

MALENY TO MONTVILLE (BLACKALL RANGE)



The last trip for 2010, organised by the indefatigable Valerie May, was to the wonderfully scenic Blackall Range. Our bus driver, Cathryn, drove us up the Range to Maleny's Mary Cairncross Park for morning tea. The Park is in an ideal situation, with rainforest on one side and a spectacular view of the Glass House Mountains on the other. When Cathryn unloaded the makings of morning tea, she found she had lots of hot water but no tea or coffee had been packed! Tragedy was avoided when she approached the people in the park kiosk and they were happy to oblige with tea bags and brewed coffee which were enjoyed by all.

A short drive from the park took us into the township of Maleny where Val had booked lunch at the old Maleny Hotel. The hotel has been extensively renovated but there are still features to remind patrons of earlier days. The alternated meals of fish or roast lamb were excellent and very satisfying and the dessert of baked cheesecake was very popular. We all felt in need of a little exercise after all the good food and for that we headed along the range to Montville. That drive is always a joy and, thanks to the recent rains, the countryside on either side is looking green and lush.

We had an hour to check out the dozens of interesting specialty shops in Montville's main street and I don't think too many of us were able to resist taking home a small souvenir or two - even if it was only some of the delicious fudge from the sweet shop.

In spite of some threatening clouds from time to time, the weather stayed fine and pleasantly warm and we were back in Brisbane by 4.30 p.m. after a very enjoyable day. Thank you Val, once again, and we're all waiting eagerly to see what delights you can dream up for us in 2011. A Merry Christmas from all your happy travellers!

June James

