

Outbound Domestic - Blue Mountains 2009



Nineteen ambassadors from Friendship Force Sunshine Coast attended the exchange to the Blue Mountains from 15th to 20th June 2009. It was a very memorable exchange with many highlights. The evaluations completed by ambassadors indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the program and hosts.

The welcome was a film about the Blue Mountains area presented on an Imax screen (with helicopter views and the feel of flying) followed by drinks and nibbles. This was a great way to start the week.

The day at Scenic World was a very exciting experience with cable car and train excursions down the mountain into the valley and walks below. A major highlight was the day trip to Jenolan Caves and points in between. Our guide is a member of Friendship Force and very knowledgeable about the caves and its history.



A wonderful day was spent driving and viewing the countryside on the Mystery Car Tour. We were kept busy with many questions to answer and places to find. Photographs of the toes of the occupants of each vehicle produced many interesting sights. The winning photo was 'Twinkle Toes'. Winners of the Mystery Car Tour were Noela and Ray Troyahn and Kay Price as the "Priceless Rebels Team".

Day five saw us wandering around the village of Leura shopping at the many arts and crafts establishments. The afternoon provided opportunities to pursue points of interest or a game of "crazy whist".



Evaluations indicated that the supply and quality of food and associated venues was outstanding. No concerns were raised and seem to indicate that this was a week of great enjoyment. All ambassadors were thrilled with the friendships formed with their hosts and look forward to the day when we can reciprocate the hospitality.

To sum up the highlights of the week one ambassador says "New friendships the best – Jenolan Caves the place"

ED: Ray Troyahn