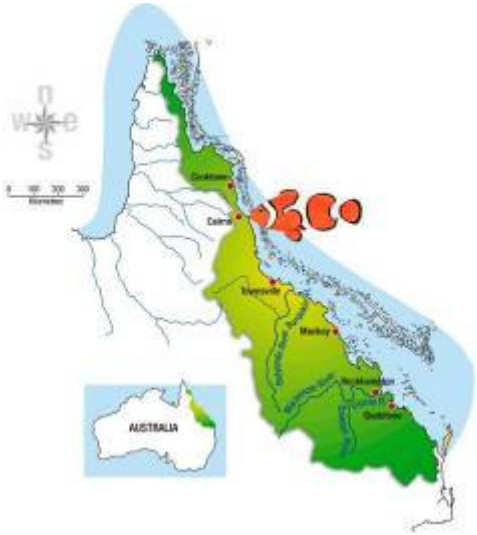


MV Orion

M.V. Orion  
Expedition Log  
A Festival of  
Opera and Music  
25<sup>th</sup> to 30th October 2008



**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Cairns, Qld, Australia**  
**Embarkation**  
Latitude 16° 54'S  
Longitude 145° 47'E



At 1615 we mustered with our iridescent orange life jackets for the **Mandatory Safety Drill**. An officer introduced us to the ship and explained some of the rules onboard that would ensure our safety over the next nine days. The Muster Station Leader then took the podium and enlightened us in the donning of life jackets and the procedure for departing the vessel in an emergency.

Many of us made our way onto the open decks to view our departure. It was a balmy evening as we made our way out of Trinity Inlet and through the leads, shadowed by the Pilot Boat.

A beautiful tropical day greeted us when we arrived at Trinity Wharf to board the MV Orion. We were processed in the heritage listed wharf building before boarding the MV Orion. Drinks and nibbles awaited us in the Leda Lounge where we had a chance to meet our fellow travellers.



Ian, our Hotel Manager and Mick, our Expedition Leader then welcomed us onboard and introduced some of the staff responsible for making our stay onboard just that little bit more comfortable. They briefed us on where we were going and what was on offer each day.

## MV Orion

After the briefing we were treated to the talent of Marshall McGuire performing in our first recital.

The evening meal introduced us for the first time to the exquisite menus of Serge Dansereau, prepared by executive chef Walter Butti and his very talented galley team.



*Marshall McGuire studied at the Victorian College of the Arts, Paris Conservatoire and Royal College of Music London. He has performed as soloist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, English String Orchestra, Les Talens Lyriques, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the Australia Ensemble and has appeared at numerous international festivals.*

*From 1988-1992, he was Principal Harpist with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. He was recently appointed Executive Manager, Artistic Planning with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Director of the Australian Youth Orchestra's National Music Camp in 2008.*



**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Dunk Island**  
Latitude 15° 55'S  
Longitude 146° 07'E



*Dunk Island's most famous resident, Edmund James Banfield who, known as 'Beachcomber' (and sometimes as 'Rob Krusoe') moved to the island in 1897 and until his death in 1923 recorded the life of the island in a series of books - the most famous of which was *The Confessions of a Beachcomber*.*

*A great admirer of Thoreau and a keen naturalist, Banfield did much to ensure that most of the island became a sanctuary for its wildlife. Today the southern section of Dunk Island is a National Park.*

*But while Banfield may have been the island's most famous resident, he was by no means the first European to make contact with its shores. As early as June 1770, James Cook sailed past and observed it to be a 'tolerable high island'. He named it after George Montagu Dunk.*

*In 1848 the HMS Rattlesnake anchored off the island and John MacGillivray studied the fauna and flora of the island. He subsequently wrote of its natural features in the *Narrative of the Voyage of HMS Rattlesnake*, published in England in 1852.*

*Located 4 km off the coast, Dunk Island is 160 km north of Townsville and 120 km south of Cairns. It used to be called Coonanglebah (sometimes spelt Gunanggulba) by the local Aborigines. Some sources suggest the word meant 'Island of Peace and Plenty'.*

*In 1968 Dunk was used as the setting for the cinematic version of Norman Lindsay's *The Age of Consent*, which starred James Mason and Helen Mirren.*

*Today the island is a careful mixture of tourism and national parkland. There is one resort and visitors spend their time inspecting the reef or wandering around the island's tracks, which include a fascinating path (which starts at the back of the resort) that crosses a suspension bridge and continues on past Banfield's grave to Mount Koo-Tal-Oo Lookout.*



## MV Orion

Today we awoke to beautiful tropical conditions for our day at Dunk Island.

There were many activities on offer today: golf, sea kayaking, jet skiing, swimming, horseback riding and many walking trails.



Some people also joined Adam and Mark from the Expedition Team for a guided walk around the island.

We walked through the resort with Mark pointing out the botanical highlights before arriving at Edmund James Banfield's Grave. Adam told us the story of his remarkable life while we paid our respects. After a quick walk along the beach and then through dense rainforest we arrived at Muggy-Muggy Beach where we admired the perfect sea conditions.



After spending many hours exploring this idyllic island we returned to the

ship. Mick, our Expedition Leader informed us all about snorkelling at Hardy Reef before handing out all our equipment we would need.

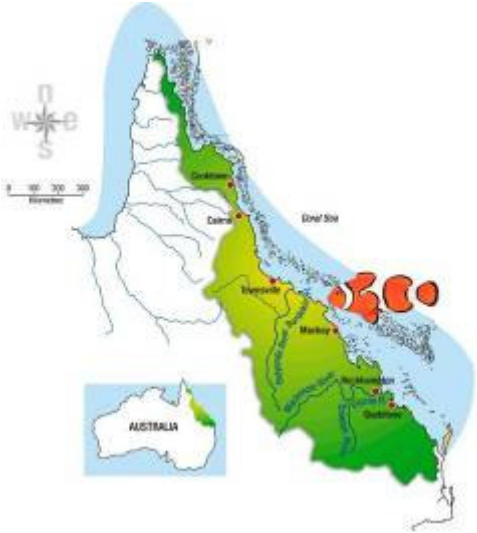
For our evening entertainment we were treated to a fabulous performance by Yvonne Kenny before dinner.



*Yvonne Kenny has performed in most of the world's leading opera houses and concert halls, with an enviable reputation for the works of Monteverdi, Handel, Mozart, Donizetti, Britten and Richard Strauss.*

*She appears regularly on the concert platform including the Edinburgh, Salzburg and Aix-en-Provence Festivals, and at Carnegie Hall. Her discography includes many releases on international labels as well as the best-selling discs Simple Gifts, Something Wonderful, Handel Arias and Make Believe, all for ABC Classics. Recent appearances include Countess/Capriccio (Dresden State Opera), Marschallin (Vienna State Opera), the BBC Proms, The Merry Widow, Marschallin, La Voix Humaine and Alice Ford (Falstaff) for Opera Australia.*

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Hayman Island**  
Latitude 20° 03'S  
Longitude 148° 53'E



There were a million and one activities on offer today at this truly magical island. Many of us took advantage of the many facilities including: golf, swimming pools, tennis & squash pools, catamarans, paddleskis & bush walking tracks.

After a hard day exploring the island we retired to main part of the resort. As the sun set into the Pacific Ocean we watched in awe at the array of colours while slowly sipping our cocktails.

Today we awoke in the stunning Whitsunday's, our destination was the exclusive Hayman Island. The Zodiac landing ashore was a dry one again, inside the resort's marina. The true magnificence of the resort was hidden from us until we ventured the short distance up the road to the main activities area. The pool was huge and the day rooms had access to its cool water directly from the balcony. It was quite pleasant just sitting by the pool watching the parade of guests enjoying themselves and the sulphur crested cockatoos steal whatever they could from their tables.



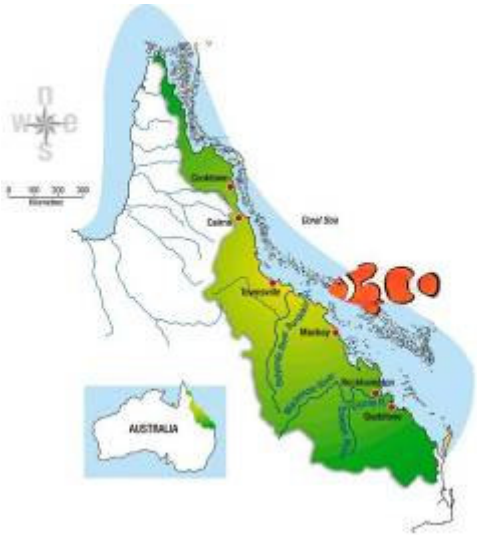
After we had finished our drinks we attended an exciting concert by The Australia Ensemble; a perfect way to close an outstanding day.



*Since its foundation in 1980, the Australia Ensemble, resident at the University of New South Wales has been recognised as one of the most exciting and dynamic groups in the country. The unusual instrumentation of the Ensemble allows the players to program fascinating concerts with works in every combination from solo to septet, spanning the chamber repertoire from Mozart to Richard Meale.*

*For the concert on Hayman Island, the following five members of the Australia Ensemble will perform: Geoffrey Collins (flute), Dimity Hall (violin), Irina Morozova (viola), Dene Olding (violin) and Julian Smiles (cello). Marshall McGuire (harp) will join the Australia Ensemble as a guest artist.*

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Hardy Reef**  
Latitude 19° 45'S  
Longitude 149° 14'E



*It is the world's largest World Heritage Area covering an area of 35 million hectares.*

*The GBR is home to over 2000 species of fish, nearly 800 species of coral, 400 types of sponge, 500 species of Algae, 4000 molluscs, 3,000 crustaceans, 20 kinds of sea snake, 30 visiting dolphins and whales. A greater diversity of life does not exist anywhere else on earth.*



*The Great Barrier Reef is the largest natural feature on earth stretching more than 2,300km along the northeast coast of Australia from the northern tip of Queensland to just north of Bundaberg. It is not as it is named one continuous barrier but is actually comprised of over 2,900 individual reefs and 618 Islands and sand cays over its whole length.*

*These reefs range in size from less than one hectare to more than 100,000 hectares, and in shape from flat platform reefs to elongated ribbon reefs.*



*The theories on how coral reefs form were first put forward by Charles Darwin (of *The Origin of Species* fame) who proposed that atolls form around the edges of high volcanic islands that gradually submerge beneath the sea with changes in sea level or subsidence of the land. Thus an atoll starts life as a fringing reef, then becomes more of a ring growing on the shrinking land-mass, until the land disappears and just the coral circle remains. In some cases, the coral growth is unable to keep pace with the sinking island, and sunken dead reefs have been found.*

## MV Orion



We had an early start this morning. Breakfast commenced at 0615, just as we dropped the anchor off Hardy Reef. By 0700 we were being whisked across to the pontoon with our snorkel equipment.

A dry landing on the pontoon's jetty and it was into the water for our first snorkel of the cruise.

The Reef platform made getting into the water very easy and although there was a strong current the water looked inviting. The area for snorkelling was criss-crossed with ropes enabling us to counter the significant current by pulling ourselves along the ropes.



The water was relatively clear and the fish were not afraid of us at all. In fact a couple of them even gave

some of the guests a nip. We saw a wonderful array of colourful reef fishes including the brightly coloured parrotfish and wrasses. There was a very large male Maori wrasse that came very close to us and wanted to be touched. Mick later explained that it was not good for the fish to be touched as it could lead to bacterial infection that was very detrimental to the fish's health.



For those of us who didn't want to get our feet wet the semi submersible was on offer for some coral viewing. We made our way onto the vessel and climbed down to the viewing chamber. We felt like submariners as the vessel pulled away from the platform. Beneath us the reef revealed itself in all its glory. Before long we saw butterfly fish, parrotfish and plenty of damselfish. The coral was quite colourful and there was a myriad of growth forms from the large brains to the elaborate branching staghorns.



## MV Orion

After a shower and scrumptious lunch our afternoon was packed full of onboard activities.

Mick, our Expedition Leader gave a delightful lecture on: "Why aren't there monkeys in Australia".

At 1600, Executive Chef Walter took us on an intriguing tour of the ships galley to see first-hand where our extra pounds were coming from.

That evening we were entertained by the talented Joseph Tawadros before having yet another mouth-watering dinner.



*Born in Cairo, Joseph Tawadros immigrated to Australia in 1986, bringing with him a musical tradition inherited from his maternal grandfather, Mansi Habib (1920-1957), a composer and oud and violin virtuoso. In 2006 Joseph graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Honours) from the University of NSW with a pioneering analysis on advanced techniques and applications in oud playing.*

*Joseph has performed with artists such as tabla master Zakir Hussain, sarangi master Sultan Khan, Mali band Tinariwen, Slava Grigoryan, Leonard Grigoryan, Adel Salameh, Fathi Salama, Christian Lindberg, Neil Finn, Mark Isaacs, William Barton, Karin Schaupp, Lior, The Song Company, Riley Lee, Karen Schaupp, Bobby Singh, Katie Noonan, James Crabb, Richard Tognetti and The Australian Chamber Orchestra.*

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October  
At Sea**

The formal part of the day started with a **Future Cruises** presentation in the Leda lounge by Mick who introduced us to other cruises available onboard the MV Orion in the upcoming months and years. This beautiful ship sure travels to some amazing and interesting places.

Later that morning, Captain Jan Blindheim showed us the operation centre of our vessel and he explained that some of the equipment onboard was totally unique to the Orion – state of the art to be sure! Some of us wondered about the steering wheel, but we were reassured that a small toggle similar to a car gear stick did the real job.



After lunch our reef pilot, John Foley presented an interesting lecture entitled “**Captain James Cook: The man and the myth**”.



In the evening we were mesmerised by our final recital featuring: Cheryl Barker and Peter Coleman-Wright.

After dinner we were treated to deserts in the Leda Lounge as well as a Digital Photo Recap prepared by the Expedition Team. It was a trip down memory lane and a fitting end to a wonderful cruise.



*Cheryl Barker is noted for her performances of Madama Butterfly for English National Opera, De Vlaamse Opera, in Hamburg, Berlin, Amsterdam and Houston. Other international appearances include Jenifer (A Midsummer Marriage) Royal Opera Covent Garden, Oksana (Christmas Eve), Foreign Princess (Rusalka), Musetta, Donna Elvira, Tosca, Salome and Emilia Marty for English National Opera; Violetta/Hamburg State Opera/Deutsche Oper; Suor Angelica, Giorgetta, Mimi, Desdemona, Liu, Merry Widow/De Vlaamse Opera and Katya Kabanova/Welsh National Opera/Geneva.*

*Roles for Opera Australia include Nedda, Countess, Mimi in the award-winning Baz Luhrmann production of La bohème, Violetta, Donna Elvira, Tatyana (Eugene Onegin) and the title roles in Madama Butterfly, Tosca, Jenufa, Rusalka and Suor Angelica.*

*One of the most versatile singers in the world today, Peter Coleman-Wright debuted with Glyndebourne Festival as Guglielmo. Roles with English National Opera include Michele, Scarpia, Don Giovanni, Eugene Onegin and Billy Budd and at the Royal Opera House, Dandini, Billy Budd, Papageno, Marcello and Gunther.*

*Roles with Opera Australia, include Onegin, Giovanni, Almaviva, Chorebe, Orestes, Wolfram, Golaud, Germont, Scarpia, Billy Budd and Sweeney Todd for which he won a Helpmann Award.*

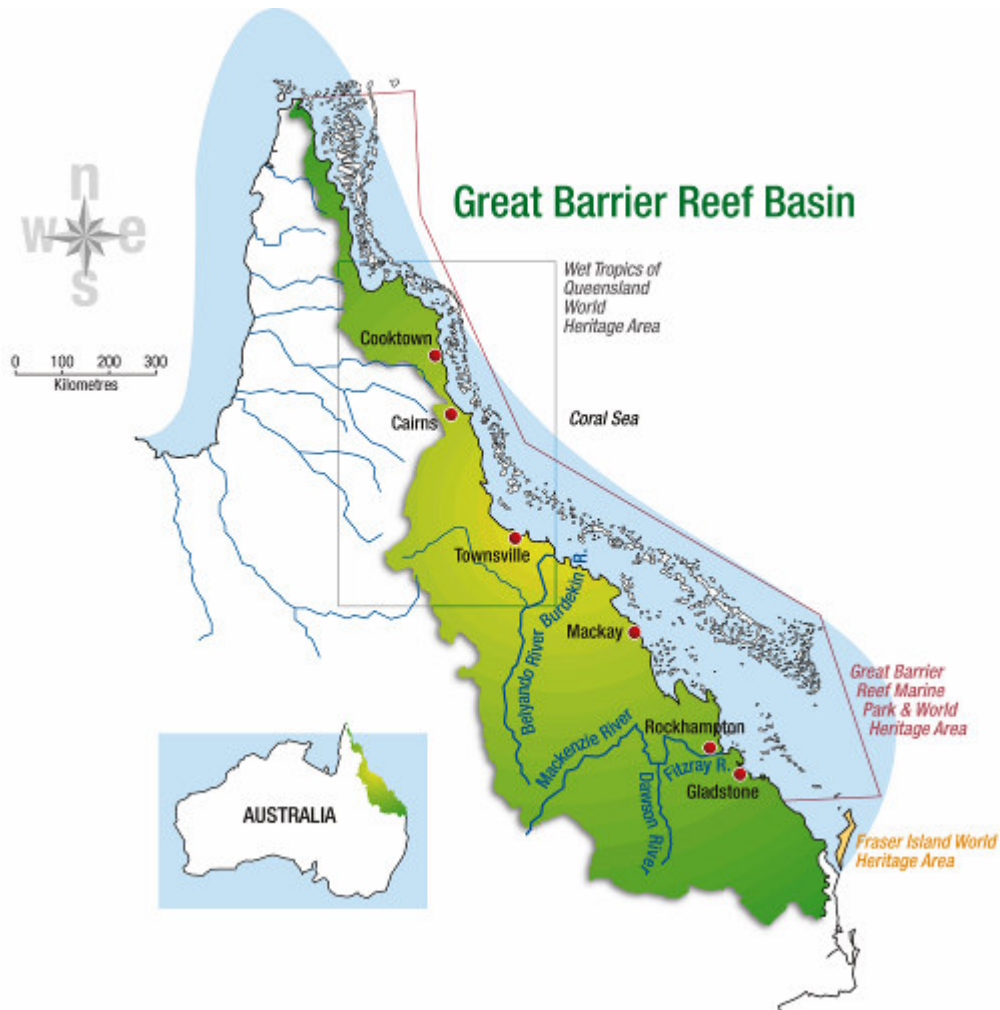
*In Europe he has performed in Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Venice, Munich, Geneva, Paris, Flanders and at the Aix-en Provence and Bregenz Festivals. North America engagements include Vancouver, Santa Fe, Houston, New York City Opera and the Metropolitan Opera.*

*We have travelled to mere specks on the map in the wake of Explorers, pirates,  
and merchants of old.*

*And in doing so, each speck has grown into a place with its own story to tell.  
We have listened to exquisite recitals, danced with fish, and been touched by the  
magic of idyllic island paradises.*

*And when someone asks, "So how was your trip?"*

*Oh, the stories we will tell...*





Captain  
Jan Blindheim

Chief Officer  
Marko Bubalo

Chief Engineer  
Yuri Rudenko

Hotel Manager  
Ian Vella

Chief Purser  
Claire Cameron

Executive Chef  
Walter Butti

Maitre d'Hotel  
Clinton Perkins

Chief Steward  
Virgilio Ceballos

Expedition Leader  
Mick Fogg

Expedition Team  
Petula Clarke

Expedition Team  
Adam Cropp

Expedition Team  
Darrin Bennett

Expedition Team  
Mark Watson

MV Orion

On behalf of all aboard the M.V. Orion,  
we would like to thank you for sailing to along the Queensland  
coast with us.

We look forward to sailing with you again.

Bon Voyage!

