



# GROPER'S GOSSIP



Sandgroper's certainly celebrated in style New Years Eve in Pinjarra. Read all about it in this issue.

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## 2023 SANDGROPER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emergency contacts: Helen Bizzill 0417 913 050, Cheryl Kent 0477 474 115, Lyn Mitchell 0409 202 470



Helen Bizzill  
President



Cheryl Kent  
Vice President



Lyn Mitchell  
Secretary



Di Young  
Treasurer



Ian Moore  
Member. Sec.



Chris Back  
Com. Member



Jacquie Adams  
Com. Member

(Please note correct email addresses if you wish to connect secretary Lyn at [sandgroppers@outlook.com](mailto:sandgroppers@outlook.com) or treasurer Di at [sandgroppers.treasurer@outlook.com](mailto:sandgroppers.treasurer@outlook.com))

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JANUARY 2023

Happy new year to all. I hope you had a memorable Christmas and a great New Year. Brian and I visited the Pinjarra rally as day visitors on the Friday and it looked like things were gearing up for a great rally to ring in the new year. Of course, with Graham and Cheryl in charge that was never in doubt. We understand that New Year's Eve itself was very successful with a good number making it through to the midnight countdown – well done! It was nice to welcome our first visitors in a long time – Jack and Deanne Muir – and I believe they enjoyed the rally and are hoping to join us in Peppy Grove Beach.

Next get together is the Club picnic on January 19, followed by the Peppermint Grove Beach rally on February 2 with Doris, Glenda and Jill acting as your venue officers. It sounds like they are preparing a fun filled rally program, including the annual Finska Championship.

The amount of rain which has impacted our Kimberley region has been unbelievable; hopefully the assistance needed will be reaching those who need it most, and the urgent repairs to roads, bridges and communities can commence as soon as the water levels allow.

I am sad to advise our longer-term members that Ron Halse passed away recently. Ron and his wife, Margaret, were well regarded members of the Club over many years and we extend our sympathy to Ron's family.

Enjoy the summer weather and spending time in the great outdoors.

Stay safe,  
Helen

### UPCOMING RALLIES

**JANUARY 19 2023 Note** about our picnic on Thursday January 19 at J.H. Abrahams Reserve Hackett Drive Crawley. If you are unfamiliar with the area please use Google maps. From Mounts Bay Rd turn into Hackett Drive towards Matilda Bay, driving past both Matilda Bay Restaurant and the Royal Perth Yacht Club, J.H. Abrahams Reserve is on the left about 300m past Australia II Drive. The club banner will be up (hopefully). There is no need to register for the picnic, just turn up from 11.30am. It's BYO and there is a BBQ available. Cheers, Brian

**FEBRUARY 2 – 5 PEPPERMINT GROVE BEACH** 48 Peppermint Grove Road, Peppermint Grove Beach. (0439 737 791)  
All services, mini golf, tennis courts, pizza night. Venue Officers: Glenda, Doris and Jill. Reg. attendees: Adams, Allens, Ambrosius, Ashfords. Bizzills, Curchins, Fattis, Freind, Haigs, Lundys, Mitchells, Moores, Muirs, Olesen, Schells, Youngs, Visitors: Jack and Deanne Muir.

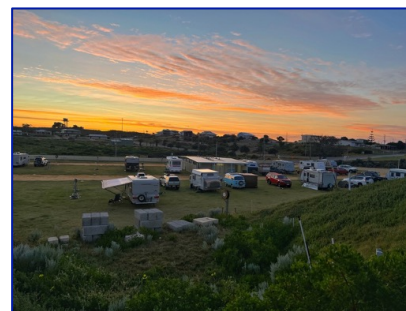
**MARCH 9 – 12 SEABIRD TAVERN & CARAVAN PARK** 44 McCormick Street, Seabird Western Australia (9577 1010)  
All services. Venue Officers Chris and Di Young



J.H. Abrahams Reserve Crawley



Peppermint Grove Beach



Seabird Caravan Park



**NEW YEAR'S EVE RALLY REPORT**  
**Pinjarrah Holiday Park 29 December 2022 – 2 January 2023**  
**Venue Officers – Graham and Cheryl Kent**



Pinjarrah Holiday Park was a terrific spot to see in the New Year as it has lots of shady trees, a spacious camp kitchen for our celebrations and a laidback country atmosphere after all the Christmas hype. It was great to settle in, sit back and catch up on everyone's news. The chatter and laughter on Thursday night at Happy Hour continued right through to ten o'clock when the last Sandgropers shuffled off to bed. It set the tone for the whole weekend.

The walking group on Friday morning was the largest we have had as we set off on Graham's Magical Mystery Tour around the farm. It was a mystery because we didn't know where we were going and magical because we found our way back unscathed. Nevertheless it was a great way to start the day communing with nature and burning off some calories to make way for morning tea. More Christmas cake anyone?



**Picnicking under the shady gum trees.**



**Running repairs of the apparatus.**

At lunchtime we picnicked on site under the shade of the towering gum trees where we could watch the ladder golf championship in relative comfort. Di Y and Graham were overall winners narrowly beating reigning champ Chris B and his partner Denise. It was all very good practice for everyone, as the Ladder Golf World Championships will be held at Seabird in March. Royal Boxes can be reserved at great expense with Chris Young. BYO picnic hampers, champagne and strawberries and cream. Hopefully the club's ladder golf set will stay in one piece unlike this weekend's effort when it buckled under pressure from an over zealous toss by one of the contestants who will remain nameless. Brian Bizzill is doing some repair work before the major championships. Fingers crossed all will go well.



**Ladder golf championships in full swing.**



President Helen and Brian joined us for the day as they had a prior engagement for New Year's Eve and couldn't attend the entire rally. At the opening of the rally Helen formally welcomed our visitors Jack and Deanne Muir who are friends of Colin and Noelene Muir (no relation). It was great to see all Sandgropers make the effort to ensure our visitors felt very welcome and we lived up to our reputation of being a very friendly and hospitable Club. Well done and thank you everyone.

Our brain cells were tested after our leisurely dinner and the reward of chocolates helped jog our memories of what happened during 2022. How quick we forget. We learnt that the 'word' of the year according to the Macquarie Dictionary is 'teal' after 10 independent candidates were elected into our Federal Parliament in May and according to the Chinese Zodiac, the tiger was the 2022 animal of the year and it is the rabbit for 2023. CODA won Best Picture of the Year and only our substitute chocolate fairy Di Y knew the answer. The competition was very spirited but I am pleased that everybody shared the choccies



**The suspension bridge in Pinjarra**



**Exploring the historic Edenvale precinct.**

Saturday saw fewer walkers front up but from all accounts another enjoyable walk around the farm took place. With the absence of Master Brian and no Tai Chi, most people were happy to do their own thing after Morning Tea. A group went into Pinjarra to walk through the fantastic Edenvale precinct with its beautifully restored historic buildings and stroll along the Murray River, which is spanned by an iconic suspension bridge. Pinjarra certainly has so much to see and do but an absolute highlight was the Pinjarra Bakery where the homemade pies and cakes are legendary. Nanna Naps were required by most when we returned to camp to rest up for the night's festivities.



**Visitors Jack and Deanne**



**Di and Chris Young**



**John and Sue Moriarty**



**Linda H, Graham & Doris**



**Sandgropers all resplendent in black and white to set the scene for the evening's festivities**



Our celebrations go into full swing a 6.00pm for Happy Hour where everyone was resplendent in their black and white attire. The yummy nibbles were devoured before sitting down under the magnificently strung fairy lights to a BBQ dinner where our Sandgroper ladies excelled themselves once again with a variety of tasty salads followed by a tantalising array of desserts. It was our last feast before our dieting promises came into force as New Year resolutions.



**Dining under the fairy lights with a magnificent sunset in the background.**

After the tables were cleared and the dishes done we were divided into four teams to play a hilarious game called Salad Bowl. The game is divided into three sections and team members race against the clock to guess the words listed on slips of paper. The charade section of the game had us weeping with laughter as Chris Y tried valiantly to act out 'cactus' to no avail and Colin M was absolutely stumped with 'pinnacles'. All in all it was a great way to while away our time before our Claytons New Year at 10.00pm.



We decided to bring forward the celebration by two hours as last year we struggled to go the distance. A few took the opportunity to toddle off to bed after the party poppers had popped but the majority stayed till midnight. Our octogenarians Roy and Maureen refused to budge and said they can't remember ever missing seeing in the New Year and weren't about to start now. That threw down the gauntlet for the rest of us and we had a wonderful time listening to some old favourites on Di's phone. Lonnie Donegan was a huge hit with 'My Old Man's a Dustman' and 'Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavour on the Bedpost Overnight'. Ah! They don't write them like that anymore. ('Thank God!' I hear most of you say).

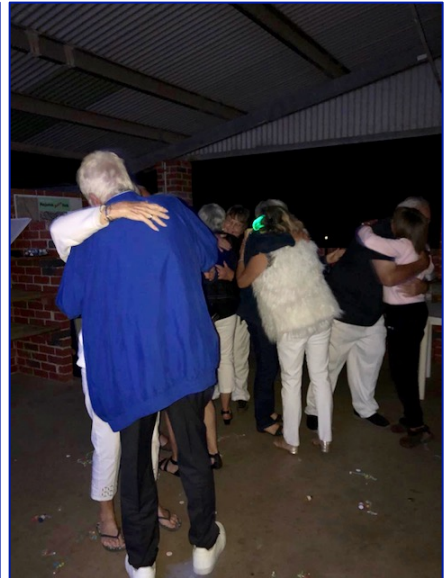
Midnight came and it was a déjà vu moment as we all celebrated once again with lots of hugs and kisses and heartfelt best wishes for 2023. The chilly weather sent us all off to bed much to the relief of the surrounding campers but all agreed it had been a terrific evening and a great way to welcome the new year. Let's hope it is a safe and happy one worldwide.

**Left: Party animals Roy and Maureen**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**





**The Celebrations continue!**

Sunday morning started off a bit slow but it was all hands on deck once again to prepare for our Champagne Breakfast. Everyone was assigned a task and at the close of the rally it was Action Stations! as we all pitched in to cook up another very enjoyable feast.



**Fruit prep.**



**Close of another great Rally.**



**BBQ boys - Barry and John M.**



As I was standing in for President Helen I was delighted to close the Rally after a few formalities and the drawing of the Rally Prize. Our visitor Deanne drew out lucky number 3 with Chris and Linda Back winning some handy travel packs donated by Jim and Helen Schell. We then sat down to our cooked breakfast and noted that the noise level increased as the champagne kicked in. It concluded another fantastic rally with everyone joining in true Sandgroper style. It augurs well for the year ahead. Happy New Year everyone!

Cheers and best wishes,  
Cheryl and Graham Kent

Rally attendees: Allens, Backs, Caldwells, Freind, Haigs, Jordans, Kents, Lundys, Moriartys, Muirs, Olesen, Schells & Youngs, Visitors: Jack & Deanne Muir



**MORE PHOTOS OF THE RALLY**



**Old friends – Glenda & Maureen**



**Jim in long pants!**



**New friends – Laraine & Sue**



**Cheryl, Laraine, Deanne, Maureen & Noelene**



**Magical Mystery Tour Walkers**

**SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023**

**January Birthdays**

- 02 Sue Moriarty
- 05 Chris Young
- 06 Linda Haig
- 28 Beth Moore
- 30 Jerry Curchin
- 31 Deb Curchin
- 31 Maureen Lundy

**January Anniversaries**

- 26 Chris & Linda Back



**February Birthdays**

- 11 Glenda Olesen
- 11 Chris Back
- 14 Peter Neale
- 20 Di Ashford

**February Anniversaries**

- 01 Lyn & Ron Mitchell
- 15 Laraine & John Allen
- 28 Helen & Brian Bizzill

**Things to ponder as you age (from our very own octogenarian Roy Lundy!)**

The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54, the originator of gymnastics died at the age of 57, the past world bodybuilding champion died at the age of 41 and the best soccer player in history, Maradona, died at the age of 60.

And then KFC inventor died at 94, inventor of Nutella brand died at the age of 88, cigarette maker Winston died at the age of 102, Hennessy cognac Irish inventor died at 98 and the inventor of opium died at the age of 116 in an earthquake!

**How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life?** The rabbit is always jumping, but it lives for only 2 years and the turtle that doesn't exercise at all lives 400 years. **So . . . Have a drink, take a nap, and if you wake up, have bacon and eggs!!**



## PEPPERMINT GROVE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Venue Officers:

Jill 0416 484810 - Glenda 0417 970154 - Doris 0419 551397



**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** - Please Note: Check-in time must be after 1pm otherwise the park manager will direct you to wait in the overflow area until 1.00pm. No activities planned today

3.00 pm Afternoon Tea

5.00 pm Happy Hour followed by dinner at your leisure

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

8.30am Walk

9.30am Tai Chi with master Brian

10.00am Morning tea, then free day for visiting nearby beaches and surrounds

11.00am Committee Meeting

2.00pm Finska Tournament - Heats, Afternoon Tea then Final

5.00pm Gather at Sandgroper Central for Happy Hour and Opening of the Rally. Tables required please.

6.00 - 6.45pm Wood fired Pizzas on site. Email from Di Young re: menu will be sent to all Monday 30<sup>th</sup>  
PLEASE PHONE - Peppermint Grove direct with your order by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> afternoon  
0439 737 791 Gluten Free option available

7.30pm Left Right and Centre games

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February

8.30am Walk

9.30am Tai Chi

10.00am Morning tea

11.00am Busselton Underwater Observatory Tour

OPTION 1 - TOUR - This entails return trip by train out to the end of the Jetty for Underwater Observatory Tour. Adult \$37.00 Senior \$33.30. Contact [jillambrosius@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jillambrosius@yahoo.com.au) for bookings by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Thank You.

OR OPTION 2 - Take the train out and go snorkelling to see the great coral on the pylons, marine creatures and more. Find your own way back. . Lunch at your own leisure.

3.00pm Afternoon tea

5.00pm Happy hour and presentation of Finska Perpetual Trophy

6.30pm Joint BBQ. Bring own meat. Shared Salads and Desserts

8.00pm Quiz

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am Closing of the Rally      11.00am Mini Golf

