



# GROPER'S GOSSIP



Sandgroper's enjoyed a tour of Albert Facey's historic homestead at Wickepin.

The small wheatbelt town of Wickepin was a great choice for Sandgroper's Easter Rally as a small group of locals has worked very hard to beautify their town. It shows in the tidy streetscapes, historic walkways and quirky artworks dotted around the town. Read venue officers Cindy and Sharon's fun filled report on the rally in this month's issue.

Also inside is very important information on our next rally with Redgum at Wannamal in May. It will be all hands on deck for this joint rally so please print off the Program if you are attending so you are up to speed with all the activities and catering planned. It promises to be lots of fun. See you there!

- In this issue:
1. President's Report
  2. Wannamal Attendees
  3. Wickepin Rally Report
  4. Program for Wannamal
  5. Sandgroper Celebrations for April/May

## 2021 SANDGROPER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Emergency phone numbers for member's families to contact during rallies:

Helen Bizzill – President 0417 913 050, Cheryl Kent – Vice President 0477 474 115, Di Young – Secretary 0419 911 775 and Sharon Burge – Treasurer – 0414 259 962



President  
Helen Bizzill



Vice President  
Cheryl Kent



Secretary  
Di Young



Treasurer  
Sharon Burge



Membership Secretary  
Ian Moore



Committee Member  
Helen Schell



Committee Member  
Roy Lundy



Committee Member  
Cindy Jordan



Committee Member  
Alan Kirby

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APRIL 2021

The Easter rally at Wickepin was an absolute delight. Everyone over indulged in hot cross buns and chocolates, and Sharon prepared a great Friday night meal of fish burgers and coleslaw, which was very well cooked by the barbeque volunteers. Barry and Rod both proved to be excellent leaders for the morning walk, and our tour of the Albert Facey homestead, the railway station and the town hall were all very interesting. A special thanks to Chris Back for organising a tour of Steve Martin's farm which is a big sheep and grain growing enterprise, and Steve kept us all paying attention with a great description of life on the farm, with particular interest being shown in the toy shed with around \$3 million worth of massive farm equipment.

New members, Colin and Noelene Muir, were welcomed into the club at Wickepin. Sadly at the rally Frank and Jan Alilovic advised me that Wickepin would probably be their last rally with the club. Whilst they feel they are still able to do their annual trip to Carnarvon for a few months, they are finding that the shorter four-day rallies are proving to be a bit challenging. We will be sad to say goodbye to Frank and Jan and wish them all the best for the future.

Similarly, Alan and June Foote have resigned from the club, finding that the arrival of their new grandson in Tasmania and their annual stay in the northwest for some months are not going to leave much time to participate in club activities. We hope that their future travels bring them much joy and happiness.

We are looking forward to the next rally at Wannamal Hall which is a joint rally with Redgum and which looks like being a lot of fun.

Safe travelling,

Helen

**Wannamal attendees:** Chris & Linda Back, Robin & Di Ashford, Colin & Linda Haig, Jerry & Deb Curchin, Jill Ambrosius, Alan & Lynne Kirby, Jim & Helen Schell, Doris Freind, Graham & Cheryl Kent, Roy & Maureen Lundy, Brian & Helen Bizzill, Rod & Sharon Burge, Chris & Di Young **Visitors:** Syd & Jacqui Adams, Cameron & Denise Caldwell. If your name doesn't appear here and you are attending please advise Brian at [brianbizzill@gmail.com](mailto:brianbizzill@gmail.com) asap. Likewise if you aren't coming and your name is listed please let Brian know. Thank you.

**Wickepin Easter Rally**  
1st - 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
Venue Officers: The Committee  
organized by Rod & Sharon Burge and Barry & Cindy Jordan

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>:** Vans rolled into Wickepin in the afternoon, with Helen & Brian's help we were able to fit 12 vans into an area set up for only 6. Power boards were doubled up and hoses snaked everywhere. It was a cuddly get too know your neighbours feeling. Everyone was in high spirits in anticipation of a fun filled if not caramel filled weekend.



**Walkers trapped in the local artworks.**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>:** The morning started with Rod taking a group for a walk around Yarling Brook Heritage Precinct while the resident emu posed for photos. Master Brian held the Tai Chi with his usual mesmerizing style. Barry and Cindy rolled in just in time to share the Hot Cross Buns, kindly warmed up by Sharon. We made short work of the buns after spreading on lashings of butter.

Helen welcomed new members Noelene and Colin Muir into the Sandgroppers family and made visitors Denise and Cameron Caldwell feel welcome joining us for a second time, some people never learn, ha ha!!

In the afternoon Linda Back gave the girls lessons on playing Bridge, which was much appreciated. Afternoon tea was a sumptuous affair followed by Happy Hour and the opening of the rally.



**Helen welcomes Colin and Noelene into our club**



**Sharon and Rod preparing fish burgers for tea.**

Dinner was Fish and Coleslaw burgers, lovingly created by Sharon and Rod. These were greatly enjoyed as was evident by the empty platters, I suspect they may have been licked clean.

Barry called a mean Bingo game, he had lots of assistance from the resident barrel girl Cheryl. Luckily we were not playing for sheep stations and had many small winners, Chris Y, Brian (twice), Chris, Rod, Sharon, Denise, Janice & Lynne but the BIG winnings, a \$7 jackpot went to Chris B.



**Bingo Winners!**

**Wickepin Attendees:** Frank & Jan Alilovic, Kevin & Thelma Forbes, Jim & Helen Schell, Graham & Cheryl Kent, Brian & Helen Bizzill, Barry & Cindy Jordan, Rod & Sharon Burge, Chris & Di Young, Chris & Linda Back, Peter & Mary Neale, Alan & Lynne Kirby.  
**Visitors:** Colin & Noelene Muir, Cameron & Denise Caldwell

**Saturday 3rd:** 8am Barry & Rod led us on a Wildlife Tour. We saw the local friendly resident emu that decided to up her game and not only posed for photos but sent us on our way by pooping for us. We all said we hadn't seen an emu poop before, oh what sheltered lives we have led.

Master Brian again led us in an exhilarating Tai Chi session. Morning tea was a relaxing event followed by a committee meeting. Sadly for us the Youngs had to leave soon after the meeting to return home and share Easter with their loved ones. At 2.30pm we all arrived at Albert Facey's homestead and were able to check out a little piece of history for a mere \$2 pp. Some of the things I found fascinating at this venue were the old dunny and the meat safe. Of course Graham had to test the dunny out and we have proof. If you look closely at the photo you will see Graham straining to give us a chance to get a good shot of him in action.



We then walked to a large hall near the war memorial. Inside the hall were many photos showing past and present changes to the town. We then walked to the local and had a beer, wine or coffee and the boys played pool.



**Pool shark Chris B.**

Happy hour was fun time with lots to chat about. We followed this with a bbq and a lovely assortment of salads on beautifully set out white tableclothed tables all set up in a long line, the long table. Cindy and Barry held an Easter Quiz with chocolate eggs as prizes.

**Sunday 4th:** Rod and Barry took us on a Gnome tour, oh the many many gnomes we saw, good gnomes, bad gnomes, naked gnomes, dead gnomes in a cemetery.

We then drove convoy style to Steven Martin's farm, thanks to his friend Chris B. Steven is a new member of parliament & a very down to earth person who happens to own and run a large farm. He proudly presented his new toy, a GPS satellite controlled sprayer piece of machinery.

Then walked us up to a huge shed and patiently explained how some of his extremely overlarge expensive machinery worked.



We then all drove to another area on his property where Steven joined us and we made ourselves comfortable with a hot drink when quite unexpectedly two Easter bunnies with big white ears and cute little baskets filled with chocolate eggs hopped around handing the eggs out, Thanks to Rod and Barry. Oh! What a treat! Many thanks to Chris B for organizing this interesting and unusual special tour.



Easter bunnies bearing eggs.

We returned to the caravan park and were in for a truly special treat. Mary had graciously brought along fabric, bees wax & an iron. She held a fabric covers making class where we all got to participate and take home our projects. This was a lot of fun, a very special treat, many thanks Mary.

While the girls were having fun with Mary the boys had a serious meeting, well they are serious about their beer!! Happy Hour was a relaxing time, with a poem and joke read out by Helen S, a few others got into the act and told some more jokes. Barry read out a Wickepin Quiz and barrel girl (Rod) handed out the rewards. We all had dinner at own leisure.

**Monday 5th:** We had Morning tea and close of Rally, President Helen sadly announced that long time members Frank and Janice Alilovic had decided to resign form the club as they were finding that it is getting more difficult to attend short rallies. We will miss their company but all wished them well for the future and we may see them attend as Associate Members.



Ladies workshop



Sad farewell to Frank and Janice



Prize winners Barry and Cindy

After morning tea all the vans rolled out except for the Schell, Kirbys, Forbes & Jordans. Our group of 8 set off convoy style to see Taarbin Lake near Toolibin. Sadly not a drop of water to be seen. We then went to Harrismith and had a picnic lunch in a nice park that had a wildflower photo display. We popped into the Harrismith pub for a drink and a chat to the locals. Very interesting hearing about all the local sport teams. We returned to camp had a few quiet drinks and retired for a good nights sleep now all the rowdy crew had left.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>:** The Forbes rolled out first. The Schells took the Jordans to the local weigh station to show us how to sneak in and use the weighbridge while no one is watching. No surprises for guessing the Kirbys were the last to get moving, it's nice to not be rushed isn't it Lynne? Ha Ha!! (Written by Cindy and Sharon)



The Stayers



Enjoying a picnic near Toolibin.

**PROGRAM FOR**  
**WANNAMAL JOINT RALLY WITH REDGUM REBELS**

**THURSDAY 6 – SUNDAY 9 MAY 2021**

The rally location is the Wannamal Hall and Oval located on the **left-hand side** of the Bindoon/Moora Road (Route 116), approximately 54 kms north of the Great Northern Highway/Bindoon Moora Road junction. This is an “off the grid” rally with no power or water (so please fill your tanks), however toilets are available in the hall. Site cost is \$5 per van per night, payable in cash to Sharon Burge.

**Thursday, 6 May** Arrive and set up at your leisure.

5.00 pm Happy hour

**Friday, 7 May**

8.30 am Morning walk

9.30 am Tai Chi with Master Brian

10.30 am Morning tea

3.30 pm Afternoon tea

4.30 pm Happy hour in the hall. Nibbles provided by Sandgroppers and Redgum.

5.00 pm Joint Redgum/Sandgropper opening of the rally

6.00 pm BYO communal dinner

7.30 pm After dinner activities organised by Redgum

**Saturday, 8 May**

8.30 am Morning walk

9.30 am Tai Chi with Master Brian

10.30 am Morning tea and Redgum’s “Houghton Hoarders” Swap Meet. Sandgroppers welcome to purchase items for a small donation

2.30 pm approx. Inter-club disc bowls

**Italian Theme evening – dressing up is optional but strongly encouraged**

4.30 pm Happy hour in the hall. Nibbles provided by Sandgroppers and Redgum.

6.00 pm Dinner in the hall



**Please note: Mains and desserts with an Italian theme will be provided by both clubs and Sandgropper members will have already been advised of what they are requested to bring along.**



**Buon Appetito**

After dinner the Redgum Rebels band will entertain you, so bring along your dancing shoes!

**Sunday, 9 May**

9.30 am Joint closing of the rally and morning tea.

## SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

05 Ian Fullerton  
23 Brian Bizzill

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

15 Frank & Jan Alilovic  
18 Jim & Helen Schell  
26 Colin & Linda Haig



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

05 Ken Messenger  
07 Laurie Tyler  
15 Cheryl Kent  
25 Barry Jordan

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

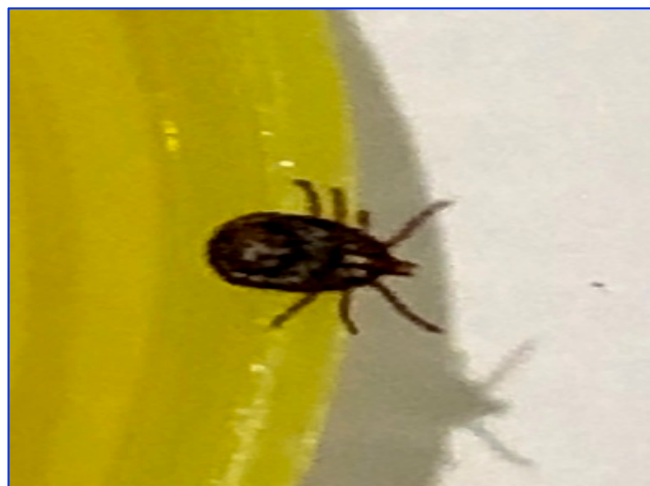
11 Rod & Sharon Burge  
26 Graham & Cheryl Kent



Not happy! Lynne with her much loved broken step.



Very happy! Cameron with his much loved engraved Finska trophy.



Barry and Cindy brought home an unwanted hitchhiker from Wickepin. One of the joys of country living!