

Exchange Report for: D111 to Mt Gambier from ED Nelly Rogers



Ten members from 5 different clubs enjoyed a very interesting exchange to Mt Gambier where we all enjoyed a well-balanced program which included on the first day a welcome breakfast, tour of pump house for the Blue Lake and a video of the origins and geography of this area including the formation of the many volcanoes in the area.

Included in the program was a visit to the Mary Mackillop information center and Petticoat Lane in Penola.



The afternoon was taken up with a fantasy theme park then to two wineries which was the highlight of the day.



Although the weather had not improved at all with continued strong wind and at times very heavy rain we particularly enjoyed and learnt a lot from seeing how pine trees are stripped then cut to length and transported to the mill, very interesting and topical of the area.



We also saw the wood carvings in nearby Dartmoor.

On a lighter note we were shown a model train display, built and run by several very enthusiastic men. The group BBQ at Vicky Ridley's beautiful home overlooking the wild and rugged ocean was a perfect end to yet another interesting day of touring and sightseeing.

Final day was a visit to a local primary school where selected students took pride in showing us their school garden and later we enjoyed soup made with vegetables grown by students.

Later that evening we returned to a local hotel to share our farewell dinner with members, hosts and ambassadors.

Early next morning we waved good bye as we headed north to warmer climes.

The Mt Gambier FF members opened their homes to very appreciative ambassadors from the Sunshine Coast. We extend an invitation for them to visit us one day soon.