



GROPER'S GOSSIP



The fifteen Sandgroper's who went on the Wheatbelt Way Tagalong Rally had a fantastic time exploring the eastern wheatbelt and surrounds. Read all about it plus lots more in this issue:

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2023 SANDGROPER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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



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President



Cheryl Kent
Vice President



Lyn Mitchell
Secretary



Di Young
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Ian Moore
Member. Sec.



Chris Back
Com. Member



Jacquie Adams
Com. Member

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2022

Our Wheatbelt Way Tag Along rally in October was a success. Read all about it in the rally report. Good destinations, good group, and good weather (mainly). Thanks to everyone who *tagged along*. Next year's tag along in July will be a station stay over 11 days, so remember to register for that one.

Next rally will be our Christmas rally at Whitegum Farm near York from 24 November, and we currently have 30 people attending. If you would like to join in, please let us know as early as possible as we will need firm numbers for the Christmas lunch.

Enjoy the Spring weather, and welcome home to Chris and Linda Back after their extended overseas trip – holidays are great but it's always nice to be back home. On a sadder note, I am sure all Sandgroper join me in extending our sympathy to Noelene Muir on the recent passing of her father. Our thoughts are with Noelene and her family at this sad time.

Brian and I are headed off next weekend to catch up with Mike and Nola at the Mt Barker races and then on to Augusta for a Melbourne Cup luncheon. Looking forward to a few days of fun, and hopefully a few wins at the track.

Travel safe, Helen



Sandgroper pose by the 'Welcome' sign in Wylie.

UPCOMING RALLIES

NOVEMBER 24 – 28

*****CHRISTMAS RALLY*****

Whitegum Farm 680 Cameron Road York. (0408 906 520) All services, Lake Kimberley Bar & Bistro, walks, 4WD track, no swimming. Venue officers – the Committee. Friday night Bush Christmas BBQ. Saturday Christmas lunch in the Bistro. Optional gift exchange of \$10 presents (ladies buy for ladies, gents buy for gents. Full details in rally program on page 8)

Right: Whitegum Farm



Rally attendees listed at 2nd Nov 22: Adams, Allens, Ambrosius, Ashfords, Backs, Bizzills, Caldwells, Curchins, Haigs, Kents, Lundys, Mitchells, Moriartys, Muirs, Olesen & Schells.

DECEMBER 29 – JANUARY 2 **NEW YEARS EVE RALLY**

Pinjarrah Holiday Park 326 Pinjarra-Williams Road, Blythewood. (0409 903 269) All services.

Venue officers: Cheryl and Graham Kent. Black and White theme for New Years Eve. Prepare to party! Full details in next month's Gossip.

Rally attendees listed at 2nd Nov 22: Adams, Allens, Backs, Caldwells, Haig, Jordans, Kents, Lundys, Moriartys, Muirs, Olesen, Schells & Youngs

Right: Pinjarrah Holiday Park



JANUARY 19 2023 Sandgroper's Annual Picnic. J.H. Andrews Reserve, Hackett Drive Crawley. B.Y.O. everything.

RALLY REPORT

WHEATBELT WAY TAG ALONG

10-17 OCTOBER 2022

The Wheatbelt Way Tag Along Rally covered two nights in each of four different locations, commencing in Wyalkatchem (pop. 620) where the first settlers took up land in 1904. The town's economy focuses heavily on sheep and wheat. Our next stop was Koorda (pop. 596), which came into being as a siding when the railway north and east from Wyalkatchem was gazetted in 1917.

Elachbutting Rock (**right & below right**) is a massive granite outcrop (the name is thought to mean "big things standing") and provided a great free camp area for our next stop. Our final destination was Mukinbudin, mainly settled by pastoralists in the 1870s that took up large leases in excess of 20,000 acres to run sheep. Since then, Mukinbudin has grown into an enthusiastic and proud community with a population of 568.



The general plan of the itinerary was to spend one day travelling between destinations with time to wander around the town in the afternoon, and the following day exploring the surrounding area. This seemed to work well with our explorations including climbing Billiburning Rock, a picnic lunch and coming across an amazing display in the middle of nowhere of a variety of letterboxes based on a honey and bees theme (**above left**).



We inspected the Pergandes sheep yards (**above left & right**) constructed almost entirely from local granite slabs drawn into position by horse sled from the nearby Wiacubbing Hill and placed upright out of the ground to make the fences of the sheep yards. We also checked out the miniature wave rock and Monty's Pass at Elachbutting Rock.

We visited and climbed Beringbooding Rock **(right)** which has the largest rock water catchment tank in Australia, built in 1937. The Bonnie Rock town site on the edge of the eastern wheatbelt was originally the terminus of the railway line through Beacon, with the only remaining building now being the town hall. We had morning tea at Weira gnamma hole and reserve followed by a picnic lunch and tour at Mangowine Homestead, finishing off with a coffee at Nungarin.



Tai Chi was well attended most mornings, two pub dinners at Wyalkatchem and Koorda and a long-table spit-roast dinner under the stars at Elachbutting Rock **(below left)** filled in our evenings, with a few quizzes, left right and centre (won by Doris), a game of Beetle (won by Glenda) and unscrambling cities of the world (won by Jim and Helen).



For me, the highlights were the spit-roast dinner at Elachbutting Rock, the visit to the Pergandes sheep yards and the spectacular display of wildflowers all along the many kilometres of gravel roads we travelled **(below right)**. The most amusing sight was a large field of wheat at a road junction where the farmer had positioned cut-outs that looked like shark fins amongst the wheat with a sign saying, "Beach Closed" **(below left)**.



And I must mention that the three caravan parks we stayed in – Wyalkatchem, Koorda and Mukinbudin – were all very well kept and tidy, with near new ablutions and at Wylie the new owners even supplied nibbles each evening and a large feed of fresh scones, jam and cream after dinner one night (**below right**). As well, there were large fire pits in each park with free wood supplied at two of them.



Overall, it was a great rally with a good group of people, and the weather was reasonably kind with just a few windy days at the beginning. Thanks to everyone who came along – hope you enjoyed it. We covered 1,208 kms. The caravan prize was won by Barry and Cindy, donated by Ron and Lyn. (Report by Helen Bizzill)

Attendees: Jill Ambrosius, Brian and Helen Bizzill, Cam and Denise Caldwell, Doris Freind, Barry and Cindy Jordan, Ron and Lyn Mitchell, Ian and Beth Moore, Glenda Olesen with the kids Benny and Bobby, Jim and Helen Schell.

SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022



October Birthdays

09 Ron Mitchell
10 Roy Lundy
20 Peter Fatti
21 Helen Schell
29 John Allen

October Anniversaries

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

November Anniversaries

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

November Birthdays

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

SANDGROPER NEWS



I had a lovely chat to Kevin and Thelma and despite Kev's serious health concerns, he is in bright spirits. He has a new doctor and is very happy and confident with him but is sick of having to repeat all his tests again. The travel to and from Hollywood Hospital is very tiring as well.

He requires some more tests before they decide what to do as he has multiple tumours in and around his prostate and just wants 'the bloody thing out!' Kev has become a full bottle on prostate cancer and told me that one in five men will have problems with their prostate and he is very happy to have a chat with anyone experiencing symptoms or worries about their health. Typical Kev – always thinking of others. He is also still mowing the lawn and doing all the gardening, which proves you can't keep a good man down.

On behalf of all Sandgroppers, we wish you a speedy recovery so we can see you and Thelma back at a rally very soon. Sincere best wishes, Cheryl K (Ed.)



We are looking forward to catching up with Chris and Linda Back who have safely returned home after six months galivanting around the world. They have agreed to share some of their adventures and experiences with us at our Christmas Rally at Whitegum Farm. Should be very entertaining. Personally I can't wait to hear all about it if the snippet below is anything to go by. "Only in America!" as they say. Cheers, Cheryl K (Ed.)

Our mob (Louisiana State Uni) was thrashed by Tennessee. 108,000 people at a match which was effectively between UWA and Adelaide Uni. The football program at LSU brings in US\$180 million per year, which funds all sporting activity for all sports on campus. The coach is paid \$10 million per annum! Not bad for "amateur" sport. Stupid bloody game but great entertainment and catering. Best regards, Chris and Linda.

Left: Incredible crowd at gridiron game at Louisiana State Uni



Hi all. We are currently in Adelaide at Moana beach with very high winds rocking the van, hail stones and constant rain. We have braved it and come to Willunga hotel for a Melbourne cup luncheon. We had a great trip across the Nullarbor staying at Dumbleyung, Fitzgerald old school site, where we met up with the Wanderers Caravan Club for happy hour, Salmon Gums and Bunda Cliffs all the while competing with the Indian Pacific Motorcycle Cannonball Run. Had a few days in Cleve and Whyalla before coming to Adelaide. Hope all is going well for everyone. Regards Sharon and Rod Burge

Sixty years of marriage is a wonderful achievement and I am sure all Sandgroppers will join me in congratulating our very popular members, Roy and Maureen Lundy for reaching this incredible milestone on 20th October. We wish them many more happy years together. P.T.O. to read their lovely story of their sixty years together, Cheryl K (Ed.)

Our 60 years of marriage

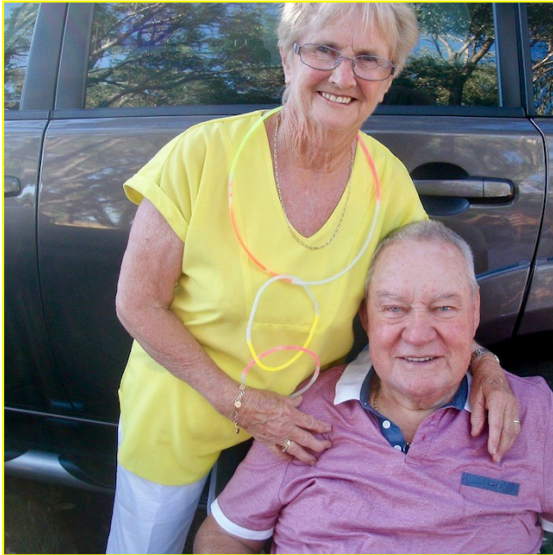
We met on Easter Monday 1958 when Maureen's twin brother John introduced us. We courted for about 2 yrs. A big part of that time Roy worked up north at Yampi sound for Australian Iron and Steel. On one of his trips back to Perth Roy proposed. After about 8 months of engagement, we were married on the 20th October 1962 at St Mary's church Leederville.



The Happy Couple – 20th October 1962

Our honeymoon was spent traveling around the southwest for two weeks and then we travelled on a state ship back to Yampi sound where we settled on Cockatoo Island to start our married life together. After 6 months we were transferred to Koolan Island. Our eldest daughter Julie was born at Derby Hospital on 6th October 1963.

In 1966 we arrived back in Perth, where Roy got a job for a building company. During that same year our son Graham was born, only to be taken from us one year later with a brain tumor. Over the next 7 years we had 3 more daughters. Life was going along very nicely until tragedy struck again when our 6-year-old daughter Narelle was diagnosed with bone cancer. After a two-year battle we lost her, two days before Christmas in 1977.



Life was busy bringing up our remaining three girls. Roy was working as a building supervisor, and Maureen was a home mum. As in the nature of his work Roy changed jobs often. Once the children were at school, Maureen started a curtain making business, setting up a workroom at home, and taking in contract and private work. At one time Roy gave up building work and joined Maureen as a curtain measurer and installer. Life was very busy, and we didn't have much spare time. However, the time we had was spent with the girls' activities. We had a boat and spent a lot of time at the family beach house at Mandurah. Roy was involved in the Whitford's Sea Rescue group and a fishing club. Life went on smoothly.

Before we knew it the three daughters, Julie, Leanne, and Susanne had grown to adulthood and had started to make their own choices in life. Seven years before we retired Roy got a job at the Children's Hospital as a building supervisor. Maureen was a carer for her mother who had come to live with us. After Maureen's mother passed away in 2006, we retired.

That was when the next phase of our life started. We joined the Dockers football club, went to a lot of cricket games and were both very active in an archery club. Roy gave up about 4yrs ago, Maureen only recently. Roy has been a very keen woodturner and still is. For many years before we retired, we talked about joining a caravan club. As luck has it, we chose the Sandgropers; the best thing we ever did. We have met so many lovely people and seen lots of Australia some with friends and some of it on our own. We have enjoyed the three national rallies and are looking forward to enjoying more club rallies.

The girls have all grown up and all doing well and very happy. They have turned out to be very loving and caring girls and we are very proud of them. We have been blessed with three grandsons and one granddaughter. Two of the boys are about to be married and we are hopeful to have an increase in the family before too long.

People do ask us what our secret to a long marriage is. We honestly couldn't say it is one thing. Ours has been a bit of a roller coaster ride but we have been lucky enough to be able to help each other through the happy and the sad times. We have had lots of happy times and hope to have many more.

Roy and Maureen Lundy





PROGRAM FOR CHRISTMAS RALLY

Whitegum Farm 680 Cameron Road, York.
(0408 906 520)
24 – 28 November 2022
Venue Officers – the Management Committee



THURSDAY 24 Arrive and set up. 5.00pm **HAPPY HOUR**. Dinner at your leisure.

FRIDAY 25 8.30am Walk. 9.00am Tai Chi. 10.00am **MORNING TEA**

11.00am **COMMITTEE MEETING**. All welcome.

Relaxing day at your leisure. Google 'Things to see and do around York, WA.' There are some great ideas e.g. York Motor Museum, Mt Brown Lookout, York Art Antiques & Collectables etc. (Unfortunately there is no swimming at the farm as they are involved in a messy legal dispute about an injury sustained in the pool so it is closed.)

3.00pm **AFTERNOON TEA**

4.00pm Presentation by Chris and Linda Back on their recent overseas trip.

5.00pm **Opening of the Rally** followed by **HAPPY HOUR**.

6.30pm ***** **AUSSIE BUSH CHRISTMAS** *****

Let's celebrate Christmas in true Aussie style with a communal BBQ followed by lots of fun and games. Wear something "Christmassy" e.g. red or green, Christmas hat, T-shirt etc. Prize for best dressed. (BYO meat and please help with catering by registering for either nibbles, salad or dessert. See below for details. Cheers, Cheryl K.)

SATURDAY 26 8.30am Walk. 9.00am Tai Chi. 10.00am **MORNING TEA**

12.30pm ***** **CHRISTMAS LUNCH** ***** in the Lake Kimberly Bar & Grill on site.

After lunch Father Christmas will deliver gifts to those who have been good all year. If you would like to participate, please buy a gift for around \$10.00. (Ladies buy for ladies and gents buy for gents.) Please mark gift clearly as to which is which, as Father Christmas' elves will collect from your van during the day.

5.00pm **HAPPY HOUR**. Dinner at your leisure.

SUNDAY 27 8.30am Optional walk for the enthusiastic. No Tai Chi.

9.30am **Close of the Rally** followed by **MORNING TEA** for those staying on.

12.00pm Optional Sunday lunch at Greenhills Inn, 444 Greenhills Road, Greenhills

Please register interest by text or email to Helen B (0417 913 050 or helenbizzill@hotmail.com) by **11 November** so a reservation can be made. Check out menu on Greenhills Inn website.

3.00pm **AFTERNOON TEA** for those still in camp.

5.00pm **HAPPY HOUR**. Dinner and evening at you leisure.

CATERING FOR AUSSIE BUSH CHRISTMAS BBQ

Please let me know how you can assist. Thank you very much, Cheryl K 0477 474 115
agcmkent@bigpond.com.au



We have 16 vans attending the rally so we would like:
3 ladies to make nibbles to be distributed at Happy Hour.
3 ladies to make potato bakes (always a favourite)
5 ladies to make salads (no potato salad please)
5 ladies to make desserts.

