

GROPER'S GOSSIP

Volume 25 Issue 22

June 2015



Official publication of the Sandgroper Caravanners Inc

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Sandgroper's Wylkatchem Rally

29th May – 2nd June 2015

Report by Robin & Di Ashford

The rally was held at The Travellers Caravan Park in Wylkatchem, on the approach to town. By the time the Rally hosts, Robin and Di Ashford arrived at Friday lunchtime, the majority of Sandgroper's had arrived, except for Ronnie and Brian, Beth and Ian and Merle, all delayed by unavoidable issues. It was great that they could still come. Unfortunately the Wales, Parkinson's and Lundys had to cancel.



Those other attendees: Ron Halse, Margo & Ian, Ruth & Peter, David & Paula Hiscock Laurie Tyler & Trish Wilson, Betty & Brian Morris, Kevin and Thelma Forbes, Ian & Natalie Kessell, Arthur & Elva Littely, Gerry and Margaret Kerrigan. All were well settled, having parked their vans around the various separate ensuite ablution blocks. The owners, Shona and Russ had left plenty of firewood, even sending their son to cut up more wood for the pit.

The early arrivals had already sussed out the town and the ladies found the local craft group, managing to score a Devonshire tea for \$2:50.

President Ron, opened the meeting at Happy Hour and it was agreed to extend the rally to Monday morning as several of us hadn't realized it was a long weekend for WA day. Ron presented Thelma and Kevin Forbes with a certificate as they had attended 135 rallies. Most stayed after happy hour for a BBQ or meal in the camp kitchen, followed by a game of Rummy, or a chat around the fire.



Saturday we all gathered at 9 am, with Shona introducing a local, Ross who regaled us with stories of the district in the early days. This was followed by a very generous morning tea supplied by Shona. We then piled into the small bus, with the Forbes and Ashfords travelling with Ross in his vehicle. First we visited a gypsum quarry which resembled a moonscape, followed by a visit to the old dam which was once the town water supply, this was interesting in that it had been covered in by wooden scaffolding with corrugated iron cladding to decrease evaporation.



It was then on to Vic and Marlene Garns cropping farm , where the men especially were fascinated by the gigantic tractors, harvesters, planters and sprayers that are now used. Trish showed her prowess behind the wheel of the tractor (or maybe her fitness) at being able to climb so high. Margot also was caught climbing up the header. Then it was off to the farm-house for lunch on the porch of soup, sandwiches and tea and coffee, followed by a stroll around the rose garden.



Marlene and Vic could not have been more welcoming or informative, considering they had just finished crop planting the day before. To cap it off when Vic heard that Ian Moore had missed the tour, he picked him up on the Sunday to take him out to the farm as they were moving the machinery that morning. How thoughtful was that! What was supposed to be a 3 hour tour blew out to 5 hours, so we returned to camp with Russ having replaced Ross as extra driver. We spent the rest of the afternoon relaxing with some drifting off for a snooze.



We all gathered the energy for Happy Hour at the Bowling Club where we again met up with Vic and Marlene. Russ picked us up from there and drove us to Mel's bed and breakfast, "Henry's Hideaway." Mel had a lovely camp fire burning and with the corrugated iron surrounding it was a delightful warm area to sit and enjoy the night surrounds. Mel prepared a delicious lamb camp oven and damper on the fire which was followed by scrumptious dessert. Some then gathered to watch the footy and the rest of us gathered around the fire pit to



hear Mel's stories re Henry's Hideaway. Then on to bed.

Sunday , another lovely day following a crisp morning. This was a lazy day with many sleeping in, going for walks, with the majority visiting the extensive museum staffed by a couple of very elderly volunteers. Morning tea , lunch, afternoon tea, board games, happy hour, that was the extent of the day's activity. Ronnie and Brian left after morning tea to start their holiday. After dinner in the camp kitchen some stayed on to chat around the fire.



Monday, a fine but breezy morning. As we were missing our master and mistress of Tai Chi, we had early cooked breakfast followed by close of rally. Lucky winners of the caravan prize were Elva and Arthur.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wyalkatchem Rally

It was a lovely drive to Wyalkatchem, the paddocks were turning green and seeing the newborn lambs was lovely.

*We were lucky to have on-site toilets adjacent to our caravans.
The weather was great but cold nights, luckily we had a good fire to sit around each night.*

Thanks to Di and Robin for running the programme for the long weekend.

The farm trip was really interesting. The farmer looks after his equipment well keeping all of his machinery under cover in a massive shed. The harvester can harvest 50 feet of wheat at a time. I remember the first time I went to my Grandads farm and his harvester could only cut 8 feet. It's interesting how times have changed with all the equipment being controlled by GPS.

On Saturday night we went out to a B and B for a meal. The owner cooked our meal on an open log fire in a camp pot. It was a delicious lamb casserole and I even went back for seconds. The cheesecake for dessert was lovely also.

Overall it was a great long weekend and went off well.

See you all at Mogumber.

*Yours in Caravanning
Ron Halse*

Caravan Rally Prizes

To those that have responded and provided prizes, thank you very much.

As a reminder to others yet to respond, could you please give your donated prize to Rheta or any Committee Member as soon as possible.

Due to increased number of attendees at rallies, we are now providing two prizes when there are 15 or more vans at a rally and it should not be left to a few members to provide the prizes – all members should participate.

Thanks Rheta



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Mike Stein	3 rd
Ian Kessell	10 th
Nola Stein	30 th



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Lyn & Alan Kirby	30 th
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COMING EVENTS in 2015

AUGUST 6th – 10th WAROONA SHOWGROUNDS & OVAL ***\$10.00 PER NIGHT***

All facilities but fill water tanks, NO WATER TO VANS.

Toilets and showers available.

Waroona is located on [South Western Highway](#), 113 km south of Perth at the foot of the [Darling Range](#) and has a population of about 1,800. Agriculture (including dairying) and tourism are the major economic activities, and an irrigation system from the Drakesbrook Weir waters the town and nearby agricultural areas

SEPTEMBER 3rd - 7th ESTUARY HIDEAWAY HOLIDAY PARK ***STH MANDURAH***

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OCTOBER 8TH – 12TH KOJONUP CARAVAN PARK

Nestling in the rural heartland of the Great Southern region, historic Kojonup is more than just a gateway to the beautiful South. Settled over 150 years ago, this bustling rural town still bears all the trademarks of a traditional country settlement, with its historic buildings and friendly, safe atmosphere. Today Kojonup is a thriving country town, proud of its heritage but looking to the future. Located on Highway 95, running directly from Perth to the historic port of Albany, Kojonup is just a two hour drive from the state capital, and a short 160km from Albany

ATTENDEES FOR MOGUMBER

Ron Halse		Jim & Helen Schell	
Laurie & Trish	TFSS	Ian & Margot	TFSS
Alan & Rheta Parkinson	TFSS	Brian & Ronnie Adams	TFSS
Roy & Maureen Lundy	TFSS	Mike & Nola Stein	TFSS
Doris Friend	TFSS	Ian & Beth Moore	TFSS
Greg & Margaret Johnson	TFSS	Peter & Mary Neil	TFSS
David & Paula Hiscock		Ian & Natalie Kessell	TFSS
Arthur & Elva Littlely	TFSS	Merle Burn	FSS

The Secret to
happiness
is a good
sense of
humor and
a bad memory.



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PROGRAM FOR MOGUMBER RALLY.
Venue Officers: Greg & Margaret Johnson

THURSDAY 2ND JULY. ARRIVE & SETTLE IN

4.30 HAPPY HOUR & WELCOME.

MEAL AROUND A CAMPFIRE?

FRIDAY 3RD JULY. 4.30 HAPPY HOUR

5.pm.WELCOME & OPENING OF RALLY

BBQ MEAL TO FOLLOW

SAT 4TH JULY

8.30 POSSIBLY TAI CHI OR MORNING WALK.

OPTIONAL DRIVE AND LUNCH TO NEW NORCIA.

TOURS OF THE TOWN 11.30am and 1.30pm.

5PM HAPPY HOUR

6.30 CASSEROLE TEA IN HALL

7.30- 10.30 CABARET IN HALL 5 PIECE LIVE BAND

BYO DRINKS AND NIBBLES.

WEAR YOUR BEST GLAD RAGS FOR A NIGHT OF FUN !!

SWING: BLUES JAZZ, ROCK & ROLL, OLD TIME.

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WILL BE BRING CASSEROLE DISHES

AND ARE JOINING US FOR THE EVENING CABARET.

SUNDAY 5TH JULY 9AM B.Y.O. COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

10AM CLOSING OF RALLY .

RALLY FEES TO BE PAID TO THE TREASURER. \$20 PER VAN FOR THE WEEKEND.

NO POWER FOR VANS. FULL WATER TANKS ON ARRIVAL.

EACH VAN TO PROVIDE A CASSEROLE DISH FOR THE EVENING MEAL ON SAT.

Hello fellow Caravanners, Greg & I just wanted to mention a couple of things regarding the Cabaret night at Mogumber.

The flyer mentioned a \$5.00 entrance fee. This only applies to the local folk who reside at Mogumber and surrounding areas that are coming. It does not apply to Sandgropers. This \$5.00 goes to the Mogumber Progress Association not the Sandgropers.

Also we thought it would be good fun if we called it a 50's/60's night. So if you would like to get dressed up in something of that era ie desert boots, scarfs, bobby socks, flared skirts, stove-pipes, etc. or whatever that would be great.

Greg and the boys are looking forward to the gig.
Cheers Margaret Johnson

Bloopers!!!

The person concerned about the possibility of people leaving items on the bus was the culprit of doing just that thing leaving her handbag under the seat.

Looking for the switch for the fridge in their hired van caused some frustration for a certain lady until she looked in the fridge freezer – who would think of looking there!!

The same van had a catastrophe in the night when the bed collapsed but the person in question was too tired after her night out at “Henry’s Place” that she just slept on it.

A certain lady was eagerly watching the football willing the Dockers to win as she had tipped them in a tipping competition for the first time this season. Another one eyed footy tragic was just as frantically barracking for the opposite side. Bad luck Brian.

We all missed a sight to behold when a certain lady went to have a shower only to discover the hot water hadn’t been turned on so with towel wrapped around her she dashed to the opposite side where the water was hot!!!

Who was trying to read a ditty only to be stuck on a word. When help arrived she realised it would be a good idea to put her reading glasses on which she was holding in her hand.

Mel, our host, invited a gentleman to go into the night with her to look at the sandalwood cluster further down the block and expressed her disappointment when his wife went too.

**Some days I just
wish I had the
wisdom of a
ninety year old,
the body of a
twenty year old
and the energy of
a three year old.**



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