



GROPER'S GOSSIP



Sandgroper's enjoying their Annual Picnic Aussie style under the gumtrees at Kadidjiny Park.

In this issue: -

Pg. 3 Committee members and President's Report

Pg. 4-9 2021 Rallies in Review

Pg. 10 Sandgroper Celebrations

Pg. 11 Program for Peppermint Grove Beach Rally

2021 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 – LATE JANUARY 2022

The picnic at Kadidjiny Park was well attended and it was great to catch up with everyone. Even though it was a very warm day, it was reasonably cool under the Peppermint trees. It was nice to see Peter and Cheryl Fatti again, and to meet Cheryl Norris who is a prospective new member. Cheryl and her husband, Mark, will be attending their first rally at Miami.

The opening of our hard border next week has been cancelled which will be disappointing to many people, especially those who were planning to visit family and friends in other parts of Australia. Many local businesses will be impacted by this decision as well. However, it appears that the Omicron variant is not waiting for Mark McGowan to make up his mind and is making its presence felt ahead of schedule.

As you will all be aware, the National Caravan Club Rally in Barmera, South Australia has been postponed until next year, which would have been a very difficult decision for them to reach, however probably the only one under the circumstances.

We look forward to catching up with everyone at the Peppermint Grove Beach rally next week. In the meantime, stay safe.

Helen.

This year we still require Venue Officers for:

MIAMI HOLIDAY PARK – 31 March to 3 April. (83kms S) All services. On the estuary, Miami Bakehouse.

TOODYAY HOLIDAY PARK– 28 April to 2 May. (100kms E) All services. Moondyne Festival on Sunday.

SERPENTINE FALLS TOURIST VILLAGE– 9 June to 13 June. (67kms S) All services. Serpentine Falls, Millbrook Winery,

DWELLINGUP CARAVAN PARK– 21 July to 25 July. (107kms S) All services, fire pits, camp kitchen, hotel.

CARNAMAH CARAVAN PARK – 11 August to 15 August. (301 kms N) All services, Hotel, café, wildflowers.

PINJARRA HOLIDAY PARK– 29 December to 2 January 2023. (90kms S) NEW YEARS EVE. All services, camp kitchen.

Google the above sites for lots more info and reviews. They look so diverse and interesting. Check them out. Contact Brian Bizzill at brianbizzill@gmail.com if you are interested. Thank you, Cheryl K Ed.

SANDGROPER RALLIES FOR 2021 - A YEAR TO REMEMBER



JANUARY 12 CLUB PICNIC – LAKE MONGER

They say hindsight is a wonderful thing and if we had of known what 2021 had in store for us we would have found it hard to believe. In Australia the dreadful bushfires, storms and flooding started the year while Covid 19 continued to wreak havoc across the world. We have to be very thankful that we were able to live our lives in Western Australia relatively unaffected by the insidious pandemic ravaging the rest of the country due to our isolation and border closures.

Left: Sandgroper even enjoyed their Annual Picnic at Lake Monger, blissfully unaware what the rest of the year would bring.



February 2021

FEBRUARY 4-7 PEPPERMINT GROVE BEACH

Cancelled due to lockdown

As venue officers for this rally, Graham and I were very disappointed when the Perth, Peel and the South West went into lockdown with only a few days notice. Our carefully prepared program went out the window as we were all confined to our homes for five days. We used the time to rip out our root-bound garden and replant with some lush tropical plants. It was an expensive exercise as we chopped through the retic and we had to add lattice to the top of the fence as we lost all our privacy! Despite the hassles we are very happy with the results.



January 2022

MARCH 11-14 LEDGE POINT Venue Officers – Graham & Cheryl Kent and Doris Freind

Our postponed February Rally went ahead at Ledge Point without a hitch. Everyone joined in the Hawaiian Theme and we had lots of fun. The Club welcomed two new couples as members – John and Sue Moriarty and Chris and Linda Back. Newcomer Cameron Caldwell won the Annual Finska Trophy after a closely fought contest. We enjoyed a lovely lunch at Lancelin and the Rally culminated with Happy Hour on the beach at Ledge to watch the sunset.



The Blue Hawaiians



The Yellow Hibiscus.



Happy Hour on the beach.



Spectacular sunset



New members – Linda & Chris Back



and John & Sue Moriarty



Finska Champion – Cameron Caldwell



A tour of Steve Martin's farm was a highlight.

Yummy fish burgers.



Colin & Noelene



**APRIL 1-5 WICKEPIN – EASTER
Venue Officers – Rod & Sharon Burge and
Barry & Cindy Jordan**

It was a very 'cosy' rally at Wickepin as we had 12 vans in an area set up for 6. Power boards were doubled up and hoses snaked everywhere. Despite the close quarters we had a very enjoyable rally with a terrific program prepared by our venue officers Rod & Sharon and Barry & Cindy. There was even a visit by not one but two Easter Bunnies and yummy hot cross buns to share. The morning town walks were very popular as well as the tours of Albert Facey's Homestead and Chris Back's friend Steve Martin's farm. We also welcomed new members Colin & Noelene Muir into our club and bade a sad farewell to long-standing members Frank & Jan Alilovic.



Sandgroppers and Redgummers dancing the night away.

**MAY 6-9 WANNAMAL
Combined Rally with Redgum
Venue Officers – Brian & Helen Bizzill**

The combined rally with Redgum was a huge success with both clubs joining in all the activities and making new friends. The morning walks were very popular and Redgum thoroughly enjoyed the following Tai Chi with our own Master Brian. The Italian night saw everyone dress up and the combined feast was devoured by the hungry hordes. The Redgum Rebels entertained us and had everyone up and dancing the night away. We welcomed new members Cameron and Denise Caldwell into our Club and they have already proven to be valuable members.



It was great to see everyone joining in all the combined activities from the morning walks, Tai Chi, disc bowls, Finska, golf chipping, ukulele classes and the swap meet. There was never a dull moment.



New members Cam & Denise. And not so new members Roy & Maureen Venue officers – Helen & Brian

**JUNE 10-14 SOUTHERN STARS
Venue officers – Lyn & Ron**

A highlight of the well-organized program by Ron & Lyn for our rally was a wine tasting at Lentedal Vineyard & Café at Anniebrook. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it plus all the other activities over the weekend including our very own Olympic Games. We welcomed Syd & Jacque Adams into our Club and we were very impressed to learn that Syd was a medical scientist and Jacque had taught microbiology to Uni students. We also learnt of the sad passing of long serving Sandgroper member Alan Parkinson. We all extended our deepest sympathy to Rheta. Vale Alan.



The wine tasting was a huge success although a few sore heads followed requiring some Nanna Naps.



Horsereading was a lot of fun.



Chatting around the fire pit.



Morning tea at Anniebrook.



Venue Officers Ron & Lyn.



New members – Syd & Jacque



Alan & Rheta Parkinson

JULY 22 - 25 QUAIRADING

Venue Officers Barry & Cindy and Cam & Denise

The weather was very kind for our July Rally and we were able to enjoy walks around the very friendly and welcoming town of Quairading. Twelve vans attended and Brian & Mary Wales were snug and warm in a cabin. We headed out in convoy to Toapin Weir and the leader only got lost once! The more energetic climbed to the top of the dam while others played Heads & Tails.

Saturday was another busy day with a morning walk to Spot Something in Plain Sight, a relay game and barefoot bowls at the Quairading Bowling Club. The two-course Christmas meal prepared by Ellie at the Quairading Club was delicious and capped off another night of fun and laughter.

Although it threatened to rain the weather held off and we enjoyed another walk around the town on Sunday morning. Most had quiet afternoons reading or playing board games before an evening of more quizzes, Beer Pong and Christmas Charades organized by Cam and Denise. It was a great finish to another terrific Rally.



Christmas in July in Quairading



Queuing for the 'dunny'



Morning walks were popular



Everyone loves a campfire



All rugged up by the lake



Done to perfection!

AUGUST 19 -22 LAKE TOWERINNING

Venue Officers - Chris & Linda Back

Twenty-six hardy Sandgroppers descended on Lake Towerinning for a winter rally around the very welcome fire pit. We christened the Club's new spit designed by Chris Young and also welcomed new members Peter and Cheryl Fatti into our club which was very handy as we got Pete working on carving the spit roast straight away!

We had morning walks around the lake and on Saturday travelled in convoy to Darkan for lunch at Rarebits Café followed by a tour of the Betty Brown Museum. The country hospitality and homemade food were to die for and appreciated by everyone. That evening after a communal BBQ we had a hearty singalong accompanied by two ukuleles. It capped off another fabulous Sandgroper Rally.



Good food, good friends, good times.



Welcome Fattis!



Snuggled and warm by the fire.



The steep walk up Djidi-Djidi Ridge was worth it for the view.

SEPTEMBER 9 -12 BINDOON AGM

Venue Officers – the Committee

Robust discussion was had at our 23rd AGM, which saw Helen re-elected as President and new members Lyn Mitchell and Chris Back welcomed onto the Committee. New resolutions were passed to cap our membership at 30 vans and minimum member attendance at four rallies per calendar year. There were 10 apologies for the AGM with the 35 attendees staying on to enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea provided by Ronnie.

Other highlights of the rally included a climb up Djidi-Djidi Ridge at Chittering followed by a picnic and a convoy travelling to Stringybark Winery for lunch on Sunday. More food, fun and frivolity Sandgroper style!



Happy picnickers at Chittering



The new Committee minus Chris B.



Lunching at Stringybark Winery

**SEPTEMBER 13 – 20 KALBARRI
Venue Officers – everybody!**

A splinter group of four couples continued on from Bindoon to spend time in Kalbarri. Because our by-laws state that there were over four vans and open to everyone it constitutes a legitimate rally. Judging by Ian’s report it sounded like so much fun and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone leaving those who didn’t attend with serious FOMO.

Some of the highlights included early morning fishing expeditions followed by campfire breakfasts, serious four-wheel driving led by Ron and exploring the many scenic places around Kalbarri. The new Skywalk at the gorges was very impressive as were the cliffs overlooking the ocean. All in all ‘a darn good rally’ to quote Ian. Certainly sounded like it!



‘Splinter Group’ Caldwells, Jordans, Moores & Mitchells at the Skywalk in Kalbarri



The Mitchells at ‘The Window’



Early morning cook-up



A spot of fishing.



Wellington Dam



Resting at the cafe after our morning walk.



Our leader - Linda



**OCTOBER 14- 17 POTTERS GORGE
Venue Officers – Colin & Linda Haig**

Seventeen vans attended our rally on the shores of Wellington Dam, which turned out to be a lot of fun. The bush walks were very popular despite losing the President at one stage! The trek up to the dam wall was very pleasant especially the following morning tea at the nearby café.

Despite being 'in the bush' we made our own fun by making damper, playing Finska, eating jaffles and enjoying the camaraderie that always accompanies our rallies. The scenic drive into Collie to see the murals and a tour of All Saints Church was another highlight as was the delicious lunch we had at the Collie Coalfield Café. Cheers!



Winners are grinners!



Enjoying the campfire.



Sandgropers at the State Rally

**OCTOBER 22 – 25
21st STATE RALLY
BUNBURY**

Twelve Sandgroper vans attended the State Rally along with seventeen other clubs from around the state. Bunbury's Sou'west Getaway Club were the hosts for the Rally and were congratulated for running a very smooth and interesting rally. There was something for everyone from morning walks, ladder golf, disc bowls to the inaugural ACCWA horseracing Cup where Sandgropers were narrowly pipped at the post.

There was lots more entertainment with live music provided by the very popular Redgum Rebels on Friday night after the opening and we were spoilt for choice for places to dine around Bunbury on Saturday night. Sandgropers finished the rally with an impromptu game of Spin the Bottle – enough said.



Happy racegoers



The Sandgroper's Cup



Santa and his helpers.

**NOVEMBER 25 – 28 KARRINYUP WATERS RESORT
CHRISTMAS RALLY – Venue Officers – the Committee**

Both old and new members agreed our Christmas Rally was one of the most successful we have had. We had a jam-packed program starting with celebrating Sharon's 70th birthday on Thursday evening at the nearby Carine Tavern, a cocktail party under fairy lights by the lake to open the rally on Friday and then our delicious Christmas lunch at the Odin Tavern on Saturday afternoon. Lots of food, fun and frivolity. Santa paid us a visit after lunch back at the resort and even the naughty kids received a present.

The resort provided a very relaxed atmosphere and everyone enjoyed swims in the pool or drove to the beach nearby. The shady grassed area by the lake was the perfect spot for us to have our formal opening and closing of the rally plus Happy Hour and morning and afternoon tea. The rally was the ideal lead up to the Silly Season that was soon to be upon us. The general consensus was that it was the perfect location for our Christmas Rally.



Gathering for the cocktail party.



Fairy lights by the lake.



Unrecognizable Disco Divas ready to rock in the New Year.

**DECEMBER 30 – JANUARY 2
DAWSEVILLE**

Venue Officers – Chris & Di Young

The New Year's Rally was a real hoot with everyone joining in the fun by dressing in their disco gear to relive the Seventies to bring in 2022 under disco balls and fairy lights.

Chris and Di had prepared a great program for the whole rally from the picnic tea on the banks of the estuary to the spectacular boat cruise around the Mandurah canals to see the Christmas lights. It was a real highlight.

The rally culminated with dinner at the nearby Café Coast restaurant on Sunday night where we all pondered what the new year held for us. Fingers crossed it will be a great one.



Idyllic setting for a picnic tea.



Dinner under the fairy lights



Waiting to board the boat.

SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS

January Birthdays

03 Sue Moriarty
 05 Chris Young
 06 Linda Haig
 24 Colin Haig
 28 Beth Moore
 30 Jerry Curchin
 31 Deb Curchin
 31 Maureen Lundy

January Anniversaries

26 Chris & Linda Back



February Birthdays

09 Brian Adams
 11 Glenda Olesen
 14 Peter Neale
 15 Laraine Allen
 20 Di Ashford

February Anniversaries

01 Lyn & Ron Mitchell
 15 Laraine & John Allen
 28 Helen & Brian Bizzill

As we celebrate Australia Day we have time to reflect and realise we have so much to be grateful for living in this wide brown, sunburnt country in relative safety. Our isolation from the rest of the world, the 'tyranny of distance' as it was once called, has proved to be a blessing in these Covid times. As Australians we have so much to be proud and thankful for.

Historically Australia has punched above its weight on the world stage in not only innovations and scientific breakthroughs but our sporting success as well. Our unique history and harsh environment have fostered a truly inventive culture of making do with what we have and just getting on with the job. Our country has produced a nation of brilliant, opportunistic and oddball thinkers, tinkerers and titans of industry. Although our nation is ranked as the 55th most populous we are placed 13th for the annual number of patents issued. We consistently manage to figure in the advancement in fields such as agriculture, medicine, mechanics, media and technology. Did you know that Australians invented the following life changing devices that have improved not only our lives but also people all over the world?



Proud one-eyed Aussie!



Some of Australia's famous inventions - Polymer bank notes, latex gloves, Google maps and the electric drill.

- *Blackbox flight recorder
- *Spray on skin
- *Electronic pacemaker
- *Google maps
- *Medical application of penicillin
- *Polymer bank notes
- *Cochlear implant
- *Electric drill
- *Ultrasound scanner
- *Inflatable escape slide
- *Wi-Fi
- *Plastic spectacle lenses
- *Baby safety capsule
- *Latex gloves
- *Wine cask
- *Multifocal contact lenses
- *Cervical cancer vaccine
- *Winged keel
- *Permaculture
- *Zinc cream
- *Speedos
- *Kangaroo crane
- *Notebook
- *Frazier lens
- *Victa mower
- *Triton WorkCentre
- *Racecam and don't forget Vegemite!

Our sporting achievements are world famous as well as sport is a major cultural element of Australian life. It stems from a land of open spaces and climate suited to outdoor activities. We excel internationally in sports like golf, tennis, hockey, swimming, athletics, football and various forms of motorcycle racing. At the Olympics, Australia often finds itself in the top six on the medals table, despite its relatively small population of around 27 million. There are less than 500,000 Aussies for every Olympic medal compared to the USA that has 2.7 million people per medal. Not bad statistics from the Land Down Under.



Program
Sandgroper Caravanners
Peppy Grove Beach Rally
2022



Peppermint Grove Beach Holiday Park
Thursday 3rd Feb - Monday 7th Feb

Venue officers: Sharon Burge 0414259962 and Rod Burge 0414259961

Thursday 3/2/22 – Please NOTE: *Check-in time must be after 1pm otherwise the park manager will direct you to wait in the overflow area until 1pm* *No activities planned today*

3pm Afternoon tea

5pm Happy Hour followed by Dinner at your leisure

Friday 4/2/22

8:30am Walk

9:30am Tai Chi with Master Brian

10:00am Morning tea, then free day for visiting nearby beaches or exploring Busselton and surrounds

3:00pm Afternoon tea followed by 1st heats of Finska Tournament

5pm Gather at **Sandgroper central** for Happy Hour and Opening of the Rally, tables are requested please

6-6:45pm Wood-fired Pizzas (pre-ordered as per email- Contact Sharon)

7:15 Quiz time at **Sandgroper central**

Saturday 5/2/22

8:30am Walk

9:30am Tai Chi with Master Brian

10:00am Morning tea, then free day for visiting nearby beaches or exploring Busselton and surrounds

11am Committee Meeting

3:00pm Afternoon tea

3:30pm Semis and Grand Final of Finska Tournament

5pm Happy Hour and Presentation of Finska Perpetual Trophy

6pm BBQ with Shared Salads & Desserts @ **Sandgroper central** (see email from Sharon)

7.30pm TBA

Sunday 6/2/22

9:30am Morning tea and closing of the rally