

## Inbound Domestic - Gold Coast 2009



Our Ambassadors arrived on Wednesday 29th July 2009. It was a memorable exchange with Ambassadors showing much enjoyment with the program and their hosts.

The week's wonderful weather made our activities even more enjoyable. Our delicious welcome brunch at Charles Clarke Park preceded a spirited competition of barefoot bowls at Mooloolaba Bowls Club and was an excellent opportunity for our members and the Ambassadors to get to know each other and to renew old friendships.

The following day, the Pumice stone Passage cruise under blue skies and sunshine and with calm waters

was enjoyed by all.

The highlight of the exchange proved to be the Saturday Silent Movies at Pomona where we were entertained by Buster Keaton in "Our Hospitality" a comedy/melodrama together with the organist who ably interpreted the pathos, drama, romance and comedy of the film. We learned that the Majestic Theatre is the longest running cinema in the country, at 85 years old, and is also the only cinema in the world to show only silent movies.



Lake MacDonald was voted by many to be a very attractive venue for a group picnic. The Monday Mystery Destination bus trip and the country day with visits to the cemetery, the farm and the traditional lunch were other good opportunities to show our visitors our beautiful region. Great opportunities, also, for mingling.

Our leisure days saw people visiting the local markets, the hinterland villages of Maleny and Montville, the areas beyond Noosa and the Glass House Mountains.



Our Ambassadors felt very welcome and greatly enjoyed the experience. Many Ambassadors said that even though they had previously visited the Sunshine Coast they had undertaken many new visits and different activities during the week of the exchange.

Good friendships were cemented over the week and we were sad to farewell our Ambassadors on Wednesday 5th August.

ED: Patricia Barry