



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL – YOUTH EXCHANGE
Australia - District 201V6

WELCOME TO "OLD BERRIGAN"

Berrigan Lions Club members, Evelyn and Graeme Arnold, have hosted 23 girls from Germany, Belgium and Austria since 2002 on their 20,000 acre grain and cattle farm "Old Berrigan" located 12 km from Berrigan in New South Wales. Many of the visiting girls have commented on the beautiful night skies over Berrigan and how brightly the Moon and stars shine. One of the advantages of living in the country!

"We look after the exchangees as though they were our own children and this helps them feel like a member of our family", say Evelyn.



Photos – **(above left)** Lions Graeme and Evelyn Arnold; **(above right)** Sunset from their farm; **(below)** Arnold family BBQ



Successful hosting

"We prefer to offer hosting to international youth who are interested in the outdoors, sport and similar interests to our family - reading, fishing, Australian football, crafts, music and art," explains Evelyn. "We always contact youth before they arrive in Australia and let them know where they will be hosted and give them a chance to request another location if a country town is not what they expected."

Evelyn and Graeme send the following letter to potential exchangees.

Welcome to Australia

Let me tell you a little about ourselves and if you do not think that you would like to stay with us, please let the youth exchange people know.

Graeme and I are Lions both at Club, District and International level so that fills quite a lot of our spare time. We have been hosting exchange girls for many years and really enjoy giving our time to this Lions project. So far we have hosted girls from Germany, Belgium and Austria and have been fortunate to meet most of the girls and their parents in their home towns during our overseas travels to the US, Canada, Alaska, France and Germany. Our hosting experience has been a lot of fun for our family in Australia.

You will probably think we are old enough to be your grandparents and that is true but with 14 grandchildren we are kept very young. Our grandchildren attend schools in Melbourne (capital of Victoria) and Albury, a nearby town.

Our country district of Berrigan has a population of approximately 1,500 people who are mostly involved in farming. Our grain and cattle family farm called "Old Berrigan" is about 12 kilometres from the closest town. We grow wheat, barley, canola and some oats mainly for cattle food. We also breed Angus cattle. Our winters are very cold so warm clothing is required.

We can offer youth exchangees an interesting mix of sightseeing and learning about the history and geography of our area. We will visit many places while you are here and hopefully you will want to return some day. You will also share some farm responsibilities such as feeding and moving cattle to new pastures, feeding our chickens, helping to prepare the evening meal and washing dishes.

We remind you that the Lions Youth Exchange Program is a cultural program where you have the chance to live with and share the experiences of an Australian family. Australia is only 200 years old so we cannot offer you the grand historical building, large cities and splendour of your home country. However, near our District we do have many wonderful sights and regional towns to visit which are unique to our country. These include a paddle steamer at Echuca, aboriginal history, shopping, Oakland's pioneer and museum, Jerilderie Ned Kelly Story, and many more.

I have enclosed a map which shows you the distances you will travel whilst living with our family. Remember that the speed limit in our part of Australia is only 100 kilometres per hour.

*Love to you and your family
Graeme and Evelyn*

**For further information about the Lions Youth Exchange Program
go to www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye or contact your local Lions Club**