

Sandgroper Caravanners Inc

Web Address: www.sandgropercc.asn.au

Editor: Sharon Burge 0414259962
Email: sjb2251@gmail.com



GROPER'S GOSSIP

Newsletter Issue: February 2025

Sandgroper Committee 2024-25

President	Ian Moore	0417 237 334	ian1406@bigpond.net.au
Vice Pres	Chris Back	0439 997 790	chrisback1950@gmail.com
Secretary	Jerry Curchin	0437 398 474	sandgroper@outlook.com
Treasurer	Denise Caldwell	0424 969 747	ccaldwell3@bigpond.com
Committee Member	Brian Bizzill	0419 940 907	brianbizzill@gmail.com
Committee Member	Laraine Allen	0416 035 318	missava05@hotmail.com

★ Emergency Phone Numbers: Members families can contact any of the above phone numbers during rallies



Vale
Dianne Young



The Sandgroper Club of WA wishes to express our deepest sympathy to Chris, Rachael, Sarah and family on the sudden passing of Dianne. Di was a highly valued member of our club with her contributions being as secretary for a number of years, followed by 2 years as treasurer as well as holding the position as Webmaster for all of the time she was a member. We will truly miss her effervescence, big smile and hugs.

New Year Rally Report

Monday 30th December 2024 - Friday 3rd January 2025

Members started to arrive on Sunday 29th Dec. By Monday 30th Dec all of our 15 sites booked were occupied.

Sunday and Monday were spent catching up with each other and setting up our camp site. The opening of the rally was at 5pm. The weather was warm but with drinks in hand and a sense of fun the tone was set for a very successful rally. Chris Back officially opened the rally, welcoming our visitors; Judith and Amid Bartels, Tony and Sheila Wilkinson and Colin and Lynda Carter,

Tuesday morning the walkers arrived back from their morning walk very hot so it was decided to cancel the tai chi. The heat did not interfere with the pancake brunch however. With lots of helpers, plenty of pancakes and a great variety of yummy toppings the morning was enjoyed by all. The rest of the day was spent the best way we could to avoid the heat.

We gathered again from about 5pm to celebrate the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025, with drinks and a group dinner. The food that was prepared by everyone was exceptional. Rod and Sharon set up their TV so we could watch the fireworks and see in the NY 9pm Sydney time.

Wednesday was another very hot day. During morning tea, The Perth Cup Sweep was organised by Jerry. We all had our drawn horses ready for the race that was to be run at 5:45 pm. It was great that Ian and Beth spent the day with us and stayed for the evening activities. The race game went well thanks to Lyn and Ron and their helpers. Unfortunately our special guests, long term members Helen and Jim Schell had to leave for home earlier than expected. However the race was still run and after a lot of excitement and fun it was won by Linda Back and 2nd was Jacqui Adams. Each was presented with a certificate and small gift. The Perth Cup Sweep was won by Armin Bartels, one of our guests. One big mystery of Wednesday was WHERE ARE LINDAS PRAWNS?!

Thursday was a little cooler so we were able to start the day with an enjoyable session of tai chi led by Lyn. Lunch was at the newly renovated Exchange Hotel in Pinjarra. Ian and Beth, and Brian and Helen, along with Helens sister Sue who is visiting from Sydney, joined us for a very well organised lunch time meal. Roy and I thank all that were there for a very special day we had.

A few people decided to leave over the rest of the day. In the absence of Chris Back, Jerry closed the Rally at Happy Hour with the prize, donated by Lyn and Ron, being won by Jerry and Deb.

Friday saw the last 7 vans leave for home.

Thank you everyone who helped make this rally so successful.

Reported by Maureen Lundy

Attendees for the N.Y. rally:

Maureen and Roy Lundy, Lyn and Ron Mitchell, Cameron and Denise Caldwell, Helen and Jim Schell Sharon and Rod Burge, Jerry and Deb Curchin, Noeleen and Colin Muir, Chris and Linda Back, Syd and Jacque Adams, Glenda Olesen, Doris Friend, John and Laraine Allen.



Walkers after hot walk around the farm



Pancake Cooking



Inaugural winners of SG Cup



Sandgroper Cup Jockeys & Horses



Lunch Exchange Hotel Pinjarra

Presidents Report

Welcome Sandgroper and friends to 2025; it's the second week of January already! Beth and I joined the rally in Pinjarra for New Years day and met the visitors to the club. The heat drove some home and some sneaked home for some air-conditioning and return.

The fantastic and successful Sandgroper Pinjarra Cup was run, Roy created six colourful horses and Lyn and Ron a six lane track with cruel hazards to spoil the winning horse's run. We enjoyed the day so much we returned the following day for the lunch, at the newly refurbished and opened Exchange Hotel on the main street, Food good and company great. Thank you once again to Maureen and Roy for organising the rally and to everybody who helped make it a great rally to end 2024 and start 2025.

It was good to see many of you at the club picnic on the Crawley foreshore.

The year did end on a sorrowful note with the sudden passing of our club stalwart Di Young. All our thoughts are with Chris, Rachel and Sarah and families. Her lovely funeral showed how far and wide her talents reached out to so many people.

The next rally is the annual beach rally at Gracetown; Brian has found a great place with many things to do on site, including a movie night where we can choose the movie for the big screen, food vans and all the usual Margaret River attractions.

After handing over the Rally co-ordinating to the four man Rally Team Brian has been busy wrangling them into order ready to face our nemesis, Caravan Park Owners. It's not easy!!

Thank you to Ron, Syd Colin and Robin. Our thoughts and best wishes for Robin with his health issue stopping him and Di unable to attend rallies this year.

The year 2024 had some very successful and interesting rallies but with lower numbers attending compared to the past, please look through the rally list and choose a number of rallies to attend and partake in club activities. Venue officers are needed later in the year and we have a good number of prizes, thanks to all who have donated.

Beth and I wish you all a safe and enjoyable New Year. We hope to join the rally in March after Beth's knee operation at the end of the month. Happy travelling.

Ian, President Sandgroper Caravan Club.

 Happy Birthday 🎂

February

Happy Anniversary 

Glenda Olesen	11	Lyn & Ron Mitchell	1
Chris Back	11	Laraine & John Allen	16
Peter Neale	14	Helen & Brian Bizzill	28
Laraine Allen	15		
Di Ashford	20		

Sandgroper Stars to Celebrate

Roy and Maureen Lundy

Roy and I joined the Sandgroper when we retired in 2007. In the 18 years we have taken part in 127 rallies. Each rally has been very special to us.

There have been many highlights during that time. The ones that come to mind are extended and tagalongs. Boyup Brook and Nambung country music festival, along with Kulin bush races. These events were attended a number of times with club members. Two tagalongs were particularly memorable. One through the wheat belt from Northam to Elachbutting Rock. The other was when we, along with some club members, continued on after a rally at Binningup Beach and travelled all around the South west as far as Cape Arid about 130 km east from Esperance. We then travelled back inland and ended up one month later at Lancelin to attend the next rally.

We have attended 4 state rallies - Collie , Manganew ,Tambellup and Pingelly. The 3 national rallies were Rockhampton, Canberra and Albany. The Canberra rally was the one we particularly enjoyed due to the journey we took to get there and back. We travelled with Kel and Glenda Olesons, Brian and Helen Bizzill and Brian and Ronnie Adams. The trip took us up the west coast into the Northern Territory as far as King Ash Bay then into Queensland and NSW. It was a long way around to get to Canberra. The places we went to Roy and I would not have experienced if it had not been for our travelling companions.

Travelling back was a little shorter but still very interesting. The journey was broken with a river cruise up the Murray River with Brian and Helen Bizzill - another highlight.

Although our caravan days are over we hope to continue with the club a bit longer.

We value the people we have met and friends we have made. Thank you to everyone who made our years with the Sandgroper so wonderful.



Rally Program

February Rally 13th-17th - Gracetown Caravan Park

744 Cowaramup Rd Gracetown 9755 5301

Thurs 13th Arrive and set up

1500 hrs Afternoon tea followed by Happy Hour

1800 hrs Dinner (self catered) After dinner games and catch up

Fri 14th 0830 hrs Walk

0930 hrs Tai Chi

1000 hrs Morning tea

1200 hrs Lunch

1330 hrs World Finska Championship, Anyone with a Finska set please bring it.

1600 hrs Afternoon tea followed by Happy Hour

1700 hrs Opening of the rally

1800 hrs BYO Communal BBQ and games/catch up

Sat 15th 0830 hrs Walk

0930hrs Tai Chi

1230 hrs Lunch at OLIO BELL0 Armstrong Rd Cowaramup.

As a tribute to Di could you please wear something PINK

1430 hrs Afternoon at your leisure

1600 hrs Happy Hour

1800 hrs Dinner ?

1930 hrs Outdoor Movie Night (a vast selection of movies, a list will be circulated)

Sun 16th 0930 hrs Morning tea and closing of the rally

1030 hrs For those staying a trip to Gracetown beach for a swim and relaxation
before the sea breeze and Mini Golf

1600 hrs Afternoon tea followed by Happy Hour

1800 hrs Dinner followed by a quiz

Mon 17th Pack up and leave

Attendees: Syd & Jacquie, John & Laraine, Brian & Helen, Rod & Sharon, Jerry & Deb, Ron & Lyn, Jack & Deanne, Colin & Noelene, Glenda

Remember to enter all rally expenses on to the website. It can be done each day or all entered at the end of the rally. The Treasurer needs to access the website for the rally data to be reported to ACCWA. There is a purpose, doing so helps us all to have welcoming towns and great amenities. **MOST IMPORTANT _ PRESS SAVE when completed**