

## BUSHFIRE CAMP

*November 2009*

From the 4th to the 12th of November Lea, Marion and I got to be part of an awesome project. The Rotary Club of Ashmore together with another Rotary Club from Victoria planned a week in the Gold Coast for kids from Victoria who had been affected by the bushfires earlier in the year. It was a big group of 68 kids (ages 10 - 12) and 15 teachers and parents.

Throughout the week, the kids got to visit many fun places such as the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Dream world, Sea World, some of the great beaches and also got to hang out with life guard and marine rescue teams.

Some impressive memories were the 45 pizzas that got all finished up, the sea of orange t-shirts that you could never miss and the constant energy that came out from each and every one of them.

They had a great time and enjoyed every second of it, and so did we.

Our role there was to keep the kids entertained during their free time. We planned a fun treasure hunt for them, had a deck of cards always available and also movies were a big hit!! We got to tag along with them every day and that's how we got to know them. Those kids were AMAZING!!

When you think of it, some of them lost people they knew, their homes, their schools, and still managed to have a smile on their faces at all times!!

It made us realize how lucky we are, neither of us has ever experienced such a tragedy and we still complain about little things! It doesn't seem fair!

We are so grateful to have been able to be part of this project. It was an awesome week!!

**For photographs of this great project - look in the December 2009 Photo Gallery.**

*(I'd like to make special mention that these three girls - Pauli Bermeo from Ecuador, Lea Kaupp from Germany and Marian Jaumont from Belgium - they volunteered their time to help the bush fire victims from the disastrous bush fires in Victoria early this year - what these girls did was magnificent and they were wonderful in helping the Ashmore club with this project. Well done Girls! You are a credit to your families and your countries! The best part is - these girls have found out the real secret behind Rotary - that's it's very rewarding when you help others in need! Ed.)*



Pauli Bermeo from Ecuador



Lea Kaupp from Germany



Marian Jaumont from Belgium

