



GROPER'S GOSSIP

October has been a huge month for Sandgroper and we have a bumper issue for you.
(Cheryl Kent editor agcmkent@bigpond.com.au)

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2021 SANDGROPER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emergency phone numbers for member's families to contact during rallies

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



President
Helen Bizzill



Vice President
Cheryl Kent



Secretary
Di Young



Treasurer
Sharon Burge



Chris Back
Committee Member



Ian Moore
Membership Secretary



Lyn Mitchell
Committee Member

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2021

October was a busy month for caravanning, starting off with a great four days at Potters Gorge. Thanks to Linda and Colin Haig for hosting the weekend. Fortunately, the weather was reasonably kind – a bit cold in the evenings but the days were sunny and fine. A lot of fun was had at the horse racing on the Saturday night and the inaugural Sandgroper's Cup was hotly contested. Lynne Kirby was kind enough to bring a selection of fascinators for the ladies to wear. This rally presented a great opportunity to view the completed mural on the face of the Wellington Dam, which is absolutely awesome, as well as the many murals in the town of Collie.



On the Monday a group of eight travelled to Taunton Farm for three days prior to the State Rally in Bunbury. The weather was very different with strong winds and rain, but we still managed to get out and about and have fun. The State Rally was held in Bunbury and our group arrived a day early to assist Chris Young in laying some temporary water pipes, so all vans were able to top up their tanks as required. Although the ACCWA committee was not initially in favour of this idea, at the end of the rally it was voted as a great success along with the temporary dump point, which was installed following some gentle persuasion from Sandgroper's. In fact, everyone agreed that water and a dump point should be mandatory for future state rallies. Well done Sandgroper's for encouraging these basic services, and to Chris and all his helpers. 85 vans attended the rally and congratulations go to Sou'west Getaway Club for running a great weekend.

Brian and I have had some exciting news this month. Our granddaughter, Tayla, who was married in March this year, is expecting a daughter at the beginning of May 2022. It took us a while to realise that we were to become great grandparents – very exciting, but a bit daunting, as we didn't think we were quite old enough just yet!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas rally at Karrinyup Waters at the end of November.

Safe travelling, Helen

Kalbarri Report - September 2021

(By Ian Moore, photos by Lyn & Cindy)

On a cold September Monday morning, not long after dawn, the six members of the advance party on the expedition to Kalbarri departed the Bindoon Oval but not before the morning ice was cleared from Barry's Tonneau and windscreen. Slipping quietly past the infamous bakery, Cindy, Barry, Denise, Cam, Beth and Ian headed north on the Midlands Road bound for Kalbarri via Moora, Carnamah, Geraldton and Northampton. Lyn and Ron were due to follow in their tracks on Tuesday. The drive up was along quiet country roads with green paddocks and abundant wildflowers along the verges.



Happy campers! Cam, Denise, Cindy, Barry, Beth, Ian, Lyn & Ron.

Ian, keeping to his word had Cindy and the others at Carnamah for morning tea in a little over two hours, just over Cindy's limit. On the way into town we diverted to the CBH bins and getting permission on the radio, the vans were driven over the weighbridge resulting in one very happy driver in his new caravan being light and room for more cupboards to be filled. A happy driver safe within limits. Leaving one driver wondering where all the weight was hiding in his caravan.

After another two hours and a sit down lunch on the outskirts of Geraldton and the last leg to Kalbarri arriving around four. There was a late and short happy hour under an awning before being driven inside by the cold, and dinner. Unfortunately we heard from Peter Neale in the evening that Mary was quite unwell and they could not join us. Keeping in touch, Peter let us know a few days later that Mary was slowly recovering.

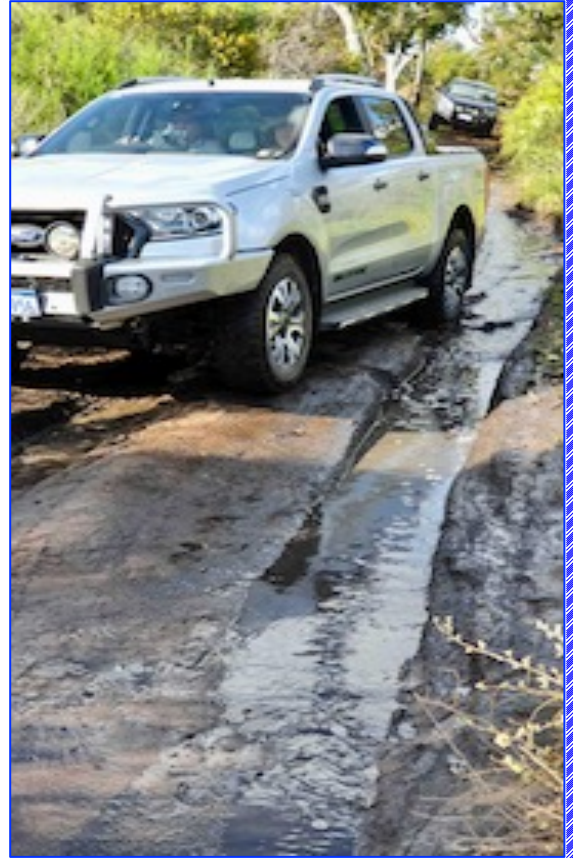
Reporting from "The Swamp." After the cyclone and rains the Caravan Park, built on a rocky slope had drainage problems and water was seeping up from the grassed area around Beth and Ian's van. A word with management and a large board was provided to give them dry feet before entering the van.



The Party enjoying the country singer Terry Bennett

Tuesday was a day of pottering and housekeeping. A pleasant surprise in the evening was Australian County singer/songwriter and instrumentalist Terry Bennett singing at the Camp Kitchen for two hours from five pm and passing round the hat for his efforts. A perfect happy hour made more so by the timely arrival of Lyn and Ron. There was a BBQ dinner to finish the night.

The party decided to meet on Wednesday morning at the Skywalk at the Gorges. It's a magnificent structure, well made, and fitting in perfectly with its rusty finish complementing the gorgeous red gorges and sandstones. Afterwards we all had our own walks and sightseeing to do. We had a happy hour together later and dinner in our vans. Weather was pleasant but cool and gusty winds.



Four wheel driving along the Murchison River including mud and dirt. (It's a boy 'thing'. Ed)

Thursday's plan was a BBQ lunch at the camp kitchen, some went back to the Gorges for more walks and Lyn and Ron went 4wd exploring. After Lunch Lyn and Ron suggested we follow them on a drive along the river and our 4wd adventure began. There were sandy and rutted tracks with mud and narrow sections and branches "kissing" at the paintwork. A great time was had by all. We met later for happy hour at the fish and chip shop and sat in their licenced patio area until the cool breezes sent us home again.

Cindy had suggested we all go fishing along the riverbanks and have a bacon roll breakfast early in the morning. By just after seven we all met a short way up the river and enthusiastically rigged up and wet the lines. The fish were biting and jumping out of the water in front of us and next to us but not latching on. Cindy was catching little bream but all the boys caught were mud, branches and lots of weed. A break for breakfast of bacon sarnies and then all the girls gave it a try. Beth caught two tiddlers and Cindy was the star of the day with over eight fish, all small. Denise was snagging on the weed banks and tangling lines, swapping rods and tangling more lines. The boys were collectively untangling lines.





Picture postcard perfect for fishing Sandgroppers at Kalbarri.

There were Whistling Kites swooping and calling and Herons wading along the banks and Seagulls patiently waiting for titbits. Not much luck with us lot! A good lunch at the pub after paying respects to Ron's Uncle who had his own stool at the bar, now a plaque on the wall above the bar. Our own time after lunch with Cam going back on the Internet to find the perfect van, there is too much choice. Later we had happy hour at the camp kitchen.



Girls enjoying a spot of quiet fishing.



Cindy's catch of the day.

Saturday Lyn and Ron were heading home via Carnamah and the weighbridge. The others had cliff and gorges walks and of course a happy hour. Officially the rally was over as only three vans remained.

Cindy had booked a long time in advance a Sunday evening meal at Finlay's famous Seafood Restaurant. We arrived at four for the entertainment. It was a lady singing popular songs and playing guitar and saxophone. She was very good. We had various dishes but were all happy with the meal. Barry and Cam said they were "all right" which translates to "good" really. Then back to the camp kitchen for last goodbyes and drinks. Beth and Ian remained, the others left for home on Monday morning. A darn good Rally was had.



Lyn & Ron at 'The Window' in Kalbarri

Attendees at Kalbarri: CALDWELLS, JORDANS, MITCHELLS & MOORES

POTTERS GORGE RALLY
Thursday 14 - Sunday 17 October 2021
Venue Officers - Colin and Linda Haig



Our rally to Potters Gorge was a lot of fun as the weather was mostly fine and sunny for us to enjoy the picturesque campsite on the shores of Wellington Dam in a shady forest setting with good views across the back waters of the Dam. Fifteen vans arrived throughout Thursday for the start of the rally and the Youngs and Messengers arrived on Friday afternoon. Thursday night we all relaxed for the evening around a large outdoor fire and caught up with everyone's news and ate charred marshmallows.



Morning Tai Chi is always popular with Master Brian.



Oh no! We've lost the Prez!

On Friday morning after Tai Chi we did a walk throughout the park. All was going well until we lost sight of the President. We lost a few points as the leaders for her disappearance. We returned to camp hoping she had made her way back to her van and to break the news to Brian, only to find he also had disappeared. They were eventually sighted walking together towards camp.



It was great to see everyone involved in a spirited game of Finska after lunch. Graham Kent and Chris Back played of in the final with Graham the eventual winner. It was a mighty effort from Chris as it was his first game of Finska. He insisted it was skill and technique and not 'beginners luck'. Either way - well done Chris!

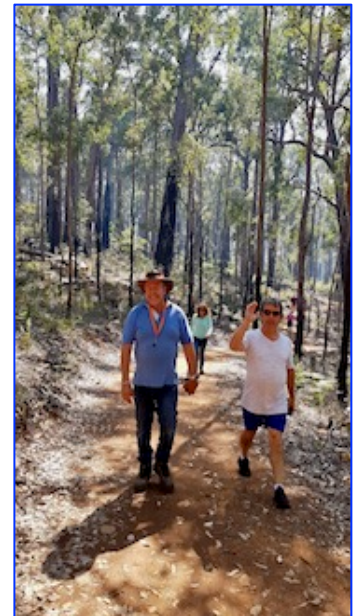


Friday night we had three fires rather than the one large fire. We had a few members attempt the perfect damper in the fire pits. Graham Kent was the unofficial judge of the dampers and tasted each one giving the right answer to each damper participant but decided his life was worth more than declaring a winner.

We had jaffles for dinner followed by a written quiz with teams of 4. All were very knowledgeable and managed the jumbled towns answers with ease.

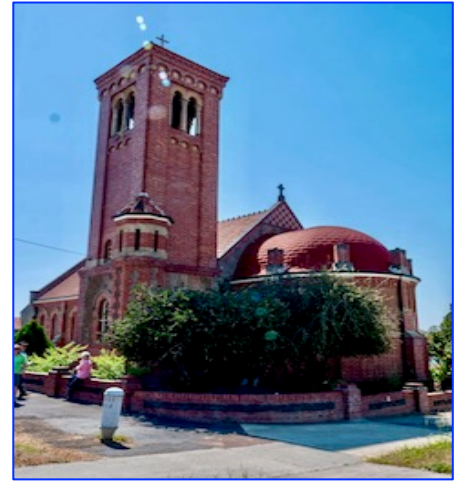


Saturday morning several members did a scenic walk through the forest to the dam café for morning tea. On return we all prepared for our big day out in Collie. First stop was a scrumptious lunch at the Collie Coalfield café. This was very enjoyable, and host was quite a character.



After lunch we started our mural walk at the Anglican Church where a local gave us a very informative talk about the mural significance and history of the area and the church. Each member was given a mural brochure explaining each mural and the trail to each one. There are over 40 in the town. Some are amazing.

Left: One of the 40 stunning murals in Collie. It is an ode to the much-loved Theatre Royal, which depicts the leisure pastimes in both the past and future of Collie.



Above left: Waiting patiently for our very informative tour of the Anglican Church in Collie.

Above right: All Saints Church, Collie W.A.



Left: Saint Christopher, the patron saint of travellers would be very pleased to see two former altar boys, both named Christopher John, return to the fold, however briefly.

Bottom Left: Sandgroppers listening attentively to the history of All Saints Church. (We were relieved that the roof didn't cave in!)

Saturday night we had the BIG SANDGROPER RACE. Although we had a few little hiccups, fun was had by all, largely due to the fantastic caller, Chris Back. Thanks Chris you helped make it a fun night.



Winners are grinners (\$3.50 each. Wow!)



Runners up – Chris and Glenda.



It was hard work for the jockeys but Cam and Colin did a great job.

A close finish!

President Helen closed the rally after drawing the raffle prizes, which were won, by the Kirbys (donated by the Bizzills) and the Youngs (donated by the Backs). Very few left so we had a communal lunch at the park in the kitchen instead of a picnic due to uncertainty of the weather. Amazing how people can make great meals with no notice. It concluded a great weekend with lots of fun and laughter.



Attendees at Potters Gorge: ADAMS (S & J), AMBROSIUS, BACKS, BIZZILLS, CALDWELLS, CURCHINS, FREIND, HAIGS, KENTS, KIRBYS, LUNDYS, MESSENGERS, MUIRS, OLESEN & YOUNGS,

SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS – OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

October Birthdays

02 Peter Fatti
 09 Ron Mitchell
 10 Ronnie Adams
 10 Roy Lundy
 18 Annette Messenger
 21 Helen Schell
 29 John Allen

October Anniversaries

17 John & Sue Moriarty
 18 Peter & Mary Neale
 20 Roy & Maureen Lundy



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 Ian & Beth Moore

**21ST STATE RALLY, BUNBURY
22-25 OCTOBER 2021**

There were 13 Sandgroper vans registered for the State Rally. Unfortunately, Kevin Forbes' vehicle had a fire in the dash on the way to the rally and they were unable to attend. Seven vans went from the Potters Gorge rally to Taunton Farm for three days, before arriving at the rally site on Thursday 21st so that Chris Young and his band of helpers could lay the water pipework so that all vans were able to top up during the weekend. The remaining Sandgropers arrived on Friday.



Sou'west Getaway Club from Bunbury should be congratulated on running a very smooth and interesting rally with a total of 85 vans in attendance. Friday night started with the official opening of the rally, drinks at the footy club bar and nibbles, which was followed by the Redgum Rebels band that had everyone tapping their feet.

Saturday was a feast of activities – morning walk, hop on hop off bus around town, E-bike test drives, sausage sizzle, ladder golf and disc bowls competitions, not to mention a bus tour of the Margaret River region. The afternoon finale was the Inaugural ACCWA Cup horseracing event, with a bit of Zumba at the half time break.



Gorgeous Sandgroper race goes – Di, Noelene & Lynne



And they're off and racing in the Sandgroper Cup!

The evening was free to try the many restaurants in Bunbury. The Sandgropers split into two groups – one at the Lighthouse Hotel and the other at the Prince of Wales Hotel – with everyone enjoying their evening. Sunday was another busy day with the morning walk, market stalls, bus tour of the Ferguson Valley, craft group, happy hour, dinner at the footy club followed by the raffle draw, entertainment and closing of the rally. Everyone agreed that it had been a great rally.

Club attendance – Australind Happy Wanderers 3, Barking Gumnuts 9, Bi-Tone 3, Busselton 1, Caravan Club of WA 7, Coromal Windsor 4, Freedom 1, MAD Meanderers 1, Redgum 18, Road Ramblers 2, Sandgropers 12, South West Caravan Club 1, Sou'west Getaway 11, Wandering Stars 2, Western Wanderers 9, Willow Wren 2

Sandgroper attendees: Freind, Schells, Caldwell, Kents, Allens, Kirbys, Moriartys, Muirs, Backs, Bizzills, Jordans & Youngs.





PROGRAM FOR SANDGROPER'S CHRISTMAS RALLY

25-28 NOVEMBER 2021

Venue Officers - The Committee



The rally is at Karrinyup Waters Caravan Park, 467 North Beach Road, Gwelup. The park has resort style facilities with two heated swimming pools and spa, café, modern ablution blocks, large camp kitchen and is in a parkland setting with a lake. The committee has prepared the program to allow a lot of free time to enjoy the on-site facilities.

Thursday: Arrive and settle in. Afternoon tea at **3.30 pm**. Happy hour at **5 pm**.

For those attending the **National Rally** in Barmera in March 2022, there will be a short meeting at **4 pm** for a general discussion on travel plans. If you have a draft itinerary, please bring it along to the meeting.

On Thursday evening all Sandgropers have been invited to join Sharon Burge to celebrate her 70th birthday at the **Carine Glades Tavern at 6 pm**. Sharon has organised a few tables and everyone will be able to buy their meals and drinks individually.

Friday: Morning walk at **8.30 am**, Tai Chi at **9.30 am** and morning tea at **10 am**. Enjoy the rest of the day around the pool or catching up with other members for a chat or a game of disc bowls. Afternoon tea will be at **3.30 pm**.

In the evening a special **Christmas Cocktail Party** is planned, hopefully in the area beside the lake. **The rally opening will be at 5.45 pm sharp** (a little later than usual, but please be on time).


The **BAR OPENS AT 6 PM** with drinks and substantial nibbles supplied for everyone. We will mainly be standing and mingling, but please bring your chairs along if you wish.
Dress code: **Resort Wear**

Saturday: Morning walk at **8.30 am**, Tai Chi at **9.30 am** and morning tea at **10 am**.
Enjoy the rest of the morning at your leisure.


CHRISTMAS LUNCH will be held at the **Odin Tavern, 51 Erindale Road, Balcatta at 12.30 pm** where we will have a two-course traditional Christmas lunch with a main meal and dessert and a tea/coffee station. Drinks are available to purchase from the bar. Following lunch, we will return to the caravan park and at **3 pm Santa will arrive to distribute the Christmas gifts**.

Gifts: For those who wish to participate, each member is asked to provide a gift to the value of \$10, with female members buying a gift suitable for a female, and male members one suitable for a male. This will ensure there is the right number of gifts for each gender. Please mark your gifts with an **F** or **M** so they can be easily identified.

Cost to Members: The total cost to each member for **both the Christmas Cocktail Party and the Christmas lunch will be \$25**. The Club will subsidise the remainder. Sharon Burge will collect the money at afternoon tea on Friday.



Sunday: Closing of the rally will be at **9.30 am**.
Enjoy the rest of your day at the park.
Merry Christmas to all Sandgropers



Attendees for Christmas Rally listed on the website at 31st October: ALLENS, OLESEN, ADAMS S & J, NEALES, FORBES, CALDWELLS, MORIARTYS, BACKS, MUIRS ADAMS B & R, ASHFORDS, SCHELLS, HAIGS, LUNDYS, MITCHELLS, KIRBYS, MOORES, KENTS, BIZZILLS, YOUNGS, BURGES JORDANS.

If you wish to come and your name doesn't appear here please advise Brian Bizzill (brianbizzill@gmail.com) and vice versa, if your name is listed and you aren't coming, please let Brian know. Thank you.

WELLINGTON DAM MURAL



While at Potters Gorge a few Sandgroppers visited the spectacular mural, titled Reflections, painted across the vast surface of Wellington Dam. This epic artwork stretches 8,000 square metres and is the largest of its kind in the world. It isn't the first mega-mural painted by thirty five year old Australian artist Guido Van Helten as he has painted lifelike human images inside a nuclear cooling tower in Chernobyl, coated apartment towers in India's biggest slum and wore a bullet proof vest while painting a multi-storey building in the Ukraine. He was selected from a pool of 47 Australian and international applicants that was narrowed down to six. He sought his inspiration from countless photographs, stories and memorabilia from local people.

Looking at the dam wall, on the far left are two of the migrant workers who built the dam, posing as it overflows in the background. Beside them are a couple of local kids playing in the sand. The wide central image is of a group of Aboriginal children on a picnic day out from Roelands mission. They play with a little girl with blonde pigtailed and a boy fishing. Beside them is a picture of a dad with two kids. The girl is Ashlenn Cain who is now grown up and helped Van Helten on the project. The final image on the far right-hand side is of an Aboriginal couple taken from a photograph believed to be from the 1890's.

Sympathetic colours were chosen for the project to complement the area's natural beauty. They blend in with the local granite and environment and are durable enough to withstand the dam periodically overflowing. The overall effect is magnificent and certainly worth a visit if you are in the area.



Sandgroppers visiting the Dam in March 2021.



Completed mural in October. (Photo by Annette)