

Bridge Weekend at Katoomba

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Four sessions of bridge, an opportunity to meet and get to know like-minded friends, wonderful weather, great food and a lovely olde-worlde ambience ... who could ask for more from a weekend?

The *Mountain Heritage Hotel and Spa* provided a great venue for the weekend players. Open fires, and drinks in the lounge and the piano bar to greet us on the Friday evening – then we repeated the fun on Saturday evening.



The *Mountain Heritage* was once called the California (you can just see the name in the path). This of course led to lots of random singing of the song and references to The Eagles.

The lounge and many of the rooms afforded glorious views of the Jameson Valley where the sandstone changed colour a dozen times in the course of the day. However playing bridge was the reason for the weekend and play bridge we did.



Early morning view of the Jameson Valley – filled with mist



1st night drinks



Pre-game hijinks

Friday night saw the **Welcome Pairs** session, following the welcome drinks in front of the open fires of the lounge and the first buffet dinner.



David giving directions for a Saturday afternoon bush walk at Govetts Leap

The actual results are available on the website (under session results).



Saturday morning saw the **Katoomba Pairs I**. Some people were refreshed by early morning brisk walks; others by sleeping a little longer.

David organised a “gentle’ walk that unfortunately began with a half-kilometre uphill trek. After that, the walk really was gentle and through some gorgeous bush.



The view from Govetts Leap



The intrepid walkers



Govetts friend

The intrepid walkers finished up at the lookout at Govetts Leap before returning for the pre-dinner drinks and a superb dinner, then the **Katoomba Pairs II** was played.



When you check the results you can see that some people play better when the way is smoothed with a little alcohol ... others perhaps don't.



Ready for the evening play



The only way to play (wine at hand)



Ooh ... what did I drop?

There were some major shifts in the placings which added a little *frisson* to the **Blue Mountain Pairs** held on Sunday morning.



Serious play





Not so serious play



Helen offering some advice (or strategizing)

Awards and prizes were given during the sandwich lunch after the final session. While the skill and consistency of players was recognised through the awards, so too was the effort and learning leaps that took place during the weekend. The captions on some of the following reflect the spirit of the awards but not necessarily the actual award!



Best names award: Aroha and Sari



Newest pairs award: Val and Diane



Encouragement group: Pam, Barry, Elizabeth, Lorraine and Judith



Geoff and Kathy



Maddest pairs: Pauline and Theresa



Keenest player award: Peter



Sweetest smile award: Kathy



Dan and Sandy



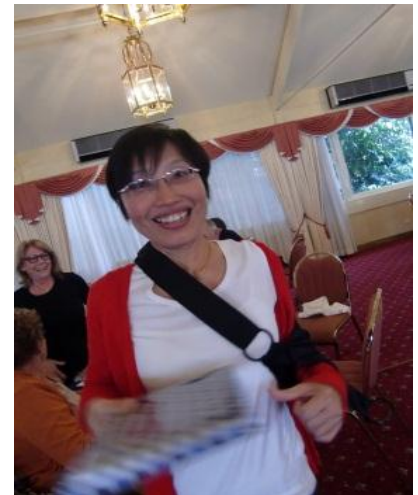
Consistency awards



Male pairs award: David and Peter



Good time gals award



One-arm award



Pink Rose girls



Bill and Anne



Thanks to Brian who joined the play as a local



Mike and Liz



Thanks to Dean and the service staff who did a magnificent job

Everybody seemed to have had a great weekend and the planning is already underway for the Spring weekend away. If you have ideas for a destination and a venue don't hesitate to let Helen know.

