



GROPER'S GOSSIP



Spring has definitely sprung! We enjoyed chilly foggy mornings through to glorious sunny days at our 23rd AGM Rally in the beautiful Chittering Valley at Bindoon. The wildflowers were in great profusion as was the camaraderie and banter we have come to expect from our rallies. Our very efficient President Helen was re-elected and you can read her report on the AGM plus lots more in this issue.

Kind regards, Cheryl K
(Editor agcmkent@bigpond.com)

2022 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



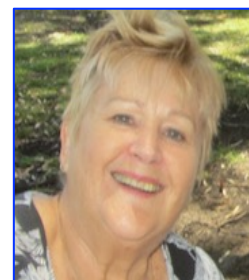
President
Helen Bizzill



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 – SEPTEMBER 2021

The Bindoon AGM rally was well attended with 19 vans assembled around the perimeter of the oval. The meeting went smoothly, with some robust discussion, and I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as President for another year.

There were two significant changes raised and voted on at the meeting – the first being that membership is now capped at 30 vans (instead of the previous 40). The reason for this is that with increased participation at each rally, it had become difficult to book adequate sites at caravan parks, and arranging outings for larger numbers was proving to be challenging. I hope that the higher attendance at rallies will continue throughout the coming year.

The second change is that members will now be required to attend a minimum of four rallies each calendar year (instead of three). Both motions received a high number of votes from members in favour of the change. Other issues raised at the meeting were a request to register for rallies on the website as early as possible and the need for venue officers for the coming year (this can be done on the website when registering for a rally).

I would like to thank those committee members who have worked with me over the past year and to welcome our two new committee members – Lyn Mitchell and Chris Back. The committee has been reduced in size this year from 9 to 7.

We are still waiting for the Spring weather to arrive and stay for more than a day or two, and hopefully that will happen prior to the next rally at Potters Gorge, followed a week later by the State Rally in Bunbury. Brian and I look forward to catching up with many of you there.

Safe travelling
Helen

23rd AGM RALLY – BINDOON 9th – 12th September 2021 Venue Officers – the Committee

Nineteen vans ventured to Bindoon for Sandgroper's twenty-third AGM. We enjoyed Melbourne weather - that is four seasons in one day! Thursday evening Happy Hour was drizzly and cold but Friday morning dawned bright and sunny for our regular Tai Chi session with Master Brian. The sun continued to tease us all weekend by poking its head out for lengthy periods then disappearing behind the clouds making it very chilly. Everyone came prepared and we had the luxury of the Bindoon hall for our get togethers and AGM.



The rally was full of highlights but a 'stand out' was our picnic and scenic walk at Djidi-Djidi Ridge in Chittering. An intrepid band of walkers set off from our picnic spot up through the bush track to the lookout at the top, which boasts fantastic views across the valley. The breathtaking wildflowers were in abundance and Glenda was able to 'spot' donkey and spider orchids with her expert eye. Our varied fitness levels were sorely tested (literally!) especially on the descent but we all agreed it was well worth the effort.





The view from the top was certainly worth it.

Back at camp we sat back and enjoyed a wine tasting by friends of Jim and Helen who own a small local winery named Glenowen. Dan and Gail Dam's farm is located in the Darling Ranges about 15km North of Bindoon just off the Great Northern Highway. It is situated in a lovely valley at the end of a cul-de-sac. The vines on Glenowen farm are very old, dating back to the early 1900s. Some were grafted to produce currants for the dry fruit industry but most have been producing wine grapes for a very long time. In 1995 the currants were converted back to Shiraz wine grapes, their original rootstock.



Glenowen now produces Shiraz and Chenin wines and a fortified wine (Port) from this old vineyard that has a gravel loam over clay soil base. No chemical sprays or fertilizers have been used since 1998, no reticulated water supplies and no blending makes for a wine that relies purely on what nature gives the vineyard. Chemicals are not used in the winery and no preservatives are added. The wines are aged in an underground cellar for at least six years to enhance its rich flavour. The Port is a ruby style, aged in American oak barrels for 3-5 years to give it a unique taste.

Some members purchased bottles that they opened and enjoyed over our combined dinner in the hall that evening where we had lots of laughs and frustration over the games organised by Roy and Maureen. Card Bingo was a hit and will probably become one of our favourites along with Left, Right, Centre.



The hugely popular Bindoon Bakehaus was a trap for everyone and the Saturday morning walkers undid all their good intentions by making a beeline for it instead of pounding the local walk trails. Luckily they left room for Rheta Parkinson's famous sausage rolls, which she brought along to morning tea. It was lovely to catch up with former longstanding member Rheta who called in to visit us.

Right: Helen and Ronnie catch up with Rheta Parkinson for a chat.

Our 23rd Annual General Meeting was very successful with 35 members in attendance and 10 apologies. Syd and Jacquie Adams came for the day as Syd was recovering from cataract surgery and can't drive or tow the van at present. The meeting flowed smoothly under President Helen's expert guidance and you can read all about it in her report in this issue. The following sumptuous afternoon tea prepared by Ronnie was appreciated by everyone and rivalled the Bakehaus for variety and taste. Thank you once again Ronnie. You outdid yourself!



Out with the old committee - L to R: Alan Kirby, Roy Lundy, Cindy Jordan, Cheryl Kent, Helen Bizzill, Di Young, Sharon Burge, Ian Moore and Helen Schell.



And in with the new - L to R: Lyn Mitchell, Cheryl Kent (Vice President), Helen Bizzill (President) Di Young (Secretary), Sharon Burge (Treasurer) and Ian Moore (Membership Secretary) Absent: Chris Back.

After a lazy afternoon of Nanna Naps and board games we fronted up to the Hall for a shared casserole dinner followed by dessert. More food and from the noise level – more good times and memories to share.

The quizzes had everyone scratching their heads and vying for the chocolates. Congratulations to the ultimate winners who won by one point after a closely contested finish between the five tables. Well done Helen B, Brian B, Chris Y, Di Y, Glenda and Jill. The wooden spooners weren't totally disgraced as only four points separated 1st and 5th so commiserations to Jim, Helen S, Brian A, Ronnie, Rod and Sharon.



President Helen closed the Rally on Sunday morning after thanking everyone on behalf of the Committee for their attendance and making the AGM and the Rally a great success. It makes the running of the club so much easier when everyone pitches in and joins in all the optional activities on offer. Congratulations to the lucky Rally Prize winners, Brian and Ronnie donated by Chris and Linda and to Jill, donated by Brian and Helen.



A happy convoy of Sandgropers set off after the rally closure in search of more food (seriously!) and ended up at the Stringybark Winery for a tasty lunch surrounded by grapevines and orange groves in the undulating Chittering Valley. The scenery, food and great company capped off another fabulous rally. See you at Potter's Gorge for more fun and frivolity. Cheers, Cheryl K.

Attendees at the Bindoon rally were: Brian & Ronnie Adams, Jill Ambrosius, Robin & Di Ashford, Chris & Linda Back, Brian & Helen Bizzill, Rod & Sharon Burge, Cameron and Denise Caldwell, Jerry & Deb Curchin, Peter & Cheryl Fatti, Kevin & Thelma Forbes, Barry & Cindy Jordan, Graham & Cheryl Kent, Alan & Lynne Kirby, Roy & Maureen Lundy, Ron & Lyn Mitchell, Ian & Beth Moore Jim & Helen Schell. Syd and Jacque Adams visited for the day.





The very well maintained historic Chittering Road Board building and a mosaic replica.



Many hands make light work! The big clean up.



Tai Chi is a great way to start the day.



The Bindoon Bakehaus



Sandgroper's Convoy

Sorry you missed this great rally? Be sure to register early for future rallies. Rally co-ordinator Brian Bizzill has put together a fantastic range of locations for next year so don't miss out. Judging by the program for Potter's Gorge in October it is going to be another terrific occasion with something for everyone. So far we have registrations from 18 vans and 13 for the State Rally following in late October.

A 'splinter group' of four vans continued on from Bindoon and judging by the photos on our Facebook page had way too much fun in Kalbarri and surrounds. As per our by laws because it was over four vans and open to everyone it constitutes a rally so there will be a report in next month's Gossip of their exploits and misadventures. Should be great reading.

Also in next month's issue there will be all the info of our Christmas Rally at Karrinyup Waters Resort. We have 22 vans registered and the Committee will put together another great program for everyone to enjoy.

September Birthdays

06 Cindy Jordan
09 Noelene Muir
16 Colin Muir
17 Doris Freind
20 Lynne Kirby
22 Rheta Parkinson

September Anniversaries

26 Cam & Denise Caldwell



October Birthdays

09 Ron Mitchell
10 Ronnie Adams
10 Roy Lundy
18 Annette Messenger
21 Helen Schell
29 John Allen

October Anniversaries

17 John & Sue Moriarty
18 Mary & Brian Wales
20 Roy & Maureen Lundy

It might feel like it's been a long and cold winter, but don't despair – blue skies and warmer days really are on the way. You don't need to watch the calendar to count down the days until spring, nature gives us hints when the seasons are changing. Here are four animal and plant behaviours to look out for:

1. Flowering wattle



Australia's national flower is blooming in parks, gardens and on roadsides. There are close to 1000 species of wattles, or acacias, in Australia making them the country's most common flowering plants. Some early blooming varieties have been covered in their trademark fluffy yellow blossoms since the beginning of August, and others will continue to flower throughout spring. Wattles make beautiful garden plants, and come with the bonus of providing habitat and food for native birds, animals and insects.

2. Nesting birds



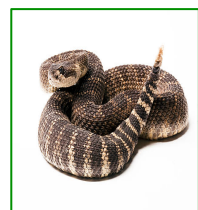
Magpies are some of the most obvious nesters, with their territorial behaviour and love of parading around carrying nesting material like sticks and pet fur. The good news is that magpies only swoop for about six weeks, while their chicks are fledging. Birds like owls, tawny frogmouths and kookaburras, as well as parrots like cockatoos, rosellas and lorikeets, raise their young in tree hollows instead of making nests, so you may see some squabbling over prime sites. Hollows are hard to come by, as they are only found in old trees, so the birds will thank you for installing a few nesting boxes around your garden.

3. Wildflowers



Western Australia's wildflower collection is one of the largest on Earth, with more than 12,000 species and over 60% found nowhere else. The six-month flowering season begins in June in the Pilbara, Goldfields and along the Coral Coast. By September, it moves south and reaches Perth, finishing with a flurry in October and November throughout the South West. Discover them for yourself on a wildflower tour through scenic countryside or attend a wildflower event where you can learn more about the different wildflower species up close.

5. Reptiles emerging



Sleepy lizards, skinks, geckos and goannas that call our parks and gardens home are beginning to wake up from their winter sleep. As we get more sun, you'll see them basking on flat rocks, concrete and sand. They are also fond of lying on the road, because bitumen holds heat so well, so keep an eye out for them when driving. Snakes will also begin to wake soon, a prospect that many people do not relish. Keeping your yard clear of rubbish and overgrown grass is a good way to discourage them, as is controlling rats and mice, which are their favourite food.

PROGRAM FOR POTTERS GORGE

Thursday October 14th – Sunday October 17th 2021
OBT – Wellington Dam Road, Worsley.
(No services. Toilet and camp kitchen available. Non-potable water)
Venue Officers – Colin and Linda Haig



Thursday 14th Arrive and set up. No activities planned.
5.00pm. Happy Hour. Own arrangements for dinner.

Friday 15th

8.30am Optional Walk

9.30am Tai Chi

10.00am Morning Tea followed by optional game of **Finska**. No activities are planned for the afternoon as the area lends itself to lots of ideas and activities. For those who haven't seen it a drive out to the mural at Wellington Dam is a must as well as drives to Black Diamond or Stockton Lakes. Alternatively, sit back and enjoy the serenity of our campsite.

5.00pm Happy Hour and **Opening of the Rally**

6.30pm Your own arrangements for dinner. For those interested in making damper please bring your camp ovens and ingredients. Sit back and enjoy the campfire and a short quiz.

(Please bring a bag of wood)

Saturday 16th

8.30am Optional Walk

9.30am Tai Chi

10.00am Morning Tea

12.00pm Leave camp to drive into Collie for lunch at Colliefields Café in Throssell Street (In the pub).

2.00 pm Anglican Church for a talk by local historian followed by optional self-guided mural walk around the town. Rest of afternoon at your leisure.

5.00pm Happy Hour

6.00pm Your own arrangements for dinner. BBQ's are available.

7.00pm **The Inaugural Sandgroper's Cup**. Bring plenty of .50 coins for each race and back a winner! (Ladies, Fascinators are optional but dress for the weather.)

Sunday 17th

9.30am Morning Tea and **Close of Rally**.

For those staying on and weather permitting, we will go on a BYO picnic to a location to be decided on the day. There are so many to choose from! Please see Colin and Linda with any ideas and suggestions you may have. Until then stay safe and don't forget your firewood!