

# 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 Currow</i>
	<i>June Foote</i>





## **BODDINGTON CHRISTMAS RALLY**

**24<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**Report Prepared by Ian and Beth**

*Well the forecast was 'some warm weather for the weekend' which was certainly delivered. It was in a word HOT!*

*The Boddington Caravan Park is well situated by the Hotham River and within an easy short walk into town. There are good facilities and a spotless ablutions block.*

*Most attendees arrived on Thursday with the remainder arriving on Friday.*

*Fellow attendees included Alan and Rheta Parkinson, Frank and Janice Alilovic, Brian and Betty Morris, Kevin and Thelma Forbes, Brian and Mary Wales, David and Paula Hiscock, Ian and Beth Moore, Roy and Maureen Lundy, Ted and June Bunce, Graham and Clelia Gough, and Ron Halse. Visitors were Jean-Paul Samuelson, Jenny and Philip Shea, Chris and Dianne Young. In total 16 vans*

*Tai Chi was enjoyed by a small number of slightly rusty members including the Tai Chi master and many very friendly flies.*



*Brian Bizzell opened the rally at Friday morning tea, during which Brian also mentioned that Brian and Betty Morris had recently celebrated sixty years happily married and showed a local newspaper clip with an interesting article and photo of the couple. Alan Parkinson enjoyed making a presentation to Brian by handing over responsibility for the defibrillator, this was promptly passed to Roy Lundy as Brian will not be at Pinjarra New Year Rally. This was followed by a committee meeting at 11am.*

*A communal BBQ was enjoyed on Friday night, followed by games. A boisterous game of "Left, Right and Centre" was enjoyed by all during which Rheta delighted us with her yummy Christmas truffles and other sweet delights. The eventual winner of the pot was Brian Bizzell.*

# Merry Christmas

*Saturday was fairly hot but Father Christmas made an appearance in the afternoon and distributed presents after some Christmas carols. One of Santa's helpers made sure there were some presents for a couple of neighboring children who were very happy to see Father Christmas.*



*Saturday evening saw us at the Boddington Hotel for Christmas dinner. The tables were decorated with tinsel and crackers and a lovely meal was enjoyed by all. Two bottles of wine donated by the Hotel Management were raffled and won by Brian Wales and Alan Parkinson - amid many calls that it was rigged.*

*On Sunday, some members were returning home due to family commitments. Brian and Helen Bizzell, Kel and Glenda Oleson were still on their way home from their travels to the Canberra National Rally.*



*The rally was closed in the morning. The winners of the Christmas decorations were David and Paula and Roy and Maureen. The rally prizes were won by Ted and June and Brian and Betty.*

*The picnic planned for Tullis Bridge was cancelled due to the very hot*

*conditions, the site being unsuitable and the resultant lack of enthusiasm. Most retired to air-conditioning in the vans and emerged later for more socialising when it became a little cooler.*

***BLOOPERS:*** *While packing the van for the rally the man of the house was asked to put a bag of food into the freezer. Somehow it made its way into the rubbish bin instead. There was one rather annoyed wife when she discovered the planned dinner for the evening was missing. Luckily there was a back-up plan, to the local shops they went.*

*Another enjoyable rally.*

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$4,000 per month. □

My grand-dad started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is! □

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people I don't like. □

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again. □

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing... □

Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate. □

I do have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them. □

The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll look at you there in the coffin and say, 'Well, he looks good doesn't he.'

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years - just getting over the hill.

□ We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it. □

Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a pub with a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

## *PRESIDENT'S REPORT*

*After 5 months on the road it was great to get back to WA. Helen and I spent 6 days down in Pemberton on the way to the rally just to relax and unwind. On our way up from Pemberton we called in to visit with Mike and Nola and found them both well and heavily involved in their village life, Nola has become the President of the social committee.*

*We arrived at Boddington at about lunchtime Thursday to find several vans already set up. It was really great to catch up with friends we haven't seen since we left Perth for the National Rally all those months ago. By Friday everybody had arrived and most people set about decorating their vans for the Christmas decoration competition. I opened the rally at happy hour on Friday and I think it was probably the longest opening on record with just about everyone having something to say, with the highlight being our congratulations to Brian and Betty Morris celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*

*The meal at the hotel was as usual good country pub fare and I think value for money. This year the winners of the van decorating were David and Paula ( daytime ) and Roy and Maureen ( night ).*

*I was disappointed that only 13 member vans out of 27 attended this year's Christmas rally. If anyone has feedback about why we had so few vans I would be happy to hear from you.*

*The club was sorry to receive resignations from Greg and Margaret Johnson and Mike and Nola Stein. I'm sure everyone wishes them well and I have assured them that they are more than welcome to re-join the Club if they wish to in the future.*

*It is probably timely to remind everyone that if you have to cancel after the rally co-ordinator has submitted the number of vans attending a rally to the caravan park management it is your responsibility to notify the caravan park as soon as possible.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year and we'll see you at Binningup.*

*See you on a road somewhere*

*Brian*





### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Mary Neale	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Jim Schell	10 <sup>th</sup>
Alan Kirby	13 <sup>th</sup>
Merle Burn	21 <sup>st</sup>
June Foote	22 <sup>nd</sup>

### **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Geoff & Trina Savage      30th



Happy  
Wedding  
Anniversary!

### **RALLY ATTENDEES for PINJARRA** **29<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY**

Frank & Jan Alolivic  
Graham & Clelia Gough  
David & Pula Hiscock  
Ian & Beth Moore  
Brian & Mary Wales  
Alan & Rheta Parkinson

Ted & June Bunce  
Ron Halse  
Roy & Maureen Lundy  
Brian & Betty Morris  
Kel & Glenda Olesen

#### Visitors

Jean-Paul Samuelson  
Philip & Jenny Shea  
Henry & Helma Gaelinga

# Coming Events

[4]

**29<sup>TH</sup> Dec - 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan**  
**January 18<sup>th</sup>**

**PINJARRA NEW YEARS RALLY**  
**Club Picnic at Piney Lakes Bateman**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>**

**Binningup Caravan Park      157 Km**  
34 Portland Drive BINNINGUP

*Binningup is a coastal village with a scenic golf course at Lakewood Shores. A main beach is protected by a reef running parallel to it. The town contains a store, caravan park, skateboard park, recreation centre, youth camp, a public library and a public oval.*

*A [desalination plant](#) in Binningup provides Perth and surrounding areas including Mandurah, Kalgoorlie and Bunbury with drinking water*

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Manjimup Caravan Park      300 km**  
**Long Weekend**

*Manjimup was named the [Noongar Aboriginal](#) words "Manjin" (a broad-leafed edible [reed](#)) and "up" (meeting place, or place of).<sup>[3]</sup> Manjimup was first settled by timber cutter Thomas Muir, who took up land near the present town site in 1856. It was declared a town in 1910, and a railway from Perth was completed in 1911.<sup>[4]</sup> Timber is the town's major industry, but it has been joined by fruit and vegetable farms, dairy farms, [wool](#), [grain](#) and [vineyards](#).<sup>[4]</sup> The [Cripps Pink](#), otherwise better known as the [Pink Lady apple](#) was created in Manjimup in 1973 by [John Cripps](#) of the then-named Western Australian [Department of Agriculture](#)<sup>[5]</sup> and the trademark is now used on products across four continents.<sup>[6]</sup> Manjimup used to produce frozen [French fries](#),<sup>[7]</sup> and had a lucrative [tobacco](#) industry that ended in the 1960s.<sup>[8]</sup>*

*Answers given by 2nd year school children to the following questions:*

*Why did God make mothers?*

- 1. She's the only one who knows where the Sellotape is.*
- 2. Mostly to clean the house.*
- 3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.*

*How did God make mothers?*

- 1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.*
- 2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.*
- 3. God made my mum just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.*



## **OUR MONTH IN TASMANIA**

*Today is Monday the 28th November and we are back where we started on the 31st October. We are at Latrobe for 2 nights until we catch the Spirit of Tasmania back to Melbourne.*

*We have done over 3000kms so far with most of it done on winding, rough and narrow roads. It was lovely to hit the highway this afternoon, we could actually do the speed limit.*

*Well we have seen a great deal, along to Stanley and all points in between. To Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake, all in very low cloud, oh well. To Devonport and Launceston where we did the Tamar Valley cruise, rather good and a reasonable afternoon.*

*We even tracked down an old family friend 93 yo in Burnie who knew Peters mum. We were having coffee at Somerset, just along from Burnie and I asked about Elliott where Peters mum grew up, got talking to someone who has been in the area for years and that's how we found our friend.*

*After Latrobe we headed for Zeehan which was in between Strahan and Queenstown, did the Gordon river Cruise and the wilderness railway from Queenstown.*

*People warned us of the 99 bends out of Queenstown, glad we did not have to return that way! Onto Derwent Bridge and to The Wall where we spent several hours looking at the masterpiece there, just wonderful.*

*We went on to Lake St Claire, but covered in mist and full of mossies so we moved on to Bronti Park, a disused hydro camp. We wondered what have we got here (trailer trash Helen?) turned out to be a well organised camp for fishermen. A good chalet and an even better pub where we had dinner with a couple of female travellers.*

*It was Hobart here we come, thank goodness for the GPS though sometimes she has ended up on the floor in sheer frustration. We stayed at Barilla park at Cambridge just about 10 km from the city and about the same from Richmond which is a historic town, with a great bakery, ice cream, lolly shop and little shops.*

*From here we did the MONA, Bruny Island, Port Arthur, Mt Wellington on a clear day, Richmond a few times and the Salamanca markets. We did not do the Huon valley, we just couldn't face the roads anymore so we had a rest day or two.*

*From Hobart to Coles Bay for 3 nights. On the second day we did the cruise around to Wineglass Bay, a lovely day but a rough trip. The next day we stayed in the van, it rained from the night before to the morning we left.*

*Onto St. Helens, a lovely spot, a great feel about the place. We took a picnic out on Saturday, overcast so not the best of looks. Went out again yesterday, what a difference a day makes, the photos were so different.*

*So here we are back to Latrobe, I am sure we have missed a few places, we have enjoyed our time here, it is truly a beautiful place.*

*We are looking forward to heading home, it will be 5 months away by the time we get there, a week before Christmas.*

*Mary and Peter Neale*