

MELBOURNE EXCHANGE 2014



With our host, Nola Fletcher



Our exchange in Melbourne started with a Welcoming Party with many hors d'oeuvres, great food and superb wine at the home of FF members Shelly & Graeme Wilson. On the right are the Melbourne hosts and the 24 Ambassadors on the Exchange.

(Left) The next day we had a wonderful tour of Melbourne by Melbourne FF member Margaret Fleming. Everyone was very impressed with the beautiful skyline. This photo is from Immigration Bridge.



On the tour of downtown Melbourne we learned all about the history of Melbourne. We saw many historical sites as well as many beautiful buildings. Above right photo is along the beautiful river walk. A very memorable day!

Below: We started out Monday, March 24th at Gordon Studio & Gallery. They specialize in blown glass. Everyone was impressed by the black rooster. From here we went to our first of 5 wine tasting around Melbourne. The first was at Montalto Winery



After the wine tasting at Montalto we had a picnic lunch at the top of Arthur's Seat which is the highest point overlooking the sea in the area.



We came across a family of Kangaroos (left). From here we went to Cape Shank (below).





From Cape Shank we went to our second wine tasting at Red Hill Estate. From there we went to the beach at Dromana for a BBQ picnic with a calm, glassy sea and a fantastic sunset. How much better can it get?

Tuesday, March 25 we start the day with a visit to Healseville Wildlife Sanctuary. We saw many Australian wildlife close up. The Sanctuary had a bird show that took place over our heads. This trained Cockatoo bird flew just a few feet over our heads.



From Healseville Wildlife Sanctuary we went to a wine tasting at De Bortoli Winery. From there we had a wine tasting at Yering Station.



We finished the day with a Farewell Dinner. Photo above, we have a toast to the Friendship Force people that brought us together. Photo below left-ED Alan Cawsey and ED Yvonne Shakes thank Melbourne President Nola Fletcher for her help with the exchange. All hosts were called to the front for a thank you for their participation. We ended the exchange feeling very privileged to have seen such a beautiful city and grateful to Nola our host and the friendship of the Melbourne FF club for making it possible.



Right: Our host's home in Melbourne.