



**ENGLISH'S
BRIDGE**



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Attendees:

Members: Gary and Christine Appleford, Alan Barnes, Darryl and Lois Crouch, John and Jan Dadd, Chrissy and Bob Eustace, Alan James and Teryl Boyce, Terry and Kaye Pitman, Bill and Lyne Roberts, Theo and Helen Siomos, Pam Snelling, Miriam and John Stokes (day visitors), Gleness and Amos Trask (with Georgie and Charlie, Meggs, and Diesel).

Apologies received from Bruce and Elaine and Rob and Glenda whose vehicles were unable to access boggy conditions. Also Frank and Maree Keogh and Peter Hinkley and Mary English as the girls were on the recovery list and Dorothy Hall.

Visitors: Peter and Kerry Stanton

Friday:

Well Alan had checked out the site the previous Saturday morning - before the major rains arrived - and found it to be OK. Little did we know that that evening there was 2 metres of water over the bridge according to local farmers. So it would not surprise anyone that we had a few "sticky" moments where tyres and mud did not connect, but merely slipped. Pam, John, Big Al and Theo's vehicles all required assistance. John and Miriam's 4WD proved very useful for Big Al and John/Jan's little Suzi was not outdone in helping the others.

It was lovely to see Gary and Christine plus Gleness and Amos back from their winter travels. Lois and Darryl very proudly displayed their new Esperance. The old bus and trailer were headed to a new owner and this meant Lois could drive the new rig as necessary.

Now before we get any further, there was a slight (ha ha) disaster that when Bob tried to download last month's photos from the memory card, the #@%^#\$^ thing wanted to reformat itself. That meant we could not access our Bushie photos and a heap of others taken in the few weeks. So, thanks to Alan for coming to the rescue with this month's photos. The %##^#\$^ card is being sent to the camera experts to see if anything is retrievable but we doubt it.

Saturday:

Early morning rural walks were the order of the day. This was very interesting for Diesel as it was his first encounter with SHEEP! We did have a lovely photo of his head on the side whilst in the crouch position (as any good border collie would do) wondering "what are those things - I think I ought to know. Anyway the girls (and dogs) decided it was great except for Meggs' find of a wombat hole and the resultant smell she returned with.

Bill's erection of the firelight pole was decorated by several signs indicating Piccadilly Circus and Las Vegas and smiley faces. This led topped pole was great at night, giving just enough light so we didn't trip over without infringing into the campfire atmosphere. Thanks Bill (and the ever patient Lyne). Photo follows.



Left to ring - A small happy hour circle - Crafty corner near the Fire Light - John and Pam with a little help from Meggs check out the muddy underneath!

In the crafty corner, Kaye was sewing on patches to an Army blanket owned by one of their sons. It was a real work of art (another photo lost) and created great interest as the patches represented so many places a lot of us had visited on our travels.

The boys did their usual thing with chainsaw and logs. This meant a fire worthy of an all night burn. We can certainly say that the coals left the next morning made it very easy to reset the embers for warmth.

Sunday:

We were extremely fortunate that it was a fine even though cool weekend weatherwise. Theo, as usual, was the master chef with Bill the masterful apprentice (he has a long way to go to get his certificate Theo reckons).

Pam was in charge of tomatoes and onions for breakfast. In the middle of our eating, she advised any small black blobs in the mix were due to a Welcome Swallow that had decided her van was the ideal spot in which to have a fly around whilst she was doing the prep work. There were some quick sneak looks to check if we had any "blobs". Fortunately Amos and Darryl got the fishing net out and saved the day!

Alan advised that the trailer now has new brakes, and that tyres/rims were replaced as necessary. As this was deemed to be a safety issue, and the bank balance is healthy, it was felt this was a very sound move. We paid only for parts and John donated labour. A big thank you to John (and Jan who had to labour as women do)!

The Bushies raffle was won by a very delighted Lois. She had no problem doing the washing up in return for a Bunnings voucher - now the question is did she spend it or did she dutifully give it to Darryl for his next visit to the boys' toy shop.



Left to ring - an outdoors toasting system for breakfast - The Pyromaniac - the Swallow Netter

The usual diehards stayed on for Sunday night and there was certainly enough wood for the usual jaffles and camp oven dinners.

All in all, a lovely weekend and with a small attendance it was probably even more sociable as we all got time to sit and talk in that tight circle of happy hour.

On the Grapevine



The latest update from Sylvia and Ian - We left Saturday 4th September on our 3rd leg! of adventure. We pick up our 'home (being cared for) at Mackay and take 7 days to reach Maroochydoore. We actually are going to stay in a caravan park as daughter Lynn and grandson Dylon coming up for 4 nights, having a cabin. Think we might finish up going to Australia Zoo although Ian is terrified that Bindi girl might be there. Our second leg was great—met up with Rob and Denise at Bluewater Park Townsville and shared two campfires at Bushy Park. The next night was Eungella and would recommend this area to everyone for at least three days, beautiful. hugs till we see you next time.

Hi from Salty who has been in Birdsville for the washed out race. When last on the phone, he was at Lowth where he was trying to make amends with the local publican. Cobber had got bored and decided that the publican's prize chicken was a good thing to play with. Need we say more??? However Salty has sent some pictures and we will put them up on the web.

From **Glenda and Rob Walters** - Hope Alan told you why we did not end up attending the birthday. sorry we missed it. We are still in the same position, our bus is still bogged down and we are unlikely to get it out until the ground dries out. Say hi to everyone and hope to catch up when we free the bus from the bog.

Marie Keogh has been in hospital with (to quote Frank) some women's problems. Hope you are now on the mend and that Frank (and Honey and Gretchen) are doing their best to speed up your recovery.

John and Lynne Arnott have mixed news. The good news is that Lyn has had her last dose of chemo and the medicos are very pleased with her progress and results. The bad news is that their motorhome was stolen from the garage on the weekend of our last outing. Full details have been lodged with the police, Ken Tame Insurance and on the CMCA website. Listing is as follows - Toyota Coaster bus/motorhome stolen from locked garage in Wantirna South, Victoria. Vic registration RLM540. Colour - white, with rubber black lines along side. The vehicle was stolen from a locked garage at 4.30am on Friday, 10 September 2010. The vehicle contained personal items including clothing, flat screen TV, TomTom navigation system and CD. We would appreciate it if all could be aware of this theft. If it should be identified, please contact the nearest police station. A report has been lodged with Melbourne Police, Quote Incident No 100 255 759. They can be contacted on 03 9881 7999. John also advises that the fridge vent on the drivers' side is a distinguishing feature

The last thing these Bushies needed is to have scumbags take their vehicle. Please make other members and friends aware just in case it is spotted. **Anne Forbes** is still out there in the outback. Her reflections on the "Top End" are now up on the website.

Hi everyone from a hot Berry Springs!!! The latest instalment is attached (I did it first so I'd remember!!!) Everything is going very well with me and the 'rig'. I hope that you and all your families are well and happy and have survived the southern winter intact! The heat up here is multiplied by the humidity - thank goodness for air-conditioning! And I have just hit the midgies I think... I couldn't see what was nipping my ankles! I may have to get some more "Cedarwood and Rosemary" insect cream as it seems to work - you soon know where it hasn't reached, even up my 3/4 jeans! The sandflies (like our 'marchflies'???) are horrific too! I am quickly becoming used to being drenched the minute I start doing anything outside. Cheers for now, Ann

Dorothy had her 70th birthday party this weekend and Bob the same age the following weekend. On the subject of birthdays, Terry's 60th next month as well. So to those having a special Big 0 - our best wishes. We would love to create a birthday list - just the month if you don't want the year mentioned, so we can share that special event with you. If you're willing, we'll get that information when we do the next database update in December.

Thanks to everyone for their updates - It's wonderful to hear from you all as you travel and we hope this newsletter makes you feel you are still a very important part of our Bushie family. There are several off to the Port Macquarie Rally in October, so no doubt there will be more updates from there.

NEXT MONTH'S VENUE - OCTOBER 8-10

Newbridge Recreation Reserve 20 km West of Marong, take Calder Hwy to Marong then left (B240) West to Newbridge. Recreation Reserve on right before crossing Loddon River, shaded grass sites along riverbank, toilets, dogs ok, bring firewood, fees apply (we believe \$5 per vehicle per night), hotel and general store across river, Latitude 36.74081 Longitude 143.90253.

and BECAUSE IT'S ONLY A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO THE MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND here are directions to our **October 29—November 2** venue **Dandos Bush Camp, Otways** from Colac South to Gellibrand, second left past caravan park, Gellibrand East Rd becomes Lardners Track then into Sayers Vista for 250 metres, left into camp entry road, beside river 13 km from Gellibrand, toilets, dogs ok, fireplaces, bring firewood, Latitude 38.6098 Longitude 143.63.

Don't forget our Christmas Party Weekend

December 3 to 5 at the Old Garibaldi School (out of Ballarat)
Christmas dinner will be catered on Saturday night—byo grog

Dress up this year is the letter "K"

Please contact Alan or Gleness to confirm your attendance
This is most important as we have an external caterer and must advise numbers.

There will be an AGM and all positions will be vacant.
Think about what you can do for the Bushies to keep our chapter humming in a friendly manner!
Nomination forms will be in the next newsletter.

2011 Venues (subject to confirmation)

January 21 to 23 (Australia Day Jan 26)	Aysons' Reserve Elmore	July 8 to 10	King Parrot Creek Kerrisdale
February 11 to 13	Brookes River Reserve Alexandra	August 12 to 14 (17th Birthday)	Community Hall Redesdale
March 11 to 14 (Labour Day Weekend)	Major's Creek Reserve Nagambie	September 9 to 11	Mt Franklin Reserve Via Daylesford
April 22 to 26 (Easter/Anzac Day)	Barmah State Park	October 7 to 9	Upper Yarra Dam
May 13 to 15	Goulburn River Murchison	Oct 28 to Nov 1 (Melbourne Cup w/ end)	Jolly's Bend State Forest Kialla West
June 10 to 13 (Queen's Birthday)	Chinaman's Camp Ararat	December 2 to 4 (Christmas Party/AGM)	Memorial Hall Pioneer Park Meredith

Our website is www.bushwacker.com.au. The newsletter and photos from gatherings are uploaded as soon as possible after that weekend. Put it into your favourites for ease of access.

Don't forget to send in your contributions, particularly travel updates and On the Grapevine, to share with your Bushie mates. Email around-oz@bigpond.com or phone 0427 954 563.

As from January 2010, the newsletter is free but donations are welcome to cover postage and printing, if you feel like doing so.

Enjoy life, travel safely and take time to smell the roses.