

# GROPER'S GOSSIP

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## **SANDGROPER MISSION STATEMENT**

We aim to develop a good social club encouraging friendship among all caravanners.

We aim to promote lawful interests of Club members and to simulate the invention and adoption of equipment for the purposes of good caravanning.

We aim to promote the advantages of caravanning for recreational and social purposes

## ***SANDGROPER CARAVAN CLUB COMMITTEE 2016-2017***

<i>President</i>	<i>Brian Bizzill</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Roy Lundy</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>David Hiscock</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Alan Parkinson</i>
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	<i>Brian Adams</i>
<i>Rally Coordinator</i>	<i>Ian Moore</i>
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Kel Olesen</i>
	<i>Janet Curow</i>
	<i>June Foote</i>

# **Coming Events**

**Rally at Darkan 202 km south-east of Perth**

**11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> August**

**Venue Officers Margo Nicoll & Ian Fullerton**

**This Park has recently been upgraded with all facilities being renewed. Powered sites are \$16 per night - as this is a Shire Park, payable to the Treasurer in cash.**

***Driving Instructions:***

***From Williams turn right into Williams-Pinjarra Rd, left into Williams-Darkan Rd. At the junction with Coalfields Hwy turn right - The caravan park is 700 metres down the road, left hand side.***

***From Collie drive straight through along the Coalfields Hwy to Darkan. The caravan park is 700 metres on the right prior to the junction with Williams-Darkan Rd.***

***The caravan park has been renovated with great facilities. There are 10 powered sites with double concrete pads, 10 on grass. A dump point has been added.***

***The camp kitchen has microwave, gas hotplates and a large fridge. Outside the kitchen is a covered verandah with a large gas bbq. The area is enclosed on two sides - Ian will take his large tarp and block off the other side to break the wind. Just outside this area is a metal fire pit with plenty of wood.***

***Darkan itself is a small town with few shops. There is an EziWay food store, hotel, small cafe/bookshop, Gull roadhouse and sports complex.***

**CORROW CARAVAN PARK**

**22<sup>ND</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 (Long Weekend)**

**CAMP GRACE CARAVAN PARK**

**19<sup>TH</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> October (One Week Block)**

***Please book on line for the rallies***

## **RALLY ATTENDEES for DARKAN**

*Graham & Clelia Gough (5 nights)*

*David & Janet Currow (4 nights)*

*Alan & Rheta Parkinson (4 nights)*

*Ted & June Bunce*

*Ian Fullerton & Margot Nicoll (4 nights)*

*Ian & Beth Moore*

*Gerry & Margaret Kerrigan (4 nights)*

*Laurie Tyler & Roz (4 nights)*

*Kevin & Thelma Forbes*

*Ian & Natalie Kessell*

*Visitor: Jean-Paul Samuelson*



### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:**

<b>Geoff Savage</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Allan Foote</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Margaret Johnson</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
<i>David Hiscock</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Margaret Kerrigan</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Kel Olesen</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Brian Morris</i>	<i>31st</i>

### **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

<b>Ted &amp; June Bunce</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Gerry &amp; Margaret Kerrigan</b>	<b>21st</b>



*Happy  
Wedding  
Anniversary!*

**DARKAN RALLY AUGUST 11 - AUGUST 15 2016**  
**DARKAN CARAVAN PARK, COALFIELDS HIGHWAY**  
**SITE FEES \$16 PER NIGHT (CASH)**

**PROGRAM**

**Venue Officers Margot Nicoll and Ian Fullerton**

**THURSDAY** *Arrive, set up*

*4.30 pm Happy Hour*

*6.00pm BYO dinner, perhaps toast marshmallow on the open fire or cook a jaffle?*

**FRIDAY**

*9.30 am Morning walk - check out the town and sporting complex*

*10.00 am Morning tea and opening of rally*

*Afternoon free time*

*3.00pm Afternoon tea*

*4.30pm Happy hour*

*6.00pm Drinks and fellowship at the Sporting complex*

*6.30pm Dinner will be served - 2 course meal \$25 per head. Local ladies will be the acting chefs*

**SATURDAY**

*9.30 am Morning walk*

*Visit Rarebits on Burrowes, coffee/gift shop plus the local op shop. Both being opened specially for us.*

*1.00 pm Carpet bowls being run for us by the local Seniors Group - gold coin donation.*

*4.30pm Happy Hour*

*6.00pm BBQ on verandah followed by games (Beetle) and Australian Trivia*

**SUNDAY**

*9.00am Communal breakfast*

*9.30am Morning walk*

*10.00am Markets in The Shed (on Railway Reserve) Morning tea is served*

*11.00am Picnic lunch at Six Mile Cottage. 10km on Darkan-Quindanning road*

*3.00pm Afternoon tea and closing of rally*

# On the Way to Canberra

## Report from Maureen Lundy

Three caravans left Bindoon rally heading for the National rally in Canberra. It was a chilly morning as Kel and Glenda, Brian and Helen and Roy and Maureen started the trip up the Great Northern Highway.

Our 1st stop was Nalbarra station . It was bitterly cold so with the use of the station owners trailer, Kel and Brian were able to collect plenty of wood for us to have a roaring fire .The owners Karen and John invited us to the homestead for afternoon tea with home made banana pancakes and pumpkin scones. It was a interesting afternoon learning about life on a station.

After 2 nights there we move further North . We had an unplanned overnight stay at Meekatharra as the rain had settled in and the flooded roads ahead were a cause for concern. The mud around the caravan Park was unbelievably slippery .We spent the evening having a few wines and a game of cards. However the weather improved by morning and we were able to carry on our journey. Our destination was Newman about 412 k s away the bit of flooding over the road was of no great concern.

Arrived at Newman about 3 o clock on Thursday, tired after 6 hrs traveling. Just shopped and washed on Friday . A lovely meal at a nice restaurant finished our stay there. Indee station was the next stop. It was a busy place with the Indee 500 Motor bike race was being held there so there were lots of campers noise and dust . Happy hour was at the homestead complementary of the stations owners. Helen cooked a lovely roast to celebrate Kel and Glendas 50 th wedding anniversary . After one night we were happy to move on.

The weather was starting to improve as we go further north to our next destination, Eighty Mile beach. It was good to catch up with Trina and Geoff who were there when we arrived..They moved on to Broome the next day for fridge repairs .The wind was a bit of a problem for the guys fishing plans . They did manage to get enough fish for a meal for the 6 of us. Kel did a great job as the cook . We had a relaxing 5 days and nights . With the wind still very strong we made our way to Barn Hill. There we met up with June and Alan foote who were staying at Barn Hill for a few months. The 5 nights and days went by very quickly with walks, games and fishing just to name a few of the things we were occupied with. Kel caught



a lovely big fish, Brian a few small ones . Once again Kel with help from Alan managed to feed 8 of us with his lovely fish. The weather was really warming up as we made our way to the Roebuck Roadhouse caravan park. The trip into Broome was for a food and stock up and lunch at the pub.



The trip drinks

Unfortunately Kel and

Glenda experienced a problem with

fridge and stayed in Broome to wait for a part .The Bizzills and Lundys carried on where we had 2 nights at Lake Ellendale free camp then on to Fitzroy Crossing where we had arranged to meet Ronnie and Brian Adams. On leaving Fitzroy we stopped at a free camp, Little Panton River, before we reached Kununurra. After the fridge

part did not arrive as hoped, Kel and Glenda have caught up and are



now organising the repairs at

Kununurra. Sunday we will be moving on into the NT to continue our journey.



## TRAVELLERS - NOLA & MIKE STEIN

We left Bruce Rock in heavy rain but once we arrived at Kalgorlie it was cold but pleasant. Across the Nullarbor the weather was perfect, cold but just like spring with the flora changing all the way.

We stayed only a day in Port Augusta and then onto Broken Hill, 3 days, very interesting. On to Cobar Dubbo, Armidale Warwick, then to Somerset Lakes, very lovely.

We are now at Bribie Island, catching up with Mike's cousins also an old school friend of mine. We leave here on Sat for Hervey Bay, Yeppoon, Mackay, Airlie Beach. We will then stay at Twin Waters with a friend for awhile catching up with the mob at Coolum etc.

We are having a great time with no hic cups. The weather just perfect. Happy Hour very welcomed every night!! Whilst we have been away we have welcomed into the world our great grandson called Rocco.

## **FROM THE ALICE – SCHELL/HALSE**

*We left on Tuesday and camped in Dowerin the first evening. All sorted and up through Trayning to Merredin. Camped at McMahons and tried out the fireplace. Very nice. Weather was cool but ok. Then Coolgardie to Norseman and the Eyre Highway. The sunsets are beautiful as we go. Up early and away towards Canberra taking a detour through the middle. At this stage we hope to meet our son and family who are doing the Connie Sue Highway from Laverton to Rawlina. Unfortunately we are a couple of days ahead of him but he reports on having a good trip even though the weather turned nasty.*

*So we move ahead and onto the Eyre Pennisular. Here the weather catches us too so into a tiny park in Port Kenny and ride it out for a couple of days. The Eyre is quite barren until close to Port Lincoln. Here we stop at Billies Point overlooking the township. Pelicans have made the lamp poles their roosting spot. Fresh fish from the fish monger. Places like Coffin Bay are very pretty and well worth the detour. We cut back through the Pennisular and onto Kimba and Iron Knob. Then Ceduna where we stop for the quarantine check. All ok.*

*Port Augusta and off up the Stuart Highway. Ron is sure we are going uphill all the way. We called into Woomera a most interesting part of our history. Led Beadell did a lot of surveying here for the Rocket Range and had also surveyed the Connie Sue highway where Steven has just been.*

*Back on the road, the weather is cool and the fire great. Our next big stop is Coober Pedy. An ant hill in the mulga. However the drive around the breakaways is stunning. The underground buildings also stunning. The cemetery gives an insight to the different nationalities that made Coober Pedy what it is. All the way up the army has followed. They had war games in the Iron Knob area. Now the weather is warmer although the evenings cool down.*

*Our next big stop is Ayers Rock. Did the sunset visit and the colours are amazing. We had cloud cover which had a great effect. Lots of snapping cameras and people a plenty. The next day we visited again and also went to the Olgas. Had to test out the gravel road back to WA, two hundred metres was enough so back to camp and off again.*

*Alice Springs just up the road (well a few hundred kms). Here we find town very quiet. Many shops have closed. We did a tour out to the East McDonnell Ranges and Hermansburg where the Lutherans had a mission in late 1800s. Thought provoking. Last night we were recommended the Casino for a meal and it was very nice. Today and tomorrow we will take time off before heading north to the Threeways and the Barklay Highway.*

*So have we had any Bloopers. Yep just one or two. Ron did lose the moon, it was dark and rather early when he went to bed and the moon had not yet risen.*

*Me well this morning the plug was in the basin and the washing water managed to flood the van. Jims bloopers, too many to recall here.*

*Cheers from Helen Jim and Ron*

*(Apologies Helen & Ron here's a big blooper but the lovely sunset photos you sent have disappeared into the never never.)*

## **NEALE/FRIEND ON THE WAY TO CANBERRA**

*We finally left on the 18th July, and met Doris on Greenmount hill, onto Bakers Hill Pie shop and coffee, always a must. We stayed the night at Southern Cross due to the super cold forecast, like 2 deg. The park has improved since last there years ago with a lovely new toilet block and a new area with 6 power posts for 4 vans.*



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*Onto Fraser Range for 2 nights, cold and wet. Great around the fire pit also the roast pork dinner we had. Couldn't do the station tour as it was water logged. Maybe on the way home.*



*Our first free camp, day 4 west of Balladonia, cold and wet, day 5 81 mile, peg after a very wet*



*and windy day, could not even stand up properly at*

*the Bight. The free camp was on the left and sheltered, we managed a drink outside before we headed into our vans. As I write this we are at Nut bush Retreat, having had a great happy hour in the woolshed with several other travellers.*



*We had a look at the Iron Knob museum, which was very good, free entry, free coffee, free film and it would have been free mine tour but we picked the wrong day.*

*Prior to that we stayed at Ceduna so we could wash and shop, with last night at Kyancutta at a free camp near the general store.*

*We are travelling well, using the 2 way to keep in touch, and love being on the road, we seem to have a free camp every 2nd day. Tomorrow it is to Woomera and for us it is all unknown territory.*

*Happy and safe travels to all of those on the road.*

*Mary Peter and Doris*