

SYDNEY *in style – a trip to remember*

Louise Hemmings, Unit Manager, Champagne Taste, NSW

We were greeted by *Deb* and *Adrian* at Sydney airport and whisked away by the biggest limousine I've ever seen. We cruised around the beaches and had a great seafood lunch at Doyle's, Watson's Bay. People were pointing at the limo and taking photos; we felt like rock stars or royalty. The Four Seasons Hotel in the historic Rocks district – OMG! We had awesome king rooms with the most magnificent views. We had a couple of hours to relax and get ready for dinner. *Deb* handed each of us an envelope, telling us where we were dining: Matt Moran's ARIA restaurant. Five stars all the way. I've never seen anything like it. Very, very posh.

Saturday morning was spent at the Rock's Markets, then on to the Bridge climb. This is definitely something to put on your bucket list. It was amazing; the spectacular view from the top was unbelievable. It was a big afternoon, and the fun didn't stop there. We freshened up for a harbour dinner cruise. Once again we were wined and dined, this time with live entertainment and the beautiful backdrop of the Opera House and the city lights.

Sunday was a day of shopping, topped off by the theatre in the evening. We saw *Jersey Boys*, the story of Frankie Valli and The

Four Seasons. WOW, I really enjoyed this show and I've had the soundtrack playing ever since. Of course, after all the singing we needed a drink and dinner, so we headed to Chinatown, and then there was karaoke in some dodgy pub and singing all the way home in the cab – we thought we sounded pretty good.

We had breakfast together on Monday morning and said our goodbyes.

What an amazing trip! What an amazing company! I have memories that will last a lifetime! Thank you sooooo much.



Sarah Heathwood, Trainee Manager, Cha Ching, QLD

Sydney was AWESOME! I loved it.

The first night we were wined and dined at the one and only Aria restaurant. It is co-owned by Matt Moran and Peter Sullivan, two of



the most exceptional Australian chefs. It was not only dinner, but a great dining experience that everyone needs to experience

As we walked into Aria, the staff took our coats and hung them up (I had only seen this kind of service in the movies). Once seated, the waiters brought us a scrumptious little mushroom starter that we savoured while we looked out to see the most beautiful view of the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge, all lit up in the night.

The entrée and main meal were also unbelievable. The favourite was dessert (Valrhona Chocolate). It is tempered manjari chocolate with salted peanuts, golden raisins and a caramelised banana ice cream. Yuuuummmmm, you will just have to trust me on how good it was!!

I will never forget my first experience at Aria restaurant, and the exceptional service. I would go back to Aria and Sydney again and again. A HUGE thank you to *Adrian*, *Deb*, and the amazing Lorraine Lea Linen company for this once in a lifetime experience!!!

Cassie Stewart, Unit Manager, Unlimited, QLD

Oh what a night! After an absolutely crammed day of shopping and *Adrian* had returned home, we hit the Royal Theatre for a girls' night in to see the wonderful *Jersey Boys* production.

At breakfast that morning we got our very special silver envelope telling us what we would be doing for the night. I almost busted when I saw the picture of *Jersey Boys*! I had seen them on Oprah and remember thinking how amazing it would be to see them. I must admit I was a little confused when I read the blurb about the production, saying it was the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. I

turned to *Deb* and said, "I think there's a typo, that's the hotel were staying at". Ha, ha! She just shook her head at me and explained I was too young to know who they were. *Deb* then started belting out the song 'Sherry' and couple of others and I immediately knew the songs she was singing, so anticipation grew.

Right from the beginning I knew this was going to be a musical I would never forget. As it went on I found myself bopping and singing along to all the tunes that I remember my mum blasting in the car when we were kids. From 'Oh what a night', 'Big girls don't cry', 'Walk like a man' and 'Can't take my eyes off you', I was completely sold on this musical; it was a highlight of my trip, for sure!

After the show we went to Chinatown for some dinner and a bit of a dance at the local pub where some lovely locals were singing karaoke. We ended the night in the cab back to the hotel singing 'Can't take my eyes off of you' – and our driver joined in, too! We thought it was fitting to serenade the beautiful bride and groom at reception of our hotel all the way to the lift with the same song... "I love you baby, and if it's quite alright I need you baby, to warm my lonely nights"... We thought we were superstars ☺. It was a fantastic night and it's something I will remember forever!

Thank you, Lorraine Lea Linen!!

Emma Carroll, Trainee Manager, Bed Obsessions, QLD

Saturday evening provided another opportunity to be wined and dined by the fabulous *Debbie* and wonderful *Adrian*, this time on a Sydney Harbour dinner cruise.

Our window table gave us stunning, uninterrupted views of Sydney Harbour by night. While our fine dining experience at Aria was definitely a hard act to follow, we enjoyed champagne on arrival and a three-course meal, highlighted by an interesting take on *Crème brûlée* and the chocolate "mouse"!

Again we shared great conversation and got to know each other a bit more, the lights of the Harbour Bridge, Opera House, Luna Park and the city skyline sparkling in the background. We cruised under

Danielle How, Trainee Manager, Island Girls, TAS

Wow, what a trip we had! Everything was just amazing, but the Sydney Harbour Bridge climb was by far the highlight for me!

When I arrived in the big city of Sydney, the bridge was the first thing I saw. It's massive, towering over everything. I thought to myself, "Gosh, I hope I don't chicken out", because it's just so big. I've seen pictures of it and it's on the TV heaps, but to actually see it in person, it's unbelievable!

I felt so excited when we were walking down to the entrance of the bridge climb. I knew the rest of the group felt the same. Maybe there was a little bit of nervousness and fear mixed in with it, too!!

It took a full hour to be shown the do's and don'ts of the climb and change into our very fashionable safety gear. They even gave us little hankies with elastic attached, just in case we got overwhelmed with emotion at the top! We were fitted with high-tech safety harnesses. They even had a practice staircase for us to try the gear out on.

When our guide opened the door at the start of the walk, we attached our safety wires and away we went. At first there wasn't much to see as we climbed our way up and through the pillars (it took 2 weeks for each of the blocks in the pillars to be hand-carved). Along the way our guide told us numerous stories about the history of the bridge and Sydney; some interesting facts, some a bit morbid!

Some of the spaces we navigated through were very narrow and others were quite low. *Adrian* was bent in half a couple of times just to clear his way through some spots so he didn't hit his head. The approach to the highway was very loud with all the traffic going past; the trucks zooming along the bridge were quite deafening, shaking the foundations. This scared me more than anything else on the climb.

We stopped at several intervals along the way, each time a bit higher with a different view; every stop was amazing, it was unreal what you could see and how far. It was a beautiful day; the sun was shining and it was quite warm. About half way up the bridge the wind started and it was freezing, so out came the fleece jackets that were clipped onto the back of our trendy overalls and away we went again, stopping this time for a few photos!!

Considering we were climbing up a part of the busiest highway in the world, it was very peaceful; you could easily get lost in a moment!

Near the top we had photos again, this time with the Opera House in the background. It looked so

the same magnificent bridge we had climbed to the top of just a few hours before!

The great band, fronted by a very talented lead singer, entertained us as we glided around the harbour. One of our ladies showed she had not dropped the recruiting ball by giving our hard-working floor manager her business card!

WOW, what a weekend! And what a fantastic and generous company! THANK YOU Lorraine Lea Linen for an amazing Sydney experience I will never forget. I am so proud I achieved this trip, and it was made so enjoyable in the company of four beautiful ladies, and of course, *Debbie* and *Adrian*! If you're considering going for the next amazing Consultant promotion, GO FOR IT!!

small from that height. Eventually at the top, the wind stopped and it was awesome. We stood for ages, just looking around, taking it in. I remember thinking, "This isn't that high". It must have been the thin air up there making me delirious!

On the descent we got a bit excited. There were exclamations of "We did it" and "Wow, it's over so soon", but the feeling of accomplishment was the greatest feeling of all!

When we took our safety gear off and sat down, our legs were like jelly and shaking uncontrollably. I don't know whether it was from exertion or fear, but we all agreed it was good to be on sturdy ground again.

The most impressive thing of all was the fact that *Sarah*, who has an intense fear of heights, climbed the bridge all the way up and all the way back. Good on you, *Sarah*, you did an amazing job!

All up it took four hours from the moment we stepped into the lobby to the moment we stepped out. It was a wonderful experience and sometimes I have to remind myself that I actually climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Adrian, *Deb*, *Louise Cassie*, *Sarah* and *Emma*: thanks so much. I had the best time with you and I hope we are friends for a long time; after all, we had an awesome journey together!

Last of all, thanks Lorraine Lea Linen. This was a memorable part of my blossoming career and I look forward to the many more wonderful experiences I will have with LLL in the future!

