

GROPERERS GOSSIP

Volume 25 Issue 37

October 2016



Official publication of the *Sandgroper Caravanners Inc*

Radio Chanel: AM 7; UHF 18

Emergency Phone Numbers: Members families can contact these numbers during rallies:

Brian Bizzill 0419 940 907 Roy Lundy 0414 448 680 David Hiscock 0410 479 385

Alan Parkinson 0439 652 834

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 Curow</i>
	<i>June Foote</i>

COOROW RALLY

By Mary Wales

Thursday saw the arrival of 6 vans– Morris’s, Forbes’s, Parkinson’s, Littley’s, Currow’s and Wales’s. Apart from the Currow’s we all managed to get set up before the rains came.

As there was no camp kitchen here, Happy Hour was a non event. As the weather was so wet & cold everyone stayed warm in their vans.

Before Brian & I drove into the Park we had called at the Council Offices to check details of any new weekend activities, and our prior arrangements with them.

Friday Sunny and cold. Ian & Margot, Laurie & Gaye arrived together with visitors Phil & Jennie Shea.

Late in the planning stage Alan Parkinson had suggested they bring their family’s marquee, which saved the weekend. We spent the morning erecting it– which should have been filmed and recorded for posterity !. It was large enough for us all with tables & chairs. We completed the luxury with 2 ground covers.

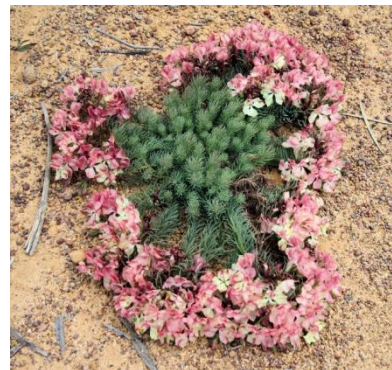


Alan opened the Rally welcoming the visitors, whilst Brian Wales outlined activities planned for the weekend. After Happy Hour all retired to their vans as the weather became bitterly cold.

Saturday This morning saw our second visitors, Chris & Dianne Young arrive just in time to join us for a convoy trip to Latham some 40 kms East, where we toured a small park with wildflowers and some local memorabilia belonging to a nearby Homestead. We then had a very nice luncheon courtesy of the Homestead Owners, who distant friends/relatives of the Forbes. On the return journey we detoured to a gravel pit where several wreath



flowers were sighted together other varieties which appeared to finishing their blooms.



were

with

be

The weather had turned sunny making a very pleasant day for all.

*In the evening we went to the local pub for dinner. A very pleasant meal enjoyed by all
Afterwards, we returned to the marquee for a delicious iced dessert made by Rheta*

Sunday *for this morning we had booked a local museum tour followed by a Council bus tour
of the farming surround. Then Murphy arrived and things went all to pieces.!*

*Two volunteer Ladies were to open the Museum at 10.am and the bus was then to pick us up at
the Park at 12 noon.*

*It turned out that the bus driver had been taken to hospital overnight, and stand-in volunteer
agreed to drive us. He arrived at 10 am to tell us that the bus had broken down but would be
fixed in a few minutes Brian drove to the Museum at 10 am as arranged but the doors were
closed and locked, [whilst the Museum Ladies were inside, having entered from a rear door,
and were trying to open the jammed front doors] The coach had a flat battery !*

*We got word at 11.15 that it was mobile and we all drove to the Museum to meet it, to find 2
indignant Ladies wondering where we were.*

*The fashion museum was interesting dating back to the 50's and brought back a few
memories. The tour afterwards was excellent. The volunteer driver was a local farmer very
informative and enthusiastic regarding crops and strategies for growing them.*

*We drove around a huge paddock full of wheat belonging to the Community. The farmer had
helped to seed it and others would be harvesting it shortly to bring around \$80,000 into the
Community coffers.*

*We then stopped at a lupin crop of his and took seeds from the pods, which were very similar in
taste to peas. His entire crop was to be shipped to China.*

*He pointed out some local wildflowers that were nearly finished, and then gave a brief history
of the town and various points of interest.*

In the evening we had a camp BBQ using members equipment.

Monday *morning saw everyone sitting outside in glorious warm weather having a farewell
breakfast.*



*Alan closed the Rally with the Rally prize being won by
Thelma & Kevn and donated by Laurie & Trish.*

*In conclusion, we thank Alan & Rheta Parkinson for the use
of their marquee, without which, our usual fellowship would
have been limited.*

Mary Wales

*Attendees: Brian & Betty Morris, Brian & Mary Wales, Arthur
& Elvia Littlely, Kevin & Thelma Forbes. Alan & Rheta
Parkinson, Lawrie Tyler and Gay, Ian Fullerton & Margo*

Nicoll, David & Janet Currow. Visitors: Chris & Di Young, and Phil & Jenny Shea



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Arthur Littlely 9th

Gerry Kerrigan 10th



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

<i>David & Paula Hiscock</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Peter & Mary Neale</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Roy & Maureen Lundy</i>	<i>20th</i>
<i>David & Janet Currow</i>	<i>31st</i>



*Happy
Wedding
Anniversary!*

Coming Events

CAMP GRACE B USSELTON CARAVAN PARK

Friday 21st October to Wednesday 26th October

220 Caves Road SIESTA PARK WA 6280

Halfway between Busselton and Dunsborough.

Approximatley 270Kms south of Perth

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Drive West from Busselton towards Dunsborough. Camp Grace is approx 5kms past Vasse on the beach side of Caves Road

The Park has shady Peppermint trees and lawn areas fronting directly onto the beach and the calm waters of Geographe Bay. It is peaceful and relaxing area close to all the benefits of the Busselton/Margaret River/ South West Capes region..

BODDINGTON CHRISTMAS RALLY

24TH – 28TH November

RALLY ATTENDEES for CAMP GRACE

Please note Rally dates are now Friday 21st after 12 noon

To Wednesday 26th depart by 10.00 am

This is one for you mathematicians

"Your Phone number will reveal your Age.

I do not know who discovered this? Really accurate.

It will take about 15 seconds, read and do it at the same time so that you will not lose the fun.

[1] Take a look at your last digit of your mobile phone number

[2] Use this figure and multiply by 2

[3] Then add 5

[4] And then multiply by 50

[5] And then add the number 1766

[6] The last step; with this number, subtract your birth year.

Now you see a three-digit number.

The first digit is the last digit of your phone number, the next digits is your actual age for this year!

Surprising?

Let's go out to spread the joy!

This is a very interesting math problem, really accurate.

Very magical, feel free to share with everyone.

Do not believe? Try it..."

On the Way to Canberra

Report from Helen Schell

Leaving Tamworth for places unseen Schell and Halse.

The time has come to venture down the hills and what an adventure. We left and the weather was ok, however after lunch the clouds came down to meet us. We finally found a lovely little camp spot on the side of the river. Next morning the cloud cover has gone so its off down the mountain to Taree. Our daughter has a friend with a block on the Manning River on Mitchells Island. Whats a delightful spot. Pelicans, leatherhead birds, magpies, swans and the magic of the river. This is nice we manage to stay a fortnight. We explored the area where dairy farms had been and the milk was collected by boat right up to the 1950s. Port Mcquarie was just up the road as was Kemsey where the Slim Dusty museum was. This area of Australia is steeped in history. We had a most enjoyable and busy time there. Time to hitch up again and off to Gulgong the home of Henry Lawson. Here we met up with Doris. A couple of days there and on the road again. This time Dubbo and the rough roads are still here. We find a camp spot behind a winery. Yes at the winery, so of course we need to sample the wares. Not a bad drop and just a walk home. Went to the zoo where it rained however the two day pass gave us time to return the following day. Now its time to visit Forbes and yes it has rained here. Lots of rain. Advice from the tourist bureau move now or stay here. So we moved. Some roads in Forbes are flooded and this was to get worse as the weeks went on. We camped over night and onto Marsden where the paddocks were lakes and the water was across the road in several places. Ataking it easy we arrived in Grenful the birtplace of Henry Lawson. Then Cowra and book into the park, where we meet up with the Neales, Adams and Lundys. All heading for Canberra. We visited the Japenese gardens and might I say Jim needs some instruction on how to drive a golf buggy. The film on the POW camp and the camp itself is very sobering. What lovely counrryside in this area, so pretty. The lambs look a picture with plenty of feed. We went to the show where Jim found a beautiful Newfoundland dog. However he was not allowed to bring him home. After Cowra we keep heading towards Canberra with quite a few detours. Up through the windy roads to Crookwell where Doris has a flat tyre. It was extremely cold there, i sure Jim thought she could have picked a warmer day. Onto Taralgra where the wind came up again and we found a little spot in the showgrounds. Next morning the wind had dropped and we move on to Golbourn before the last run into Canberra. Most of the group are in the park by evening and lovely to catch up. Canberra wasnt as cold as it could have been. After Eaglehawk Caravan Park it was off to our second National Rally. This was Rons first. Over 600 vans. While in Canberra we managed to see both parliament houses, floriarde, war museum, telstra tower and much more. Our son Jason is working in Canberra and it lo ely to catch with him. At the conclusion of our time in Canberra Jim hitched up the van the evening before. Well guess what all ready to leave early and we get a phone call from Jason. Dad Epic Park is near the Barton Highway and I am off to Brisbane. Do you want to come out. So the car is un hitched and we head for the highway. Our quest to find a parking spot for a 75 tonne truck and us. Well we did it and waved goodbye as he headed to Brisbane and us to re hitch. Ready for the morning. Now we have left Canberra and are near Burra with a large storm brewing. What will tomorrow bring. Maybe more wind and rain from Perth. So thats the Canberra trip nearly done. A great trip. Great places, great people and a time to be remebered.

Cheers from Jim Helen and Ron. Bloopers to numerous but a handy hint. To clean your bbq use WD40. This is also good for stopping the inside of your windscreen misting up. What you say, well we did see a guy doing his bbq with it, said it works a treat.



CANBERRA RALLY REPORT **by Helen Bizzill**

16 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2016

Eleven Sandgroper vans left Perth to head (in several different directions) to the 16th National Caravan Club Rally to be held at EPIC in Canberra. Ten of those vans met up at the Eaglehawk Caravan Park in Sutton, just a few kilometres from EPIC on Friday, 16 September – Brian and Helen, Brian and Ronnie, Roy and Maureen, Mike and Nola, Jim and Helen, Ron, Peter and Ruth, Doris, Kel and Glenda and Peter and Mary. Geoff and Trina arrived a few days later. Brian Bizzill opened the rally at happy hour where everyone compared stories of their adventures on the way to Canberra. A game of Left Right and Centre saw Ron as the lucky winner. During the next three days everyone headed off each morning to visit some of the many tourist attractions in and around Canberra.

Monday 19th saw the official start of the national rally and we all left Eaglehawk at various times on a cool and rainy morning. At national rallies you are directed to different sites in the hope of mixing up club members to make new friends. Unfortunately many of the sites were quite boggy due to the rain, so a bit of improvisation was called for. Brian and I were lucky to end up on the hardstand fairly close to the main conference centre and Budawang building where the evening entertainment was to be held. Many of us were in the same general area with others a bit further afield. After settling in and registering at the rally office, meeting new neighbours and generally just getting a feel for the layout, it was almost happy hour which was followed by the opening ceremony and wine and cheese.

During the nine days of the rally there were tours to do, technology classes, seminars, tai chi, disk bowls, golf, daily walks and many other things to keep you occupied at EPIC. Most of us headed off each day to do some sightseeing around Canberra – there is certainly a wide variety of iconic sights to visit. The entertainment each evening was varied and should have catered to everyone's taste. The headline act was John Williamson on Saturday night and that certainly saw the hall almost filled to capacity.

As Brian and I are on the committee for the Albany national rally in 2019 we were involved for several days with the setting up of the WA Tourism booth and then two days of registrations for that rally. The committee put on a presentation on Friday night which was very successful and received a good response. We received around 260 registrations for Albany which is halfway to our target, so we were happy with that.



We had a Club dinner on the Monday night at the Terrace Restaurant and Brian officially closed the rally on Tuesday at morning tea, with the rally ending on Wednesday morning. The Canberra committee did a great job with only 30 of their club members attending the rally and despite a few hiccups and a couple of days of bad weather, they should be



congratulated of an excellent result.

Brian and Helen Bizzill Kel and Glenda Olesen Jim and Helen Schell

Ron Halse Peter Carter/Ruth McKenzie Roy and Maureen Lundy

Brian and Ronnie Adams Peter and Mary Neale Geoff and Trina Savage

Doris Freind Mike and Nola Stein

DORIS'S OUTLOOK:

A friend asked me the other day what would be my highlight of the trip to Canberra?

After thinking,

With my start with Mary being a great tour guide we travelled across the Nullarbor and seeing the vast expanse of land and road ahead of our wonderful country

Continuing to small towns in South Australia such as Iron Knob, Woomera, Roxby Downs & Rawnsley Station with information bureau's showing us the history that made these towns once.

Iron Ore, Gold Mines, Opals fields, displays of rockets of times gone by, and talented Artists in outback towns that has made their mark in history with their talents.

Old Steam train ride in Quorn to see the scenery

Broken Hills's Prue Hart and other various artists and paintings such as "The Big Picture" a must see

An underground tour at Silverton with more dips in the road that one could imagine

On to Cobar where we met a couple and free camped by a lake to find I had Caravan issues with no power through the night

Off to my first Auto Electrician.

Flat tyre and all!

Thinking all was good I travelled onto Burke.

More Information bureau's and tours that was just so informative.

Steam boat ferry ride up the "Darling River" in the "Jandra" with all the history again from times gone by.

To listen to "Poet on a Plate" sitting by a fire at night with a great meal cooked and more travellers to meet.

With poetry of Banjo Patterson, Henry Lawson and more.

On to Lightning Ridge, more poetry, hot springs and mining tours and of course Opals

St George next to stay at "Nindigully Pub" for 3 nights free camping.

And Oh No! Still more battery troubles with the van.

But not to worry it was a bright moon, and a camp fire the 3rd night. Lots of Caravan's & Tent's to keep me company.

Several more stops then to Brisbane (Manly area) to book Caravan in yet again with Auto Electrician and then off to Brisbane Airport to pick up my friend Colin.

This time Van is fixed. Beauty!

Seeing the coast now and another WOW!

Now not to harp on it, but now Car issues and a new Alternator.

Not too worry a lovely 3 days in Ballina with no car but lots of walking and a bus trip to Lennox Head with a picnic lunch and coffee.

Then off over the rangers, hills, valleys, "S" bends winding road with great scenery.

Another free camp at a river park.

Grafton, waterfalls so large and beautiful.

Tamworth with Nundle wool nearby, Werris Creek and all the history of the trains in World War Two. Our soldiers and the hard times they endured.

Next with a couple of free camps to Ganjong with the history of Henry Lawson and our original \$10.00 note with Helen, Jim and Ron crossing paths with me.

Camping in the showgrounds with a free courtesy bus to the RSL for dinner one night.

Twelve of the campers that night with fun, laughter and a great meal all night.

Dubbo to see Tooronga West Plains Zoo. Massive area of wild life area's and information on the breeding and conserving our endangered animals

Free camping in a local Winery looking over the valley.

Listening to the Zoo animals nearby in the morning. Great!

So Highlights for me.

"This Journey"

What more could one ask for, but the variety of all above.

A must see and experience.

Much more was seen and enjoyed then Canberra.

Also great to catch up with everyone and share our travels

Enjoy all our wonderful country and people we meet on our travels.

Cheers

Doris