



GROPER'S GOSSIP



Panoramic view over Peppermint Grove Beach.



Sandgroper's vied for the Perpetual Finska Trophy over two days at Peppy Beach.

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2021 SANDGROPER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emergency phone numbers for member's families to contact during rallies
Helen Bizzill – 0417 913 050, Cheryl Kent – 0477 474 115, Di Young 0419 911 775



President
Helen Bizzill



Vice President
Cheryl Kent



Secretary
Di Young



Treasurer
Sharon Burge



Chris Back
Committee Member



Ian Moore
Membership Secretary



Lyn Mitchell
Committee Member

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2022

The Peppy Grove Beach rally was a great success and everyone seemed to enjoy it, with three days of sunny and warm weather and then a change on Sunday to cooler conditions with some rain. It was agreed that a rally would be booked for the same time next year. Well done Sharon and Rod for organising the weekend and congratulations to Jim Schell for winning the annual Finska trophy. Great to catch up with Frank and Jan for happy hour on Sunday.

As many of you know, Di Young had a major shoulder replacement operation on 10 February which Chris advises went well and her recovery is also going well. Her full recovery could take between 6 and 12 months and I am sure all Sandgroppers join me in wishing her all the best during that time.

While Di is recuperating, Lyn Mitchell has stepped up to act as Club Secretary and can be contacted via sandgroppers@outlook.com with any enquiries. Thank you, Lyn for taking on this extra task.

Thanks to everyone who has responded to my email about their vaccination status which will hopefully allow the Club to better plan activities and gathering places as we move through the next stage of the pandemic in WA.

Not being an expert in technology, I recently tried to set up a mailing list for club members which didn't achieve what I thought it would. If you received an email inviting you to join the Sandgroppers group, please ignore it. More tuition needed for me ☹️

I hope everyone stays safe and well and look forward to catching up at Guilderton. We will not be attending the rally but will hopefully call in for a day visit.

Cheers, Helen

UPCOMING RALLIES

FEB 24 -28 GUILDERTON (see page 8 for all details)

MAR 31 – APR 4 MIAMI HOLIDAY PARK 617 Old Coast Road Falcon. (9534 2127) All services, on the Estuary. Miami Bakery Venue Officers – Robin & Di Ashford

APR 28 – MAY 2 TOODYAY HOLIDAY PARK 188 Racecourse Rd Toodyay (9574 2534) All services, Moondyne Festival Venue Officers – Colin & Noelene Muir with help from Graham & Cheryl Kent.

JUN 9 – JUN 13 SERPENTINE FALLS TOURIST VILLAGE 2489 South West Hwy Serpentine. (9525 2528) All services, Serpentine Falls, Millbrook Winery, bushwalks. Venue Officers required please.

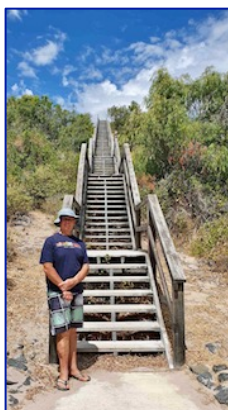
Peppermint Grove Beach Rally
3rd to 7th February 2022 - Reported by Sharon Burge



A truly summer Rally! Great beach weather to greet us on Thursday afternoon, as all but 2 vans arrived along with the Bizzills, Schells and Wales in cabins. 'Sandgroper Central' proved to be a flexible concept since it was based on where we could get maximum shade for gathering. Thursday's happy hour was next to the Burge's van to start.



The weather was perfect for early morning beach walks.



The very energetic Ron and Lyn climbed the steep stairs to the Lookout where the view was spectacular.



Friday commenced with a walk to the beach and back led by Rod and joined by John & Anna of Redgum who were also at Peppy Beach for a rally. Then it was Tai chi with Master Brian. After morning tea it was off to the beach for some and into Busselton for others. Doris bought a Chromecast while in Busselton so started the lessons by Rod on how to setup and use it. Of course when Rod was missing he could be found in our van with a few eager learners or in Doris's van working on the Chromecast, or Kent's van setting up TV/Air conditioner and then Glenda's van setting up TV. The resident handy technician.

Finska tournament heats started after afternoon tea and 'Sandgroper central' moved to the lawn behind the Camp kitchen, since it was the shadiest. The heats were won by Peter Fatti and Helen B, Chris Back & Jim, Brian B & Graham.



Pizza delivery boy Ron.



President Helen opened the rally



Enjoying our pizzas in idyllic conditions.



Venue Officers – Rod & Sharon

Moving Sandgroper Central back to the site originally marked for the Bizzills until they were caravanless, we had happy hour and set up in readiness for pizza. As the pizzas arrived thanks to Rod & Ron who collected them, we all managed to share and enjoy them all at the same time.

The Australian Quizzes started while we still had plenty of light to see the pictures. We managed to keep Chris Y away from the chocolate prizes so there was plenty to go around. It was a very late evening for a few who gathered at the Haig's van and managed to continue to almost 11.30 pm.

Saturday started with another beach walk and Tai chi, again with visitors from Redgum. A busy afternoon with Finska Final won by Jim Schell, 8 members gathered for ukulele practice, and Glenda organised a game of Rummikub.



2022 Finska Champion Jim showing how it is done.



Accepting his trophy



Our newly formed ukulele group was joined by some Redgummers for a jam session.



Saturday evening started with a wonderful selection of nibbles with drinks for Happy hour, followed by a smorgasbord of salads to go with the BBQ.

The casual seating arrangement was a hit with everyone and after the desserts were enjoyed most people sat around in the small intimate groupings to enjoy conversation and good company for the remainder of the evening

The joint morning tea was a great catch-up with our friends from Redgum.



Yummy spread as usual.



Sandgropers enjoying alfresco dining in balmy conditions at Peppy Beach.

Sunday commenced with Close of Rally, before 21 Sandgropers went to 'The Deck' in Port Geographe for lunch. It was a great meal, many saying they will be back. While we enjoyed lunch the weather took a turn for the worst, it was raining and very strong winds so awnings became first priority when we all arrived back at camp. The afternoon was quiet since most stayed in their caravan out of the weather. Happy hour saw us all gather in the spacious cabins' camp kitchen. When more than 20 people try to find seating together a spacious area can become very crowded and very loud, but still a lot of fun which seemed to be the theme for the whole weekend.



President Helen closed the very successful rally.



Rally prize winners - Thelma & Kevin



A last hoorah in the camp kitchen for Happy Hour.

Attendees at Peppermint Grove Beach: Syd & Jacquie Adams, John & Laraine Allen, Jill Ambrosius, Robin & Di Ashford, Chris & Linda Back, Rod & Sharon Burge, Cam & Denise Caldwell, Peter & Cheryl Fatti, Kevin & Thelma Forbes, Doris Freind, Colin & Linda Haig, Graham & Cheryl Kent, Roy & Maureen Lundy, Ron & Lyn Mitchell, Ian & Beth Moore, Colin & Noelene Muir, Peter & Mary Neale, Glenda Olesen & Chris & Di Young.

In on site cabins: Brian & Helen Bizzill, Brian & Mary Wales and Jim & Helen Schell.

Rally expenditure:	Accommodation	2280.00
	Dining/liquor/food	1192.80
	Fuel	87.00
	General expenses	61.30
		\$3621.10

Surfboard Memorial to a Capel Legend.

After enjoying a pleasant beach swim, Club members Cheryl, Graham, Glenda, Ron and Lyn were walking back to the car park when they discovered a surfboard memorial dedicated to a person named Steve Rice.

It turned out that Steve Rice was a Capel local who was sometimes called "The King of Capel." Sadly, he passed away unexpectedly on 23 June 2014 at the age of 60 while surfing with his mates at the beach that we had been swimming at.

In 1976, Steve and his brother Garry, who were originally from Kogarah, Sydney, headed off on a working/surfing trip of a lifetime visiting Mauritius, Madagascar, Africa, Europe, the UK and Canada before coming to WA in 1978 and settling in Capel.

Steve and Garry joined Peter Mercer Surfboards in Capel to learn the art of surfboard construction. Both brothers married local girls and set up their own local surfboard workshop called Sealines Fibreglass. Steve also spent 18 years working as a volunteer with the Capel Bush Fire Brigade.

Following Steve's death, hundreds of local surfers and community members joined together for a paddle-out at his favourite beach to celebrate his life and to honour his long-standing service to the local community. (By Lyn Mitchell)



Ron, Glenda, Cheryl & Graham at the memorial on the beach with Lyn behind the camera (again!)

SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS - FEBRUARY & MARCH

February Birthdays

- 09 Brian Adams
- 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



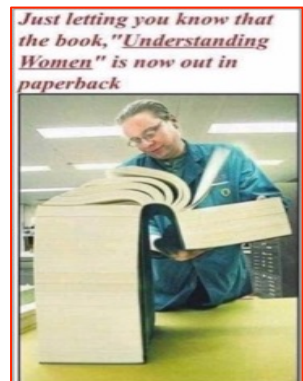
March Birthdays

- 16 Mary Wales
- 18 Di Young
- 23 Paula Hiscock
- 24 Robin Ashford
- 25 Brian Wales

March

- Anniversaries**
- 06 Noelene & Colin Muir
 - 21 Di & Chris young

For Valentines Day let's celebrate the difference between the sexes. Hope you have a laugh.



Guilderton Holiday Park

Guilderton 08 9577 1021

2 Dewar Street Guilderton, WA

Thurs 24th to Mon 28th February 2022

Venue Officers:

Alan 0400 017 946 Lynne 0400 017 951

Jim 0427 778 871 Helen 0417 170 698



PROGRAM

Thur. 24th Feb Early arrivals set up
5.00pm Happy Hour
6.30pm BYO/Cook Communal Dinner.

Fri. 25th Feb 8.30am Walk
9.30am Chill out and read papers etc.
10.00am Morning Tea
11.00am
Ladder Golf (16 players in pairs make for a handy Quarter/Semi/Final match make up.)
3.00pm Afternoon Tea

5.00pm Happy Hour. Opening of Rally

6.30pm BBQ or Dinner of you choice followed by Quiz

Sat. 26th Feb 8.30am Walk
9.30am Tai Chi if possible.
10.00am Morning Tea (Ladder Golf trophy Presentation)
3.00pm Afternoon Tea
5.00pm Happy Hour

6.30pm Curry Night (please coordinate with Helen S re curries and desserts)

7.30pm History Lesson

Sun. 27th Feb **9.30am Close of Rally.** Departure by 10.00am for those going home.

Attendees listed on the website 14th February: Jim & Helen Schell, Colin & Noelene Muir, Glenda Olesen, Roy & Maureen Lundy, Laurie Tyler, John & Laraine Allen, Jill Ambrosius, Ron & Lyn Mitchell, Rod & Sharon Burge, Chris & Linda Back.



THINKING OF BECOMING A VENUE OFFICER?

It is hoped that every Sandgroper has a turn at being the Venue Officer for our rallies. It is not a difficult task and help is always at hand from senior members of our club who will mentor you through the duties required. The main aim is to ensure that each rally is an enjoyable, friendly experience for everyone and to enhance the fellowship between club members.



If you are considering being a Venue Officer the first thing to think about is choosing a rally location that you feel comfortable in hosting. We now have all positions filled for 2022 (except Serpentine Falls) and our Rally Co-ordinator Brian Bizzill brianbizzill@gmail.com has worked out a fantastic list of locations for us to visit in 2023. When it is published, scan it and choose a venue that you would like to host. Record your interest on the website and let Brian know. It is not vital to have visited the location before as it can be fun researching the area in the months before the rally although a site visit is very helpful to check out the facilities first hand to report back to our members and to draw up a program for the rally. No point having a games night if there is no large covered area or the camp kitchen is too small to accommodate a casserole night.

Arrange a flexible program of activities that you think members will enjoy. The only compulsory requirements for members to attend are the opening of the rally at 5.00pm on Friday evening and 9.30am on Sunday morning for the close of the rally. It is hoped that you organise an evening activity for the Saturday night of the rally. Check out reasonably priced restaurants and pubs in the area that are close by and can cater for large groups. Casserole and BBQ nights are always popular followed by games and quizzes. The treasurer, upon presentation of your receipts, can reimburse prizes you purchase up to the value of twenty dollars.

Gather as much information as you can by liaising with the local Shire Office for information about what is available regarding points of interest, suggestions on walks, tours, drives and picnic sites. There maybe an event happening in the town on the weekend our club is visiting which may be of interest to our members.

When you have worked out your program, forward a copy to the President helenbizzill@hotmail.com and upon receiving approval, forward a copy to the Gossip editor Cheryl Kent agcmkent@bigpond.com to send out to all members at least two weeks before the rally.

After the rally, write a report on the highlights of the weekend, with photos if you have them, and forward to the Gossip editor for inclusion in the next month's issue. Again it needs to be at least two weeks before the next rally. Please also include a list of attendees and guests. Some suggestions for activities to assist you if you are contemplating putting your hand up are:

Inside: Board Games, Card Bingo, Left, Right, Centre, Quiz night, Memories – my first job, caravan, car etc, Travels – members tell of a favourite trip in their caravan, Christmas in July, Meal at local hotel, bowling club, CWA etc, Soup Fest, Italian night, Mexican Night, Bush Poets Breakfast or a Singalong.



Outside: Campfires, Disc Bowls, Tai Chi, Finska, Lawn Bowls, Beach walks, Town Walks, Heritage Trails, Fish and Chips on the beach, Garden Tours, Country Shows and Music Festivals

As mentioned before, the main aim of our rallies is to have fun and provide an enjoyable experience for our members and that includes the Venue Officers! There is always someone close by to give you a hand and we encourage you to do your homework and give it a go. It is great fun and you are doing your bit for the club.

Cheers, Cheryl