



GROPER'S GOSSIP



Sandgroper's listening with rapt attention to winemaker David at Lentedal Winery in Marybrook.

Everyone agreed it was another fantastic Sandgroper's Rally at Southern Stars Caravan Park in Anniebrook. Venue Officers Ron and Lyn Mitchell's program was full of fun and interesting things to do and see and it was terrific that everyone joined in and took part with great enthusiasm (although Nanna Naps were needed after the wine tasting). Read all about the fun and 'games' we had in Lyn's report in this issue. Also inside is our roving President's Report from sunny Barn Hill plus lots more. Enjoy! Cheryl/Editor agcmkent@bigpond.com.au



Tai Chi was very popular.

The fire pit was a huge hit every night.



Horse racing Sandgroper style!

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 - JUNE 2021

The passing of Alan Parkinson was very sad and unexpected, and our thoughts are with Rheta and her family. I spoke with Rheta last week and she is hoping to come along to a rally just for a day trip to say goodbye to everyone. RIP Alan.

It was great to see the photos from the Southern Stars rally posted on the Sandgroper's Facebook page. From the looks of it Lyn and Ron did a really great job organising a varied and interesting list of activities. I liked the idea of our new members giving a short talk about their background, and perhaps this is something to do in the future. Welcome to Syd and Jacquie as our latest Sandgroppers. Many thanks to Lyn and Ron, as fairly recent members, for putting their hands up to run this rally at short notice. Good to see Peter and Cheryl Fatti attending their second rally.

Brian and I have been enjoying our travels up north with almost perfect weather so far. The absolute highlight was our amazing tour to the Horizontal Falls with an overnight stay on the floating pontoon hotel. We are now settled at Barn Hill, one of our favourite places, for six weeks and despite some new conditions we still love it here. Bowls, beach walks, swimming, fishing, market day and joining in with communal activities are keeping us occupied. June and Alan Foote are here, and June has started tai chi classes three times a week, as well as the daily craft get together. Perhaps Brian will have some new tai chi moves to show you when we get back.

Stay well and travel safe.

Helen



Alan and Rheta at our annual picnic in January. They always enjoyed Sandgroper rallies and Rheta has promised to visit a rally near home and bring her "famous" sausage rolls. You will be very welcome Rheta.

VALE ALAN PARKINSON

It was with much sadness that we heard of passing of Alan Parkinson on May 27th after a long illness. Alan and Rheta have been long standing Sandgroper members and their first rally was in Mandurah in November 2007. Alan served several years as a very proficient treasurer and made a great contribution in the successful running of our Club.

He and Rheta caravanned extensively throughout Australia over the years and their last caravan trip was in 2019 up to Darwin and across to Victoria and home. In the past eighteen months Alan has not enjoyed good health and will be sadly missed by all club members.

Due to Covid restrictions numbers were limited for those who could attend the funeral and we are very grateful to Jim and Helen Schell and Kevin and Thelma Forbes for representing Sandgroppers, as they were able to extend our deepest sympathy to Rheta and her family. R.I.P. Alan.

Southern Stars Holiday Park Rally 10 - 14 June 2021.

With the threat of a serious storm warning stretching from the metropolitan area right down the southern coast, we were all fortunate to travel through it without too many issues and to arrive safe and sound at the fabulous Southern Stars Holiday Park at Anniebrook near Dunsborough. The caravan park is only two years old and is spacious with lovely modern facilities. Sundowner drinks on Thursday afternoon were fun with everyone catching up again. Ron and I were first-time Venue Officers so we had our trainer wheels on but we soon got into the swing of how things are done. I gave a brief welcome speech and outlined some of the area's history.



Hosts Lyn and Ron Mitchell

Prior to European settlement, several Aboriginal tribes inhabited the area around Dunsborough. They referred to the area by the name of *Quedjinup*, which means "Place of Women" and that name is still used today for the district immediately to the south of Dunsborough. There is no certainty about how Dunsborough got its name although the popular theory is that it was named after an American adventurer, whaler and sealer named Dunn. Another theory is that Captain James Stirling named it after Captain Richard Dunn who Stirling served under in the Royal Navy.

Although land for a town site was set aside in the late 1830s, Dunsborough wasn't proclaimed until 1879. In the early days, supplies arrived in the town twice yearly when a representative from Fremantle Union Stores passed through the area with his sulky laden with goods. Finally in 1925, Dunsborough got a general store. By the 1950s, Dunsborough's population consisted of about forty families and a primary school was built in 1963. Today, Dunsborough's population is around 5,320.

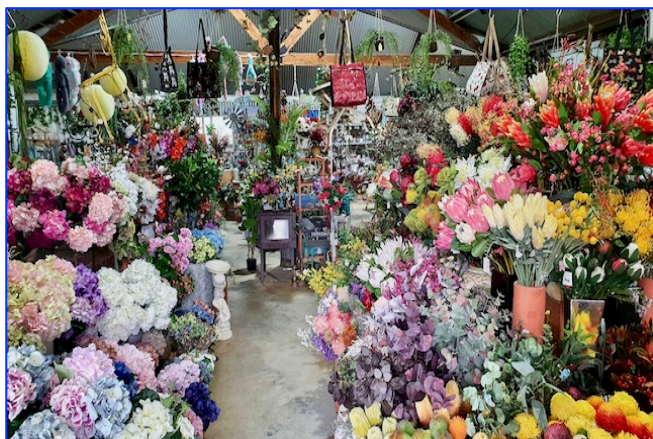
I also told the group about a famous and yet unassuming local named Chris Heyring. In 1989, Chris formed a privately owned company named Kinetic Pty Ltd. He set up a skunk works in Dunsborough to undertake research and development into his idea for a new type of suspension system for 4WD vehicles that could stabilize pitch and roll through corners and would allow extreme axle movement while maintaining near equal loading on all four wheels. In 1999, he sold Kinetic for \$A52 million to Tenneco Automotive, a giant United States automotive parts company. Today, the Kinetic suspension technology is factory-fitted as standard equipment in many 4WD vehicles. Chris also designed the famous concert shell at the Leeuwin Estate Winery to improve acoustics for the annual Leeuwin Concerts.

After drinks and nibbles that night, most Sandgropers headed to their own vans for tea and an early night. Next morning the weather was quite good despite the forecast of rain and storms. At 8.30am I ran my first session of Tai Chi to improve your balance. It went over quite well and it was great to see more male members taking part than the ladies.



At 9.45am, we formed up in a convoy for the short drive to the fabulous Anniebrook Café and Flower Emporium for morning tea. What a lovely little gem of a place it is. If you haven't visited it before, it's worth putting on your bucket list. Their scones, jam and cream are wonderful and the coffees were delicious and hot. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a wander through the amazing Flower Emporium with its huge range of silk flowers, extensive giftware and clothing items

Left: Waiting for our scones and jam and cream. Yum.



Stunning flower and gift display at Anniebrook Café.



Opening of the Rally in luxurious comfort



Cheryl Kent officially opened the rally at 5pm at Happy Hour and also awarded Sandgroper membership to Syd and Jacquie Adams. Jacquie gave a short talk on their background, advising that Syd was a medical scientist and Jacquie had taught microbiology to uni students. They bought their first caravan in 2007 and have had a few upgrades since then. Syd is into tropical fish and enjoys visiting the shop ITechWorld! Jacquie is learning the ukulele and enjoys doing quilting. Jacquie is an old school friend of fellow member Linda Back.

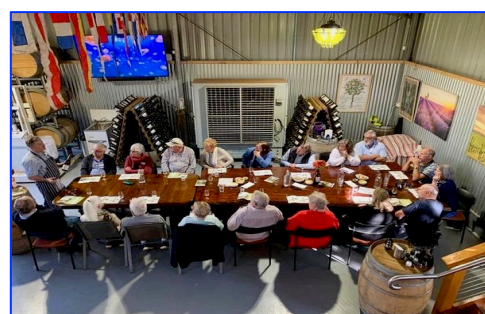
Left: A very warm welcome to Syd and Jacquie Adams.

That night, everyone got themselves ready for the communal casserole tea at 6pm. There was a tasty array of casseroles and desserts on offer and everyone had a lovely meal together in the huge lounge area at the caravan park. After tea, Ron and I donned our homemade mortarboard hats and ran an entertaining Quiz Night for the members



Next day the weather improved even more and I ran a second Tai Chi session at 8.30am. The Jordans, the Caldwells and the Mitchells decided to head off for a drive in the glorious sunshine to visit the Cape Naturalist Lighthouse. The ocean was totally calm and several boats were out enjoying the conditions.

We cruised back via Eagle Bay and Meelup before joining everyone at our wine tasting and luncheon at Lentedal Vineyard and Café in Anniebrook. The Café only opened in January and we were the biggest group that they had catered for so far. Our host at Lentedal was owner David Hann who proved to be a very entertaining and informative wine tasting expert. As our group was so big, we had a lot of fun passing the glasses of wine for the tasting around. We tasted eight wines and learnt a great deal about how they are made and how we should swirl the wine around in the glass to release the flavours and smelling the aroma forms about 80% of the enjoyment of tasting a wine. We all enjoyed pizzas cooked in a wood fire or ploughman's platters for lunch and many members purchased wines to take home.



After that busy afternoon, most people retired for a nanna nap. We got together again at 5pm around the wonderful open fire pit. Although it was a cool evening, the fire was lovely and the weather was very kind with little or no wind. We all did our own thing for tea and then got together again at 7.30pm that evening for the Sandgroper Olympic Games in the lounge area at the caravan park.

The members were broken up into four teams of four people and the Olympic Games consisted of three competitions. Given that at each Olympic Games a new sport is added, Ron and I decided to add the sport of Hitching up the Caravan as it can often be a bone of contention for our members. This was our version of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey" only we had a picture of a 4WD vehicle and the 'drivers' had to pin the caravan to the tow hitch while following their 'spotters' advice of forward, back, left, right etc. Each driver and spotter was wearing a blacked-out Batman and Spiderman facemask. As neither could see, there was much laughter as they tried to pin the caravan to the right spot. Most missed by miles!



The second competition was called the Bucket Brigade. Each team was given a cup with water in it and a teaspoon. They had to get a teaspoon of water out of the cup and put it in a tiny metal bucket and then pass it along to the end person who tipped the water into the end cup. Then they returned the little bucket back along the line and did the process again until the original cup was emptied. It took some doing (without spilling water) and kept the competitors busy for a while.



The third competition was Horse Racing. We had a large set of dice, a plastic tablecloth marked out with numerous squares and each team was allocated a horse with the team number on it. The green dice designated the team horse that could move and the pink dice designated how many squares that particular horse could move. To win, the team had to get the exact number of squares to the finish line. There was lots of shouting and laughter but eventually, Team Three, consisting of Cheryl, Graham, Syd and Jacque were the overall winners on the night.

Sunday morning was a very easy start as several people, including us, had to head for home. All in all, Ron and I thanked everyone for joining in and helping to make the weekend so much fun. We had both thoroughly enjoyed our initial stint as Venue Officers and look forward to catching up with everyone at the next rally. Lyn and Ron Mitchell



The Caldwell's were thrilled to win the Rally Prize kindly donated by Chris and Di Young.

On behalf of all the Sandgropers who attended the rally I would like to thank Lyn and Ron very much for a top weekend. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we really appreciate the time and effort you put into the preparation for the rally. Well done!

Our next rally should be a ripper too with Venue Officers Barry and Cindy together with 'newbies' Cameron and Denise already working hard at ensuring there is something for everyone. Their attached program for Quairading looks terrific. Graham and I will miss it as we head north in early July for eight weeks. Treasurer Sharon will take over the reins in President Helen's and my absence so you will be in safe hands. Have fun! Cheryl K/Gossip Editor.

Southern Star Rally attendees were: Muirs, Allens, Mitchells, Moores, Kents, Jordans, Caldwell's, Neales, Adams (Syd & Jacque) and visitors Peter and Cheryl Fatti.

Quairading Rally attendees at 17 June: Olesen, Adams (S & J), Muirs, Schells, Ambrosius, Lundys, Freind, Mitchells, Kirbys, Moores, Burges. Joint Venue Officers - Jordans & Caldwell's

SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS - JUNE & JULY

June Birthdays

03 Linda Back

14 Ian Moore

27 Lyn Mitchell

June Anniversaries

30 Lynne & Alan Kirby



July Birthdays

16 June Bunce

26 Helen Bizzill

29 John Moriarty

July Anniversaries

23 Kevin & Thelma Forbes

25 Brian & Ronnie Adams

Hello everyone. I hope you are surviving the cold weather without too many aches and pains. Graham and I are heading north for eight weeks in early July to soak up some sunshine and catch up with family and friends. We hope to meet up with fellow Sandgroper along the way. Our Facebook page is a great way of keeping in touch as the following photos show of the Bizzills and Haigs having way too much fun travelling around our beautiful state. It is a private group and only Sandgroper can join. Look up Sandgroper Caravan Club and request to join and I will accept you. In the meantime, enjoy the sunny days and eat plenty of comfort food. Yum! I will keep in touch. Warm regards, Cheryl K/editor



Breathtaking Horizontal Falls



Sea Plane



It's a tough life at Cygnet Bay



The famous camel rides along Cable Beach.



Glorious sunset at Cable Beach.



It's an even tougher life on Cable Beach.



The Bizzills and Footes catching up in Barn Hill. Living the good life!



Kevin's great grandson Dallas is now 4 months old!

QUAIRADING CARAVAN PARK RALLY

62 McLennan Street, QUAIRADING

22nd – 25th July 2021

Please note:

All activities, outings & meals are entirely optional.



Thursday 22nd
5.00pm

Happy Hour

Friday 23rd

9.00am

Walk 'Toro Tour' with Cameron and Denise

10.30am

Morning Tea

2.30pm

Car convoy to Toapin Weir for afternoon tea and then a climb to the top for those who dare!

5.00pm

Happy Hour and Rally Opening

6.00pm

BYO Communal BBQ

7.00pm

Games night *BYO .20c coins for left, right centre

*Remember your Xmas Hat!

Saturday 24th

8.30am

Walk 'Wildlife Safari' with Barry and Cindy

10.00am

Morning Tea

10.30am

Tour the Vintage Club for gold coin donation

2.00pm

Barefoot Lawn Bowls (gold coin donation)
BYO bowls if you can. BYO afternoon tea.

5.00pm

Happy Hour

6.30pm

Christmas in July Dinner. Prize for best Christmas Hat! *
\$25.00 per head (cash only please) Final numbers to Cindy by 30th June please.
cindyandbarry18@gmail.com.au or text on Cindy 0402 112 441



Sunday 25th

8.30am

Walk 'Find Something in Plain Sight' with Barry and Cameron

9.30am

Morning Tea and Close of Rally

10.00am

Tour Station Museum and Tourist Information Centre

3.30pm

Afternoon Tea

5.00pm

Happy Hour

6.00pm

BYO Communal Dinner around the Fire Pit

7.00pm

Games and Quiz Night

*Free fire pit and wood supplied

Monday 26th

9.30am

Quick cuppa before goodbyes!

Venue Officers: Barry & Cindy Jordan (0402 112 441)
Cameron & Denise Caldwell

