

REPORT
INWARD EXCHANGE COLUMBIA CASCADE TO WELLINGTON 26 FEBRUARY TO 5 MARCH 2013

This was a really good exchange, enjoyed by both clubs and embellished by perfect weather throughout, notwithstanding there being a drought on in NZ!

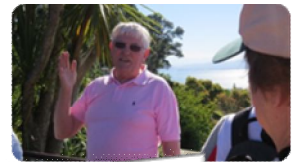
The programme went smoothly. Ambassadors were met at the Ferry terminal in Wellington and it was great to see friends we had made on our visit to Columbia Cascade – a happy reunion for some and meeting new friends for others.



The next day we had a welcome by a Maori kapa haka group from an intermediate school, with Mayoral welcome and with a pot luck dinner in the evening.



On Thursday, our Wellington City bus tour, was guided by one of our members. Rhys is excellent at this, having had lots of experience and knowing the sights and history of our city well. Lunch was at Scorching Bay, with a bonus of seeing dolphins in the harbour – they must have come in especially to entertain us! Hosts took their guests out for a dinner hosting in the evening.



Friday we went to Kaitoke Regional Park, walking over the swing bridge into the bush, with native trees and birds; then a visit to Rivendell (Lord of the Rings), followed by a real Kiwi BBQ – sausages and bread.



It was followed by a visit to Zealandia at night. Most got to see a Kiwi and all saw several large Tuatara. The stars were out and the night was beautiful. Our guests really enjoyed this day.



The next day was free, with our hosts taking us to dinner in the evening. Some of us drove over the Rimutuka ranges to Martinborough for their very famous annual fair. On Sunday, we joined with the Kapiti club for our annual picnic, which included celebrating Friendship Force Day with a cake.

Monday was the city walk and farewell dinner; then we had to get up the next morning and vey sadly say goodbye.



Thank you to all who hosted, dinner hosted and helped. And thanks especially to Ngaire who did most of the hard work for the exchange.

Lis Pyle, President and Co-Exchange Director.