

GROPER'S GOSSIP

Volume 25 Issue 34

July 2016



Official publication of the *Sandgroper Caravanners Inc*

Radio Channels: 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 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>

SANDGROPER'S 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.

BINDOON RALLY REPORT

30TH JUNE TO 4 JULY 2016

Seven vans set up on the Bindoon Oval on Thursday, and were joined by one more on Friday and three on Saturday. The oval was in top condition with well-kept green grass and power poles all



around the fence line. The days were sunny and warm but once the sun went down on Thursday it became very chilly and happy hour was cut short with everyone opting to warm up in their vans. Although the electrical power source had been upgraded since our last visit we still managed to trip the power out many times over the weekend.

The Bindoon Bakehouse was well patronised each day for hot pies, fresh bread and cakes. We gained access to the hall on Friday afternoon and were able to enjoy happy hour inside with the luxury of the reverse cycle air conditioning to keep us warm. We had a noisy game of Left Right and Centre which was won by visitor, John Holmes. Since our last rally at Bindoon the hall has undergone extensive renovations with the flooring completed, new kitchen area, new roof and paint job and several air conditioning units throughout the building. We had a communal tea in the hall on



Friday night before retiring to our vans.

Saturday was once again clear and sunny and during the late morning day visitors for the AGM started to arrive. The AGM itself went smoothly with some general discussion on the possible need for an associate membership category which will be further discussed in preparation for incorporation into the new Constitution which will have to be adopted due to proposed legislative changes. Thirty members attended the AGM – just over 50% of our total membership of 59. The AGM was followed by a sumptuous



afternoon tea with two wonderful cakes supplied by Kel and Glenda Olesen to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their Sandgroper friends.

Graham and Clelia Gough were welcomed as members prior to the AGM and we hope they enjoy joining our group of Sandgropers.

Happy hour was held in the hall and we were joined by Helen and Brian's son, Matthew, and his family – Peta, Alyssa and Lochie. The kids especially enjoyed catching up with Helen Schell and other members they had previously met at the Lancelin rally. The casserole night was a great success with a large variety of meals and enough leftovers for dinner the following night.

The weather turned on us on Sunday with a grey sky and rain threatening. Brian and Helen headed off to the Gingin pub for lunch with their kids while others played several games of Finska when the weather cleared and some ventured to the museum and craft centre. Some of the afternoon was spent trying to come up with a standard set of rules for Rumikub – many thanks to Alan Parkinson for

putting in so much time on this. The end result will be circulated to all members in due course. Our final happy hour was held in the hall which was then cleaned up. The use of the hall was an important part of the weekend and appreciated by all.

Monday morning saw Brian close the rally with Margaret & Greg Johnson winning the caravan prize. Packing up to leave followed with Helen and Brian, Kel and Glenda and Roy and Maureen headed north on the start of their adventure to the National Rally in Canberra in September.

Report prepared by Helen Bizzill



BINDOON RALLY ATTENDEES:

Peter Carter & Ruth McKenzie, Ian Fullerton and Margot Nicoll, Ted and June Bunce, Graham and Clelia Gough, Helen and Brian Bizzill, Kel and Glenda Olesen, Alan and Rheta Parkinson, Roy and Maureen Lundy, Jim and Helen Schell, Greg and Margaret Johnson, John and Jill Holmes (visitors)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

. BINDOON RALLY

30TH June – 4th July 2016

Hi everyone,

The rally at Bindoon for our AGM on 2 July was very enjoyable with cold nights but warm sunny days, with many trips to the Bindoon Bakehouse. There were 22 people attending the rally with 8 day visitors for the AGM, a total of 30 members out of 59 which is a bit disappointing but obviously we have several members travelling seeking warmer climates and some on leave.

Helen and I are now on our way to the National Rally in Canberra and will return hopefully in time for the Christmas Rally at Boddington. I am easily contactable by email, text or phone if need be.

Safe travels everyone see you on a road somewhere.

Brian

BINDOON RALLY BLOOPERS

Yes I did read the read the programme however forgot all about the casserole tea. Was able to remedy same at IGA. However must say I was in good company. Our President forgot what time the Rally Opening. With no effort he was also able to remedy this slight oversight.

Then a young chap told me he had stolen an orange from a local tree. Must be fleeting glimpses of his childhood.

And who got out the wine cask to pour some of the good stuff only to find they had the olive oil. Now that's the healthy alternative.

In the game of left right and centre we see a lady placing the money in the tumbler not the dice. She didn't get away with that little oops.

The group was sitting in the sun albeit in front of Brians caravan. Now Brian decided to reverse his car in but no one shifted so the car was left a fair way from the caravan. At 3am however the sun had gone and the cold crept in. Helen awoke with the awful thought that the car fridge had been left unplugged. Brian stuck his toes out of bed but thought better of it. So in the dewy morning a little later Helen bravely rose to check and lo and behold the fridge had been plugged into the car. With such a cold night maybe not to necessary.

Then one wife saw her husband had his socks on inside out. His explanation. Well dear we are off to the Canberra rally and this saves washing if I turn them in the other way.

Lovely to see a couple of senior members come visiting on Sunday. This young fellow had been batching at home whilst his wife was away. A little birdie informed me that this chap had come to attend the agm which was the previous day. Surely that's not so.

Coming Events

A decision has been made regarding the next two Rallies booked at Coolup Hall and then Wundowie and these have been cancelled and the following rally at Darkan substituted.

**Rally at Darkan 202 km south-east of Perth
11th-15th August**

Venue Officers Margo Nicoll & Ian Fullerton

The Darkan Rally is five weeks away. Arriving, if you wish on Thursday the 11th August and leaving the site on Monday 15th August.

This Park has recently been upgraded with all facilities being renewed. Powered sites are \$16 per night - as this is a Shire Park, payable to the Treasurer in cash.

Remember you must book on the website two weeks prior to the Rally, (27th July) otherwise contact me to include you on the list. At the moment 8 vans have indicated that they will be attending

I am assisting Ian Moore our new Rally Convenor at this stage as he winds up his work commitments.

If you have already placed your name on the list please confirm your booking on line.

Margaret Kerrigan



JULY BIRTHDAYS:

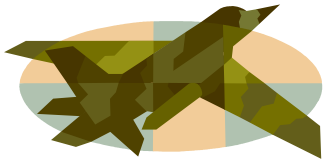
Ruth Mackenzie	8th
June Bunce	16th
Alan Parkinson	25th
David Currow	25th
Helen Bizzill	26th

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Kel & Glenda Olesen	9th
Kevin & Thelma Forbes	23rd
Brian & Ronnie Adams	25th



Happy
Wedding
Anniversary!



TRAVELLERS TALES

OUR SOUTH AFRICAN TOUR

Margot and Ian

Who would believe that after booking our trip 11 months in advance that I would have a fall two days before we were due to leave and end up in hospital! But all's well that ends well - I was given clearance to go, stiches, bruising and all.

We flew to Cape Town where our tour started. Four days of sightseeing, including a cable car trip up Table Mountain - each car holds up to 65 people and very slowly revolves 360 degrees so that everyone has an allround view. Also a visit to the Cape of Good Hope. The weather was very kind to us so we had excellent views everywhere we went.

The next step was a flight to Durban and then coach up into Swaziland where the tour company has set up a trust fund to establish two schools for children whose parents have died from Aids- some of the children have been born with Aids. We had been asked to take stationery supplies with us to donate as they are always running short. Also clothing for children aged between 2 and 15 years. The majority of the children are being raised by grandparents or aunts and uncles. Those children without any family are taken into the community each afternoon and have to wait for someone to take them home for the night. Unbelievable! Our children just don't know how lucky they are. Needless to say it was a very moving experience. Also in Swaziland was a visit to a Cultural Village where we were treated to a display of traditional song and dance performances. It was surprising how powerful their voices were, especially the lead singer for the women.

From there we continued up into Kruger National Park for two safaris. After a 5.30am start we were lucky enough to see four of the Big Five - lions, elephants, girrafe and Cape buffalo as well as rhinos, impala, warthogs and zebra. This is what we came to see!!!!!!!!!!!!

We travelled to Johannesburg via the Panorama Route with spectacular views along the way. The high altitude did affect some people's breathing. Jo'burg was a very different experience - the hotel we stayed at was set in a walled compound with the only entrance via a guarded gate. Within the compound were many restaurants and boutique shops.

A morning visit to Soweto showed various aspects of life there - housing ranging from mansions to shanties. The former residences of Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu were amongst the mansions although we also visited Nelson Mandella's original home where the holes from the bullets that were fired at him and his family by the security forces are very obvious. Also where someone attempted to fire bomb his home. This is

where he returned to live after being imprisoned for 26 years. It is now a museum. A guided tour of the Apartheid Museum covered the racial segregation experienced by millions of South Africans just over a decade ago.

A flight to Victoria Falls showed us a glimpse of the spray which rises above the Falls which are over a mile wide and 351 feet high, making them one-and-a-half times as wide and twice as high as the Niagra Falls. I knew they were huge but a walk along the falls was breath taking - the power of the water is unbelievable. 550,000 litres per second goes over the Falls! Although we were issued with heavy, full length raincoats we ended up soaked - at some viewing points it was just like standing in a shower. A helicopter flight over the falls showed the full splendour of them. No wonder it is called the Smoke that Roars. A sundowner cruise along the Zambezi River featured many hippos and elephants as well as a spectacular sunset. Our hotel overlooked a waterhole where buffalo, impala, kudu and elephants come to drink. Imagine seeing this whilst sitting on a verandah eating breakfast.

The last stop of our tour was at Chobe in Botswana where our hotel was right beside the river. A family of warthogs were living in the grounds right outside our verandah - strange looking but fun to watch them running around. Two cruises along the Chobe river featured many Nile crocodiles, elephants swimming, using their trunks like snorkels, as well as hippos. Early rising again for morning and afternoon safaris. This time the animals were even closer to our vehicles - at one stage we were so close to a pride of lions that I asked our driver if we were safe! The very elusive leopard did show himself briefly which was a bonus. The sight of baby elephants playing - pushing and shoving each other just like a couple of kids, made everyone smile. A couple of bull buffalo had a standoff with a clash of horns until one gave up and walked away, as did some impala.

Ian and I both agree that this was the most exciting tour we have ever taken - one that we will never forget.



