



# GROPER'S GOSSIP



Beautiful sunset for our Bush Christmas Dinner



Walkers among the gumtrees at Whitegum Farm



Some of the 'good' children receiving presents from Santa.

Our November Christmas Rally to Whitegum Farm was another fun filled event celebrated over four days in typical Sandgroper style. Read all about it in this bumper issue;

- Pg. 2 Management Committee, President's Report and Upcoming Rallies
- Pg. 3-6 Christmas Rally Report by Chris Back. Photos by Lyn Mitchell
- Pg. 7 Extended Tagalong Report by Glenda Olesen
- Pg. 8 Sandgroper Celebrations for November and December. Lemon Cheesecake Bliss Ball Recipe by Lyn Mitchell
- Pg. 9 New Year's Eve Program by Cheryl and Graham Kent.

## 2023 SANDGROPER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emergency contacts: Helen Bizzill 0417 913 050, Cheryl Kent 0477 474 115, Lyn Mitchell 0409 202 470



Helen Bizzill  
President



Cheryl Kent  
Vice President



Lyn Mitchell  
Secretary



Di Young  
Treasurer



Chris Back  
Com. Member



Ian Moore  
Member Sec.



Jacquie Adams  
Com. Member

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2022

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Sandgroper and their families. I hope everyone enjoys the festive season, happy and safe.



We started off the festivities at our Whitegum Farm Christmas rally with a delightful bush Christmas themed barbecue dinner on the Friday night, followed by a traditional Christmas lunch at the Kimberley Bar and Bistro on site on Saturday. And then we topped it off with a Sunday lunch at the Greenhills Inn in our own private, beautifully restored dining room. Thanks to everyone who attended (14 vans, 27 people) and I hope you all had a great time. Read Chris Back's excellent rally report to get all the details.

In last month's Gossip was Roy and Maureen Lundy's story and I am sure you all enjoyed reading it as much as I did. Well done Roy and Maureen! Updates on other Sandgroper are that John Moriarty has received all clear from his cancer, Kevin Forbes has undergone a successful op and is recovering at home and hopeful he will be well enough to attend the next rally, and Laraine Allen has had a shoulder op this week (hope the recovery goes well).

On a sadder note, we extend our sympathy to Ron Mitchell on the recent passing of his mother, and to Jacquie Adams whose mother passed away last weekend. Our thoughts are with Ron and Lyn and Jacquie and Syd at this sad time.

The New Year rally should be lots of fun with Graham and Cheryl as venue officers. Please welcome our visitors – Jack and Deanne Muir, not related to Colin and Noelene but they are good friends.

To all our Sandgroper friends – stay safe, look after yourselves and have fun over the holiday season.  
Helen

I received the following email from past members Jan and Frank Alilovic who still receive the Gossip, filling us in on all their news. It is great to keep in touch and I would love to hear from other past members with what is happening in their lives.  
Cheers, Cheryl K Editor

Hi Cheryl and Graham,  
Thank you for sending the Gossip to us. I do enjoy reading the news and what's been happening. Grandchildren are keeping us busy as well as all our other activities. Never a dull moment. 8 grandchildren now- the eldest is now 13 and another will be just prior to Christmas, the youngest are twins and are now crawling around. Pass on our best wishes to those we know.  
Love, Jan and Frank

### UPCOMING RALLIES

**DEC 29 – JAN 2 NEW YEARS EVE RALLY** Pinjarrah Holiday Park 326 Pinjarra-Williams road, Blythewood. (0409 903 269) All services. Venue officers: Cheryl and Graham Kent. All details in Program on page 9.

Attendees registered at 5 December Adams, Allens, Backs, Caldwelles, Haigs, Jordans, Kents, Lundys, Moriartys, Muirs, Olesen, and Schells & Youngs. Visitors Jack & Deanne Muir.

**JANUARY 19 2023** – Sandgroper's Annual Picnic. J.H. Abrahams Reserve, Hackett Drive Crawley. BYO Everything.

**FEB 2 – 6 2023** Peppermint Grove Beach 48 Peppermint Grove Road, Peppermint Grove Beach (0439 737 791)  
All services, mini golf, tennis court, pizza night. Venue Officers: Glenda, Doris and Jill

**CHRISTMAS RALLY**

**Whitegum Farm 24 – 28 November 2022**  
**Venue Officers – the Management Committee**

The Christmas rally at White Gum Farm near York was a huge success with 14 vans represented. The Allens were so keen they arrived on Wednesday.



**Plane taking off alongside the caravan park**

The farm doubles as a caravan park and recreational light plane airstrip and the early arrivals on Thursday were treated to aerobatics from a modified WW11 spitfire and ultralight aircraft. Much boasting was forthcoming from several Sandgropers on past aviation exploits but no moves were made to join the acrobatics in the sky!



Friday morning followed the time-honoured tradition of a walk followed by Tai Chi led by Master Brian. Morning tea preceded an excellent committee meeting in which several members sat in as observers and managed to behave themselves... not sure why.

Sandgropers were joined by a class of noisy but delightful kids and parents from Mundaring Primary School... the school had decided there would not be an end of year camp so the parents decided to take matters into their own hands. Great to see kids

charging around on bikes rather than sitting in front of electronic devices. Which of us went to bed early when we were let loose with other kids on bikes?

Under close supervision of the ladies the outdoor dining area was transformed by the willing labour force into a summer wonderland of lights and decorated tables. At which the President opened the rally and Helen Schell was promptly told by Santa's little helper that she had (again) been naughty and was unlikely to be receiving a present from Santa...



**Right: Di, Cheryl and Sue decking the halls (with beads.)**



**Many hands make light work! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up for the Bush Christmas night.**

Linda and Chris presented an overview of their recent barge trip in Belgium and Holland... Chris thought his Christmas had come early when Roy opened his hip flask but it was not to be... Roy had obviously attended this type of event before and promptly consumed the contents himself.



**We all enjoyed Chris and Linda's presentation of their six month trip to Holland, Panama and Louisiana**

Highlights of the BBQ dinner were Deb and Jerry winning the raffle being two lovely Christmas figures knitted and donated by Maureen and a chocolate quiz organised by Cheryl in which one table correctly guessed 19/20 questions relating to chocolate brands.... the stewards are still enquiring into the result.



**Deb and Jerry with their Snowmen**



**Bush Christmas under the fairy lights**



**Twins!**



**Triplets!**



**and more twins!**

Following walks and tai chi on Saturday we assembled in the caravan park dining room for an excellent Christmas lunch, joined by Jill. Helen Schell was doing everything to get back onto the Christmas gift list... but just on the chance she would fail, she had bought herself something she really wanted... so there! Luck prevailed and Madam Lash allowed her back on the list with the good children.



**We had a very tasty Christmas meal in the Kimberley Bistro on site at Whitegum Farm**

Brian Bizzill was unable to attend the Christmas present distribution fun after lunch due to prior commitments, but Santa had a gift for him anyway. More than one member thought the President was VERY friendly toward Santa and at least one could swear they saw the President "tickle Santa Claus underneath his beard so snowy white". It must be one of the perks of the job.



**A very relaxed Santa visited us on Saturday and we all received presents even some of the naughty ones.**

On a sad note Jacqui and Syd Adams were called away urgently on Saturday night as her elderly mother had suffered a stroke. Mrs Brackley passed away early on Sunday morning and we were all delighted to welcome them back to the rally on Sunday late afternoon.... It is a great comfort to be amongst friends.



Sunday was dominated by the Great Kangaroo Kidnap... one of Glenda's joeys wandered over to chat with a park staff member who thought it was a wild roo, promptly secured it and prepared to haul it off to a wildlife officer (being the caravan park manager). Clearly the staffer did not know Glenda when he made this courageous move but he does now. In his defence, he was concerned for its well being due to foxes in the area. Sandgropers were concerned for HIS well-being but the saga had a happy ending

President Helen closed the rally on Sunday afternoon, wished everyone a safe and merry Christmas then festivities continued. It was great to see the number of people who could stay over on Monday for a relaxing end to a fantastic weekend. We travelled to the nearby Greenhills tavern for lunch and more fellowship in true Sandgropers fashion. Onwards to the New Year Rally at Pinjarra and thanks to the Committee, especially Cheryl, for the hard work in planning a successful event. Merry Christmas everyone, Chris Back

Rally attendees: Adams, Allens, Ashfords, Backs, Bizzills, Caldwells, Curchins, Kents, Lundys, Mitchells, Moriartys, Muirs, Olesen and Schells



GETTING INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!



Chris & Linda



Jacquie & Syd



Deb & Jerry



Graham & Cheryl



John & Laraine



Maureen & Roy



Sue & John



Helen & Brian



Glenda



Noelene & Colin

Cam & Denise



Lyn & Ron

## Extended Tagalong Tour by Glenda Olesen.

Several of us wanted to continue after our terrific tag a long organized by Brian. Beth, Ian, Jill, Doris and I set off down to Southern Cross and onto Lake Douglas, between Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie. The entry in was on a shocking blue metal corrugated road that is the worst any of us have travelled on.

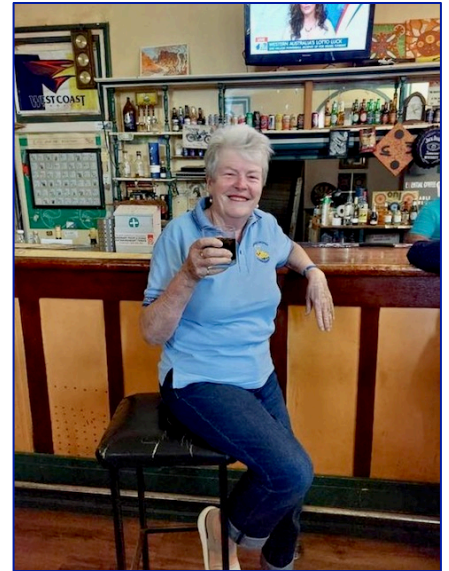
A good night under the stars with a campfire and BBQ. Next stop coffee in Kalgoorlie but when ready to leave my van wouldn't start. Help from a couple of local van drivers and all well. I think the corrugations had upset something. No other problems but Jill had some battery issues.



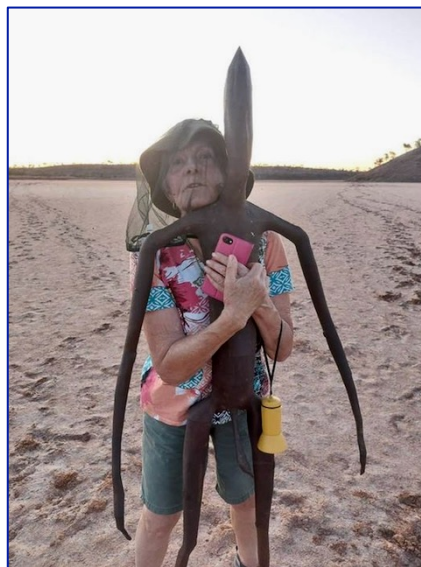
Next stop Lake Ballard, north west of Menzies and a hot 38. The road out is almost all sealed now. We arrived late afternoon to see the lake in beautiful light and camped on a rise at the edge. The flies horrendous so fly nets a must! Jill and I went exploring while Doris built a campfire.

Watching the sunset with glorious colours of the red earth, the glistening white salt, wild flowers and the little hill begging to be climbed, we enjoyed the tranquillity and glad we had done the distance. We didn't walk to all 51 of the figures, as it's a 10k stroll. A friendly 1 mt Bungarra lizard came to check out our campfire, my joeys enjoyed the red sand.

Back into Menzies, joined the locals for 5 o'clock drinks where I bought a huge watermelon to share. Menzies very clean and a delight to talk to people involved in the Lake Ballard Art Installation.



Glenda enjoying a coldie.



Kalgoorlie again for more coffee, a tour through the Town Hall and a trip out to the Super Pit for Doris to see. Sad to see so many businesses closed due to lack of staff. Onto Coolgardie to the 48hr free stop next to the railway station. A feed at the Denver City pub and talk to miners and other caravanners, mostly Victorians who were blown away with our wildflowers.

Merredin next where I met men walking across Australia for Optus, checking the route for a new line to be built. They will be out on the Nullarbor mid summer! Then Bruce Rock to see the wonderful mosaics made by the locals. Past the huge solar farm to Quairading and onto York in the rain which washed off some of the red dust. The York C P tired but Beth and Ian opened a special bottle of wine they had saved!

I came home via the Brookton Highway, all up did a big circle of more than 2, 200k. Wonderful to be on the road again with great people and good friendship. Tag a longs are marvellous. Glenda.

## SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2022

### November Birthdays

18 Rod Burge  
19 Kevin Forbes  
25 Sharon Burge  
25 Cheryl Fatti  
28 Graham Kent

### November Anniversaries

08 Barry & Cindy Jordan  
09 Mary & Brian Wales  
17 Beth & Ian Moore



### December Birthdays

03 Mary Neale  
10 Jim Schell  
12 Jill Ambrosius  
13 Alan Kirby

### December Anniversaries

14 Syd & Jacquie Adams



### LEMON CHEESECAKE BLISSBALLS by Lyn Mitchell

These bliss balls are simply delicious. You can keep them in the fridge or freezer, making them a great portion-controlled treat when you're looking for a sweet fix. You may like to add cranberries and pistachio nuts for a Christmas twist.

- 1 cup coconut (approx. start with  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup and adjust to suit if mixture is too sticky)
- 1 cup almond meal
- 250g light cream cheese
- Juice and zest of  $\frac{1}{2}$  lemon
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 teaspoons vanilla essence

**Method** In a large bowl, combine all the ingredients and mix well. Once well combined, use clean damp hands to roll the mix into evenly sized bliss balls and roll in coconut. Lay on a plate or tray, and refrigerate for at least 20 minutes prior to serving. This will help them firm up a little. Enjoy!

The following comes from a Catholic elementary school test. Kids were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. These statements about the bible were written by them. They have not been retouched and incorrect spelling has been left in. I found myself laughing out loud when I read it so I hope you enjoy it too. On a personal note, Graham and I wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas. Sincere best wishes, Cheryl K Editor.

1. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark.
2. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
3. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic Genitals.
4. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
5. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
6. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.
7. The first Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
8. The Seventh Commandment is Thou shalt not admit adultery.
9. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
10. The greatest miracle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed.
11. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins.
12. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
13. When Mary heard she was the Mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
14. When the Three Wise Guys from the East Side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.
15. Jesus was born because Mary had an Immaculate Contraption.
16. St. John, the blacksmith, dumped water on his head.
17. Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says To do unto others before they do one to you.
18. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
19. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 Decibels.
20. The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.
21. One of the Opossums was St Matthew, who was also a Taximan.
22. St Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached Holy Acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
23. Christians have only one spouse. This is called Monotony.
24. In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.





**2023**  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



PROGRAM FOR

**NEW YEAR'S EVE RALLY**

29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022 – 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2023  
Pinjarrah Holiday Park 326 Pinjarra-Williams Road Blythewood  
0409 903 269 All services. Venue Officers – Cheryl & Graham Kent

**THURSDAY 29**

Arrive and set up at your leisure. Happy Hour 5.00pm. Own Dinner

**FRIDAY 30**

8.30am Walk. (No Tai Chi) 10.00am Morning Tea.

12.00pm Picnic lunch on site. BYO everything. Optional Ladder Golf competition.

5.00pm Opening of Rally followed by Happy Hour. Own dinner then a Quiz about the past year. Start swotting!

**SATURDAY 31**

8.30am Walk (No Tai Chi) 10.00am Morning Tea

11.00am Optional drive in to Pinjarra for tour of the Edenvale Heritage Precinct. Lunch at your leisure. Return to camp and rest up for the evening's shenanigans. We have lots of fun and games in store for our...

**BLACK & WHITE THEMED EVENING**

6.00pm Happy Hour. Please wear something black or white or both to get into the swing.

7.30pm Combined BBQ Dinner (please see below for catering details.)

Dinner will be followed by lots of fun & frivolity.

10.00pm Early Celebration of New Year's Eve for those needing their beauty sleep.

12.00am Happy New Year to the stayers!



**SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2023**

9.30am Close of Rally followed by Champagne Cooked Breakfast (\$5.00 per head – please let us know if you wish to participate for catering purposes) Lazy day to follow with Finska for the energetic and board games for the less so.

Ladies I need your help for catering on Saturday night. I would like 3 Nibbles, 2 Potato bakes, 5 Salads & 3 Desserts, Please let me know ASAP by email at [agcmkent@bigpond.com](mailto:agcmkent@bigpond.com) also for breakfast participation please. Thanks! Cheryl xx