

The Official Newsletter of THE BUSHWACKERS



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Chinaman's Camp, Ararat, June 2011

Attendees:

Members: Gary & Christine Appleford, Alan Barnes, Ian & Sylvia Callander, Darryl & Lois Crouch, John & Noeline Dean, Ross Drake, Alan James & Teryl Joyce, Frank & Marie Keogh, Terry & Kaye Pitman, Wayne & Nini Priestley, Bill & Lyne Roberts, Theo & Helen Siomos, Pam Snelling, Gary & Mina Stapleton, Rob & Glenda Walters, Alan & Sharon White

Visitor: Sylvia Sharman

Friday:

Ross was the sole occupant for Thursday night, so with his phone being out of range, he wondered if a change of venue had occurred! However on Friday, several rigs arrived, their owners hoping for the weather to settle and it did. Some members made a welcome return from several months of holidays and other activities, so that was good to see them all – mind you, John and Noeline are heading away again (hopefully NOT a year this time before you come again!!!). Bill and Lyne arrived with the trailer (a hearty thanks to you both) and the big roll of material was quickly retrieved from it. We knew where it was as the big trailer clean-up at Brookes Res. in February had sorted everything out. The shelter was great and with Ross and Gary A (well done for thinking to bring the staple gun!), they used the material to enclose the shelter - I think even Frank did a bit of supervising!! We later learnt that Darryl, in fact, was originally responsible for obtaining the bolt of material from a place in Ararat many moons ago – aren't we glad he did? By the way, Darryl's foot has certainly gained some strength since Murchison....good news!



The idyllic setting for a Bushie weekend – no mud this time!



Ross in action putting up the curtains!



The Bushie weekender finished and in full swing!

Of course, the fire was a huge priority as usual, so all sorts of wood offcuts came out of many rigs, along with the chainsaw brigades. It didn't take long for a "weekend pile" to be established and for us all to be chatting around the fire. Happy Hour began earnestly and with several "longer-serving" Bushies in attendance, it didn't take long for past Bushie tales to emerge. Who had what TV reception was a popular talking point.....being able to watch the Footy's a very important goal for many!! The fire stalwarts chatted and chatted until quite late.

Saturday:

The early weather was nippy, but clear, so many Bushies were out and about. Marie was walking her "children" and the word is that her new member's behaviour is in line with the high Keogh expectations. Great to see Marie and Frank in such chirpy fine voice!



One lot of wood gatherers.



A colourful desert pea.



Alan J even chain sawed within the fire!

Bushwalking was a favourite pastime for many and pretty wild flowers were around. Even the local kookaburra watched over us. There were several trail bike riders meandering through the bush, but this lovely spot in Victoria had space for us all to share and enjoy. The shelter certainly was a hub and the knitting brigade was in full force most of the weekend. Gary and Mina, with Ian and Sylvia went "down the street" by car, so did shopping for those needing "chocolate biscuits" or the "paper to read." Lots of people looked at lots of gadgets and we love to share "home-created" ideas!



Why did Sylvia C bring this to Happy Hour?



What is Ross doing to Terry's van?



Ah! Pouring water in with gusto! Clever! It's a patented invention!

The afternoon became the Myer clothing store with jackets and polo shirts being tried on in the shelter or back in buses! The excellent company we're dealing with had lent us 17 garments of varying sizes. The survey was distributed and several folk have already placed and paid for their orders. Alan is currently collating the members' feedback, but the bush tonings selected by the Committee was thoroughly approved by those at Chinaman's. Thanks for the many survey respondees so far. Will let you know the results after the 23rd cut-off date.

More of the same for a typical Bushie afternoon occurred. Ross' damper was cooked, camp ovens were out in earnest, the trailer BBQ was lit, so good food, wine and company in a cosy environment was enjoyed by all. Another latish night for many around the fire, despite the hot water bottles already in beds!

Sunday:

You know what Sunday morning means.....busy cooks around the trailer. Thanks to Lyne for the food buying and bringing – I think Bill discovered the last 2 dozen eggs under the bed! Just as well, as the hunger pangs had kicked in. Rob and Glenda arrived by car, as their bus still had problems, but the speedy run up from Bannockburn was easy they said! Thanks to Theo and Ross (and I think Bill) for the BBQ cooking, to Christine for the tomatoes and onions and the toasties – Helen, Sylvia S in Alan J's bus (think his chain saw was not around!). We did get a call from John and Jan in their 26 degree spot out West.....they were thinking of us....(yeah, right John!!!). They are fit and well in the sunshine – mind you, our weather was at least sunny!

A decision was needed to be made by members regarding our October Rally, which was scheduled to be at Upper Yarra Dam. The Parks Victoria rules have changed, so that now you need to pre-book and pre-pay your camping situations. Despite Alan's personal liaison with the same Parks ranger as before and a call to Parks Victoria, no flexibility was available to us. The Bushies at Chinaman's decided overwhelmingly to change the venue; therefore we now will be going to Kendall's B, Rubicon freecamp in October.



Yummy brekkie for all.



Alan won the Bushie Raffle.



Thanks to whoever brought these?

A relaxing day all round with a variety of lunches etc. We espied a couple of girls who took a photo of Gary S' goanna on the side of his bus. They were fascinated and of course wanted to know "if it was real". When told "No", one was heard to say....."See, I told you it wasn't real!!!" Some folk departed for family visits etc., but still the fire kept going for those taking advantage of the long weekend.



*Who is the most relaxed here?
Hard to tell eh??*



*Remember the gumboot competition girls?
Look at Lois' newbies!*

Monday:

With another lovely morning in place, the topic of conversation around the fire was one of the historical aspects of the Bushies. It was great to hear about the story behind the evolution of our trailer or chuck wagon, which was initiated by Ian and Sylvia C, along with Gary and Mina S. Did you know that John Linton actually used to do cooking for all, plus have an urn going from his bus?

The Committee plans to display all the Bushie archival photos, minutes and newsletters at the Birthday Bash in August, so it would be great to see some "longer serving Bushies" in attendance to help us in our photos "who are they?" dilemma.

We agreed that it doesn't matter if you don't know some of the newer members, as we have the common love of heading to the bush - that's what makes the Bushwacker Chapter so unique!!! Lois did comment - "Is a book in the making??" We liked her comment, but let's see what happens or does anyone want to make this happen?????

ALSO - Don't forget the Birthday Bash food list. Pam has it and is adding to it as members make contact by email or phone.

On the Grapevine: (thanks for all the news...and safe travelling)

- Exciting news is that Alan and Val McD have sold their beloved bus and are planning to buy a new one. Also, they celebrated their **50th Anniversary** on 19th June – congrats to you both.
- Congratulations to Shirley Gourlay on gaining H/C with her 6 x 4 photo of "On Echuca-Deni Road" in the Australian Flora and Fauna category of the Deni Rally Photo Competition.
- Marg Quail (15 June) did 5 markets in 2 days in Darwin.....was resting at Pussy Cat Flats.....needed to!
- John and Jan Dadd (16 June) were at Port Smith Station, 160k south of Broome "on an inlet and catching....hooray!"
- Gleness and Amos (13 June) got to Magnetic Island by ferry (\$5 – no questions asked) and spent time with 2 grandies. Then to Seaforth (30k north of Mackay). Now to Emus Park for 2 months. They are "both well and having a great time".
- John and Sue S (12 June) were heading to Normanton Qld. They "had a Sunday Bushie brekkie so thought of us!" They'll be away 3 months.
- Jerzy and Gail are heading to Mareeba.
- Gary and Christine A are off on their 2 CMCA Safaris to Qld– will be interested to hear what they think!
- Udo and Stephanie are back from NZ, and are off to Qld for a month or so, so will see us...whenever.
- Ann Forbes' teaching stint at Udialla didn't quite work out, so she's on the move again to Derby in WA.
- Dorothy has set off with 16 Solos through the Centre to Alice, Katherine, Kimberleys, Broome and Perth then to the Kalgoorlie Rally.
- Barry and Sarah Pepper who joined us at Xmas hope to say hello again at King Parrot.
- Check out Bob and Linda's blog at www.boblindastravels.blogspot.com On 12 June, snippets included 19 out of 28 night stays in free camps, 3300kms done using 1030 litres at price up to \$1.85 per litre!
- John and Noeline are heading north with a golfing splurge at Surfers, a veg. out at Noosa, then overseas to Cambodia. Hopefully, we'll see them in November.

A special thank you comes from Shirley to the Bushies' kind thoughts regarding her grandson's health. The tumour is now half the size and will be operated on when small enough. This will be followed by more chemo. Good news.

Next month's Venue:

July 8 to 10. King Parrot Creek roadside reserve, Kerrisdale. The camp is on Goulburn Valley Hwy midway between Yea and Seymour at Kerrisdale. Take C725 through Kinglake West to Flowerdale, then C382 to Strath Creek, R into King Parrot Ck Rd, 12km to Goulburn Valley Hwy, L 500m, then R into roadside Reserve beside creek. Tables, shade, no toilets.

Future venues:

12th to 14th - Redesdale Community Hall (BIG BIRTHDAY BASH).

9th to 11th September - Mt Franklin Camping Reserve

7th to 9th October – Kendall's B campsite, Rubicon. (see notes above for change reasons).

Don't forget to send your travel news to chrissey@around-oz.com or psnelling@hotmail.com or a_barnes@live.com.au