



# GROPER'S GOSSIP



Happy New Year everyone! The Sandgroper's who attended the rally in the Swan Valley certainly had a great time bringing in the New Year. Read Helen Schell's tongue in cheek report to hear about all the shenanigans they got up to. Sounds like they have set the tone for 2021! Let's hope we all have a very happy and safe year surrounded by our friends and family in the greatest place in the world. Happy caravanning Sandgroper's! Cheryl/Ed.

# 2021 SANDGROPER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## Emergency phone numbers for member's families to contact during rallies:

**Helen Bizzill – President 0417 913 050, Cheryl Kent – Vice President 0477 474 115, Di Young – Secretary 0419 911 775 and Sharon Burge – Treasurer – 0414 259 962**



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

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR REGISTERING FOR RALLIES:

1. On the website, log on.
2. Go to **PLANNED RALLIES** then **RALLY BOOKINGS**
3. Select the rally you would like to attend and you will be automatically registered.
4. **IMPORTANT:** under **ADDITIONAL NOTES** in the box please enter the nights you require e.g. T,F,S,S, (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
5. Make sure you press **SAVE ADDITIONAL INFO** before closing.

### UPCOMING RALLIES:

**JAN 12 CLUB PICNIC (No rally this Month) Lake Monger BBQ Area 36 Dodd St WEMBLEY**  
From 11.30am. B.Y.O. everything.

**FEB 4 – 7 PEPPERMINT GROVE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK, 48 Peppermint Grove Rd**  
Full services, mini golf, tennis court, onsite shop and 350 metres to the beach.

### ATTENDEES FOR PEPPERMINT BEACH LISTED AT 9 JANUARY 2021

Laurie and Trish, Jim and Helen, Brian and Ronnie, Robin and Di, Colin and Linda, Alan and Lynne, Jill, Kevin and Thelma, Peter and Mary, Ian and Beth, Doris, Frank and Jan, Ken and Annette, Ron and Lyn, John and Laraine, Sharon and Rod, Roy and Maureen, Graham and Cheryl, Chris and Di, Brian and Helen

Visitors: Chris and Linda Black, Syd and Jacque Adams, Colin and Noelene Muir, John and Sue Moriarty.

(If your names are not listed and you intend coming, please advise Brian Bizzill (brianbizzill@gmail.com)

Like wise if your name is listed and you aren't coming, please let Brian know as we have a waiting list.)



### **VALE KEL OLESEN**

We were deeply saddened at the passing of Kel Olesen on 28 December 2020. Kel was a long-standing and valued member of the Club and will be missed by all members. He was always ready to lend a hand and offer advice when asked, as well as contributing his time and efforts to the general smooth running of the Club. Brian and I have enjoyed many memorable caravanning adventures with Kel and Glenda all over Australia, and will certainly miss those times together in the future. On behalf of all our members, we extend our deepest sympathy to Glenda and her family at this sad time.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JANUARY 2021**

The New Year's rally at West Swan appears to have been a great success with a full program of activities, and I understand everyone managed to stay up past the midnight deadline. Brian and I called in for a short visit on the Wednesday afternoon (conveniently around happy hour) and everyone was well settled in at that stage and looking forward to a great weekend. Well done to Jim and Helen for taking on the role of venue officers, along with help from Chris and Di.

The next event will be the Club picnic next week, which will be a good opportunity to catch up with everyone following the Christmas break. Our first rally at Peppermint Grove Beach is at the beginning of February and it looks like we will have a good turnout.

Brian and I wish all our Sandgroper friends a Happy New Year and hope that 2021 is a great year and that everyone keeps well and safe in these uncertain times.

Safe travelling,

Helen

# NEW YEARS EVE RALLY REPORT

## DISCOVERY PARKS CAVERSHAM

December 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 – January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021



**Sandgropers celebrating New Year in style!**

Well Jim and I arrived Wednesday afternoon to find most vans already there and everyone quite comfortable. This rally we are a little scattered but not to worry. We joined everyone for afternoon tea, under the shade of the Young's awning. Someone else arrived and they were a little late as they had been to buy a new cassette for the toilet. Who asked, "Did you need to buy one because you had filled the old one?" Was the rally to continue this way? Brian and Helen popped in to say hi and drop off "some stuff". Then we find someone forgot the phone charger, and a few other things.

Thursday was just a forerunner to the celebration of the end of 2020. After the normal Happy Hour, we all adjourned to our vans. Jim and I had volunteered to help run the rally however our helpers were rostered to work. Some serious thought is needed here. "What will we do"? Aha! Delegation I thought First delegate Lyn to do the photos, now that's organised, next our very capable Di, thanks Di for taking on a lot including making sure we had a birthday boy with us. Then we threw over to the group for suggestions. The Swan Valley has lots to offer so suggestions please. Bells Rapids, Guildford Town. The Fig Restaurant, Alfred's Kitchen famous for their soups and burgers. Midland area where Di could get some wonderful birthday cakes for young Chris. The pool in the caravan park.

Thursday morning and its quite hot, everyone was happy to do their own thing. Doris took a trip to Bells Rapids just up the road, unfortunately Laurie took the trip literally. He managed to graze his elbow and hurt his ankle. But never fear our guys have the answer, Laurie you must exercise your elbow to minimise the soreness and stiffness.

On the way back to the Park we checked out the cake and coffee at Taylors on Great Northern Highway. Very nice rustic setting and some very old huge machinery bits and pieces. Another couple visited Padbury's for lunch, another lovely spot. Back for smoko and then we had delayed Happy Hour til 6pm, how else will we make midnight?

**Right: Enjoying coffee and cake at Taylors in the Swan Valley**





**Mischievous Birthday Boy Chris**

With some of the goings on we realise that we must have a complaints officer, many complaints headed his way but were fended off to the wicket keeper. After consultation with Di, we know at 6.10pm we are on track, we may make midnight. Only problem some of our tables are different heights, which may be a problem with the drinks, send Chris under the table to do some running improvements. As our President and Vice President are unable to attend Di Young took the reins and opened the Rally.

We stood and had a toast to our dear friend Kel and Glenda. Very fond memories. Lots of birthdays including young Chris. Some complaints to the complaints department re the non-announcement of birthdays. These problems were then delegated to Di to sort out. Was our Complaints Officer going to continue being a little slack? Di reminded us of the picnic in January and of Peppermint Grove Rally. With the Rally officially opened we had a quick beer quiz. We may know how to drink but some answers were a bit tricky.

Again, we worry about how long do we need to stay awake so Jim had a suggestion that we give a little background on who we are. Amazing how many had family come out as 10-pound poms. Interesting to hear a little background. Plumbers, Sparkies, Journos, Vets, Farmers the list goes on. One young fellow spent some time in Fremantle Gaol, yep that's correct, did a bit of plumbing there, maybe trying to tunnel out. Then onto tea where we brought our own meat and a salad to share. After this Di produced two wonderful cheesecakes for us to celebrate with Chris his milestone birthday. The big Six O.

Now Cindy pops in a change, lets change seats so we talk to someone different. This worked very well. Cindy also had another game, where the person goes to a party and takes something, e.g., Helen took a hamburger, Laurie a lettuce and as we go around each player needs to remember what the other players brought, so we have Hamburgers, lettuce, Dram of whisky, pizza, classy caviar better than lettuce. Good fun and helping get us towards mid night. What you take to the party must start with the letter of your name so can you guess who took classy caviar or a dram of whisky?



**Sandgropers with party hats on waiting for the countdown to Midnight**

At this stage no one has left to go to bed. Now a game of Celebrity Heads, what fun, we had Bob Hawke, Scott Morrison and Snow White and many more. Not many could guess who they were or remember what they asked last round. During Celebrity Heads we had three gatecrashers, Karen, Peter and Nellie. They were happy to join us but I noticed unlike us their stamina ran out before midnight. Might I say at that stage I am so glad no one thought of the game Pin the Tail on the Donkey, what trouble that may have been. Time was marching on and 2 couples retired just before midnight.

Midnight was fast approaching so out came the poppers whistles and good cheer. So, another year gone and 2021 is upon us. Now after reaching the midnight milestone it's off to bed. As you know I do like the bloopers, well this time my delegation skills have let me down. I forgot to get my musician to play Auld Lang Syne. Oops well next year.



**Happy New Year!**



Friday morning and some tired Gropers but we still see the hardy walkers go past. Time for Jim and I to duck off to Swan View, back to the Park and its afternoon teatime. Yes, its 3pm afternoon teatime. For the first time in Sandgropers history no one is there. That's right not a soul.

So off to speak to Doris then back to the van for a shower then its burger time at Alfred's kitchen, that is why no afternoon tea. We cannot fit all this food. If you haven't been to Alfred's, which was established in 1946, you must try it. The greatest burgers around. I am now told that I get the award for making the most mess with my burger. I am sure Di was kicking her mess my way.

**Left: Intrepid Sandgropers walking at Bell's Rapids.**

For a fun night out on New Year's Day all of the members decided to head for Alfred's Kitchen in the historic Guildford precinct to enjoy some of their famous burgers and chips for tea. Alfred's Kitchen, which backs on to the railway line, was named after its founder, Alfred Cook, a British migrant who started selling hamburgers and soup from a small caravan on the site in 1946. The current owners, the Lawrence family purchased Alfred's in 1986 and have continued to grow the business over the years while sticking to Alfred's original idea offering soup and top-notch burgers. A few years ago, the Lawrence family added to the original dining area by installing an historic 1906 train carriage and that was where we all chose to sit and enjoy our burgers.

This year, it is their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the famous Pea Soup, made to Alfred's original recipe all those years ago, is still on sale every day, cooked onsite on large wood-fired stoves. They also have an extensive menu covering more than 40 burgers to choose from. Alfred's is also famous for its blazing open fireplace with wooden benches all around the fire where you can sit to have your meal. Many people driving by look for the flames like a beacon to signify that Alfred's Kitchen is open. While most members had already been to Alfred's Kitchen at some point in the past, everyone agreed that it was a pleasant way to soak up all that history and enjoy a simple but delicious hamburger meal.



**Left to right: Barry, Cindy, Ron and Lyn in the historic railway carriage at Alfred's Kitchen, Guildford**

(A big thank you to Lyn Mitchell for writing the article on Alfred's Kitchen and to Lyn, Cindy and Chris for supplying photos of the rally. We appreciate all contributions to the Gossip. Cheryl Editor)

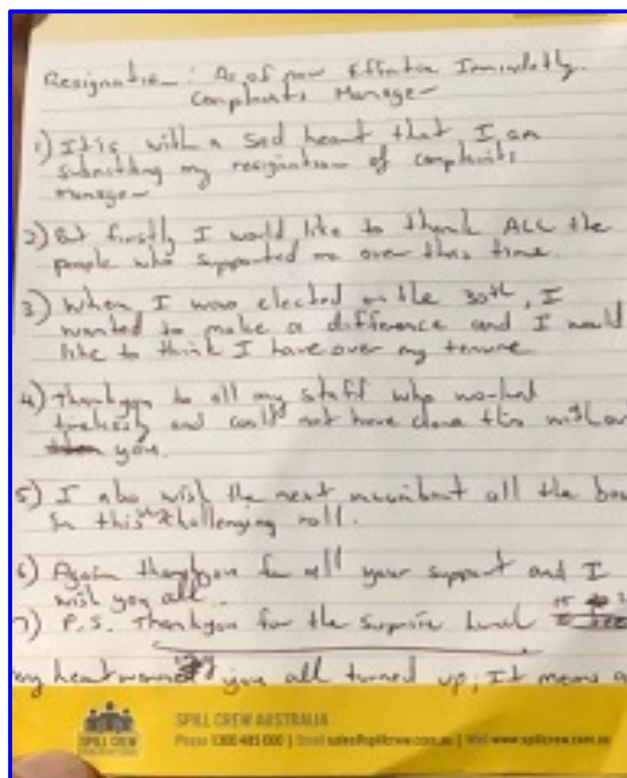
Now the complaints manager needs more staff, a secretary, a treasurer and a pen pusher. Back to camp and Jim has a quiz about country number plates. What an interesting array of prefixes. Some represent the town whilst others the area in which they are. Some good brain scratching. KT my old stomping ground and no one got it. The Shire of Kent named after the area and the towns being Nyabing and Pingrup. It has been known as the Kent Road Board or the Shire of Kent and now the Shire of Nyabing Pingrup. Another interesting little brainteaser.

The wind is about to come up so it's back to the vans to bring in awnings. A quiet evening. Saturday morning; no morning tea as we have a booking at the Fig Restaurant 500 metres down the road. What delicious food, great venue behind some vineyards. Air-conditioned and very good service.



**Sandgroppers wining and dining at the Old Fig Tree Restaurant in the Swan Valley**

Then lo and behold our not so tough Complaints Manager reads a written resignation to the members. Apparently, he is not getting any help and too many complaints. Now we must say this is just not cricket old chap, bit of grit and determination needed. To our surprise no one is prepared to take the job on. Oh well the shortest job in Club history.



Resignation - As of now Efforton Immediately.  
Complaints Manager

- 1) It is with a sad heart that I am submitting my resignation of complaints manager.
- 2) But firstly I would like to thank All the people who supported me over this time.
- 3) When I was elected on the 30th, I wanted to make a difference and I would like to think I have over my tenure.
- 4) Thank you to all my staff who worked tirelessly and could not have done this without them you.
- 5) I also wish the next incumbent all the best in this challenging roll.
- 6) Again thank you for all your support and I wish you all...
- 7) P.S. Thank you for the surprise level ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> my heart would ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> you all turned up, it means a



**Left: Visitors Linda and Chris – not falling for that old chestnut!**

The waiter informs us we can pay separately. Now Caviar Chris and Jelly Jim have an idea!! We have a visitor with us, if he pays for everyone, we can shortcut his application and make him an immediate member. His answer to this offer, “The last donation I made was to the widow of the Unknown Soldier”. I take it that means we pay our way.

After a leisurely lunch we farewell Doris along with Lyn and Ron. So now I have lost my photographer as well. Delegation is tough. But Lyn thanks for your dedication over the past couple of days, sure the pics will be great. Don't forget to make the deadline.

After this Jim and I are back off to Swan View to help shift furniture. At 5pm the Settlers Markets open and several members are off to this what is on offer. Quite nice weather at present. My daughter tells me the markets are great.

We arrive back and

everyone gathers at Di's van after tea. A lovely balmy evening, weather wise and company wise. The consensus on the Markets, cute said one person, typical said another, its ok. But all in all, everyone enjoyed the wander around.

Sunday and its still quite windy. There is a fire somewhere around Lancelin so are we going to get back today? Power was out most of yesterday and many roads closed.

Jim and I would like to thank everyone who attended the Rally, everyone participated in a great way, lots of fun and laughter and plenty of help. We had a wonderful few days with a busy schedule. Here we are in the Swan Valley and not one winery was visited. 9.30am and Di needs to close so we can vacate by 10am.

In closing Di thanked Linda and Chris for coming along and hope we see you again. Thanked Helen and Jim for a good rally. Thanks to Cindy for her help as well. No good words though for recently resigned Complaints Officer. On that note Di told me Chris has feelings, next time Chris.



**Rally prizewinners – Deb and Jerry donated by Kel and Glenda. Happy memories.**

Van members in attendance: Laurie Tyler and Trish Wilson, John and Laraine Allen, Ron and Lyn Mitchell, Jerry and Deb Curchin, Barry and Cindy Jordan, Jim and Helen Schell, Doris Freind, Chris and Di Young, Visitors Chris and Linda Black



**Helen and Jim Schell**

**(Report written tongue in cheek by Helen Schell)**



**Chris and Di Young**





**Cindy and Barry Jordan**



**Laurie Tyler and Trish Wilson**



**Laraine and John Allen**



**Lyn and Ron Mitchell**



**Doris Freind**



**Deb and Jerry Curchin**

# SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5<sup>th</sup> Chris Young
- 6<sup>th</sup> Linda Haig
- 18<sup>th</sup> Ted Bunce
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan Alilovic
- 24<sup>th</sup> Colin Haig
- 28<sup>th</sup> Beth Moore
- 30<sup>th</sup> Jerry Curchin
- 31<sup>st</sup> Deb Curchin
- 31<sup>st</sup> Maureen Lundy



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 02<sup>nd</sup> Elva Littlely
- 04<sup>th</sup> Anton Riegger
- 09<sup>th</sup> Brian Adams
- 11<sup>th</sup> Glenda Olesen
- 14<sup>th</sup> Peter Neale
- 15<sup>th</sup> Laraine Allen
- 20<sup>th</sup> Di Ashford
- 21<sup>st</sup> Marg. Celenza

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 17<sup>th</sup> June and Allan Foote

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 01<sup>st</sup> Lyn and Ron Mitchell
- 04<sup>th</sup> Rheta and Alan Parkinson
- 15<sup>th</sup> Laraine and John Allen
- 28<sup>th</sup> Helen and Brian Bizzill



# Aloha

## PROGRAM FOR PEPPERMINT GROVE RALLY

48 Peppermint Grove Road

PEPPERMINT GROVE BEACH

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

The idyllic Peppermint Grove Beach is just west of Capel and two and a half hours drive south of Perth close to Bunbury and Busselton. Enjoy relaxing on beautiful Peppermint Grove Beach or take a dip in the tantalizing waters of the Indian Ocean. Then relax on the beautiful sandy beach and soak up the glorious sun. What better place to have a **Hawaiian themed Rally?** Pack your grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts and hula your way down to Peppermint Grove. **Aloha!**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>** Arrive and set up at your leisure. No activities planned today.  
5.00pm Happy Hour.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>** 8.00am Beach walk  
9.00am Tai Chi  
10.00am Morning Tea. Suggestions welcome for day's activities (Drive into Capel for a famous pie at the bakery for lunch?)  
3.00pm Afternoon tea  
4.00pm Committee meeting/Finska  
5.00pm Happy Hour and opening of the Rally.  
\*\*Dinner: Pizza at Sunset, followed by game of Left, Right, Centre.



**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** 8.00am Beach walk  
9.00am Tai Chi  
10.00am Morning Tea  
Cruisie day - suggest beach, Bunbury, Busso or board games.  
5.00pm Happy Hour  
Luau - BBQ dinner. Please BYO meat and salad to share  
Dessert provided

Hawaiian themed games and quizzes to follow. Prizes for loudest shirt and cutest wahine. Guys check our Good Sammie's and ladies think white pants, bright tops, muumuus or sarongs.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** 8.00am Beach walk  
No Tai Chi this morning.  
9.30am Morning Tea and close of Rally.  
Suggest Capel Vale Winery for lunch. Numbers required for booking.

\*\* At time of printing waiting for confirmation from caravan park if they are serving pizzas on Friday night. Will let you know ASAP.