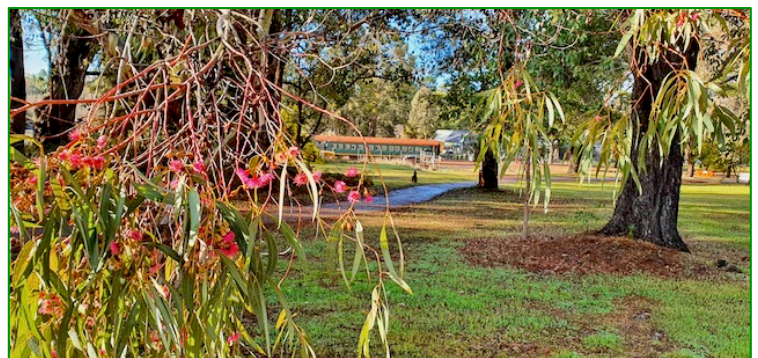




GROPER'S GOSSIP



Sandgroper's had lots of fun at the Dwellingup Rally. Read all about it in this issue.

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2022 SANDGROPER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emergency contacts: Helen Bizzill 0417 913 050, Cheryl Kent 0477 474 115, Di Young 0419 911 775



Helen Bizzill
President



Cheryl Kent
Vice President



Di Young
Secretary



Sharon Burge
Treasurer



Chris Back
Com. Member



Ian Moore
Member. Sec.



Lyn Mitchell
Com. Member

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - JULY 2022

Well done to all those who attended the Dwellingup rally. Despite some very substantial rainfall and chilly mornings, it sounds like everyone managed to enjoy themselves. Good to hear that John Allen was well enough to attend, and thanks to John, Laraine and Doris for hosting the rally, and Di for opening and closing the rally



The lazy life up here in Barn Hill continues with warm days and thankfully a return to warmer nights. We celebrated my birthday this week with bowls during the day and around 20 of our Barn Hill friends enjoying happy hour under the gazebo by the bowling green, and even a birthday cake with candles – a great evening. The night before we had a Christmas in July dinner with smoked salmon, prawns, roast lamb, pork and turkey, roast veggies and finished off with mini Christmas puddings and pavlova – also a great night. We had a surprise catch up with Bert and Jan from Redgum caravan club – good to see them again.

Roy Lundy had a procedure on his heart yesterday (Wednesday 27th) and I heard from Maureen last night that it had all gone well, and he was recovering. He is expected to be in hospital for three days. I am sure all Sandgroper join me in wishing him a speedy recovery and hope to see them back at a rally soon.

We will be heading south on 6 August and look forward to catching up with everyone attending the Carnamah rally. Travel safe,
Helen

UPCOMING RALLIES

AUGUST 11 – 15 CARNAMAH CARAVAN PARK 50 MacPherson St Carnamah 9951 7000 All services, hotel, café, wildflowers, sightseeing Venue Officers Ian and Beth Moore.

Attendees: Haigs, Olesen, Forbes, Ashfords, Schells, Jordans, Moriartys, Moores, Kents, Allens, Ambrosius, Bizzills, Adams, Fattis, Burges, and Mitchells

SEPTEMBER 15 – 19 AGM GOLDEN PONDS CARAVAN PARK – 355 Mundijong Rd Baldivis 9524 1911
Venue Officers - the Committee. As it is our AGM, your attendance would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.
(Apologies to Secretary Di please – 0419 911 775)

OCTOBER 10 -17 (?) Tagalong tour. Venue Officers Brian and Helen Bizzill. Wyalcatchem x 2 nights, Koorda x 2 nights, Elachbutting Rock x 2 nights, Westonia x 1 night and Mukinbudin x 2 nights. More details will follow in an email to participants when Brian gets home.

Sandgroper's Murchison Station Convoy 2021



DWELINGUP RALLY - 22nd July 2022

Venue Officers - John & Laraine Allen and Doris Freind

Several Sandgropers started arriving after lunch on Thursday and by 3.30 Happy Hour had started in earnest. John, Laraine and Doris had come up the day before, so glad we did as it took some time to manoeuvre our vans into place using the awnings as protection from the predicted rain. A gazebo created further shelter and various tarps/screens added until it looked like a humpy! Luckily, we didn't have rain until midway through the night.

FRIDAY: Most of the group were up early for a walk, meeting up with a few others at the Blue Wren Café afterwards. Whilst walking we spoke to a Land Gate Regional Manager who was out training his dogs - two German short haired pointers who are trained to hunt pigs and foxes in our National Parks. The dogs have satellite collars so they can always be tracked and found



Venue Officers Laraine, John & Doris



Early morning walkers in the forest



Morning tea at the Blue Wren Café

We all departed in different directions, ending up at the Discovery Centre for a look around. Some braving the treetop walk. The rest of the day we saw the majority of our Sandgropers arrive. Friday afternoon Di Young opened the Rally under our well-constructed meeting place that was erected by John. So far weather staying fine. Dinner at the Dwellingup Hotel that night where the food and service were excellent.



Very enjoyable dinner at the Dwellingup Hotel.



SATURDAY: Walk and ending up at the Blue Wren Café again. All then going our separate ways during the day. Skipping afternoon tea as was very, very wet. Dinner/ Happy hour at the camp Kitchen at 5.30pm. Great night with heaps of food. Entree supplied by some followed by Minestrone or Pumpkin soup with buns. Bush poetry with our sweets. Ron Mitchell kicked this off with Sid Adams, Jacqueline Adams and Helen Schell following.

Everyone then joined in for a game of “Left, Right, Centre”. There were also two other couples eating in the camp kitchen who then came over at the end of the night and told us they really enjoyed the company and atmosphere. Listening to our jokes, having a go at Left, Right, Centre and also enjoyed some left overs we offered them.



The Bush Poets are always popular.

SUNDAY: Di Young closed the Rally then several leaving for home. Rally prize won by Lorraine and John Allen and thanks to donors Peter and Cheryl Fatti. The remainder of Sandgropers ventured onto to do different things. Some taking a ride on the Hotham Train, some going on a tag along with Glenda to see her Quilt retreats and then stopping at the Cidery.



Lorraine rushed off to watch the footy at the pub. They lost again! Several ended up at the pub for dinner Sunday night with Jacquie, Sid, Denise, Cameron and Doris warming their feet back at home by the fire. Balance of soup and buns for dinner– Rain held off nearly all day. Great Rally despite the weather.

Rally Attendees:

- Allens, Freind, Adams,
- Cardwells, Mitchells,
- Moore, Youngs, Olesen,
- Curchins, Ambrosius,
- Ashfords



CELEBRATIONS - JULY & AUGUST

July Birthdays

14 Denise Caldwell
26 Helen Bizzill
29 John Moriarty

July Anniversaries

23 Kevin & Thelma



August Birthdays

02 Cameron Caldwell

August

Anniversaries

02 Robin & Di Ashford

NEWS FROM THE BACKS

Greetings (1/7/22) Here is the ELSIE B amongst all the Russian oligarchs' vessels in Willemdok in Antwerp harbour today. She looks pretty humble against the million dollar cruisers. We encountered the very tidal Schelde River from Gent in Flanders to get here. Travelling times are dictated by high tides, phases of the moon and the state of the skipper's sobriety! We will head into the Netherlands on Sunday, hoping to avoid all the normal heavy commercial barges etc around Antwerp. Stay well and away from the Covid. Linda & Chris



Greetings (14/7/22) We have made it safely into the Netherlands from Antwerp via Tholen, then through Willemstad to Dordrecht and a few days in Gouda and now at a wonderful "wild mooring" on the Brasserie just south of our destination at Aalsmeer. For those who don't know, the term meer relates to a large lake and this sure is one. At Gouda they told us we were 5 metres BELOW sea level! Not sure here but there is water everywhere. Time to finish off a big painting project to make the barge presentable before our grandson Christie and son in law Letter arrive for a fortnight from Panama on Sunday. Hope you are in good form and not suffering the winter chills? Fuel also high here at 2.40 euros/litre but we haven't filled up the tanks since 2018 in Chauny in France. In Diksmuide we paid a mechanic to "wash" 300 litre of diesel as it had sat in the tank for 3 years. Bacteria and fungi don't go well in new engines! Stay well, Linda and Chris Back

Greetings (22/7/22) Our travels of 400 Kms so far have been interesting, but not without a few minty moments! We wanted to explore the Netherlands this year, so we decided to face our nemesis, and tackle the Antwerp port, something that had loomed large in our minds for a long time. We travelled through Belgium, and finally reached the Schelde River. This is a tidal waterway, nothing that we have travelled on before. Where we normally travel at around 8 knots, we were flying along at 11. Nice we thought. Our boating colleagues had all said to pull off at Basrood for the night. Well we were going so well we thought we would go on to the next town - and suddenly we were travelling at 6 kms!! The mooring angel was miraculously close by, as we spotted a tiny boat haven on the left bank, Hamme, headed for it - and there was enough space for us to moor for the night. Such hospitable people there. Such a relief. So a bit more wary and wise, we moved on, joining the Albert canal inexorably getting closer to Antwerp. In short, we did as well as we could in and through Antwerp. It is not easy, even though Chris had studied the layout a hundred times. The bridges have no bollards etc while you wait, there is quite heavy barge traffic, and you really can't afford to make a mistake.



So, into the Netherlands. We were delighted from the first night. Tholen, Willemstad, Dordrecht and Gouda are wonderful places to visit, the experience enhanced by the friendly, generous people and the efficiency of the waterways management. Holland, as they refer to it, is a boatie's heaven; in France, the waterways are a part of the landscape - in Holland, the water is a part of the Dutch DNA.

So, we are in Alsmeer now, about 15 minutes from Amsterdam. We have our 10 year old grandson with us from Panama, and tomorrow we are heading in to Amsterdam, with tickets for Anne Frank's house. Hope all is well with our camping friends. We look forward to joining you as soon as we return.

Warm regards, Linda and Chris Back



PROGRAM FOR CARNAMAH RALLY: 11TH AUGUST 2022

Caravan Park (Off Macpherson St near Airport)
310 km from Perth. Tonkin Highway north.
Turn right after Bindoon onto Bindoon Moora Road.



THURSDAY: Arrive at your leisure. Gather for Happy Hour at 5pm near Fire pit.

FRIDAY: * 0830am Walk * 0930am Tai Chi with Master Brian *
From 10am Morning Tea.

Own time. Wildflowers should be out in some places. We will obtain latest sightings from local sources. [Colleen at Post Office, good coffee and gifts] Also, Café opposite for all home-baked goodies. Open 8am to 2pm. Museum open in afternoon. Tractor Museum, tour can be arranged.

11am Committee meeting.

5pm prompt. Happy hour and opening of Rally.

BBQ tea together near fire pit. ***Option of Chicken takeaway dinner from bowling Club, see below
Quiz and games of choice after if wanted.

SATURDAY: * 0830am Walk * 0930am Tai Chi with Master Brian * From 10am Morning Tea.



12pm. Picnic at Macpherson Homestead. BYO everything. Less than 10 min drive.

Viewing of inside of Homestead to be arranged. Shade on Veranda, benches and some tables. Toilets on site. From 4pm there is an invite to Bowl at the club or Happy Hour at park. 6pm meet at Bowling Club for 6.30 dinner. 3 meat roast dinner inc sweets for \$25 pp. Drinks available. Return to park for quiet time or Fire pit conversation. All above dependant on weather.

SUNDAY: 0930 Closing of the rally. Free time again for the stayers.

5pm Happy hour and Sunset on balcony at Macpherson Homestead.

Important Note: At present dinner at the Bowling Club is booked BUT if Local Football match is changed from Sunday to Saturday dinner will not go ahead. (Club will be full of footy players and fans). Please have alternate arrangements for tea if dinner is cancelled. A Sunday roast lunch could be arranged.

Other notes: Papers available at corner shop on Saturday. Sunday papers can be ordered with me for delivery to park. Notice required, as papers have to be ordered in as the shop is closed.

*** If anyone is interested in a ready cooked meal as a takeaway for our Friday tea there is a fundraiser this week at the Bowling club for the local lower school kids camp. There is chicken schnitzel with gravy or parma sauce and veg and Pavlova.

Please respond with urgency to Ian 0417237334 or ian1406@bigpond.net.au with interest in Saturday dinner, Friday Schnitzel and Sunday paper by Thursday 4th. Thank you.