

June 2023



GROPER'S GOSSIP

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VICE PRESIDENT REPORT MARGARET RIVER RALLY

A very enjoyable rally was held this month at the RAC Nature Park in Margaret River, hosted admirably by Lyn and Ron Mitchell. Driving down from Perth in heavy rain to start, we had just passed Pinjarra and broke into blue skies. Our President residing in sunny Barn Hill rang to wish us a good Rally and hope we had good weather and I reported it was clearing up nicely. It didn't last, we were in for a cold and wet weekend with a few clear highlights for our Friday morning walk through a wonderful forest going down to a creek feeding the Margaret River and the site of the first pine wood mill and an amazing round built chimney. A gentle stroll back but I am sure we passed the same fallen tree three times! Our next good break was for the Jaffle evening cook up. After commandeering a communal fire pit aa roaring was built and then knocked for the coals and the fun began, we were all fed eventually but not all present are Jaffle experts. A very relaxing weekend was had with plenty of opportunity for personal sighting round the local area. Well done Lyn and Ron

Beth and I are looking forward to the Tag a long rally in July and catching up with all attending. Safe travels

PS It has since rained in Barn Hill!

MARGARET RIVER NATURE PARK RALLY REPORT 8–12 June 2023

Ron and Lyn arrived on Tuesday afternoon to discover Barry and Cindi Jordan had beaten us to the Margaret River Nature Park. Not a problem at all and we joined forces that night to enjoy a delicious dinner out at the Settler's Inn in the heart of Margaret River's main street. Wednesday saw the Muir's - Deanne and Jack and Noelene and Colin - arrive in tandem with the rest of the participants rocking up on Thursday.

For days before we all arrived at Margaret River, Perth and the south west copped a ferocious drenching and more rain was forecast for our stay. Still, we were all in good spirits and ready to face whatever the elements but there was plenty of talk about maybe heading to the North West in future to enjoy for the winter warmth!

At 5pm on Thursday we all gathered in the huge undercover area (which used to be part of an old wood sawmill) at the Margaret River Nature Park for a few drinks for Happy Hour. With a few odd showers still coming through, Ian Moore officially opened the rally and everyone settled in for a catch up before heading off to get their own dinners.

Next morning at 9am, most members joined us for a fabulous walk along the Chimney Trail through the forest of the Woodtjup National Park, which fringed the caravan park.





The weather was kind and we had an hour-long, rain-free walk of discovery through the beautiful tall timber and along the Bramley Brook to the old brick chimney – the last surviving part of the Keenan’s Number 1 sawmill still standing. The chimney was used to safely burn the sawdust produced by the mill.

Morning tea was again under the huge undercover area with the rest of the day free to explore all the delights of Margaret River.

Tea that night was a jaffle iron cook up and we were fortunate to commandeer one of the large fire pits where we could all sit around the fire and cook our jaffles over the hot coals.

Jaffle-making in the wild can be character-building and there were lots of laughs as everyone was jockeying for a good position in the hot coals, sometimes to the detriment of other people’s jaffle irons. The trick too is to not burn your jaffle to a cinder and fortunately, most people managed to produce an edible jaffle.

As it was so cosy around the fire pit, Ron and Lyn’s quiz night was conducted there too. However, the area was popular with many other campers too so it was a bit difficult to hear the quiz questions on a variety of sporting, geography, history and music topics but we got through with plenty of choccies available. Ron and Lyn issued each couple a Brain Teaser quiz to answer over the 24 hours with the results to be announced the next night.





Saturday dawned and yes, it was still raining. At 9am, four couples headed off to the Margaret River Markets at the town's Education Campus anyway. There were lots of local gourmet produce, fresh fruit and vegetables and other goodies to taste or buy.

Afterwards, five couples ventured out to The Berry Farm to enjoy their famous scones, jam and cream and a pot of tea for morning tea.

Saturday night was our communal dinner in the undercover area and what a spread we had - such a wonderful array of piping hot casserole and vegetable dishes, despite the cold weather followed by a tangy cheesecake and fruit-topped Pavlova for dessert.

After dinner, Lyn and Ron announced the winners of the Brain Teaser quiz. Cameron and Denise Caldwell were the only ones to get 20 out of 20 correct.



Then it was time for the competition night and first up was a game involving 32 upturned, numbered cups and each person had to choose a cup. Some cups had nothing in them, some had chocolates or lollies and some had typed things that the recipient had to do. Barry had to provide his best caravanning tip – make sure the caravan is properly hitched. Ian had to teach the group how to do the Hoki Poki – he was very good at it! Sue had to say a tongue-twister and Deanne brought the house down with her age-appropriate joke.

Next was a horse racing game where members were divided into groups and the throw of the dice led to which horse could move and a second throw of the dice provided how many places your horse could move. There were lots of suggestions on how to run the game, followed by cheering and jeering before we all called it a night and headed for bed.

Sunday morning we gathered again in the undercover area for the closing of the rally by Ian Moore. Jack and Deanne Muir were the lucky winners of the rally prize, this time a handy combination security lock, kindly provided by Helen and Brian Bizzill. Several members left for home after the close of the rally with the remaining members heading off to the Settler's Inn for a lovely lunch.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped to make the rally so much fun, despite the cold conditions.



ATTENDEES

Ron and Lyn Mitchell (Venue Hosts), Cindy and Barry Jordan, Colin and Noelene Muir, Jack and Deanne Muir, Sue and John Moriarty, Ian and Beth Moore, Cameron and Denise Caldwell and Syd and Jacquie Adam

BIRTHDAYS



14 Denise Caldwell
26 Helen Bizzill
27 Deanne Muir
29 John Moriarty

ANNIVERSARIES

23rd July Kevin and Thelma Forbes



JULY STATION TAG-ALONG RALLY

Day 1 – Thursday, 20 July – Dalwallinu

Meet at Dalwallinu Caravan Park, 10 Dowie Street, Dalwallinu, phone 9661 1253. **\$30 per night, contact the park prior to 22 June to pay deposit, booking code SGCC.** Happy hour and rally opening at 5 pm.

Day 2 – Friday 21 July – Dalwallinu to Nalbarra Station - 272 km

Great Northern Hwy, Daggarr Hills, 17 km gravel road. Pay cash on arrival, 4 powered sites \$30, \$25 unpowered. Showers and toilets, no water to van. Phone 9963 5829

Day 3 – Saturday 22 July – Nalbarra Station

General sightseeing or day in camp

Day 4 – Sunday 23 July – Nalbarra to Yalgoo – 201 km

Stay at Yalgoo Caravan Park, Gibbons Street, Yalgoo, phone 9962 8472, \$28 per night concession \$22 per night, pay on arrival. Full facilities.

Day 5 – Monday 24 July – Yalgoo

General sightseeing, possibly wildflowers. Optional dinner at Yalgoo Hotel.

Day 6 – Tuesday, 25 July – Yalgoo to Melangata Station – 70 km gravel road all the way.

\$15 per person per night, pay cash on arrival. Showers and toilets, no power or water to van.

Day 7 – Wednesday 26 July – Melangata Station

Melangata Station, Melangata Road, Yalgoo, phone 9963 7777. Site fee \$15 per person per night, pay cash on arrival. Optional tours available – historic homestead tour with morning tea \$15 per person, half day self-drive tag along station tour \$30 per person includes commentary on regeneration program and visits to some special spots. **If you are interested in doing either of these tours, please advise me as notice needs to be given.**

Day 8 – Thursday 27 July – Melangata to Gabyon Station – 127 km

Gabyon Station, 1 Gabyon/Tardie Road, Yalgoo, phone 9963 7993. 17 km gravel road to homestead. Site fee \$15 per person per night, pay cash on arrival. Showers and toilets, no power or water to van

Day 9 – Friday 28 July – Gabyon Station

General sightseeing or station activities.

Day 10 – Saturday 29 July – Gabyon Station to Mellenbye Station – 138 km

Mellenbye Station, off Morowa/Yalgoo Road, phone 9972 3072. Showers and toilets, no power or water to van. Station activities available.

Site fee \$20 per van per night, **booking necessary.** Go to mellenbye.com.au, click on BOOK NOW, then on booking page click on BOOK NOW, go to July on calendar and highlight 29 and 30, scroll down to CAMPING and select. Go across to BOOK, fill in details, in ANY PERSONAL DETAILS, put in that you are with Sandgroper Caravan Club, continue and pay.

Day 11 – Sunday 30 July – Mellenbye Station

General station activities.

Day 12 – Monday, 31 July - Mellenbye Station to Coorow – 154 km

Coorow Caravan Park, Station Street, Coorow, phone 9952 0100. Site fee \$15 /van, cash on arrival, full facilities. Happy hour and closing of the rally at 5 pm, optional farewell dinner at Coorow Hotel.

Day 13 – Tuesday, 1 August – Coorow to Home

General Information:

Most of this itinerary is off-the-grid except for the three caravan parks. Dump points are available at Dalwallinu, Kirkalocka rest area, Mt Magnet caravan park, Yalgoo caravan park, Gabyon Station, Coorow caravan park.

The actual route may be subject to change, depending on road conditions at the time.

Please check out the websites for each station stay for additional information on facilities and activities.

Please bring some firewood.

To keep us entertained in the evenings, please bring along a quiz or game activity.

SANDGROPER STATION STAY TAG ALONG RALLY**20 TO 31 JULY 2023**

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Km</i>	<i>Total km</i>
Thu	20	Home	Dalwallinu		
Fri	21	Dalwallinu	Nalbarra	272	272
Sat	22	Nalbarra			272
Sun	23	Nalbarra	Yalgoo	201	473
Mon	24	Yalgoo			473
Tue	25	Yalgoo	Melangata	70	543
Wed	26	Melangata			543
Thu	27	Melangata	Gabyon	127	670
Fri	28	Gabyon			670
Sat	29	Gabyon	Mellenbye	138	808
Sun	30	Mellenbye			808
Mon	31	Mellenbye	Coorow	154	962
Tue	1	Coorow	Home		

