

Greetings:

Hi to all my friends. This is really a holiday diary rather than news Diary from the Philippines so I ask for your patience as this is to let you know that I am fully recovered from all those nasties that I was supposed to have and am now ready to return to Hilongos to continue my work there teaching the unschooled kids of our Barangay. I have been in Sydney for six weeks which is more time than I had originally planned so I feel a little guilty that those left behind may have had to cover for me far too long. I hope to arrive back in Hilongos in time to meet our Roman visitor in Br Francis Hall. The Sydney Doctors have given me a clean bill of health, though they have warned me to slow down, which I promised to do. I would like to stay in the Philippines for the full six years if my health allows it as there seems so much that needs to be done. Typhoid, Pneumonia and TB and an in-grown toenail are more than one man's share of problems I grant you. Anyway all is sorted now and I feel a million dollars. Well nearly as the Doctors did warn me that I may still be vulnerable to all these overseas Bugs. Ha!!

The Holiday:

Unfortunately a lot of the time was spent visiting Doctors but I did get a lot done too and also had a very good rest so I feel refreshed and ready to go. My cousins in the Blue Mountains were terrific and were happy to have me for the duration. I was confined to quarters until all the tests had been completed and reports finalised. Despite the four weeks confinement, I still was able to visit some of my friends in Sydney and do those things that a visitor might expect to do while holidaying in such marvellous tourist mecca. I also spent a week in Melbourne catching up with my relations in Geelong. Adam Binneweg came over from Perth to catch up with me in Sydney and I was able to show him some of the sights of both Sydney and Melbourne and he was also a good companion for me too. The highlights were the Sydney Harbour bridge walk, Ferry rides across the Harbour, Darling Harbour and a visit to Katoomba to see the three sisters. Melbourne highlights were, the great Ocean road, the 9 apostles, the Westgate Bridge and Melbourne CUB.

Return:

It is now the 4th of February and I am just about ready to start my journey home to Hilongos. I fly out from Melbourne to Brisbane on Monday the 11th and am off, via Singapore, to Manila on the 11th. A quick transfer to a domestic flight will permit me to spend a couple of days with the brothers in Kabankalan and then I will make my way to Cebu so I can catch the evening Ferry to Hilongos on the 15th. In all I have been away for two months which is a little longer than I would have liked but I guess I am happy to be able to return at all as there was the possibility that the Doctors would not allow my return to the Philippines at one stage. God is good, until next time from Melbourne - Peter X T.