



GROPER'S GOSSIP



CHRISTMAS IN JULY IN QUAIRADING

The Sandgroper Rally to Quairading looked like so much fun thanks to Venue Officers Cindy and Barry Jordan who were ably assisted by Denise and Cameron Caldwell. There were blue skies despite the gloomy weather forecast and everyone remained dry. Read all about the shenanigans in Cindy's report.

There were 12 vans at Quairading which was a great turnout considering it is winter and a lot of Sandgroperers are up north escaping the dismal weather in Perth. Graham and I are in sunny Broome along with approximately 65,000 other tourists. There have been a lot of cancellations due to lockdown in most of the Eastern States but all the caravan parks have their 'No Vacancies' signs out and all the accommodation is chockers as West Aussies discover our own beautiful state. We are in no hurry to return to waterlogged Perth.

Also in this issue, read Lyn Mitchell's very interesting report on Quairading's links with the Lone Pine of Gallipoli fame. The town received a seedling when it was 10cm high and it is now over 6 metres, honouring the fallen in the Quairading region. *

It is great to see new members Chris and Linda Back stepping up to be Venue Officers for Lake Towerinning. Judging by the program they have prepared it looks like it will be another fabulous rally. Pack your woollies and join in all the fun. Chris needs final numbers for the rally by August 13 so please let him know at chrisback1950@gmail.com. So far there are 16 vans registered. Another great turnout.

Hope you enjoy the July issue of the Gossip with all the info it contains. Happy reading and I look forward to catching up with everyone at the AGM in September. Safe travels and keep warm! Ed.

*The Gossip welcomes contributions from members so if you have something of interest you think we would all enjoy please forward it to me for inclusion in future issues. agcmkent@bigpond.com.

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



Membership Secretary
Ian Moore



Committee Member
Helen Schell



Committee Member
Roy Lundy



Committee Member
Cindy Jordan



Committee Member
Alan Kirby

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – AUGUST

The Quairading rally appears to have been a great success, with even the weather being reasonably kind. Great to see all the pictures on our Facebook page, and I particularly liked seeing the Sandgropers' name up in lights for all to see. It sounds like the locals went out of their way to ensure everyone enjoyed their visit. Well done to Barry and Cindy and Cam and Denise for organising such a great rally.

Health Report: I understand that Sharon Burge's hip operation was a great success and as of this morning she was walking around the shops and feeling quite pleased with herself. Best wishes from all your Sandgroper friends.

Ian Fullerton has been in touch with Di Young to let us know that Margot is in hospital and from there she will be going into care. After 18 months of being her full-time carer, Ian feels Margot needs the additional help she will receive in the care facility. Well done Ian, and we all hope Margot settles into her new environment.

Brian and I are heading south after reluctantly leaving Barn Hill. We had overnight stops at De Grey River, Robe River, then five nights at Cape Range National Park. Still sunny but quite windy, and a bit cooler than we have been used to. We will have four nights at Coral Bay before arriving home on 11 August.

We are looking forward to the Lake Towerinning rally in August and Chris and Linda have put together a great rally program.

The AGM is coming up in September when all committee positions will be declared vacant and open for nominations.

Travel safe,
Helen

QUAIRADING RALLY July 22 – July 25 2021

Venue Officers:

Barry & Cindy Jordan and Cameron & Denise Caldwell

We were truly blessed with great weather for our July winter rally at Quairading as the forecast was really dismal. It was terrific to see a great roll up of Sandgroper members with twelve vans attending including Glenda's much-admired new campervan. Most arrived on Thursday with Barry and Cindy arriving early Friday morning. The Wales were snug and warm in a cabin.

Friday morning we set off on the 'Toro Tour', which was a lot of bull! We had a caffeine fix at the coffee van while we admired the spectacular bull statue, which takes pride of place outside the Shire Hall. It was terrific to see the Sandgropers 'Welcome' sign up in lights in the main street, which really did make us feel welcome. The locals were very friendly and went out of their way to make sure we had everything we needed and advised us on shop opening hours etc. We really appreciated it.



Welcome sign in friendly Quairading



Very impressive bull statue



Grand Champion Noelene with runners up

We ventured out to Toapin Weir in convoy for morning tea with the leader only getting lost once! Some brave soles climbed to the top of the dam. We played **Heads & Tails** with Noelene narrowly beating Beth and Jim for the title of Grand Champion.

That evening after Happy Hour and a BBQ tea we gathered around the roaring fire pit where Barry conducted a quiz on all things 'BIG'. We had plenty of laughs and chocolates to share. Ron won the prize in a game of **Pass the Parcel**. Always a favourite.



Saturday morning the usual suspects set off on a walk to spot **Something in Plain Sight**. We found a plane in a front yard and a tiny dunny where we queued up convinced Graham Kent must be inside! (I have it on good authority it wasn't him as he was in Broome with me working on his tan! Ed)



Who has a plane in their front yard?!!



Hurry up Graham! We are busting!

After morning tea we had a lot of fun playing a hotly contested relay game with the winners being decided by the judges, Barry and Cindy. They were the Wacky Racers first, followed closely by Chitty Chitty Bang Bang with the wooden spoon going to the Road Runners.



Gold!



Silver!



Bronze!

That afternoon we played **Barefoot Bowls** at the Quairading Bowling Club. Jim and Helen supplied bowls to those who didn't have their own and gave lessons to the newbies for an hour or so. It helped to make it a lot of fun out on the greens. After bowls we were kindly invited into the Club to watch the game on TV and also enjoy a cuppa with homemade slices and biscuits. It helped to stave off the hunger pangs long enough to last until dinnertime.



Cindy, Denise and Barry reorganised the tables and chairs at the Quairading Club so we could all sit at one long table. Denise brought Christmas decorations and Cindy begged, borrowed and stole Bon Bons to ensure there were enough to go around. It made the table very festive and Christmassy and set the scene for the night ahead.



Christmas in July!



Hat winner – Jester Jordan!

Dinner was a tasty two-meat roast with loads of vegies followed by a lovely apple slice with icecream. Ellie the cook chose Barry as the winner of the best Christmas hat and he won a Bon Bon full of chocolates. We were very impressed with the club and noticed that the drink prices were very competitive. All had another great night of fun and laughter.



Intrepid Sandgropers, dressed in blue, setting off on their Sunday morning walk.

Sunday morning we all assembled in our raincoats with umbrellas ready for the rain, which didn't appear after all, so we enjoyed a lovely walk and stayed dry. At morning tea the rally prize was a lovely warm throw donated by Glenda and the lucky winners were Cameron and Denise. Sharon, who was standing in for President Helen, closed the rally and those who had to leave slipped away with most staying on to have lunch by the fire pit.



Rally prize-winners – the Caldwell's!



The ever-popular fire pit was the place to be all weekend.



After a quiet afternoon where some read books or went for a drive most of the girls played board games like their lives depended on it! Another quiz followed with questions on Quairading and the ever-popular chocolates were once again handed out.

A serious battle of **Beer Pong** had all the competitors crying, laughing and cringing, trying every possible way to get those balls in the cups. In the end Glenda was the winner with Helen in last place. Then Denise and Cam performed some Christmas song charades using lots of trimming.



Guess who won Beer Pong!



The Caldwell's performing Christmas Charades

Monday morning saw the remaining caravans packing up to head back to the real world with Beth and Ian deciding to stay and extra day. Lucky ducks. Another great rally done and dusted. Those who attended were: Barry and Cindy Jordan, Cameron and Denise Caldwell, Ian and Beth Moore, Jim and Helen Schell, Alan and Lynne Kirby, Ron and Lyn Mitchell, Brian and Ronnie Adams, Roy and Maureen Lundy, Glenda Olesen, Jill Ambrosius, Colin and Noelene Muir, Sharon and Rod Burge with Brian and Mary Wales in a cabin.

By Cindy Jordan with thanks to Barry, Denise and Cameron.

SANDGROPER'S CELEBRATIONS - JULY & AUGUST

July Birthdays

16 June Bunce
26 Helen Bizzill
29 John Moriarty

July Anniversaries

23 Kevin & Thelma Forbes
25 Brian & Ronnie Adams



August Birthdays

17 David Hiscock

August Anniversaries

01 Ted & June Bunce
02 Robin & Di Ashford

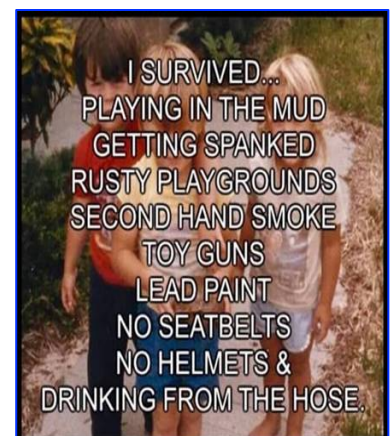
Sandgroper's the following is more reason to **CELEBRATE** for those of us over 65. Read and contemplate.

The population of Earth is around 7.8 billion. However, if you condensed 7.8 billion in the world into 100 persons, and then into various percentage statistics, the resulting analysis is relatively much easier to comprehend

Out of 100:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>11 are in Europe 5 are in North America 9 are in South America 15 are in Africa 60 are in Asia</p> <p>12 speak Chinese 5 speak Spanish 5 speak English 3 speak Arabic 3 speak Hindi 3 speak Bengali 3 speak Portuguese 2 speak Russian 2 speak Japanese 62 speak their own language.</p> <p>31 are Christians 25 are Muslims 16 are Hindus 7 are Buddhists 7 are other religions 16 have no religious beliefs.</p> | <p>49 live in the countryside 51 live in cities</p> <p>77 have their own house 23 have no place to live</p> <p>21 are over-nourished 63 can eat full 15 are under-nourished 1 ate their last meal, but did not make it to the next meal.</p> <p>7 received university education 93 did not attend college</p> <p>83 can read 17 are illiterate</p> <p>30 have access to the Internet 70 can not access the Internet</p> <p>26 live less than 14 years 66 died between 15-64 years of age 8 are over 65 years old</p> <p>87 have clean drinking water 13 have access to a water source that is polluted</p> |
|---|--|

So if you have your own home, eat three meals a day & drink clean water, have a mobile phone, can surf the Internet, and have gone to college, you are in the miniscule privileged lot (in the less than 7% category). Among 100 persons in the world, **only 8 can live or exceed the age of 65** so if you are over 65 years old, be content and grateful. You did not leave this world before the age of 64 years like the 92 persons who have gone before you. You are truly the blessed. Take good care of your own health. Celebrate life and seize the day!



LAKE TOWERINNING PROGRAM
64 Lake Towerinning Road, Moodiarrup WA
Thursday August 16 – Sunday August 19 2021
Venue officers: Chris & Linda Back



Lake Towerinning is a large and beautiful semi-freshwater lake with clean sandy beaches. Nestled amid bush and farmland in the shire of West Arthur, the 265-hectare lake is perfect for water-skiing, kayaking, swimming, bird watching and stargazing. Lakeside Camping is located on a family farm and offers 14 powered campsites on the waters edge with your own beach access and views across the lake to the surrounding hillsides. Lakeside Camping is a unique family-friendly campground 40kms off the Albany Hwy and 240km's from Perth.

Thursday 16 Arrive and set up. No formal activities.
5.00pm Happy Hour.

Friday 17 8.30 Informal walk along the lake.
9.30 Tai Chi with Master Brian (with some new moves learnt on his holiday!)
10.00 Morning tea.
1130 Depart for Darkan (35km away) for lunch at Rarebits Café followed by a conducted tour through the award winning "Betty Brown" museum, which focuses on this rural community and the changing roles of women from pre-wars to the current day.

(Firm numbers for the lunch are needed by Friday August 13. Please email me if you are joining us at the café. Lunch is \$15 a head. chrisback1950@gmail.com.)

5.00 Happy Hour. Dinner is a self catered BBQ and a campfire singalong.
ALL musical instruments and warblers welcome!

Saturday 18 8.30 Walk
9.30 Tai Chi
10.00 Morning tea
2.00 Camp host Graeme and his father will lead a discussion about the lake and the district generally including agriculture and points of interest. Their family has farmed in the area since early settlement.

5.00 Happy Hour and opening of the rally. We will play boules so please bring a set if you have one. There will be a communal spit roast in the evening in the camp kitchen, which is allocated to the Sandgropers. The spit roast will be catered for and a small fee will be advised at a later date. There are also several fire pits and camp host Graeme will provide the wood.

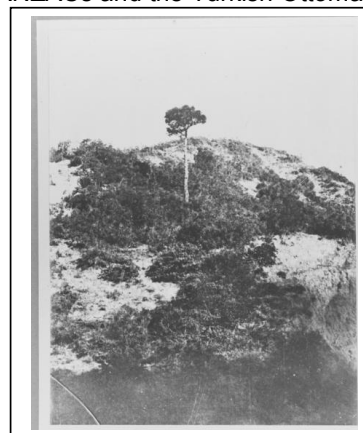
Sunday 19 9.30 Morning tea and close of rally.

Quairading's Very Own Lone Pine by Lyn Mitchell

Quairading is a beautiful wheatbelt town to visit with plenty of interesting and quirky things to discover there. One of the many attractions in the town includes a beautiful pine tree with links back to the famous Lone Pine at Gallipoli.



Gallipoli's original Lone Pine stands on a ridge which overlooked some of the fiercest fighting at Gallipoli. The Battle of Lone Pine was fought between the ANZACs and the Turkish Ottoman Empire forces during the Gallipoli Campaign of the First World War, between 6 and 10 August 1915.



There are two versions of how the Gallipoli Lone Pine seeds came back to Australia. The Quairading signage says a Victorian soldier at Gallipoli, Sgt Keith McDowell, picked up a pine cone and put it in his haversack. He sent it to his Aunt in Warnambool and she grew four seedlings from it, one of which was growing at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. This tree is a Brutian Pine (*Pinus Brutia*). However, in 2012, the tree had to be removed from the Shrine of Remembrance as it was irreversibly damaged by disease. Using seeds from the Melbourne pine, the Quairading pine tree has grown. The Quairading townsfolk received it when it was a 10cm high seeding and it now stands nearly 6 metres high, honouring the fallen from the Quairading region.

However, information from the Australian War Memorial website states that the ridges at Gallipoli had been covered with Aleppo pines (*Pinus halepensis*). The trees had been cleared to provide cover for the Turkish trenches, leaving one solitary pine. After three days of brutal fighting in August 1915, the ANZACs succeeded in capturing the Turkish trenches at a cost of 2,000 Australian lives and 7,000 Turks. After the battle, Lance Corporal Benjamin Charles Smith, 3rd Battalion AIF, collected several pine cones from the branches used to cover the Turkish trenches. He sent them home to his mother, Jane McMullin, in remembrance of his brother Mark, who had died in the fighting. Mrs McMullin successfully raised two seedlings. One was planted in Inverell, where both her sons had enlisted and the other was presented to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to be planted in the grounds to honour of all the sons who fell at Lone Pine.

Either way, Quairading has a War Memorial in its main street well worth a visit and a unique link to the historical Lone Pine at Gallipoli.