



William Finnerty <williamfinnertygalway@gmail.com>

April 1969, SS Oriana, Southampton to Melbourne ...

Siobhan Finnerty <siobhan510@bigpond.com>

Sat, Apr 18, 2020 at 4:05 AM

To: William Finnerty <williamfinnertygalway@gmail.com>

Hi Dad,

Lovely to hear from you.

Yes this Coronavirus really is something!!!!

Australia seems to be doing pretty well with it all which is positive. We are in stage 3 lock down, which basically means, we are only able to do "Essential" grocery shopping, go to work only if you cannot work from home, or attend school if you have parents that are having to go to work.

The government have implemented all sorts of financial stimulus – how this will come back and bite us scares me, but we will just have to wait and see?

I hope you are keeping well and safe? How are Gerald and Marjorie going. They must be getting quite on in age now?

We are all keeping in good health. Haven't seen Mum for a number of weeks now. She's 77 this month and is very much in a High Risk category, so very much self-isolating.

I resigned from my job back in late October, finished up 29th November, and decided to take on a whole new career path. Mainly due to losing my job back in 2018 which was a job I loved and very much enjoyed the team, but a corporate company took over, and of course the first department to be consolidated was Accounts!!!! We rode the wave for 3 years, and I always knew a redundancy was looming, so chose to stick around until the \$'s were presented.

Since then I have not been able to settle into a job that I'm happy in, and recognised that I needed to be doing something much more gratifying and community orientated.

So eventually it was suggested to me to think about Non-Emergency Patient Transfer.

I really liked that idea, enrolled to do a course and have just (as of yesterday) completed a full time course which I have LOVED. Now it's just a matter of finding some work. Interestingly, it's an industry that normally is very very busy, but currently extremely quiet. The calm before storm one would think?

Unfortunately the company who trained us, is not employing, however it won't be long. The hospitals are preparing for what might be a very demanding and stressful Winter.

In the meantime I've had a lovely 4 and a half months re grouping and just looking after my mental health.

I've loved every bit of it, and can't wait to get myself back into the work force doing something so completely different.

How are things with you? Where are you living now?

Gee, I can't imagine how awful it must've been having Mum and I leave on a ship to a land so far far away. 51 Years ago.....Boy ☹.

Lots of love to you.

Siobhan oxoxox.

P.S. I will try and find some photos of the children for you. Grace was 21 on March 8th!!!!!!

From: William Finnerty [mailto:williamfinnertygalway@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, 11 April 2020 7:30 PM
To: Siobhan Tara Finnerty and Family <siobhan510@bigpond.com>
Subject: April 1969, SS Oriana, Southampton to Melbourne ...

Dear Siobhan,

I've been thinking about you (and your Mother) a lot recently, partly because of the global "COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS" situation, and partly because it is April once again.

I still have several vivid memories of the day in April 1969 when the three of us travelled on the "Boat Train" from London to Southampton. Sometimes, I find it a little difficult to believe that more than half a century has passed since that particular day.

Though it was a lovely fine day, there was still a definite chill in the air from the ending of the Winter that had almost fully passed, as usually happens during parts of April in this part of the world; and, we have been having just that same kind of weather once again at the present time here in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

As you may know, the ship that you and your Mother sailed on, on the afternoon of that day, was named the SS Oriana.

More information on the SS Oriana can be found at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Oriana_\(1959\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Oriana_(1959))

Bye for now.

I hope this finds you and all of your family well and happy.

Love,

Dad. x

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SS Oriana (1959)