



GROPER'S GOSSIP



Sandgroper's enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas Lunch at the Backbeach Café in Bunbury

The Christmas Rally at Eaton near Bunbury was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Read all about it plus President Helen's Christmas report and lots, lots more.....

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:

- DEC 30 – JAN 2 NEW YEARS EVE.** Discovery Parks, Swan valley. 91 Benara Rd Caversham
- 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.
- MAR 11 – 14** LEDGE POINT HOLIDAY PARK 742 Ledge Point Rd. LEDGE POINT
Full services, 2 camp kitchens, free BBQ's, swimming pool, access to neighbouring Country Club
- APR 1 – 5** WICKEPIN CARAVAN PARK Wogolin Rd Wickepin.
Park owned and managed by Shire. Power, laundry and BBQ area.
- MAY 6 – 9** OBT. Combined Rally with Redgum. Mogumber Rd Wannamal
No services. Water, hall toilets available and campfires. Entertainment by Redgum Rebels.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

WOW – 2020 the year of COVID and what a different year it has been for all of us. However, it has also been a year when we should feel grateful that WA has been spared the worst of the pandemic and we have been able to enjoy a reasonably normal year as long as we were happy to do that in our own state.

Sandgropers were forced to cancel only two rallies this year due to the virus, and the rest of the rallies went off successfully, with a good attendance throughout the year. The Christmas rally at Eaton was a great rally and a special vote of thanks to Cheryl (and of course, Graham) for putting in a big effort to prepare the program, suggest things to do in and around Bunbury, assist with the venue choice for our Christmas lunch and conduct a few fun quizzes during the weekend. Also, thanks to the rest of the Committee who all contributed during the rally.

For those who got out and about one of the highlights was to see the partially completed mural on the Wellington dam wall – what an amazing achievement and hopefully next year the Potters Gorge rally should present a good opportunity to see the completed work.

The New Year's Eve rally at Swan Valley will be the final one for the year and a big thanks to Linda and Colin and Jim and Helen for stepping up to be the venue officers for that event. I hope everyone has a fun time welcoming in 2021.

Sadly two of our long standing members passed away during the year – Gerry Kerrigan and Arthur Littlely – and our thoughts have been with Margaret and Elva during this sad time.

Also, a few of our members have been dealing with serious health issues during the year and our thoughts are with them and their families, with best wishes for a speedy recovery.

So, looking forward to 2021, Brian has prepared a varied program of rallies which I am sure you will all enjoy. As our membership numbers have increased recently, it is a good idea to register on line for rallies well in advance as some of the parks may have limited availability.

Brian and I wish all our members and their families a really wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year – let's all look forward to a bigger and brighter 2021.

Helen Bizzill

SANDGROPER'S CHRISTMAS RALLY REPORT

RIVERSIDE CARAVAN PARK EATON

26th – 29th November 2020.

By Helen Schell

What a wonderful turnout to our Annual Christmas rally. 19 vans converged on the Caravan Park with most arriving Thursday morning. We were grouped together making it easy to meet and greet. The park may lack a little shade at present but has plenty of grass and a lovely outlook. The camp kitchen was a big asset although a lazy wind did come through.

Finska came out with some very fierce competition among the contestants. It was won by visitor Colin Muir who went on to win left, right, centre. Beginner's luck, I think.

Eaton is a lovely little spot to take a drive along the estuary. We saw several hundred black swans on the water and a lot of kangaroos. Father Christmas was spotted relaxing outside a log cabin. Was he getting ready to visit the Sandgroper's at Back Beach?



Santa's elves preparing for the festivities to come.



President Helen opened the Rally on Friday evening at Happy Hour and welcomed everyone. Lovely to see Brian and Mary hire a cabin and join us for the weekend. Jill Ambrosius was welcomed as a new member; hope you have many enjoyable rallies with us Jill. Colin and Noelene Muir were there for their first rally. Welcome to you both.

Big congratulations to Kevin and Thelma who have attended 175 rallies in their time in the Club. These have included several State and National Rallies. Both have been very active and contributed much in their time in the Club. Birthdays and anniversaries were called and Kevin had a major milestone a few days before the rally. Well done Kevin or should I say well done Thelma.



Some of our members are on the sick list at present and we wish them all a speedy recovery. Back to vanning very soon.

Brian spoke on the New Year Rally, which is full. He asked that names be entered early for rallies to make booking sites easier. At the Peppermint Grove rally there will be a tutorial for anyone wanting to know more about our website.

It was then onto tea, which was a sausage, sizzle prepared by some of our hard-working members. Thank you. Better than Bunnings!!



Committee members Alan and Ian cooking up a storm.

After tea we had a hard-fought vigorous game of left right centre. Now the aim of the game is to roll the dice and retain your money. The C on the dice means to put MONEY in the centre cup not the dice. Well done for trying though. Our winners for the evening were Colin Muir and Laraine Allen. They went home with plenty of silver.



Winners are Grinners! Congratulations to Laraine and John and visitors Colin and Noelene.

Lovely to see the walkers out early in the morning. Good pathways and plenty to see. I also saw a couple of bikes. Did Colin and Linda borrow them, you must remember that if you ride 5kms from home you need to ride 5kms back. What a great way to see Eaton with fairly flat terrain.



Early birds out for a riverside walk around Eaton.

Saturday was the big day Father Christmas was coming to Back Beach. So, fire up the GPS so we don't get lost. Well that's the idea but one little elf dobbed his mate in. Apparently, some GPS systems don't work. This carload finished a long way from Back Beach and had to retrace his steps. Luckily, they arrived in time for lunch. As we entered Diane had her sack full of hats, everyone chose one of the stunning creations to wear for the dinner.

Whilst waiting Cheryl had a quiz A to Z of Christmas things. Now what a brainteaser. Yes there is a Z answer, it comes after lunch on Christmas Day. Some very interesting answers to this quiz but Umpire Cheryl was very prompt in not allowing some of the more left of field answers.

The organisation at the café was very good. We had tickets giving our name and what we ordered. I was told this was to help the staff, ok but perhaps it was to help us. A delightful meal followed by coffee. A drink or two and lo and behold here comes Father Christmas with a sack full of pressies. Excitement abounds, what can you get from Bunnings?



No prizes for who has been naughty or nice in this photo!



Let the fun and games begin!

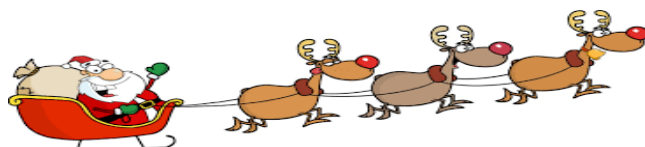


It was too much for Santa. He needed a drink!

We all lined up as good children do and the elves handed out the presents. What an array. At one stage I had a screwdriver set and Kevin a cactus. Was I screwed up and him cactus? But then came the hard bit, handing our presents 3 to the right. After a small amount of chaos, we all had a present again. Then came the board and the dice, by now we needed another drink but Father Christmas had it sorted. Then when we thought beauty, we have a gift the announcement came of the mad minute. This where you can swap pressies with someone else. Good fun and thanks to those who did the organising.

Back to the Park or a little drive and relax for the next instalment of the Christmas rally. Was it to afternoon tea or Happy Hour? On that note one of our newbies read the program prior to coming. Great start however the program had morning tea afternoon tea (several times) sausage sizzle, Xmas lunch and one or 2 happy hours. After reading the eats bits they were then concerned we are a teetotal group. Luckily, I was able to put them on the right track and assured them we do eat lots but Happy Hour is always a part of the rally. Phew.

During Happy Hour Cheryl had a quiz which choccy prizes. You had to put your hand up to answer. No calling out or you would be banned. One guess who was banned, yep Chris Young. And I must thank Chris for sorting out the water problem in my van. Had sand blocking the filter, probably from the rally in Lancelin. The next day President Helen who had taken time out during that Happy Hour commented on the noise coming from the BBQ area. Helen I can assure you I think that was the young ones behind us, well perhaps. Must say the young ones there were interested in the quiz but still didn't know all the reindeer names, now Doris had checked the names earlier and couldn't remember either. Lots of fun and laughter.





Helen, Jim, Doris, Lyn and Ron admiring the murals at Wellington Dam.

Over the weekend several couples visited Wellington Dam to see the murals, they look good now imagine the finished article. The dolphin centre was also on the list.

And the Blooper from Jim, ordered the paper then totally forgot, luckily for him I am there to give a prod. Sorry Peter I will tie a string around his finger next time.

Sunday saw the close of a great rally. Helen thanked her Committee in particular Cheryl (all agreed thanks Cheryl).

Welcome to Colin and Noelene on their first rally, Colin responded saying they had enjoyed and had fun. Lovely to see Brian and Mary and also Rheta and Alan who came for the lunch on Saturday. Sharon has let Helen know all is going well for her, glad to hear. Margaret Kerrigan sent Christmas wishes to all and Helen closed the rally wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas.



Mary Poppins aka Frank with his 'new' umbrella,

Now we all know not everything at rallies or caravanning goes to plan all the time. Someone broke the paddle in his toilet. Then Mary Poppins placed his umbrella beside the hot BBQ, well it now has some huge air holes in it. Perhaps Bunnings have a new one.

After the rally closure several couples drove the short distance to the Dardanup Pub for lunch. As I said we do eat and this meal was no exception. Oh, and who was first there Lynne Kirby, congratulations Lynne.

On a personal note it was a great rally. Bunbury was where I spent my summer holidays, a kid from the hot dry wheatbelt. Nannas house is long gone but Aunts house 100 metres from Back Beach is still there so for me a lovely trip down memory lane. And not to forget Uncle lived in Dardanup and I helped him shift trains from one track to another. And of course, crabbing.



Two caravan prize-winners this month – Helen and Brian and Peter and Mary. Congratulations.

We are looking forward to the New Year Rally in the Swan Valley. From Jim and myself we wish you all a lovely, happy and joy filled Christmas.

Van members attending, Brian and Ronnie Adams, Frank and Jan Alilovic, John and Laraine Allen, Brian and Helen Bizzill, Kevin and Thelma Forbes, Doris Freind, Colin and Linda Haig, Graham and Cheryl Kent, Alan and Lynne Kirby, Roy and Maureen Lundy, Ken and Annette Messenger, Ron and Lyn Mitchell, Ian and Beth Moore, Peter and Mary Neale, Jim and Helen Schell, Laurie and Trish Tyler, Chris and Dianne Young.

Visitors Jill Ambrosius welcomed as a member. Colin and Noelene Muir 1st Rally

Mary and Brian Wales in a Cabin. Alan and Rheta Parkinson attended the lunch.



A washed out and frazzled Father Christmas after visiting unruly Sandgropers at Eaton.

SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3rd Mary Neale
10th Jim Schell
13th Alan Kirby
21st Merle Burn
23rd June Foote

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

No anniversaries
this month



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5th Chris Young
6th Linda Haig
18th Ted Bunce
23rd Janice Alilovic
24th Colin Haig
28th Beth Moore
30th Jerry Churchin
31st Debra Churchin
Maureen Lundy

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

17th June & Allan Foote



November was a huge month for long time member Kevin Forbes because he and Thelma were not only awarded their 175 Rallies Badges, Kevin celebrated a very significant birthday on the 19th. A very belated Happy Birthday Kevin from all of us. 175 Rallies is no mean feat and Kevin and Thelma have enjoyed many State and National rallies in that time too. Their van number is 31 which shows how long they have been in the club. Over that time they have been active committee members and Kevin has also been President for several years. Well done!



From the old to the very new! President Helen was very pleased to welcome our latest member Jill Ambrosius to our club. We hope you enjoy your time with us Jill and reach 175 Rallies in no time!

At the Gossip we love to hear your stories and celebrations so please feel free to pass them on to us for inclusion in the newsletter. A photo and a few lines is all we need. Cheers, Cheryl (editor)
agcmkent@bigpond.com.au



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. In Australia's version of the song "Jingle Bells", what mode of transport is used instead of a 'one horse open sleigh'? **A. A rusty Holden Ute.**
2. What spirit is traditionally added to Christmas pudding? **A. Brandy**
3. How do you say Merry Christmas in Spanish? **A. Feliz Navidad.**
4. What was the first song ever broadcast from space? **A. Jingle Bells in 1965.**
5. Who stole Christmas? **A. The Grinch.**
6. What Christmas tradition began in Melbourne in 1938? **A. Carols by Candlelight.**
7. Which two famous sporting events begin on Boxing Day? **A. The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and the test cricket at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.**
8. Who wrote the book 'A Christmas Carol'? **A. Charles Dickens.**
9. What Christmas themed ballet premiered in Russia in 1892? **A. The Nutcracker.**
10. What Christmas decoration has been considered a weed? **A. Mistletoe**
11. Where did the nativity take place? **A. Bethlehem.**
12. Who sang 'All I Want for Christmas Is You'? **A. Mariah Carey.**
13. What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose? **A. Join in any reindeer games.**
14. In the movie 'It's a Wonderful life', what happened every time a bell rang? **A. An angel got its wings.**
15. What words follow 'Silent Night' in the song? **A. Holy night.**
16. In Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol', what was the first name of Scrooge? **A. Ebenezer.**
17. What are you supposed to do when you find yourself under the mistletoe? **A. Kiss.**
18. Which fairy tale was the first gingerbread house inspired by? **A. Hansel and Gretel.**
19. What is the best-selling Christmas song ever? **A. 'White Christmas' by Bing Crosby.**
20. Three of Santa's reindeer's names begin with the letter "D". What are those names? **A. Dancer, Dasher and Donder.**
21. Bonus question. Name Santa's eight reindeer. **A. Dasher, Dancer, Donder, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid & Blitzen.**

CHOCOLATE QUIZ

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. An outdoor feast - PICNIC | 11. Night time fantasy - DREAM |
| 2. To the naughty corner - TIME OUT | 12. Comes off in layers - FLAKE |
| 3. They went west - WAGON WHEELS | 13. Mediterranean Strippers - MALTEASERS |
| 4. Between - TWIX | 14. The day after - MORROW |
| 5. Middle Eastern pleasures - TURKISH DELIGHT | 15. Spots on the face - FRECKLES |
| 6. A galaxy - MILKY WAY | 16. You need a four-wheel drive - ROCKY ROAD |
| 7. The fruit is ready to be picked - CHERRY RIPE | 17. A rapper - M&M |
| 8. A help up - BOOST | 18. Best views on the cruise liner - TOP DECK |
| 9. Trouble with the crew - BOUNTY | 19. A planet - MARS |
| 10. A flower is crushed - VIOLET CRUMBLE | 20. Sly laughs - SNICKERS |

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Due to popular demand, Maureen Lundy has agreed to share her family's famous shortbread biscuit recipe in time for Christmas. The secret is to mix and knead well by hand (no food processor!) and bake in a very slow oven. Maureen uses a potato masher to get the fancy impression on top of the biscuits but you can use a fork or other stamps e.g. Christmas shapes. Makes quite a few so you can halve the recipe if you want. Enjoy!

MAUREEN'S SHORTBREAD BISCUITS

250gm soft butter
250gm plain flour
125gm icing sugar
125gm cornflour

Combine all ingredients
Mix well by hand
Roll into balls
Press down with fork
Bake in slow oven (135-140)



With the Silly Season coming here are some easy, no-cook recipes for Christmas entertaining.

- 1. Crumble 3 Coles Mud Cake Slices into a bowl. Stir in 2 tbls rum until well combined. Use your hands to shape 2 tsp. portions into balls, then roll in desiccated coconut.*
- 2. Spoon a good dollop of caramelised onion jam into shop bought mini tart cases, top with some soft goat's cheese. Finish with a sprinkling of chopped chives and cracked pepper.*
- 3. Thread cherry tomatoes, fresh basil leaves and mini bocconcini balls onto skewers and drizzle with balsamic glaze.*
- 4. Peel and cut chilled rockmelon into small thick wedges, wrap each with thinly sliced prosciutto then top with a mint leaf and secure with a toothpick.*
- 5. Roughly chop bought lamingtons and put into the base of serving glasses. Spoon over vanilla custard then top with sliced strawberries and lots of grated chocolate. Repeat the layers, finishing with a dollop of double cream. Cover and refrigerate for 3-4 hours. Finish with a sprinkling of grated chocolate.*
- 6. Roughly smash a pre-bought pavlova base or pavlova nests. Scatter over a serving platter to cover. Combine vanilla custard with double cream and dollop over the meringue. Scatter over fresh berries. Crumble over Flake chocolate bars. Serve and enjoy!*
- 7. Puree 350g hulled strawberries and ¼ cup sugar. Whip 300ml whipping cream until firm. Fold half the puree through the cream until just combined. Divide the cream mixture between 4-6 glasses and top with remaining puree. Cover and refrigerate. Decorate with extra strawberries to serve. Bon appetite!*

NEW YEARS EVE RALLY

Discovery Park Swan Valley
91 Benara Road Caversham

30th December 2020 – 3rd January 2021

Wednesday 30th December

Early birds arrival. Day at your leisure. Bring your bathers and have a swim!
Afternoon tea.

3.00pm

Happy hour followed by dinner at your leisure. No group activities planned

5.00pm

Thursday 31st December

Morning tea. No group activities planned. Check out Swan Valley Tourism Centre for fantastic ideas of things to do in The Valley. Discuss at Happy Hour.

10.00am

Happy Hour (*Notice later time for Happy Hour) Official opening of the Rally.

6.00pm*

Combined BBQ dinner. BYO meat and ladies to make salad to share please. Fun and games with lots of surprises to follow to see in the New Year!

7.00pm



Friday 1st January

Morning tea for those who can face it! No group activities planned. Day at your leisure. Suggestions welcomed for any group excursions or visits etc.

10.00am

Afternoon tea.

3.00 pm

Happy Hour. Tea at your leisure. Beer Quiz.

5.00pm

Saturday 2nd January

Read same as Friday. Suggestions again welcomed for excursions.

Sunday 3rd January

Morning tea and official close of Rally. Those staying longer are very welcome to linger and enjoy fellowship with other club members.

9.30am