

# GROPER'S GOSSIP

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## **SANDGROPER MISSION STATEMENT**

We aim to develop a good social club encouraging friendship among all caravanners.

We aim to promote lawful interests of Club members and to simulate the invention and adoption of equipment for the purposes of good caravanning.

We aim to promote the advantages of caravanning for recreational and social purposes

## ***SANDGROPER CARAVAN CLUB COMMITTEE 2016-2017***

<i>President</i>	<i>Brian Bizzill</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Roy Lundy</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>David Hiscock</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Alan Parkinson</i>
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	<i>Brian Adams</i>
<i>Rally Coordinator</i>	<i>Ian Moore</i>
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Kel Olesen</i>
	<i>Janet Currow</i>
	<i>June Foote</i>

**CAMP GRACE OCTOBER 21 – 26, 2016**  
**RALLY REPORT WRITTEN BY JANET CURROW**  
**and ALAN PARKINSON**

*Well done Margaret K. for booking this lovely spot.*

*Janet & David were first through the gate followed by Beth & Ian; Di & Robin; June & Allan; Janice & Frank; Thelma & Kevin; then a little later June & Ted; Rheta & Alan; then Natalie & Ian. Our visitors were already there, as we did not know who they were till they introduced themselves – Helma & Henry Gielingh.*

*After we all got set up we all took advantage of the sun shine and sat around, went for walks on the beach and the brave one went canoeing. Happy hour was down near beach and Alan opened meeting welcoming members and visitors. Kevin Forbes spoke about the National & State Caravan Rally developments. Ian Moore also explained the open format of the rally. It was also decided by everyone that we would have a community BBQ dinner on Saturday night and Fish & Chips on Sunday night.*



*Saturday saw a sunny day again; we went to a car boot sale near the jetty in town. June & Ted went to a fair in Dunsborough. Di & Robin went for a bike ride (battery powered!) whilst Ian M. went canoeing again (after buying himself a little trolley to help move the canoe to the water) – what is this –batteries and trollies – supposed to be exercise?*

*At Happy Hour Natalie handed out pamphlets and told us about the Wonky Windmill that is owned and operated by her friend, where you can feed animals, play games and can have a meal there. Alan mentioned that Millers Café in Cowaramup provided home-made ice cream that people claimed was to die for – Kevin’s eyes lit up to the suggestion to travel there and was first to indicate his intention. The evening then progressed into the community BBQ dinner where a variety of salads were shared (prepared after some of us had to make a dash to the shop for extra supplies).*

*Sunday was another sunny day with most people doing their own thing. Janet & David went to Meelup Beach and saw whales not far off shore, had a picnic lunch at Eagle Bay and then went to the Wonky Windmill for Devonshire Tea. Others went visiting friends or sightseeing whilst 10 of us went in a 3 car convoy to Cowaranup to partake in these delicious ice-creams - some having triple deckers and then going back for seconds (although smaller). The young counter guy and a couple waiting to be served were overwhelmed when these 10 re-cycled teenagers swarmed into the shop clamouring for ice-creams. The shop was an old farm house 3 kms from the Bussell Highway. Kevin also got stuck into Coffee, Scones, and Jam & Cream after finishing his ice-cream.*



*The property had a lovely outside grassed setting with a few table & seat arrangements with overhead covers. There was an extensive kid’s playground area plus a statue of cow with an udder that the kids could pretend to milk –*



*our oldest kid - Ted - gave it a go until he decided the cow had run dry as water could not be squirted from the teats.*

*Back to the Park for Happy Hour and then Ian and Robin went to collect the fish & chips for dinner which proved to very enjoyable – the fish was cooked perfectly and the chips were very plentiful. Thanks Ian and Robin for organizing Chips on Wheels.*

*As Frank and Janice were leaving early Monday morning they said their goodbyes. Our visitors Helma and Henry also took the opportunity to say their goodbyes as they would be moving onto Sue's Bridge to enjoy their new Jayco van plus their new retirement freedom. They thanked us for the hospitality offered and said that although they were unable to attend Boddington they were looking forward to joining us at the Pinjarra New Year Rally*

*Monday saw another sunny day, although most people probably heard Frank and Janice leave one or two were up and saw them off. Helma and Henry were the next to go shortly after enjoying the community cooked breakfast and were farewelled by a bigger group of members.*



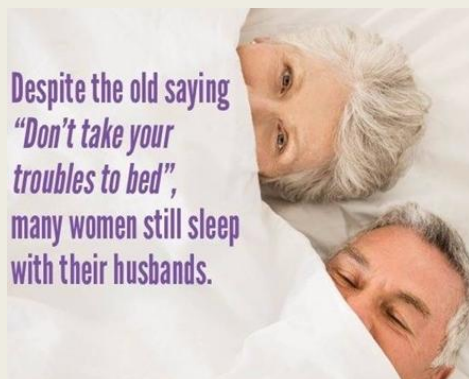
*Most of those remaining had a lazy day whilst some went visiting. Nat and Rheta had a few games of Rummikub.*

*At Happy Hour, Alan spoke about the success of the weekend and thanked everyone for their input and participation; he also re-iterated that anyone wishing to attend Boddington to do so a.s.a.p. so that Ian M. could provide final numbers required to be given to the*

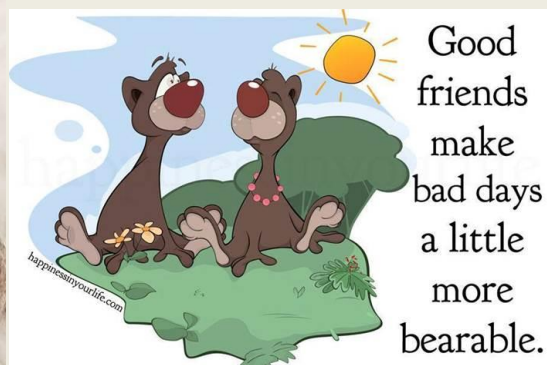
*Caravan Park and Boddington Hotel. Also, members should provide an indication of which days people will be at rallies (e.g. T,F,S,S,M) as this assists the Rally Officer/s for the weekend as to what days most people will present for planning activities. Rheta was called upon to do the Caravan Prize with the winning ticket being drawn by Ted and won by June & Allan Foote – the prize being donated by Ruth & Peter Carter. Due to their absence the prize was presented to June F. on Tuesday morning and although disappointed that she had missed raffle drawing, she was delighted when finding the colour of the kitchen set would match with the décor of their van.*

*The rain started to drizzle about mid-morning just as Alan and Rheta were departing for home due to meeting commitments, leaving the rest of us to get ready for departure on Tuesday.*

Those in attendance were Alan & June Foote, David & Janet Currow, Alan & Rheta Parkinson, Ted & June Bunce, Robin & Di Ashford, Kevin & Thelma Forbes, Ian & Natalie Kessell, Frank & Janice Alolivic, Ian & Beth Moore and visitors Henry & Helena Gielingh.



**Despite the old saying  
"Don't take your  
troubles to bed",  
many women still sleep  
with their husbands.**



**Good  
friends  
make  
bad days  
a little  
more  
bearable.**

*My apologies to members for the omission of this report in the last newsletter, unfortunately somehow it slipped behind another page and I was unaware of it until someone asked what had happened. Editor*



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*for the Currow Rally in September*

*Hi everyone*

*Once again the weather was cold and wet on arrival at Coorow on the Thursday, however despite the cold winds; the rest of the rally was near perfect.*

*With 10 vans on site, 8 members plus 2 visitors (Jenny & Phil Shea and Di & Chris Young) and Gay (Laurie's guest) we had a good turn-up of attendees.*

*There was a question mark over Brian remaining the Venue Officer due to health issues fortunately he was able to soldier through the weekend and in addition; had to content with making many revisions to the programme. A good result in the end and a big thanks to Brian and Mary for their efforts, plus a special thanks the Kevin for organising the trip to Latham.*

*As the park did not have any suitable place for us to gather, we were fortunate to have the use of a 9mx3m marquee that provided a gathering point and some protection from the wind. Having never erected the marquee myself, Friday morning saw some fun until Janet Currow with her expertise came to the rescue and sorted us out – thanks Janet. To all of those who assisted in the erecting and dismantling operations, and to our son Graeme for the use of the marquee – a big thank you.*

*Safe travels everyone, and see you soon at Camp Grace or Boddington*

*Alan Parkinson*

*Report submitted on behalf of Brian Bizzill, President*

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

***After receiving a few comments on the new log-in security ( " I AM NOT A ROBOT " ) for the Sandgroper Website I have checked it out and I agree it is slightly more difficult than the old system.***

***I have been informed by Gary Fitzgerald, our IT consultant, that this new system has been implemented by Google to increase website security and we will just have to live with it.***

***See you on the road somewhere***

***Brian Bizzill***



# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT CAMP GRACE – BUSELLTON**

*Hi Everyone*

*A change for the better saw Friday 21/10/16 with the weather perfect for travelling and setting up, everyone must have been keen to take in the sunny weather as most vans had already arrived by the time Rheta & I reached the Camp. The MLC schoolgirls were gone by about 1pm (apparently they were a noisy bunch). The weather remained perfect for most of the rally.*

*There were 10 vans on site, including visitors Helma and Henry Gielingh. Chris & Di Young were unable to attend due a family illness – hope all is well now. The park proved comfortable for the number of vans attending and had an excellent Kitchen/Dining facility available to us.*

*During the Rally Opening by Alan the Members and Visitors were welcomed and the following items were mentioned for attention including that Members should register online for rallies even though there is a clip board list, also they were requested to nominate the days they would be attending as this assists the rally officer to organise the programme.*

*Kevin Forbes gave a brief report on the progress of the 2019 National Rally with a report of a good response from caravanners following the presentation at the Canberra Rally and noted that the value of the Corromal van to be raffled is now \$60000. The State Rally now looks like being at York.*

*Ian Moore spoke about the rally being open to individual or group activities as the Members wished. A discussion followed where it was decided the rally to be a free and easy time which proved to be such with a BBQ Dinner on Saturday night. Alan then declared Rally Open and then remembered that birthdays and anniversaries had not been mentioned, this was quickly remedied that issue and also that Brian & Betty Morris had cancelled coming to the rally as their family was organising a function to celebrate their Diamond Jubilee Wedding Anniversary – congratulation on their great achievement.*

*Sunday afternoon saw 10 members travelling to Cowaramup and enjoyed delicious ice-creams; coffee, scones, jam & cream and then we all partook in very tasty fish & chips on Sunday night. Many members took advantage of the free time over the weekend to sight see or catch up with friends. Thanks to everyone for making it another enjoyable Rally.*

*Please make sure you register for Boddington so that Ian Moore can confirm final numbers with the Caravan Park and Hotel.*

*Just before leaving Tuesday, a rain drizzle started, ending the perfect weather we had been getting to that point, it continued to rain all the way home including when getting the van down our driveway (not an easy task on the best of days) – punishment for leaving the rally early. Safe travels everyone, and see you soon at Boddington.*

**ALAN PARKINSON**

*Report submitted on behalf of Brian Bizzill, President,*

## **REPORT from Brian Bizzill**

*Hi everyone*

*Helen and I have today arrived in Nuriootpa in the Barossa Valley where we will spend a few days. The weather is looking like it finally might be Spring. From here we will visit the Clare Valley and the Finders Ranges before turning West for WA.*

*From all accounts it was a good rally at Camp Grace and it appears that everyone had a good time and enjoyed the relaxed format.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to ask anybody who intends to go to the Christmas rally and who hasn't registered as yet, to do so as soon as possible so that the numbers can be finalised with the caravan park and the hotel for the dinner.*

*Helen and I will be arriving in Boddington on the Thursday but unfortunately we will have to leave on Sunday morning to attend a family function and will therefore miss out on the picnic. We are looking forward to catching up with everyone and to hearing what has been happening while we have been away.*

*See you on a road somewhere .... Brian*



### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Margot Nicoll 18<sup>th</sup>  
Kevin Forbes 19<sup>th</sup>

### **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Brian & Mary Wales 9<sup>th</sup>  
Ian & Natalie Kessell 10<sup>th</sup>  
Brian & Betty Morris 10<sup>th</sup>



### **RALLY ATTENDEES for BODINGTON** **24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Brian & Mary Wales

Kevin & Thelma Forbes

Lawrie & Roslyn

Ian & Beth Moore

Gerry & Margaret Kerrigan

Jim & Helen Schell

Peter & Ruth

Visitors: John-Paul Samuelson

Phil & Jenny Shea

Chris & Dianne Young

Frank & Janice Alolivic

Alan & Rheta Parkinson

Brian & Betty Morris

David & Paula Hiscock

Kel & Glenda Olesen

Ted & B June Bunce

Gaeme & Clelia Gough

### **REMINDERS:**

**One male and one female present from each van to the value of between \$15 and \$20 FOR Father Christmas to distribute.**

**To DECORATE your van with Christmas cheer. Vans will be judged and prizes given for the best decorated van in daylight and the best one at night.**

# Coming Events

## **NEW YEARS RALLY**

***APOLOGIES to all but I don't have a 2017 Rally Programme with me. Will find out more and include in next newsletter.***

## **GREY NOMADS**

Four old blokes were walking down the street in Maroochydore.

They turned a corner and see a sign that says,

Old Timer's Bar – all drinks 10cents!

They look at each other, and then go in, thinking this is too good to be true.

The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room',

'Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, Gentlemen?'

There seemed to be a fully stocked bar, so each of the men ask for a beer...In short order, the bartender serves up four icy cold beers, and says, "That'll be 10 cents each, please.'

The four men stare at the bartender for a moment. Then look at each other in a ...they can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their drinks, and order another round.

Again, four schooners are produced and the bartender again saying, 'That's 40 cents, please..' They pay the 40 cents but their curiosity is more than they can stand. They have each had two beers and so far they've spent less than a dollar.

Finally one of the men says, 'How can you afford to serve beer as good as this for 10 cents each?'

I'm a retired tailor from Sydney,' the bartender said, and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery for \$25million and decided to open this place.

Every drink costs ten cents - wine, liquor, beer, it's all the same.'

Wow!!!! That's quite a story,' says one of the men.

The four of them threw down their beers and couldn't help but notice seven other people at the end of the bar who didn't have drinks in front of them, and hadn't ordered anything the whole time they were there.

One man gestures at the seven at the end of the bar without drinks and asks the bartender,

'What's with them?'

The bartender says, 'Oh, they're all Victorian grey nomads from the caravan park, waiting for happy hour when drinks are half price.'



## **BODDINGTON CHRISTMAS RALLY**

### **PROGRAMME FOR CHRISTMAS RALLY**

**24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**

- Thursday 24/11*      *Arrival and Setup*  
*5pm Happy Hour*  
*6.30pm BYO Dinner or BBQ*  
*Evening – Board or card games or socializing*
- Friday 25/11*      *9am TAI CHI or Walk*  
*10am Morning Tea*  
*11am – Committee meeting*  
*Lunch*  
*PM Individuals – Walk around Boddington to inspection points of interest*  
*3.30pm Afternoon Tea*  
*5pm Happy Hour*  
*6.30 pm BBQ Dinner together*  
*Evening – Board or card games or socializing*
- Saturday 26/11*      *9am TAI CHI or Walk*  
*10am Morning Tea*  
*Lunch*  
*2.30pm Afternoon tea, Carols followed by Father Christmas passing out presents (one male and one female present from each van to the value of between \$15 and 20).*  
*4pm Break to prepare for the evening*  
*5pm Happy Hour*  
*6.30pm Dinner at Boddington Hotel \$27.50ea (Roast (2 meats) plus sweets)*
- Sunday 27/11*      *8am Community Breakfast*  
*9am TAI CHI*  
*10am Morning Tea & announcement of decorated van winners – day and night prizes*  
*11am Drive to Tullis Bridge for picnic lunch and take the Tullis Bridge walk*  
*Lunch*  
*3.30pm Afternoon Tea*  
*5pm Happy Hour and closing of Closing rally*  
*6.30pm BYO Dinner or BBQ*
- Monday 28/11*      **Depart at leisure from the Caravan Park**  
**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS**  
**SEE YOU AT THE NEW YEAR EVE RALLY AT PINJARRA**