

# ***GROPER'S GOSSIP***

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## ***SANDGROPER CARAVAN CLUB COMMITTEE 2015-2016***

<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>Peter Carter</i>
<i>Rally Coordinator</i>	<i>Margaret Kerrigan</i>
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Robin Ashford Kel Olesen Brian Adams</i>

## **Report of Kojonup Rally 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October**

by Ronnie Adams

Wednesday saw the early arrivals of Ronnie & Brian Adams, Helen & Brian Bizzill and Glenda & Kel Olesen who had come from Dumbleyoung having spent the previous weekend at the Kulin bush races. The park owners were away so we were told to make ourselves comfortable. Early Thursday saw the arrival of Maureen & Roy Lundy closely followed by Helen & Jim Schell, Janet and David Currow who had camped close by the night before. Paula & David Hiscock also arrived before lunch. During the afternoon Elva & Arthur Littlely, Rheta & Alan Parkinson, Ruth and Peter rolled in. As is the norm we all met for happy hour with the delightful nibbles provided by Ian & Sharon, park owners, who joined us. Unfortunately during this time Helen and Brian Bizzill received some bad news in that their three grandchildren had been involved in a car accident and the two little ones were being airlifted to PMH. They closed their van up and set sail for Perth to be on hand and give support



Friday brought a beautiful warm day and news that the children were badly injured and needed surgery but would mend with time. Lunch time we headed off to Rotary Park for a sausage BBQ under the shade of the trees and then we were left to our own devices until Happy hour. During the afternoon saw the arrival of Trish and Lawrie, Margo & Ian and Beth and Ian Moore who were warmly welcomed. Happy hour saw the opening of the Rally by vice president Roy who welcomed everyone. David outlined the programme for the weekend. Ian had got the camp fire roaring and as the evening got cooler we assembled around it. After dinner we gathered for stories from the past and gathering by the mens stories they all loved to blow things up and were lucky that they weren't maimed.

Another beautiful day dawned on Saturday when after morning tea we ventured down to the miniature train, which used to



run around Perth Zoo, and went for a 45 minute trip along the line to Farrar siding a distance of 12km the historical railway have built. We were told more funding has been received and the society is in the process of extending the line. The ride was very enjoyable and the 5 year old grandson of the driver made it very delightful when he was allowed to get out and stop the traffic. He was beaming when he got back and then pulled the whistle to really make his day and give us something to smile about.



Lunch was a picnic at the Lions park once again with plenty of shade and many families enjoying the day. From here we went to meet our guides who took us to the Well and the fresh water spring and explained the significance of it and how it was pivotal in the early history of the town. Also at this park was the Military Barracks which housed the military in the early years and has been used for several purposes since but is now back in the hands of the historical society.

A short walk for some, and a car ride for others as by now the temp had climbed into the 30's and we were all feeling it, to Elverd cottage. Here we were told that it was originally a two room cottage built by the Pensioner Guards who were granted 15 pounds and ten acres of land. Since the death of Charlie Elverd in 1979 the cottage has been vested in the Shire and is now a cultural museum cared for by the historical society. Also



on the property is old farm machinery and a black smiths shop . The society is in the process of gathering and cataloguing anything to do with horses ie harnesses etc. From here back to the park where we relaxed in our vans and some playing games in the shade.



Happy hour again and Brian and Helen Bizzill arrived back with the news that the children were stable but needing surgery. Dinner was at the Commercial Hotel where the publican had prepared a room for us with tables shaped in U formation and beautifully dressed. The meal was well presented and came to the tables promptly considering the numbers present. Saturday was the birthday of two club members present and also a wedding anniversary of another couple so a beautiful cake was purchased from the bakery for all to enjoy. Just as we were finishing out of the blue the heavens opened and down poured the rain for about ½ hour, something that the countryside needed. Cars were brought to the front of the hotel and back to the park we went. The rain cleared and some of the members sat around the fire for a nightcap and coffee a delightful end to a busy day.



Sunday morning the sun was up again, Bizzill's packed up and departed while the rest of us gathered at the camp kitchen for a pancake breakfast. At the closing of the Rally, by Roy, the caravan prize was won by Glenda and Kel Olesen donated by Rheta and Alan Parkinson.



## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*We had another well run rally at Kojonup run by one of the newer caravan couples to the club with the help of Brian and Ronnie. Well done David and Paula.*

*We lost the services of our President Brian and Helen due to them having to return to Perth owing to the accident to their three grandchildren on Thursday.*

*Brian and Helen returned for the night on Saturday but left early Sunday with their van to get home to the family. The Sandgroper Members wish their family all the best and that the grandchildren have a speedy recovery.*

*With 3 people celebrating birthdays and David and Paula celebrating their anniversary on the weekend a good time on the Saturday night at the hotel.*

*We held a small committee meeting on the Friday so that Peter Carter could bring us up to date on the website developments. The minutes of this meeting should be included later in the gossip.*

*Kulin. 5 vans from the club attended from the Wednesday to Monday before 4 of us moved on to spend 2 nights at Dumbleyung. From Dumbleyung Maureen and I joined the Schell's and Currows at Lake Ewelymartup over night before joining the rest at Kojonup on Thursday.*

*Lake Ewelymartup is about 17 Kms East of Katanning and is quite a beautiful area on the road to Nyabing. They are still developing the site but it is worth a stop.*

*If you are travelling through the Dumbleyung area it is worth a look around.*

*Roy Lundy - Vice President*



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

Arthur Littlely	9 <sup>th</sup>
Gerry Kerrigan	10 <sup>th</sup>
Roy Lundy	10 <sup>th</sup>
Ronnie Adams	10 <sup>th</sup>
Helen Schell	21 <sup>st</sup>

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

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

# COMING EVENTS in 2015

## OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup> – NOV. 2<sup>nd</sup> WATHEROO SPORTS CENTRE

### OBT Use of Hall, toilets and showers.

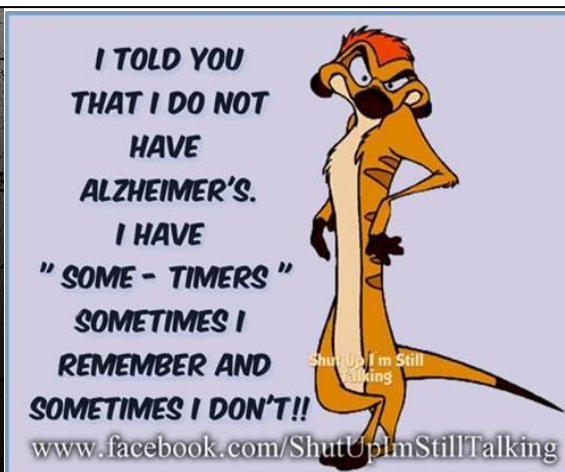
Watheroo Station tavern is situated 37 kms north of Moora along The Midlands Road. This fabulous rest area is situated amongst the trees and includes all amenities such as power, toilets and shower facilities. Enjoy the use of the BBQ area located directly opposite the sites or take a walk next door to the tavern to enjoy a delicious meal.

## NOVEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> BROOKTON

The town of Brookton is approx. 100 kms from Perth. Brookton was settled by itinerant Sandalwood cutters in approximately 1847. By 1860's and 70's more settlers moved into the area and Sandalwood collecting with and wheat and sheep farming was firmly established. In 1889 the Railway station, one of the original Stations on the Great Southern Line was built. This is now the Arts & Craft Shop and worth a visit. The old Police Station is now the base of the local Historical society and also worth visiting.

Fees are \$29 per night BUT if you have a Pension or Seniors Card and we list names and numbers for the Shire, then Concession price is \$26 per night.

Our Christmas Meal is to be held in the Tavern on the sat. evening, in a private room, is \$35 per person with drinks at own cost.



## CHRISTMAS MEAL PAYMENT

**The balance of payment for the Christmas meal at Brookton is due on or before 22nd Nov.- a week before the Rally. Members that have not already paid, please make**

***your payment of \$35 per head to the Treasurer Alan at the Watheroo Rally or make arrangements with Allan for payment. Thank you. Margaret Kerrigan.***

## ***ATTENDEES FOR WATHEROO***

***Watheroo Station tavern is situated 37 kms north of Moora along  
The Midlands Road.***

***The Sports Centre entrance is on the highway right hand side as you go through  
town.***

***FEES \$10.00 per night per van***

***No power for vans***

***Please arrive with full water tanks.***

Lawrie & Trish	TFSS	Jim & Helen Schell	TFSS
Greg & Margaret Johnson	TFSS	Brian & Helen Bizzill	TFSS
Alan & Rheta Parkinson	TFSS	Ron Halse	FSS
Roy & Maureen Lundy	TFSS	Ian & Natalie Kessell	
Peter & Ruth	TFSS	Ian & Margot	TFSS
David & Janet Currow	FSS	Gerry & Margaret Kerrigan	TFSS
Arthur & Elva Littlely	TFSS	Peter & Mary Neale	
David & Paula Hiscock	FS	Kel & Glenda Olesen	FS
Robin & Di Ashford		Geoff & Trina Savage	FS

## ***BLOOPERS***

*It pays to shop locally. Young chap reversing van had the misfortune to remove his mirror when it hit the tree that was in the way. Thanks to local guy Kel said mirror was successfully fixed.*

*Some husbands are most useful. One had to hold in the oven button whilst the scones were cooking as the oven would go out when his finger was released. The scones were lovely though.*

*And one chap went to check the beer in the freezer only to find the van locked. Would have got a frosty reception if he had broken bottles.*

*Then one fit young lady climbed over the seat on the train to get more room. Easily done. Same person (oops) was describing their new car to some other passengers. Looking across the park she said "That one is like ours, oops that is ours."*

*And lastly my computer has blooped and is having difficulty finding the "l" letter. So any l s missing is an oops.*

## **PROGRAM FOR WATHEROO**

**29<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

***Venue Officers: Ruth Mackenzie and Peter Carter***

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Thurs	0900	Tai Chi for those interested
	1000	Free Time to visit many of the District attraction. Refer Rally Host for maps and ideas
	1700	Happy Hour & Fellowship
Friday	0900	Tai Chi for those interested
	1000	Free Time to visit many of the District attraction. Refer Rally Host for maps and ideas
	1700	Happy Hour & Fellowship Formal Rally Opening
	1800	Evening Meal, Cook and gather in the Club Bar
	1930	Rally Briefing in the Club Bar Convoy Training
Sat	0900	Tai Chi for those interested
	1000	Depart in Convoy for Watheroo Observatory Morning Tea (BYO) at Observatory and site inspection lead by Keith Ward, current owner of the buildings
	1200	Depart for Jingemia Cave Site Lunch (BYO) at Cave, view Cave and search for wildflowers
	1400	Depart at own leisure and return to Watheroo Campsite
	1500	Committee Meeting in the Club Bar
	1700	Happy Hour & Fellowship
	1830	Dine at the Watheroo Railway Tavern
	2000	Letters and Numbers Quiz at the Tavern
	2130	Return to Watheroo Campsite
Sun	0900	Tai Chi for those interested
	1000	Formal Rally Close, Announcements, Caravan Prize
	1030	Depart in Convoy for Western Wild Flowers at Coomberdale and inspect the premises/gift shop and flower displays
	1200	Lunch (BYO) at Western Wild Flowers (coffee/tea supplied)
	1400	Resume Convoy and search for wildflowers
	1700	Happy Hour & Fellowship

Tavern Menu (\$30 per person)

Garlic Prawns Rice and Salad OR  
Beef Lasagne with Chips and Salad OR  
Chicken Parmigiana with Chips and Salad

## **Sandgroper Travellers Ramblings**

### ***SHELL'S SOUTHERN TRIP***

*I had a school re-union in Nyabing (East of Katanning) in Sept so decided to stay around and tour some old favourite spots. After a great time at the re-union we headed for Ongerup and the wild flower show. Still plenty around however you need to get off the bitumen road. Then onto the coast at Point Anne, 100 kms east of Bremer Bay. Wonderful flowers through there, the Royal Hakea being my favourite.*



*We camped overlooking the ocean and over breakfast we watched whales from our caravan. A magic event. Then onto Bremer Bay where we stayed four days, again a glorious coast line and plenty to do. The whales had however moved on. On toward Albany where we found an unfinished caravan park but were welcome to stay. This gave us access to Cape Riche and the Pallinup River. A rough but beautiful coastline. Backburning was being done one evening and we had a lovely aroma of Banksia and very little smoke. Then through the Stirling Ranges that I remember so well when growing up. Back to brothers for a good car and caravan clean up. Sunday we joined the locals for a game of bowls. Good fun even though the wind tried to blow us away.*

*Tuesday and it was goodbye to Nyabing and off to camp at the Lake. This lake is about 500 acres and full. Plenty of room and easy access. We enjoyed the company of friends from Bakers Hill, the Lundys, the Currows and my brother. The wind died down so we had shanks done in the camp oven. This lake has been a favourite spot of the locals for many years and I wondered if my grandmother who had lived nearby had enjoyed family outings there. A lovely time away and many happy memories of growing up in the area.*

*Helen Schell*

### ***KULIN RACES***

***by Glenda Olesen***

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October saw the Bizzill's, Lundy's, Adams, Olesen's and Doris and Colin travelling the Tin Horse Highway to the Kulin Bush Race Meeting at Jilakin Rock. This is a town event with the entire community involved. A wonderful happy weekend with a programme full of things to see. We camped in a paddock with family and friends joining us. A huge TV screen for the AFL Grandfinal was provided.



The day concluded with a great fire works display. All proceeds from the races go to improvements in the community. Strong winds blew up late afternoon and became a nuisance but kept the flies





away.

On Sunday we went to investigate Gorge Rock Pool, a delightful spot 20km east of Corrigan. Would be a lovely picnic spot or sundowner BBQ for the Club.

We moved on to Lake Grace with the town celebrating Nat Fyfe, a Dockers star, with a huge banner hung from the hotel. Then to Dumbleyung caravan park for a couple of nights to scrub up and clean out the dust from our vans. Dumbleyung has almost completed its display of Sir Donald Campbells historic water speed record in 1964 on Lake Dumbleyung in the "Blue Bird". A replica boat has been built and a good photo display in the new coffee shop in the old post office will make stopping a pleasure.



We drove out to Pussy Cat Hill lookout at Dumbleyung Lake to see where the record took place. It was so beautiful with the farm crops of green and golds, the silver and blues of the lake. Well worth a visit.



We stopped in Katanning for supplies and where we said goodbye to the Lundy's who went to join the Schell's and Currow's at Lake Ewlyamartup, a delightful place from all accounts and a childhood haunt of Helen's. The rest of the convoy moved onto Kojonup in readiness of the forthcoming rally.

### **UPDATE ON THE BIZZILL GRANDKIDS - DAY 13 - 20 OCTOBER 2015**

*Hi everyone,*

*Thought you might like to know how our grandkids are getting on after their horrific car crash on 8 October. Tayla (19) has recovered quite well and is back at work. Alyssa (11 just last week) had surgery on her broken jaw (2 places) which went well and she was discharged from hospital a week ago and is staying with us for the time being. She is coping quite well with her liquid and pureed diet and is gradually putting on some weight. Lochie (7) remains our main concern. Apart from his broken femur and collarbone, he has severe ligament damage to his upper spine and neck and was today fitted with a full upper body and head brace which he will have to wear for 4 months. On top of that he has had a gastro infection and difficulty with his breathing. He has been an absolute champion throughout the whole hospitalisation and seems to just accept most of the procedures that he has to go through. Matt and Peta spend all day at the hospital with him and take it in turns to come home to our place for a proper meal and a night's sleep. Brian and I spend as much time as possible at the hospital and are grateful PMH is so close (just a 10 minute walk). We are hopeful that once the new brace is adapted to Lochie's body shape he will be able to sit up and perhaps be discharged in the near future.*

*It has been a very traumatic time for all of us, and Brian and I would like to thank all the Sandgropers for their concern and good wishes. We are not sure at this stage if we will be able to make the Watheroo rally but we are slightly optimistic.*

*Love Helen and Brian*

**Sandgroppers Caravanners Inc.**  
**Minutes of Special Management Committee meeting**  
**Held at Kojonup Caravan Park**  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015**



**In attendance:**

Brian Adams, Peter Carter, David Hiscock, Roy Lundy, Kel Oleson, Alan Parkinson

**Apologies:**

Brian Bizzill, Robin Ashford, Margaret Kerrigan

**Open:**

The meeting was called by Peter Carter to discuss development of the website.

**Minutes:**

**Business arising: -**

- Peter Carter provided a briefing on the status of the club website:
  - NACC proposal – Encourage all clubs to use their platform. Peter Carter already completed a lot of work on Sandgroppers website. The two platforms are not aligned.
  - Sandgroppers website uses support from a Company called “My Expression” (they develop for “not for profit organizations”).
  - Cost of Domain name & Hosting \$110 per year (Note: To Date cost the club \$101 in 2015)
  - “My Expression” recommends the website is protected by encryption software (Secure Socket Layout) at \$160 per year.
  - Ongoing it is estimated that it will cost \$5 per van per year to run the website.
  - Peter Carter will provide training to any member as required.
  
- Motion put to the committee by Peter Carter – request to continue to develop Sandgroppers website.
  - Committee agreed unanimously

**Other Business arising:-**

- Discussion on the “Committee” arranged rallies (Christmas, Easter, AGM). Agreed the committee should continue to run these with the option to invite other members to assist if they wanted. Item to be resolved at next committee meeting.
- Discussion held on the “Notice of Motion 3” By Law 2 of 2015, definition of a caravan. Agreed to be discussed further at next committee meeting.

**Next Management Committee meeting:**

Watheroo rally 30<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015