

Caravan and Cabin Bendigo Trip

3rd to 6th March 2024

(Report and Photos courtesy of Gavan Murphy.)



Twelve participants staying in four caravan sites and three cabins arrived at the Gold Nugget Tourist Park for our Bendigo trip. Another five who had booked had to cancel at the last moment due to unexpected personal reasons. We gathered for happy hour Sunday afternoon before heading to the Huntly Hotel for dinner.

Monday morning, we travelled around the Bendigo city precinct on the Talking Tram before returning to the tram depot to explore the Central Deborah Gold Mine.

Jenny and Brian Menzies planned two bike rides for those with bikes. On Monday afternoon the first ride was into Bendigo along the bike path. The rest of the group enjoyed a walk around Lake Weroona and had afternoon tea at the Boardwalk Café.

On Tuesday Jenny, Brian, John Hall and Alan Taylor rode to Axedale. Unfortunately Alan Taylor had two punctures and rang Paul and Keith for assistance. At the same time Gavan and Rhonda Murphy, Anthony and Susan Bergin, Keith and Jenny Wilshier, Rita Hall and Paul Henshall were doing a tour of The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion at Myers Flat. It is the largest Buddhist stupa in the Western world and rises to a total height of 48 metres above Bendigo's distinctive bushland. It is also home to many holy objects. Foremost amongst these is the magnificent Jade Buddha for Universal Peace which is the largest Buddha carved from gem quality jade in the world. The stupa is significant for Tibetan Buddhism but people from all walks of life are warmly welcomed to visit the amazing site. Paul and Keith left The Stupa during our tour and went to find Alan.

The gardens leading up to the temple contain areas acknowledging many religions beginning with a Jewish section and finishing with St Francis of Assisi highlighted with the Prayer of St Francis.

On Wednesday, the planned steam train journey from Castlemaine to Maldon had to be cancelled as the train had been taken out of service until July for track upgrades. Instead, we went to the Golden Dragon Museum and Garden of Joy which was based on the Imperial Palace in Beijing, and the architecture and construction of the gardens is authentic in every way. The gardens also feature a Buddhist Temple, the Guan Yin Miao (temple of The Goddess of Mercy). The group

then moved on to Sacred Heart Cathedral renowned for being one of the last completed gothic cathedrals of the twentieth century.

On Tuesday evening we had a BBQ in the camp kitchen and on Wednesday evening we had dinner at the Botanical Hotel before returning home Thursday morning.



Bendigo Talking Tram Ride.



Paul, Alan, Anthony, Susan, Keith, Jenny W, Rita, John, Brian & Gavan on the tram.



Alan, Anthony, Susan, Keith, Jenny W, Rita, John, Jenny M, Brian & Rhonda.



Sacred Heart Cathedral.



Inside the Sacred Heart Cathedral.



Alan, John, Jenny M & Brian on the Bendigo Creek trail.



Jenny M, John and Brian on the Bendigo-Heathcote rail trail.



Attempting to repair Alan's puncture.



Alan, John, Brian & Keith on Bendigo Creek trail.



Rhonda, Susan, Anthony, Jenny W, Keith, Rita & Paul at the Great Stupa.



The gardens of the Great Stupa.



The Jade Buddha.



In the gardens of the Great Stupa.



A Golden Buddha.



Beautiful Tranquille view in the Stupa gardens.



St Francis of Assisi in the Stupa gardens.



Jenny W & Susan.



Rhonda and Alan.



Keith.



Anthony.



John enjoying a glass of red wine.



Paul.



Jenny M and Rita.



Happy hour.



Enjoying a coffee.



The Menzies.



Keith and the Hall's.



The Central Deborah Gold Mine.



Susan at the mine.



Brian with the miners.



Panning for Gold.



An engineering discussion!!!



Walk around Lake Weroona.



Lake Weroona.



Anthony in the camp kitchen.



Jenny W, Paul and Rita at the Botanical Hotel.



Brian, Jenny M & Keith



John, Anthony & Susan.



Alan, Gavan & Rhonda.

Another very enjoyable
Caravan and Cabin
trip away.

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