

**SEPTEMBER 2023**



# **GROPER'S GOSSIP**

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT NO.1

Hello to you all, Sandgroper members and welcome to my first report as President. I would like to thank you for putting your trust in me to head the club, in this its twenty-fifth year. Thank you to Helen Bizzill for her three years of dedication and hard work for our club.

I say our club because it is for the members to enjoy and for the members to be part of in its operation for the benefit of all of us. The formal is the committee you have elected and its statutory duties, the administration and organisation of the rallies. The informal, which are the venue officers and people who organize and bring various games and activities to the rallies. The club prides itself on being informal and sociable and all activities are voluntary to give people space to enjoy the break from home and all its distractions or to interact in the fellowship of each other's company.

There are a few expected procedures to ensure a sharing atmosphere for all. On a rally the only formal part is the opening and closing of the rally on the Friday evenings 1700 happy hour and the Sunday 0930 morning tea. It is greatly appreciated that members are prompt in their attendance at these meetings.

The official rally period is Friday evening, until the Sunday morning tea, for a normal weekend and Friday evening and Monday morning for a long weekend. We may have travelled a little further for a long weekend. This is to accommodate members who are still working. Fortunately, many of us have the time to travel and have Thursdays to Mondays or beyond on a rally. With the steeply rising cost for a site in a caravan park and all its facilities, if these costs are a concern, then attendance Friday to Sunday is classed as a rally for members to accrue their rally numbers.

The rally prize is a donation from members with a value up to \$20. In the New Year we will need some more prizes to be donated so please if you have not donated in the past couple of years then it would be appreciated. With our number of members vans it only requires a donation every two years.

Please look through the rally list for 2024 on the Sandgroper web page and note your intention to attend a rally on the web page. Please consider if a particular rally setting is somewhere you like to act as the venue officers or share a rally with another van. It might be an area you are familiar with or know some history about.

If you know you will not be around for a period, then mark the dates as unavailable. This helps the rally co-ordinator with planning for numbers expected to attend a rally.

When booking a caravan park, Brian the rally co-ordinator gives them expected numbers, to hold sites for us but nowadays the parks are wanting deposits well in advance of the travel dates, please contact the parks to do this and send Brian an email to let him know when you have done so.

Thank you if you have reached the end of my missive, well done. Let's wish for a year of moderate weather and happy travels with or without the club.

Best regards

Ian Moore

Proud President of The Sandgropers Caravan club



# RALLY REPORT – MANDURAH AGM 21-24 SEPTEMBER 2023

## THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup>

The start of the rally saw several vans rolling in mid afternoon with some Sandgropers catching up with friends they had not seen for several months and others recalling experiences from the last rally.

Later in the afternoon with Happy Hour an hour or so away, certain people decided that it was 5 pm somewhere in Australia and were seen enjoying a wine or two

## FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>

The morning started with a walk to the foreshore and returning for tai chi before the first morning tea of the rally. Following this it was “own time” to look around our new surroundings.

Opening of the rally by Helen our outgoing President was attended by a rather small group of club members namely the Bizzills, Allens, Curchins, Mitchells, Schells, Youngs, Moores and Glenda.

Drinks and nibbles were provided by the Committee and the champagne and wine flowed freely causing our “El Presidenta” to comment that those who were unable to attend unfortunately missed out on a great night. The nibbles were enough for all of us to forget about the planned BBQ, with Brian lamenting that he was now going to have to freeze his fillet steak which he had brought especially for the BBQ.

## SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>

An 8.30 am start for a walk followed by tai chi and then at 10.45 am we all started assembling in the BBQ area for the AGM at 11 am. At the completion of the AGM, which was over in an hour, we all gathered on the grass for more catching up with the exception of the new Committee who held their first meeting together.

Later with our many visitors we all moved to the Boundary Island Brewery at Erskine for a long lunch which was lovely.

## SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup>

Close of rally – being our new President, Ian’s first closing was completed with most members in attendance, although Helen and Jim had left early that morning.

The caravan prize was drawn by Helen and was won by Lyn and Ron – with Ron’s life brightened up by his prize, a “torch”.

*Written by Laraine A*







## ATTENDEES

J & L Allen, B & H Bizzill, J & D Cur chin, B & C Jordan, R & L Mitchell, I & B Moore, G Olesen, J & H Schell, C & D Young

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

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



## PROGRAM- SOUTHERN STARS RALLY

645 Vasse-Yallingup Siding Road ,Anniebrook

In the Heart of the Margaret River Wine Region  
Venue Officers: John and Sue

**THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 – MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023**

Facilities: Large Undercover Camp Kitchen  
BBQ's  
Abundant Seating  
Indoor games: Table Tennis, Air Hockey, Giant Jenga

### THURSDAY

1pm Check in  
5PM Happy Hour Followed by own Dinner  
Bring \$.2 if you want to Play, Pick the Number on \$10 n

### FRIDAY

8.30 am Walk  
9.30am Tai Chi  
10.30am Morning Tea and opening of Rally.  
12.30pm Happs winery and Commonage Pottery,  
575 Commonage, Road, Quindalup  
“Sandgropers Wandering glass wine tasting “  
This is a self guided wine tasting where you can try from  
about 40 different wines from chardonnay to Malbec to  
dessert wines.  
This tasting is a free event. You can also view Commonage  
Pottery  
BYO Picnic, or purchase cheese & biscuits etc. @ venue.  
Tables will be set up on Lawn at Happs, you may wish to  
purchase wine with lunch, ice buckets will be provided, or  
take home.

3.30pm Afternoon Tea back at campsite.  
5.00pm Happy Hour.  
6.00pm Dinner at your leisure



7.00 Quiz. Then a little play by Sue & John  
Find out about Barbara & Jerry's relationship

### SATURDAY

8.30am Walk  
9.30am Tai Chi with Master Brian.  
10.30am Morning Tea  
11.00am Free time, some suggestions  
Margret river wine festival, Origins indoor Market,  
We have some local maps which have many  
attractions,  
Fudge factory,  
Choc factory  
5.00pm Happy Hour  
6.30pm Communal BBQ (BYO)  
7.30pm Panty Hose Bowling Game  
Later Quiz

### SUNDAY

8.30am Walk  
9.30am Tai Chi with Master Brian  
10.30am Morning Tea. Close of Rally & Lucky Number Draw  
11.30am Be Robin Hood for the day!  
Primal Archery: 11 Cookworthy Rd, Abbey.  
\$13.50 per person. Pay on day, 1 hour, 5 targets and  
3 arrows.  
Winning Team scores a brand new caravan or a  
couple of chocs if caravans are out **stock cough**  
**cough ha ha**  
**Plus "Robin Hood Recognition".**  
Self-guided teams inc safety briefing.  
1.30pm Lunch Amelia Park Lodge, (you will need to advise  
Sue or John if you are attending)  
5850 Bussell Highway, Abbey  
5-00pm Happy Hour,  
Dinner at your leisure.