



GROPER'S GOSSIP



Sandgroper's picnicking in the sunshine at Duidja Park in Toodyay



Total mayhem at the Inaugural Turtle Race. Read all about it in this issue.

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2022 SANDGROPER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Di Young
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Sharon Burge
Treasurer



Chris Back
Com. Member



Ian Moore
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Lyn Mitchell
Com. Member

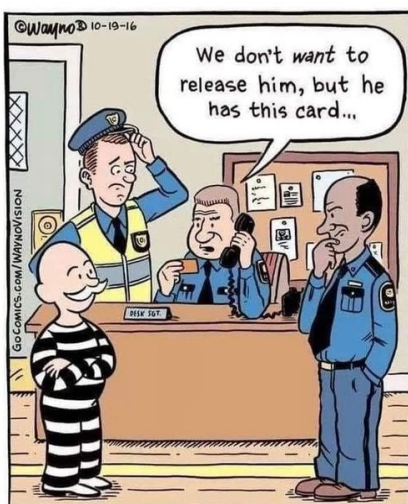
PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MAY 2022

Well done to Colin and Noelene Muir for their first go at being venue officers – what a terrific job they did (with a little help from Graham and Cheryl Kent). The Italian dinner on Saturday night was fabulous and it is hard to describe how much fun was had at the Turtle Races invented by Colin – you really had to be there! Colin put in an enormous amount of work in getting the game together, and whilst it may not have turned out exactly as he imagined, the end result was lots of laughter and a good time for everyone.

Brian and I enjoyed the weekend in our hired van, which was a rather dated 2006 Coromal Princeton, and it was certainly comfortable enough. We finally had handover of our new van on Friday, 6 May and we are very pleased with it. As it is only one week until we leave for our three-month trip up north, you can appreciate that almost every minute is devoted to putting a few finishing touches on the van and getting everything packed.

I hope everyone enjoys the Serpentine and Dwellingup rallies, and we will be joining in at the Carnamah rally in August. Until then stay safe and warm.

Helen



For all you Monopoly lovers out there – I couldn't resist the comparison with our very own First Man and this popular icon from the game. Great resemblance don't you agree?

Hopefully the Bizzills will 'get out of jail' in time and head north in their new beaut van. Graham and I are looking forward to catching up with them in Broome in July. Safe travels. Ed.

UPCOMING RALLIES

JUNE 9 – JUNE 13 SERPENTINE FALLS TOURIST VILLAGE 2489 South West H'way Serpentine. (9525 2528) All services. Serpentine Falls, Millbrook Winery, bushwalks. Venue Officers – Syd & Jacque Adams. (See Rally Program on pg. 8)

JULY 21 – JULY 25 DWELLINGUP CARAVAN PARK 23 Dell Park Rd. Dwellingup. (95381157) All services, fire pits, camp kitchen, hotel, bushwalking, sightseeing. Venue Officers – John & Laraine Allen assisted by Doris Freind

AUGUST 11 – AUGUST 15 CARNAMAH CARAVAN PARK 50 MacPherson St. Carnamah. (9951 1157) All services, hotel, café, wildflowers, sightseeing. Venue Officers - Ian & Beth Moore.

Toodyay Holiday Park Rally

April 29th – May 1st 2022

Report by Noelene Muir

Thursday saw attendees brave the rain to pack, drive and then safely arrive at the tranquil bush surrounds of the Toodyay Holiday Park. It was looking pretty bleak, however, in no time the clouds drifted away to reveal a beautiful blue sky with dappled sun filtering through the leafy canopy. What a great start to the Rally.

No sooner had the Muirs settled in when the Kents arrived. Once they were organised, party lights were set up between the two vans. A few of the blokes set up a tarp joining the two vans and Sandgroper Central was looking good.



Early evening came quickly and it was Happy Hour. The fire pit was ignited and the boys gathered for 'Beers and Boy Stories'. Happy Hour saw us enjoying a chorus of birds chirping, frogs croaking and owls hooting. Concluding happy hour most went back to their vans with a few noisy ones remaining.



The morning bush walks were delightful.



Tai Chi is always a great start to the day.

Our Friday began with a walk around the park visiting the duck pond, the emus, the peacock, peahen and their peachicks and finally an adorable little pony with the cutest eyes. On our return Master Brian kindly lead us through a Tai Chi routine, which was followed by morning tea.

Around 12 noon the mob headed off to Duidgee Park for a picnic lunch. The lunch was divided between those who brought their home prepared healthy option and those who stopped off at the bakery for the naughty but delicious pies.



Our very own Sandy Strummers practicing.

Back at the park the Sandy Strummers caught up for a practice and were thrilled when Denise Caldwell and Ian Moore joined us with their lager phones. Brian and Helen's RETRO VAN was fortunately or unfortunately in the firing line of our practice jam. I think Brian might have escaped to the Fattis van for a beer.

After practice it was back to Sandgroper Central for Happy Hour and the igniting of the fire pit. President Helen opened the Rally, which was followed by Noelene giving an outline of activities. Colin then explained the Italian Turtle Race and a demonstration was given by Colin and Graham, which created much banter and laughter.

Hi Cheryl, re the Sandy Strummers, we were having a practice at our caravan and a young boy rushed over to ask if we could play Happy Birthday for his cousin Sophie who was having a birthday that day. We said yes and the whole family came over to where we were practicing and we played Happy Birthday for Sophie. She was thrilled and the whole family thanked us for our impromptu performance. Shortly afterwards, some new campers came in to set up camp behind us and Brian and Helen and they asked the Sandy Strummers if we were some of the performers for the Moondyne Festival! We had quite a laugh at that, as we are all just amateurs having fun. Lyn xx



Dinner was at our own leisure with all meeting back at Sandgroper Central for a dedicated Toodyay History and Moondyne Joe Quiz. Jill created much laughter as the chocolate fairy. Not sure how many chocolates found their way into her deep pockets!

Saturday started with another delightful walk through the park retracing yesterday's steps. Back at Sandgroper Central and another great Tai Chi routine with Master Brian was followed once again by morning tea amongst the dappling sun and chirping birds.

Morning tea flowed into lunchtime. Some hit the town for lunch at the Victoria Hotel. Others went back to their vans while Noelene, Cheryl, and Helen started to set the scene for the Italian Night, decorating tables with white cloths, T-candles and Italian red and green serviettes.

Chocolate Fairy Jill

Colin got out his air-compressor and blew up green and red balloons while Ron helped tie them before handing them back to the girls for stringing together. Ron and Graham then hung the clusters of balloons. Colin laid the Turtle Track and the scene was set for the Sandgroper's Inaugural Turtle Race. We were ready for a great night.



Syd, Jacquie, Roy, Maureen, Cheryl K, Graham, Noelene, Colin, Lyn, Ron, Sue, John, Barry, Cindy, Ian & Beth

The Sandy Strummers performed Que Sera Sera. Another happy hour full of chatter and laughter was enjoyed. The wine flowed and the tables were laden with countless delightful delicacies of Italian foods. Then desserts came out. Bellissimo!!!



Little Italy came to Toodyay - Sandgroper Style!



And then..... The Turtle Race! Contestants, girls against boys, lined up at their allocated turtle tracks - Michelangelo, Marco Polo, Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci were ready to go in the slow turtle walk. Next thing we had flying turtles, skipping turtles, sliding turtles and jumping turtles. Barry, the crooked Bookie, was encouraging the foul play. Not quite what Colin was expecting of his turtles. (He said it was like herding cats in a dust storm! Ed.) Tremendous fun was had by all and the girls won the trophy. (Yay! Girl Power! Ed.) Cindy has booked the turtles for the June 2023 Rally.



The Inaugural Turtle Race started off quite sedately under Colin's direction but soon descended into chaos!

On Sunday some of us ventured into Toodyay to enjoy the sunshine and the atmosphere of the Moondyne Joe Festival. It finished of another great rally.



Much coveted Turtle Trophy



Beautiful butterflies at the Moondyne Festival.



Sgt. Mitchell!

Thank you everyone for making our first rally as Venue Officers a great success, Noelene and Colin.



Winning the Rally Prize was a small consolation for the 'van less' Bizzills.



Jim made a new friend.

Toodyay Rally Attendees: Adams S&J, Allens, Ambrosius, Bizzills, Caldwells, Fattis, Kents, Jordans, Lundys, Mitchells, Moores, Moriartys, Muirs, Schells,



SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS FOR MAY & JUNE

May Birthdays

15 Cheryl Kent
18 Jacquie Adams
25 Barry Jordan

May Anniversaries

11 Rod & Sharon Burge
26 Graham & Cheryl
Kent



June Birthdays

03 Linda Back
14 Ian Moore
27 Lyn Mitchell
29 Syd Adams

June Anniversaries

30 Alan & Lynne
Kirby

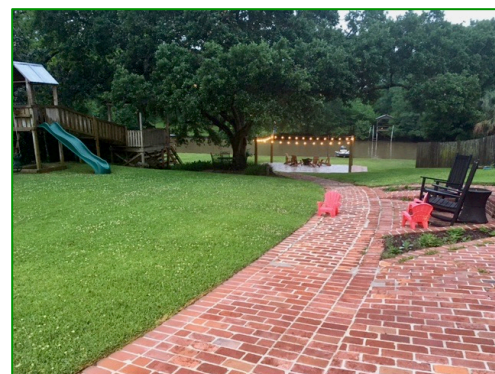
The Management Committee hope all our lovely Sandgroper mothers had a very Happy Mother's Day.

NEWS FROM OUR TRAVELLING SANDGROPER

It is always lovely to hear from our fellow Sandgroper as they travel around the country and the world. Here are some snippets of what they have been up to.

The Back Report

30 hours of travelling was tough, but the grandies never once complained or had a tantrum. Truly remarkable. We have arrived at Lafayette Louisiana, where Justin and Courtney live. They bought a house on the Vermillion River which is built in traditional Acadian style. The river empties into The Gulf of Mexico. We have just had a lovely bbq and a sunset cruise up the River (pictured) Next week we are going to friend's beach house on the Gulf of Mexico coast in Mississippi. Pm the way back, we will meet Justin and Courtney in New Orleans for a long weekend. Lovely to be catching up with our 2,4 and 6-year-old grandies. Linda and Chris.



News from the Burges



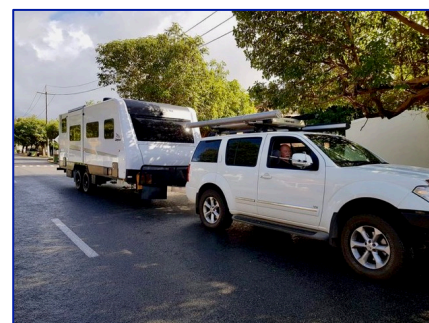
Hi All. We are currently in Katherine NT. It is our 3rd month on the road and we are loving it. Since I last wrote in mid April. We have been to Coober Pedy for Easter, what a really great experience and wonderful people to meet (so many nationalities). We did the town and breakaways tours because it is more interesting to hear from a local perspective. From Coober Pedy it was on to Ayers rock (Yulara) via Curtin Springs. While at Ayers rock Rod & I had our first Helicopter flight over the Rock and Olgas. 4 days in Alice Springs to get the car serviced do laundry and take a drive out to the West Macdonnell ranges. I think our most interesting spot was at Simpsons Gap and Standley Chasm. On to Daly waters via Banka Banka Homestead. Being a long weekend in NT last weekend there was a rodeo at Daly waters, so it was very busy but very entertaining to see how station people live as well as attending our first

rodeo. (SO MUCH DUST _ RED!!!!) The first week in May finds us resting in Katherine after a visit to Mataranka for the Springs swim after the floods. We are resting every afternoon because it is 37oC every day. Regards, Rod and Sharon

The Bizzills

On the road again! After a week of frantic activity, we set off this morning. Not everything was completed, a few things are a work in progress. Full marks to Brian for achieving so much, many thanks to Chris Young for his fabulous assistance. Relaxing in Port Denison pub with a bottle of wine and seafood dinner. Life's good!

Brian and Helen



Heart Beat 45+ First Aid Refresher Course run by the Royal Life Saving WA (RLSSWA)

Report by Lyn Mitchell

The Sandgroper Caravanners Inc. was successful in getting a grant from RLSSWA to attend the Heart Beat 45+ course for free. Sixteen members attended the three-hour refresher First Aid Course conducted by Trainer Cathie Calleja at the RLSSWA's training facility at Mt Claremont on Wednesday 11 May 2022.

Trainer Cathie has an extensive background as an experienced first aid responder and trainer, a swimming instructor and her work with the State Emergency Services. She had everyone totally engaged listening to her first-hand, practical and helpful advice about how to deal with emergency issues that may crop up when you are out and about.



The first point she outlined was the Emergency Care Procedure – DRSABCD – which stands for Danger, Response, Send for help, Airway, Breathing, Compressions and Defibrillation.

Cathie covered advice on using 000 to call for emergency help if you are in normal mobile range. If you are in an area with limited phone coverage, she recommended we use the number 112 because that will allow any other telephone service provider available in that area to pick up your emergency call. However, 112 will not work if there is no mobile coverage available.

Unfortunately, drowning has increased 26 per cent over the last year as a result of many people going into environments they are not familiar with and encountering issues such as strong waves, rips, cold water undercurrents and hidden obstacles. Cathie outlined that using CPR, 30 compressions of the chest followed by two breaths, at the scene of a drowning, heart attack or accident could be the difference between life and death.



The course was hands-on with those attending getting to bandage a 'pretend' protruding wound on their own leg using a triangle bandage to make a doughnut-shaped pressure buffer around the wound and then using an elastic bandage to hold it all in place to control the bleeding. We also got to use a 'training' EpiPen to understand how it could inject a single-dose of adrenalin into the outside of a victim's thigh between their knee and hip in the case of a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

Advice on burn treatments, snakebites, choking, how to apply a tourniquet, how to deal with a person in shock and how to use a defibrillator were also covered. Everyone agreed we all thoroughly enjoyed the course and learnt so much about what to look out for and how to handle emergency issues in a calm and reassuring manner.

Attendees: Maureen and Roy Lundy, John and Laraine Allen, Lynne and Alan Kirby, Syd Adams, Glenda Olesen, Kevin Forbes, Cheryl and Graham Kent, Ian Moore, Colin Muir, Doris Friend, Jill Ambrosius and Lyn Mitchell

Recommended free apps for your phone:

St John First Responder App – provides GPS coordinates when you call 000, first aid information, defibrillator locations and nearest medical centres and emergency departments.

Emergency Plus App – developed by Australia's emergency services to provide critical location details required to mobilize emergency services.

Australian Bites & Stings App – first aid instructions on what to do if bitten or stung by a venomous creature.



Sandgroppers Serpentine Rally

Serpentine Falls Tourist Village
2489 South West H'way Serpentine
9525 2528

June 9 – June 12 2022-05-10

Venue Officers – Syd and Jacque Adams – 0416 081 020



Thursday

5pm Sundowner. Own dinner

Friday

8.00am Walk to Serpentine Falls (1.9km)

9.30am Tai Chi with Lyn

11.00am Platinum Jubilee Garden Party - Serpentine Falls

(National Parks Pass required or \$10 per car)



Let's celebrate the Queen's milestone event in style! Please bring a plate to share and your own drinks for morning tea. Wear red, white and blue and ladies don your pearls or pink jubilee roses on your hat. Option to play croquet, bocce or Finska. BYO picnic lunch to follow for those staying on.

3.30pm Afternoon Tea

5.00pm Open Rally - Sundowner followed by own dinner

Saturday

8.00 am Walk to The Cup Café via Wellard St and Karnup Rd 1.7km

9.30am Tai Chi with Lyn

10.30 Morning Tea

5,00pm Drinks and Dinner at Kings Brewing Co.
796 King Road, Oldbury (17.6km) burgers /pizza /fish chips ~\$26 craft beer, cider **Numbers required. Please R.S.V.P by Thursday 8 June to Jacque.**

Sunday

9.30am Rally Close

Please note: All activities are dependent on the weather and we will adapt to suit on the day.