



## Excursion to Orange

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13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> March 2004, International House UNSW

22 residents from International House at the University of New South Wales spent a wonderful week end as guests of the Rotary Club of Orange North. The residents, who are all overseas students from eight different countries, enjoyed the country hospitality provided by their host families. The week end activities began with a trip to the top of Mt. Canobolas for a view of the local area. The crisp morning air was an envious way to start a day full of activities. Apple picking was next on our agenda. Peter Darley, owner of Daydawn Pty. Ltd., gave us a grand tour of his orchard. Not only did we taste several varieties of apples ( which are a lot nicer than what we get in the city) we were treated to some of the best country baked goods prepared by Millie. There is no better way to enjoy scones than under the apple trees. Next, we were off to the farm. Geoffrey and Elizabeth Cowan, (International Director for the Rotary Club of Orange North) treated all of us to a country style BBQ at their farm. Besides the feast we had a tour and an explanation of the work involved on a farm. Canobolas-Smith Winery, which was next on our tour, was an excellent way to relax and socialise before the evening meal. Mrs. Lorraine Smith was a most gracious hostess at the winery. The evening meal (as if we needed more to eat) was provided by our various host families. The students and host families met at four different homes for a country meal beyond belief. Making the rounds to the various dinners presented the Cowan's and us with some difficult choices. On Sunday morning we gathered once again at the Information Centre in Orange for a tour of a working gold mine. Our host for the day, Kevin Laughton, took us down some dusty roads to what appeared to be the middle of nowhere. As we made our descent down a steep hill and around a sharp curve, we were greeted by the owner and guide of the mine. After an informative tour of the gold mine we made our way back to town, keeping as close to Kevin's truck as possible, or risk never being found again. The final event of our wonderful week end was lunch at the home of the President of the Rotary Club of Orange North, Robin and Juliette Tilston.

The experiences we have had during our wonderful week end in Orange will always be with us. But what is even more important is the opportunity we have had to visit with our Australian host families and discover that our differences are more a matter of style than substance.

Footnote: What began as an informal discussion with Mr. Bruce Smith, Chairman of the International House Board and member of the Parramatta Rotary Club, has evolved into an annual event.

Dr. Robert C. Lundy  
Master, International House