



Dandos Bush Camp  
The Otways



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Attendees:

**Members:** Gary and Christine Appleford, Alan Barnes, Darryl and Lois Crouch, Ross Drake, Bob and Chrissy Eustace, David and Shirley Gourlay, Peter Hinkley and Mary English, Alan James and Teryl Boyce, Frank and Marie Keogh, Melva Morris, Terry and Kaye Pitman, Margaret Quail, Theo and Helen Siomos, Pam Snelling, Amos and Gleness Trask, Rob and Glenda Walters. Jerzy and Gail Dubczyk arrived Monday.

**Visitors:** Geoff and Sue Mackenzie (Van Demons), Rex Roberts (Eastern Rosellas), Pat Randall, Erica McIntosh, Bernie and Lyla Alleisee, Glen and Merrill Monahan, Alan, Sharon and Lachlan White.

They say a picture says a thousand words so you will get some real beauties this month.

A few members arrived early, on the Wednesday, and fortunately they had organized a sufficiently large area so we could all park together. Terry and Kaye placed their motorhome at one end and the trailer at the other and with Gary, Christine, Peter and Mary parked on either side of a set of bollards. That meant the Thursday arrivals extended "our area". It was just as well because by the Friday there were a lot of camper trailers and tents, horses and horse floats scattered all through the reserve. Amos and Gleness took off the little blue car to go exploring as they weren't sure of the road in (they were about to go down the wrong track) but were saved when Bob used his iPad maps to make sure they didn't all get lost. A couple of others who will remain nameless also went in the wrong way and had a big adventure turning around to get to the camp ground—eventually!

Friday:

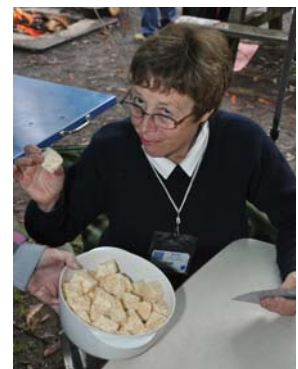
It dawned cloudy but fine. More folks arrived and the usual Bushies camaraderie followed. Late afternoon, the girls decided that it would be worth putting up the tent as the weather predictions were not promising for the weekend. A couple of the guys (to their credit even though it might have been begrudgingly) assisted and in no time, not cross word was spoken and the structure was up and occupied. The obligatory fire was lit in a secure area and wood was plentiful thanks to Terry's trailer load, an amazing amount which exited Ross' motorhome and all the others who made their contributions.



**King of the recyclers, Ross made this into a table top**



**Rainy weather the ideal time for a chat and crochet**



**No fat in these eh Pam?**



*A baked cheesecake marked Theo and Helen's 40th wedding anniversary*



*Marvellous Melva with her yummy cakes!*



*Who is this hooded man? Or is it a woman?*

**Saturday** saw the wisdom of the girls decision. Showers prevailed but it was a happy mood. Walks down to the river, along bush tracks and even the odd attempt at fishing ensured we did do a little bit of exercise as well as jump puddles! Highlights included Melva's scrumptious marshmallows which preceded a 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary cake for Theo and Helen – they will be going on a trip to New Zealand in the new year to celebrate. The tent was home to many who "sat and chatted" as well as the card players and the crafty ones.

Another wise decision was Gleness' insistence that they move their motorhome on the Friday – Saturday saw the start of a small pond where it had been parked. Little did she know that the following day would see an absolute lake – they would have been bogged for sure.



*The trailer was sited lakeside*



*Theo "grew" an extra few inches while cooking*



*Egg cracking also takes on a new dimension in this size puddle*

**Sunday** would have to be the highlight of the preparation of any Bushies' breakfast. Some of the wooden pallets Ross unloaded were to become the standing spot for Theo and the cooks. The tarp which had previously covered the wood became the shelter for the cooks and we even had ducks (of the yellow bath tub variety) try to get dry near the fire.

Wet weather gear was the order of the day. Amazingly we all fitted under the tent, a bit squeezey with not much room for tables but it lead to lots of good laughs. Young Lachlan only come with Poppy Alan and Granny Sharon if he could have one of those yummy breakfasts.

The Bushies raffle prize was won by Glenda. She was offered the use of the natural dish washer (put the utensils out in the rain, a few drops of detergent - eco friendly of course - and let them sit till soapy and then rinse) but declined. Amos made predictions of heavy rain easing to showers at 11 am and you wouldn't believe it – it happened.



*Told you it was going to stop!*



*Rain is no deterrent to chatting around a fire*



*Times like this make you glad you have a motorhome.....*

Many campers and horse people decided enough was enough and headed home, a few Bushies as well, some of whom had Melbourne Cup day commitments. But a lot decided to brave the patchy afternoon showers and stayed to cook on the open fire in the evening and sat around afterwards.

Monday was mostly overcast with a few sunny patches and, of course, scattered showers. 17 vehicles stayed over till Tuesday by which time most of the puddles had soaked into the ground. The tent was dismantled and folded up during a break between the intermittent sprinkles. The hardiest stayed on till Tuesday where they enjoyed the usual Melbourne Cup celebrations, sweep and hat competitions.

Thanks to Glenda for a few photos and to all who braves the weather to have such a FUN long weekend!



*Hello ducky!*



*Singing in the rain with Helen*



*What the well dressed Bushies wear in the wet.*



## On the Grapevine

**Invitation from Glenda and Rob Walters**—they won't have family around for Christmas this year and extend an invitation to any Bushwacker member/s who are on their own to join them on their flat three acre block which has lots of room for motorhomes. Come and join them for the weekend of Christmas have dinner and stay a couple of days. There's lots to do—a spa, pool table, cinema room or just relax and do nothing. A lovely thought thanks Rob and Glenda. Please RSVP by December 20

**Jury Duty** - Pam Snelling has finally cracked it - she's on duty and will have some interesting tales to tell at Garibaldi. To quote Pam ... "I was a "successful" layman about to do my bit for the community .....second shock .....I was asked to be forewoman." "The bottom line for me is the realization that our community can no way afford to have this fair Justice System in place without the likes of laymen like me...I feel rather humbled now that I have the opportunity to "do my bit". What else would we expect from our public spirited Pam? Full report on the website.

**Future Group Rallies** - At the Port Macquarie Rally, discussions were held with three other Victorian chapters about holding a combined chapter rally in 2012. We will keep you advised on future developments. The other news is that the BIG rally after Kalgoorlie (October 2010) is likely to be in either Sale or Bairnsdale (subject to contract confirmation). It will be held in April 2011 - so write that in your diary. Remember you heard it here first!

## Christmas Party and AGM

**Don't forget to come as the letter "K" this year. Also please let Alan or Gleness (contact details on first page of this newsletter) know if you are coming. WE NEED TO KNOW NUMBERS BY NOVEMBER 20. The meal will be a smorgasboard catered by Fabulous Feast and advised last month you will have a mouth watering choice. BYO drinks, plates, cutlery etc. Please phone Alan on 03 9391 6362 or Gleness on 03 544 2075 to confirm you will be there. \$10 per head for Bushwacker members who have attended at least rallies this calendar year or \$20 per head for visitors or casual Bushwackers.**

**Kris Kringle will be there so you EACH need to bring a present with a suggested value of minimum \$5 - male or female with the gender marked on the wrapping please.**

**The Christmas raffle will be a picnic basket full of goodies and there will be the usual Bushie raffle and breakfast newspaper raffles. The trailer will be there to make Theo's job easier.**

**All committee positions will be vacant and up for election. If you're interested in helping in any way, please phone Alan and discuss with him.**

## Directions for December 3 to 5 gathering

**Venue is Old Garibaldi School, 20 kms south east of Ballarat. Take Midland Highway from Ballarat to Buninyong, then Mt Mercer-Shelford Road through Durham Lead to Garibaldi, cross river, then right into Hardys Hill Road. School is 400 metres on right. Bring Firewood. Pets OK as always.**

### Venues for the first half of 2011

January 21 to 23 (Australia Day January 26)	Ayson's Reserve Elmore
February 11 to 13	Brookes River Reserve, Alexandra
March 11 to 14 (Labour Day Weekend)	Major's Creek Reserve, Nagambie
April 22 to 26 (Easter + Anzac Day Holiday April 26)	Barmah State Park
May 13 to 15	Goulburn River, Murchison
June 10 to 13 (Queen's Birthday Weekend)	Chinaman's Camp, Ararat

**Thanks to everyone who contributed with their photos, news for "On the Grapevine" and content for your newsletter. Have a happy and safe Christmas and an even better 2011.**