

GROPER'S GOSSIP



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2020 SANDGROPER COMMITTEE



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Vice President
Roy Lundy



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Rally Co-Ordinator
Ian Fullerton



Committee Member
Cindy Jordan

17TH NATIONAL CARAVAN CLUB RALLY

ALBANY - 14th 23rd OCTOBER 2019

Although the Rally officially started on 14th most of our attending members arrived early some up to 10 days prior to assist with marking of grounds for van placement, water connection and many other jobs needed to be done before the official day.

Monday morning of the big day dawned cold!!! and as usual wet for the marshalling of arriving vans.

It had been stressed by the Shire they didn't want vans in the town before 9 am so as not to disrupt the locals getting to work, school etc and the committee were pleased with the arrivals adhering to the request. Over the next 6 hours all 394 vans were in the grounds all set up. A massive job and well done by the marshals.

The Sandgroper Caravan Club had 13 vans attend the rally 7 vans had been before to a national rally and 6 vans, it was their first time.

Monday night a wine & cheese night with entertainment from Rob Bryson got the week off to a good start.

Tuesday we awoke to a very overcast and cold morning but was no deterrent to the caravanners who joined in the daily program, That evening the Rally was officially opened by Derek Nathan followed by the band Australian Beetles and Jack Flash who had the crowd up and dancing thus sending everyone home in a happy and relaxed mood.

The rest of the week held a similar program with some highlights being hot wheel racing, craft classes, men's shed, bingo and much more. Busy Bee Tours had daily tours organised and many visitors availed themselves of these to see Albany and surrounding districts. The National Anzac Centre was a much visited place and they held several special events during the week including the firing of the cannon and a march by Vietnam veterans through the main street of Albany to which many people attended.

The disc bowls competition commenced on Thursday with Brian Adams & Frank Alilovic representing the Sandgroper's but were put out in a play off in the first round. Brian Bizzill organised the golf day on Friday and had a good number to play. Monday saw Brian Adams running a lawn bowling competition at Middleton Beach Bowling Club on a beautiful day.



At bowls

Friday the Trade Expo opened in the Exhibition Shed with exhibitor's from round Albany and some out of towners with displays, The public were invited to attend and this saw many people wandering around the exhibits. The Expo continued on Saturday with the addition of the Markets where caravanners were able to display and sell their goods. A good day had by all.



Market day



Lundy's at markets



Mary & friend



the

Friday night Sandgropers met for dinner at the pop-up restaurant a rare get together of all of us over the week.

Sunday morning The Poet's breakfast was held with three local poets entertaining us. This being a lovely sunny day saw many people out to lunch.



Morning tea

Tuesday morning a special Anzac Memorial Morning Tea was organised in the local football club room on the



where we were piped in by a lone bagpiper. departure from Albany to World War 1 was This was followed by morning tea and a visit Choir who entertained us with several songs. and remained outside performing until

Drinks that evening were held at Kokoda draw the rally prize which was won by Helen & Kel Olesen.

That evening the closing of the National Rally were farewelled with a promise to catch up Barmera S.A in 2022

Wednesday morning saw people packing up getting ready to leave. Once again we were asked to hold departure until after 9 am which most people were happy about but of course there is always one the rule doesn't apply too. Once the gates were opened vans left in an orderly fashion so as not to disrupt local traffic with 300+ vans on their way in one hour. Well done guys.

Written by Ronnie Adams



Morning tea

outskirt of the caravan area A presentation of the first ships given by a member of the RSL. from the Albany High School The bag piper piped them out people exited the venue.

Pagoda and we were able to & Jim Schell, donated by Glenda

took place where new friends and the 18th National Rally at

The contribution that our club made to the running of the rally was massive. Well done to all, with all the work I hope you enjoyed the experience.

Just to show you how we contributed, here it is all in black and white.

Helen Bizzill: Helen has spent 3 years as the Registrar, always ready with all sorts of lists of numbers for this and that. She was also the Office Manager at the rally absolutely swamped most days with queries. A smile was always her greeting no matter what the query or complaint. The morning people were leaving was testimony to the standing she had presented to the visitors as they came in specially to thank her and say goodbye



Glenda Olesen and Di Young became her helpers for the rest of the rally.

Brian Bizzill: He was in charge of the Bowls, Golf, Nullabor Golf links and Spoto across the Nullabor which meant a trip to Ceduna and returning to Perth looking for clues etc. Brian also was helping out in the beginning with obtaining the Entertainment, and no doubt much more doing it quietly.

Peter and Mary Neale: As surveyors we had to get the ground measured which included several trips to Albany to see how many spots we could get on the oval, and the other 2 areas which started about 2 years ago.

I must also mention Ashley and Margaret Hams from Red Gum, also surveyors who also got involved (thank goodness) and we had a great time with a firm friendship made over the time. Our helpers were Gerry Curchin from Sandgroppers and Bruce and Lesley Simpson from Red Gum.

We were also involved on the bump in day, Monday, the wettest, coldest day Albany could give us. Up and out at the Airport, the Red Gum group at 6.30 am with Peter, Gerry, David and Paula Hiscock at the Chester Pass Road staging point. We were governed by the Police, ATM and City of Albany, that there were to be no caravans on the Road before 9am. Would you believe the ATM airport fellow had the big flashing signed pointing to Perth!!!!!!

They also measured the Trade Show Pavilion.

Kevin Forbes, plus his helpers, were the markers with their white paint, all 15 km of it, who were close behind the surveyors, and the electricians was pushing Kevin to get going also.

Kevin was in charge of the bump in, which went very smoothly, I think I saw Chris buzzing around on a bike directing traffic also.

Chris Young: His responsibility was the plumbing, water to every site. Gerry was his TA and even had Kel Olesen attaching taps to pipes, not a bad job for supply 400 vans with water. Dianne kept Chris fed and watered as he has become accustomed to.



Thelma & Maureen sorting
The goods.

Maureen Lundy and Thelma Forbes: They were enlisted to collect the knitted articles and my word there were boxes of them, all displayed over the week. They ended up at 8 Charities in Albany with several boxes coming to Perth. Job well done.



Some of the items received

Cheryl and Graham Kent: Street Captains of Street 2. It was the Kokoda Pagoda. They take the prize as the best street



Sheryl Kent with sewing ladies in her Kokoda Pagoda

captains. People came from streets away to join in the games, jokes, quizzes, and laughter. Well done on your first rally. Cheryl also manned the Raffle stand in the office on many days.

David Hiscock: David organised exercises classes first thing each morning.



David's excersises

I must mention the others, Ian and Beth Moore, Jim and Helen Schell, Brian and Ronnie Adams, Jan and Frank Alilovic and Graham Kent, I saw them driving buses, doing security on the gate once again in dreadful weather. I heard Ronnie had to be rescued as she hung on madly to the pole and roof of the tent whilst her umbrella flew down the road.



Mary's ladies

Mary Neale: I was the craft co-coordinator and had 8 classes off site at the Railway Pavilion across the road. Thanks, must go to Maureen, Paula, Beth, Deb, Jan and Ronnie for the much needed help. I think the classes



The sewing projects

were enjoyed by all, a lovely bunch of ladies who were happy to sew and chat.

Peter Neale and Roy Lundy: Organised the Mens Shed with 4 classes ending with a BBQ lunch on the Saturday.

On opening night you would find, Helen, Mary, Peter, Thelma behind the drinks table as we had obtained our RSA certificates, the others were circulating making sure the grey nomads were not rioting on their 2 drinks they were allowed!!

There is just so much more I could add, you will no doubt hear more stories at our Christmas Rally. Apologies if I have missed anyone, spending half the time off site made it hard to keep up with what people were doing.



Drumming up interest

MARY NEALE

Attendees were Brian & Helen Bizzill. Kevin & Thelma Forbes, Peter & Mary Neale, Chris & Di Young, Gerry & Deb Churchin, Kel & Glenda Olesen, David & Paula Hiscock, Graham & Cheryl Kent, Ian & Beth Moore, Jim & Helen Schell, Frank & Jan Alilovic, Brian & Ronnie Adams, Roy & Maureen Lundy



Helen & Brian having a chat



Some of the gang



Street breakfast



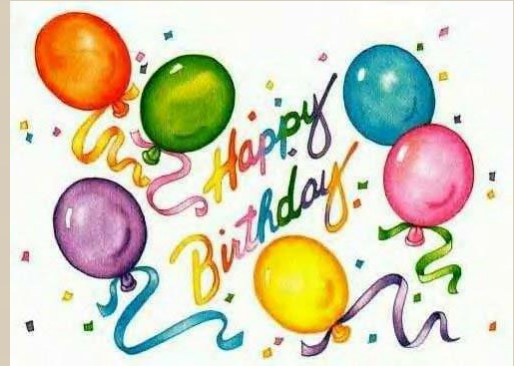
Drinks before lunch

A message from Sharon the Treasurer.

Fees are now due. Accounts have been sent out by email. If you haven't received it please check your Junk Mail as some members have reported theirs being diverted there. Sharon will be at Woodman Point if you wish to pay you subs to her then.

OCTOBER 2019

Arthur Littlely 9th
 Roy Lundy 10th
 Ronnie Adams 10th
 Helen Schell 18th



OCTOBER 2019

David & Paula Hiscock 10th
 Peter & Mary Neale 18th
 Roy & Maureen Lundy 20th



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Attendees for Christmas Rally

Roy & Maureen Lundy	Helen & Jim Schell
Graham & Clelia Gough	Alan & Lynne Kirby
Kel & Glenda Olesen	Kevin & Thelma Forbes
Brian & Helen Bizzill	Alan & June Foote
Ian & Beth Moore	Jerry & Debra Churchin
Hiscock David & Paula	Frank & Janice Alilovic
Kent Graham & Cheryl	Ian Fullerton & Margot Nicoll
Neale Peter & Mary	Robin & Di Ashford
Young Chris & Di	Colin & Linda Haig
Sharon & Rod Burge	Alan & Rheta Parkinson
Barry & Cindy Jordan	Doris Freind



**Program for
Sandgropers
Christmas Rally 2019
Woodman Point**



Thursday 28th November 19

Arrive & settle in

- 5 pm Happy Hour
- 6:45 pm Bingo (for details see next page)

Friday 29th November 19

- 8 am Morning walk
- 9:30 am Tai Chi class with Brian
- 10 am Morning Tea
- 3 pm Committee meeting
- 5 pm Happy Hour and Opening of the Rally
- 6 pm BBQ Dinner together, please BYO
- 7:30 pm Games night

Saturday 30th November 19

- 8 am Morning Walk
- 9:30 am Tai Chi class with Brian
- 10 am Morning Tea
- 12:30pm Christmas Lunch (for details see next page)

4 pm (approx) Santa arrives. After lunch and back at the Caravan Park, Santa will arrive with our Christmas gifts. Please bring your chair and drinks for an afternoon of fun and a Christmas quiz.



Sunday 1st December 19

- 8 am Morning Walk
- 10 am Tour Quarantine Station Woodman Point & morning tea (for details see next page)
- 3 pm Afternoon tea and Closing of the Rally

Monday 2nd December 19

Depart from Caravan Park at your leisure



Woodman Point

BINGO

On Thursday 28th November 19 the caravan park will be Game. Doors open at 6:45pm and tickets will be \$2.50 for a book of 10, the stamper is also available to 7pm. Please BYO food and drinks. Bingo finishes at around 9-9:30pm and a light supper will be served.



hosting their weekly Bingo available to purchase for purchase. Bingo starts at

DECORATING OF CARAVAN

Don't forget our annual competition and get the exterior of your caravans decorated. There will be a prize for, Best Daytime Van and a prize for, Best Night Time Van.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas lunch is going to be held at **The Local Hotel**, 282 South Terrace, South Fremantle.

The cost of lunch is \$25 per person and Sharon will arrange to collect the money prior to lunch at the rally.

The hotel is located 7.9 km from the caravan park and parking is available at the rear of the hotel on Charles Street. There is also a small amount of parking out front of the hotel and some parking in the side streets nearby.

SANTA'S ARRIVAL

When we are back from lunch and all gathered, Santa will arrive and I'm guessing this will be around 4pm. Please bring along your chair, drinks, good humor and be ready for some fun and a Christmas quiz run by Cindy and Barry.

If you are participating in gifts please have your gift ready for collection around 10am on Saturday 30th November, or bring it to morning tea.

QUARANTINE STATION WOODMAN POINT

A tour and morning tea have been arranged of the Quarantine Station at Woodman Point. The tour will visit many heritage listed buildings including the original Plague Hospital, the Dining Hall and the oldest crematorium in Australia.

This tour and morning tea will take 2 hours to complete. It involves 45 minutes of walking and you will require comfortable shoes, a hat and water bottle. The cost is \$20 per person and this includes morning tea and the tour. For this tour to run we need a minimum of 15 people and a maximum of 30. If you would like to attend please let me know as soon as possible and if we get to 30 people the tour will then be full.

SOME INTERESTING THINGS TO DO AROUND AREA

Fremantle

Fremantle is full of interesting things to do, just walking through the shops you will find lots of interesting items and great places to eat or you could take a ride on the Fremantle Ferris Wheel.

Fremantle Round House

Did you know that The Round House was the first permanent building built in the Swan River Colony? Built in late 1830 and opened in 1831, it is the oldest building still standing in Western Australia. The Fremantle Round House is open from 10:30 to 3:30 daily and a gold coin donation is requested for admission.

Fremantle Prison

There is a variety of tours available at the prison including the **Convict Prison Tour, Behind Bars Tour** and **True Crime Tour**. Each of these tours run daily, every hour and each tour length is 1 hour and 15 minutes. The cost is \$22 per person, per tour or \$19 concession.

Leighton Battery Heritage Site – World War 2 Tunnels

The tunnel tour runs every Sunday and guided tours commence every half hour commencing at 10am & finishing at 3pm. The cost is \$8 per person and no concession is available. The entrance for this tour is, Car Park, Boundary Road, Mosman Park. Enquiries can be made on 9269 4544.

Fremantle Markets

The markets are open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9am.

Fishing Boat Harbour

Great for a walk around or maybe a meal of fish & chips

WA Shipwrecks Museum

If you would like to visit a museum consider the WA Shipwrecks Museum, it is recognised as the foremost maritime archaeology museum in the southern hemisphere. Make the most of your visit to the WA Shipwrecks Museum with free admission and free tour. Bookings are essential and can be made by calling 1300 134 081 or emailing reception@museum.wa.gov.au

MEMBERSHIP FEES If you would like to pay your membership fees at the rally could you please arrange to pay Sharon on Friday prior to lunchtime. If you haven't received your account for fees please email

Sharon at, shaz@risewest.com.au

2019 Woodman Point



UPCOMING RALLIES

NOVEMBER 28th - 2nd Dec CHRISTMAS RALLY
Woodman Point Caravan Park
Coogee

RALLIES FOR 2020

JANUARY 15th Club Picnic

FEBRUARY 6th - 9th Binningup Caravan Park

MARCH 19th Taunton Farm

APRIL 23rd - 26th Maranup Ford Caravan Park

Note: Just to let members know that after the Binninup Rally, in February, some of us are considering touring around for 2+ weeks to finish up at the Nannup Music Festival to be held on weekend 28th - 1st March. Anyone is welcome to join in