



# GROPER'S GOSSIP



The Sandgroper's 24<sup>th</sup> AGM was a great success with lots to see and do around the picturesque surroundings at Golden Ponds in Baldyville.

Read all about it in this issue:

- Pg. 1 Golden Ponds Baldyville**
- Pg. 2 Management Committee, President's Report and Upcoming Rallies**
- Pg. 3-4 24<sup>th</sup> AGM Rally Report by Cheryl Kent and Helen Bizzill**
- Pg. 5 Sandgroper Celebrations for September & October. Vale Queen Elizabeth**
- Pg. 6 Tagalong Itinerary by Brian and Helen Bizzill**

## 2023 SANDGROPER'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emergency contacts: Helen Bizzill 0417 913 050, Cheryl Kent 0477 474 115, Lyn Mitchell 0409 204 470



**Helen Bizzill**  
President



**Cheryl Kent**  
Vice President



**Lyn Mitchell**  
Secretary



**Di Young**  
Treasurer



**Chris Back**  
Com. Member



**Ian Moore**  
Membership



**Jacquie Adams**  
Com. Member

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2022

Hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather, although it is somewhat erratic - lovely for a few days and then back to wintry conditions. Earlier in the year we planted some native shrubs in our small courtyard garden and that has been very rewarding with lots of bees and birdlife visiting on a regular basis.



**New Committee: Di Y, Lyn M, Helen B, Cheryl K, Ian. (Absent Chris B & Jacquie)**

The AGM was well attended with 35 members plus two proxies. There was some robust discussion on the level of membership for the Club with the final decision being that the level remains at 30 vans, although it is anticipated that this level would not be reached for some years. Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting. Your new committee will be working hard over the coming year to make our Club the best it can be.

Peter and Cheryl Fatti have sold their property and will be spending five weeks in their caravan prior to moving into their new home on a 5-acre property in mid-November. They hope to catch up with everyone towards the end of the year. Best wishes to them at this exciting time.

We are looking forward to the tagalong rally along the Wheatbelt Way next week and hope that the weather will finally settle into *Spring* mode. I will try to post some photos on the Sandgroper's Facebook page.

Travel safe,  
Helen

### UPCOMING RALLIES



Spectacular Elachbutting Rock will feature on the Tagalong Tour

#### OCTOBER 10 -18 WHEATBELT TAGALONG TOUR.

Wyalkatchem, Koorda, Elachbutting Rock & Mukinbudin. (See detailed itinerary Page 6.) Venue officers and tour leaders Brian & Helen Bizzill. Registered attendees: Jordans, Olesen, Moores, Freind, Schells, Allens, Caldwells, Ambrosius, Bizzills & Mitchells

#### NOVEMBER 24 - 28 CHRISTMAS RALLY Whitegum Farm -

680 Cameron Rd York - 0408 906 520. All services, Lake Kimberley Bar & Bistro, walks, 4WD track. 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) more details in next month's Gossip.

**24<sup>TH</sup> AGM RALLY - GOLDEN PONDS BALDIVIS**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> September 2022**  
**Venue Officers - The Management Committee**

Our 24<sup>th</sup> AGM Rally was held at Golden Ponds in Baldivis with fourteen vans attending and a total of 35 full and two associate members registered for the AGM. The weather was kind and allowed us to wander around the spacious grounds of the caravan park, the surrounding gardens and manmade ponds. The evenings were chilly but we had the use of the communal kitchen and dining room, which enabled us to meet for dinner and games.



**Beautiful surrounds at Golden Ponds**

After a morning walk on Friday it was great to be able to make the most of Master Brian's tai chi lesson to limber up before undoing all our hard work with morning tea. We all commented on the unusual parking set up where we all drove in and parked in single file where we liked instead of being allocated a particular site and reversing in. It seemed to work out well despite some vans 'pointing' the wrong way and the resident Shetland pony wandering amongst our vans and leaving unwelcome deposits for the unwary to step in making their way home in the dark. Not very pleasant.



**Parking in single file with resident Shetland pony grazing before visiting Ron and Lyn's van for a stickybeak!**

Happy Hour and the opening of the rally were noisy affairs followed by a communal curry night where our chefs excelled themselves with a range of different curries and yummy desserts in typical Sandgroper style. We had intended to play games but judging by the happy banter with everyone enjoying each other's company, we let the evening flow and shuffled off to bed at a respectable hour.



**Curry nights are always popular and we were fortunate to have the use of the camp kitchen and dining room.**

The prompt attendance for the AGM was truly appreciated by President Helen and the Committee and as stated before was well attended. It ran very smoothly and even with spirited debate regarding membership levels, ran for exactly one hour. You can read all about it in re-elected President Helen's report in this issue.



**The 24<sup>th</sup> AGM was very well supported**



**Old and new members of the Committee.**

A sausage sizzle catered for by the Committee with partners roped in to barbecue the snags and onions was very much appreciated by those who were staying after the meeting with others slipping away to attend Doris' 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations at Point Walter Golf Club. From all accounts it was a wonderful afternoon and we are glad Doris had a lovely birthday.



**Birthday girl Doris (centre) enjoying her special day.**



**Testing our grey matter at the quiz**

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, members gathered after a day of leisure in and around the park and met up for Happy Hour once again. We enjoyed a BYO Communal dinner in the camp dining room and then a General Knowledge Quiz with a difference. Due to the absence of our Chocolate Fairy Jill we introduced an 'honour' system of passing the basket of chocolates around the table and if able to answer the question correctly you could choose your own chocolate. This kind of worked but the grab for the Turkish Delights left the less popular Flakes and White Chocolates languishing in the basket. The jury is out on the new system but 'nothing ventured nothing gained' as they say.



**Rally prizewinners – the Moriartys**

At the closing of the rally President Helen again thanked all for attending and the Committee for running another successful rally. The Rally prize was won by the Moriartys and donated by the Mitchells. A few members had to dart off to attend other family commitments etc but the majority stayed on and enjoyed a sunny day out and about. It seems everyone had the same idea as it was decided to go to the Golden Ponds cafe for lunch - full! Then off to King Brewery - full! Carried on to Jarrahdale Tavern - very busy but a table for 9 was found and after ordering lunch were advised there would be a one-hour delay on food. Not to worry, as it was a pleasant way to spend Sunday drinking and chatting and when the food arrived it was worth waiting for. Bizzills, Youngs, Ashfords, Lundys and Glenda attended and had a lovely time.

That evening a spirited game of LRC was held at Happy Hour with Cameron the ultimate winner. Despite lots of rain overnight it was reasonably clear in the morning for packing up, finishing off a great rally and very successful 24<sup>th</sup> AGM.

(by Cheryl Kent & Helen Bizzill)

Rally attendees: Ashfords, Bizzills, Caldwelles, Curchins, Haigs, Jordans, Kents, Lundys, Mitchells, Moores, Moriartys, Olesen, Schells & Youngs. AGM attendees as above plus Adams, Allens, Ambrosius, Burges & Associate members Peter and Mary Neale.

## SANDGROPER CELEBRATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

### September Birthdays

06 Cindy Jordan  
09 Noelene Muir  
16 Colin Muir  
17 Doris Freind  
20 Lynne Kirby

### September Anniversaries

26 Denise & Cam



### October Birthdays

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

### October Anniversaries

17 Sue & John  
18 Mary & Peter  
20 Maureen & Roy

## VALE QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 - 2022

At the age of 96 the Queen's death was expected but still came as a shock to most people. She has been a strong and constant presence in all our lives and the outpouring of grief around the world has been palpable. She has left a very strong legacy of service above self and will leave lasting memories of her kindness, compassion and sense of duty.

Of all the stories that have been written about the Queen over the last few weeks, one left a lovely impression on me because it was a side of the Queen we didn't often see. Her sense of humour was renowned amongst those who were close to her but rarely seen by the public. In her entire life, Queen Elizabeth never gave a single interview so wonderful anecdotes such as this one reveal what her personality was like. I hope you enjoy it too, Cheryl K Editor.

Royal Protection Officer Richard Griffin was speaking to *Sky News* in June for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, which marked 70 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign, just a few months before her death. Griffin tells how he was walking with the Queen near Balmoral Castle in Scotland, the Queen's retreat, and where she died last month. On their walk they bumped into two American hikers on a walking holiday. Griffin said it was clear from the moment they stopped the pair hadn't recognized the Queen,



After the parties exchanged small talk about the tourists' holiday in Britain, the American gentleman asked the Queen where she lived. Elizabeth told the tourist that she lives in London but has a "holiday home" in Aberdeenshire, the area of Scotland where Balmoral Castle is located. The hapless tourist asked the Queen how often she had visited the area to which the monarch replied: "I've been coming up here since I was a little girl, so over 80 years." "Well, if you've been coming up here for 80 years you must have met the Queen," the American replied. Without missing a beat, Elizabeth said: "Well, I haven't. But Dick here meets her regularly," gesturing at her Protection Officer.

The excited tourist turned to Griffin and asked him what the Queen was like. "And because I was with her a long time I knew I could pull her leg so I said 'She can be very cantankerous at times, but she's got a lovely sense of humour.'" "Anyway, next thing I knew, this guy comes round, puts his arm around my shoulder and gets his camera, gives it to the Queen, and says 'Can you take a picture of the two of us?' After the photo was taken they swapped places and Griffin took a photo of the Queen with the clueless tourist without ever revealing her true identity.

"We waved goodbye and Her Majesty said to me, 'I'd love to be a fly on the wall when he shows those photographs to his friends in America and hopefully someone tells him who I am.'" R.I.P. Your Majesty.

## **SANDGROPEERS WHEATBELT WAY TAG ALONG 10-18 OCTOBER 2022**

- Monday 10th**                    **WYALCATCHEM**  
Meet at Wyalcatchem caravan park, 408 Hands Drive, Wyalcatchem  
1600 hrs afternoon tea followed by happy hour and opening of the rally  
Evening communal casserole night, relax around fire, or games
- Tuesday 11th**                    **WYALCATCHEM**  
0900 hrs tai chi, 1000 hrs morning tea followed by Heritage Walk around town  
Afternoon at your leisure - CBH Museum, old school house, Walk-a-Wyal  
tracks, Cowcowing Lake, Yorkrakine Rock  
1600 hrs afternoon tea and happy hour  
1800 hrs dinner at Wyalcatchem Hotel, relax around fire, games
- Wednesday 12th**                    **KOORDA**  
0900 hrs tai chi, 1000 hrs morning tea. Hook up to drive 48 km to Koorda  
caravan park, Scott Street Koorda  
After lunch explore Koorda - museum, motor museum, native flora reserve  
1600 hrs afternoon tea followed by happy hour and dinner  
After dinner a trip to the drive-in may be arranged
- Thursday 13th**                    **KOORDA**  
0900 hrs tai chi, 1000 hrs quick morning tea then drive to Billiburning Rock  
for a picnic lunch, return to camp for afternoon tea  
Happy hour and dinner at Koorda Hotel
- Friday 14th**                    **ELACHBUTTING ROCK**  
Drive 168 km from Koorda to Elachbutting Rock, follow signage to campground  
arriving early afternoon. Explore rock  
1600 hrs afternoon tea, happy hour, dinner and quiz around camp fire
- Saturday 15th**                    **ELACHBUTTING ROCK**  
0900 hrs tai chi, 1000 hrs sightseeing to Bonnie Rock town site for morning  
tea, then back to Beringbooding Rock to explore and picnic lunch  
Return to camp to prepare spit roast dinner  
1600 hrs afternoon tea, happy hour and roast dinner, campfire and games
- Sunday 16th**                    **MUKINBUDIN**  
0900 hrs tai chi. Drive 95 km to Mukinbudin via Wattoning  
Afternoon at your leisure to explore Mukka  
After dinner, campfire and storytelling
- Monday 17th**                    **MUKINBUDIN**  
0900 hrs drive to Weira Reserve for morning tea, Eaglestone Rock and then  
to Mangowine Homestead for a picnic lunch. Possible sightseeing taking  
in Trayning Gnamma Holes, Bencubbin, Pregandes Sheep Yards  
Happy hour and dinner at Mukka Hotel (depending on chef)
- Tuesday 18th**                    0930 hrs morning tea and closing of the rally. From here it's up to the  
individuals to continue touring or head for home

**PLEASE BRING AS MUCH FIREWOOD AS POSSIBLE**