Hot Springs. On the return boat trip, you will be dropped off at the small boat harbour of Fira where you can use your round trip cable car tickets that are included in this excursion.

Note: Guests must be able to walk approximately 1 mile uphill over loose gravel paths on the volcano island. Hats, sunglasses and comfortable walking shoes are essential. **Due to the nature of the terrain, it is suggested to wear comfortable, "closed-toe" walking shoes on this tour.** Swimming in the thermal springs requires open-ocean swimming (depending on anchorage point) and is done at guest's discretion. Guests may be required to swim up to 50 yards to reach the hot spring area since the currents are constantly changing. Life jackets are provided on this tour. Participants should be aware that there are certain inherent risks involved with any swimming excursion. If you are planning on swimming, don't forget to wear your swimsuit and take a towel from the ship.

Monday 31st October

[At Sea - Relax on MILLENNIUM, slow sail past Malta](#)

Day 7 – Chill out cruising the Mediterranean en-route to West coast of Italy, via Malta

Tuesday 01st November

[Explore Naples, Isle of Capri, Sorrento, Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius - Italy](#)

Day 8 - Located on the South West coast of Italy, Naples has spectacular scenery that attracts artists from around the world. From this key spot, you can embark on a trip to the ruins of Pompeii or shop the many boutiques of Sorrento. You may work up an appetite for one of Naples' greatest inventions - pizza - invented to honour the Queen of Italy in 1889.



Isle of Capri, Sorrento & Pompeii - After disembarking your ship you will walk to the jetfoil terminal for a 40-minute ride to Capri. From the dock at Marina Grande, the funicular will transport participants up the terrace to Capri Town. The view from the town overlooks the marina and the

Sorrento Peninsular. Capri has become very commercial in recent years, but you will enjoy visiting La Piazzetta, the heart of the shopping and nightclub area. Wander through the narrow streets and explore the shops and sights. Time permitting; it may be possible to visit the beautiful Augustus Gardens, overlooking the famous Faraglioni of Capri and Marina Piccola. Return to the marina by funicular and travel by watercraft back to the mainland.

Driving south, the next stop is the fabled town of Sorrento. Legend states it was the sirens of Sorrento who attempted to lure Ulysses onto the rocks. Lunch (with a flute of Italian champagne and house wine) will be served at a first class restaurant or hotel. After lunch, board your coach for the transfer to Pompeii. Located 12 miles from Naples is the Roman town of Pompeii at the foot of Mount Vesuvius. In 79 AD, the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius buried the town under 20 feet of ash and pumice stone, preserving the entire city. During the walking tour of the ruins, admire the mansions and art of wealthy patricians who moved to Pompeii to escape the turmoil of Rome. At intersections are stepping-stones that ensured pedestrians a safe crossing. This prosperous city had an extensive forum, lavish baths, temples and villas richly decorated with frescoes. Excavations have revealed details of everyday life such as the wine jars still set in the counter of the wine shop. Time permitting; a stop will be made at a cameo factory to learn about the delicate art of cameo carving and the opportunity to purchase some of the handicrafts.

Note: There is extensive walking involved over cobblestones and uneven ground in Pompeii (1.5 miles) and approximately 1 mile of walking over cobblestone surfaces in Capri. Inclement weather and rough seas may cause seasickness on the boat to/from Capri so guests should take the necessary precautions. The archaeological site of Pompeii and the funicular in Capri are not wheelchair accessible. There is a steep incline at the entrance of Pompeii with 20 to 25 steps. The drive between Pompeii and Sorrento is approximately 1 hour. Comfortable walking shoes, hat and sunscreen are highly recommended. Guests will be on their feet up to 90 minutes at any given time. Shops in Sorrento may be closed during the lunch stop. Tour order may be reversed but all sites will be visited.

Wednesday 02nd November
[Explore \(Civitavecchia\) Rome - Italy](#)

Day 9 - Civitavecchia was settled in 108 A.D. by Emperor Trajan and has since faithfully served as a gateway to the capital of the Empire, Rome. Once the centre of the ancient world from which emperors ruled over nearly all of western civilization for hundreds of years, Rome is still considered by many to reign over all other European destinations. Here you can breathe the air once breathed by great Roman gladiators in the ancient halls of the Colosseum. Gaze upon the very ceilings Michelangelo painted at the Sistine Chapel. Or visit a monument to both size and faith, St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church ever built. Simply stated, Rome is one of the most beautiful cities in the entire world. To get a good sense of what the capital of Italy has to offer, you would need at least two weeks of solid sightseeing, and then you might start to understand and appreciate Rome's place in the world, both historically and in modern times. You need not be reminded that Rome was once the centre of all civilization. The old saying, All roads lead to Rome, was not a cliché, but a statement of fact during the heyday of the Roman Empire. Even after Rome's eventual fall, so much of what started there still impacts the world today. The art, architecture, and codes of law still resonate today, nearly 2000 years after the empire's fall. Because you are working on a limited time budget, this guide will try and help you fit in all there is to see here in as short a time as possible. But you may have to be resigned to the fact that you will not get the chance to see it all. You will be awed by the sheer sanctity and enormity of Vatican City. You will be floored by the Renaissance masterpieces found in the city's museums and art galleries. You will be amazed by the colossal Colosseum. And you will be charmed by the seemingly seamless combination of the old and the new in Rome, The Eternal City.

Imperial Rome - Explore the famous ancient ruins, reflecting twelve centuries of Roman cultural, political and religious history, as your guide escorts you through the ruins of Imperial Rome. After arriving in Rome, you will disembark your coach and walk to the Trevi Fountain. Follow the tradition and toss a coin into the fountain to ensure your return to Rome. Visit the Roman Forum, the heart of ancient Rome, where the creation of the Roman civilization is reflected in the vast ensemble of ruins. Walk through Via Sacra (Sacred Way), the route followed by religious and triumphal processions. The imposing triumphal Arch of Titus was erected in 81 AD by the Emperor Domitian in honour of the victories in battle of his brother and father in Judea. A symbol of the "Eternal City," the Roman Colosseum is one of the most important monuments of ancient Rome. There, you'll have time for photographs both inside and outside the Colosseum.



You will also see the impressive Arch of Constantine. Lunch (with a flute of Italian champagne and house wine) will be served at a first class restaurant or hotel. Afterwards, drive to the Vatican City to visit St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world. Among the many fine pieces of art on display are Michelangelo's "Pieta" and the beautifully carved Bernini Pulpit. Time will be allotted for you to explore or shop at your leisure.

Note: An escort will be on the coach during the trip to/from Rome. Guests must be able to walk approximately 2 miles over even and cobblestone surfaces with extended periods of standing and approximately 50 steps. A strict dress code is enforced in St. Peter's Basilica. Short pants, tank tops and revealing clothing are not acceptable. Guests may be required to check large bags, backpacks, video cameras and/or personal water bottles at designated check points.

Thursday 03rd November

Explore (Livorno) Florence, Pisa, & Tuscany - Italy

Day 10 - Occupying both banks of the Arno River and situated at the foot of the Apennine Mountains, is Florence. Founded by Julius Caesar himself, Florence is known as the birthplace of the Renaissance. History and art shake hands in this picturesque land where masterpieces like Michelangelo's David can be seen in the city's many museums, churches and galleries. Both banks of the River Arno are gracious enough to share this lovely port city. Pisa is perhaps most noted for its famous marble bell tower, known widely as the Leaning Tower of Pisa. It's no surprise the tower is still leaning (14 1/2 feet since 1370), considering that it resides in the Field of Miracles, known locally as Campo de Miracoli.

Florence, Pisa and Tuscany - Departing the port of Livorno, drive through the beautiful Tuscan countryside to the historic university town of Pisa. A short walk will take you to the Field of Miracles to marvel at the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Enjoy the beauty of this architectural wonder as you take in the scenery from the piazza.

Upon reaching Florence, your guide will escort you along the city streets to the Piazza del Duomo, where the Cathedral, Bell Tower and Baptistry share the same square. The cathedral is one of the longest in the world, and took over 140 years to build. Its 14th century bell tower is richly decorated with coloured marble and fine sculptures, while the baptistry is festooned with magnificent mosaics and a copy of Ghiberti's "Gates of Paradise" cast in bronze. Stop in the Piazza della Signoria, the heart of Florence and the city's largest square where you will see a copy of



Michelangelo's "David" and the Loggia dei Lanzi. Pause for a photo opportunity with your local guide at the nearest point to Ponte Vecchio, famous for its covered design and shopping opportunities.

Lunch (with a flute of Italian champagne and house wine) will be served at a first class restaurant or hotel. Following lunch, visit the Church of Santa Croce, known as Italy's Westminster Abbey for the Italian monarchy buried there. Its 14th-century interior is one of the finest examples of Florentine Gothic architecture. There you'll have limited time at leisure to explore or shop.

Note: Guests must be able to walk approximately 3.5 miles over even and cobblestone

streets with 10 to 15 steps and extended periods of standing and waiting. The walking distance between the Field of Miracles and the bus parking area is approximately 15 minutes each way. Guests will have approximately 45 minutes in Pisa for photographs. Entrances to the venues/monuments on the Field of Miracles are not included. Please note that you will not have time to visit the interior of the Leaning Tower of Pisa on this tour. The Church of Santa Croce is closed on Sundays, during special events and during mass services. Should this occur during your visit, guides will give an explanation outside and guests will then enter on their own. Photography is not permitted in the Church of Santa Croce. Tour sequence may be altered to avoid congestion.

Friday 04th November

[Explore \(Villefranche\) Nice, Monaco & Monte Carlo - France](#)

Day 11 – The bustling little town of Villefranche on the coast of France has its own unique charm. Part of the Côte d'Azur, Villefranche offers long sandy beaches, terrace cafés, and world-class cuisine, making it a great stop on your way to Monte Carlo, Nice, or Cannes. Situated at the foot of the Alps is the French Riviera city of Nice. Once you arrive here, it will be clear why this jewel of the French Riviera is home to some of the world's most luxurious hotels and terraced cafés. Stroll along the ultra-famous Promenade des Anglais or see masterpieces by Matisse, Renoir, Monet and Chagall in one of Nice's many museums. For a true taste of Nice, sample the local favourites, including onion, anchovy and olive tarts known as pissaladières, along with succulent little black olives known as caillettes.



Grande Corniche, Eze & Monaco - Drive along the famous Grand Corniche, originally built by Napoleon. Enjoy a scenic view of Roquebrune Cap Martin near the Italian border and La Turbie before reaching Monaco. Upon your arrival in Monaco, your coach will drive along a portion of the

Grand Prix Motor Race circuit to the jewel of Monte Carlo, its Grand Casino.

Visit the Rock of Monaco, the walled city overlooking the sea, and the modern city of Monte Carlo. Your guide will escort you through the old quarter of Monaco passing the Oceanographic Museum, the 19th-century neo-Romanesque cathedral, and the Prince's Palace. At Monte Carlo's Grand Casino, try your luck, browse through the exclusive shops in Casino Square or sit at a café for some people watching. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant in Monte Carlo.

Drive along the Middle Corniche to the charming medieval village of Eze. Perched on the cliff 1,400 feet above the Mediterranean, the views are spectacular as you look back over Beaulieu and Villefranche. The village is best explored on foot, with its narrow cobblestone streets, many little shops and local artisans. Returning to Villefranche, your coach will drive along the Lower Corniche Road, passing some of the quaint resort villages before returning to the harbour in Villefranche. Time permitting; you will have approximately 45 minutes of leisure time in Eze and 1 hour in Monte Carlo.

Note: At the Rock of Monaco and the Grand Casino, guests must take an escalator and an elevator from the parking structure. Guests must be able to walk approximately 0.75 mile over even surfaces with 10 to 15 steps and various inclines. A passport is not required to enter the Grand Casino if you are on tour; however, one is required to collect gaming winnings. Guests may be asked for a photo ID for proof of age since persons under the age of 18 are not permitted in the Grand Casino. Bathing suits, beachwear, jogging suits, jeans and tennis shoes are not permitted in the Grand Casino. All attire should be neat and clean. Cameras and video cameras are not permitted in the Grand Casino.

Saturday 05th November

[Explore Barcelona, Spain & Grande Farewell Party on-board MILLENNIUM](#)

Day 12 & 13 - There's nothing quite like Barcelona. Especially if you consider the architecture. The city lays claim to its very own form of Art Nouveau, known as Modernisme. The Sagrada Familia Basilica is perhaps the best example of this beautiful and interesting brand of architecture, with its bold colour, beautiful tile-work and swirling lines. At the same time, many find the work at the Picasso Museum and the cathedrals of the Gothic Quarter equally inspiring. Barcelona has always been a prosperous city, thanks to an exquisite harbour, fertile soil, and a population of hard working, caring citizens. This great city was a strong, incredibly diverse region when Madrid was still a fledgling town with basically no landmarks or significance. The numerous Mediterranean empires that had at one time or another conquered the area brought tremendous influences, much more so than the Iberian presence to the west. Barcelona was most influenced by Rome, Carthage, and France during the Charlemagne era. The monuments of Barcelona open a book into the rich history of the area. These include the intricate and beautiful Gothic Quarter from the medieval times, the series of Catalan art nouveau, and the surreal artwork of Picasso and Miro. But if you are searching for a little excitement and outdoor fun to mix in with your education and culture, look no further than Barcelona. In 1992, Barcelona was given a huge boost by serving as home to the Summer Olympic Games. This race to the 21st century was quite beneficial to Barcelona and the neighbouring areas, and the restructuring program that became everyone's focus was given the name Post Olympic. As a result of all of this hard work and dedication, Barcelona has recently developed into one of the premier port cities in all of Europe. There are so many fascinating sights and wonderful events; you will be awed by your choices and so much to do. Extraordinary museums and landmarks can be found everywhere in this ancient city with a rich heritage and culture. The Museum Picasso is one of the greatest art exhibits anywhere, and through the centre of the old quarter of Barcelona is the gorgeous tree-lined promenade, a visual splendour. The nightlife is truly something, and the shopping is fantastic.



Sunday 06th November

[Explore Barcelona, Spain](#)

Barcelona City & Transfer - Before returning home from your cruise vacation, a tour of this lively Mediterranean city should not be missed! You'll see Barcelona's highlights, explore the Gothic Quarter, and spend some time gathering those last minute souvenirs and gifts. You'll stop for photographs at one of the city's best-known landmarks, Sagrada Familia, also known as the Temple of the Sacred Family. Construction on this multi-spiral sanctuary began over 100 years ago and today it stands not quite half-complete.

Since the 1992 Olympics, the Temple has become a city hallmark and is a lasting tribute to the ecclesiastical work of its designer Antoni Gaudi. Enroute to the Gothic Quarter, you will be able to see some of the most outstanding modernist buildings located in Paseo de Gracia. On foot, you'll travel through the winding narrow streets of the Medieval Gothic Quarter, unrivalled for its medieval atmosphere and wealth of historic buildings. Visit the Gothic Cathedral, built from 1298 to 1450 on the site of a Roman temple dedicated to Hercules, with its interior adorned with tall columns, and ancient stained glass from the Middle Ages. Enroute to your final destination, you'll pass the Maritime façade of Barcelona, circle the Columbus Monument and then along Paral·lel Avenue and Espanya Square. Your coach will climb to the top of Montjuïc Hill, passing the 1992 Olympic Ring and Stadium. At the tour's conclusion, guests will be taken to the airport, post-cruise hotel or ship. Independent guests will be taken to a central Barcelona drop-off location.

Note: Guests must be able to walk approximately 0.5 mile over even and cobblestone surfaces with 45 steps. The Cathedral is closed on Sundays, during special events and during Catholic mass services. Should this occur during your visit, guides will give an explanation outside and guests will then enter on an individual basis to view the interior quietly and reverently.

Transit Port: Many guests utilize the port of Barcelona as a transit port, either boarding or leaving the ship before or after their cruise. To meet the needs and desires of those guests with a little extra time in Barcelona, Celebrity Cruises Inc. will be offering a limited tour program, which will be available to guests who fall into any of the following categories:

- a) Guests on a Celebrity Cruise Combo post cruise package.
 - b) Guests continuing on the same ship for the following sailing (back-to-back voyages).
 - c) Independent guests with an extended overnight stay in a downtown Barcelona hotel.
 - d) Guests with flights departing after 3:00 pm, the last day of the cruise.
- If you meet any of the above criteria, you can participate in the tour listed above. For more information, please contact the Shore Excursion Desk onboard the ship.

1 /1 night

Rafaelhoteles Diagonal Port

Calle Lope de Vega, 4
Barcelona, 08005,
Spain

A beachfront hotel in a prime location in the Front Maritim district, only 5 minutes from the city centre. Modern rooms with leading-edge technology, sea views, Mediterranean cuisine, fine terrace. Opened in January 2001, the Diagonal Port is located in the district known as the Front Maritim, a fast-developing nucleus linking the future technological centre of Barcelona with the sea. In a prime location right on the beach, all of the 115 bedrooms (including 10 suites) offer a sea view. Using leading-edge technology, the rooms come with a fully equipped bathroom in marble, individual temperature controls, specially sized beds, a digital safe, pay TV, a mini bar, modem lines, ISDN lines, a hairdryer and a large working desk. The beautiful terrace provides a great location for social events, coffee breaks or pre-dinner cocktails. The hotel restaurant, Alacena, specialises in Mediterranean cuisine. Despite its situation on the beach, the hotel is only 15 minutes from Barcelona's international airport and just 5 minutes away from the city centre.



Flamenco Show - Flamenco is not just a dance style but an art form with a history often debated. It is known that in the 18th century Gypsies used Flamenco as an expression of oppression, sometimes even without music. Some theories state the melodies are from Northern African Arabic roots while others say there are Indian influences. One certainty is that Flamenco was developed in a type of underground environment, and in the early 1900s, became popular throughout Spain. However, it was not until 1956 that the first formal competition and festival of song in Cordoba took place, and in 1957, the Chair of Flamencology was created at the

University of Jerez. This is an opportunity to experience this beautiful display of colourful costumes, intriguing music, and a unique dance style. The heel stamping (Taconeo), the hand clapping (Palmas Sordas) and the finger snapping (Pitos) are what most people associate with the sounds of Flamenco. The unique Flamenco guitar is the most common accompanying instrument, and some of the guitarists play so vividly that they do not even have to sing, as their guitar speaks for them. You will have a 45-minute panoramic drive to Patio Andaluz, where your 2-hour show will be performed. One drink is included, and usually at the end of the show, the guests are invited to join the dancers on the floor for a final performance.

Note: Guests must be able to walk approximately 200 yards over even surfaces with some steps. Casual evening attire (no tank tops, shorts or revealing clothing) is acceptable.

Monday 07th November

[Transfer to Paris](#)

BCN/CDG – AF1149 – 1030/1225 – Air France Barcelona to Paris

[Explore Paris](#)

City Sights - Escorted by our driver-guide who will take you for a leisure guided ride of Paris. This is surely the best way to discover Paris in the comfort of an air-conditioned minibus. During this tour you will learn about the history of Paris and admire the major attractions of the City: Champs-Elysees, The Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, the Trocadero*, the Opera Garnier, the Invalides, the Concorde Square, the Notre-Dame Cathedral*, the Vendome Square, Montmartre* (Sacred Heart, the Place du Tertre), the Louvre, the Madeleine Church.

Paris Museum Card: The Paris Museum card will give you access to more than 70 museums and monuments in Paris and the surrounding areas. By purchasing this pass before you leave provides you with unlimited entry within the days valid on your card (a leaflet will be provided with your Museum Pass). Among the 70 Paris Museums and Monuments included on the Pass are; Arc de Triomphe, Pantheon, Le Louvre, Notre Dame, Musee d'Orsay, Musee National Picasso, Centre Pompidou, Musee Rodin, Chateau de Rambouillet, Basilique de Vincennes & Musee National des Chateaux de Versailles. Please note there are no child Passes available as Children under 18 yrs are free in most museums and under 13 yrs in most monuments. Each Pass comes with a brochure including all the necessary information including opening/closing times, telephone # etc. Most museums and monuments are generally closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. **CONDITIONS** Your Card is valid for 1 year from date of issue, Paris Museum properties are subject to change without notice, Please note many properties are closed Mondays or Tuesdays. Please check documentation provided or enquire locally.



Dinner Cruise - A gastronomic dinner (wine included) downstream, in a romantic atmosphere. An enchanting way of discovering Paris, "City of Lights". You will be escorted to the boat by our driver guide. The boat is leaving for the cruise at 8:30 pm and returns at about 10:45 - 11:00 PM. During this cruise you will enjoy a romantic dinner and experience an unforgettable night through the heart of Paris in a unique setting - from the Eiffel Tower starting point, the cruise follows the left bank of the Seine all the way to the Finance Ministry at Bercy, and returns to the

Eiffel Tower via the right bank, passing by the Statue of Liberty. Completely transparent, the boats provide total and perfect viewing of the beauty of Paris at night. During the cruise, musicians, a solo violinist and a female singer, interpret celebrated French and international classics. Enjoy "Ave Maria" as you pass Notre-Dame and "La vie en Rose" as you sail under the bridges of Paris, for a unique and unforgettable evening. At your return from the dinner cruise, our guide will be waiting for you to escort you back to your hotel or other venue. **Jacket and tie compulsory**

Or

Altitude 95 is located on the first floor of the Eiffel Tower. The name comes from its height, 95 meters above sea level. The large bay windows of the restaurant look out over the Seine and the Trocadéro to one side and the inside of the Tower to the other. The atmosphere is reminiscent of an airship moored above Paris. The restaurant seats 200 and also has a ground floor bar serving drinks and refreshments all day.





1 /4 nights
Hilton Paris
 18 Avenue de Suffren
 PARIS, 75015
 FRANCE
 Tel: 33-1-44385600
 Fax: 33-1-44385610

Thank you for your reservation and your interest in the Hilton Paris.
 Further to your request, we are delighted to confirm your reservation details as follows:
 Guest Name: Mr. Bob McGill
 Arrival Date: 07th of November 2005
 Departure Date: 11th of November 2005
 Number of Rooms: 1 classic room for two persons
 Reservation number: 3199393724
 Room Rate 4 nights: 142 Euros* (including taxes and service)
 Your travel agent ID will be requested upon check-in in order to benefit

from this special agent rate.

Our classic rooms are large and quiet and have a view on the garden side of the hotel. They all have a private balcony from which you can enjoy a beautiful view on the Eiffel Tower. A great way for you to start a day of sightseeing or to end a romantic night out in Paris.

The Hilton Paris is in the chic, residential area of old Paris, at the foot of the Eiffel Tower and next to the vast Champs de Mars Park. Nearby attractions are the Orsay Museum and the Louvre. Rooms at the front of the hotel have beautiful views of the Eiffel Tower, the River Seine and the Trocadéro Palace. Rooms and suites are on the large size, modern and well equipped with high speed internet access. There are extra quiet Executive Floors and a business lounge. Very quiet rooms overlooking the hotel's gardens. Bright and spacious, those rooms offer a well-stocked minibar, satellite TV and marble bathroom.

Tuesday 08th November

Explore Paris

Versailles, Residence of the Sun King - Our guide will drive you to Versailles Palace, residence of the Sun King, Louis XIV. Here, you will discover the famous "A la Francaise" gardens, as well as the Grand Trianon and The Petit Trianon with Marie Antoinette's Hamlet. Unguided visit for about an hour of the great apartments, the Hall of Mirrors, and the Queen's apartments.



Batobus - Hop on Hop off 2 Day Pass: With this two day Hop-on Hop-off boat ticket, you will be able to admire the sights that line the banks of the Seine and stop off to visit some of the city's key attractions at your leisure. With this two day Hop-on Hop-off boat ticket, you will be able to admire the sights that line



the banks of the Seine and stop off to visit some of the city's key attractions at your leisure. Batobus is an original 8-stop river boat service which you can use to reach Paris' most famous areas. The boats stop close to Paris' most visited attractions: The Eiffel Tower, Orsay Museum, Notre Dame, Beaubourg, and the Louvre plus many more which will be recommended to you by the Batobus crew. More than a simple means of transport, Batobus is an interesting way to discover Paris and the Seine River, providing a fantastic view along

the banks. Each of the 4 trimarans which make up the fleet seats 200 and have a glass roof and a rear open deck. There is a boat every 15-25 minutes at each wharf. On board there will be a crew member to answer any questions you may have. And you will be presented with a booklet to help you discover the best of Paris. Transportation by boat, a small booklet with information on some of the sights you may wish to visit.

Paris A la Carte: Paris is certainly the most romantic and, for many, the most beautiful city in the world. Steeped in history and packed full of world famous landmarks, this is by far the best way to see the capital. With this special combined ticket, enjoy great views from the open top deck hop on and off bus, as you please and see Paris in your own time, at your own pace.

The ticket offers you the flexibility of **L' Open Tour**, valid on 4 different routes. The Paris Grand Tour takes you to all the main sights, while the other 3 routes concentrate on particular areas (Montparnasse/St Germain tour, Montmartre/Grands Boulevards tour and Bastille/Bercy tour). In addition, you will be able to admire Paris using the Batobus service (unescorted), giving you the chance to move around on board the famous glass-sided boats, along the 8 stops on the Seine as you cruise through the French capital. Transportation by coach, transportation by boat, commentary by headphones on L' Open Tour buses only. Your ticket is valid for two consecutive days from the point of boarding your first bus or boat. Exchange your voucher for a ticket when boarding at any L'Open Tour bus stop. Alternatively, exchange your voucher for the Batobus service at Port de Bourdonnais and Quai de Montebello only. The Batobus service operates from the following stops: Port de Bourdonnais - Quai de Solferino - Quai Malaquais - Quai de Montebello - Quai St Bernard - Quai de l' Hotel de Ville - Quai du Louvre - Port des Champs Elysees. The Bato bus service runs as follows: from May to September every 25 minutes, from 10:00h to 21:00h. In March, April and October every 25 minutes, from 10:00h to 19:00h. From 5 January 2006 to 5 February 2006 the Batobus service will not operate.



The Crazy Horse: Dinner & Show - Gastronomic dinner at "Chez Francis", famous brasserie typically Parisian (wine included), followed by leggy dancing girls in Paris's sexiest cabaret, The Crazy Horse. The new show "Teasing" (1h 35mn) is featuring 20 sculptural dancers and two class variety acts. The Crazy Horse will let you discover "the art of the nude", this is the only place in the world where the most beautiful girls in Europe are glorified by music and light. In French the phrase L'ART DU NU - the art of the nude - is synonymous with an elegant saloon on a beautiful street in the stylish Eighth Arrondissement of Paris. It is the world famous Crazy Horse, which has been unsurpassed

for half a century as a radical innovation that exalts the female form as both artistic expression and entertainment. More than five million people have watched the Crazy Horse show in its beautifully appointed theatre on the Avenue George V, two blocks from the Alma Square. Since its founding by Alain Bernadin, it has evolved through three distinct phases. Includes 2 drinks.

2 /4 nights
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Wednesday 09th November
[Explore Paris](#)

Paris Clin d'oeil & Lunch at Eiffel Tower & Cruise - After being picked up from your hotel in Paris, you will start with the city tour, escorted by our driver guide. He / She will show you around Paris, the "must see" of Paris: Champs-Elysees, Arch of Triumph, Concorde Square, Invalides, Eiffel Tower and Trocadero, The Opera, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Louvre Palace-Museum, Orsay Museum, Madeleine Church. During your tour, the driver guide will explain the different monuments or landmarks, its history, and its particularity.

Stop to take photos. Following the Cin d'Oeil tour, our driver guide will drop you off at the foot of the Eiffel Tower for lunch, at "Altitude 95". This restaurant is situated on the 1st Floor. You will take the elevator (*without waiting in line, which may be extremely long*) straight to the restaurant. A table will be already reserved under your name. Enjoy your lunch and the Panoramic view of Paris. After lunch, you may browse around at the Eiffel Tower, get some souvenirs or send a postcard from the Eiffel Tower. The postcard will have a special stamp on it, a sign of Eiffel Tower.

Admission to the first floor of Eiffel Tower & Lunch included. When you are done with the Eiffel Tower, you will just have to walk across the street to enjoy an hour daytime cruise down the river Seine. Discover Paris from a third perspective. Discover authentic Paris in dreams and emotion. Information for all ages, combining history with Parisian news. An hour cruise along the Seine onboard unique boats. Throughout the cruise, narration on individual handsets is accompanied by musical selections played over speakers. Tickets for the cruise included. Tour ends with a cruise

In 38 seconds you will be able to enjoy the most beautiful view of Paris and take unforgettable pictures of the most romantic city. The fastest elevator in Europe to speed you from the ground floor of the **Montparnasse Tower** to the 56th floor, 196m in just 38 seconds. From here, gaze upon the capital spread out below from behind the large bay windows and enjoy the view. A short climb more and you will reach the tower's 210m high terrace, bringing you to the highest point in Paris where a 360 degree view stretches across 25 miles. The perfect view to see the Eiffel Tower from.



Moulin Rouge, Dinner & Show - You will be driven to the Cabaret where a table will have been reserved for you. Here, you will spend a wonderful evening, dinner and show. You will be served a dinner with



wine, followed by the new but already famous Moulin Rouge Show "Féerie". This tour is the occasion for an unforgettable night in the oldest cabaret of Paris. At the end of the Show, our driver guide will be waiting for you in the Cabaret to escort you back to your hotel. "The most famous cabaret in the World since 1889 The Moulin Rouge, world-wide famous thanks to its French Cancan, and immortalized by the painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, has always presented sumptuous shows to its spectators : from the Valentin-le-Désossé and la Goulue's Quadrille to the Redoutes and Operettas, from Colette to Mistinguett's great revues... the concept is still the same at the Moulin Rouge : feathers, rhinestones and sequins, fabulous settings, original music and of course... the most beautiful girls in

the world ! Many international stars have performed on stage at the Moulin Rouge : Ella Fitzgerald, Liza Minnelli, Frank Sinatra, Elton John... They have all given exceptional galas, following in the footsteps of French celebrities such as : Maurice Chevalier, Jean Gabin, Edith Piaf or Yves Montand. For 115 years, the most legendary cabaret in the world has welcomed millions of spectators who have come to admire the famous shows ! Today, the Moulin Rouge's new show, "Féerie", continues the tradition : "Féerie" ; 4 main scenes created to fulfil international audiences' dreams ! "The Moulin Rouge today and yesterday, the Moulin Rouge forever", "Sandokan", "The Circus", "The Moulin Rouge from 1900 to..." , At the highlight of this tribute, the Doriss Girls dance the world famous French Cancan !"

3 /4 nights

Hilton Paris

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PARIS, 75015

FRANCE

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Thursday 10th November

[Explore Paris, walking, self tour](#)

The prestigious **Jules Verne Restaurant** is located on the second floor of the Eiffel Tower and has its own private elevator access (south pillar). The head chef, Alain Reix, has brought the restaurant an excellent reputation, placing among the top in France (one star in the Guide Michelin, 16/20 in the Guide Gault Millau). Sitting in the heart of this intricate iron structure full of angles and perspectives, the Jules Verne looks out over Paris from 125 meters above ground.

Reservations (by fax or telephone only): Tel: 33 (0)1 45 55 61 44 Fax: 33 (0)1 47 05 29 41

4 /4 nights
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Friday 11th November

[Ready for departure and transfer to CDG Airport](#)

CDG/FRA – LH4213 – 1045/1210 – Lufthansa Airlines Paris to Frankfurt
FRA/NRT – LH710 – 1340/0845 +1 - Lufthansa Airlines Frankfurt to Tokyo

Saturday 12th November

[Downtown Tokyo – Shopping and Lunch](#)

NRT/CNS – QF060 – 2115/0550 + 1 Qantas Airlines Tokyo to Cairns

Sunday 13th November

Arrive Cairns ex QF060 at 0550 hours.