

The Official Newsletter of THE BUSHWACKERS



President - Alan Barnes
0410 983 156
a_barnes@live.com.au
Secretary - Pam Snelling
0432 646 380
psnelling@hotmail.com
Treasurer - Kaye Pitman
03 5234 6438

Kendalls Camp, Rubicon, October 2011

Attendees:

Members: Gary and Christine Appleford, Alan Barnes, Steve and Lynda Bishop, Ian and Sylvia Callander, Darryl and Lois Crouch, Graham Gibbens, Brendon and Petrina Gilligan, Hal and Karin Kraus (day visit), Udo and Stephanie Michels, Melva Morris, Terry and Kaye Pitman, Theo and Helen Siomos, Pam Snelling, John and Sue Stephens, Bruce and Elaine White.

Visitors: Damien Robinson, Terrance Hilliard, Phil and Jo Hutchison, Noel and Lenis Wilson, Magda Van de Ven, Jude Jackson

AGM/Xmas Break-up at Meredith Hall, December 3rd

- *AGM to be held at 2pm Sat. 3rd December. All current positions will be declared vacant. Forms will be available at November Rally.*
- *Sat. Night dinner in Hall will be catered for by Fab Feasts. Meal includes spit roast dinner, with salads and sweets. Subsidized cost to members, who have attended 2 Rallies this year, is \$10 per head. Everyone else (including visitors), is \$20 per head. Definite numbers needed ASAP for catering purposes, so please contact Alan or Pam, and pay **by November 15th**. Last year, we had hiccups with Bushies who had verbally committed (and not paid), then pulled out.*
- *Celebrations will include the usual dress-up fun. This year, the letter is "E", so start making your "Eggcellent" costume!*
- *More details next newsletter as to usual KK Santa prezziie offering.*
- *Xmas Raffle hamper is "being prepared", so keep a couple of dollars aside for that!*

Friday:

Some earlybird vehicles came Wednesday and Thursday, but Friday saw a constant stream of vans arrive. The location was beautiful, with the nearby river flowing fast....too fast for fishing enthusiasts like Gary. The Rubicon historic area has a long and rich history, with timber harvesting and hydro-electricity generation being the major human influences on the forest over the last century. Both activities remain significant today. 8 sawmills were built in the early 1900s and one still remains with the valuable ash timber being exported. The 4 Rubicon Hydro-electricity schemes still operate, but don't contribute to Victoria's needs like they did in the 1930s.



Graham was coming to Rubicon by hook or by crook! Terrific work by the Eildon Towing Service.



The nearby gushing Rubicon River – a beautiful sight in the early morning sunshine.



The amazing local wood that was chain-sawed and collected by some Bushie helpers.

Obviously the campfire became the central focus throughout the day, and with the constant wood-hunting by many Bushies, it meant that it would remain a roaring success as usual! The weather was reasonably kind, however, showers on and off made it imperative that an umbrella was a necessary item. Bushwackers were good buddies for some folk, with Graham being supported to “get towed” to camp, then his bus being pushed into a safe spot for the weekend. Melva’s recently acquired new BLUEY had keys, hoses and new things to sort out, but the list quickly diminished as Bushies rallied around. Once the solars are on, she should be right. Newcomers Noel and Leni’s first bush experience in their Suncamper, also was a steep learning curve, but we’ll be seeing them again. Phil and Jo’s 5th-wheeler required some skilled truckie assistance to guide them in and out.

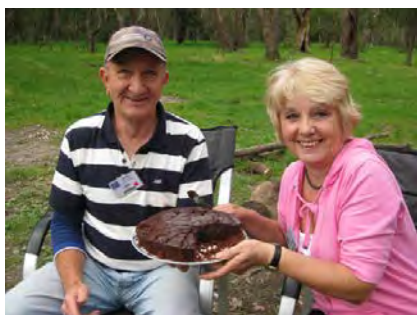


Who’s under this big broolly?



Look at our campsite, nestled happily among the trees.

Cakes became a highlight round the fire. 2 chocolate ones confirmed Graham’s vows renewal, plus Udo and Stephanie’s Bushie membership. I seem to be constantly adding new members to our lists. I actually counted up members who have been this year and the number is 90.....lucky we don’t all come at once eh???????



New Bushies....No 1



New Bushie.....No 2



Happy birthday Bushies!

Saturday:

Friday night produced constant rain and I heard someone saying that on waking up on Saturday thinking it was still raining – however the noise was in fact, the gushing nearby river. Someone else thought they had a tap dripping!!!! All in fun, as the sun was streaming through the trees and bearing down onto the solar panels. Muddy, but sun, sun, sun. Many people, plus dogs, went for walks by the river and some ventured to the Hydro Scheme.....up the road, where the water pipes ran down the hill. We commented on how it reminded us all of schooldays and the Projects about Tasmania's Hydro Stations...remember Tarraleah and Waddamana??



Lots of people were back from their travels, with lots of stories of hiccups or good spots. Jude (just back from Cairns) told us that she asked at an info. Centre for a good Qld map - and was promptly given 2 boxes full. So we all decided to have a map-reading session to plan where we would all go next year...that's right, the spot at grid reference "C4" is terrific!

Was nice to see Hal and Karin for their afternoon visit.

Saturday's cosy fire remained the hub for some tasty dinner cooking. Camp ovens or simply foil was seen a-plenty. The BBQ was also used and Ian and Sylvia informed us that their fish was yummy.....ah, such a difficult life!!!!



The Before and After photos of a tempting meal for some Bushies!



The Bushie History continues, with Elaine spending time at Rubicon labelling photos (many of which she had actually taken). She will now put many into a chronological order, and then we can start the task of putting them in NEW albums. The aim is to actually submit a Bushie History page into the Wanderer next year. Lots of people have done something to assist this, so thanks so far for that help.

Sunday:

Hindsight's a wonderful thing.....we should've put the tent up Saturday! Never mind, in the rain, a group came out to do so and we were glad they did. Mind you, at the time of eating brekkie, the sun was out! Shelter for our Masterchef was imperative, but Theo moved his bus to solve that problem. All set to go, with Elaine doing the tomatoes and onions, Theo and Gary at the BBQ, and Lois, Christine and Melva doing the toast. We had efficient servers as well. *Thank you all from all of us who enjoyed the brekkie!*



Shelter for the 2 cooks at the brekkie BBQ – a great idea Theo!



No, it's not "eyes down" for Bingo, but eyes down for eating and enjoying. The rain cleared too!



Ian was the lucky Bushie Raffle winner. I remember taking his photo on many other occasions!

So with the formalities done, some folk left, while others did the usual relaxing around the fire...yet again! 7 vans stayed until Monday, until Graham was safely towed home, via the wonderful Eildon Towing Service - how good were they! He got home (300km away) at about 2.30pm, and has started organising a new motor. He'll miss next Rally, but should be at Xmas break-up. I also learnt that his initial phone call to RACV was done, with only ONE bar reception....., a stroke of luck!

*A **BIG** Thank you to Terry and Kaye for trailer duties this month, after a hiccup for Bill and Lyne (hope the Factory got sorted!). The trailer is at Alan B's house at the moment. Can't remember the last time, we had a trailer hiccup! We need a volunteer to trail to and from Kialla West in Nov. and Meredith in Dec. Alan is happy to get the trailer to a Melbourne home.*

Members' News:

- Marie's health battle continues and we love her sense of humour, despite the recent disappointments. Her optimism now turns to October 24th, when she'll have major surgery. Mind you, to quote "It would be remiss of me not to mention the mighty Cats. The whole City of Geelong is a picture of GO CATS!" Frank and she are hoping to see us all at the Xmas Rally.
- Our other Bushie friend continues her up and down battle. As this goes to print, a trip to their Warburton caravan, plus a Grandie's birthday are on the immediate list, as she's currently feeling OK - good!
- Ann Forbes says "Cheers from the Kalgoorlie Happy Hour". To all Bushies in Kalgoorlie.....enjoy! Would love to have photos of your fun.

Next Month's Venue:

28th October to November 1st - Jolly's Bend State Forest, Kialla West. Camp is on Goulburn River at Kialla West 10k Sth Shepparton. From Melbourne, turn left off Goulburn Valley Hwy into Moira Drive for 1.5k. Under arch, take L fork at sign and follow track to camp, 500m past scout camp.

***We'll have a shared Cup Day lunch and it would be terrific to see some glamorous/fun hats worn to the lunch. Hopefully someone will have the paper to arrange a Cup Sweep.**

Other Venues:

2nd to 4th December. Meredith - Pioneer Park, plus Hall (200m away)

20th to 22nd January (2012) - Ayson's Reserve - Elmore