

April 2023



# GROPER'S GOSSIP

## MARANUP FORD RALLY

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APRIL 2023**

The weather can't seem to make up its mind between Autumn and Winter, warm and cold, sunny and rainy. The Maranup Ford rally was a good example. Although it was mostly cold and wet, we were fortunate enough to avoid the rain for the important times – the dawn service, happy hours and a bush picnic. We had a small contingent of only eight vans and a good group of people. The Anzac Day dawn service at Greenbushes was particularly moving including the Jubilee Singers choir who sang several items. The service was followed by a full Gunfire breakfast for over 300 people. At the rally Jack and Deanne Muir were welcomed into the Club as our latest members in van 101. It was great to see Roy and Maureen at the rally, with Roy looking very much better.

Lyn Mitchell's facebook posts gave good coverage of their South Australian adventure, Colin and Noelene went cruising, Linda and Colin are heading to Darwin shortly, while I believe Cindy and Barry were in the Exmouth region at the time of the total eclipse. Great to see our members getting out and about.

Brian and I will be attending the Gnaala Mia rally before heading north on 24 May for two months, arriving back in time for the tag along rally in late July.

Stay safe ....

Helen

## MARANUP FORD ANZAC RALLY

Helen and I decided to go to Maranup Ford on Sunday and thought that we would probably be the first arrivals for a change. Well, that was not the case, the Lundys and Ashfords were already set up and relaxing and later on Jerry and Debra arrived. On Monday Chris and Linda, Doris, Syd and Jacquie and Jack and Deanne all arrived. It's certainly good to see Roy back to good health.



Afternoon tea and happy hour were enjoyed at party central around Chris's 5-gal drum fire pit and Jack and Deanne Muir were welcomed into the club and presented with their Member Pack and badges. Everyone retired early as

we were having an early start the next morning to attend the ANZAC Day service in Greenbushes.

At 0500hrs we drove to Greenbushes and went to the War Memorial



to watch the march and then into the Community Hall, due to imminent rain, for the service. The service was very good, with the local choir for songs and anthem, a bugler for the Last Post and Reveille and a piper for the laying of the wreaths. The service was followed by a sumptuous breakfast of bacon, eggs, baked beans and sausage, and coffee or tea (with or without a nip of rum or whisky), all provided by the local community. The rest of the day was spent back at the caravan park, with most people opting to catch up on missed sleep because the imminent rain arrived and was solid until around 4.00pm. After afternoon tea/happy hour we enjoyed a communal dinner around the campfire.

After raining most of the night Wednesday morning saw the rain clear and we all drove into Bridgetown to the Cidery for lunch, which



was very good but they only had instant coffee so we

went to the Barking Cow for coffee, and some even had sweets. The evening was spent keeping warm around the campfire.

On Thursday morning Helen closed the rally and Jerry and Deb went home while the rest of us went to the mine lookout and

then we had a picnic at the Greenbushes Pool (nobody went for a swim). After afternoon tea/happy hour we had a sausage sizzle around the campfire with drinks and stories to finish off a very successful rally.

*Written by Brian Bizzill*

## **ATTENDEES MARANUP RALLY**

ATTENDEES: Syd and Jacquie Adams, Robin and Di Ashford, Chris and Linda Back, Brian and Helen Bizzill, Jerry and Debra Curchin, Doris Freind, Roy and Maureen Lundy and our new members Jack and Deanne Muir.

## **CELEBRATIONS**

### **Birthdays**

#### **May**

15<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Ken

18<sup>th</sup> Jackie Adams

25<sup>th</sup> Barry Jordan



### **Wedding Anniversaries**

Sharon and Rod Burge 11<sup>th</sup> May



**GNAALA MIA RALLY, DRYANDRA WOODLAND**  
**18-22 May 2023**

Dryandra is situated 164 km south-east of Perth and 20 km north-west of Narrogin. Signposts to Dryandra are located on the Albany Highway at North Bannister and on the Great Southern Highway at Cuballing and Narrogin. No services, drop toilet, camp kitchen, nearest dump points are Wandering, Boddington and Pingelly. **Campfires available, please bring firewood.**

Stop at the Information Board to collect payment slip and envelope. When you pass Information Board turn left into Loop 1 which has the best sites. Arrive early to get a good site, no bookings are available.

**Thursday, 18 May**

4.00 pm Afternoon tea  
5.00 pm Happy hour  
6.00 pm Gather around with own meals

**Friday, 19 May**

8.30 am Walk with Barry  
9.30 am Tai Chi with Master Brian  
10.00 am Morning tea  
11.00 am Committee meeting  
3.30 pm Afternoon tea  
5.00 pm Happy hour and opening of the rally  
6.00 pm Communal barbecue – BYO everything  
7.00 pm Turtle Race – thanks to Colin Muir  
8.00 pm Quiz and chocolates

**Saturday, 20 May**

8.30 am Walk with Barry  
9.30 am Tai Chi with Master Brian  
10.00 am Meet for convoy to Old Mill Dam for morning tea (BYO)  
4.00 pm Afternoon drinks and happy hour  
5.45 pm Meet for convoy to Baana Mia for Nocturnal Tour

**Sunday, 21 May**

9.30 am Morning tea and closing of the rally  
Noon Lunch – Duke of York Hotel, Federal Street, Narrogin  
5.00 pm Happy hour followed by communal meal (BYO everything)

# 18<sup>th</sup> National Caravan Rally Report. Sandgroppers Caravan Club



The representatives for the Sandgroppers Caravan Club, Ian and Beth Moore and Glenda Olesen left Perth on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, meeting at the Lakes and travelling to a free camp at Southern Cross. They then travelled to Ceduna over the next four days with free camps at Southern Hills campsite, Drystone Wall, Bunda Cliffs and a paid site at Madura Pass in-between.

They enjoyed eleven days on the Eyre Peninsula, staying in Streaky Bay, Coffin Bay, Port Lincoln and Cowell. Then on to Port Augusta and the Flinders Ranges, staying at Rawnsley Station and enjoying a flight over the Wilpena Pound. Then on to Peterborough, Burra and Cobdogla before the National Rally at Barmera on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

The weather for the arrival and set up was quite damp but the local clubs had marshals at every corner and street captains to guide you into place. They later acknowledged that their system had been developed from the excellent effort from the 2019 Albany Rally. The National Rally was opened on Monday evening by Chairman John Anderson and State and local politicians and Mayors of the district, this was accompanied with local cheeses and wines and entertainment. The major sponsor for the rally was Adelaide RV. Over the next eight days the time was filled with ladder golf, disc bowls, photography, quilting and sewing, guest speakers on caravans and travelling, caravan safety and street breakfasts and happy hours. Various tours had been arranged.

Ian and Beth did a Murray River cruise on a 100 year old paddle steamer and another full day winery tour and visit to Maggie Beer's kitchen shop and stops at scenic points overlooking the Barossa valley. They and Glenda also did self- drives through the Riverland and found numerous Silo Art sites.

WA was represented by the highest number of clubs at 18 and 53 vans with some only one or two vans [Red Gum, Sandgroppers]. Some of larger groups, Australind Happy Wanderers [9 vans] and Freedom Caravanners [6 vans.] The Australian Touring RV club had 6 vans and were on their way to Tamworth for their clubs national rally.

The entertainment each night was good and varied but the evenings were cool and hard for the acts to keep many people through to the end.

The rally ended on the Tuesday evening with a happy hour, closing speeches and handover to NSW clubs for the 19<sup>th</sup> National Rally to be held in Mudgee in 2025. The 2028 20<sup>th</sup> National Rally is in Victoria in Bendigo.



Following this a hot tasty dinner was served, table row by table row at four buffet stations for over 700 people whilst being entertained by a fellow traveller, singer and raconteur who is roaming round Australia doing shows and collecting funds for charity.

He set out in a decrepit old caravan which fell to pieces, then a tent then sponsored by Adelaide RV with a new van. All, with a young wife and a baby born on the road.

Being a milder night there was singing and dancing till late.

Wednesday was sunny and vans were leaving in an orderly manner from 7am through to late morning. The local police slowed the traffic from 100kmh to 60kmh. Channel 40 was hot and blue with lots of suggestions from the truckies about where to put your caravan.

Our travellers then set off for Victor Harbor and six days over Easter to stay with Glenda's friends in their back yard with power and water. Someone had not thought about a caravan park being booked out at Easter. Glenda was staying on for a few days then solo travelling through Victoria and beyond to visit some of her many cousins.



Ian and Beth headed north to Adelaide to the last unpowered sites available. Someone once again did not know the mega round of AFL was playing that weekend and school holidays started. Thankfully he had booked ahead for three nights in the Barossa. They are roaming the York Peninsula and heading home the last weekend of April. Here endeth the report.



Silo Art Tumby Bay



Rawnsley Mount Wilpena



Bunda Cliffs



industry paddle steamer



Mouth of the Murray



Oyster Shack, Ceduna