



*Aysons Reserve
Elmore*



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| <i>President:</i> Alan Barnes 0410 983 156 - a_barnes@live.com.au | <i>Secretary:</i> Pam Snelling 0432 646 380 - psnelling@hotmail.com | <i>Treasurer:</i> Kaye Pitman 03 5234 6438 |
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Attendees:

Members; Christine and Gary Appleford, Alan Barnes, Konrad and Karin Braun, Bob and Linda Arthur, Chrissy and Bob Eustace, Salty Horigan, Harry and Maureen Jansen, Rob and Denise MacLennan, Melva Morris, Terry and Kaye Pitman, Wayne and Nini Priestley, Margaret Quail, Bill and Lyne Roberts, Pam Snelling, John and Sue Stephens, Gleness and Amos Trask, Bernie Alletsee and Lila Eden.

Breakfast Visitors; John and Jan Dadd, Alan James and Teryl Boyce, Alan and Val McDonald

Visitors; Kevin and Ila Hughes, Dot and Ken Rice, Donna and Ross Henderson, Brendon and Petrina Gilligam, Glen and Merryll Monahan, Helen Bainbridge.

Friday:

With heavy rain and the Campaspe River in flood the weekend before, our rally venue at Ayson's Reserve looked doubtful, but an inspection by Gleness on Monday, and favourable weather forecasts convinced the committee to persevere with the venue.

When first arrivals, Bob and Linda Arthur from Benalla pulled in at lunch time on Thursday, the river had dropped and the ground was quite firm, which belied the fact it was under almost one metre of water just a few days before, as evidenced by the debris washed up against trees and bushes. A steady stream of rigs began arriving throughout Friday with 18 rigs on site by nightfall.

Happy hour was held in the shade of a large tree and after dark the campfire lit in a clearing for a hardy few to enjoy well into the night, although the prevalent mozzies deterred a few from venturing out.



Debris against trees



Debris against poles



Happy Hour

Saturday:

An overcast morning on Saturday developed into a clear and sunny day in the high 20's, so light clothing and finding a shady spot was the order of the day. Morning tea saw yet another Chocolate joining cake, a tasty creation from Bernie Alletsee and Lila Eden tempting our taste buds, a warm welcome to the "Bushwacker" family to both of you.

Maree McMurtrie paid us a welcome visit around lunch time and sadly advised us that John had succumbed to his health issues and passed away in July 2010. Maree is now based in Echuca and the Swagman is up for sale.

Day visitors Brian and Pat called in from Bendigo to check us out and left enthused by our friendliness and hospitality, vowing to catch with us again in the near future.



Sue soaking up the footbath



Topping up the bubbly and it's Helen's turn



It's a dog's life - Denise and Cobber

Our full compliment of 24 vehicles had arrived by happy-hour when the call went out from Sue Stephens for a footbath, and lo and behold, Dot Rice produced one in a flash, but it took 3 blokes more than a flash to inflate it, before Sue could enjoy the tingling around her tootsies. All the girls were envious, so they took turns to soak their feet during happy-hour, having to restore the "tingles" to the water with "bubbly" before they were done. Must have been a soupy drop at the end.

A barbecue dinner cooked on the camp trailer was popular for many before settling under Bill's streetlight around the campfire, not so much needed for the heat as to keep the mozzies at bay. A merry campfire group enjoyed the mild evening until the witching hour.

Sunday:

There were plenty of early risers to prepare for breakfast on a warm and sunny day and with our regular cooks, Theo and Ross absent, Gary, Terry and Bill stepped into the breach to cook a gastronomically masterpiece of eggs, bacon and snags, ably assisted by Christine and Pam on toasting duties and a tantalising Tomato and Onions garnish created by Melva, all served right on the dot of 9.30am. Well done all. Nice to see John and Jan, Alan and Teryl and Alan and Val make the road trip to join us for breakfast, proof a "Bushy" breakfast is worth the travel just for the taste.

With Amos and Gleness not back from their night in Bendigo, John Stephens, ably assisted by Lila Eden, conducted the raffles, with Chrissy Eustace again claiming the "Bushies" prize with the associated dishwashing duties. A late lunch/morning tea of chocolate delights from Melva was a great introduction to the afternoon.

As Monday was a working day, many had to say their farewells during the afternoon with about 12 units staying over to follow the shade for the afternoon, followed by take-away fish and chips or pizza from Elmore on the menu for dinner.



*New Brekky Cooks
Gary/Bill/Terry*



*New Treasurer Kaye
hard at It*



*John and Lila
Raffle Experts*

Technical News:

We recently had to replace the small battery in the trailer that runs the water pump and light, and found one at a discount of 37% off retail from; Hollyhock Batteries Plus at 35 Yarra Street Abbotsford Vic. 3067. Phil Walker is the proprietor and can be contacted on 9415 7701 or Mob.0422 866 361. Try their website at www.hbplus.com.au to view a full range of their products with prices listed. A small family business that cuts the normal retail overheads.



Happy Hour Under the Big Tree



*Jack Quail's New Wheels
Colour co-ordinated even!*



Happy Hour—enjoy it!

Members Contact Lists:

The update of members' contact list is almost complete and will shortly be distributed to members either by email or post. Members are therefore advised that, if they DO NOT wish to have their name, phone and email details circulated to other members, THEY SHOULD notify President Alan on 9391 6362, or Secretary Pam on 9877 1764, without delay so their details can be deleted from the mailout.

Note: Members are reminded that contact details are for the use of other members only and must not be distributed to non-Bushwackers.

On the Grapevine



Dorothy Hall has had to high-tail it back home from S.A. temporarily for some warranty repairs to Xplora Dora, but it hasn't dampened her enthusiasm, and she'll be back cruising the highways and byways before long on her trek around the island.

Good to see **Alan and Teryl** visit by car to Ayson's Reserve, as they had been flooded in at Pyramid Hill earlier in the week. Fortunately they didn't sustain any damage to property but endured a few sleepless nights just the same.

Apologies from **Frank and Marie Keogh**, as Marie endures another round of treatment in her ongoing health battle. All Bushwackers are thinking of you Marie and wish you well in your battle.

Apologies also from **Helen and Theo**, who has endured a minor health scare, but early detection and treatment will see him giving plenty of cheek and orders to the brekky cooks pretty soon.

Believe it or Not! **Pam Snelling** is still doing her duty as forewoman of the jury on the case that started just after Cup day in November. Reckon Pam must be a legal expert by now with only a 10 day break over Christmas. When the verdict is finally delivered, there surely must be a book deal on the horizon.

Time catches up with us all, and Margaret Quail's **pug Jack** is no exception, so when he tires as he walks with younger sister Rosie, he gets a ride home in his own colour co-ordinated (black) baby's pusher, much to the disgust of Rosie.

Nice gesture of those who stayed over at Ayson's Reserve Monday to volunteer and head into **Rochester** to help the locals in the **clean-up after the floods** had gone. True "Bushy" Spirit.

For those going to the **CMCA 25th Anniversary Rally at Deniliquin** (April 11 to 17) there is now heaps of information on the rally website - denirally.com. All registrations go into the draw for a 3 week Kea Camper holiday tour of New Zealand (wow that would be great) including airfares to NZ and the use of a Kea Motorhome,

You will find a series of buttons to give you information on seminars, the Men's Shed, over 170 sessions to be held in the Craft Barn, Line Dancing and Rock 'n' roll classes, Fashion Parades, Entertainment (which includes Kim Ritchie, the Lady and the Larrikin, Grant Luhrs and the Chook Band, the Black and White Ball and more), Ukulele workshops (beginners and more advanced), Bush Poets, the usual Photography competition—you will go home for a rest!

Next Month's Venue - February 11 to 13

Brookes River Reserve is on the Goulburn River approx. 4.5kms north-west of Alexandra, which is best reached from Melbourne via Maroondah Highway through Healesville and Taggerty. From Alexandra continue on Maroondah Highway towards Yarck, turning left into Swann Road, 2kms from town.

Follow Swann Road 1.8kms to the "T" intersection with Brookes Road. Turn right, crossing the bridge, past the Day Picnic Area, and a further 300 metres before turning left into the camping area entrance. (before the farm driveway) Follow the road 200metres to the camp on a plateau above the Goulburn River. Pit Toilets. Dogs OK and Big Rigs OK

GPS S37.18993 E145.67206

| <i>Future venues</i> | | |
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| March 11th to 14th | (Labour Day Weekend) - | Major's Creek - Nagambie |
| April 22nd to 26th | Easter & Anzac Day Holiday | Barmah State Park |
| May 13th to 15th - | | Goulburn River - Murchison |

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 chrissey@around-oz.com or phone 0408 729 580. 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.