

The Official Newsletter of  
**THE BUSHWACKERS**



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## *Mt. Franklin, September 2011*

### Attendees:

**Members:** Alan Barnes, Darryl and Lois Crouch, Wayne and Sandra Doolan, Ross Drake, Peter Hinkley, David and Shirley Gourlay (day visit), Alan James and Teryl Boyce, Terry and Kaye Pitman, Bill and Lyne Roberts, Pam Snelling, Rob and Glenda Walters, Bruce and Elaine White, Graham Gibbens, Phil Sevier and Tammy O'Rourke, Maurie and Maureen Lowes (day visit), Amos and Gleness Trask (day visit).

**Visitors:** Michael and Lynn Latimer, Phil and Jo Hutchison, Sylvia Sharman

**4-legged friends:** Noah, Millie, Penny, Midget, Sam, Max, Tom plus Gemma, the Burmese cat!

### Friday:

*The Bushie Rally officially started today, but gosh, lots had arrived earlier. Darryl and Lois had brought along a trailer full of wood, which they had gathered from their son's block....obviously lots of hard yakka involved there! (Big thanks) Two fires were well set-up....Darryl's one for shared cooking and the other in the allocated Mt. Franklin spot. Bushie "returnees", Phil and Tammy, had a shelter already set-up to cater for what our Bureau had forecast as #\$\$\*(^%\$#@ weather. Their shelter in fact, became a great asset during the day of "sit around the fire" and then...."move the chairs out of the rain!". Lots of to-ing and fro-ing in the cold conditions, but you know what Bushies are like.....they soldier on regardless!! (Note Bill's lonely figure in the photo - most of us preferred to be dry!)*



The guinea fowls were quite human-friendly, so came around and among us. This all changed when a couple of pooches didn't like their presence. Boy, the fowls became aggressive, but Millie did a great job, and actually got one by the feathers and leg I'm told – I didn't actually see it, as I was too busy preventing an attack from the escaping flight of the fowls! Nearly fell backwards off the chair and was told that my face revealed my thoughts!

## Saturday:

*Lots of people arrived and we were all quite staggered that so many big vehicles were present. What a great spot for us all. Of course we Bushies decided to "pitch the tent", so, as usual, heaps of helpers were on hand to do so. One Bushie gentleman had forgotten his wife's birthday, but a kind offer was made by Phil and Jo who went into Daysleford to solve the problem. Phil even iced the words "Happy Birthday....." on the cake, so all was in readiness for Sunday's singing and morning tea. BUT, a mad, desperate panic during the night led our beloved hubbie to discover he was one month TOO EARLY! So poor old Phil had to scrape off the good lady's name and replace it with "Happy Birthday Bushies". **No red face by the thoughtful hubby, but laughs all round when we told the tale!***



OK guys....what's the plan for the tent?  
Get folks to assist in each corner?  
Come on everyone....give us a hand.

Let's go for it and put up a tent!  
Do you see that Darryl no longer has a boot on – his prognosis is good, so his Managerial skills were abound. We don't mind Darryl – you're a true Bushie through and through!!!



*The weather was very kind to us at Mt. Franklin. As you can see, we had the tent set up (in sunshine), and lots of relaxation occurred all day. As mentioned earlier, we had some big rigs...what with Rob/Glenda, Alan/Teryl, Phil/Tammy, Wayne/Sandra already at Mt.Franklin in theirs, we then greeted Phil and Jo in their new 5<sup>th</sup>-Wheeler, freshly imported from USA and only having picked it up 2 weeks ago. Lots of Cook's Tours was followed by lots of suggestions, "trimmings" advice, plus on-the-spot awning lesson. The little units were sure in the minority!*



**Ah! This is the life for us all.  
Sitting, chatting and warm!**



**Some ventured out for the  
big circuit walk for the view.**



**Others, like Penny here, had  
many cups of tea.**

The circuit walk was undertaken by many at different times during the day. Unfortunately, the view at the top was overgrown by the lush trees.....a bit different to last time we were here. Oh Well – good exercise anyway. Time for a game of cards....what started out as 3 players actually turned into 8.....and we needed to turn our hands around towards the lights over the fire, so we could finish the last hand. Both Sandra and Shirley commented that “they really missed the Bushie cards playing.”



Gemma was always comfortable and made herself "at home"!



Cards laughter - note Shirley played cards AND looked after Gemma too!



Lots of teachers for Phil and Jo in their new 5<sup>th</sup>-Wheeler!

Saturday evening was very clear and mild, so many of us stayed around fire for ages. Campoven teas, plus schnitzels, pork, chicken on the cooking fire were some of the delicacies that were enjoyed. Of course, too, there was the odd red, white or bubbly on offer to wash it all down. We did note some tame possums that came quite near us to check for scraps.....little around though!

### Sunday:

*Weather wasn't wonderful to start with, so umbrellas were needed at first by the cooks. Luckily it cleared, so we were fine in the end. Thanks go to Elaine for the tomatoes, onions and spices, Sylvia, Lyne, Teryl and Alan J for the toast, Bill, Ross, Wayne and Terry for the eggs etc. and Glenda, Lois and Lyne for being efficient servers.*



One hand for umbrella, other for scraping the water away. Well done chaps!



Amos arrived just in time to be Raffle master. Teryl was the lucky Bushie raffle winner.



Here's the cake that Phil quickly managed to change the name....it tasted good too!



*It sure was lovely to see Maurie and Mary on Sunday. Maurie's health has improved heaps and his sense of humour was still there. Little Max happily trotted around, but I was sad to learn that Maurie and Mary's other "rescued" pooch had passed away. Although it was blind, it was so placid and loving.*

Several people packed and left, however some of us enjoyed another night and telling tales of our younger days of beards, purple hair, platform shoes and general misbehavings! Ross' damper was delicious too!

*Thanks for the feedback re. 2012 venues. Some fine tuning will be done.*

*Thanks also to Terry/Kaye for the trailer duties to Mt. Franklin and to Bill/Lyne for the departure towing.*

Contacts Updates for you

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### Members News:

- Amos and Gleness are off again - this time on a caravan safari. I don't think we'll see them until next year (Jan).
- Hal and Karin were in Coffs Harbour - had to turn back from CMCA Safari due to bus hiccups.
- Heather has arrived at Nambour via Lightning Ridge.
- For those going to the Kalgoorlie Rally.....enjoy!

### Next Month's Venue:

**October 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Kendall's Bush Camp Rubicon.** Take Maroondah Hwy through Healesville to Taggerty, then turn R into Thornton Rd for 10k. At Thornton turn R into Rubicon Rd for 5.8k to camp on L, on banks of Rubicon River. Pit toilets, shade, bring firewood. Dogs OK. GPS S37 18 36.0 E147 51 02.1

### Future Venues:

October 28<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> (Cup weekend). Jolly's Bend State Forest, Kialla West

December 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. Pioneer Park Meredith. AGM and Xmas Celebration at the Meredith Memorial Hall

**Don't forget to check out the website - [www.bushwacker.com.au](http://www.bushwacker.com.au)**