



**Announcing the
IBM QCC Sydney Chapter
2009 Weekend Away in
The Blue Mountains
11 to 13 September 2009**

**IBM Quarter Century Club
Sydney Chapter**
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This year's QCC Weekend Away is going to be in The Blue Mountains, an easy and pleasant drive from Sydney. Come and join us for another quality weekend.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Friday 11 September

Chinese Banquet at the Katoomba RSL.
Meet, greet and socialise with your fellow QCC members and friends

Saturday 12 September

- Ride the Zig Zag Railway, for the ultimate old-time train experience.
- Have lunch and a relaxing afternoon at the beautiful Mount Tomah Gardens
- Dinner at the Katoomba Golf Club, with panoramic views of the Megalong Valley

Don't forget your camera!

Sunday 13 September

- As usual, free time to rediscover the area.
Ride the Skyway gondola (all new, now with a transparent glass floor!)
Take the new cable lift down to the valley floor and stroll around the boardwalk.
Have afternoon tea at The Paragon and stock up on boutique chocolates
Visit Leura for arts and crafts
And a whole host of other activities to suit everyone

ACCOMMODATION AND PROGRAM COSTS:

Two night's B&B at The Three Sisters Motel, Katoomba.
\$495 per couple, all inclusive of accommodation, excursions and meals.
We have reservations for 48 people, so get your request in quick!

To reserve your place please send Geoff Nash a note:

Geoff Nash/Australia/IBM for NOTES mail
or
sbcnash@au1.ibm.com for internet mail

Or you can call Geoff on 0411-020-520



BLUE MOUNTAINS Zig Zag Railway and Mt Tomah Tour

Departing Katoomba we follow the route of the Main Western Railway as it winds its way through the mountains townships of Blackheath and Mt Victoria.

Follow the Darling Causeway which separates two valley systems with views to the Grose Valley and Mt Banks before joining Bells Line of Road to Clarence to experience one of the Great Railway Journeys in the Blue Mountains.

*The **Zig Zag Railway** is regarded as one of the engineering masterpieces of the 19th century. Completed in 1869 the Great Zig Zag is a series of sloping ramps which form a "Z" shape, travelling via two tunnels and three magnificent sandstone viaducts which originally formed the main railway line west to Lithgow and beyond.*

Today experience the thrill of yesteryear as vintage rail motor traverses the old switchback line.



Departing the Zig Zag your tour will follow the Bells Line of Road Mt Victoria to the **Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens**. Situated at an altitude of over 1000 metres in the northern Blue Mountains of New South Wales, the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden was established as the cool-climate garden of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. It was opened to the public in 1987 and is already home to over 5000 species of plants from the cooler parts of the world. Many of these have been collected by staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens in the wild and have not previously been grown in Australia. Areas visited include South America, Southeast Asia, China, Africa, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the alpine regions of Australia, special emphasis being placed on plants of the southern hemisphere. Mt Tomah has a feature area for the prehistoric Wollemi Pine tree that was discovered in a small grove in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Inclusions: *Coach tour in luxury air-conditioned coach*
Professional driver/guide with full commentary
Zig Zag Railway
Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens
Light morning tea
Lunch at Mt Tomah Gardens Restaurant

Time: **09.30 – 17.00**
Saturday 12th September 2009